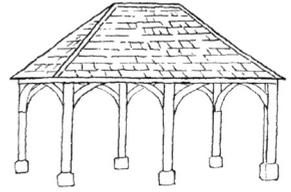


Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 27 Number 1

Spring 2023

The Charlbury Chronicle is a free quarterly local community publication run by volunteers covering news and events for Charlbury and the surrounding area

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From the Editor

First of all, I would like to thank all the many contributors who make this newsletter so varied and interesting and all the distributors who bring this to your front door. I would particularly like to mention Dawn Colvin (our previous treasurer) who has decided to retire from delivering and sending out the postal copies. She has been involved with the Chronicle since its inception! Many thanks Dawn for all that you do.

There is to be a Street Fair Quiz Night on 11th March—see page 13. And if you would like to help out with Street Fair please see the directory at the back of the Chronicle for whom to contact. They really do need your help.

A reminder that the museum reopens on Saturday 8th April at 10.30am. Details on events for the Garden Society are given on p4.

Artweeks in Charlbury is happening from 13—21 May. See advert on p7.

A first aid course on how to use a defibrillator and perform CPR is to be held on 18 March in the Community Centre.

There is more about this on p9.

And the Community Workshop will be opening on May 20. See p.14.

A Citizen Science Saturday will be happening on April 22 (Earth Day) and more information on this can be found on p28.

Wychwayz Border Morris in conjunction with the Stonesfield Folk Dance club will be holding an event in the Memorial Hall also on 22nd April. See p23.

And we have an article on Ten Good Reasons to catch the bus on p46. We could be in danger of loosing both our buses if we don't use them!

And it's the Coronation on 6 May. Please note there will be a Coronation Big Lunch on Nine Acres for all on 7 May. Please see charlbury.info for more details nearer the time.

If you have any ideas on what else you would like to see in the Chronicle, please do contact me at:-

editor.chronicle@outlook.com

I hope you all have a Happy Easter—and don't eat too many eggs!

Susanna Finch

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Summer issue is 1st May 2023
Please send all articles to editor.chronicle@outlook.com**



Charlbury Museum News

'Hidden Treasures – Hidden

Histories' is the theme of Charlbury Museum's new exhibition for 2023. On display will be a diverse collection of objects which span the centuries, relics of past lives which have been buried in the earth or secreted within old houses. From commonplace items such as Victorian glass bottles to precious Roman coins dating back to the 4th century, each object will have its own unique story to tell of Charlbury history.

The original idea for **'Hidden Treasures – Hidden Histories'** is inspired by a small collection of historic pieces recently gifted to Charlbury Museum by metal detectorist Neil Pakenham-Walsh, and the landowners on whose fields he made the discoveries.

These minuscule items which emerged from the soil reveal various histories: of romance (a bent silver coin given to a sweetheart); of skirmishes (a post-medieval scabbard fitting and musket balls); of scholarly works (a medieval book clasp) and a personal favourite: a silver sixpence decorated with a profile of Elizabeth I, her neckline adorned with a fashionable ruff.

Another local detectorist is loaning some special pieces from his finds collection: a miscellaneous array including a Henry III penny, a Roman coin from Crispus' time (300-326 AD), a puppy-headed swivel from a medieval dog lead. Other finds from the late 19th and 20th century also intrigue and tell different stories such as a petite enamel primrose badge, dropped in a field by a member of the Primrose League (founded in 1883 by Randolph Spencer Churchill) and a child's lost dye-cast toy Spitfire found in a paddock.

The museum's own collection hold objects from other earlier excavations such as an Anglo Saxon spear and knife, found beside a skeleton at a Saxon warrior's burial site in a field near Walcot (1981). Digging up the past continues to inspire and excite the imagination.

Hidden histories can lie under the floorboards and within walls of the older houses in Charlbury. Many of our museum donations have been found during renovation projects.

One example which is being loaned for the display is a jetton, or counting piece, made in Nuremberg dating from 1586-1635, which popped out of a stone wall during the owner's restoration in 2020. I remember when the builder John Crockford lifted the attic floor boards of my first home in Charlbury:11 Market Street, from the dust emerged three 18th century ladies wooden heel blocks, a very early bone comb, plus a George III penny, what a delight!

If you have any interesting historic items found in your home or while digging the garden, perhaps you might consider loaning them for this exhibition? Please get in touch with sue.rangeley@btinternet.com

The museum opens on Saturday April 8th 10.30am – 12.30, Easter Sunday & Monday: 2.30 -4.30pm.

Charlbury Museum appreciates the work of its volunteer stewards who welcome visitors.

If you are interested in helping with stewarding or wish to contribute to work of the museum in some way, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch at:- info@charlburymuseum.org.uk



A London merchant's trade token 1666. Reverse words: 'Edward Norse his farthing worth of copper'. The token was dug up in a garden in Browns Lane, close to The Bull. Interesting that the token's words state: 'next The Bull Bishopsgate' (an area in the city of London)! 1666 was the year of the Great Fire of London.

Charlbury is so fortunate to have been given long ago the large Corner House at the central crossroads. The small group of trustees with responsibility for the building wants to be sure the rooms are properly used for the wellbeing of our community. It is for all of us to take best care of this treasure – for the common good.

One of the trustees, Jeff West, sadly died recently taking with him his particular experience in the management and development of old buildings.

There is scope to involve others as trustees of the Corner House Memorial Hall charity and if you are able and willing to contribute imagination and attention to detail for the benefit of the town, please contact me or other trustees.

The House is already a success in that rooms are well used in accordance with its public-benefit objectives.

However, the trustees realise the building itself needs further attention to bring it up to modern standards.

Work on the improvement of insulation has begun. Penetration of cold into an ancient cellar is now greatly reduced and measures have been put in place to prevent cold from travelling upwards into Cornerstone and other rooms. More insulation is needed elsewhere to help keep heat in the building.

The trustees are also working to a plan to improve access to the first floor, and to install modern toilet facilities on the ground level. Heating and lighting design need attention. The trustees hope that profits from the local solar farm will help pay for developments.

Meanwhile the bookshop, which began as an initiative by Neil Packenham-Walsh, has expanded greatly thanks to efforts by John Partington and others. Increased sales space has been found in part of the Morris Room upstairs, and a truly huge offer of fiction books is becoming available there. The Corner House Community Bookshop is the place to go for fact or fiction books at bargain prices!

Roy Scott, chairman of trustees



RAINFALL REPORT—2022

The rainfall measured at Lees Rest between 1 January and 31 December 2022 was 717mm/28.68ins, the driest year since 2015.

The driest month was July with under 1mm, making it the driest since our records began in 1982. The wettest month was November with 158mm/6.32 ins.

Lees Rest is about a mile and a half east of Charlbury and so the rainfall in the Town Centre may have been completely different!

Nick Potter



Charlbury Garden Society

Spring marks the start of the gardening year as the weather starts to improve and new growth emerges.

The Garden Society has continued its talks throughout the winter and many other activities are now taking shape.

Talk on Thursday 16th March 2023 GARDENING IN CHARLBURY from NICK JOHNSON (Former Chair of the Society)

Nick Johnson has been gardening in Charlbury for nearly 50 years with (he says) mixed success. Nick will give his candid reflections on the changes, both in gardens and gardening, over that period and offer tips, dogmatic opinions, slides and possibly a bit of poetry.

Spring Show 1st April 2023

This year we again plan to hold our Spring Show in conjunction with the Charlbury Art Society.

This is a delightful event marking the start of Spring and we hope that members will again be able to find either daffodils or tulips (and if we are lucky both) to exhibit.

There is no prize money but the focus is the display and there is one Cup to be awarded.

The schedule will be on the Charlbury Garden Society website and a few paper copies will be around the town.

There will be teas, cakes and a raffle.

Plant and Seed Swap 20th May 2023 10am -12 noon

Since the uncertain days of the pandemic the Plant and Seed Swap has been a regular feature of the gardening year. Charlbury gardeners have always been remarkably generous in supporting events and this occasion brings together experienced and novice gardeners looking for inspiration for their gardens. Many gardeners grow or take cuttings or

divide plants especially for the event, and it is always wonderful to think that little pieces of our gardens are spreading around Charlbury and other local villages. It's especially good to realise that, generally, what will grow in a local garden will also grow in yours – so success is (almost) guaranteed!

This year we hope to organise a seed planting activity for children during the morning – so do keep an eye out for more information closer to the time.

Remember, you don't have to bring anything to swap – just come along and choose something new for your garden. Any monetary donations we receive are ploughed (pun intended) into our gardening initiatives around the town. But if you're thinking about sowing seeds maybe sow a few extra to bring along.

Gardening initiatives around Charlbury

Part of the purpose of the Charlbury Garden Society is to support local gardening and greening initiatives.

If you or your organisation are planning to renovate an area that would benefit local residents then do get in touch with us to see if we can support or help you. secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk

Outings

We hope this year to have a coach outing and some local self drive garden visits. Members will be notified of these events in good time.

Membership

The Society's website is at www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk/ where details may be found of joining the Society and renewing your membership for this year. This is also normally possible at any of our events throughout the year.

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All Together In Charlbury – a local helping hand

Going the extra mile in our community

Charlbury has long had a reputation for and tradition of good neighbourliness and volunteering by its residents. This shows in the wealth of local organisations and activities available to support our needs and interests, which are run through self-help and voluntary effort.

These complement many individual deeds of kindness and mutual support among friends and neighbours all around the town.

The value of voluntary effort is being recognised particularly this year both locally and nationally.

On 23 February the Lord Lieutenant, Marjorie Glasgow, (not a stranger to Charlbury or to volunteering!) hosted a "Big Thank You" event in the Community Centre for local volunteers – whether from a group or a good neighbour in a local street.

It is hoped that everyone in the town who qualifies for a communal thank-you but may not have joined in this event will now know that their efforts are appreciated.

Monday, 8 May – the final day of the King's Coronation Bank Holiday Weekend – has also been designated by Charles III as the Big Help Out Day to promote and encourage local volunteering. This will remind us all, when the time comes, to think of others we know who might like to join in whatever Coronation celebrations are organised in the town but will not be able to get to them or join in on their own.

And while we are remembering acts of "going the extra mile" in our community,

we should not leave out all the cleaners, carers and others who provide paid services of all kinds to local residents and who take steps above and beyond what might be expected to meet clients' needs and to support local activities.

This includes our post-people, our retailers and hospitality businesses and a wide range of specialist businesses and trades-people based in the town.

And finally, don't forget – to ask for ATIC help with a trip to an appointment or a practical task call **01993 776277**. This will get you to the staff of Volunteer Link-Up who kindly act as our call centre and who will see if one of our local volunteers can meet your request.

The phone line is now staffed from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday with a regularly-checked answerphone when staff are not available.

We are grateful to all the members of our small volunteer team for enabling us to make our contribution to Charlbury's already rich pattern of informal good-neighbourliness which goes on unseen day by day all around the town.

Meryl Smith

Enjoyable and friendly local Art Courses

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For more information contact Gabriele:
gabrielekern31@gmail.com

Artweeks in Charlbury

Saturday 13 - Sunday 21 May



Charlbury is a prime North Oxfordshire Artweeks destination. With over 20 artists exhibiting this year, most within easy walking distance of each other, it represents a wide cross section of all the artists taking part in Oxfordshire.

Artwork and sculpture is everywhere – church, cottages, studios, workshops and gardens.

A trail map will be available in April, providing helpful information and making it easy to find all the artists.

Contact: Maureen Sparling 07779 779121
www.artweeks.org



Charlbury Pre-School News

Charlbury Pre-School has enjoyed a flurry of activity and community collaboration this term! Here is just a snapshot of what we have been doing.

This year is all about getting our children outside and having fun! As we venture into spring, we have taken the children on sound walks around Charlbury. This is a fun way for them to listen and learn about all the different sounds that take place within their environment. The older children started back at Little Wild Things, and we are also busy getting our garden ready for the children to be inspired and learn how to plant and grow new flowers.

Gardening is a healthy and inexpensive way for children to learn and have fun and research suggests children perform better at school if they're involved with gardening.

Monster Phonics has landed! Monster Phonics is a highly engaging, structured, synthetic phonics programme, which is supported by the Department of Education. The children are really enjoying learning the sounds and actions of the monsters as well as learning all about the Monster's friends, their jobs and where they live.

