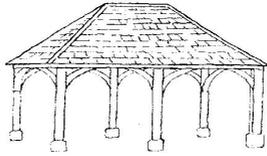


# The Charlbury Chronicle



**Volume 11 Number 3**

**September 2007**

Two deaths are recorded in this issue which recall connections with the *Charlbury Chronicle*. In 1999 we featured the story of a ten year old Charlbury schoolgirl who was rescued from the Evenlode in May 1924 when a boat capsized, and three children were drowned. We arranged a meeting between the schoolgirl, Olive Patricia Postle, and the Boy Scout Ewart Taylor, who pulled her unconscious from the river, and it was featured on television newscasts and in the *Oxford Times*. Now Patricia (Postle) Stockman has died at the age of 93 and her son's letter can be read on page 12. For those who are interested in the story, or might like to read it again, past copies of the *Charlbury Chronicle* are available in the Museum.

The second death unlocks a very well-kept secret which exercised the minds of *Chronicle* readers around 1999 - 2002. All is revealed on page 11 - I wonder how many of you will have guessed the identity of The Wychwood Witch?

Age figures again in this issue with an amazingly generous invitation from Grace Fredericks who, on page 15, invites everyone to help her celebrate her 100th birthday in style on September 24th.

Charlbury experienced its worst floods in living memory on July 20th when two roads, including a bridge, were completely flooded and cut off traffic on the Burford and Spelsbury exits from the town. At one time it was not possible to get through to Witney either, but the roads to Enstone and Woodstock remained passable. Sadly some houses were flooded. On the morning of Saturday, July 21st crowds stood around the large lakes that had formed, chatting and taking photographs (a reader kindly sent some of the pictures she took which you can see on page 3.). Flooding also caused damage at the Cricket Club and an appeal for funds to help restore the damage can be seen on page 17.

This issue is larger than usual as there seems to have been a lot going on in Charlbury - please continue to send in your articles, which are always welcome.

*Lynette Murphy*

*At the request of Charlbury Town Council a Housing Needs Survey form is being included, and we thank all our distributors for their help - any queries about the form should be directed to Roger Clarke on 810608. Please remember that the deadline for copy for the December issue will be Nov1st.*

## **LOCAL AUTHOR PUBLISHES AGAIN**

David Whittaker's new book of photographs and writings, **STONELIGHT**, is published later in September. In particular it explores enigmatic stones and rocks in the landscape as well as forgotten ruins and rusting objects.

An exhibition of photographs coincides at The Jam Factory, 27 Park End Street in Oxford (near the railway station) throughout October. The show opens with a book launch on Saturday October from 1pm. There is an excellent bar and restaurant. Anyone interested is welcome to come along. David can be contacted on 01608-811435 or via his website: [www.wavestonepress.co.uk](http://www.wavestonepress.co.uk)

## **CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL NEWS**

There is no Committee Meeting in August so as a Representative Committee Member I want to say a very enthusiastic thank you to the Executive Committee.

It is they (with some help from the Representatives) who actually make sure that all the needs of the Corner House and Memorial Hall are seen to (also with the willing help of the Caretakers).

This is voluntary work, complicated and time-consuming, and without a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary nothing would get done. So all users, and indeed the people of Charlbury, owe them appreciation and support - which I am sure will continue to be given.

*Ann Gilbert*

## **CAPTURING MEMORIES**

Back in the 1970s a group of Charlburians (Philip Upton, Sidney Price, Reg Smith, Walter Busby and Fred Thornett) had the foresight to capture their memories of Charlbury in the first half of the 20th century on tape. The museum had acquired a large collection of old photographs (taken mainly by Frank Packer, a photographer with a studio in Chipping Norton). They made a selection of these into slides and, together with the tapes, produced an interesting presentation, which was entrusted to the Charlbury Society. Over the years, and after many showings, the quality of the tapes has deteriorated and technology has moved on. We decided to investigate the possibility of putting the slides and sound onto disc, and discovered David McDonald (Weaving Memories) who had the equipment and the expertise to do this. We applied for a Heritage Grant from WODC and were successful. So, thanks to them, the project is well under way, and the presentation will soon be ready. Maybe it is time to capture some more memories, so if you are a long-time resident with good recall of the past we may be after you with a tape recorder.

*Celia Faulkner*



*Saturday morning, July 21st 2007: Looking down Dyers Hill towards the railway station, showing the damaged bridge*



*The large 'lake' which was formed at the foot of Pound Hill, with abandoned cars indicating the depth of the water.*

*Photographs by kind permission of Wychwood Graphics*

## CHOC: CHARLBURY'S OWN CINEMA

The summer has continued to bring in the audiences to a lively and varied season of films at Charlbury's Own Cinema with a capacity audience to see *Wah Wah* and a tight fit for *Notes on a Scandal*.

For September we have Alan Bennett's *The History Boys* (2006), a story of staff-room rivalry and unruly sixth formers in pursuit of sex, sport and higher education. In November we will be showing Robert Altman's film, *Prairie Home Companion* (2007), starring Meryl Streep, while for October and December, by popular request, we hope to bring *Infamous* (2007) starring Toby Jones as Truman Capote accompanied by a star-studded cast, and *Miss Potter* (2006), biopic of best-selling children's author and illustrator Beatrix Potter. For dates and times see the Community Calendar on the centre pages of this *Chronicle*. If you haven't visited our cinema yet, films are shown in the Cornbury Suite behind The Bell Hotel at 7.30 on the second Sunday of every month. Drinks are available from The Bell or from the bar in the Cornbury Suite, and if you wish you can book a meal before the film.

Details of our forthcoming films are always available on Ed's ChOC website <http://www.day-books.com/chocweb.htm> and on posters around the town. If you'd like to be kept up to date more directly, join our email list by contacting me on 01608 810423 or emailing [choc@charlbury.info](mailto:choc@charlbury.info).

And if this is not enough entertainment, keep your eyes and ears open for coming news of Princess Ruby Slippers . a very special event in store for January 2008!

Hilda Reed

### **ChOC at The Riverside**

At this year's Riverside Festival Charlbury's Own Cinema (ChOC) hosted a film tent where ChOC regulars and festival-goers alike were treated to a fantastic programme of award winning films. The film tent was a new venture for the festival. Although we were unable to rent solar-powered equipment we aimed to make it a sustainable venture by using a biodiesel generator to power the projector. Over the course of the weekend the festival audience . young, middle-aged, old and ancient alike . was able to watch a variety of good quality, thought-provoking and entertaining films. Mostly shorts, the range was broader than is usually available on the main cinema circuits and we hope it will have inspired our audiences to try more of this unusual film diet and perhaps even to branch out and try making their own shorts. Highlights included winners of Screen South's Digital Short; the best of the Raindance Film Festival (hosts of the prestigious British Indie Film Awards); acclaimed screen dance from DIVAS's Liz Aggiss and Billy Cowie; and alternative news, opinion and comedy from Undercurrents' comedian Mark Thomas; the best from Oxford Film and Video Makers, and delightful children's animations from Banbury's Animation Station. As well as this innovative collection of films, those who had not yet seen Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* had an opportunity to see it on each day of the festival. The film tent was a bit of an experiment this year but we have learned a great deal which we hope to put to good use when we come to organise next year's film tent. Yes! It was hard work but it hasn't put us off. With a bit of luck and a following wind, and maybe a few pennies in the purse, there will be a film tent at the Riverside Festival in 2008! And who knows, perhaps next year we will be screening new local film makers alongside the likes of Screen South and Raindance award winners!

