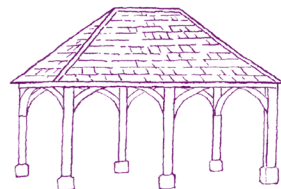


Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 26 Number 2

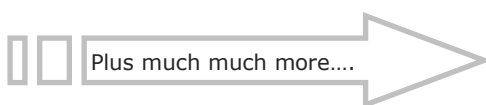
Summer 2022

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

This is our Jubilee edition, and as you can see there are a few events happening in Charlbury over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The Corner House and Charlbury School Association are holding an event on 4 June on Wychwood Paddocks. And the Town Council are holding a Family Picnic on Nine Acres on 5 June from 12.30pm onwards. St Mary's is also holding a Service of Thanksgiving in the morning of 5 June as well. And many of us will be having Street Parties too. I remember the one I went to back in 1977 when it was the Silver Jubilee—that makes me feel old!

Our very own Charlbury Festival is back from 10–19 June and is holding various events over these days! See p 2. for more details. Charlbury Open Gardens is on 19 June as part of the Festival and being organised by the Garden Society and Street Fair together.

The Beer Festival is back on the Cricket pitch for the first time since 2019 and will be held on 25 June.

Sadly this year will be the very last Cornbury Festival, held on 8–10 July in Great Tew and has artists that I have heard of! Ronan Keating, Bryan Adams and James Blunt are the headline acts.

The Riverside Festival is also back on the Mill Field on 30 and 31 July—see p 21. They will be remembering Gary Walker (a founder member) and Kathryn Custance (publicity) who both died this year. And I have just heard that they have been awarded *Best Regional Celebration of Local Talent—South East England* by UK Enterprise Awards hosted by SME News. Well done!

St Mary's are holding their CTC Holiday Club for primary school children in St Mary's Church from the 2–5 August and if you would like further information, please contact parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk.

There are two articles on Margie Glasgow as Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire; one by Probus as part of their article (p20) and another by Brian Murray on p40.

And on p37 you can see those who have been given the Honoured Citizen Award—Leah Fowler, Joan & Hugh Belshaw and Alan Fraser. Congratulations to them all.

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

Happy holidays!

Susanna Finch

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Autumn issue is 1st August 2022
Please send all articles to editor.chronicle@outlook.com**



Charlbury Festival

2022 is an exciting year for Charlbury Arts as it is the biannual Charlbury Festival!

The Art Society welcomes everyone with an interest in the Arts to the vibrant programme of monthly talks, twice yearly exhibitions and the new venture of the Charlbury Art Room. Currently there are about 200 members, including practising artists, novice dabblers like myself, those with an interest in art and a network of local workshops and art activities such as the Sketchbook Project with 40 members and the Swift Mosaic Project which decorates the walls of the Community Centre.

Charlbury Arts is the curator of the Charlbury Festival, a programme of music, drama, art, literature and cultural events being held from Friday 10th June to Sunday 19th June 2022. The events will take place in venues in Charlbury and there will be Open Studios to meet some of Charlbury's Artists.

The first event will be a musical evening with Jarisel, a newly formed group playing music from six countries on ten instruments. A very popular highlight follows on Saturday 11th June outside the Community Centre; a giant linocut made by local artists and monotype prints made by Charlbury Primary School, all printed before your eyes by a steamroller!

In the following days there will be live music events from D'Accord, Charlbury Primary School Choir, Mingus Tree, lunchtime piano and organ recitals and Friday Night 11th June is Music Night.

There will be a Sculpture Trail, Heritage Town and Field Walks, a Wildflower Walk

and a Walkers are Welcome hike to Shorthampton to visit the Church Murals.

Sunday 13th June will be Charlbury Open Gardens Day.

For those who enjoy literature there will be poetry from The Four Wordsmen of the Apostrophe on 11th June and an evening of Poetry and Music on 12th June; also talks about publishing and the chance to meet local writers. Gain inspiration yourself by joining a Young Writers Workshop or a Local Writers Forum.

Food will be available from local Nutmeg and Thyme and chocolate lovers could join a Chocolate Making Workshop.

In this year of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, Charlbury Festival will stage our local CADS Merry Moments of Monarchy, a lighthearted journey through a thousand years of the Monarchy. Looking further back Saxon bones, Roman coins and life on the land will feature in a local film and show of metal detecting finds. The Charlbury Museum will be open with a new exhibition entitled 'Jubilee'.

On Saturday 18th June there will be two further highlights; Good, Occasionally Rhyming, a celebration of the centenary of The Shipping Forecast, and Shoestring Opera stages Iolanthe.

Watch out for the Charlbury Festival Programme with full details of events and how to book tickets.

See you there!

Joanna Shakir for Charlbury Arts
joanna@shakir.org.uk
07889 545408



Charlbury Museum News

Our special display celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with royal memorabilia and snapshots of Charlbury life in the 1950s. The **'Jubilee'** exhibition features a diverse collection, including: Coronation stamps, newspapers, commemorative coins, medals; precious china given to every child at the Charlbury Coronation tea in 1953; a colourful apron emblazoned with the Coronation procession, a miniature Coronation coach and horses, etc - over seventy items inspire this **'Jubilee'** tribute. Historic souvenirs mingle with photographs that capture the iconic moments when Charlbury enjoyed past Coronations and Jubilees.

Saturday 28th May – Museum Plant Sale in the Corner House Garden, 10 am to 12 noon, in aid of Museum running costs

Come and buy and/or donate plants on the morning of the sale or on Friday evening 27th May between 6 and 6.30 pm. Alongside the Sale, CRAG will be raising funds by providing coffee and refreshments in the Hall all day.

Wednesday 15th June 7.30 pm Memorial Hall (part of the Festival)

Saxon bones, Roman coins, and life on the land. In a new film by Alan Snelling, Rob Stepney interviews Rob Jackson about unexpected archaeological discoveries and his working life spent in the fields around Walcot – a period of dramatic change in agricultural practice. This will be followed by an open discussion with Rob Jackson.

Neil Pakenham-Walsh and Rob will also bring along metal detecting finds to show the diverse stories the soil can reveal – from lost medieval silver pennies to antibiotics used to treat mastitis, and from oil painters to the Primrose League. The Museum contributed to the cost of the film. (Admission £5 at the door – cash only)

Sunday 19th June – Open Gardens.

The Museum is taking part as usual, so you may visit the Museum on that Sunday afternoon *and* appreciate the hard work of our volunteer gardener, Jane Brownlow.

We look forward to welcoming Charlbury's population to the Museum this summer. It's dry on a rainy day, cool in a heatwave and fascinating always, full of beautiful artworks, histories of the town's individuals, industries and activities, things our Grandparents used to use, not to mention the farm wagon magnificently restored by Michael Jones. Our five small rooms will be well-ventilated and we invite you to wear masks if the rooms are crowded, in view of the recent increase in Covid infections.

Thanks to all our volunteers who give their time to welcome visitors from near and far. Our visitors' books are full of compliments on their helpfulness and kindness. So many visitors come from the campsites and/or the other side of the world, and it's lovely to greet real Charlbury residents too.

Last but by no means least, we give our grateful thanks to Judy Dod who has recently resigned from the museum committee because of family commitments. Her energy and enthusiasm have been an inspiration and we are grateful that she will continue to support the museum's events. The new Committee will be appointed at the AGM of the Charlbury Society on 5th May and will serve until the Charity Commission approves the proposal to form a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to run the "Charlbury Museum and Heritage Centre", probably in a few months' time.

Jubilees and Vaccinations

It is strange that in Charlbury some years of royal Jubilees have coincided with epidemics and vaccinations. In 1887 Queen Victoria celebrated her

Museum News contd

Golden Jubilee. Our local doctor, Dr Ernest Wilcox, gave a lecture on the advantages of vaccination. There was a measles epidemic. Five children died including two children from one family, and the British School on the Playing Close closed for five weeks because of the infection.

In 1897, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, a public meeting was arranged in Charlbury by anti-vaxers from Birmingham protesting about compulsory vaccination against smallpox. When 19 men were fined for failing to vaccinate their children and refused to pay the fines, there were riots in February. Dozens of police arrived in town and Charlbury Band played Rule Britannia very loudly to prevent the auctioneer from selling off the protesters' goods to pay the fines.

In 2022 during the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II the Covid pandemic continues and the Medical Centre advises on the advantages of vaccination. Precautionary school closures have been prevented since 2019/20 and nowadays most Charlbury people are very pleased to have their vaccinations and boosters.



Coronation mug and plate 1953

Museum Dates for your diary

Charlbury Museum (73 years old this year) will be open every weekend from 16th April till the end of September:- Saturday mornings from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, and

- Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday afternoons from 2.30 – 4.30 pm.

Children are admitted free, adults only £1. Buy a book, a postcard, a tea towel, and especially our new mysterious Quiz to keep your family guessing through the summer.

Janet Jeffs

Wednesday Lunch Club

Using volunteer cooks and helpers, we provide a lunch club on a Wednesday between 11.30am and 2pm. We would welcome some new members – people who would enjoy a weekly two course, home cooked lunch for a very reasonable price (currently it's only £3) and a congenial chat with other people.

If transport is a problem, we can arrange a lift for you with one of our volunteers. The lunches are held in the Garden Room of the Memorial Hall and are organised by the committee of Charlbury Day Centre.

We'll be having a special party lunch on Wednesday 1st June to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

If you might be interested in joining us, or if you just want to find out more, please contact:-

Bob Tait: 01608 810150, or

Tanya Stevenson: 01608 810216.

We would love to hear from you.



We are keen to ensure that at Charlbury Community Centre there are fitness and social opportunities to suit everybody. So please browse the website (address below) or come in and see what we have to offer whether you are young or old (and whether that is in body or in spirit) and whatever your level of fitness.

Gym Extension

In the near future we would like to build a dedicated gym, so that we can have more robust equipment, more space and longer opening hours. It would also free up space for other classes and activities, especially in the TG room. We are investigating the possibilities and will soon be getting some costings so that we can start raising the funding for this project. In the meantime, we have undertaken a short survey of current gym users and potential users of a new gym. The results are encouraging, for example:

We have two fundraising events planned this summer and any money raised at them will go towards the cost of the new gym. We would be grateful for your support. These events are:

- Friday Night is Music Night – a cabaret style event, showcasing the musical talent we have in an around Charlbury. This is part of the Charlbury Festival and will take place on 17th June in the Memorial Hall.
- Pimm's Stall at Charlbury Beer Festival on 25th June

Royal Visit

At the time of writing, we were expecting a royal visit on 17th May. By the time you read this, it will have happened. We are very honoured to be chosen for this, along with the Cornerstone project and we are planning for a tree to be planted by our royal visitor, to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We are also preparing a photobook showing the community's efforts to help each other during the pandemic, so that our royal visitor can see what a great community Charlbury is.

Thank you Party for the Volunteers

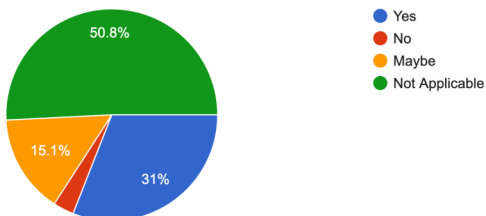
On that note, we plan to hold party at the Community Centre on 2nd July to thank the 200 or so people who came forward in April 2020 to offer their help to those who had to remain in isolation during the first lockdown. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. All volunteers are warmly welcome to attend, and more details will be published on charlbury.info and on our website.

To find out what the Community Centre has to offer, see our website: www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.