As part of our continuous improvement initiatives and actively listening to the needs of our parents and carers, we are very excited to announce we will be launching our very own Tapestry after half term! Tapestry is an app which will allow us to create an individual learning journey for every child in our pre-school. It also enables parents and carers to keep up to date with what their child has been learning about in school.

We still have spaces available for full and partial days, so if you or someone you know is looking for high quality early

years education for a two to four-year-old child, do get in touch!

Thank you! You've really made a difference

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated their time and money to our pre-school. Thank you to our 'Friends of Charlbury' members, to Wilderness and the Charlbury Beer Festival for their much-needed donations and Grants which help us to support our projects and future initiatives. Thank you to all those who came along to our fundraising events, such as the 'Christmas crafts and Cinema', 'Family Fun Exercise with Jason', 'Spanish Film Night' and 'Sushi pop-up' events. To keep up to date on our future fundraising events please visit our website!

As always, the biggest thanks go to the fantastic team of staff and volunteers, who have worked tirelessly throughout this term, keeping our children safe, happy and ready for the world that waits them.

Could YOU help us?

We are always looking for volunteers, organisers, cake bakers, cooks, speakers, committee members, campaigners, social media whizzkids and new fundraising ideas. Do you have an idea for a fundraising event? Maybe you could organise or help publicise one? Would you like to become a member? To find out more, to become a member (it's free) and receive regular newsletters, to volunteer for an event, or to donate, please visit our website.

For more information about the Pre-school, please check out our website - www.charlburypreschool.org.uk. For enquiries about places and/or if you would like to arrange a visit to see the setting, please get in touch

Charlbury Patient Participation Group

Save a life - Defibrillator & CPR Training in Charlbury

There will be a training session on the use of Defibrillators & CPR on Saturday, 18th March, 2—4 pm at Charlbury Community Centre, Thomas Gifford Room.

Russell Ingham, First Responder for South Central Ambulance Service, will be providing the training, which is being kindly funded by Charlbury Town Council.

There are five Defibrillators sited in Charlbury, however, more are required to ensure any defibrillator can be reached quickly on foot in order to save a life.

Coincidentally our focus on defibrillators & CPR features in the current news, especially by the British Heart Foundation. After a recent survey they state 'more than half UK adults would not feel comfortable performing CPR for cardiac arrest. 33% had never learned CPR & lacked confidence to learn.

However, 51% felt that if a loved one had a sudden cardiac arrest in front of them they would feel able to perform CPR.

British Heart Foundation state 'about 80% of the 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in the home, and fewer than 10% of patients survive.' They are calling on the UK to learn CPR as it "could be the most important lesson you ever learn". The charity offer a 15 minute online CPR training tool called RevivR, which covers recognising a cardiac arrest, the best method for chest compressions, and how to use a defibrillator.

To reserve a training space on Saturday, 18th March email patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net

Please provide your contact details, how many adults & ages of children over 8 years old wishing to attend.

Growing old Disgracefully

When I rise from my seat and you hear a groan
Its not from the aches and pains in my bones
The pops in my knees or tightness of rump
It's remembering Boris and Putin and Trump

When I walk down the street and you hear me mutter
It's not cos gen X are going down the gutter
Or the youth of today are 'doing it wrong'
I'm singing the lyrics to an old punk song

When I raise my fist to the nearby skaters
Its not cos I'm one of those skateboard haters
Or a warning their boards should be set on fire
Its encouragement for them to Olli higher

When you put on a pop song and I say it's not great
It's not that my music taste's out of date or I think music lost its way with Rap
it just cos the band is hopeless and crap

I'm up for a drink, I'm up for a fight
I'm up for dancing, just not all night
I'm in for some sport, I'm there for some frolics
And if you call me old, I'll kick you in the kneecaps!

Miles Walkden

Centenary Woodland

It's over 30 years since Centenary Woodland was planted up at Ticknell Piece fields – many people, some as children, will remember planting the tiny trees in the early 1990s. Oxfordshire County Council had been looking for a site for a woodland to commemorate their 100 year anniversary since being created in 1889.

We have the late Alan Spicer to thank for giving OCC his wife Louise's idea for choosing Charlbury on land originally acquired to be playing fields for the secondary school which closed in 1982.

Designed by Eric Dougliss, the County Forester, the woodland was planted in phases by local volunteers - mainly ash with wild cherry and hazel, a few beech dotted around, and oaks on the deeper soil in the valley. With scalloped edges allowing grassland wild flowers to flourish, the broad rides are bordered with native flowering shrubs such as spindle, wayfaring tree, guelder rose, dogwood, and hawthorn providing food for wildlife, together with walnut and apple trees easily picked by people.

A nice touch in the design is a rough circle of lime trees planted to the south of the main ride to replicate secondary growth from suckers around an imaginary ancient lime tree long gone – I always try to find this to see how they're doing. Grim's Ditch cuts across the south-east corner and this was left unplanted.

For the first 10–20 years, under the guidance of David Rees, from the Oxfordshire Woodland local volunteers carried out formative pruning so that future generations would inherit well-grown trees giving them a choice about what to do with them.

We learnt that different tree species are pruned totally differently. With ash (which has a tendency to fork) the pruning effort was made at the top of the straightest trees, cutting off forked branches to encourage a leading shoot – this was very effective, but of course now with ash dieback disease we will be lucky if any of the trees survive. In contrast, the pruning effort with selected oaks is to remove lower branches to produce tall smooth trunks with minimal knots. The beech trees weren't expected to grow well

because of squirrel damage, but they are doing well and don't need pruning, the lower branches contribute to good overall growth of the trees and shouldn't be removed. Wild cherries sucker well and would be the first timber tree for removal. Lower branches of selected cherry are removed, but in contrast, lower branches of walnuts are encouraged to make it easier picking the nuts.

Over time, densely planted trees in the woodland need drastically reducing in number so the best trees can grow well and produce a good canopy. After a slow start on thin soil, the hazels have been coppiced more than once.

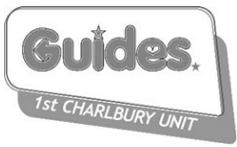
Ash trees are being removed and this is providing opportunities for replanting with other species. The oak trees initially thinned nearly 10 years ago require a second thinning now because the best trees are weakening with too much competition.

Currently the best 50 oaks have been marked with white bands and their lowest branches removed using long pole saws. The 41 competing oaks marked with red paint will be removed this winter. The felling is being done by our local team of Cotswold Wardens who manage the woodland for OCC.

The original boundary hedgerows were mainly blackthorn and a new blackthorn hedge was planted on the western boundary. Blackthorn, however, spreads rampantly by suckers and without heavy shade, agricultural cultivation, or animal grazing to control it, these suckers have become a nightmare overtaking the growth of the young trees and filling in all the grassland areas.

Fortunately, the Cotswold Wardens are on the case and are having to tackle the menace every year - regularly cutting it down to ground level on a 2/3 year cycle. However, lots of oak seedlings have sprung up naturally within the woodland so care is being taken not to lose these - it will be interesting to see how the woodland develops over the next 10 years.

*Christine Elliott
Charlbury Green Hub*



Charlbury Girl Guides

As ever, the Charlbury Girl Guides have been doing loads of things!

We've been working on our Geocaching badge and learning about the history of geocaching, and just how many caches exist near Charlbury. We're starting our Human Rights badge and learning about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This latter badge takes a LOT of thinking about and understanding of just how lucky we are to live where we do!

We've done some lino printing with Tony Lloyd from the Charlbury Art Society/Royal Oak Press. We've discussed how to tell the difference between real news and fake news, and how the Internet is a wonderful thing but that it needs to be used with caution and maturity. We're also starting the process of making a film—from ideas, script, and storyboards, to filming, acting, and sound effects and props! We'll keep you posted, but know in advance that it'll be a horror film!

Coming up, we're planning on ice skating, having a potluck dinner, and cooking a vegetarian meal at one of our meetings. We're also hoping (fingers are crossed!) to have a Zoom meeting with one of the former pilots of the NASA Space Shuttle, which ties into the one we had last year with Anne McClain, a US astronaut who's part of the Artemis mission to return to the moon.

So far this year, we're most proud of the fundraising we did to raise money to help make repairs to the Charlbury Scout and Guide Hut, which is almost 100 years old! We raised £410 to give to the Hut Trustees to help pay for the new interior roof of the Hut!

That said, so many more repairs and alterations are needed for the Hut. We'll

be continuing to work to raise money for all the ongoing work, so please watch this space for more information about what Charlbury Girl Guides are doing to help out. Chances are there will be another Girl Guides bake sale in the near future, so if you see us out and about in our stand, come on by and buy a cake (or two)!

Being a Charlbury Girl Guide is about becoming a part of a world-wide community of girls who strive to make the world a better place while, at the same time, learning how to be an excellent human.

There are six parts to the Guide Law:

1. A Guide is honest, reliable and can be trusted.
2. A Guide is helpful and uses her time and abilities wisely.
3. A Guide faces challenge and learns from her experiences.
4. A Guide is a good friend and a sister to all Guides.
5. A Guide is polite and considerate.
6. A Guide respects all living things and takes care of the world around her.

Everything we do at Guides helps girls to push their boundaries, consider things from different points of view, think critically, expand their horizons, and learn empathy, kindness, and respect. We also have a boatload of fun!

We're always looking for girls interested in becoming a Charlbury Girl Guide. If you are (or someone you know is) between 10 and 14 years old, why not come along to a meeting and have a test drive?

Get in touch!

*Michele Marietta 07817 890787
or Eric Pradel 07486 051539
1st Charlbury Unit Guides*



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I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report - some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.



CONTACT LORRAINE:
lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk
07516262560
www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk

Charlbury Society

We are continuing with our series of talks this season, and beginning to develop next year's programme. The committee is always keen to hear from you if you have ideas for a talk, a topic, or you have heard something that you think would interest others, in particular, local history, or environmental/ countryside issues relevant to Charlbury. Fresh ideas, or offers of support, however small, to the committee are always welcome.

We continue to support the Museum in its move to become an independent organisation, and congratulate the committee who have achieved charitable status from the Commission recently.

You will see full details of the programme for each month on the Events page of the town website, posted there 2-3 weeks before the talk, as well as brief details of the topic on posters throughout town.

2nd February 2023. Deborah Hayter

Common Right - Private Property - how Enclosure shaped Oxfordshire's landscape; on Zoom

2nd March 2023. Alice Millea
Oxford University: stories from the archives; on Zoom

6th April 2023. Judith Curthoys
Christ Church and NW Oxford; on Zoom

As the original date of our AGM and final event of the season on the history, which is going to be held in the Memorial Hall with drinks and the history of Morris dancing with a demonstration, coincides with the local elections, we are planning to move this forward by a week to the evening of the last Thursday in April but this will be well publicised.

We look forward to seeing you at our talks, and new members very welcome. Please contact treas.charlsoc@gmail.com to join.

Nikki Rycroft



Charlbury Scout Group

Many, many thanks to Sally and her family, including Tom the horse, for rearranging the lovely Santa's Sleigh fundraising event for us.

We raised just over £120 on a very chilly December afternoon, thanks to all our supporters and the very generous folk of Enstone. All the money will go to Charlbury Scout Hut funds, currently undergoing ceiling repairs. Thank you all again!

Our next fundraising event will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 1 April, more details to follow on Charlbury Info and posters around the town.

Cheryl Horsey - GSL



Charlbury Street Fair Quiz 11th March

It's time to get your thinking caps on again!

The annual Charlbury Street Fair Quiz will be on 11th March. Start thinking now who will be in your team; you can have up to 6 people!

The cost is the same as last year and is a bargain at £15 per person including supper.

Application forms will be available soon but reserve the date NOW.

Liz Partington



Charlbury Community Centre News

CHARLBURY Community Centre

It's been fantastic to see the Community Centre bustling and busy throughout the frosty winter months, a real hub for social, sporting, health and creative pursuits. Here's a sampling of what's been happening and some exciting news of what's ahead.

If you haven't been down in a while, come and see what's going on. And if you don't see anything of interest, please tell us what you'd like to see!

Youth Club

The Friday evening Youth Club is really thriving. It's a place for our secondary school teens to come together and hang out, a space for them to decompress after a week of structure at school. The Sports Hall is available to them, but if they'd rather just chill out that's fine, too. Credit must go to Bryanna Bone, who has taken over as the leader and facilitator and has steadily grown the weekly attendance - there were over 40 teens there the weekend of writing in January.