Margaret Godel

## MEMORIES OF THE CHARLBURY CINEMA

Now that it is possible to go to the cinema again in Charlbury, I thought it would be interesting to talk to Vic Merry about his time with the Charlbury Cinema. Vic started working in the cinema in 1940 when he was fourteen years old. He worked in the evenings as he had another job during the day. Frank Jeffs was the cinema operator and it was held in the Town Hall. Although this sounds like a civic building it was owned by the Albright family and was used for many public events. It was situated in what is now the garden of the Royal Oak and it could be approached by a lane opposite the church yard. There was also a small passageway off Church Street, which could be used by employees. Because it was privately owned Charlbury had a cinema before Oxford and people came from the villages around as well as from Charlbury. It was also popular with troops stationed nearby. Vic used to arrive for work at 7 o'clock by which time people were already queuing outside. For really popular films they would be there a lot earlier and there were always queues on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Vic helped selling tickets from a table or would show people to their seats. The cost of a ticket was either 10d, 1/-, 1/9d or 2/1d. The 10d seats were benches that were padded, the 1/-s were on the level floor, the 1/9ds were raked and the 2/1ds were on the stage and had a good view. They and the 1/9ds could be booked and a notice would be put on the seat. Often people would change these over but Mrs. Jeffs and the staff had a plan and it could soon be put right. There was a pair of seats that had no arm between them and the courting couples always tried to get them. If a film were really popular seats would be put around the sides. Later Mr Jeffs was able to replace the seats with tip-ups, which came from a bombed-out cinema. The hall could accommodate 230 people. The screen in the hall was made of material covered with white glass beads. In the daytime Vic said that the screen could be seen to be brown discoloured by all the cigarettes smoked in the cinema but this did not matter because in the intense lighting used it showed up as white. There was a show on Monday and Tuesday night. On Wednesdays the hall was used by the army for showing information and training films and Vic had to sign the Official Secrets Act to be involved with that. On Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays a new film was shown. If it was rated an A or an X the Saturday Matinee would be a U, which was suitable for children. The evening picture show started at 7.30 p.m. with a short film often a western. Then there were the advertising trailers followed by the newsreel. This was very important in those days because people wanted to see what was going on in the war. The main film followed and the show ended by about 10.30 p.m. Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, Will Hay and Arthur Askey were very popular and also Bing Crosby and Bob Hope in the Road series. The films came in reels that lasted 10 minutes and Mr. Jeffs used to splice two together. There were 2 projectors to make sure that the performance was continuous. Vic would start threading up the machine about 7.15 p.m. The machines were lit by arc lights, which worked on the same principle as search lights. They provided a very intense light and had to be fed by turning a knob that brought the filaments together and this had to be done throughout the performance. They could not be left for two minutes. There was a porthole in the projection room so that the film could be checked that it was focussed and in line. The projectors had to be changed over every twenty minutes and Vic had to look through the porthole for a cue mark on the film when to do this. As the mark was only there for four seconds, it had to be watched for very carefully. The big worry was that the film was highly inflammable and Vic knew that if the film broke he had to shut down immediately to avoid a fire. Sometimes there were very long films like *One with the Wind* and these had to be shown over two nights.

The Town Hall had a galvanised roof and this provided problems in thunderstorms and heavy rain as the noise drowned out the sound track. There was a button in the auditorium connected to a buzzer in the operating room and Mr. Jeffs would press it once for the volume to be turned up. What often happened was that the rain would stop and the customers particularly if it was a Western were getting deafened. Mr. Jeffs would then press twice for the volume to be lowered. People came to the cinema to relax and were provided with peanuts, crisps and icecream. Vic said that customers in the more expensive seats could order their icecreams to have during the performance. They were Lyons Neapolitans and were served between wafers and wrapped in a piece of greaseproof paper before being passed along the rows. Vic wonders how much icecream got to the last person on the row. Another memory he has is about the crisps. In those days the crisp packets had little screws of blue paper, which had the salt in. One customer, who could not find the salt, used his lighter to look for it and set fire to the packet. There was much stamping to put it out because of the fear of fire. Sometimes during the show Vic got a chance to go around the front and watched the film for free. Generally though there was the rewinding of the films to be done. When the film was over the auditorium had to be checked for burning dog-ends, which people just dropped on the floor. Although ashtrays were available Vic said they would often find cigarette ends that had burnt the floorboards.

In 1945 Vic was called up and went into the army. This was the end of his time with the Town Hall Cinema but it continued until 1960. Vic says that he is very interested in CHOC and would very much like to see what differences there are now.

*Vic Merry was interviewed by Diana Potten*

**SAVE YOUR ENVIRONMENT**

**SHOPPING:**

**Buy local to cut down on unnecessary 'food miles'**

**Buy loose fruit and vegetables where possible**

**Only buy as much as you need**

**Use a re-usable shopping bag**

**Buy goods with less packaging and recycle whatever packaging you can**

**Try to avoid Tetra paks and cartons as these are difficult to recycle and buy glass rather than plastic bottles if you can**

**Buy rechargeable batteries**

# CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2007

## SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER IS THE DAY!!

All the fun of the fair with many new events to see  
EGG THROWING COMPETITION . FRIDAY; FAIRGROUND AMUSEMENTS; STALLS; CHILDREN'S  
ENTERTAINER; MORRIS DANCING; FIRE ENGINE DEMONSTRATION; CLASSIC CAR EXHIBITION;  
ART EXHIBITION; LINE DANCING; GRAND EVENING PARADE; BBQ ALL DAY (AND NIGHT!) AND  
TEAS; DANCING IN THE STREET WITH SLAINTE; DANCE DISPLAY BY SHED;

FUN RUN - SUNDAY

Plus many, many more too numerous to mention. Chances to win many prizes for  
Children's Fancy Dress, races, games, plus the **GRAND DRAW**

### *Theme this year is **MAGIC & MYSTERY***

This is the 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Fair – the first was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1955 – so let's make this one be the best ever! Events will kick off with a flying start on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm with the Egg Throwing Competition. Teams of two – over 16s. See posters around the town and in the pubs and on the Charlbury website. Events on the day will start at 1.30pm with the judging of the Children's Fancy Dress competition on the Playing Close by our celebrity! The Fair will be duly opened by He Who Cannot Be Named at 2pm and then the fun will really begin. Back by popular request are Slainte, who will be playing in the evening – so get your dancing shoes on! There will be something for everyone right through until 10pm so come prepared for all eventualities and all weathers, plus plenty of money to help towards the Corner House and Memorial Hall. Any late stallholders wishing to book a space can contact Teresa on 811000.

**Evening Parade:** Fancy joining the evening parade? Maybe as a Harry Potter, Hagrid or a nasty witch? Contact Sarah at [sarah@sarahacarter.com](mailto:sarah@sarahacarter.com) who will give you all the information you require. Magnificent prizes on offer! **10K and Fun Run:** This will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> and will start at 10.30am and go through Cornbury Park. Run or walk the excesses off of the previous day!! For more information please contact Geoff Griffiths at [g.h.griffiths@reading.ac.uk](mailto:g.h.griffiths@reading.ac.uk) **Help and Assistance:** We still need people to help on the stalls (offers please) and all you strong men out there—we need your help too to help put up and take down the stalls on the day. Offers please to Susie Finch 810861 or Vic Allison on 811262.

Just a little request – the group who have been organising Street Fair over the past few years feel that we **need some new blood on the committee** to help keep the success of Street Fair going. We need some new ideas. This doesn't involve too much work, so if you could give some time to this worthy cause, we would be very grateful. Help is needed on the day for this Street Fair, but we are thinking more of next year. For all you interested people, contact Susie Finch ([susanna\\_finch@hotmail.com](mailto:susanna_finch@hotmail.com)) or any red shirted person at Street Fair this year. All these details can be found in the Street Fair Programme which is now on sale at News & Things, The Pharmacy and Fiveways Stores, get your copy now! Draw tickets are also on sale now.

### **PARKING ON WYCHWOOD PADDOCKS**

*NB: A road closure order has been granted for Church Street and part of Park Street for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September between 9am and 10pm. **We would appreciate if all parked cars could be removed in time for the stalls to be erected at 9am. Thank you.***

# Life at Charlbury Primary School

## ***Goodbye to year 6***

The school is now on its Summer holiday. We waved a sad goodbye to our year sixes who will be starting their next school year at a new school. They treated us, staff, parents and younger pupils, to a fantastic show at the end of term in which they acted and sang beautifully. Many tears were shed in the audience and on stage. The school treated the pupils to a leavers lunch, the menu for which they had, at invitation of the school cooks, chosen themselves and a North-African/Middle-Eastern medley of delicious dishes was the result.

## ***Ofsted Inspection***

Tessa Barras, chair of the governors, writes: "In May the school received its Ofsted inspection. These inspections now happen on very short notice, and take the form of a two-day, rigorous visit during which the two inspectors judge how the school matches up to its own self-evaluation. The school was evaluated "satisfactory" in most areas, and "good" in the category of personal development and well-being. The inspectors observed teaching across the school, lunch and breaktimes, received written feedback from parents and held meetings with pupils, staff and governors. Whilst the school knows it must continue to work hard to improve its grades to overall "good" or "excellent", it was pleased with the very positive note of the inspection report, and the emphasis in it on the upwards momentum."

The opening paragraph of the report notes: "Charlbury is an improving school whose overall effectiveness is currently satisfactory. The good leadership and management of the new headteacher have halted a period of decline and turned pupils' achievement round, so that it is now satisfactory and improving."

## ***From the CSA with love: a new outdoor classroom***

In September 2006, the fundraising parent committee the CSA launched 'Project Playground'. Its aim was to raise enough funds to build an outdoor classroom and performance area, in the belief that by taking the curriculum outdoors, you can help to increase confidence, creativity and understanding of the world around us.