You can also follow us on Facebook: @Charlburycommunitycentre or Instagram: charlbury.community.centre

Tanya Stevenson, Trustee, The Thomas Gifford Trust

Would a gym in Charlbury encourage you to join a gym for the first time?
126 responses





All Together In Charlbury – a local helping hand

Remember, if you need any of the following and have no family or friends available to help:

- Transport to appointments or activities/visits
- Occasional household tasks/gardening
- Shopping
- Help with a form or letter or accessing information on the internet
- Someone to pop in for a chat or to read to you

you can call ATIC on **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.

If you have got something that you would like help with which is not on our usual list, you can let us know and we will see what we can do.

If we are talking especially about

anniversaries in this Jubilee edition, ATIC will have been operating for five years this year. However, there have been different versions of our Good Neighbour Scheme service in operation in the town for many years before we came into being and we would like to thank all the previous organisers and volunteers who were involved in years gone by.

We will always welcome new volunteers to help us provide our service. By volunteering for ATIC you will not be tied to specific days or times (unless you choose this). You can help when it suits you and your life.

Feedback from clients about our services is very positive. And, in return, by being a volunteer you certainly get the opportunity to meet people from parts of the town you may not have known or visited before and to have some fascinating conversations along the way. You learn a lot about our community.

If you would like to find out more, please contact ATIC on our organisational mobile number - 07487 413892 - or email: charlburyalltogether@gmail.com.

Meryl Smith



Memories of the Coronation

My husband and I were staying with my family in Totteridge, North London and were invited to watch the parade from some office on the corner of St James's Street and Piccadilly. It was a cool and drizzly day, not at all celebratory, and by the time the procession reached us everybody who was walking was soaking wet and we could not see anybody inside the coach which was a big disappointment. I am vague about what

we did next but I suspect that we went to look at the crowds in the Mall before turning to the warmth of home, where we managed to see the whole thing on the television, which was almost as exciting as being in the middle of London. In fact, I think that I remember more from the TV than being there since I cannot remember what time of day I'm talking about and wonder if they were going to Westminster Abbey or had come away from the ceremony—I suspect the latter. One clear memory I have of that day is hearing on the tube that Hillary had conquered Everest.

Dawn Colvin

CHARLBURY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

Ukrainian guests are finally beginning to arrive in Charlbury. There are as many different stories of their journeys here as there are families; and as many different needs for support.

Here are the reflections of one CRAG member, based on common experiences over the past few weeks:

Friends and supporters in Charlbury and the wider area have been mustering support for Ukrainian refugees, and giving moral support to each other as we navigate the bureaucratic shoals that often seem designed to thwart our efforts. It's a common experience to grapple with a poorly designed visa request form, phone in hand on an unreliable line to the refugees we want to sponsor, to fill in the numerous details required by an unbending Home Office.

Another sadly common experience is then the weeks of waiting, seemingly interminable, for the visa documentation to come through. Sometimes the visa is granted but then the essential letter fails to arrive. Sometimes one member of the family, often a young child, does not receive a visa when the others do: more waiting and anxiety.

The sponsoring hosts give up many hours and days to get the system to work. Other sponsors find themselves paying the hotel bills for refugees who have run out of money, have been told their visa is granted but have not received the essential paperwork that will enable them to travel.

For our Ukrainian guests, we can only hope that being here safely is what matters most, and the warmth of our welcome will compensate for the blocks placed in their way by officials struggling

to manage a completely new and untested system.

That, in the end, is what it's all about: the warm welcome and the safety. People in Charlbury and all over the country are getting together to offer not just room, but bedding, equipment, children's toys, books, food, transport, English lessons, group meals, free haircuts, guided tours, and more.

Our guests will be anxious to return home when they can do so safely. They will go with good memories of Britain that, we can hope, will last long after this war is over. And we too will have been changed forever.

The trials of our Ukrainian guests make us reflect on those refugees for whom there is no welcome scheme, only the prospect of a prison sentence or removal to Rwanda if they ever make it across the Channel, as the Nationality and Borders Bill finally passes into law after a mammoth struggle.

These individuals and families, our uprooted and grieving guests, will teach us a lot about stoicism, varying cultural norms, living with a new language, the nuances of national identity, and the common norms of humanity that we share with them.

We will help them to build up the resilience that they so badly need now and when they return to their devastated country. We will discover new depths and kindness in ourselves. We and they will offer each other friendships that in some cases will last a lifetime.

For more information please visit CRAG's Ukraine Welcome Hub at bit.ly/crag-ukraine

Vicky Buser



Try bowls at Charlbury Bowls Club

All you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes like trainers and we have the rest. First six times is free!



New Members are able to play and enjoy our facilities at almost any time. Beginners welcome, free coaching, very low membership fees, plenty of matches, competitions, and social interaction.

Welcome to all. We have several Men's, Ladies', and Mixed teams with a Junior Academy. Just bowl socially, or after a few introductory sessions you will be equipped to play in friendly matches.

The very successful **Broadsword Junior Academy** meets Saturday mornings from 11.00 am and Tuesdays from 3.15pm. Ages 7 to 15, supported by DBS vetted and trained coaches.

Disability Bowls We have an extensive range of equipment to assist people with disabilities to enjoy our sport, including bowls wheelchairs, whether you have a physical, sensory, or learning disability.

Contact us for more information or just turn up to an Open Day

enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk



www.charlburybowls.co.uk



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Charlbury Bowls Club

We have been busy at the club and the short mat winter season has come to an end. The Little OX Brew Bowls Green is now in full action and bowling well after many voluntary hours from club members for our first Open Day in the Easter sunshine. It is also time for membership annual subscription renewals which we have managed to keep the same as last year. Our aim is to ensure we give access to the game to all members and at every level; more information may be obtained from our website at www.charlburybowls.co.uk.

Our fixture card is now printed and shows our full summer programme of friendly matches, both home and away to other affiliated bowls clubs. We also have a Men's and Ladies' League team, the West Oxon Mixed League, and County and Club competitions such as the Ned Gomm trophy, sponsored by Hydac.

The very popular Tuesday night Triples, kindly sponsored by Charlbury Garage, promises to be a great focal point of the week and a good starting place to enjoy competitive bowling or just have a social evening. All the above and more can now be viewed and booked on our new Club Manager system. This fantastic system allows all members to access the latest information and book games on your PC, phone or tablet, as well as using the traditional notice board. This is backed up with our very own members' only Facebook page.

New members can play and enjoy our facilities at almost any time. Beginners are most welcome. We can provide free coaching and you can attend up to six times before committing and then we provide a discount for the first year to enable the purchase of a club shirt. It is recommended that unless you have bowled before, you try the bowls equipment from the club and all you need to start with is a flat soled pair trainers.

Short mat inside bowling will, for the first time, continue during the summer at the

club. We plan to have a league structure on a Monday and Thursday evening because of popular demand by members, who wish to pursue this option.

You may recall from the last issue that the club managed to get to the National finals at Solihull with both a junior academy team and a mixed over 60s team this year. We also had representation at the Oxfordshire finals by several members of the club, a big credit to all involved. After a successful trial for Bowls England Short mat team, five of our junior academy players have been selected for the England Squad. Congratulations to the five; names may be shown in the next issue.

Broadsword junior academy will continue to meet on Saturday mornings from 11am and Tuesday afternoons at 3.15pm; all ages from 7-15 are supported by DBS vetted and trained coaches and once competent can play at club level, both inside and outside. The academy is supported by West Oxfordshire District Council

Disability Bowlers can use our special adapted equipment including bowls wheelchairs, both electric and manual powered, so whether you have a physical, sensory, or learning disability we can support you.

Building extensions: the club management committee have been very busy supporting plans and obtaining grants to expand the building to cope with tomorrow's needs. It's very possible that work could start this season, but will not affect the bowling; more information will be available on the website www.charlburybowls.co.uk.

As well as the bowling at the club, we are a community facility, and open to groups for private events or charitable activities, please email enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk for availability and terms.

Ron Smith



Charlbury Finstock Morris seeks new members

Do you seek some lively exercise, or feel the urge to be doing something really different? Do you relish the prospect of entertaining others with your dance or musical talent? Even if you answer 'NO' please do consider joining Charlbury Finstock Morris!

We are always looking for interested individuals from the local community—our dancers come from Finstock, Witney, Chipping Norton and Oxford as well as from Charlbury itself. Our Cotswold Morris side invites you to free Morris dancing lessons.

Our Summer dance season is from May to September. Winter activities include Barn Dances, Pub evenings and Morris Ales (gatherings of Morris sides). Practice sessions are held in Finstock Village Hall in October / November and March, April and May on most Friday evenings at 8:00pm.

Newcomers are most certainly welcome to drop by and to help our side keep this artistic tradition alive. As in the old days, we learn and respect the ancient traditions of the Morris, but we try not to take ourselves too seriously. Please do come along to one of our events or practice sessions (see website for times and locations).

Formed in 1984, Charlbury Morris revived local participation in the ancient tradition of Morris dancing in Charlbury and the Cotswold villages of Leafield, Finstock and Minster Lovell—commonly known as the Fieldtown area. Our side is made up of six or more sprightly male dancers, several versatile musicians and a merry fool! We dance various local dance traditions from Fieldtown, Ascott, Hinton, Bampton and Adderbury—taking the dance steps and music from historical sources.

'CFM' is well-known as a 'fun side'. We keep to the old dance traditions, and sometimes create our own, but always with healthy injections of fun and the occasional, equally ancient, beverage to cool our exertions! Jangling bells, wild waving hankies, whirling sticks and wild whooping are common elements of our dance. A new departure for us is singing including sea shanties; you might have seen us perform at Street Fair last year.

For more information call Peter (the CFM 'Bagman') on 01608 811007, or visit our website.

info@charlburymorris.org.uk
www.charlburymorris.org.uk
www.facebook.com/charlburymorrismen

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

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CONTACT LORRAINE:

lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk

07516262560

www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk

CORN'BURY MUSIC FESTIVAL 8th 9th 10th July 2022 The Great Tew Park Oxfordshire

JAMES BRYAN RONAN BLUNT ADAMS KEATING JOOLS HOLLAND & HIS RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA

And now the time has come to face the final curtain...

In truth, I have to be honest and say that I'm rather relieved that Cornbury Festival is coming to an end, despite all the magical moments and the fantastic group of friends I've made over the last almost 20 years. Running an independent music festival is a rather foolish endeavor, and although I will take away some amazing memories, losing the life savings, family heirlooms and all the profits from my successful music consultancy business has been pretty painful. BUT the big question is: Would I do it all again? And I'm afraid the answer is YES.

Even if you've never been to a festival, you should try Cornbury on this final occasion; it was even good enough for my 80-year-old mother a few years back. "Are you OK Mother?" I asked. "I'm in danger of having a good time" she replied. "Why should I make the effort?" I hear you ask.

Cornbury is the festival for people who don't really 'do' festivals and it is widely acknowledged by our loyal supporters and musicians who play the festival as pretty much the nicest, best run, friendliest festival in the UK. It's still very much about music and is clearly a reflection of my very wide, if a little safe, music taste. The festival is so safe that the police won't attend.

The selection of bands follows a 'something for everyone' approach, often poo-pooed by other festivals for being 'uncool'. Dear Tim Hughes from the Oxford Times & Mail believes we're so

uncool at Cornbury that we've become cool—not sure about that!