As a result, Bryanna could really use a few more volunteers to help out. It's early in the evening (7 pm) so you can still enjoy your own Friday night afterwards, and the duties mainly involve being present! And you only need to do one evening a term. You don't need to be a parent of a young person attending, though we'd love to have parents. Older teens would be great to have as well. Please get in touch with Bryanna if you think you can spare a few hours: bryannacbone@gmail.com.

Basketball Club

Another youth activity that has really taken off recently is the basketball club. Led entirely by one of our local teens, Charlie Chadwick's enthusiasm and leadership has steadily grown attendance at this after-school club. It's held Thursdays from 5-6 and is only £3.

Anyone aged 11+ who's interested, do get in touch with Charlie via: info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk. Or just come down and check it out!

Pre-school Collaboration

We're really delighted at the recent links we've developed with Charlbury Pre-school, both parents and kids. It started with a group of parents training for (and successfully running) the Oxford Half Marathon last autumn with Jason Biles, our inspirational and ever-energetic community wellness manager. After the success of that initiative, a family exercise session was held in January, again ably led by Jason, and hugely enjoyed by many of our families. We're sure there is the appetite for more - watch this space!

And if you have any ideas for similar types of collaborations between the community centre and any other local group you're involved in, please let us know - we're very open to trying new things and encouraging even more people to benefit from the centre. Please get in touch with Daniela Jenkins: info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk

Community Workshop opening soon!

Big news this spring is that the Charlbury Community Workshop is set to become a reality. The Community Workshop Working Group have worked incredibly hard in recent months to get the project off the ground. The shed is due to be erected in April and the workshop will have its opening on Saturday May 20th. The plan is to set up a separate charity to run the Community Workshop.

What is it? It will be a small building adjacent to the community centre. The plan is to provide space for both materials/fabric work ('the clean area') which will have sewing machines and other textile equipment available, and wood/metal/glass materials work ('the



CHARLBURY
Community Centre

dusty area') which will have hand and power tools and benches available.

What can you do? It's intended to be an affordable facility where community members can go to repair, make and hone skills in hands-on crafts like woodworking, needlecraft, stained glass, electrical/electronics repair and upholstery. The crafts are not limited to these and more ideas are very welcome.

When can you go? It will be open during pre-arranged time slots in the day and evenings. There will be a small yearly membership fee to have access to these slots in order to fund the workshop.

It will always be supervised. In addition to working on your own projects, the plan is to host weekly sessions to build items which will then be sold to help fund the maintenance of the workshop. In addition, the hope is to expand the types of hosted sessions to include a wide array of things from bicycle servicing to stained glass courses. These will be open to all.

Sign me up!

Come along to the opening day BBQ on 20th May to explore, find out more, get involved, meet other like-minded people – and enjoy a burger and a beer!

In the meantime you can find out more here on the dedicated workshop website: www.charlburycommunityworkshop.org.uk

For information about any of our sports sessions, exercise classes, weekly social meetings and to keep up-to-date, please visit our website:

www.charlburycommunitycentre.org

You can also follow us on Facebook: @Charlburycommunitycentre or Instagram: [charlbury.community.centre](https://www.instagram.com/charlbury.community.centre)

*Catherine Ball
Trustee, The Thomas Gifford Trust*

Weekly events at the Community Centre

Monday

9-10am – Body Workout with Jason

9-1 – Pickleball

2-4pm – Scrabble at the Community Centre

6-7pm – Pilates with Michele

7-8pm – Pilates with Michele

8-10pm – Badminton

Tuesday

9am-10am – Table Tennis

9.30-10.30am – Yoga with Loren

10am – Women's Badminton

12-1.45pm – Line Dancing with Jason

3-4pm – Fitness4Seniors with Louise

7-8pm – Barre Fit with Michele

Wednesday

9-10am – Lean Gym Circuits with Jason

9-10am – Pilates for Seniors with Sarah

10-12 – Pickleball

10.15-11 – Songbirds (music for 0-5-year-olds)

11.15-12noon – Toddler Gym with Jason

12.30 – 1.30 Pilates with Alexandra

3-5pm – Walking Football

5-6pm – Table Tennis

5.45-6.45 – Weight Resistance Training with Jess

7-8pm – Weight Resistance Training with Jess

8-10pm – Volleyball

Thursday

9-10am – Table Tennis

10-12 – Pickleball

12-1.30pm – Supastrikers Football for 2-5-year-olds

1.30-2.30pm – Pilates with Michele

5-6pm – Basketball for 11+ year olds

6-7pm – Pilates with Michele

7-8pm – Supercircuits with Jason

8-9pm – Walking Football

Friday

9-10am – Tone Zone (body conditioning) with Jason

9.30-11.30 – Pickleball

10am-12 noon – TGs Coffee Club

11.30-12.45 – Line Dancing for Beginners

7-9pm – Youth Club

Saturday

7.45 – 8.45am – Circuits with Jess

Sunday

9.45-10.45am – Family Circuits with Jason



Charlbury Bowls Club

Whilst the mild and wet weather continued to make the headlines across the county, the Bowls club continued to improve its structure for the future.

You may recall from previous issues that the club has a three phase building extension plan, and phase one includes replacing all the lights to LED and also loft insulation to minimise loss of heat.

This has now been completed to budget and with grateful assistance and partnership from Sustainable Charlbury, we are very confident that we can demonstrate cost saving in our energy use going forward.

Our third stage of work has passed the procurement process. We are replacing the windows and doors and also updating our security alarm systems. The appointed builders are due any time soon to double check the measurements and place the orders.

The Extension to the side is also expected to start very soon, and this will enhance our playing surface and viewing area for the short mat Bowls.

Our two new Mats have been very well received by our five league competition teams, and have helped our top end competitive county bowlers, both senior and junior, in achieving new goals in the National competitions.

Whilst there are still national competitions to be contested over the next few weeks our focus in the club is with internal competitions and skills practise, so if you wish to have a go, contact us for a taster session or two at no cost and with no commitment.

For the players reading this I wish you all the best for your games; whilst winning is the aim, taking part is great for the Mind-Body-and Soul.

For all the junior and senior members (and supporters / parents), who attend the County and National Competitions a

very big thank you for putting Charlbury Bowls club on the map.

Please remember that all short matches and competitions are open to all sexes and abilities and only a few have aged range qualifications.

Again this year we will continue to play short mat through the summer, both socially and with competitive teams and we do welcome players of various disabilities.

We also have several qualified coaches and a very strong committee dedicated to Health and Safety and Safeguarding for all its members.

The outdoor fixture card is nearing completion. The national Disability final will again be held at the Charlbury OxBrew green.

We will enter both a men's and a ladies county league team, and also the Mixed triples league, along with other trophies and cups .

We have lots of friendly matches both home and away during the week and week-end. Our open days are published separately [please see separate adverts.](#)

On the social side the club house boasts a fully stocked kitchen and a very well stocked bar.

We have internal themed fun sessions and more formal events planned for 2023.

Please use our website :

www.charlburybowls.co.uk

Email enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk if you have any questions or wish to book the club house.

Next Bingo is on Monday 27th March.

*Ron Smith
Club Secretary*

Charlbury Bowls Club

Ticknell Piece Rd

Easter



8 games &
2 Specials.

6 books—£8
6 flyers—£1
per game

All ages welcome

Monday 27 March

Doors open 6.00pm, start 7.00pm, Bar



Try bowls at Charlbury Bowls Club!

Just come to one of our Open Days. All you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes (like trainers) and we have the rest.



Aged 7 to 14?

Join our **very successful**

Broadsword Junior Academy

Indoor

- 2 Under-18 County Champions
- 5 England under-21 players
- 1 Oxfordshire Premier team

Outdoor

- 2 Oxfordshire under-25 players (men)
- 2 Oxfordshire under-31 players (ladies)

We have spaces on Tuesdays after school, and a just a few left on Saturday mornings

Open days

From 2.00pm Sunday 16 April

2.00pm Saturday 22 April

6.00pm Tuesday 25 April



A sport for all ages from 7 to over 80!



74 Ticknell Piece Road, OX7 3BT enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk 01993 868134



Charlbury Beer and Wine Circle

Our meeting in November was hosted by our member Matt, who brought with him knowledge and experience gained by working in wine retailing for a number of years, and surely through enjoying wine - perhaps over a greater period of time. Matt surprised us with an interesting selection of wines for Christmas day; from a morning glass of fizz to an end of dinner Port. A great evening Matt, thank you.

December saw us gather in the Memorial Hall, our regular venue, but with a different format for the evening. To enable us to enjoy a Christmas dinner together - without doing the cooking or travelling out of Charlbury - we arranged for an outside caterer to take care of the event.

Starting with some truly enjoyable fizz and time for socializing, we then sat down to an excellent three course dinner, finishing with a nice port gifted to the Circle. A fitting close to another successful year for the Beer and Wine Circle.

The 2023 programme began with January's meeting and an informative tasting presented by Doug Brown from the Broadway Wine Company. A very acceptable classic white Burgundy with subtle tastes of citrus and pear was the first to be sampled - and seemingly enjoyed by the majority of members present.

Second was another Chardonnay, this time from the Adelaide Hills of South Australia. Doug then served us his choice of four red wines; starting with Pinot Noir, one from New Zealand and another from France with an 80/20 blend of grapes grown in Pays D'Oc and the Loire. Zinfandel (Primitivo) was the next up, with a beautiful medium-bodied Californian example followed by a well-

balanced Primitivo from Puglia with 13% ABV. An interesting selection, with this being this writer's preferred wine of the evening.

By the publication date of this edition of the Chronicle, February's tasting will have taken place. Let's hope that members will have enjoyed it just as much as usual. If not the Secretary may be drowning his sorrows with Trastulo Primitivo and his co-presenter with her preferred N. Z. Pinot Grigio.

Our programme for the year includes more tastings - both by members and professionals, walking tours in Oxford and the nearby countryside—including a leisurely lunch, a vineyard visit, BBQ and a garden party. We are a friendly group without pretentious views on wine. An interest in wine and a wish to learn more about the subject is all that's needed to enjoy our functions.

New members and guests are always welcome. If you would like to attend our tastings as a guest, at a cost of £10 p.p., please email;
sec.charlburybeerandwine@yahoo.com
or
charlburybeerandwinecircle@gmail.com

Brian Murray

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Advertise your business in the **Charlbury Chronicle** and reach over 1550 residences.

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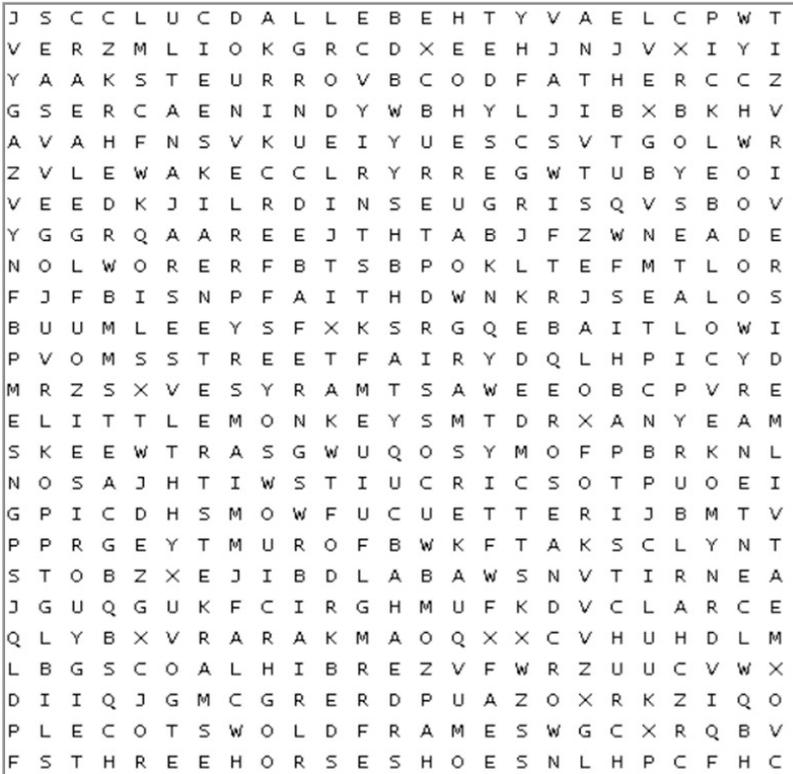


Coffee break page

Compiled by Miles Walkden and Michele Marietta

Charlbury Word Search

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other



Amarelo
 Baptist Church
 Charlbury Deli
 Circuits with Jason
 Cornerstone
 Ditchley
 Forum
 Nineacres
 Quakers
 Speakeasy
 St Teresas
 Three Horseshoes
 Wychwood

Artweeks
 Beer Festival
 Charlbury Pilates
 Clarimore
 Cotswold Frames
 Fairfax
 Little Monkeys
 Oxford
 Riverside
 St Marys
 The Bell
 Ticknell

Averose
 Centenary Wood
 Charlbury Yoga
 Codfather
 CRAG
 Fishers Lane
 Market Street
 Pickleball
 Rose and Crown
 Street Fair
 The Bull
 Wilderness



**WYCHWOOD
FOREST TRUST**

Wigwell – Community focus for Nature Recovery

In Charlbury, Wigwell is increasingly becoming a local focus for nature recovery with a major emphasis on community involvement and engagement, supported by the Wychwood Forest Trust (WFT), the Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP), the town council's Land & Nature Group (LNG) and volunteers from the Wigwell Friends and the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

This focus has been building over recent years with initiatives such as the "beaver analogue" or "leaky" dams, a reptile survey and footpath improvements. This trend is set to grow extensively in 2023 and beyond with exciting plans including Citizen Science Saturday, a community engagement event, a butterfly transect survey, water quality and invertebrate monitoring as well as extensions to the leaky dams programme and improved visitor information (e.g. with updated interpretation boards).