Following two fantastically successful community fund-raising events - the Auction of Promises and the Quiz Night - and with a generous donation from the Beer Festival committee, we are delighted to announce that during the summer holidays the outdoor classroom/performance area will be installed. When the children return in September, they'll be able to use this wonderful new structure during both lesson and play time.

We'll be busy fund-raising again from September 2007 for the next stage of Project Playground. This time we hope to raise enough money for an Activity Trail. So watch out for forthcoming events and do come along!

*Hot off the press: there is now a brand new school prospectus. For a copy, contact Mrs Steele at the school office, tel. 810354.*

## VIC BRACKENBURY

We all, on the *Chronicle*, were very sorry to hear of the death of Vic Brackenbury.

I first met Vic when we started to collaborate on the Wychwood Witch articles in the *Chronicle* in June 1999. Yes, he was the Wychwood Witch. He chose this name because he said it would confuse people and it would be a bit of fun. He was right about that because there was much speculation in the gentsqhairdresser as to which female resident of Charlbury the witch could be. I very much enjoyed working with Vic and was impressed by his wealth of memories and his eye for detail. He was meticulous about what we produced and each piece was carefully revised. He was very anxious too that today's young people should know what life was like in the past but he always introduced a light touch. I am glad that many of his memories have been saved on tape and through the *Chronicle* will go into the Bodleian archive. We produced nine articles and I was very sorry when in 2002 he decided that he had perhaps explored most of his past. He was a part of Charlbury that will be missed.

*Diana Potten*

## STATEMENT ON MEALS-ON- WHEELS

After forty-one years of service, Meals on Wheels in Charlbury, Chadlington, and Stonesfield has suspended service due to shortage of kitchen help. MOW has been fortunate to have such consistent, high quality catering help for many years but retirement and illness have crippled our staff and catering organizers. In our most recent request for volunteers and paid staff we have received a number of kind offers. We hope to rebuild the team and recommence deliveries in the Autumn.

If you would like further information about volunteering for MOW or receiving meals, please contact Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 810 161 or via email:

[mglagow@ridgewind.com](mailto:mglagow@ridgewind.com) .

## TWO CHARLBURY-BORN CENTENARIANS

Florrie Baldwin (nee Harris) and Dora Edmonds (nee Milton), who were at Charlbury School together and have remained friends ever since, have both had their 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

Many congratulations to them both on reaching such a grand old age.

## About Blue *by Rob Stepney*

Imagine someone stopped me in the  
street  
And asked, ever so politely,  
“Do you own a dog?”

Even if he were hard at my heels,  
Obedient as leather on the leash,  
I'd probably say “No”.

Partly through pressure to be otherwise,  
Not being with a dog is deep inground  
In my identity.

But there are other times,  
At the school gate,  
Or on top of Brecon's Beacons -  
After near three thousand feet of solid  
schlep -  
When I see other dogs

And think they don't have half the  
heart,  
Or pleasing symmetry of black and white,  
Or lop-eared look of inquisition,  
Or the sweet incongruity --  
One eye brown and one eye blue --

Of our dog.

*Invitation*  
*To the people of Charlbury*

*Because of your great kindness to me I would like to invite everyone in Charlbury to come to my Hundredth Birthday Party to be held in the Memorial Hall and on The Playing Close on Monday, September 24th*

*The afternoon party will be from 3 to 6.30 pm. There will be a Punch & Judy Show, a Gym Display by the Primary School children, some races, and a Gypsy in her caravan will read your palms if you 'cross her hand with silver'. A demonstration of how to make paper objects will be given in the Memorial Hall.*

*There will be a short string quartet concert just before the Cutting of The Cake, and the Brownies and Cubs will help me blow out the candles.*

*In the evening there will be a dance including some folk dancing in the Memorial Hall from 8 to 10 pm, with light refreshments and a glass of red or white wine.*

*Please no presents, but if you care to make a donation to the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal it will be gratefully accepted.*

*Grace Fredericks*

## *Letters to the Editor*

From Mr Brian Shayler

I have lived in Charlbury for 60 years and in that time the town has grown bigger but not better. I find another shop in the town is going, News & Things.

Mr & Mrs Jones came to the town some years ago and have given it good service, but unfortunately not enough Charlbury people responded, and I find that very sad. I use the shop and café regularly and have my papers delivered, so I am going to miss it when it goes. But may I take this opportunity and thank Veronica, Bill, Stuart and staff for all the hard work and fun and great service they have given us all.

May I wish them all the best for the future. By not adequately supporting them, the town has lost out again.

53 The Green  
Charlbury

From Mr David Stockman

I am writing to advise you of the death of my mother, Mrs Patricia Stockman, on June 23rd 2007 at the age of 93 - an age she would definitely not have achieved had she not been heroically rescued from the Evenlode so many years ago.

Her love for Charlbury remained undiminished throughout her long life, and she greatly enjoyed her trip there some years ago to meet her rescuer for a final time.

Thank you for the copies of your magazine which you have been sending her: sadly her June edition will be her last.

Ponsonby Place,  
London SW1

From Mrs Betty Stokes

For several years two-course meals have been freshly cooked at the Corner House twice-weekly and distributed to the elderly or house-bound in Charlbury and beyond. Warm thanks are due to the dedicated team of volunteers responsible for this service - to the organisers, the cooks and their kitchen helpers, also the drivers and distributors.

From a one-time helper and now grateful recipient,

Myrtle Cottage,  
Sheep Street  
Charlbury

# Seasonal Variation or Act of God?

Did you, like David Cameron, think that the flooding in Charlbury - the river rose by more than five metres - was ~~an~~ an Act of God? Will you remember the moment when you saw the river like you'd never seen it before? There are lots of photos of people standing with their hands held to their faces in shock, and in silence. It was hard to believe. The cricket pavilion roof was all that was visible, a car abandoned in the middle of the bridge, and the parapet gone? You could have swum to the station.

Scientists have been predicting unpredictable weather events for a long time as a result of climate change. Not global *warming* . not sunning ourselves in the garden . but climate flooding and climate chaos. Caused by warming seas and higher cloud formation, but not something to be welcomed.

Fed up with the weather? Were you thinking about escaping the awful English summer and flying to warmer climes for a holiday in the sun? 45<sup>o</sup> C in Cyprus, Turkey, the Bay of Naples. What's preferable - 15 feet of flooding in Charlbury or 15<sup>o</sup>C overheating in The Canaries? Floods in Charlbury or forest fires in Greece? Take your pick!

If you believe that humans are causing climate change, what do you think we can do about it? Try this test.

Which of the actions on this list, if any, do you think will do the most to help reduce climate change? Put them in order of priority

1. Recycling
2. Developing cleaner engines for cars
3. Consuming less in the first place
4. Making fewer car journeys
5. Using less electricity
6. Flying less
7. Using public transport
8. Walking or cycling
9. Buying locally-grown food
10. Using water sparingly
11. Reusing bottles/containers
12. People having fewer children

Answers on page 31

## Reducing emissions from your home

This winter turn your thermostat down by 1 °C and you'll reduce your fuel consumption by 15%

Stop all the draughts . that's what makes you feel uncomfortable and want to turn up the thermostat in the first place

Wear a jumper

Do your washing at 30°C

Only heat as much water in your kettle as you are actually going to use . kettles use a lot of electricity!

In the average house, replacing every light bulb with energy-efficient light bulbs, will save £55 a year. *And by the way, you will not be able to buy a conventional light bulb after 2011.*

Turn off all your stand-bys, including that broadband router, overnight.

*Liz Reason*

## Charlbury Cricket Club - An Appeal for Help

In common with a number of Charlbury residents, Charlbury Cricket Club was severely affected when the River Evenlode burst its banks on Friday 20th July. As many of you will have seen, the ground and buildings were deluged with flood water and mechanical items such as mowers and rollers were very badly damaged. In addition, a large amount of cricket equipment, including almost all of that used by our flourishing Youth Section, has been rendered unsalvageable.

A good start to the clean-up operation was made on Sunday 29th July - we would like to thank all those who gave up their time to take part. As a result of the flooding, however, we desperately need funds in order to keep the club running in the short term. Therefore, we have recently launched an appeal to help secure the future of cricket in Charlbury. If you would like to make a contribution, you can do so in one of two ways:

1. Send a cheque made payable to Charlbury Cricket Club+to our President, Malcolm Harper, at the following address: The Cottages, Church Lane, Charlbury OX7 3PX
2. Pay direct into our emergency fund: Charlbury Cricket Club Pavilion Fund, Account Number 70959758, Sort Code 20-97-48, Barclays bank plc, Witney branch  
(Please leave a reference if possible)

Any donation, no matter how small, will be gratefully received and put to very good use.