Right from the start we've made great food a central part of our festival, turning down an offer from a low-end festival caterer which could have helped finance our first year, and concentrated on the best independent caterers we could find and most of these individuals are still with us. This year we welcome back our old friends at Waitrose (Cornbury partners on five separate occasions) with an intriguing 'build your own picnic' offer, and new local Great Tew foodies 'Quince & Clover'.

If long term enduring partnerships are an indication of the loyalty we feel and, luckily, we attract, the gold medal must surely go to joint winners Pablo Ettinger from Caffè Nero and Andy Pickard from Charlbury Riverside. Both these fine Gentlemen have supported us over the years simply because they're mad about music. I'd also like to thank our longstanding supporter and Charlbury councillor Nick Potter for all his help and press cuttings over the years.

Thank you & Goodbye.

Hugh x

Hugh Phillimore

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JUBILEE BARN DANCES

SATURDAY JUNE 4TH

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WYCHWOOD PADDOCKS



EVENT 1: CHILDREN & FAMILIES: 2.30-5pm • CHILDREN £5 (ADULTS FREE)

EVENT 2: FOR ADULTS: 7-10pm • £10

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AND CORNER HOUSE TRUST RENOVATION FUND CHARITY NUMBER 1196206



Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle

Charlbury School appoints new headteacher

The governors of Charlbury Primary School and the River Learning Trust have appointed Charlie Barwell as the new headteacher of the school. She was previously head at the primary schools of Combe, Middle Barton, and the Batt School/St Mary's in Witney.

In a letter to parents, Ms Barwell writes:

"I am delighted to have been appointed as the Headteacher of Charlbury School and am looking forward to getting to know every one of you over the coming months.

"20 years ago, I moved to West Oxfordshire with my family having taught in Oxford and London previously. I have been the Headteacher of four schools, as well as working as a Governor and a Trustee for a MAT. My experience extends to all categories of school in both state and private. I am an empathetic leader who believes that strong relationships with everyone within the community is essential for our children."

She will take up her position at the start of the autumn term in September.



The Charlbury Beer and Wine Circle meets monthly, usually in the Memorial Hall, to enjoy tastings provided by professionals and members alike.

Recently we have enjoyed a tasting of seven different varieties of Prosecco, given by the Prosecco Producers' Ambassador to the UK.

Two members entertained and educated us with their choice of wines from eastern European countries; wines that many of us have probably been inclined to dismiss far too hastily but which will perhaps now receive a little more consideration.

In mid-April, an informal social event enabled members to bring their own choices of wine, beer and food for sharing during conversation about 'anything under the sun' – and, surprise, surprise, that included grapes too.

We are a friendly group and amongst us there are those who really know their wines and others who are novices wanting to learn more.

We have tastings, visits and a barbecue planned for the summer months and we hope you will wish to join us. You will be made very welcome.

For more information please email charlburywineandbeercircle@gmail.com

CHRONICLE ADVERTS

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

To place an advert please ring Graham Jowett on 01608 810666 or email: gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com



Charlbury Beer Festival

We had a beer tasting in 2020. We had an Oktoberfest in 2021. Let's face it though, nothing is quite like the full thing, out in the sun on Charlbury's cricket ground.

We are extremely excited that one of Charlbury's favourite events is back on the calendar for 2022.

The 24th iteration of Charlbury Beer Festival will take place on **Saturday 25th June**. It's a landmark event as we'll be celebrating pouring our 10,000th gallon of beer.

It's an event for everyone, not just the astonishing 50+ ales and craft beers. We have cider, wine, gin, and Pimm's, with plenty of food options to mop it up with. Entertainment comprises live music, a Children's Tent, a Culture Tent, and, of course, the World Aunt Sally Open Singles Championship which we plan to live-stream on the internet this year!

The event is run entirely by volunteers and the profit is given as grants to groups in and around Charlbury. From the pre-schools to the football club, iPads to defibrillators, over £250,000 has been given back to help support the things you love in Charlbury. Here's to the next 10,000 gallons

Tickets will be available online soon but also on the gate on the day. **Midday till late at Charlbury Cricket Club**. See you there!

Why not come and help us on the day? If you can spare two hours, why not come pour some beer with us? Our "Beermakers" make the day special and without you, none of this would be possible. Drop me an email at info@charlburybeerfestival.org

*Michael Peake
2022 CBF Chair
www.charlburybeerfestival.org*

The Home Library Service/ 'Books on Wheels'



Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library for any reason? If you're finding it difficult to get to a library, the Home Library Service ('Books on Wheels') may be able to help.

The Home Library Service is run by Oxfordshire County Council and serves 770 customers across the county. With the help of volunteers, it looks after and delivers books and audio-visual items to those who struggle to physically visit a library due to their personal circumstances. The service is completely free of charge to customers, many of whom are elderly or housebound, and it can also be used on a short-term basis following illness or hospitalisation. Those with carer responsibilities are also welcome to apply. In Charlbury there is a small group of volunteers who enjoy getting to know their 'customers' and their taste in books, choosing as many books as they wish for the following month and returning those from the previous month. We have access to every library in Oxfordshire so are sure to be able to find something for everyone!

How it works

Contact us to discuss the kind of Books, Large Print/Regular Print, DVDs, Audio Books on CD that you like to read or enjoy. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to bring these to you in your home. We are DBS checked, wear an identification badge and provide a helpful and friendly service, arranging for the same volunteer to visit you each time. 'Books on Wheels' is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns.

How to register

To register for this service or for further information call Charlbury Library on 01608 811104 or Judith Scott on 01608 810024. Alternatively telephone the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

I have been approached many times over the past year on my walks through Charlbury by members who have expressed their appreciation of the varied and fascinating talks we arranged for you during the past season. We are delighted that you have continued to support us with membership currently around 140. Because of that and for reasons of safety, we have continued with Zoom, and whilst acknowledging that not everyone is able or willing to join us remotely, we understand that the majority of you do wish us to continue, with some occasions, as for the AGM, returning to the Memorial Hall where you can have a chance to meet up with others and enjoy a glass of wine.

A brief summary of our talks during 21/22 follows for interest and for those who may have missed some. I also hope this may encourage some new members to join us next season.

We started our season in October with Dr Simon Townley who is the County Editor of the VCH for Oxfordshire, talking to us about the history of the Wychwood Forest and Cornbury Park. We learnt of the numerous settlements in the Wychwood mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the first documented reference of Cornbury Park in 1244. The association with royalty and the different stages of building of Cornbury House over the centuries was described in detail, as was the design of the Park in the Restoration period. I found this talk particularly fascinating as many of you know.

Our talk in November was by Rod Evans who gave us a very detailed and technical description of the planning process. It was interesting to debate whether access and traffic issues have more weight in a planning application than a reduction in the value of property.

In December we heard from Janice Kinory, archeologist, about the production, distribution of salt in prehistoric Britain and the use of briquetage in the iron age to collect and

distribute salt and its use in agriculture and food production.

Trevor Jackson, who served in the RAF for nearly 30 years, becoming a commissioned officer and latterly as a volunteer VIP escort officer at Fairford, was our speaker in January,

giving us a tremendously well illustrated talk on the activities that have taken place at RAF Brize Norton since the 1930s to the current day, looking at the types of aircraft that have operated from the base over the decades, and the operations they have been involved with.

In February, Clare Shakya talked to us about a topic foremost in our minds: Climate ambition, COP 26 took us forward, but not far enough. Clare has 30 years of experience in climate resilient development, covering natural resources, energy and water systems.

She is now responsible for the oversight of research as the Director of climate change at the International Institute for Environment and Development.

She explained the history of climate change, the challenges we now face and the politics involved.

In March we had a stunning virtual visit to see the restoration of Kelmscott Manor, under the leadership of Dr Kathy Haslam, Curator and specialist in William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement.

In 1961 when Kelmscott was in a perilous state of repair, being a property of international significance, the ownership was taken over by the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Sixty years later the £6 million Project has safeguarded the Estate's future, and Kathy talked us through the complexities of working on such a fragile site during the Pandemic and lockdown, and the significance of research that has informed decisions at every stage.

We were strongly encouraged to visit it this summer.

And in April we had a wonderful talk by

four of the Museum Committee, those who actually run the museum, organise the collections and displays, and accept gifts and memories of Charlbury residents to add to the collection. Each speaker showed us a different view of the Museum and with slides outlining the history, photographs, buildings and crafts in Charlbury through the ages.

In May, following the AGM, Simon and Rhona Walker told us about the golden age of prefabrication, a much anticipated talk which we had hoped to bring you as soon as we came back to the Memorial Hall.

I am now appealing to you for help with ideas for, and organisation of the next season's lectures since this is the mainstay of the Charlbury Society, and we should be incredibly sad not to be able to continue to provide these wonderful Thursday evenings.

As I have mentioned a number of our Committee are stepping down as well as our President. So I should like to thank them all for their support over the past couple of years, and we very much hope to welcome some more members to the Committee, in order to continue with our programme.

We have been unable to organise a Charlbury Society tea in the Corner House garden, as last year, or any outings with our reduced numbers, as the remaining three people could not take this on in addition to their current roles. We would like to organise a members tea later in the summer, or even an outing, if we have some offers of help.

Finally I should like to mention the support the Society's committee members have given over the past year to the Museum in their quest to move to Charitable status as a CIO, and we shall continue to be closely involved until it comes to fruition.

*Nikki Rycroft
Chair, Charlbury Society
chair.charlsoc@gmail.com*



News from the Charlbury Patient Participation Group (CPPG)

Dr. Pippa Brookes-White is on sabbatical for one year as from April 2022. Her patients are being cared for by Dr. Ali Khan.

Dr. Mel Hurney has returned from maternity leave.

Social Prescriber : Jennifer (has started work at the Charlbury Medical Centre and will offer home visits to patients who are housebound and isolated. Please contact The Charlbury Medical Centre or if you know of anyone who would benefit from and welcome such a visit.

Vaccination Clinic: COVID Booster and 4th vaccination clinic was held on 28th April for patients aged 75 and over and for the clinically vulnerable.

Medical Centre Doors: We are delighted that automatic doors are due to be installed on 11th May.

A Greener Medical Practice: Dr. Frances Mortimer who is a Charlbury Town Councillor is working with the CPPG, the CMC, and Averose Pharmacy to promote the use of inhalers that have a lower environmental impact and their safe disposal. We hope to recruit a member to the CPPG Steering Committee to work closely with Frances and the CMC to reduce NHS waste.

Garden: Members of the CPPG Steering Committee (Nikki and Sue) under the guidance of Christine Elliott have been working in the garden next to the CMC, planting insect friendly plants and shrubs which will provide berries in the autumn to attract birds.

Please contact
Patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net with feedback and ideas.



Charlbury Hedges

Hedges are so important in our landscape as wildlife corridors and refuges for plants, insects, birds, reptiles and small mammals. In Charlbury all our hedges are very old and the boundaries can be seen on our earliest map drawn up in 1761 by Thomas Pride for the new 4th Duke of Marlborough.

This map shows the 90 owners of land in the parish, a large number with small "pieces" of land scattered all over the parish. This large number of small land owners to negotiate with is no doubt the reason why Charlbury didn't experience the radical reshaping of its land into large rectangular fields seen elsewhere and why we can still see these early field boundaries today.



The 1761 map shows some boundaries with large dots but unfortunately they are not explained in the key. Large dots are shown along the northern boundary of Long Hedge Furlongs and maybe the name suggests the dots are along an actual hedge (which is still there today), but large dots are also shown on some "unenclosed" boundaries and this maybe indicates the fields were enclosed. Other boundaries might be stone walls or just marked by stones or trees to identify junction points.