Leaky "Beaver Analogue" Dams.

The first leaky dam on the Wigwell stream was constructed by volunteers under the supervision of Toby from the WFT early in 2022. The long dry summer lowered the water table feeding the springs and the flow in the stream but the area above the dam still remained wet even though no pond was formed. With the return of rains in the autumn and winter, the flow has increased and we are monitoring the impact with interest. Dam construction involves coppicing trees growing along the stream and building dams across the stream from the cut wood. For the first dam, we drove stakes into the stream bed and then wove the whippy growth around them to create the dams. Mud and silt from upstream is packed around the dam to hold back flow but inevitably,

some water still finds its way through to generate a natural leaky dam structure. Dam construction and maintenance will be an ongoing process adapting to changing circumstances and conditions.

Building these dams has three beneficial effects. Firstly, coppicing the trees opens the stream to increased light, encouraging growth and supporting new species of flora and fauna. Over the years the Wigwell stream has become deeply shaded and this has restricted biodiversity as evidenced by a recent invertebrate survey carried out before work on the dams began.

Secondly, the dams help the establishment of ponds and wetland habitats upstream which can generate biodiversity gain by attracting and supporting species such as dragonflies and other invertebrates.

Thirdly, by holding water back, the dams tend to regulate flow after heavy rain and can reduce the risk of flooding further downstream along the main rivers.

Through 2023 and beyond we plan to expand the programme by building a string of dams along the stream with the assistance of local volunteers. As we continue to observe the effects of the dam construction we will also be monitoring the impact on biodiversity through citizen science monitoring of the stream (see below).

Citizen Science Initiatives

Successful nature recovery depends on detailed and accurate records. Members of the public can play an important role in building these records with minimal training through citizen science initiatives. Volunteer involvement in these schemes will form a major feature of the work at Wigwell in 2023. Specific plans include a formal butterfly transect survey to be led by WFT Trustee Roger



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Newman; FreshWater Watch water quality monitoring (freshwaterwatch.org) and Riverfly monitoring for invertebrates along the stream (riverflies.org). We also hope to involve volunteers in identification and monitoring of bumblebees and other pollinators.

Citizen Science Saturday – 22nd April 2023 (Earth Day)

As a centrepiece for our community engagement commitment in 2023 we are planning an activity-based day, with a strong focus on families and young people to coincide with Earth Day in April. This is a joint venture led by the Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) and supported by the WFT and Charlbury Town Council and you can find out more about it in a separate accompanying article.

Environmental Art Installation

We are delighted to welcome Lilli Tranborg, an Oxford-based environmental artist who has created *WillowDrop*, a sculptural response to natural flood management, within the Wigwell Stream. You can find out more about this innovative and inspirational work by reading Lilli's separate article in this edition of the Chronicle. We are also clearing a path so that you will be able to view the sculpture and Lilli also hopes to join us for our Citizen Science Saturday event so you will have a chance to meet her and ask questions then.

Limestone Grasslands

Wigwell has long been an important site for nature including a designated local wildlife site of species-rich limestone grassland which is home to the near-threatened species Meadow Clary (*Salvia Pratensis*). A small group of dedicated volunteers from the Wigwell Friends monitor and manage the Meadow Clary throughout the year – thank you.

If you would like to get involved with Wigwell or simply to find out more, please contact me at wigwell.friends@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Kenrick – Wigwell Friends

'Empire of Mars' by Stephen Darnell

Are you a fan of science fiction, or do you simply enjoy a good page-turner adventure?

If so, you may be interested in my new novel 'Empire of Mars.' Partly set on ancient Mars some millions of years ago, and partly in the near future, the story unfolds to reveal how the events of the past lead to dramatic consequences for those now exploring the barren wastes of the Red Planet.

Having lived in Charlbury with my wife Sarah for over 30 years, this is my first venture into writing a novel. If you would like to read more about it, or about me as author, please check out the following link:

<https://stephendarnell.ampbk.com/>

My book is also available to buy locally at Cotswold Frames.



Charlbury and District Probus Club - What is happening?

Probus is basically a social club which provides an opportunity to meet people in a friendly and informal atmosphere, enjoy good lunches followed by interesting talks and to take part in visits and other activities.

Following a very successful year in 2022 we are looking forward to many events and activities in 2023. New members are always welcome and membership is now open to both men and women. At one time most members were retired but this is not a condition and we now have several younger members.

There is now a website at www.charlburyprobus.uk/ where you can find out more about us, apply to join and sign up for events.

During 2022 we had a wide variety of after lunch talks on a range of subjects including the training of guide dogs for the blind, the work of the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, activities of Charlbury Town Council, Southill Solar farm and Farming after Brexit. There was also a presentation on English Civil War, entitled 'Soldiers, Saints and Sinners', which was followed by the opportunity to join 'war walks' including one to the battlefield at Edgehill and a later one to Naseby.

Trips were also organised to the Watermill Theatre - 'Whistle Down the Wind' and Sonning Mill Theatre - 'Funny Money' which were greatly enjoyed.

During lockdown we also started producing a monthly newsletter which is named 'The Kingfisher' after a wonderful photo taken by Paddy Gallagher who is a Probus member and regular contributor of fantastic wildlife photos. The Kingfisher is available to all Probus members with interesting articles and information. If anyone would like to see a copy then please contact simon.handley8@icloud.com.

To start 2023 we held an 'Open House

Event' in January in the community centre which provided an opportunity to find out more about Probus over a coffee and a cake which was very successful. Our series of after lunch talks will start with "Offsetting Trees for Natural Capital Benefits" in April the "Battle of Britain - 80+ years on" in May and also a talk in June on Oxfordshire County Council by Liz Leffman (Probus member) who is currently the Leader of the Council. In July we will be repeating the excellent barbeque at Charlbury Bowls Club.

Events planned for this year will include a river cruise at Stratford, which will coincide with Stratford's River Festival, a guided tour of Ditchley House with Ditchley Host and Historian Mike Montagu who is also a Probus member. We are also planning return visits to the Watermill and the Sonning Mill theatres

Currently our lunches are at Witney Lakes Resort but we are also exploring other venues. Before lunches there is a chance to meet and chat informally with members, guests and speakers over a relaxed drink from 11.30am onwards.

The lunches start at 12.30pm and generally last about two and a half hours. There is also a raffle after the meal with a chance to win a bottle of wine. Probus is a great way to meet new friends and to talk to them in a pleasant and informal atmosphere.

The cost of membership is currently £20 per annum, with a charge of £22 for each lunch attended. If you are considering joining but just want to come along and find out more before you join you can have a free lunch! Guests are also welcome anytime at a cost of £24 for lunch. For more information or to join us then please see our website www.charlburyprobus.uk/ or contact Simon Handley Charlbury Probud Secretary, at

simon.handley8@icloud.com

Morris / Folk dancing taster session

Wychwayz Border Morris and Stonesfield Folk Dance Club are coming together to offer a free taster session demonstrating two different styles of traditional dance. Come and give it a go.

Charlbury Memorial Hall, Browns Lane, Charlbury
Saturday 22nd April 2-4 pm
Refreshments and cake will be served

Wychwayz Border Morris are a very friendly, inclusive and welcoming group of Morris dancers dancing the traditional border style of dance with sticks and wearing rag/tatter jackets. We are



looking for new dancers and musicians of all ages and abilities to join us, no previous dancing experience required.

The dances are easy to learn and you can make them as energetic as you like. If you can play a musical instrument and enjoy playing simple traditional folk music, we would love to hear from you.

We practice on a Tuesday evening in Charlbury but it is not necessary to come along every week. We also enjoy some social time over a drink after practice. For more information contact Teresa on 07881 963328 or email wychwayz Morris@gmail.com

Stonesfield Folk Dance Club has been going for 50 years and despite being so close to Charlbury is not well known here.

The English Country Dance tradition goes back hundreds of years and is far more complicated than your average barn dance or ceilidh though generally not as energetic.

The so-called 'Playford Dances' were collected and published by John Playford from 1650 onwards and country dancing was popular between 1650 and 1800. In the 20th century folk dance and song saw a revival inspired by the work of Cecil Sharp who collected and published folk music, country dances and morris dances.

Today there are 1000's of English Country Dances for a caller to choose from including Playford, Contra (from New England) and contemporary. The Stonesfield Folk Dance Club meets every Wednesday from 8 - 10 pm at Stonesfield Village Hall and welcomes new members.

Unlike Wychwayz Morris they do not dress up or perform for the public but just like the Morris they have a lot of fun!

For more information contact Janet on 07947 076257.

Charlbury Baptist Church Outreach

For the last eighteen months the members of Charlbury Baptist Church have been supporting a Christian charity in Bangladesh called 'Life For Bangladesh' www.life4bangladesh.org.

They manage three schools, 100 Life Groups for young people and provide relief to the poor in rural areas of Bangladesh.

One of our members, Stephen Page, as UK Secretary for Life For Bangladesh, is involved in planning and fundraising for the charity and helps to lead weekly online Zoom Life Group meetings for the young people.

After we learned about the various 'Life For Bangladesh' activities our Church decided to pray for and support their work to spread the word of God amongst those in rural Bangladesh.

We realised the children who were so keen to learn at the school in Kaligram, in the absence of benches, had to sit on the floor.

Having arranged for a supply of wood and other necessary items to be sourced locally, in October 2022, Andy Faulkner, a lifelong member of Charlbury Baptist, set off to work at Kaligram with local craftsmen for a period of five weeks.

During his visit they managed to complete the task of making 35 new benches and tables for the children at Kaligram Primary School.

During the rainy season the holes in the roof seriously impacts on the children's progress.

To complete the repairs for the school will require two more phases: Firstly to repair the newer brick building - roof, ceiling & install electric lights. Then the final phase - to rebuild the older wooden building in brick.

Both Andy and Steve have made many friends who keep in touch with stories of

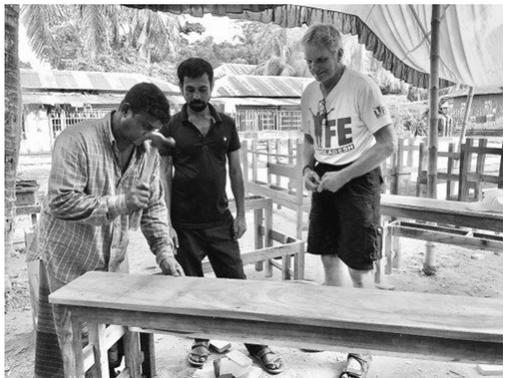
how excited the children are to sit at their new benches to learn.

They send their thanks for the difference this work has made to their lives, as they see God's love demonstrated in practical ways to their community.

Our Church is committed to praying for the completion of this work. We have a page under 'Communities' on the Charlbury Website for further news.

If you would like to hear more about this work, we would be glad to visit your group to tell our story and to show you more photos of our time in Bangladesh.

Charlbury Baptist Church



Andy Faulkner in Bangladesh

The Poppy Appeal for 2022 raised £5,865.06. We would like to thank our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Kim Harrison and all those who collected and contributed.