**Thank you on behalf of Charlbury Cricket Club.**

## **SPARE ROOM FOR PAYING VISITOR? JANUARY - APRIL 2008**

Canadian students from the 2008 Atlantic Baptist University Oxford Study Programme will be staying in Charlbury from 12 January to 7 April, while they undertake their studies in Drama and Shakespeare.

The local organisers are looking for people willing to assist with home based B&B accommodation in Charlbury for one (or two?) of these students. Past experience has shown that students really appreciate contact with local people and endeavour to be caring and sensitive towards their hosts. The requirement is for a study bedroom and access, by agreement with hosts, to washing and kitchen facilities.

Breakfast materials would be provided on a self-serve basis. Reimbursement to hosts for B&B is paid at the rate of £60 per week.

If you feel you can assist for part of the time but not the whole duration, it is perfectly possible for students to be moved to another home stay during their time here.

Programme dates: Jan 12 - students arrive  
Feb 17 - 23 . students away on Travel Break  
March 21-24 Easter weekend - students away on long weekend  
April 7 . students depart

For further details, please contact Madeleine Wheare (810092 ) [mad@wheare.org](mailto:mad@wheare.org)  
or Peter Colyer (810107)

## **HOPE & HOMES FOR CHILDREN**

Once again Prim Birch is making a plea for second-hand goods to sell at her stall at September's Street Fair in aid of this splendid charity.

Hope & Homes for children was set up by Colonel Mark Cook in the wake of the war in Bosnia, and his first project was to take a hundred vulnerable children out of a bombed-out orphanage. What these children really needed was to be part of a loving family, and in the last 13 years the charity has developed an internationally recognised best practice model for closing orphanages and developing systems of family-based care. They have now extended their work to Sierra Leone, Ruanda and Sudan, to Romania and South Africa and continue to work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In some cases they are finding ways to support parents so that they can keep their children with them. They are helping to find adoptive parents for other children or foster-parents where necessary and all this is to ensure that children have hope for the future and a firm base of love and care in their home groups.

If you have anything that might be useful for the Hope & Homes stall to raise money to support these worthy aims, please ring Prim Birch on 810357 and arrangements will be made to collect if necessary.

## News from The Gifford Trust

Believe it or not, we're almost there. We've listened to your ideas, we've got agreement with the councils, we've talked to clubs and societies and ..... we know where the money is coming from.

By the time we go to press, we expect to have broken the magic £100,000 barrier - promised generous donations to the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal means we will have £115,000 - very nearly half way to our target of £250,000.

This all means that later this autumn we intend to:

- appoint architects selected for their design flair, environmental credentials and willingness to work closely with the community
- launch a new fundraising campaign, encouraging the whole town to engage in this exciting venture, calling on different groups to make their unique and varied contributions
- organise a volunteer day to improve the site in readiness for obtaining planning permission

..... and in the not-too-distant future, start building Charlbury's new library, adult education centre and community facilities. We look forward to meeting you there!



### CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

Just to fill in a few more details – we had a very successful Sunday afternoon at the Corner House on July 15th when we provided teas for all the visitors to the gardens open for the National Gardens Scheme and made around £600 which is very satisfying. This sum includes over £132.50 which we made on a Bottle Stall which proved very popular. We were given so many bottles by generous supporters that there are still a good number left over and we propose to have another Bottle Stall at the Street Fair - so look out for us on the day, and we will be happy to receive donations of bottles to add to our stock.

Louise Littledale & Friends are still working on a booklet of Household Hints which they hope might be ready for Christmas to sell for the Appeal. If anyone has any ideas that might be useful on cooking, decorating, gardening - in fact on just about anything 'handy' do please get in touch with Louise by ringing her on 811535.

*Lynette Murphy*



## WHEN IT'S ONE OF THOSE DAYS

You're two strokes into peeling a cucumber when all of a sudden, your two-year-old bursts into tears and throws herself onto the ground. You work out between the sobs and the wails that she didn't want the peel off. Even though you have always served cucumbers without peel since she first started taking solids.

Perhaps you're in a generous and peaceful mood, and calmly cut off another hunk of cucumber to slice up, leaving the peel on, and equilibrium is restored.

However, this incident may have come on the back of one about the temperature of the milk, another about the softness of the carrots, then the choice of cheese, and even the colour of the fork.

In other words, you're had it!

Lately, I've been having days like this. A lot of them. My lovely and angelic 3-year-old has suddenly turned into the Mr. Hyde of 4-year-olds, and I've looked to every source of help I can think of: books, friends, family, and even God. (Shame I always seem to think about Him last!)

If, like me, you feel as though you're one step away from advertising your child on Chippy Freecycle\*, then perhaps you could try the following remedies.

First, mentally go through a checklist of external influences such as your child's hunger, thirst, restfulness, and even health (some children are horrid at the outset of illnesses). If none of this seems relevant, then consider dietary influences such as sugar, food additives, and even allergies. Introduce more fresh fruit and veg to snack times; cut out the fizzy drinks.

Next, work on filling up your child's love tank. Give her a lot of eye contact (and not just when you're yelling at her). Add lots of hugs and tickles and fun, rough play; laugh; be silly. Spend some quality time alone with her, focusing your attention on her alone and not on the washing up, the cooking, laundry, etc.

If things still aren't improving, then take on board three bits of encouragement: a) you're not alone!!!!; b) it's just a phase; and c) you need bigger guns to tackle the problem before you go insane.

This is when friends are especially helpful. Share your problems, and others may be able to make some suggestions or observations. Join various clubs where other parents with young children meet, such as Toddler Group and Little Fishes, so you don't get isolated and feel lousy all by yourself.

Then it's time to try some intense, Super-Nanny-type behavioural modification (i.e., bribes). I've just invented an award chart where my son gets a nice prize for each day that he fights his urge to be horrid, and a coveted piece of Playmobil if he receives all the prizes in a week. The rewards range from play-dates to computer time to ice cream, but they're all things that he \*really\* likes. So far . just two weeks into it . the plan is working a treat, even though he's been a battle-hardened veteran at tantrum-throwing.

However, I realise that, just because I've hit on something that's (finally) working for me, the solution may not work in your case. This is when you'd probably try just about anything to get some peace and quiet.

The internet boasts a really helpful website that covers a lot of discipline issues. It's Dr Dobson's Focus on the Family website, which goes along with a lot of his widely acclaimed books such as The New Dare to Discipline (find it used on Amazon) and Bringing up Boys. You can find it at: <http://www.family.org/parenting/Discipline/>.

Finally, Sally Miller, the health visitor at Charlbury surgery, has the following suggestions when you're really at the end of your rope:

- Make use of Dad or friends, asking them to take over for a while so you can re-charge your batteries.
- Because, as she says, "even though this too will pass, you need to be ready for the next phase and the challenges it throws at you." - Give Sally a call to discuss the situation (01608-810649), as she may see patterns that you're too close and too involved to notice. You may also be able to meet with her at her monthly visit to the Toddler Group (see below).
- Don't be afraid to say you're sorry, if you get it wrong every now and again. Mums and Dads aren't expected to be perfect, and making mistakes doesn't make you a bad parent. Apologize, cuddle, and move on.

\*\*Advertising your children on Freecycle is actually not allowed! I guess they worked out early on that parents would vent their frustrations through such a gesture.

## LITTLE FISHES

Little Fishes starts up again on the 12th of September. This group is for the Under-5s and has it all: songs, games, stories, crafts, toys, and snacks . packed into 1 ¼ hours each Wednesday morning in term time. You don't have to be someone's mum to bring a child along . childminders, grannies, nannies ò all are encouraged to come down to St Mary's church for 10:30 and enjoy the company, the coffee, and the friendly atmosphere. Best of all, it's free!!! Babies are welcome, too. Contact Kate on 811579 for more information.

## PRE-SCHOOL

The Pre-School would like to extend its thanks to two generous entities: the first is the Charlbury Beer Festival committee who donated £225.00 toward the purchase of a storage shed to hold fund-raising materials, and a portable gas cooker to use at fund-raising events. The second is Hill Top Garden Centre for a £30 donation of plants and compost.

Don't forget that the pre-school is available for birthday parties from 2 p.m. onwards on

Saturdays, and at any time on Sundays or during school holidays. For only a £15 fee, you have the use of two rooms (one vinyl floor and one carpeted), child-friendly tables and chairs, a kitchen, and space even for a 10x10 foot bouncy castle! The heating of rooms can be arranged, if required, for a small extra cost.