The old trees along the Holly Bush Furlongs track south of the Ditchley Road are at regular intervals and look like they could delineate the ends of the old strip boundaries.

Another reason we're lucky is that our hedges have been thoroughly surveyed by Alan Spicer and Don Porter; they provided a pilot model for CPRE Oxfordshire's Hedgerow Survey initiative. Now in the

2020s, the People's Trust for Endangered Species is doing a national survey of the hedges looking particularly at how they are managed and how healthy they are. Charlbury is now taking part in this survey to build on the earlier survey work done by Alan and Don.

Overcutting annually at the same point produces a visible knuckle producing new growth with nothing growing afresh from the base and providing little shelter for wildlife. Leaving a hedge totally uncut will naturally end up with the plants developing into a line of trees which will be relatively short-lived. Cutting a hedge is like coppicing or pollarding; it rejuvenates the growth from the cutting point and enables the plants to thrive for centuries.

A good cutting regime, however, is not to cut in the same place each year, but to allow the hedge to grow by a few more inches each year – this allows some old wood to develop to provide flowers and then fruit. Legally, hedge cutting can only take place between September and February but it is good to cut as late as possible to provide a food supply for birds, insects and mammals overwinter.

In Charlbury we'll be re-surveying our hedges so if you would like to help then please get in touch (01608 811057). – Some training will be provided in July by Wild Oxfordshire and paid for by Charlbury Town Council. If you would like to learn more about hedges in advance then please have a look at these excellent video links. Wild Oxfordshire provided a "Talking Hedges" series of four webinars www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/hedgerow-webinar-series/. As part of the Charlbury Festival on **Sunday 19 June** I will be doing a heritage field walk along the old Woodstock Way to the Saltway. Please come and join me to find out more about our local landscape over the past 300 years; we meet at 11.15am on The Playing Close.

Christine Elliott
Charlbury Green Hub



Coffee break page

Compiled by Miles Walkden and Michele Marietta

Jubilee Word Search



JUBILEE WORD SEARCH

Anointed; Australian Wattle; BBC; Canada Maple Leaf; Ceylon; Commonwealth ;
Coronation; Cotton; Crown Jewels; Empire; India; Jubilee; Jute; King Edward's Chair
Lilibet; Lotus Flower; New Zealand Silver Fern; Pakistan; Pall Mall; Queen; Regalia
Scottish Thistle; Shamrock; South Africa Protea; Sovereign; Televised; Tudor Rose
Welsh Leek; Westminster Abbey; Wheat



Probud Meeting - Being Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire Marjorie Glasgow

At the meeting of the Probud Club of Charlbury on Wednesday 6th April members and guests were given a fascinating insight into the work of a Lord Lieutenant by Marjorie Glasgow from Charlbury.

Marjorie is appointed by the Queen and performs her role at official functions, as one of 98 Lord Lieutenants in the UK decreed by Henry VIII, in a uniform, which is a result of its informal military connection. The role is a long term one rather than the annual one of High Sheriffs in their fancy uniforms. Marjorie substitutes for the Queen in Oxfordshire, performing functions locally that the Queen would perform at a national level in the recommended 'relentlessly agreeable manner'.

In her wide role, Marjorie is supported by 34 deputy lieutenants in Oxfordshire, who are drawn from a very varied range of backgrounds and professions, and she endeavours to widen the context of its functions well beyond Oxford City to encompass the varied and interesting county of Oxfordshire. Marjorie recently guided the Prince of Wales to visit to the Culham Science Centre in addition to an already planned visit to Harwell Science Centre and has also organised the visits of other royals, such as the Duke of Gloucester to a variety of locations in Oxfordshire. In the course of these visits, she has found herself moved by performing her role both with royal visitors, as well as by the wide range of members of the public that she has encountered.

One aspect of Marjorie's role as Lord Lieutenant is to encourage diversity and inclusion across the county, which is personally appropriate to her as a foreign-born woman. She encourages applications from appropriately deserving individuals for awards for voluntary service and enterprise. Marjorie emphasised her awareness of the importance and promotion of community,

and in general and specifically she mentioned strong local examples of this in the form of Charlbury Community Centre and The Corner House and also the only 'slightly edited Charlbury Website.' She spoke of how struck she was that so much of public life in the UK was non-political, in contrast to the situation in her native USA, and that this should not be taken for granted. This is a consequence of the UK being a constitutional monarchy.

In response to questions, Marjorie highlighted the push to recruit a younger and wider range of people to apply for the role of magistrates to better reflect the public demographic that they serve. She finds time to perform the long term role, which runs over a number of years, by taking control of her own schedule as Lord Lieutenant and integrating it into her numerous other activities and interests. In this, Marjorie is supported by the 'thoughtful doers' that are the Deputy Lieutenants.

It was stated that the role of Lord Lieutenant encapsulates the UK's unwritten constitution, and that in society many people give their time, talent and encouragement and in turn are rewarded by recognition and support.

Jeremy Smyth

Probud is now open to both men and women and provides an excellent opportunity to meet people over a relaxed lunch before listening to interesting talks. If this interests you then please come along and join us. Meetings take place at 12.00 on the first Wednesday of each month currently at Witney Lakes resort. Various other events and outings are also organised throughout the year.

If you would like to join Probud or would like more information please contact our secretary Simon Handley
simon.handley8@icloud.com



Charlbury Riverside Festival

The Riverside Festival crew are overjoyed to announce that after what feels like an aeons, we are finally back on the Millfield for two days of local music and arts and general family friendly fun. Thanks to funding from the town council, and the 100% volunteer crew, we are able to once again bring Charlbury its very own two day FREE festival.

The sad loss of our dear friends and festival stalwarts, Gary Walker and Kathryn Custance has been a real blow to the team. Gary was a founder of the festival and a rock amid the rock and roll (and mud) and general slings and arrows such an event must always deal with. Kathryn made the festival bigger, and made sure our ethos of art for arts sake was communicated to a much wider audience. Whilst we will share out their tasks across the team, we can never replace them as people but we can all take comfort from the fact that the festival - and the world in general - is better for them having been here. So we will celebrate them this July on the Millfield and remember all the joy and fun they brought to this corner of the countryside for a couple of summer days.

Centered around three stages where over 50 acts will sing, dance and perform for free we also have numerous local traders and food stalls ranging from raclette to

venison burgers—with at least three food trucks from Charlbury. There's a dedicated children's area, with lots of free activities and entertainment and local craft skills demonstrations in the craft zone. To help you keep cool in the guaranteed* hot weather we have a gin bar with brews from across the county and of course, with great support from Hook Norton brewery, two bars serving local ales and ciders.

Headlining the event will be Kanadia—just back off tour supporting Liam Gallagher—and a triumphant return for The Standard—plus many many others. Expect familiar faces, new discoveries, folk, rock, trip hop, pop—and even a little light skanking.

Full event details are available at www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com

Charlbury Riverside Festival 2022 opens from 2pm—10pm on 30th July and noon till 8pm on Sunday 31st July.

Entry is free. (*entry fee refunded if weather is poor)

Due to licensing we can't allow dogs (sorry, we do have a little dog hotel outside though) and also can't allow alcohol to be brought on site.

Fergus McVey



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**

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET on the Playing Close between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, June 11th

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

Revd Sally Welch to move on to Christ Church Cathedral

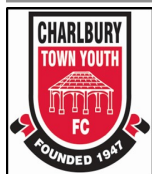
Charlbury's vicar, Revd Dr Sally Welch, will be leaving the parish this summer and moving on to a new role as Diocesan Canon of Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford.

A news item from the Diocese of Oxford says:

"The Bishop of Oxford and the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral are delighted to announce the appointment of the Reverend Dr Sally Welch as Diocesan Canon. Sally is currently vicar of Charlbury in the Diocese of Oxford and was area dean of Chipping Norton from 2015 to 2021.

"Sub Dean Richard Peers says; 'We are all looking forward to Sally's arrival at Christ Church and having her as part of the team here. Sally will bring strong skills as a pastor as well as a deep passion for pilgrimage. Her knowledge of the diocese and network of relationship across the diocese will further strengthen the mission of the Cathedral. We look forward to Sally, Jeremy and their growing family being part of our community.'

"Sally Welch has been a parish priest within the Diocese of Oxford for over 20 years, in a variety of different contexts, as well as Diocesan Spirituality Adviser. She is the author of a number of books and was the editor of New Daylight Bible reading notes for seven years. Her particular interest is the spirituality and practice of pilgrimage, and she has worked with the diocese and the Cathedral on a number of different pilgrimage projects, particularly the annual St Frideswide Pilgrimage. She and her husband Jeremy have four children and five grandchildren (so far)."



Charlbury Town Youth Football Club

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club will be hosting its annual 6-a-side

Tournament on Sunday June 12th on Nine Acres Recreation Ground.

Around 100 teams from all over Oxfordshire and beyond will be joining us for what is usually a fantastic day of football.

This is our main fundraiser for the year so please feel free to come along and support our players and the club.

The Club are always looking to increase our player numbers across most age groups. The teams are all run by parent volunteers and we are always looking for

help to run the club and coach the players. We are a fully inclusive club who cater for all abilities, offering a high standard of coaching, a safe, friendly and enjoyable environment, with fantastic facilities for our players to train and play their matches.

Should your children or their friends wish to have a free taster at one of our training sessions or if you would like more information on the football club, go to :-

www.charlburytownyouth.co.uk

and either click on the contact button or click on the relevant team to find contact details for coaches at each age group.

The Story of Southill Solar

Sustainable Charlbury has just published the story behind the development of the community owned Southill Solar farm.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

This is the remarkable story of how our small town in the Cotswolds came together to create a community owned and controlled solar farm.

Southill Solar generates enough power to cover most of the electricity consumption of Charlbury and two nearby villages. The project has been run by people living locally all the way through from the initial idea, to winning planning consent, raising the money, oversight of construction and now running the solar farm.

As well as producing green renewable energy, Southill Solar manages an ambitious programme of land restoration which is transforming former arable land into a haven for plant and animal biodiversity.

Sustainable Charlbury is now running a grants programme recycling the surplus revenues from Southill into further low carbon projects within the community—a great example of a circular and regenerative local economy in action.

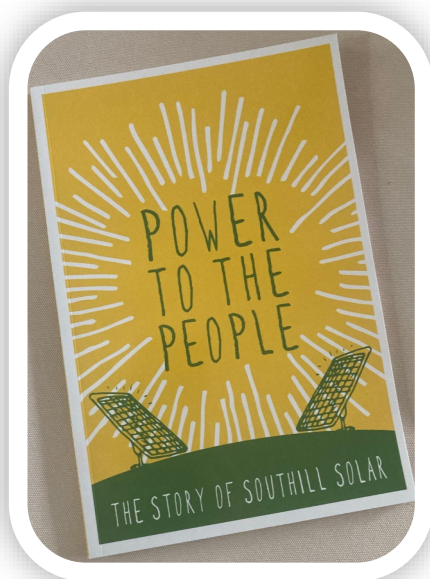
This 64pp book sets out information about the project and explains how and

why the solar farm came to be built as an exciting community enterprise.

To purchase a copy @ £10 please contact Tim Crisp at tjcrisp@icloud.com.

All proceeds go to Sustainable Charlbury towards covering the costs of producing the book.

www.sustainablecharlbury.org/southill/



Tim Crisp

CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL

Office: 01608 810879
Office hours: Mon 9.30am - 11.30am; Wed & Sat: 9am to 12 noon
Emergency Contact:
Roy Scott (01608 810562)



Charlbury Library News

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.