Annual Band Concert 11 November 2022

A lovely evening where we entertained by Jubilee Brass, conducted by Cliff Sadlor. Our guest of honour was Yanto Evans, ex Parachute Regiment now County Poppy Appeal Organiser for Oxfordshire. Thanks to Kim Harrison our Poppy Appeal Organiser for arranging the assistance of the young people from the RAF Cadets.

Poppy Appeal collector awards are due to be presented to Hugh Sherbrooke and Phillip Bell for 5 years, Judy Kinchella, Sarah Darnell and Ursula Simon for 15 years, Lady Sue Grant, Nick Potter and Jane Fitzmaurice for 20 years and Leah Fowler for 30 years.

Remembrance Sunday 14 November

The parade led by Major R.N. Potter and Piper Steve Duffy marched to St Marys Church.

The Standard was carried by Cyril Kerry with Barry Canham and Gareth Osborne as escorts.

The Service was taken by the Bishop of Dorchester [Oxon], The Rt. Revd. Gavin Collins.

Wreaths were laid in the Memorial Chapel by PC Chris Cochrane for Thames Valley

Police, for Charlbury Town Council Cllr. Sqr Leader Gary Harrison, for Charlbury WI Miriam Evans, for Oxon Fire and Rescue Bob Cross and for the Branch Sharon Mortimer.

The Kohima Epitaph was delivered by Jane Parsons. The salute was taken by Col. Mike Montague

Branch Coffee Mornings

Will be held on Saturday 18 February and July 22 2023 in the War Memorial Hall For information please telephone 01993 357468.

Branch Meetings

The Branch Committee continues to meet regularly, usually on the 3rd Thursday of each month with the exception of August and December. Any change to committee dates is displayed in our noticeboard outside Brian's Barbers.

Assistance

For further information about the work of the Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on 01608 810388 or Cyril Kerry [Branch Chairman] on 01608 810347 or Jane Parsons [Branch Secretary] on 01993 357468. The Branch Membership Secretary is Barry Canham on 01608 811176 who will assist anyone who is still experiencing difficulty with the new membership subscription system.

The telephone number for the Royal British Legion Contact Centre is 0800 8028080. This is a countrywide service.

The Charlbury Chronicle Needs Some Help

The Chronicle has been published continuously for more than twenty five years and some of those in the team today have been involved since the start. Now we would benefit from some additional help – mainly through delivering through letter boxes in Charlbury but occasionally with other things. Will you join us please and help to continue the smooth running of this great community asset.

Please email editor.chronicle@outlook.com

WillowDrop - a sculptural response to natural flood management

I am an Oxford based environmental artist who is currently studying for a Masters in Fine Art at Oxford Brookes University. In my practice, I'm not only seeking to make art for human contemplation but also for a functioning ecosystem. For a few years, I have been following the beaver release at the Spains Hall Estate in Essex, taking a special interest in their structures and impact on the landscape.

I wanted to explore my own artistic interpretation so I created the *WillowDrop* concept as a sculptural response to natural flood management.

The circular willow sculpture has a gradual rise which provides two 'dams'; a lower and a higher. The shape echoes the ripples in the water and the circular form can also be seen



Fig 1. Artist working on *WillowDrop*, Wigwell.

as a metaphor for unity, totality, wholeness and the circle of life.

While looking for an appropriate site to implement *WillowDrop*, I was introduced to the Wigwell 'Beaver Dam Analogues' scheme by the hydrologist for the Evenlode Catchment Partnership.

The Wigwell site is managed by the Wychwood Forest Trust, a conservation charity working in West Oxfordshire. This

proved a perfect scheme and location, which also provided the building materials.

Last autumn, I built *WillowDrop* close to the top where the stream joined the site.



Fig 2. Squirrels using *WillowDrop* as a bridge

A beautiful spot next to a large oak tree. The sculpture is made entirely out of local willow and to keep the carbon footprint as low as possible. I am currently monitoring for its effects on the river and the wildlife interacting with it. This will also form part of my final degree show at Oxford Brookes in June 2023. In the few months it has been there, *WillowDrop* seems to be working well as a 'leaky' dam and also as a bridge and perch for the wildlife.

A viewing point above the fenced in Wigwell area will be available for anyone wanting to see *WillowDrop* and follow the changes to it and the stream.

Together with the Wychwood Forest Trust and the Wigwell Friends, we are working on improving the path along the fence and to supply some signage.

For the keen nature explorers and art lovers that cannot wait for the signage, the coordinates for the viewing point are; Easting: 35945, Northing: 20053. You are of course also very welcome to come to my degree show at Oxford Brookes in June where I might show more of the wildlife footage and other fascinating things going on at Wigwell.

You are also likely to see me at the Citizen Science Saturday at Charlbury on the 22nd April (Earth Day) where I will be very happy to talk more about the project

Lilli Tranborg



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cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com



Citizen Science Saturday

as part of

EARTH DAY

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL
10AM-4PM

**CHARLBURY SCOUT HUT /
WIGWELL NATURE RESERVE**

FREE ADMISSION - JUST TURN UP

Beaver Dam Building - Tree ID
Water Quality Sampling
Butterfly Survey - Arts & Crafts
School Choir - Refreshments

evenlode@cotswoldsaoanb.org.uk





**WYCHWOOD
FOREST TRUST**



Citizen Science Saturday – 22nd April 2023 **as part of Earth Day**

The current state of our natural environment is a matter of serious concern to us all – from loss of biodiversity and habitats to soil degradation and river pollution.

If we are to reverse the decline we first need to understand the issues and to collect detailed and accurate information.

This is a problem that affects us all and we need to get involved and work together to fix it.

Education, Community Engagement and Citizen Science are all important and with this in mind, we are holding a major community event in Charlbury, FREE and open to all called Citizen Science Saturday on Earth Day, Saturday 22nd April 2023.

Funded as part of the Evenlode Smarter Catchment Plan this is a joint venture supported by the Evenlode Catchment Partnership, the Wychwood Forest Trust and Charlbury Town Council.

Whatever your age and interests, this is for YOU - do come along and join us for an enjoyable and enlightening day.

The day will feature a range of family-oriented activities as well as talks from guest speakers and opportunities to learn more about citizen science initiatives and to get involved.

Family-focused activities, based at the Scout Hut and on the Wigwell Nature Reserve will include Beaver Dam building, Water Quality monitoring, arts &

crafts, identifying butterflies, trees etc. and more.

Refreshments will be available in the Scout Hut and the Charlbury Primary School will sing for us.

Charlbury Scout and Guide groups will be helping with these activities too – thank you!

At the time of writing, details of expert speakers are still being finalised but we plan to include discussions of the condition, management and restoration of our rivers and water-courses; and of priority habitats and blue-green corridors for wildlife.

Information about citizen science monitoring will include transect surveys as well as water quality and invertebrates.

We also hope to be joined by environmental artist Lilli Tranborg to talk and answer questions about her *WillowDrop* natural sculpture at Wigwell, “a sculptural response to natural flood management”.

See Lilli’s separate article in the edition of the Chronicle.

Look out for more details of Citizen Science Saturday on

www.charlbury.info and on the

town council website www.charlbury-tc.gov.uk .

See you on Earth Day – 22nd April 2023!

Contact: Peter Kenrick

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Nursing News from the Lawrence Home Nursing Team

On behalf of everyone at the Lawrence Home Nursing Team, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to our retired Nurse Manager, Jenny Nolan, who has been awarded an MBE for services to end of life care in the New Year's Honours.

We would also like to thank Gail Ambrose who has recently retired as Nurse Coordinator after 24 years service to LHNT.

Gail joined LHNT in 1999 as a registered nurse before becoming Nurse Coordinator 10 years ago.

Gail has written a piece for the Lawrence Home Nursing Team website and said "I have always had an interest in palliative care.

I feel honoured and privileged to be involved with the families at such a difficult time. To me the patient and the family are equally important and if we can give them a 'good death' then we have done a good job".

We wish Jenny and Gail a very happy retirement.

We are recruiting for the vital role of Bank Nurse Coordinator. Acting as the central point of contact for end of life patients and their families, carers and the Primary Care Team, you will be involved throughout their palliative care journey and ensure that that the patient is supported.

Guided by the patients' needs and wishes, the Nursing team are able to offer truly holistic and tailored care that's right for the individual. No two days are the same making this an exciting and challenging role.

This role offers the opportunity to work flexibly within a highly regarded local charity alongside like-minded professionals; all of whom share a passion for delivering the highest possible standard of care to patients and

their families.



Gail Ambrose



Jenny and Tim

Please contact Sam Dulley on 01608 641549 for more information.

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Veterinary Group

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Charlbury Church Services



Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

Sundays 10.30am.

Communion on the first Sunday of each month

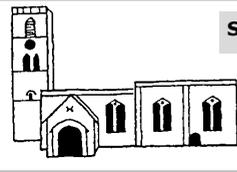
Tuesdays at 7.30pm Join us on zoom for midweek study/discussion

Our Garden. A place to sit quietly at any time.

Easter Day Special—look out for posters!

charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/dyershill/



St Mary's C of E Church, Church Street

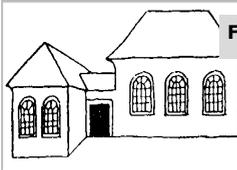
St Mary's Church, Charlbury and All Saints Shorthampton

Full details of all church services are available in the

Leaflet or in the Church porch

Parish Office (01608 810230)

www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk



Friends' Meeting House, Market Street

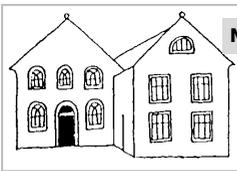
Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House

Sunday mornings 10.30am

For further details contact Sue Terry (01608 811033)

email: sueeterry@btinternet.com

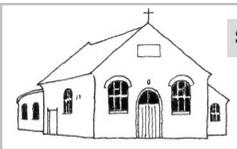
You are very welcome to join us



Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane

Sunday services at 10.30am

Further information from Gill Grason (01608 810154)



St Teresa's R.C. Church, Fishers Lane

Sunday Parish Mass. 9.15am

Weekday Masses;

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9.30am

Friday Mass is followed by Adoration/Benediction

except in Lent when it is Stations of the Cross

Wednesday Holy Hour: 6-7pm

Priest. Fr Clive Dytor, The Old Drapery, Church Street, Charlbury. Tel: 07484 158642.

Churches Together in Charlbury

'Who is my neighbour?' was the theme of our Lent talks last year, alerting us to difficult situations faced by many people in our country today. We will be exploring some possible solutions to society's problems in Lent this year, with talks and discussions on the theme 'Good Neighbours'. Churches Together in Charlbury has arranged for speakers from four agencies to come and tell us about their work supporting people struggling with financial and housing problems, mental health and educational needs. Talks will be held on Monday evenings, in the Friends Meeting House on 6, 13 and 27 March and in St Mary's on 20 March.

We will be thinking about how to be good neighbours to homeless people with the Director of the Porch in Oxford, to asylum seekers with the Director of Asylum Welcome and to sellers of the Big Issue with Ollie Tait. We will also be looking at the needs of our local community with Emma Kennedy from the Branch in Chipping Norton,

During Lent we will also be hosting a soup, bread and cheese lunch on Fridays in one of the Charlbury churches, when we can meet our neighbours and enjoy each other's company. Lunches are free but we will be inviting donations to support Christian Aid's work helping farmers develop more sustainable ways of growing food and managing their animals in response to climate change.

On the first Friday in Lent, 3 March, we will be holding a service for the World Day of Prayer at 11am in St Teresa's Church. The service has been prepared by women in the beautiful but troubled island of Taiwan on the theme of 'Faith'. And on Good Friday, 7 April, we will be 'Walking the Way of the Cross', meeting by the fountain on the Playing Close at 10am, visiting all five Charlbury churches, with readings and hymns at each stop, and finishing at the Methodist Church for tea or coffee and hot cross buns.

Everyone is welcome at all these events. Dates and venues are listed in the What's On column in the Chronicle, on the Events page of *charlbury.info* and in local churches.

We also want to thank everyone who took part in the Reverse Advent Calendar, donating food and other essential items to help homeless and other vulnerable people who attend the Porch day centre in Oxford. 12 boxes of supplies were delivered to the Porch in January and were gratefully received. This year they were especially glad of gifts of new underwear for people who take showers and do their laundry at the Porch. We shall be learning more about the Porch and other local charitable organisations in our Lent talks. Please come.