Pre-school premises are also available for hire in the afternoons during the week, either on a temporary or regular basis.  
Why not arrange a visit to see the venue and find out if it's for you? Telephone: 811200.

### **BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

Though this is generally known as the toddler group around town, it's nevertheless open to mums-to-be and very young babies as well as pre-school children. The group meets every Monday during term time, from 9:30-11:30 at the Memorial Hall. Children especially love the chance to run, jump, and ride on toys when the weather is wet and grey. and you'll love the hot cuppa and conversation. Now there's also a monthly visit by the health visitor, Sally Miller, to weigh babies and discuss any issues (don't forget your red book!). £2 per family.

### **SPANISH FOR CHILDREN**

The Spanish Club takes place every Saturday at the Old Grammar School in Charlbury (the Pre-School). There are several sessions grouped by age and ability where the aim is to provide an enjoyable environment in which the children can learn basic Spanish. For more information and to arrange a visit to a session, ring Elizabeth on 811128 or e-mail her at [elivergaravera@hotmail.com](mailto:elivergaravera@hotmail.com).

### **HILDA'S GRACES**

Hilda Joy Jones has created an illustrated booklet of the cute prayers she often says in praise of biscuits at pre-school, Little Fishes, etc. If you would like a copy, then ring her on 811181 or drop by pre-school to get one. She is selling them for £1.50 for Christian Aid.

*TotBits is compiled by Kat Patrick*  
[kat.patrick@alumni.southwestern.edu](mailto:kat.patrick@alumni.southwestern.edu)  
Telephone 811660

## **THE BEGGARS OPERA -By John Gay**

Adapted by SHED Theatre, Performed 10<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July

The Beggar's Opera, written by John Gay in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is a rip-roaring tale of the low-life of London. Directed by Trish Fraser & Chris Ray and choreographed by Sue Cochrane, and with music ably performed by Geoff Holmberg and Alan Fraser, the SHED Theatre's production got underway through hell and literally high water and brought the whole business of jealous lovers, backstabbing and corruption to the stage of the Memorial Hall in Charlbury. A dimly lit scene of Newgate Prison greeted the audience on arrival and in an introductory song the Beggar introduced his play and the characters in it. As the story unfolded, individuals who sang solo songs did so with great feeling and the duets were beautifully orchestrated. The large cast were too numerous to mention individually, but each gave stunning performances as well as joining the chorus for the musical numbers (all popular folk songs of John Gay's day - he hated Italian classical opera). On the Saturday the show ended with a standing ovation, which was thoroughly deserved.

It was a doubly emotional evening for those members of the cast who are leaving SHED after 6 years as they had reached 18, the top age for SHED and are going off to university or travelling. Anyone who enjoys live theatre who did not manage to get to see this production missed a real treat.

*If anyone between the ages of 12 and 18 wants information about joining SHED Theatre, please ring Trish Fraser on 01608 810276*

*A CADS Supporter*

### **Wychwood Forest Fair**

**Sunday 2 September 2007 from noon until 5 pm  
Capps Lodge, Fulbrook, off the A361  
between Burford and Shipton under Wychwood**

Hatwell's Fun Fair • Arts And Craft Tent  
Local Foods And Products • Green Man Storyteller  
Teas And Refreshments • Archery • Plant Stalls  
Morris Dancing • Brass Band • Rural Craft Displays  
Beer Tent • Conservation And Community Groups  
Book stalls and much more

***Parking free. Admission £5 per person, under 16s free***

Organised by the Friends of Wychwood, Charity no 1084259  
in support of the Wychwood Project

## COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Another busy month for The Community First Responders, with several calls, but after all, that's what it is all about.....to serve the community.

The fund raising is going extremely well. We attended the Finstock School Fete and in spite of being the only car boot, raised £74; at the Ramsden Fete we raised £44. We attended the Charlbury Beer Festival, not participating but a bit of PR!, then there was Finstock Fun Day & also a couple of car boots. The most important recent bit of news is that the Finstock Parish Council have donated a staggering £850, so a big "thank you" to them - we are now halfway to owning a third kit.

If anyone has a few hours to spare during the day, and is willing to undertake the training and the Criminal Record check, why not join your local Community First Responders. **For any more information please phone our co-ordinator Caroline Booth 01993 868272.**

Please keep saving those spent printer cartridges and old mobile phones, phone 01993 868710 for a free collection, or use our boxes in the local pubs and shops and the Doctors Surgery in Charlbury.

Thanks for your support

Carol Hughes (tel: 01993 868710)

Community First Responders

(Finstock, Ramsden & Wilcote & surrounding areas)

## The Royal British Legion – Charlbury Branch

The Branch AGM will be held in the Corner House at 8.00pm on Thursday 18 October 2007. All members are encouraged to attend. Anyone who would like to join the Branch is most welcome to attend.

The Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning will be held in the Corner House on Saturday 3 November 2007 with raffle, cakes and poppies for sale. For further information please contact Jane Parsons on 810822.

The Annual Band Concert will be held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday 9 November 2007 with the award winning Stonesfield Silver Band. There will be a raffle, light refreshments and a licensed bar. Details may be obtained from the Branch Secretary on 810822 or from posters in the usual places nearer the time. All the proceeds will go to Poppy Appeal and everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike.

The National Two Minutes Silence will be at 11.00am on Sunday 11 November 2007. Please support this small yet significant event.

The British Legion Darts Cup will be competed for in the Annual Open Pairs Competition in aid of the Poppy Appeal at the Olde Three Horseshoes on Saturday 10 November 2007. Pete Scarrott has kindly agreed to organise the competition. He can be contacted for details on 810921.

Remembrance Day Parade and Service . Sunday 11 November 2007. The Charlbury Parade forms up at the Spendlove Car Park at 2.30pm and the Service is at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church. Everyone is welcome to join the parade and/or the service. The parade will be led by Pipers and Drummers of the Scots Guards Association [Berks, Bucks and Oxon Branch] under the direction of Pipe Major Steve Duffy and commanded by the Charlbury Branch President, Major Nicholas Potter [late Scots Guards] The salute will be taken by Squadron Leader Joyce Clews, a Charlbury resident, who served in the W.R.A.F. from 1940 to 1980 in all sorts of postings and places. Wreaths will be laid by the Legion, Charlbury Town Council and Thames Valley Police. After the Service and Parade tea and biscuits will be available for all marchers, Legion members, serving and ex-serving service personnel, in the War Memorial Hall. The rehearsal for all standard and flag bearers, wreath layers and readers etc will be at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm on Thursday 8 November 2007. For any further information please ring Nick Potter on 810338.

### The Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale in and around the Town 27 November -10 November. Anyone who would like to help with the Poppy Appeal in any way is asked to get in touch with Jane Parsons on 810822.

### Festival of Remembrance . Royal Albert Hall

The branch may be allocated two tickets for the evening performance in the presence of the Royal Family [and on T.V.] on Saturday 10 November 2007. The ticket allocation is normally confirmed during September. Any member who would like to express an interest, please contact Jane Parsons on 810822.

### Veterans Badge

Veterans Badges are now available for everybody who served in the Armed Forces up to 31 December 1984. For details of how to apply or assistance with an application please contact Jane Parsons on 810822. Information is also available on the internet at [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)

### The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Veterans are former members of H.M. Forces [Navy, Army or R.A.F- regular or reserve]. Indeed the term applies to all U.K. ex-Servicemen and Women. There is an estimated 5.5 million in the U.K. and with their wives, husbands, partners or children, they comprise the 10.5 million strong Veterans Community. Veteran status also applies to a number of special groups such as those who served in Polish detachments under British Command in WW11 and Merchant Mariners who saw duty in military operations. Veterans need not have served overseas or in conflicts. This is the M.O.D.s definition of Veteran and it has recently amalgamated the Veterans Agency and the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency into the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in order to respond to the full range of veterans needs. The Veterans Minister at M.O.D. is Derek Twigg M.P.. For further information telephone 0800 169 2277 or visit [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)

Charlbury Remembrance Day Service: in August 2005, the Royal British Legion in conjunction with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland launched a new Order of Service for Remembrance Sunday. [The present Order of Service was introduced in 1968]. Whilst it is not compulsory, the Charlbury Branch has been working with the Vicar of St. Marys, the Parish Church, to adapt the service for Charlbury, where the War Memorial is, unusually, inside the Church. The idea is to use the new Order of Service for the first time on 11 November 2007. The Service is for everyone, of all faiths and none, so there has been a short period of consultation with organisations such as Churches Together in Charlbury. If anyone else, regardless of faith, would like to see the new Order of Service and make any comments on it, please contact the Vicar, the Rev. Judy French on 810286.