We had a very successful Springtime Stories & Craft session during the Easter holidays with the children sitting beautifully to listen to the stories and working very hard at decorating their butterflies and bugs to take home.

We have another Stories & Craft session planned, this time with a "Jubilee" theme, for Monday 30th May at 10.30am.

The children will be able to make party hats to take home and bunting to decorate the library. Look out for ways to sign your children up for this nearer the time!

There will be Royal-themed books on display from the end of May, including "There Once is a Queen" a children's book written by Sir Michael Morpurgo especially for this Jubilee year telling the story of the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II, who started life as a real princess. Amongst others, there will also be a copy of "The Queen's Knickers" by Nicholas Allan available, a warm and humorous picture book exploring whether the Queen has matching knickers to go with all her outfits!

On Saturday 9th July The Summer Reading Challenge begins! This is when Oxfordshire Libraries, in partnership with

The Reading Agency, challenge all children to borrow and read (or listen to) several books over the course of the summer holidays.

There are rewards and incentives offered to keep children visiting libraries and borrowing books but there is also a digital platform which offers even more fun.

Early in the summer holidays, and possibly towards the end, we will be running a Summer Reading Challenge Stories & Craft session, so watch out for the dates nearer the time.

We have been lucky enough to have a lovely lady called Sheila volunteer to re-start the library Rhymetime sessions. They are weekly (term time only), free of charge and aimed at pre-schoolers and their carers to have fun with stories and simple rhymes.

These should begin during May and will be advertised once we have finalised the details.

Julie Ward
Library Manager
charlbury.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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To place an advert please ring
Graham Jowett on 01608 810666 or
email:
gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com



Year-round countryside management with the Cotswold Wardens

While the winter months mean that there is less work on footpath clearance in our corner of the Cotswolds, the Voluntary Wardens have continued to improve footpath signage, with new and replacement way markers being installed. Larger projects over the past couple of months have included building a new footbridge.

We have also been very active in Centenary Wood, where ongoing woodland management tasks are being very well-received by those Charlbury residents who walk through the wood.

The growing number of dead-hedges is testament to our efforts to control the blackthorn and respond to ash die-back there, with dead-hedges now seen as being a preferable alternative to burning the waste.

Not only does this reduce carbon emissions to the atmosphere, but dead-hedges provide new habitat for a whole range of wildlife. Timber from felled diseased trees is also being stacked rather than burnt as a way of sequestering carbon.

Some of this timber has also been taken to the Wigwell Nature Reserve to be used in the new 'beaver dams', thereby supporting other community groups.

Fortunately not all our tree work has involved felling, and the Wardens have been helping with a large multi-year tree-planting project in Burford.

And whilst the Wardens' work parties are busy looking after the public rights of way, the walk leaders are planning and leading walks that make best use of the routes.

A new initiative, which has just begun, involves working with members of the Evenlode Catchment Partnership. Members of the team will be joining some of our walks, giving us information about the wildlife and also showing how Thames Water is ensuring that floodwaters stay out of villages in the valley.

The first of these walks – from Bruern Farm shop – will have taken place before this Chronicle lands on the doormat, but there are others in the pipeline. One is timed for mid-June to coincide with the flowering of the meadow clary at Wigwell. There will be at least one from Stonesfield, and possibly another from Bruern Farm shop, using a different route.

Walks are being added all of the time so please keep checking the website www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk, click on the 'Walking and Exploring' tab and then 'Guided Walks'. We look forward to you joining our walks, which are always informative.

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

*Rosemary Wilson, Bruce Crawford and
Simon Walker*

A Days Life: Jason Biles, fitness instructor at the Community Centre

Many of us will know Jason from his work keeping us fit and active at the Community Centre. I wondered how he came to be working in the keep fit industry

I am Chipping Norton born and bred, and lived in Chippy for many years. I was an only child, but had a large extended family in the town, five aunts and three uncles! I went to Chipping Norton School at the time when the Spendlove School Charlbury was merged with it [Ed 1982]. So I know a lot of Charlbury faces, and we see lot of visitors to the Community Centre who used to live in Charlbury. I occasionally went to the Spendlove School before it closed, for matches and events. There used to be a swimming pool there, but I'm not sure exactly where it was. I get a different answer each time I ask!

Academically, I was a lazy student, I failed all my 'O' levels and so reluctantly I stayed on to sixth form to re-sit them all and eventually scraped five. I was mad about sport however, especially football. Football was my passion (I'm a Leeds fan if you're wondering). When I was 14, I was taken on as a schoolboy apprentice footballer with Oxford United, and stayed with them until I was 17. But I wasn't quite good enough to make it into the senior team, and I was released. It takes more than talent to become a first team player, and I didn't have enough dedication or focus to make it as a professional player. So in 1985 I took my five 'O' levels into RAF careers in St.Giles, Oxford and signed up as a Physical Training Instructor. I was stationed in Swindon, Cosford (where I did my specialist training,) Brize Norton and Weston-on-the-Green where I finished my parachute training and later completed my coaching badges in football, rugby, badminton and squash.

When I left the Airforce I returned to Chippy and I took a job running a spa at a health farm near Burford. It gave me the chance to continue to study part-time

and I enrolled at Swindon College on a Diploma course in Health and Fitness Studies. After four years the health spa closed and I decided to buy all the gym equipment and start a gym of my own. My uncle, a mechanic who had trained at Rolls Royce, helped me modify and service the equipment and later that year I opened my own gym at the Regent Squash Club in Chipping Norton. I had ten very happy years there - I could walk to work each day - a great work-life balance, just a two minutes commute on foot.

During this time I married Karen, we had our two children, Jamie and Tess. I also went into partnership in another gym venture in Cheltenham, however three years into the venture we were served notice by the landlords on the property in Cheltenham and the Chipping Norton Squash Club was sold too in the same year. Although I remember feeling like this was a bitter 'double whammy' I had a seemingly bottomless pit of energy in those days and felt completely undeterred by the setbacks.

By the time both clubs had formally closed, I had already started a new gym (Aviators) at Oxford Airport, leasing one of the hangars. I employed sixteen full-time staff and twelve self-employed contractors. Day to day, the job was about managing people, and I grew quickly as a manager. It was the biggest club I had ever owned and operated with significantly more responsibility and stress. While I was at Aviators I took a three-year part-time MBA course at Oxford Business School - and passed at the age of 40! The course was fabulous for me personally but also developing my business skills as a manager. I finally felt as if I had got the 'non-academic monkey' off my back. The 'Aviators' years were the happiest of my life but sadly 11 years on, the Airport was sold to new owners and I had to leave yet another wonderful gym behind.

Later while working at Heythrop Park Resort as the gym manager I saw a job in Charlbury advertised in 2017. I met the trustees, and found myself on Day 1 employed with Jenny Chambers as the

building neared completion. Sometimes I feel as if my whole career has been one long apprenticeship leading up to this point. I teach a variety of classes to a wide range of ages: I carry out the inductions for use of the Community gym which is open every day of the week; Line Dancing classes twice a week; Toddler Gym and five exercise classes to suit all fitness abilities. My circuit classes at the centre are essentially the same classes I used to teach my recruits during my RAF days 35 years ago at Cosford. I love my job at the Community Centre, it creates much less pressure on me than running my own business did. Here I can do what I feel I am best at – which is teaching. I have a lot of experience at managing people, but it's not what I am best at. I am passionate about teaching health and fitness, and I have never wanted to do anything else since the start of my career.

I take part in most of the classes I teach at the centre – it helps to keep the weight down! Throughout my 30's and 40's I played team squash, competed in triathlons and in 1992, I ran the London Marathon, which, (as anyone who has trained for a marathon will tell you), involves hours and hours of training, pounding the streets on your own, which I really enjoyed. This was quite a revelation to me because I'm a real people person. The one aspect of my job I love the most is meeting and being with people, yet I was surprised just how much I enjoyed the solitude of training for a marathon

Over the years, I feel so fortunate to have worked as a personal trainer with some fascinating people, from stage and screen and the music industry. I worked at Pinewood Studios one summer with actors during a three month long film shoot. It is a privilege when someone asks for your help or advice on health and fitness and then lets you into their world. Often you become close friends but it's important as a trainer that you are able to remain somewhat removed and grounded. For me it is all part and parcel of what keeps me feeling professional at what I do.

Do I do other sports? I haven't continued with team sports, and I have never coached a team at all. I am a fan of all team sports though. People can learn a lot about themselves through playing them. There is nothing like winning a trophy with your team, and I was fortunate to be part of such winning football teams as Chipping Norton Swifts, who I played for as a boy; Banbury United, playing for them as a teenager; and Oxford United Youth when I was a bit older. Not to mention all the finals I have been on the losing side for, but you do come to accept it's all good character building stuff in the long run.

What else do I do? I love listening to music (I'm a music nerd) I have played in a band, and used to come to the Hothouse in Charlbury [*Ed a much missed music venue*] two to three times a year to listen to other bands. I now live in Little Tew with my partner and her children, and have become a keen gardener. I get a lot of pleasure from it, and am now trying to improve my compost by looking at the science of compost-making. I have three bays for the compost, water them and turn them over regularly. But it's still not right. Perhaps I've put in too much brown material?

Jason Biles was talking to Barbara Allison April 2022.





Charlbury Garden Society

The Charlbury Garden Society, previously known as the Horticultural Society was certainly in existence before Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne. There are mentions of a flower show in August 1911 at Wychwood House and later in 1927 a flower show was held at Lee Place, together with a motor-cycle gymkhana and dance in the evening. Perhaps this is something we ought to reinstate.

So, although we won't be celebrating our 70th anniversary this year we thought it would be interesting to see how gardening trends have changed in the years that Queen Elizabeth II has been on the throne.

During the war and just afterwards, there was a huge rise in 'grow your own' for obvious reasons. Ornamental gardens were dug up in favour of vegetables. In the 50's there was a huge surge in growing roses and having formal rose beds. Although deemed too much work now (roses can be tricky customers) the rose remains the UK's most popular flower according to a poll a few years ago. David Austin has brought out a new rose this year to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, aptly named 'Elizabeth'.



In the 60's it was all about using conifers and heathers and creating formal conifer beds. In the 70's the idea of using outdoor space as an extension of the home became popular. Crazy paving in pinks and yellows were in evidence everywhere.



In the 80's and continuing today, an interest in wildlife gardening took off. The 90's saw the rise of popularity of quick makeover programmes; who can forget Alan Titchmarsh and Charlie Dimmock in *Ground Force*? The new century saw popularity in naturalistic gardens, with Piet Oudolf of the Netherlands influencing designs.

As we move into the present time the emphasis is shifting more and more towards the environment and how, as gardeners, we can help protect it. Gardeners are now influenced by the problems of climate change, looking after the soil by adopting 'no-dig' principles, encouraging bees and butterflies and other insects to our gardens. The Garden Society talks this year have reflected this continuing interest with John Tyler talking to us over Zoom about gardening for wildlife this January and coming in November we continue the

Charlbury Garden Society (contd)

theme when we have a talk about garden bugs by Dr Ian Bedford entitled 'Cohabit, Control or Conserve'.



We have been grateful for the support of members during these difficult two years—the popularity of our Zoom talks (and who would have thought we would all be able to manage those) means that we shall be continuing with a few Zoom talks in the future, as well as face to face meetings. It is always lovely to see people at our meetings and the Spring Show was especially popular and it was so good to see so many new (and dare I say it younger) exhibitors. Do check out our website

www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk/ for details about future events and membership.