Rosalind Scott
Secretary to Churches Together in Charlbury

Come to relax, unwind, read the papers, catch up with friends and colleagues and enjoy some delicious home-made cake along with a steaming cup of Fair Trade tea or coffee

Font Cafe

St. Mary's Church, Charlbury
10am to 12 noon every Thursday

For smaller children we provide a play area with toys. Free Wi-Fi available

Churches Together Dates

Friday 3 March	World Day of Prayer service at 11am in St Teresa's Church
Monday 6 March	Good Neighbours' Talk and discussion led by Guy Scotece, Director of the Porch, Oxford, at 7.30pm in the Friends Meeting House
Friday 10 March	Lent lunch - Soup, bread and cheese: 12 to 1.30pm in St Mary's
Monday 13 March	Good Neighbours' Talk and discussion led by Emma Kennedy from the Branch, Chipping Norton, at 7.30pm in the Friends Meeting House
Friday 17 March	Lent lunch - Soup, bread and cheese: 12 to 1.30pm in the Friends Meeting House
Monday 20 March	Good neighbours' Talk and discussion led by Mark Goldring, Director of Asylum Welcome, at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Church
Friday 24 March	Lent lunch - Soup, bread and cheese: 12 to 1.30pm in the Methodist Church upper room
Monday 27 March	Good neighbours' Talk and discussion about the Big Issue led by Ollie Tait at 7.30pm in the Friends Meeting House
Friday 31 March	Lent lunch - Soup, bread and cheese: 12 to 1.30pm in the Baptist Church
Good Friday, 7 April	Walking the Way of the Cross. Meet at 10am by the Jubilee Fountain on the Playing Close for a reflective walk with a reading and hymn at each of the churches in Charlbury

St Mary's Easter Services

Sunday 2 nd April	9.45am Palm Sunday service, St Marys 11am Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Marys
3 rd 4 th 5 th April	7pm Compline, St Marys
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Holy Communion service, St Marys
Good Friday	9am Holy Communion, St Marys 10am Messy Church, St Marys 2pm Last Hour at the Cross, St Marys
Easter Day	8am Holy Communion, St Marys 9am Holy Communion, All Saints' Shorthampton 9.45am Easter Parish Communion, St Marys



Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Several members enjoyed a lively Christmas party, hosted by Sue Haffenden, on 10th December, with plenty of good food, nibbles and party games- thank you to everyone involved - a really good time.

We will be putting on two one-act plays in late spring with play readings beforehand from March. This will offer opportunity for those needing or wanting smaller parts and hopefully some new members. Our email is charlbury.drama@gmail.com.

All dates will be put onto the Charlbury website.

Helen Wright, Secretary

Open Homes 1 April

How to make YOUR home more energy-efficient.....

EIGHT CHARLBURY BUILDINGS TO VISIT WHICH ARE REFURBISHED FOR LOW ENERGY AND LOW CARBON

Come and learn from the Bowls Club and from householders.

Sustainable Charlbury has commissioned energy surveys of the Bowls Club, the school and pre-school. Come to the Bowls Club to see the resulting thermal images and air leakage test results which reveal heat loss in all its glory, and provide very clear signals as to the action that needs to be taken.

Those community buildings provide lessons applicable to ordinary homes.

Several home-owners around Charlbury have refurbished their homes for low energy and low carbon and they are happy to open their homes on Saturday 1 April to visitors who would like to come and hear lessons learned, costs and so on.

Further details to follow

Wednesday Lunch Club for Seniors

Our lunch club had a wonderful trip to the Pantomime late last year, paid for by one of our members. We also enjoyed a fantastic Christmas lunch, to which all members and volunteers were invited and which was sponsored by Sandie, the daughter of one of our members. We are lucky to have such generous supporters around.

The Day Centre is also grateful to the Town Council for a grant to help us this year. The amount we charge members to attend lunch club (£6) does not cover all our expenses, so we are extremely grateful for this support, which helps us to offer company and companionship and of course a hot meal, to some of our local residents.

The lunch club is held between 11.30am and 1.30pm every Wednesday in the Memorial Hall Garden Room and a home cooked lunch plus some conversation and games are provided. We can also arrange a lift if you cannot make your own way there. The club is almost full, so please check by ringing one of the numbers below if you are interested in attending.

We would like to thank our army of volunteers, cooks and drivers as well for their continued help - and we would always give a warm welcome to new volunteers.

Tanya Stevenson (Chair) 07871795748
Kath Lucas (Co-ordinator) 07854514102



Charlbury Town Council News

Contact: Lisa Wilkinson, Town Clerk at
charlburytownclerk@gmail.com or 07311 259412.
c/o Corner House, Market Street, Charlbury, OX7 3PN.
www.charlbury-tc.gov.uk

New playground equipment

A **ground-level trampoline and a rope pyramid** have been installed at Nine Acres using funding from the FCC Communities Foundation.



User-feedback suggests that this is a welcome addition to the playground, especially for older children. A resident has suggested that we could do more to promote activities for older girls at Nine Acres. If you (or a daughter) have an interest in helping us develop plans, please contact the Town Clerk.

Bus it!

Did you know that under a Government scheme, Stagecoach (which operates the S3 and 7 services) is capping fares at £2 for single journeys until 31 March **2023**? Just get on the bus and ask for a single fare.

Did you know that from Charlbury there are 9 buses to Witney and 14 buses to Oxford every day? We are really lucky to have these services which are a lifeline, especially for older and younger residents. Buses also make sense for evenings out in Chippy, Woodstock and Oxford. Did you know that you can now pay by card on X9 as well as S3/7 buses?

Did you know that Charlbury bus services are subsidised by Oxfordshire County Council until August 2024? If we want them to continue after that, we need to make sure we use them now – or we will lose them. Did you know that you can check the local bus routes and times at oxontime.com and

bustimes.org? For more info, visit <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/buses/>.

Traffic

We are very pleased so far with the build-out on Banbury Hill, which requires drivers who are entering the town to give way to traffic leaving. This is a proven way of slowing cars as they enter town and we will use the Speedwatch speed cameras to check the



effectiveness of this intervention. If it works, we could consider installing similar build-outs at other entrances to the town. The town has also benefited from the marking of **double-yellow lines** in areas where on-street parking interfered with the safe movement of traffic, for example on the bend by the Pre-School on Grammar School Hill and at the junction of Thames St and Nine Acres. We hope that these measures make it easier to

Charlbury Town Council News

get around town.

Our 20mph speed limit survey at the end of 2022 showed that 77.5% of respondents were in favour of a town-wide 20mph speed limit. We have therefore asked the County Council to implement a 20mph speed limit across the whole town.

A second Town Council survey about the possibility of installing of a zebra crossing on The Slade just north of Crawborough (outside the school) was also well-received, with 91.5% support from 201 responses. The role of Pauline, our school crossing patrol officer (AKA lollipop lady), would not be affected by this scheme. Pauline would continue to work from the zebra crossing at school start and end times. We have asked the County Council to progress this safety improvement as well. We can expect formal consultations on a town-wide 20mph and the zebra crossing in the coming months.

Cost of living

The Town Council is working with Cornerstone, the Community Centre and ATIC to provide cost of living information. There is a wealth of practical advice and helpful information on our website at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>.

Council tax

The Town Council's precept (the amount of your council tax that is allocated specifically to the Town Council) will stay the same for 2023-24 as the rate for the current year (2022-23): -£94.22 for a Band D property.

Low-carbon homes

The Town Council's Buildings group is managing a project called the Home Comforts Project which aims to produce 'whole-house' plans for 10 different house types in Charlbury. A whole-house plan tells a homeowner where energy is being lost throughout their home and which measures can most effectively eliminate the energy loss.

Save the date! The Home Comforts

Project is planning an Open Homes event on 1st April. It will allow interested residents to view homes that have had significant work done to make them more energy efficient.

Land and nature group

The LNG has met on a regular basis to progress, amongst other schemes, their Nature Recovery Plan (NRP). The NRP is based on local knowledge, data and engagement with landowners, land managers and residents, to expand, improve and connect wildlife-rich habitats.

The LNG organised a second training day for hedgerow surveys, this one on Hundley Way, led by Wild Oxfordshire. The data is uploaded to the TVERC (Thames Environmental Records Centre) website. The day was a good example of citizen science data collection which is important for the NRP. Recent work in collaboration with the Wychwood Forest Trust, is developing a strategy for the collection of both species and habitat data across the four parishes of the NRP. A start will be made with fixed butterfly transects at Wigwell this summer.

Skilled volunteers from the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens (CVWs), working with OCC, have been carrying out essential tree management work at Centenary Wood. At the start of the Christmas holidays, they also coppiced the 30-year-old multi-stemmed hazel at Charlbury Primary School growing in the enclosure by the pond. This will allow more light in to the pond and surrounding area.

A key aspect of the NRP will be working collaboratively with landowners/managers. A delegation to Ollie Stobo's farm between Fawler and Stonesfield will discuss the challenges he faces as a mixed farm in the current economic conditions and the opportunities for working with him to deliver some of the longer-term plans emerging from the NRP. There will be further visits with other farms/estates this year.

Community engagement and

Charlbury Town Council News

Understanding of the state of our natural environment are also vital features of successful nature recovery and with this in mind, a wide-ranging Citizen Science Saturday event is planned for Saturday 22nd April in Charlbury and at the Wigwell Nature Reserve. This is a collaborative effort between the Evenlode Catchment Partnership, Wychwood Forest Trust, the Town Council's LNG and the Wigwell Friends.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting is on Friday 21st April at the Memorial Hall (time t.b.c.). See exhibits from the council and local organisations. Come and hear all about what the council has been up to and ask us anything you want to over a glass of wine (or a soft drink) and cheese. Guest speakers to be confirmed. Don't miss our Honoured Citizens Award presentations.

Boundary Walk

The Annual Parish Boundary Walk will take place on Rogation Sunday, 14th May. This is a chance to walk the boundary along paths not normally open to the public, by kind permission of the landowners. It starts at 10am at the Boundary Oak – the old oak tree at the top of Forest Road (B4437 to Burford), nearly a mile past the railway station. The walk is about 11 miles in total and takes about 6 hours including a break for lunch at Model Farm, Ditchley, for which we are very grateful to Rob and Maxine Hobill. We need volunteers for stewarding and chauffeuring on the day – if you can help, please contact the Town Clerk.

Charlbury alerts

Join our **email alert system** to be notified about what's happening at Charlbury Town Council and any urgent news in the town. To be added to the Charlbury Alert System we need your consent. Please fill in your details at charlbury-tc.gov.uk/welcome-to-charlbury-alerts/. We look forward to keeping you up to date!

Cllr James Styring



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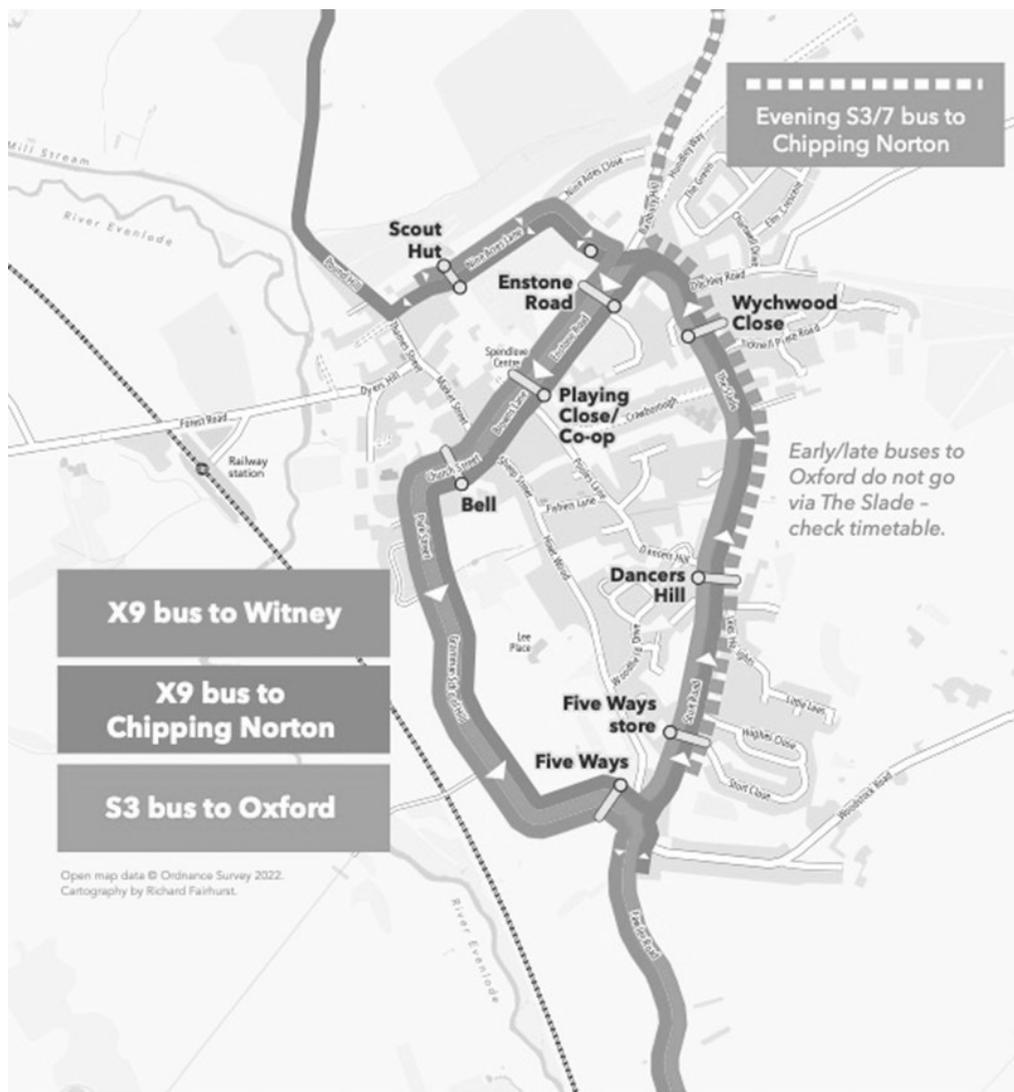
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From County & District Councillor Liz Leffman

