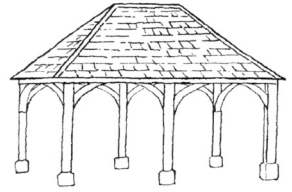


# Charlbury Chronicle



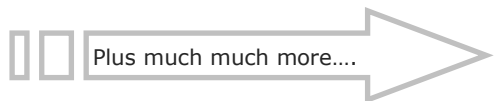
**Volume 25 Number 3**

**Autumn 2021**

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

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As you probably know we now have a Neighbourhood Plan in place, which means that developers now need to abide by the guidelines set out. There is much included in the plan and you can read about it in the Town Council section on p31.

Up and coming events include the Children's Bike Rally on 11 September. More details on p35. On the same the same day is the Farmer's Market, and the Annual Flower and Produce Show held by the Garden Society. More details on p7, so it's going to be a busy day in Charlbury.

And of course we (hopefully) will be holding Street Fair on 18th September. Can I please encourage you all to support this worthwhile cause, which apart from having a great time, all monies raised will go to help with the maintenance of the Corner House and Memorial Hall. More details on the program can be found on p2 including details on the legendary Egg Throwing competition.

CADS production of Blithe Spirit will be held in November—more details will be found on the Charlbury website nearer the time.

And Bingo is back at the Bowls Club on 27th September—see p8.

The Charlbury Society have resumed, however at this time have decided to hold all their meetings and talks on Zoom—see p13.

And of course in November the Royal British Legion will be holding their Poppy Appeal, Band Concert and the Remembrance Day Parade—see p.23.

And don't forget, the next issue is the 100th edition of the Chronicle, so we plan to have a special edition to mark the event. If you have something special in mind or an idea on what you would like included, please do contact me at:-

*editor.chronicle@outlook.com*  
*Susanna Finch*

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Winter issue is 1st November 2021  
Please send all articles to *editor.chronicle@outlook.com***



## Charlbury Street Fair

18<sup>th</sup> September

### FINGERS CROSSED

Yes, let's keep our fingers crossed so Charlbury Street Fair goes ahead on 18th September in as normal a Fair as we can arrange. As regular readers will know, our 2020 Fair had to be cancelled at short notice owing to ramping-up of COVID-19 restrictions. But this year we are hopeful... and it's All Systems Go! We have the return of 2020's popular Scarecrow Competition with the theme—and that of the Fair—of 'Fantastic Stories'. On the day, watch out for our new attractions—Sea Shanties courtesy of Charlbury and Finstock Morris and much more live music than we have ever had before, dotted around the centre of town. And of course, don't forget the Fancy Dress Parade, Children's Art Competition, Morris dancing, Classic Cars and the return of *Dancing in the Street* in the evening.

Do please come and join in the fun!

'Back to normal' means the festivities start with the Egg Throwing competition on Friday evening, a Prize Draw and 'silent auction'. A smattering of stalls, Hatwell's Fun Fair and Go-karts are due to attend. Please keep an eye out for details on social media including Facebook, Twitter and [www.charlburystreetfair.org](http://www.charlburystreetfair.org).

This all is of course predicated on 'relaxed' COVID-19 restrictions.

All of the funds raised at the Fair go to the upkeep of the Corner House and Memorial Hall, which are close to the heart of our thriving community.

### Road Closures and Parking

Please note that we have received permission to close roads for the event. This year only Church Street and Park Street will be affected, from 9am on the Saturday. Diversions will be signed.

By kind permission of the Primary School, Wychwood Paddocks Playing Field will be available for parking for visitors, on the Saturday.

We will of course remind Charlbury residents in these locations nearer the date of Fair, and as usual we respectfully request alternative parking to be sought to allow room for the Fair Stalls in Church Street.

### Help

On the day, we would be pleased to have help to set up the stalls – if you are willing and able to do so, please come along to Church Street from about 8am. Likewise, volunteers to dismantle the stalls will be welcome at about 5.30pm.

### Thanks

Our thanks go to our principal sponsors including Fairfax Estate Agents and Cotswold Frames for assistance, sponsorship and offering some great prizes for the Grand Draw. Grateful thanks go also to those who offered items for the Silent Auction, Charlbury Art Society and those who have sponsored us through advertising in the Programme.

Finally, I'd like to extend thanks to our band of willing volunteers who, with their hard work and help, sustain the local tradition of the Fair. We all hope that you will all enjoy the 2021 Street Fair!

For up-to-date information, see [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info) and [www.charlburystreetfair.org](http://www.charlburystreetfair.org) and the Facebook page for *Charlbury is a Town & not a Village*

To contact me by email please use [csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org](mailto:csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org).

*Prof. John Dora, Chair, CSF Committee.*



## Museum News

### Visit us at the Street Fair

The Museum will be open for Street Fair as usual on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Please do come and visit. It will be a chance to see our splendid wagon and find out about life here in WW2. Learn about the history of gloving in the town and see some fascinating finds recently discovered by metal detectorist Neil Pakenham-Walsh. We will also have a joint stall with the Charlbury Society in the Museum garden. Here you will be able to join or renew your membership to the Society and buy local history books.