Trip to The Poppy Factory : The Branch is organising a trip to The Poppy Factory, Richmond, Surrey on Tuesday 9 October 2007. If you are interested please contact Jane Parsons on 810822.

For more information about the work of the Royal British Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on 810388, Derek Fowler [Branch Chairman] on 811706 or Jane Parsons [Branch Secretary] on 810822.

# CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

## CALLING ALL SCRABBLE PLAYERS IN CHARLBURY

Finstock has a vibrant Scrabble Club and we are looking to set up matches or evenings with players from Charlbury, either in Finstock or Charlbury. We meet every other Tuesday at The Plough at Finstock at 7.30 pm. If it is of interest please call Julian Stewart on 07712 871250, or email [julian.stewart@lstech.co.uk](mailto:julian.stewart@lstech.co.uk)

## CHARLBURY ANGLING CLUB

The club is planning to hold a fun fishing day during October 2007. We would like to invite young people to come along to learn about fishing from our experienced anglers.

Equipment will be provided and no fee is payable for the day.

This is an ideal way to learn about the sport and receive expert advice at the same time.

It is hoped to hold this event in early to mid October. Venue to be advised. Numbers will be limited, so names on first come, first served basis, to the Secretary, Jane Parsons on 810822 by 30 September.

## WEA CHARLBURY/ENSTONE BRANCH

Two courses will run this Autumn.

**The OUDCE/WEA course** run by David Grylls in the Friends Meeting House in Market Street on Tuesdays 10.15am -12.15pm is entitled %Shakespeare and his Contemporaries+ and starts on September 25th. All enquiries to Patricia Baker-Cassidy on 01327 857473

**A course on "The Victorian Home+** will be held in the Morris Room at the Corner House on Thursdays from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm for 5 weeks starting on November 1st. All enquiries to Ann Revell on 01608 810479

## CHARLBURY WINE & BEER CIRCLE

Members are not wine or beer experts. We meet each month for a social gathering which can be a tasting, a meal or a cards evening. New members are always welcomed.

The programme for the year ahead is:

**September:** AGM, cheese & biscuits, quiz and a chat.

**October:** Wine tasting

**November:** Take-away meal

**December:** Christmas party

**January 08:** Cards evening (whist)

**February:** Wine Tasting

**March:** Beer tasting

**April:** Annual Dinner

**May:** Safari Supper

**June:** Barbecue

**July:** Garden Party

For further information ring 810700.

*John Moore (Secretary)*

# CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

## CHARLBURY ART SOCIETY

Our year started on a high note, with the Princess Royal visiting our Street Fair exhibition and being introduced to a few of the members. We had a coach trip to the National gallery in November, and one to the V&A in May. Inspired by Isabelle Spencer's September talk, eight members did a calligraphy workshop, half-a-dozen carrying on with fortnightly lessons for the rest of the term. (If anyone is keen to do more, Isabelle is happy to teach.) Life classes and Portrait painting were popular, and in the summer we had several outdoor painting days in a variety of locations, plus visits to Nature in Art and Art in Action. Talented Charlburians featured highly in our regular monthly meetings, giving excellent talks on Art in Public Places, Banqueting Houses, and Stained Glass, and a lively demonstration of Portrait Painting in Mixed Media. With the acquisition of a video camera and projector, demonstrations can now be viewed from every part of the audience.

The Art Society welcomes anyone with an interest in art, for an annual subscription of £10. We hold **monthly meetings** on the second Wednesday, from September to November, and January to May, in the evening, 7.30pm, usually in the Quaker Meeting House. These **meetings are free to members**; visitors are welcome for £3 each time.

Future events include a coach trip to a London Gallery, demonstrations in coloured pencil, mixed media, and acrylic, and talks on subjects as varied as *The Spirit of Syria* and *The Work of the Mouth and Foot Artists*.

Each term we have a series of **practical group activities**, for those who are interested, such as Life Drawing, Calligraphy, Portrait Painting or outdoor sketching and painting. (These are run at cost, so there may be a charge to cover the room hire and model's fee.) We hold two exhibitions of members' work each year. Members are entitled to **discounts** on Framing and Materials at several establishments.

Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August. If you are interested, please ring **Roy Coates 01608 810116** and ask for an application form.

*Marion Coates – Honorary Secretary*

## CHARLBURY GARDEN SOCIETY

Charlbury Garden Society holds its annual flower and produce show on September 1st, in the Memorial Hall. You do not have to be a member to take part. As well as flowers and vegetables, you can enter cakes, jams, handicrafts and photographs. And there are special classes for children. For more details see the show schedules in the library, post office and pharmacy.

## CHARLBURY JUDO CLUB:

Every Monday during term time at the War Memorial Hall, 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Judo is a great sport for children, Girls and Boys. It will give them self confidence, improve their coordination and balance and teach them discipline and manners. The class is open to all ages from 5 to 15 years old. The new term begins on 10th September and if you have any further queries please call me on 01865 884339 or 07967 349864.

*Jonathan Gerrans*

## **CHARLBURY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (CADS)**

- Next production is John Dighton's farce "The Happiest Days of your Life+
- If you want a little laughter in your life or a nostalgic memory of days gone by, make sure that you book your tickets for what promises to be a production well up to the usual high standard of CADS in Charlbury. There are some plays which never date and John Dighton's farce "The Happiest Days of your Life" is one of them. Set in a boys school at the end of the Second World War, with another school evacuated to them, the resultant chaos is tailor-made for hilarious farce. Performances are at 8pm at the Memorial Hall in Charlbury on November 15th-17th, Thursday - Saturday. Tickets £7 & £5 concessions - Contac Box Office for tickets on (01608) 810861, and tickets on sale at the usual outlets in Charlbury.

*Contact Julia Caston (810240) if you wish to be included in this section*

### **STAND BY YOUR BEDS! Army Benevolent Fund Warning Order!**

An Evening of Seasonal Entertainment is being planned to take place at Ditchley on

**Tuesday December 4th 2007**

to raise much-needed funds for the  
Army Benevolent Fund.

Watch out for further details on  
notice boards, in the Leaflet and in the *Charlbury Chronicle* nearer  
the time

## CHARLBURY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Following an extremely successful and enjoyable event last year Charlbury School Association present their third Shopping Evening to be held at **Charlbury Primary School on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007, 6.30pm – 9pm**. Unusual Christmas gifts, pottery, jewellery, cards, gift wrap and advent calendars, craft decoration, stocking fillers and raffle. All your Christmas shopping in one place, washed down with seasonal refreshments and good company.

Contact Jenny on 01608 810250 for more information or to book a stall.

## ANYONE FOR COFFEE?

**Please will you join us for our 3rd MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING  
10 am to 12.30 pm, Friday September 28th 2007**

**There will be a Bring & Buy Raffle**

**If you can't make it, all donations are most welcome  
- and help on the day too!**

**Liz and Bob Tait, Brice House, Thames Street, Charlbury, tel: 810150**

## STUDENT GRANTS

If you are under 25, live in Charlbury and have a guaranteed place for a University, College, vocational course or apprenticeship, you may apply to The Charlbury Exhibition Foundation for a grant.

Write to Mrs Kate Gerrish, 62 Ticknell Piece Road, Charlbury OX7 3TW by October 1st giving age, schools attended, details of course and University or College.

Those attending short training courses sponsored by Charlbury Youth Organisations may also apply.

**West Oxfordshire District Committee of the Oxon branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)** held its AGM on June 22 at which, to our great pleasure, Gillian Salway agreed to continue in the chair for a further year. The two representatives of the Chipping Norton, Charlbury & Woodstock area, namely Holly McGee as a local farmer and Serena Moore as writer of the Committee's newsletter, also agreed to continue for another year. For details of all branch and local activities please contact Andy Boddington, Campaign Manager, CPRE Oxfordshire, Punches Barn, Waterperry Road, Holton, OX33 1PP, telephone 01865 874780 [campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk) or [www.cpreoxon.co.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.co.uk)

Meanwhile, some advance notice of an ever-popular event- **Saturday, October 20th: Annual Autumn Plant Sale, The Farmhouse, Radford, near Enstone, between 9am and 1pm High quality plants. Coffee. Ample parking.** Further details from Holly McGee at [mcgee@sibford.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:mcgee@sibford.freereserve.co.uk) or 01608 677230. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

*Serena Moore*

## **CHARLBURY WEATHER: From One Extreme to the Other**

*John Stanley's quarterly report*

In the June issue, I reported 8 consecutive months of above average temperatures, culminating in a record high for April. This time, I am reporting 3 consecutive months of below average temperatures, culminating in a record low for July.