01608 810153, 07741 073088 liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

When I first stood for the District Council in 2011, one of the issues that I was always being asked about was the parking near the corner of Nine Acres Lane.

The previous County Councillor was not inclined to do anything about this, so when I was elected to the County Council in 2017, one of my pledges was to get double yellow lines onto that section of the road. It has finally happened!

In partnership with the Town Council I have been able to get that done, plus more double yellow lines on the bend near the pre-school on Grammar School Hill, which makes it a great deal safer for both cars and pedestrians. We are now waiting for some of the other improvements to be completed, including the extension of the 20mph speed limit to the rest of the town.

The County Council has just published its 2023/24 budget. The cost of living crisis has hit councils hard, with increases in wages, energy prices and extra demand for children's and adult social services. We will be putting up council tax by an additional 2.99% to offset some of the pressures that we are facing.

We have been given extra funding by government for adult social care but that is conditional on us raising council tax by a further 2% to pay for some of those

costs. So the total increase will be 4.99%.

We began the budget process knowing that we would have to make significant savings of around £40 million. The settlement that we have had from government is a bit better than we expected so we have been able to increase spending in some areas in line with the council's priorities

These include an extra £3 million to support climate action, including tree planting, £2.5 million to support rural transport, and an additional £1 million to improve road markings, cycle paths and pavements.

We are also putting aside £2.3 million to support low income families so that they will not have to pay the extra 4.99% council tax.

The roll-out of the 20 mph speed limit across the county is happening, and over 200 communities have now signed up for this.

I was delighted to see reports in the press recently that the government is considering adopting 20 as the default speed limit in built up areas nationally. Oxfordshire has led on this, and specifically Charlbury. As early adopters of the 20 mph limit, Charlburians are showing the way!

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET

**on the Playing Close between
9am and 1pm on
Saturday, March 12th**

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd. and organised by Geoff & Janet Burroughs.

Any queries, please contact Geoff or Janet on the contact details below.

Email: burroughs871@btinternet.com
tel: 07969 208518, 01608 810260

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Lucy Robertson MAR

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www.lucyrobersonreflexology.com**

Foxmead, Hundley Way, Charlbury OX7 3QU

From District Councillor Andy Graham

07908 832632 andyg2439@gmail.com

By the time you read this article the budget for West Oxfordshire District Council will have been set and I am pleased to report that no cuts to services will have been achieved and additional funding has been secured with £1 million prosperity funding for improving our town centres and supporting our vibrant community groups.

A further £716,216 reserved specifically to support capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure from the Rural Prosperity Fund has been successfully granted to West Oxfordshire as a result of successful bidding. This will have a direct benefit for our communities and I will be giving further details of how and when this will be rolled out in the next few months.

Thank you for all your support and contributions made in our earlier consultations it is real helping to shape the schemes.

I was particularly impressed to hear about the community centre's ambitions and plans to develop future gym facilities for the town and I now appreciate how much work is being done to get that project truly underway. I hope we all can get behind the fundraising efforts needed, as the town's residents have so successfully done in the past and I will do my best to seek out whatever support I can.

The issues regarding flooding, pollution and our sewerage infrastructure has been hitting the national news demonstrating how little investment and reliable data has been carried out by Thames Water and the impact is affecting us all. I am grateful to the support of the campaigning group WASP (Windrush Against Sewerage Pollution) who now meet on a monthly basis in Witney to address these issues and what was described as an impossible feat is at last bearing some fruit. The pressure on our fragile sewerage infrastructure across the UK will need massive

investment and a government more focussed on creative solutions than mitigating disasters. Locally, we can and we are doing more-levers of influence can be powerful.

I am happy to report that I have been working with many Oxfordshire Leaders from 16 district, city and county authorities to form a Pan Regional Partnership to work strategically to attract inward investment across Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

This will address infrastructure, employment and actions to combat climate change. Both Cllr. Leffman and I will play a significant role as delegates on the economy and environment, which will form two of the main drivers of action across the regions. This partnership will be in place from March/April 2023 and has received pledges of government support amounting to over £2 million. Let's make this count.

As your local councillor, I continue to respond to your calls about missed bins, litter collecting initiatives, and always available if you need help.

With the great sense of community you bring to Charlbury make it the special place it is.

Regards

Cllr Andy Graham



All Together In Charlbury – a local helping hand

If you need:

- Transport to appointments or activities/visits
- Occasional household tasks/gardening
- Shopping
- Help with a form or letter or something else
- Someone to pop in for a chat

Local ATIC volunteers are here to help
Call 01993 776277

From Robert Courts, MP

robert@robertcourts.co.uk



As a passionate conservationist, I take a deep interest in our natural environment, fully recognising the importance of ensuring clean and healthy rivers - both locally and nationally.

Since first elected in 2016, I have campaigned tirelessly to tackle issues of water pollution and flooding for my constituents in Witney and West Oxfordshire.

I share residents' concern about the condition of local rivers, including the Evenlode and I have been working on this issue for some time.

Recently, I welcomed Thames Water's confirmation following my campaign that expansion works to increase capacity at the Witney Sewage Treatment Works by 50 per cent will begin this month and reach completion by March next year. I was also encouraged to receive further confirmation of investment in sewage treatment works across West Oxfordshire including in Chipping Norton.

Of course, I will continue to push for further infrastructure upgrades across West Oxfordshire. Whilst the recent progress being made locally by Thames Water to address these issues is encouraging, I will continue to hold Thames Water to account on delivering these infrastructure upgrades over the coming weeks and months.

Nationally, I was pleased with the Government's announcements following my campaign alongside the Conservative Environment Network and colleagues in Parliament to consult on making sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), which ensure things like soakways for

rainwater are mandatory for new developments.

When new homes are built, they must have the infrastructure that is needed to go with them, and that is never more important than when we are ensuring that our sewage networks are able to cope.

If the legal changes I am campaigning for were implemented, it would mean water companies would require a financial contribution from developers to deal with the increase in demand for connection to their sewage network. In turn, we would get the upgrades to our water systems that we expect.

I am pleased by the Government's positive response to our significant campaign to ensure that new homes in England will have sustainable drainage systems.

On another positive note, I was delighted last month to hear news of the Chipping Norton midwifery-led unit re-opening following its closure in August 2021 due to staffing constraints. This is fantastic news for the local community, giving greater and more local birthing choices to expecting parents.

My weekly surgeries move around West Oxfordshire to be close to those who need my help most.

It was great to recently hold an advice surgery at the Charlbury Community Centre where I met with local residents to talk to them about their concerns and queries.

I am always here to listen to and help West Oxfordshire residents whenever they need it. If you would like to book an appointment, or if there is anything I can do to help, then please contact me through this link to my website:

robertcourts.co.uk/contact



The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens: Keeping our woodlands in good shape

Woodlands are a fantastic resource for everyone, providing natural habitat for wildlife as well as somewhere to enjoy a walk (with or without the dog). But left to their own devices, over time woodlands degenerate and become dark and overgrown – drive around the local countryside, and there are plenty of examples to see.

Woodlands need to be managed if we are to get the best from them; invasive species need to be cleared out, dying trees and bushes removed, and light let in so that plants that grow on the ground can re-establish themselves and flourish once more.

For the past few years, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have been focusing on improving the management of Centenary Wood, and we expect that many people will have noticed the work that has been done.

Much of it has involved trying to keep blackthorn under control, and to establish a rotation for coppicing the hazel trees that were planted in the early 1990s as part of the original scheme for the wood.

So, what does coppicing entail? Going back in history, it was a very important way of making sure that there was a ready supply of useful wood for a whole range of purposes – and the same remains true today.

Long hazel shoots (heatherings) and thicker stakes are both important materials for traditional hedgelaying, as well as for making things like fencing panels.

Hazel typically produces a large number of stems from a main trunk; the idea of coppicing is to cut these off close to the ground so that the tree will regrow to produce another crop in a few years' time.

You may also have seen that where a tree has been coppiced, we usually cover the 'stool' (where it regrows) with prickly material such as pieces of blackthorn – and there's a good reason for this: to prevent the local muntjac deer from nibbling the hazel shoots as they begin to sprout.

This seems to work, and so far very few of the old hazel stools have failed to regenerate – even when burnt by DIY campfires!

And as for the waste material – wood that we can't use? In the past, the Wardens usually enjoyed bonfires to burn it off, but not any more.

Today, much of what's left over is built into the dead-hedges that are now a feature of Centenary Wood, providing an alternative type of wildlife habitat.

Other woods that the Wardens look after include parts of Dean Grove and Dean Common, while high on the ridge near Sarsden, we planted Wardens' Wood a few years ago.

For more information about the Wardens, what we do and how to get involved, our contact details are in the Directory at the end of the Chronicle.

Simon Walker

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CRAG News

CRAG's bumper collection of donated items reached Calais in good time for Christmas and in the middle of a freezing cold snap which made them all the more welcome.

We nearly filled a large van with boxes and bags of clothes, boots and shoes, sleeping bags, tents, blankets, hygiene items and more.

Huge thanks to the brilliant volunteers from Charlbury who drove the items to Calais, as well as all the generous people who donated funds for the costs of fuel and renting the van.

Future calls for donations will be sent out in due course, and people are already asking when the next one will be.

The most helpful thing to do at the moment would be to hang on to the items if possible, in a safe, dry space until we are ready to sort and store another consignment.

Meanwhile, and until the next time, WARMEST THANKS from all the CRAG team, and we are joined in that by the volunteers giving their time and energies in Calais.

Besides donating items, here are some of the other ways you can help CRAG to help refugees:

- **Take part in the CRAG Challenge and keep up those new year's resolutions!** Ask your friends and family to sponsor you. To get started go to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/crag-2022-challenge>.

- **Set up a monthly standing order**

A regular donation ensures that we can always send money to the charities working in areas of greatest need, which will vary from month to month.

You can either transfer money directly to our bank account: Charlbury Refugee Action Group, Sort code: 089299,

Account no: 65789036, or set up monthly payments via our JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/charlburyrefugee - just click on the 'Donate' button in the top right. Please email:-

treasurer@charlburyrefugee.org.uk to let us know.

- **Sell an item and turn it into cash for CRAG.** Offer your item for sale on charlbury.info, Gumtree, Nextdoor eBay etc, and give CRAG a percentage or all of the sale's proceeds.

If you have vintage items such as clocks, cameras, ceramics, toys, jigsaws, postcards, silver items, lamps, jewellery and general ephemera, we might be able to sell these items at auction - please contact hilaryjbarber@aol.com or phone 01608 659480.

- **Come to the Sunday tea concert in the Memorial Hall on 5th March at 3pm.** The last concert of the season will feature baroque chamber music by Bach, Handel, Telemann and Leclair followed by complimentary tea and homemade cake.