### Tokyo Olympics 1964

At the time of writing, the 2021 Olympics are in full swing. Judging by this Street Fair float, Charlbury appears to have sent athletes to the Olympics in Tokyo in 1964. We'd love to hear from you if you or any of your family were part of the team!

We are delighted the museum was able to reopen on 3 July after our long closure. The majority of our visitors so far have been local Charlbury people, and it has been a pleasure to welcome you back. Despite the lifting of restrictions on 19 July, we have been continuing with Covid precautions, asking visitors to wear masks and respect social distancing and restricting the number of people in the building at any one time. A big thank you to all the stewards who have agreed to come back and have made it possible to reopen.

**Correction** The opening article in the last issue of The Chronicle titled 'The History of Charlbury through the gift of a 17<sup>th</sup>C lady' was wrongly credited. It was in fact written and researched by Ann Lovett. Many thanks Ann for such an interesting article on the origins of the Exhibition Foundation.

*Judy Dod*  
[curator@charlburymuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@charlburymuseum.org.uk)





## Work at the Corner House and Memorial Hall

Coming down Browns Lane into the central crossroads, it is surely hard to miss the “new” look of the rear wall of the Corner House.

That historic frontage is of course not at all new – it is actually one of the oldest parts of the building (what is taken as the front facing Market Street is actually a later extension).

What has happened to the rear is significant repairs to a long-standing leak in the roof. This expensive job had been put on hold for too long but this year the time finally came to bring in serious roofing experts and get it all fixed.

The work required removing all the Stonesfield roof tiles, replacing rotten supporting beams, and effectively starting again building a sound roof that should now see that part of the building through for many years to come.

The roof tiles were cleaned before being reinstalled, with new felt underneath, all of which producing a much better finish. The experts fitted new leading to make sure everything is well sealed and protected. The contractors were a small company experienced in work with historic buildings such as churches.

The whole look of that side of the building is further enhanced by the delightful new garden border designed and installed by the Garden Society. It is of course still new but with promised care from society members the plants will bush up and look increasingly lush and colourful over the years.

The height of the hedge that prevented seeing much of this view has been lowered and the old noticeboard blocking the view relocated. Further opening of the fence and hedge would provide easy access to the Corner House entrances on that side.

Complementing all that is the new facade on the Memorial Hall, which includes wood panelling in Accoya and new paint colours. The Memorial Hall interior has also received a big facelift replacing rather drab doors and wall colours with a sunny new look. Most of the lighting has been converted to LEDs, and the main gable wall has been insulated, all of which will make occupancy more enjoyable whilst lowering the carbon impact of the building.

*Roy Scott*

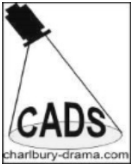
### **CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL**

Office: 01608 810879

Office hours: Mon 9.30am - 11.30am; Wed & Sat: 9am to 12 noon  
(closed first Saturday of every month)

Emergency Contact:

Roy Scott (01608 810562)



## CADS News

At the time of writing, CADS has just held two evenings for auditions for the autumn production of "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward. I am happy to say that we have been able to cast it and will be starting rehearsals in the Methodist Hall, Fisher's Lane, on September 7th at 7.30pm.

This is of course subject to us receiving a performing licence. There is a London production starting in September and sometimes they do not issue licences to amateurs during a West End run. I think we are at a sufficient distance not to take away from their audience! However, it does show that our choice is a good one! The committee felt that after the frustrations of Covid, we needed something bright and breezy to amuse our Charlbury audiences and to bring cheer to November gloom!

We have held a couple of committee meetings, carefully socially distancing and meeting outside, and I am delighted to report to members that although we could not hold our usual AGM the Committee has agreed unanimously to continue serving another year. So please approach any of the committee if you can offer your services in any way for the next production.

We have had wonderfully quick offers of help with wardrobe and front of house

but we need help with stage, ticket and poster design, building of the set,

lighting, make-up and hair styling, box office, photo publicity, running the bar and all the tasks which contribute to the fun of a production.

So, this is an appeal to anyone reading this to please get in touch if you would like to join in. As Director, and this IS my very last production for CADS, I welcome all offers of help. If you have ever wanted to know what goes on in the local drama world please contact me on 01608 676 642 and leave a message on the answerphone with your details.

I was sorry that bad weather prevented our annual BBQ but the Committee are busy preparing some workshop evenings for members. At the moment we are planning one on directing run by Alan Bailey, one of our most experienced actor/directors and a talk by Dave Murphy on his wonderfully intriguing Re-enactment events. Dates to be announced later to members.

So, after the success of our panto "Treasure Island" which ended luckily on February 1st 2020, we are up and running again after a frustrating year for the theatrical and musical world. It goes without saying that we need your support in November!