Daytime maximum temperatures in **May** ranged from 49° on 27th to 78° on 24th. The average was 62.58° (previous 18 years - 63.78°). At night, temperatures ranged from 38° to 56°.

Daytime maximum temperatures in **June** ranged from 61° on 26th to 77° on 3rd. The average was 69.13° (previous 18 years - 69.55°). Night time temperatures ranged from 43° to 58°.

Daytime maximum temperatures in **July** ranged from 56° on 20th (the day we had 3¼ inches of rain) to 74° on 12th & 16th. The average was 68.55° (previous 18 years - 73.39° and last year recorded 78.94°). Night time temperatures ranged from 47° to 60°.

On the subject of one extreme to the other, in 2006, up to the end of July we had achieved 20 days with temperatures of 80° or above. This year, we had none.

Looking at a temperature graph for 2007, it is strange to note that May was not as warm as April and July not as warm as June. A graph for the previous 18 years shows a steady increase each month from January to July.

**CAWAG are pleased to announce that a scheme has been set up in Charlbury to collect small batteries for recycling**

Collection boxes are being set up at the following three sites:

- The Post Office on the parcel counter.**
- The Corner House on the letter table during opening hours.**
- The Primary School outside the front reception door between 8am and 6pm from start of Autumn Term.**

Where special battery collection schemes have been operating in other areas up to 7,000+ batteries are collected annually.

Any batteries put into landfill cause contamination from the harmful metals that they contain, so it is essential not to put them in the general waste collection.

If you do put them out for recycling in your black box, they must be put in a separate bag so that they don't get processed with the rest of the recycling otherwise they slip through the conveyor belts in the separation plant causing the machinery to become jammed and possibly put out of action for half a day or more.

*Louise Spicer*

**Answers to the question on page 13:**

These numbers represent in an approximate order of priority, what has the largest effect to the smallest - 6, 12, 3, 8, 5, 4, 7, 9, 10, 1, 11, 2

**SAVE YOUR ENVIRONMENT**

**IN THE GARDEN:**

**Get a compost bin to recycle your kitchen rubbish—and use the compost to fertilise your garden**

**If you have a big garden and there is too much green waste to recycle, take it to your local recycling centre where it will be turned into compost for other green spaces**

**Recycle unwanted gardening tools at recycling centres and also pick up free ones**

## Quakers To Break Silence

The Quakers who gather at the 18th century Meeting House in Market Street, Charlbury are planning to break their usual silence. Together with Quakers all over Britain they are holding an Outreach Week from September 22 to 30 this year. They are issuing a warm invitation to anyone who would like to attend their Meetings for Worship, and they are organising two special events.

First comes an Open Morning on September 22, when you are invited to drop in at any time for coffee and to meet some of the Friends who live in Charlbury and surrounding villages. For those who wish, there will also be a 45-minute programme during which there will be an explanation of the Quaker method of silent worship, followed by an experience of that worship. After that, there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. The programmes will begin at 10.15, 11.15 and 12.15.

On the two Sundays, September 23 and 30, all will be welcome at the regular Meeting for Worship. Here too there will be a brief preliminary account of the significance of the Meeting, and a description of what is happening while you sit and share the silence. Afterwards, Charlbury Quakers hope that you will stay a while for coffee and a chat, and ask any questions you may wish to put.

Quakers are known for their concern to put faith into action, and Charlbury Friends are actively involved in a wide range of activities, including peace work in Northern Uganda, environmental issues, work with prisoners and young offenders, and affordable housing. On Wednesday September 26 there will be an Open Evening at which three of these Friends will talk about their work and about how it links with their commitment to their Quaker faith.

### **Quaker Outreach Week programme** Quaker Meeting House, Market Street, Charlbury

**Sat. Sept 22 Open Morning 10am-1pm**  
**Sun. Sept 23 Meeting for Worship 10.30am**  
**Wed. Sept 26 Open Evening 7.30pm - 9.15pm**  
**Sun. Sept 30 Meeting for Worship 10.30am**

For more information please contact:  
Dinah Clements 01608 811787 or [dinahc@waitrose.com](mailto:dinahc@waitrose.com)  
Robin Harland 01608 810356 or [robin.harland@virgin.net](mailto:robin.harland@virgin.net)

## Shoebox Challenge

The Baptist Church are holding a short service at their church on Friday November 16th. at 7pm when all filled boxes for Operation Christmas will be collected together .It would be wonderful if we could reach our target of 200 boxes this year! Knitted items such as scarves, gloves and hats are always much appreciated as are toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, flannels, combs, wrapped bars of soap; school items such as felt pens, chalks, pens, pencils and toys . Any of these items , plus empty shoe-boxes, will be most welcome. Look out for further details in your October issue of the Leaflet.

## CHARLBURY MUSEUM

The Museum is often asked about progress on the restoration of the Museum's farm wagon. A number of volunteers worked hard on it a few years ago, stripping off the many layers of paint; the current repair work can only be done by specialists, and we are most grateful to Michael Jones and Barry Canham for all the time and effort they are putting into this. One of the wheels has now been fully restored, and will be on display in the Museum in time for Street Fair.

Elsewhere in the *Chronicle* there is an article about the late Vic Brackenbury, and we would like to remind readers that the Museum has a collection of his magnificent wood-turning, which he kindly gave to us a couple of years ago.

*Charles Tyzack*

### *What kind of person does Alpha?*

Anyone who wants to brush up on their Christian faith

OR

Anyone who's a sceptic and likes to ask a lot of questions

OR

Anyone who wonders about the meaning of life

OR about the suffering in the world

OR about other faiths.

Basically, Alpha is for anyone. The next Alpha courses in Charlbury are starting this autumn, both day and evening, and running for approximately ten weeks.

Look up [www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org) or ring Kat Patrick for more details (811660)

## CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT – No. 44

**Town Council Annual Meeting:** This took place on 23 May when Nick Potter and Ron Prew were elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 13<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> successive years. Ron was previously Vice-Chairman from 1997-1999. The other Councillors are: Ian Cox, Amanda Epps, Susie Finch, Willem Hackmann, John Harrison, Carolyn Hazeel, Reg James, Trevor Jones, Nicolette Lethbridge and Patricia Perry. Appointments were made to the Council Committees and for Council Nominations to other bodies. Details can be obtained from the Town Clerk. At present all the Councillors sit as Independents although some are well known in local Party Politics.

**Local Government Elections:** Mike Breakell (Lib Dem) who lives in Finstock, was re-elected to represent the Charlbury and Finstock Ward at West Oxfordshire District Council for a 3<sup>rd</sup> successive term. In May 2008 there will be elections for the whole Town Council (12 seats) and for the WODC seat currently held by Cllr Glenda Chadwick (Lib Dem). It is known that some Town Councillors wish to retire from the Council next year and so ~~new~~ new blood+is needed. For more information about the Council and how to stand as a candidate in the election contact the Town Clerk.

**Communication:** The Town Clerk is Roger Clarke, 9 Hill Close, Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3SY; Tel: 01608 810608. Email: charlburytc@btinternet.com. All correspondence should be addressed to him through one of these mediums in the first instance. The Town Council will shortly be placing a page on the Charlbury website.

**Town Council Grants:** Any organisation which would like to be considered for a financial grant from the Town Council for the Financial Year 2008/9 must send their request in writing to the Town Clerk before 1 November 2007. Applications received after that date cannot be considered. Roger Clarke is able to advise applicants on what the Council can support within the constraints of the Local Government Act.

**Meetings:** The details of all Town Council Meetings which are all open to the public are displayed on the Town Council Notice Boards outside the Corner House, opposite Five Ways Stores and next to the Enstone Road Bus Stop, or can be obtained from the Town Clerk. Copies of the minutes of Town Council Meetings are available in Charlbury Library. Members of the Public may address the Town Council for up to 5 minutes before a Council Meeting but must make arrangements to do so beforehand with the Town Clerk .

**Overhanging Branches:** As branches and other vegetation grow at this time of the year, please cut back where they create obstructions to pavements and other rights of way. It can be dangerous particularly for the elderly to be forced on to the road.

**Annual Boundary Walk:** Nobody turned up . it poured with rain! We would like to thank the Charlbury Society for organising the event in anticipation of better weather.

**Best Kept Gardens Competition:** The Town Council would like to thank the members of the Charlbury and District Garden Society for organising and judging the competition on behalf of the Council. The results were published in the June *Charlbury Chronicle* (p31)

and the prizes will be presented at the Annual Show in the War Memorial Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Station Car Park:** A meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> July with representatives of OCC, FirstGreatWestern, Network Rail, and the local MP's Office. It was agreed that there is a problem and a phased solution probably the most cost effective e.g. Phase 1 . Interim solution, Phase 2 . Further development (Allotment site). Interim solutions under consideration . Pedestrian Access (footpath along access road on town side), improvements to exiting car park (surfacing, marking, reduction of vegetation), and improvements to lighting.