- **To book tickets email**

nick.parker@cooptel.net or phone 01608 811558. Tickets will also be available from Cotswold Frames and there will be a limited number available on the door.

Thanks to the generous support of The Evenlode Foundation every single penny you pay for your ticket will go directly to refugee relief.

- **Volunteer as co-treasurer!**

If you have bookkeeping or accounting experience we'd love to hear from you. Please phone 07952 966060 or email treasurer@charlburyrefugee.org.uk

Vicky Buser



Ten Good Reasons to Catch the Bus

In the last Chronicle it was reported that both of Charlbury's bus services may be axed in August 2024 unless they have become commercially viable by that time. This is devastating news for the significant minority of Charlbury residents who, whether out of choice or necessity, do not drive and therefore depend on the buses for local travel.

I have lived in Charlbury for ten years without a car and have never felt cut off, thanks to the excellent public transport services we enjoy. It has however never ceased to amaze me – even before Covid struck – how under-used our buses are, given the huge advantages they offer. I suspect the main reason for this is that most residents, being car-owners, simply don't know where the buses go, how often they run, what time they leave, or from where. Another reason is probably that people think buses are inconvenient, uncomfortable, unreliable and slow.

Obviously the bus is not an option for all of the people all of the time. But it could be an option for most of the people some of the time! Here are ten good reasons to give it a go.

1 SAVING THE PLANET

We all know it's better for the environment if we leave our cars at home and use public transport whenever we can. But in Charlbury very few of us seem to do it.

2 DESTINATIONS

The **S3** (which occasionally becomes the 7) goes from several points in Charlbury to Fawler, Stonesfield, Combe, Woodstock and Yarnton as well as the centre of Oxford. Perfect for the County Museum, Blenheim or Yarnton Garden Centre.

For the John Radcliffe and Churchill Hospitals in Oxford, forget the perennial headache of hospital parking! Take the S3 to South Parade in Summertown and a five-minute walk will connect you with the 700 hospital service on the Banbury Road.

The **X9** goes to Finstock, Hailey and Witney in one direction; Spelsbury, Dean, Chadlington and Chipping Norton in the other. Ideal for the Charlbury Garden Centre, walks, pubs, shops, markets and swimming pools.

3 TIMETABLES

Both of our bus services run regularly, Monday to Saturday. Timetables are displayed on the bus stops and are available at stagecoachbus.com for the S3, pulhamscoaches.com for the X9. On the Charlbury website the times of the next buses are given in the top right corner of the home page. Paper timetables are usually available on the S3.

4 RELIABILITY

Anyone who has used a train recently will almost certainly find the bus more reliable! and if real-time information displays can be installed at Charlbury bus stops as suggested, this will help build confidence in the service.

5 USE YOUR BUS PASS

If you receive a state pension, off-peak bus travel is FREE! This is such a privilege – why not take advantage? At the same time you can save money on petrol and dispense with worries about parking.

6 FACILITIES

The buses are clean, modern, comfortable and warm, with windows you



can open for fresh air. There is easy access for wheelchair users and priority seating for people with disabilities.

7 DRIVERS

The drivers, quite apart from their skill in negotiating our country lanes, are courteous, friendly and helpful. They also exercise remarkable patience when their route through the centre of Charlbury is blocked by thoughtlessly-parked private cars.

8 WILDLIFE

When was the last time you saw a hare? From the top of the bus, above the hedgerows, you'll have a panoramic view of our beautiful countryside. Ideal for spotting hares, rabbits, deer, birds of prey and other wildlife.

9 WALKS

If you're a walker, extend your range by taking the bus for part of the way. Have you tried walking back to Charlbury from Fawler, Stonesfield, Combe, Woodstock, Spelsbury, Dean or Chadlington? It's also fun to connect different bus routes: for example take the X9 to Finstock, walk to North Leigh, admire the church, pick up the 233 to Woodstock, have a coffee or visit the bookshop and finally catch the S3 back to Charlbury. You can even take your dog on the bus.

10 USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Last but not least, the threat is serious – use it or lose it! It may not matter much to you, but for many people in Charlbury the bus is our lifeline. PLEASE support us by using the buses for local journeys whenever you can. You never know, you might even find you enjoy it.

Linda Mowat



Here's a reminder of the hours that Charlbury Library is staffed:

Mondays 10am – 12.30pm (alternate Staff/Volunteers)
Wednesdays 2pm – 7pm (Staff)
Fridays 2pm – 7pm (Staff)
Saturdays 10am – 12.30pm (alternate Staff/Volunteers)

At other times the library is still "open for business" whenever the Community Centre is open, but you will need to remember your library card for using the self-service machine if you want to borrow or renew items, or to collect your reservations. The self-service machine now takes debit and credit card payments, but not cash.

Easter is approaching and we will be holding a Spring Stories & Craft session in the library during the school holidays. It will be free and aimed at 4-7year olds with their carers so look out for the adverts nearer the time. Slightly younger or older siblings would also be welcome.

Our lovely library is only staffed part-time and during sessions when staff aren't there, we rely on volunteers to keep the library running smoothly. If you feel you could commit to approximately one session per month, for 2 ½ hours, please get in touch. You would either be working alongside staff or another volunteer and there's usually plenty to do. If you're interested, or just want to find out more, please leave a message by phone or email (see below) with your contact details and staff will get back to you.

Julie Ward
Library Manager
01608 811104

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Information from the Alzheimers Society

The Alzheimers Society have updated their advice on ways of communicating with people living with dementia. This includes the difficult choices and situations around not telling the truth to a person with dementia to protect their feelings and what not to say to avoid unnecessary upset.

You can find the advice on the AS website - www.alzheimers.org.uk. Go to the Blog page and look for the following items:

- When is it OK to lie to someone with dementia?
- What not to say to someone with dementia?

There is also an article in the AS newsletter, "Dementia Together", on mobile phones designed to be easier to use by people living with dementia. Go to the website: <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk> - get-support - publications-and-factsheets - Dementia-Together (Feb/March 2023).

If you do not have access to the internet, contact Dementia Friendly Charlbury (see below) and we will provide a printed copy of the material.

Relaxed performances designed to be accessible including for people living with dementia

Moving Music

Moving Music concerts combine performance by professional and other musicians of a high standard, along with sing-along songs for the audience. Refreshments are served from 30 minutes before the concerts, allowing the audience time to park, come in, settle down and socialise before the concert starts.

The concerts are held four times per year, on varying days of the week, with the option of attending in the morning or afternoon.

For details go to this website <http://soundresource.org.uk> and click on Moving Music. Otherwise contact Danielle Battigelli, email: movingmusicconcerts@gmail.com Tel: 01865 251305 and ask to be put on her mailing list.

The next Moving Music Concert is on Thursday 30th March 2023, at 11.30-12.30 and 2.00-3.00pm (choose your preferred concert time). Tea, coffee and biscuits are served from 30 minutes before each concert starts. Both concerts are in the Silk Hall at Radley College.

Chipping Norton Theatre

Details of relaxed performances can be found on the Theatre website: <https://www.chippingnortontheatre.com> - Your Visit - Access - Relaxed Events

Oxford Playhouse

Details of Relaxed Performances (marked R) and Dementia-Friendly Performances (marked DF) can be found on their website: <https://www.oxfordplayhouse.com> in the OP's current brochure - see Brochure Library.

Dementia Friendly Charlbury (DFC) is a group of volunteers who want Charlbury to be a friendly and welcoming place for everyone to live, especially people with memory and thinking problems. If you have any comments or concerns to pass on to DFC, you can contact us on 01608 810192 or email us at charlburydfc@gmail.com.

Meryl Smith

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Please note that it is the responsibility of each organisation listed in the Community Directory to notify any changes to the Editor

Artweeks - Maureen Sparling (07779 779121)

All Together In Charlbury (ATIC)

To request help (01993 776277). To contact management committee (07487 413892)

Baptist Church - Kay Colyer (01608 810107)

charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Helen Wright, Secretary
charlbury.drama@gmail.com

www.charlbury-drama.com

Charlbury Art Society (CAS) Joanna Shakir
secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk

Charlbury Beer Festival - Michael Peake

info@charlburybeerfestival.org

www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle - Brian Murray
(01608 819091)

Charlbury Bowls Club - Ron Smith

secretary@charlburybowls.co.uk (07979 980321)

Charlbury Bridge Club— Secretary Monica
Wilkinson (01608 810560)

Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw

(01608 810130) *hughandjoan@uwclub.net*

Charlbury Chronicle - Susie Finch (07879

693733) *editor.chronicle@outlook.com*

Charlbury Community Centre—Daniela Jenkins
(01608 811878)

Charlbury Community Speedwatch —

charlburycsw@gmail.com

Charlbury Cricket Club - David Horne Vice

Chairman *dw3horne@gmail.com*

www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

Charlbury Day Centre - Tanya Stevenson (07871
795748)

Charlbury & District Probus Club Tony Merry
tonyherry@gmail.com

Charlbury Green Hub - Christine Elliott

(01608 811057) *www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk*

Charlbury Garden Society

secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk

www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk

Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club—Gill Grason
(01608 810154)

Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (01608 811007)

peter@charlburymorris.org

www.charlburymorris.org

Charlbury Museum - Curator—

curator@charlburymuseum.org.uk

Charlbury Music Class - Peter Fry (01993
359189)

Charlbury Open Gardens - Catherine Goyder
csfgardens@charlburystreetfair.org

Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club

(Ray & Margaret) (01993 831345)

Charlbury Pre-School—Emily Dytor

emilydytor@gmail.com (01608 811200)

Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter
(01608 810388)

Charlbury School -Head (01608 810354)

office@charlburyschool.org

Charlbury School Association -

charlburySA@outlook.com

Charlbury Scout Group - Cheryl Hornsby -
cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk

Charlbury Society - Chairman, Nikki Rycroft
n.rycroft@doctors.org.uk

Charlbury Street Fair - Chairman—John Dora

(01608 811328) *jmdora@btinternet.com*

Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Jarman (01608
811692) *charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk*

Charlbury Town Council—Lisa Wilkinson, clerk

(07311 259412) *charlburytownclerk@gmail.com*

Charlbury Town Football - Keith Claridge

(01608 810201 or 07870 426707)

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - James

Ball (01608 810270) *jolliecat@btinternet.com*

Charlbury Town Walking Football

—John Munroe *charlburytownwff@gmail.com*

(07388 010496) *www.charlburytownfsc.co.uk/*

walking-football

Charlbury Wildlife Society

charlburywildlifesociety@gmail.com

Charlbury Women's Institute - President -

Miriam Evans (01608 430807)

charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

ChOC Cinema - Jackie Hague (01608

810713)

Corner House Community Bookshop—Neil

Pakenham-Walsh (01608 811899)

Corner House and Memorial Hall -Office (01608
810879)

Churches Together - Rosalind Scott, (01608
810562) *rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk*

Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens - Simon
Walker (01608 811414) *simon.iets@btinternet.com*

Dementia Friendly Charlbury— Meryl Smith

(01608 810192) *charlburydf@gmail.com*

Friends Meeting House: Sue Terry (01608

811033) email: *sueeterry@btinternet.com*)

Holiday Club

parishoffice@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

Methodist Chapel - Sue Tokumine (01608

810366) *suetok@hotmail.com*

Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health
Support) (01608 645296)

Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (01608
810635) *admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com*

www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com

St Marys C of E Church Rev Sally Welch

(01608 810230)

St Teresa's RC Church Fr Clive Dytor (07484
158642)

Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (01608
811212)

The Bell Inn (01608 810278)

The Bull Inn (01608 810689)

Thomas Gifford Trust- Chris Potts (01608

811878) *chris.potts@blakemorgan.co.uk*

United Nations Association (West

Oxfordshire) - Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608
811338)

Walkers are Welcome Paul Jackson 01608
811370 *pauldjackson1@outlook.com*

Wychwayz Border Morris - Teresa Duester
(01608 810934)

www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst



Charlbury's Police Community Support Officer

C9837 Wesley Smith

To speak to us about any concerns you may have:

call 101 if it's a non-emergency

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www.thamesvalley.police.uk

also sign up for free crime alerts

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Please note that **ALL** cheques for advertising, mailing list or donations should be made payable to *The Charlbury Chronicle* and should be sent to The Treasurer, Graham Jowett, whose address is in the panel on the right.

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The editor reserves the right to alter or adapt any articles submitted for publication although hoping to discuss any major changes with the authors first.

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