While we may not have a motorcycle gymkhana and dance to look forward to, we do have our Open Garden event on 19th June where you can visit gardens and see for yourself current trends in gardening and the Annual Show on September 10th, where beginners and old hands will have a chance to show off their skills.

Included this year we will have some more sunflower categories to show our

support of Ukraine where the sunflower is the national flower. For those of you who picked up seeds at the Spring Fair, there are classes including the tallest sunflower and for children, a posy of flowers that includes a sunflower. There are still some seeds available (see posters around the town) but you need to be quick if you want to sow them!

So, the Garden Society continues to evolve and flourish. We are proud to continue a tradition in the town that was in existence before the First World War. And we are ready for the next gardening trend!

Alison Derham



CHARLBURY BRANCH

Will be holding a Branch Coffee Morning on Saturday 23 July 2022 in the War Memorial Hall

The Branch is sorry to report that Trish Cavell is stepping down as Branch Treasurer and the Branch would like to thank Trish for her substantial contribution over many years.

We have been fortunate to have a volunteer to take on the role and will be able to appoint a new treasurer over the coming weeks. Our new Treasurer will be Mrs Julie Mackenzie. Julie was brought up in Charlbury and now lives in North Leigh.

We also have new Poppy Appeal Organiser in Mrs Kim Harrison. Kim will be assisted by Mrs Alison Cherry.

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

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 in person or on zoom for midweek study/discussion

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

Visit us during Open Gardens June 19th

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

Vicar – Revd Dr Sally Welch 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)

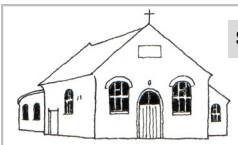
You are very welcome to join us



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.*

Jubilee Celebration

A jubilee is a special anniversary of a significant event, in this case the accession of Queen Elizabeth in 1952. Around Charlbury we have various memorials to previous jubilees.

The most impressive is the fountain on the Playing Close, commemorating Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1899, but there is also a jubilee bridge, jubilee gates to Nine Acres, a jubilee seat on the Playing Close - there may be others.

A jubilee is a time for enjoyment and this jubilee will be celebrated in Charlbury by barn dancing on the school field, a civic service in the parish church and a picnic on Nine Acres for the whole town.

Sharing communal events can become a celebration of friendship, of kindness and understanding, of giving rather than taking. What is extraordinary about jubilee celebration is that the idea comes from ancient Jewish law and could be 3000 years old.

The jubilee, as described in the book of Leviticus, occurred every 49 or 50 years and was announced by blowing a ram's horn - 'jubilee' comes from the Hebrew word for horn.

The jubilee was much more than a celebration of feasting and dancing. It was a year when people sold into slavery were to be freed and land which had been leased or sold to pay off debts was to be returned to the original owners. It was a year when debts were cancelled - in our terms, it was a year for 'levelling up'.

In this country the Jubilee Debt Campaign was set up at the Millennium to draw attention to the burden of debt carried by the world's poorest countries and to campaign for debt relief. Excessive debt repayments take away

resources that are vital for coping with the health, social and economic crises resulting from climate change, the Covid pandemic and other disasters beyond the control of individuals or individual countries. Even during a war Ukraine is still expected to repay debts to banks and hedge funds.

Christian Aid, one of the organisations supporting the Jubilee Debt Campaign, is promoting a petition to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, to broker a more ambitious debt relief deal for the poorest countries.

At the same time churches are among organisations campaigning for more generous support for people in this country hit by the cost of living crisis and already struggling with debt. The level of private debt in the UK is 2-3 times higher than government debt, leading to social and economic insecurity for many people.

Communities rallied in an incredibly positive and proactive way when the pandemic began. In Charlbury representatives of community organisations and the churches joined to offer shopping and other practical services.

Cornerstone was set up by St Mary's Church to enable donation and sharing of food and other supplies. Such support systems and networks continue to be invaluable as people and communities face an insecure future but we need government action as well to reach everyone in need.

We have much to be thankful for in this country and we can take the opportunity of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to show this. If we can look for ways to build a more generous and just society, offering hope to all people, then we really will have something to celebrate.

*Rosalind Scott
Secretary to Churches Together in
Charlbury*



St. Mary's Church,
Charlbury

**A Service of
Thanksgiving for
The Queen's
Platinum Jubilee**
Sunday 5th June
at 10.30am



**An opportunity for the
community to celebrate
the Queen's 70 year reign**



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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.
<https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/> (NB this our new website address.)

In May 2021's almost unprecedented election – with eighteen candidates for twelve seats – Charlbury elected seven new councillors to join five with long experience. This blend of the old and the new is proving transformative. We are building on past achievements – like the approval of the Neighbourhood Plan – and creating new ways of operating that allow us to respond to the climate and ecological emergencies that confront us.

As you will see below, our commitment to community is as strong as ever. We are upgrading and adding to community facilities, working with community-based organisations, and encouraging residents to join us in a wide range of activities that will improve the town and green the wider environment. For more information, visit <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Annual-Report-2021-22-07-04-22.pdf>.

The Town Council's Strategy

Each new town council respects the policies and practices of the preceding council, whilst also bringing fresh ideas to maintain and improve the town, and to respond to a changing political environment. Our vision is for Charlbury and the surrounding area to become a zero-carbon community that is thriving, inclusive, beautiful, biodiverse and sustainable now and in the future.

Our aims are:

- to ensure that Charlbury Town Council services are delivered efficiently, sustainably and cost-effectively to meet the needs of Charlbury residents;
- to deliver on our commitment to act on the climate and ecological emergencies by actively preparing Charlbury and its environment for a

zero carbon, biodiverse and sustainable future; and

- to engage all of the community by providing appropriate leadership, governance and inspiration in an open and transparent way.

The full strategy document can be accessed at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/policies/>.

Welcome Back Fund

The Council received around £8,000 in funding from the Welcome Back Fund (a government post-Covid recovery package) which we have used to:

- repair, paint and stain 41 benches;
- install nine new picnic benches at Nine Acres and Ticknell Piece;
- repair and refurbish noticeboards at Enstone Road crossroads and Sturt Road;
- design of a new town map to be displayed at the top of Church Street.



Charlbury Town Council News

Borrow the Council e-bike!

The Town Council's Journeys team has been promoting e-bikes as an alternative to cars for local journeys. The Journeys team has organised two successful e-bike try-out days in Charlbury, where residents could try riding different types of e-bikes and talk to e-bike owners. Some people have been convinced to buy their own electric bike after trying one for 5 or 10 minutes at our try-out events. Others have told us that they would welcome the opportunity to try using a bike for a longer period and on real journeys before making up their mind, especially given the significant cost involved. Evidence suggests that people buying electric bikes tend to use them more and more over time, as they discover how useful and enjoyable they are to ride.



Town Councillor Claire Wilding with the council's new e-bike.

Partly using funds from the Councillor Priority Fund (from County Cllr Liz Leffman) Charlbury Town Council has purchased its own e-bike which it is making available to residents to borrow for up to two weeks, upon payment of a deposit. The aim of the scheme is to reduce car use in the town by promoting

the uptake of electric bike ownership by:

- having a visible Charlbury shared e-bike; and
- giving residents the opportunity to trial an e-bike in their everyday lives.

The e-bike is intended for use by residents of Charlbury or those who regularly travel to work in Charlbury. If you fancy borrowing it for two weeks (free of charge) then please fill in the contact form at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/borrow-the-council-e-bike/>.

Hydro-turbine on Sluice at Mill Field

Part of the Town Council's mission involves seeking to produce clean, local and sustainable energy for the people of Charlbury. To that end, a site on council-owned land has been identified as a potential location for a Micro-Hydro installation. This project, if we get the funds to finance it, will utilise the existing Mill Race and Sluice Gate that diverts water from the River Evenlode to produce electricity using an Ultra-Low Head Micro-Hydro Turbine. The site is close to several places that could use the electricity, including potentially EV Charging points for community use.

The primary objectives of the project would be:

- to provide cost-effective low carbon energy to satisfy a local electrical demand; and
- to feed surplus electricity to the National Grid if required.

The Council has recently been given a £40,000 grant by the Rural Community Energy Fund to cover the costs of a detailed feasibility study into this proposed project. If the early parts of the feasibility study show potential, we will then engage with the residents of Charlbury to measure the level of support for this project before proceeding.

Grass-Cutting Management Plan

In the context of the climate and

Charlbury Town Council News

biodiversity emergency declared by Charlbury Town Council, we have adopted a Grass-Cutting Management Plan. A change in the management of grassy areas within the town is arguably the simplest opportunity to directly reduce carbon emissions, sequester carbon and improve biodiversity.

Aims:

- To ensure that the management of land under the control of Charlbury Town Council is sensitive to wildlife as well as people.
- In the longer-term, management should reduce any adverse impact on the environment and enhance the rural experience for the people of Charlbury.

Objectives:

- To provide appropriate amenity to the public – have short grass for games, paths for dog walkers, wildflowers to enhance people's connection to the natural world.
- To reduce direct carbon emissions – reduce the number of mechanised cuts, reduce the use of strimmers (damaging to slow-worms, hedgehogs, invertebrates), avoid the use of leaf blowers (damaging to invertebrates).
- To increase carbon sequestration into the soil – allow vegetation to grow for longer and increase the range of plants – deeper plant roots in turn increase carbon dioxide uptake.
- To provide wildflowers for pollinators – local native flora is good for bees, hoverflies, etc.
- To provide year-round security of habitats for invertebrates – many butterflies and other invertebrates complete their life cycle and overwinter in amongst grassy vegetation so some areas need to be left uncut until the spring.

The full grass-cutting management plan can be accessed at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/land-and-nature-team/>.

Annual Town Meeting

The revamped Annual Town Meeting in April was a great success, with over 60 residents attending to see what the Town Council has been up to while enjoying locally sourced wine and cheese. We heard talks from guest speakers on butterflies, hedgehogs, cycling, the proposed hydro-electric turbine and the patients' participation group at Charlbury Medical Centre, as well as presenting awards to honoured citizens who have made a major contribution to our community. There was also chance to look round stalls of local groups, meet the town's new e-bike and share ideas for making walking and cycling easier. Thanks to everyone who spoke, exhibited and participated in the event.



Councillor Liz Reason (Chair) addressing the Annual Town Meeting.

Read all about the new Town Council's first year at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Annual-Report-2021-22-07-04-22.pdf>.

Honoured Citizens 2021 and 2022

Congratulations to the 2021 and 2022 recipients of the Honoured Citizen Award who received their awards at this year's Annual Town Meeting. They are:

- Leah Fowler, for her sterling lifelong work with the Guides, with St Mary's Church and SeeSaw, an Oxford-based charity working with families in crisis.

Charlbury Town Council News

- Alan Fraser, whose contributions to the local music scene have enriched the cultural life of Charlbury.
- Joan Belshaw, who epitomises the community spirit that makes Charlbury the friendly and welcoming place that it is, for example through the decades spent litter-picking, organising the annual Christmas shoebox appeal to send gifts to children overseas and providing craft workshops.
- Hugh Belshaw, who has been running the Canoe Club in Charlbury for many years and who, as a keen gardener, regularly grows plants for sale to raise money for local charities. Recently, Hugh led a group from the Garden Society who have transformed the Corner House garden into a beautiful and peaceful public space available to the whole community.



Alan Fraser



Hugh Belshaw



Leah Fowler

These brief summaries in no way do justice to our four Honoured Citizens, so please visit <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/honoured-citizen-award-scheme/> to read more about them.