**Surface Water Drainage:** A meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> July CTC with the County Drainage Engineer to discuss Charlbury issues.

**Vandalism:** During June and July there was a spate of vandalism in the Town. Seats on Nine Acres have been smashed, St. Mary's Church has been broken into for the second time this year, the Notice Board and the Bus Shelter on the Enstone Road have been damaged and graffiti has appeared in Market Street and Browns Lane. All those incidents have been reported to the Police who require names and witnesses. Anybody with information is asked to contact them on 0845 8505505. When telephoning the Police please obtain a case reference number.

*Councillor Trevor Jones*

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## **Report from County Councillor Sue Haffenden on the floods**

May I firstly extend my sincerest sympathies to all those throughout the Charlbury Division who have been affected in any way by the recent floods. I have had e-mails, telephone calls and visited some victims but the effects of such an experience are long term and if I can be of any practical help with advice on how to contact County services, then please contact me.

The recent flooding hit us particularly hard in West Oxfordshire, with homes, garages and gardens flooded, roads impassable, bridges structurally damaged with parapets swept away, sewerage drains unable to cope. The reason was that the vast majority of floods come from two sources: surface water overwhelming the drains, and very heavy and intense rainfall causing river levels to rise so high they overwhelm and overtop defences (DEFRA July 25 2007). We know the level of rainfall was unprecedented on Friday July 20. Brize Norton recorded the highest level since records began: 126mm compared with the previous record of 79mm.

In the Charlbury Division, the damage was extensive. The houses in Fowler for instance were very badly affected, with families having to evacuate their homes, make their own sandbags as waters were rising so fast. They were awoken at 3am Saturday morning by

As water flooded the fields, gardens, village green and then entered houses. One family returned from holiday to find cars submerged in the garden, their whole ground floor awash, furniture and parquet floors ruined and were still dealing with the after effects of cleaning up and insurance assessors and above all the appalling smell, when I called on them several days later.

The bridges at Finstock Halt, Charlbury and Chadlington were all affected, with landslips, parapets swept away, walls collapsed and all had to be the subject of a structural examination by County Highways engineers before they could be opened to even single lane traffic again. It was a great effort and they completed all structural examinations in three days in West Oxon. Emergency crews worked round the clock at both County and District Council level, helping with information, furniture removal, evacuation to Safety Centres, sandbag delivery, road and bridge signage. Entire residential homes for the elderly were evacuated in Abingdon. The immediate danger has now diminished and we enter phase two of the operation, where local authorities and Government assess what happened, how they responded and what lessons can be learnt for future disasters and above all how to prevent them from being so overwhelming.

I have spoken at some length to both officers working on the Charlbury bridge and those at County Hall in the Highways Dept and I was told that the bridge, as a Grade 2 listed structure, need planning permission from West Oxfordshire District Council before the repairs can be started. Then they think as so much of the parapet was lost in the river, they want to find it and erect scaffolding in the river bed to mend the side of the bridge: a difficult undertaking. So, it may well be a month or two before it is done and this kind of work is going on throughout Oxfordshire. In the meantime, concrete blocks have been put into position to mark the landslip at Finstock Halt: when I phoned about the temporary cones and ribboning I was told that each bridge had a priority order and that specialist lorries for loading the blocks were working round the clock. Since Friday that road slip-page has been made safer and I was very relieved that nobody had had an accident there.

A significant factor in the recent flooding has been that drainage systems cannot cope with the amount of water running off hard surfaces, but with the rainfall we had in June they also could not cope with the water running off already water-logged land. Countryside areas as well as urban areas were affected.

At all the Annual Parish/Town meetings in March, April and May, I had raised this very issue. In response to requests I arranged on July 6<sup>th</sup> a Drainage Day with the chief drainage engineer from the County. We spent all day on Friday July 6<sup>th</sup>, visiting the village trouble spots in Churchill, Sarsden, Chadlington, Spelsbury, Taston, Charlbury, Stonesfield and Combe, meeting with Parish and Town Councillors and members of the affected public. Within a week some of his suggestions had been implemented around the roads of Taston and Spelsbury, so it was of some preventative use. Little did we realise then what was to hit Oxfordshire exactly two weeks later. However, I feel it was a very useful exercise in letting local people show the engineers exactly what the problems are. Local knowledge really helps with regard to old drainage systems, manhole covers, gullies and grips, as the contractors often do not have sufficiently detailed maps to work from. I intend to pursue these issues further when the officers have recovered from their workload of last week.

We have already heard the warnings about cost to local authorities in both man power and financial terms and in terms of how it will affect routine highway maintenance and of course the cost to all those whose properties were flooded. There are huge lessons for

the future to be learnt by everybody but in the meantime one cannot but salute the community spirit of all involved and the many sacrifices people made to help their more vulnerable neighbours.

*e-mail: sue.haffenden@oxfordshire.gov.uk*

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**Report from District Councillor Glena Chadwick:  
email [chadwick@glena.plus.com](mailto:chadwick@glena.plus.com) or telephone 810555**

Congratulations to all concerned on the success of the Riverside and Cornbury Festivals. Amazingly they both happened during the very infrequent dry moments this summer. WODC helped both festivals to recycle much of their rubbish, which was obviously very desirable. The recycling of Yellow Pages is going to happen again in August and September; there will be a collecting point at the Splendlove car park. This was extremely successful last year; fourteen tonnes (or three elephants !!) were collected in West Oxfordshire instead of going to landfill. Staying green, WODC is going to circulate an environmental survey to a selection of households to collect the public's views on environmental issues and what they feel about what WODC does and should do in this area. Some of us had concerns about the scope of the survey and the expression of some of the questions but WODC hopes that the information gained will help them refine their future policy.

All councillors are asked by the new chief executive to look at the scrutiny committees and come up with positive suggestions to improve their working; an aim which should be beneficial for everyone, councillors, officers and the general public.

The 'Rent in Advance' scheme which aims to enable more homeless people to be able to rent by forwarding loans for deposits and initial payments of rent, has proved successful and is to be extended.

In June WODC circulated leaflets in many shops and other outlets about food safety, in an effort to reduce the many cases of food poisoning which are an unfortunate consequence of the summer.

Did I say summer ? One's heart goes out to all in this area and, of course, beyond who suffered in the recent floods. Congratulations to all officers at WODC and many others who worked so hard to help in the crisis. Lessons need to be learnt and WODC is planning debriefing sessions to do precisely that.

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## Report from District Councillor Mike Breakell: email [mjbreakell@aol.com](mailto:mjbreakell@aol.com) or telephone 01993 868201

The Planning White Paper was published jointly by four Government Departments in May and seeks to streamline the planning process, to provide improvements to infrastructure and to encourage energy conservation, to respond more to the needs of business, and to preserve green spaces such as Green Belts whilst reviewing their boundaries. The unpopular Regional Assemblies will be phased out by 2010 but economic growth objectives will still be produced and the Regional Strategy for this area will still be implemented through the South East Regional Development Agency [SEEDA] based in Guildford. In July the Housing Green Paper was issued indicating that some 2 million new homes will be needed by 2016 and many of these will be required in the South East. Moreover there is a need for some 70,000 affordable homes by 2010 and the Government has set aside £8 million for this purpose.

Rural West Oxfordshire is held to be a thriving rural community with several middle sized towns but a population spread widely over the area. There are many small businesses and allegedly more community involvement compared with neighbouring authorities. However we are heavily car dependent, have rising house prices, an ageing population, and are under pressure from many external forces. In Witney work has recently commenced on the new Local Development Framework that will ultimately replace the approved West Oxfordshire Local Plan and residents will shortly be asked for their views on important issues pertaining to future development. Given the heaviest rainfall ever on July 20th in Brize Norton, and the flooding experienced by so many communities, questions will surely now arise about the location of new development in flood plains. The reality is that there are often very differing views held about planning matters so that elected members of the Planning Sub Committees deal with the more complex cases. However the majority of cases, such as house extensions are dealt with by professional planning officers. The Uplands sub committee covers this part of the District and generally meets on the first Monday afternoon each month. Members of the public are encouraged to attend but in West Oxfordshire are not allowed to speak at these meetings. Officers always precis the various individual viewpoints that have been expressed by the public or by the Town Council or the Charlbury Conservation Committee, for example, prior to any decision being reached by the Sub Committee on which I serve.

### **THE CHARLBURY CHRONICLE**

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