Joan Belshaw

From County & District Councillor Liz Leffman

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

The Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance has been in administration in Oxfordshire now for a year. We have just begun to implement our first budget. Among the measures that you will begin to see will be the further implementation of 20mph speed limits around the town and elsewhere in the county, as we start to roll this out. We are re-establishing the County Youth Service, building two new children's homes in the county so that children can be looked after closer to family and friends instead of out of county, investing in supported living for adults, and putting an additional £1.3 million into measures that will help us to tackle climate change. We have also successfully bid for money from the government for our Bus Service Improvement Plan,

One of the benefits of being Leader of the County Council is that I am a member of the North Cotswold Line Task Force. This has meant that recently I have been able to open up the discussion about doubling the line between Charlbury and Hanborough and I hope in the next few weeks that this will become part of the overall plan for the line. Up to now, the plan has always been to leave the single track between Charlbury and Hanborough alone and not to double it, but this means that we will always be stuck with one train an hour, while other stations further up the line will have two, and under the current plans, Hanborough will have four. This will only encourage people to drive to stations where there are more regular trains, so I am campaigning hard to make sure that this doesn't happen and will report back regularly on this.

The ban on HGVs on Burford bridge was recently lifted and the county is now going to look at a county wide strategy for HGV movements. There was a lot of concern expressed by some of the surrounding villages, in particular Leafield, because of the displacement of lorries and this was taken into account

when making the decision. As far as I am aware this did not affect Charlbury as the weight restriction discouraged lorries from coming this way. However it is time to consider HGV movements across the whole county rather than in the somewhat piecemeal way that this has previously been dealt with, and especially to ensure that they are banned from coming through Charlbury.

You may recently have seen that the Town Council has purchased an electric bike for people to borrow. I was very pleased to be able to help with the purchase of this bike through my Councillor Priority Fund, and I look forward not only to borrowing the bike myself, but to hearing how others get on with it.

I wish everyone a very good time over the Jubilee weekend and let's hope that the weather is on our side!



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Life is a constant whirl of change and whilst sometimes these changes are not always welcome, there is the hope that we can accommodate the adjustments with the spirit of kindness and goodwill.

The most immediate of changes, at the time of writing, is the district elections and there is every chance that the district council elected members will see new councillors and departing others. Although this will not be the case in Charlbury, the district as a whole will see change and we must believe in the idea that new faces will bring in new ideas and areas of improvements to services which benefit us all. I hope to see and will work to ensure that Thames Water and the environment agency get their act together to ensure we have clean rivers and more robust infrastructure and investment to ensure our environment is protected and cherished. Whilst accepting this is a massive issue, we should not be daunted by the small steps we can all make including our farmers in the crops grown and the way they are grown. Indeed, we need to get behind sustainable initiatives that improve all our lifestyles with

sustainable transport and a balanced healthy outlook.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the residents and community groups who have taken unbelievable initiatives to support the Ukrainian people by providing homes or accommodation and have given generously to provide the kind of wrap-around support we would give to our own families and friends. This spirit shown by many in Charlbury fills me with a sense of pride that I, as one of your district councillors, represent people who care and show a compassion and a clear understanding of what it means when we say humanitarian support. (I will spare the government for my criticism of their lack of real leadership and drive in this area, so as not to spoil the focus of my and Liz Leffman's gratitude)

The end of an era is fast approaching with the Queen's incredible journey and celebrations and whatever the changes that come with that may I wish you all a positive and engaging future.

Cllr Andy Graham



Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society

We have been asked to contribute to the Charlbury Arts Festival in June. We have therefore chosen a theme "Merry moments of Monarchy" in tribute to Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We have devised a selection of short dramatic pieces, poems, songs and music to reflect this theme in a light-hearted manner.

We start with a read through on May 3rd at 17, Nine Acres Close, Charlbury (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Mike Summers). Time 7.30-9.30pm.

All members and newcomers who are interested please feel welcome to attend and try out for the readings etc. No great learning of lines required but good voice projection and a sense of fun are important.

I will be directing, ably assisted by a new member of the Committee, Nicky Bayliss. We will be performing for one night only on Thursday, June 16th in St Mary's Church, Charlbury.

So, anyone interested in joining CADS this is your chance to take part in our summer show. Please let me know if you intend to come. Tel: 01608 676 642 and leave a message with name and contact number.

Sue Haffenden (Chairman/Director)

MORE THAN POMP AND PAGEANTRY



In June 2021, an announcement from 10 Downing Street cheered, intrigued or surprised many Charlbury people. That announcement was that one of our community—a woman with a very British sounding name—had been appointed to one of the most historic posts in the country.

So who is that woman and what is the historic office? Marjorie Glasgow is unknown by many of us but is certainly known by others as having been a driving force behind the successful £2.5 million Charlbury Community Centre project.

California-raised Marjorie moved to England with a Stanford University degree in Journalism and Economics, husband Dine, two children, and a new business venture. They relocated to Charlbury permanently after living here part-time starting in 1999. Their business, The Ridge Group, specialises in renewable energy and related community partnerships.

Over the past 18 years Margie, as she is widely known in Charlbury, has been active in many aspects of local life, including St Mary's Parish Church, formerly chairing the Thomas Gifford Trust (through which post she helped bring the Community Centre project to fruition) and Meals on Wheels. More

recently she, her husband Dine and others at St Mary's started the greatly appreciated Cornerstone project. She is also a member of the Council of Governors of the Ditchley Foundation.

The historic office is that of Lord-Lieutenant, a post established during the reign of King Henry VIII. The purpose then being partial reorganization of local government and taking over the military duties of the Sheriff who had controlled the militia and the forces of the Crown. When the military responsibilities passed to the Secretary of State for War in 1871, the post of Lord-Lieutenant largely took on a ceremonial nature and the incumbent became the Sovereign's representative in the county. Today the appointment is made by the Queen, upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Every county in the United Kingdom has a Lieutenancy headed by a Lord-Lieutenant.

Mrs. Glasgow heads a team comprising a Vice Lieutenant and thirty-four Deputy Lieutenants, collectively known as the Oxfordshire Lieutenancy. She joined the team as a deputy lieutenant in 2019 and was appointed to the 'top job' in 2021. She is the first woman to hold the Oxfordshire Lieutenancy and one of only two non-British born holders of the post. Her dual U.S./U.K. nationality made her eligible for the job. Her commitment to the community made her suitable for the role. Although appointment comes following recommendation from the Prime Minister, the post is non-political and is an unpaid honorary position relinquished on reaching the age of 75.

Margie's appointment was confirmed by Letters Patent. There was no ceremonial investiture. As Margie says, "I just woke up on October 1st, 2021, and was the new Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire". Margie and Dine spent a long weekend at Windsor Castle in March as guests of the Dean of Windsor where, with other new and serving Lord-Lieutenants, she was instructed on her role and given other

important information.

The office comes with a uniform of navy-blue jacket and trousers, both having scarlet trim. A scarlet band on the peak cap carries a badge depicting a Tudor Rose surmounted by a crown. Buttons, shoulder boards (often called epaulettes) and all other detailing are in silver. A silver belt is also worn and a sword completes the outfit. The uniform is tailored by Kashket and Partners with buttons, badges and detailing by Firmin and Sons.

Margie is the 30th holder of the post and the 7th during the Queen's reign. She follows in the footsteps of Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon, of Cornbury Park and Edward Lee, 1st Earl of Lichfield, of Ditchley Park, as well as six dukes of Marlborough.

A Lord-Lieutenant's first and foremost duty is to uphold the dignity of the Crown. She is responsible for arranging royal visits, greeting and attending upon royal visitors and Heads of State when visiting the county and escorting them throughout. Duties also include presentation of medals and awards on behalf of the sovereign, such as *the British Empire Medal*, *the Queen's Award for Enterprise (in Innovation, International Trade or Sustainable Development)* and *the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service*.

Seeking to promote a spirit of cooperation by encouragement of voluntary services and benevolent organisations, taking an interest in the business, industrial and social life of Oxfordshire and various voluntary activities within the county is also of utmost importance. "When I was asked to take on the role, my main question was what difference could I make?" Margie commented, adding "I have learned that, with the diverse group of Deputy Lieutenants, we have the opportunity to connect and encourage the 'Thoughtful Doers' across Oxfordshire. There are so many good works being done in our county - if we can strengthen the doers and help replicate their projects, our communities

will become stronger and people will feel better connected".

Close ties with the military in the county are maintained, as they are with the cadet forces at six schools across Oxfordshire. From those six cadet forces, four young people are selected as 'Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet' for a year and one of them will always accompany the Lord-Lieutenant.

The Lord-Lieutenant is chair of the County Advisory Committee, responsible for recommendations to the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice for the position of magistrate in Oxfordshire.

With the Queen undertaking fewer public engagements during recent months, Margie has not met Her Majesty during this period in office. She has met her on another occasion however, most memorably as a guest of the Royal Overseas League at St James Palace in 2010. Of this meeting, Margie commented: "As I waited to be presented to The Queen, I noticed how each person she met seemed to capture her entire attention. When I was introduced to Her Majesty, I was struck by how deeply she looked at me. As I look back, I think about how many people she has met over the years and have wondered if most have had a similar experience".

The United Kingdom is known around the world for its monarchy and the pageantry associated with it. While state visits and national royal events are timed to the second, with rehearsal after rehearsal, local royal official visits have a little less rigidity in the timetable. There is, though, still a need for a great deal of planning with regards to protocol and etiquette. Flexibility is also essential as the best laid plans can be thrown into question - not least due to the royal visitor showing more interest in a subject or individual than planned. Witness the visit of the Princess Royal to Charlbury in September 2006. The princess, when touring Charlbury Museum, had seen the displays of the varied work of the late Vic Brackenbury and, on learning that Vic was amongst the crowd waiting in Market

Margie Glasgow contd

Street to see her, insisted that she meet him. Those extra fifteen minutes spent in the museum and then out in the road speaking to Vic, prompted a lot of anxious glances at the wrist watches of those responsible for the smooth running of the remainder of the day which was to be spent elsewhere in the county.

The Lord Lieutenant's involvement was required earlier this year when the Duchess of Cornwall visited the University of Oxford. One aspect of the day was surely of personal interest to Margie when, at the Weston Library, the Duchess viewed the Sheldon tapestry map of Oxfordshire, one of a series of four and dating from the 1590s. HRH was shown the map by Charlbury resident Nick Millea, the Bodleian Library's Map Curator. How interesting that Margie, the holder of this 430 year old office should be able to see a 430 year old tapestry map of 'her county' and that two Charlburians played such important roles in the royal visit.

The following month also required the attention of the Lord-Lieutenant when the Prince of Wales visited the south of the county on a scientific tour of the Culham and Harwell sites. Shortly thereafter, Margie accompanied the Princess Royal at the Watchfield Primary

school which is next to the Shrivenham military academy. The current group of students at Watchfield Primary speak 36 different primary languages with English as a second language.

Like all other royal visits these three occasions followed a series of meetings; face to face, virtual and telephonic, to ensure that every detail of the day's programme was considered and honed. Rather like a swan gliding, seemingly effortlessly, without the observer being able to see everything needed to make the whole operation so serene and smooth running.

Brian Murray

With thanks to Mrs Marjorie Glasgow BEM, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and The Oxfordshire History Centre, The Royal Encyclopaedia (Eds Allison & Riddell) and The Lord Lieutenants & High Sheriffs of Oxfordshire by Brunner & Lunt.

Photograph courtesy of The Oxford Lieutenancy. For more information, go to oxfordshire-lieutenancy.org

The Sheldon Tapestry Map of Oxfordshire is on display, free of charge, in the Blackwell Hall of the Weston Library,



Corner House garden

The Corner House and Memorial Hall garden is no longer a locked space but instead offers a pleasant place to rest or visit in the centre of town. The space includes a new and deep border behind the Browns Lane wall – a feature designed, planted up, and maintained by the Garden Society.

The Beech hedge is lowered so you can easily see into the space: all the gates are wide open including the pedestrian gate in the Browns Lane wall. Do go in and discover the "secret garden" now open for everyone to enjoy.

The space includes places to sit, with tables provided, and it is hoped is a welcome open air rendezvous point now very much a part of what the Corner House and Memorial Hall offers for the benefit of all the people of our town.

The planting scheme for the new border is explained on nearby posters.

If we can all look after the space it will become a joy for everyone. The garden is self-service so please be sure not to leave any litter or rubbish behind when you leave.

Roy Scott, chairman



Charlbury Street Fair 2022

Please remember that 17th September is the Street Fair day. Our theme this year is 'A Century of Broadcasting' to celebrate 100 years of the BBC.

After a happy and successful Street Fair in 2021, arrangements are well under way for this year's Fair.

We have already had our Quiz Night which saw over 50 attendees and are supporting Charlbury Open Gardens on Sunday, 19th June where the Garden Society has arranged a bumper event tour of Charlbury gardens, some open for the first time.

Additionally, the gardens will exhibit local sculptors' work. This will be a rare opportunity to view a range of beautiful and inspirational gardens as you take a gentle Sunday afternoon stroll around the centre of Charlbury.

Teas and a wide variety of delicious home-made cakes will be available throughout the afternoon so why not relax, take the weight off your feet and enjoy some well-earned refreshments!

On Street Fair itself, our small Committee is arranging entertainment, sponsors are being approached, raffle and silent auction prizes are being sought and we have applied for road closures—for Church Street and part of Park Street on Friday 16th September for the Egg Throwing Contest (Fun!), and for Church Street and part of Park Street all for the main event (More Fun!) and night time bands on Saturday 17th September (Even More Fun!).

Should you know of an organisation or body that would like to sponsor events, or offer prizes for our Silent Auction, please do get in touch.

We will be using the same format which has proved successful in recent years with a mix of stalls, food and entertainment both in Church Street and at other venues around the centre of Charlbury. The Sea Shanties will be making a welcome return for the second year as they were a really popular addition to last year's programme.

If you want to help with either event on the day—and the day after in the case of the Fair (there's a bit of packing and clearing up to do on Sunday morning) do please get in touch with either Steve Jones our Secretary or John Dora our Chair.



You can contact us and read up-to-date information via the usual social media websites. See you all there!

Prof. John Dora
Chair, Charlbury Street Fair Committee
csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org

Specsavers free home eye tests

Specsavers has a team of specialist mobile opticians who can come to those who can't visit them in store unaccompanied due to a physical or mental illness or disability, which includes dementia.

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Helping people with dementia amid distressing news events

The Alzheimer's Society have advice here:

www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/supporting-people-dementia-during-distressing-news-events

This includes a link to advice on how to support someone with dementia who is experiencing "time-shifting". Time-shifting is when a person's experience is that they are living at an earlier time in their life.

A sweet that is designed to help avoid dehydration for someone who is not drinking enough

There is information here about Jelly Drops, which are a product developed with the support of the Alzheimer's Society. From the inability to hold cups to not equating thirst with drinking, it is often hard to ensure someone does not become dehydrated. Jelly Drops are an innovative sugar-free treat, made of 95% water, designed to increase fluid intake.

www.jellydrops.com/

www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/jelly-drops-sweets-tackle-dehydration-dementia

Moving Music concerts

The next Moving Music concerts designed for people living with dementia and their carers will be on Wednesday 15 June at Radley College. There will be morning and afternoon concert times to choose from. Singers will perform duets, solos and sing-along songs with piano accompaniment.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served for 30 minutes before the concerts start. The organisers will be taking Covid precautions including ventilation, so warm dress is advised, if the weather is chilly.

There is information about the venue and parking area and a link to a map of Radley College here:

<https://soundresource.org.uk/whats-on/>
You will need to book a concert place and parking.

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 charlburydf@gmail.com.

Meryl Smith

Charlbury WI continues to flourish and is continuing to grow and get more members. In addition to our speakers at our monthly meetings, we continue holding craft workshops, walks, and visits to places of interest.

If you feel inspired to try new activities and make new friends, then why not try Charlbury WI?

We continue to hold our two regular extra meetings; a Book Club, which is held in the Anne Downer Room in the Corner House at 7.15pm every six weeks and our Craft and Cuppa sessions which are held in the Bowls Club every month on the third Saturday of the month.

Times are from 10.30am to 12.30pm so come along and bring whatever project you are working on—drawing, icing, sewing, knitting, crochet, upholstery, dorset button making etc. Join fellow members for a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits and a natter! There is a small charge which includes the refreshments. These meetings are for WI members only so if you would like to come along to these, and are not a member then join!

You are welcome to come along to the WI as a visitor to have a chat and see what we do, before deciding whether to join. We meet on the **third Wednesday** of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Details of forthcoming events are on the Charlbury website or contact our President, Miriam Evans at

charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.

Susie Finch



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Pre-School News

Spring has been an exciting time for the Pre-School Children. The daffodils they planted in November did fantastically well and they enjoyed the abundance of flowers. Also, the warmer weather has allowed them to spend more time in the playground. They even had a picnic lunch in the playground before half term as the weather was so warm. Forest School at Little Wild Things has started again and the children have taken part in activities such as making leveret sock puppets, listening out for woodpeckers and observing how the woods change in spring. Indoors, the older children are preparing for primary school and learning to write more complex letters such as "g" and "k".

The children made many things for Oxfordshire Art Weeks on 21st and 22nd May including clay decorations, 'stained glass' and gorgeous pictures. Its always a lovely event and we're so pleased to be involved.

We have welcomed many new children this term and they are settling in really well. Also Parent Rota has started again and many parents are getting to see how the Pre-School works first hand for the first time. We really appreciate the extra support and skills that parents and volunteers bring.

From September we will be increasing the opening hours of the Pre-School to 8.45-5.00pm five days a week. After receiving many requests, we feel that this better suits the needs of families in Charlbury and will provide children with extra social, educational and play opportunities. The 3-5pm provision will be similar to an after school club with activities such as languages, craft and dance with a different activity each day.

Sadly, Thomasina left the Pre-School in May and we would like to thank her for the wonderful contribution she has made over the last 18 months. Daisy has joined the team and is bringing a really

positive energy and her baking skills to the setting.

We are actively recruiting right now. If you are a qualified childcare practitioner or would like to become one, please consider joining our team and email admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk.

Pre-School Fundraising Events:

We are raising money for an exciting playground makeover! Thank you to everyone who has supported our Bandioke, Art Weeks, Ferris Bueller and Snowman events. Please come along to these fun events and help us meet our target for this Summer.

Pre-School Greetings Cards:

We have beautiful Greetings Cards with artwork by Geoff Clifford for sale. £2 each or 8 for £10. These are for sale in Charlbury Deli, the Community Centre or direct from Jim Goad jnrgoad@mail.com.

Riverside Festival 30th and 31st July

We will have a stall selling Tea, Cake and other goodies at the 25th Riverside Festival on the Mill Field. Its always a wonderful family event and we hope that the 25th anniversary will make it extra special. We will also have a small stage where we are encouraging people to come and play a few songs, read a story or showcase any talents to entertain the children.

Oxford Half-Marathon 16th October

A group of parents and others are kindly running and raising money for Charlbury Pre-School. We will publish details on how to donate and support them later in the year.

Thanks to Chris and all our fantastic staff and volunteers for their work and care for all the children.

We offer a high quality early years education and our hours will be 8.45-5.00 Monday to Friday. We have spaces available now and for September. Please contact admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk with any enquiries.



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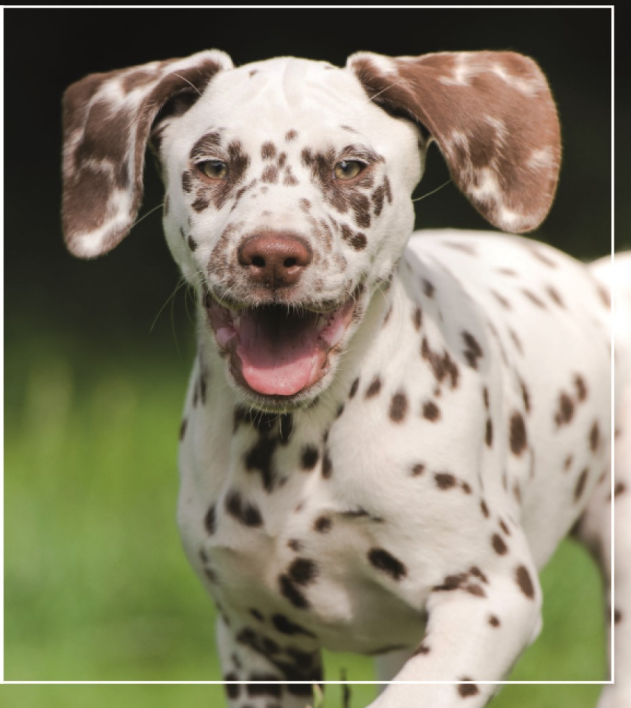
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Louise Barnes FCIMSPA, Senior Activity & Health PR actioner, The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sports and Physical Activity.

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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 - Bob Tait (01608 810150)

Charlbury & District Probud Club Tony Merry

tonyherry@gmail.com

Charlbury Green Hub - Christine Elliott

(01608 811057) www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk

Charlbury Garden Society

secretary@charlburygardenociety.org.uk

www.charlburygardenociety.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) jollicat@btinternet.com

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

Macmillan Cancer Care - Liz & Bob Tait (01608

810150)

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

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Walkers are Welcome Paul Jackson 01608

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Wilderness Festival—www.wildernessfestival.com

Wychwayz Border Morris - Teresa Duester

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www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst



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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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reading this issue of the Chronicle.*

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The **Charlbury Chronicle** aims to be impartial and independent and cannot be held responsible for any of the views expressed in its pages. 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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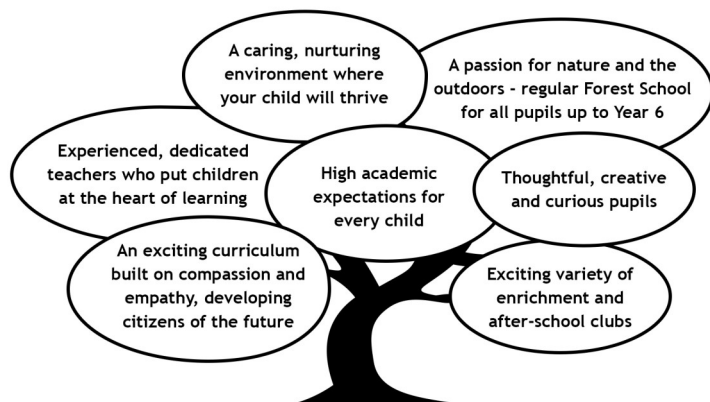


Stonesfield Primary School

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Looking for a friendly, inclusive, local school for your child with high academic standards? Stonesfield Primary School has places in all year groups - we would love to show you around.



To arrange a tour with the headteacher, Mr Ben Treval, please contact the school office.

Tel: 01993 891687

Office email: office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher email: head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

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