*Sue Haffenden (Chairman)*

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## All Together In Charlbury – a local helping hand

### Update on ATIC services available

This is to confirm that All Together In Charlbury (ATIC) is now able to offer the following kinds of help through our team of local volunteers to Charlbury residents of all ages and circumstances who are unable to carry out a task themselves and who have no family or friends available to help:

- transport to hospital or other medical/health/care appointments
- transport for other purposes such as to get to the shops or the hairdresser, to take part in a local activity or club or to visit someone in hospital or care home
- getting shopping or prescriptions for someone
- household tasks (like changing a bulb or smoke alarm battery) or occasional gardening jobs
- letter writing, simple form-filling or help with accessing online information
- reading, if you have difficulty reading for yourself
- someone to pop in from time to time for a chat.

Following discussion at a recent Good Neighbour Scheme networking meeting and in the light of advice from AgeUK and Community First Oxfordshire's community transport expert, as well as health professionals, we will be continuing to implement the COVID19-safe precautions that we have had in place since we resumed activity last year, even though the Government's decision to lift all remaining legal restrictions on 19 July is now in place.

So for transport: social distancing, masks, passenger(s) normally in the back seat, car windows open, cleaning of commonly- touched items – and for befriending and other “face-to-face”

activities: social distancing, masks, windows open.

It may be that life will not simply return to “normal” after the worst of the pandemic but we may all have to adjust to a “new normal” which may throw up new and different needs for help. If you have got something that 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. This might be, for example, someone to go for a walk with you or some other support to give you confidence to “emerge from lockdown”.

**To ask for ATIC help ring 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 we can meet your request. The phone line is staffed from 9.00am. to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday with a regularly-checked answerphone when staff are not available.

### Would you like to join our team of volunteers?

By volunteering for ATIC you will not be tied to specific days or times (unless you choose this). You can help in the way(s) that you want and when it suits you and your life. You can choose the tasks that you offer to help with depending on your interests and strengths and then on your availability. You will be under no obligation to agree to cover every request for help. We do not expect our volunteers to be out of pocket as a result of giving help. For example, if you provide transport, your passenger will pay you 45p per mile to cover expenses.

If you want to find out more, contact the ATIC Management Group on 07487 413892 or [charlburyalltogether@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyalltogether@gmail.com). We will be having a stall at the Street Fair on 18 September, so this will be another opportunity to come and chat to us.

*Meryl Smith*





## Something for Everyone – Garden Society News

Since our last article the Garden Society has organised two self-drive trips, a plant and seed swop and has created a beautiful planting arrangement in the Corner House garden, designed by Susan Dunstall and planted by volunteers led by Hugh Belshaw.

Now that the fence and shrubs at the entrance to the Memorial Hall have been lowered, the house and garden are in full view.

This is a space open to all to sit in, to relax and enjoy the plants as they develop and bloom through the seasons.

Our first Plant and Seed Swop last October was a great success so we held another one in May, again on the Playing Close.

There was a marvellous selection of plants to choose from and all freely given (and taken) by members of our community. We did accept donations and raised £270 for the Corner House and War Memorial Hall funds. We'll be having another one this October (see below).

Our self-drive trip in June was to FarmED, Honeydale Farm, just off the A361 near Shipton, where we were given a guided tour by Emma Harris-Bass, co-founder of The Kitchen Garden People whose community supported agriculture initiative is also housed here.

This is a 107-acre mixed farm where regenerative agriculture, farming with nature and great food are at the heart of everything they do. See the website for details about future events, workshops, etc. [www.thekitchengardenpeople.org](http://www.thekitchengardenpeople.org)

In July we visited the Old Rectory and St Swithin's Church in Quenington. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon and we enjoyed wandering around this lovely garden, hearing about its history and that of St Swithin's Church with its elaborately carved Norman arches.

Here's what's coming up and it's all subject to whatever covid restrictions are in place at the time.

The (almost) Annual Flower and Produce Show is on Saturday 11 September in the Memorial Hall. Everyone, no matter their age is invited to get involved. There's no need to be a member.

In addition to flower and vegetable sections there are opportunities for baking, handicrafts, photography and a children's section too. Visit our website: [www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk](http://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk) for more information and to download a schedule.

On Saturday 2 October 9.30 – 12 noon there will be a Cake 'n Coffee morning with Plant and Seed Swop either in the Memorial Hall or outside in the gardens (tbc).

Thursday 21 October 7.30 – 9.00 pm AGM followed by 'Earthworms', a talk by David Knight, a trustee of 'Wild Oxfordshire', he studied earthworms and composting for his PhD and has remained fascinated by earthworms ever since. On Zoom if we can't meet in person.

Thursday 18 November 7.30 – 9.00 pm Christmas wreath making workshop with Adam Prest. Numbers are limited. £25 including materials. Booking opens in October.

If you'd like more information on any of the above or to become a member visit our website: [www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk](http://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk)

Membership is £5 pa (£8 family membership) and includes discounts at several local garden centres.

**STOP PRESS:** free membership for the remainder of 2021 for anyone joining at the Annual Show on 11 September.

*Angela Gwatkin*



# Charlbury Bowls Club



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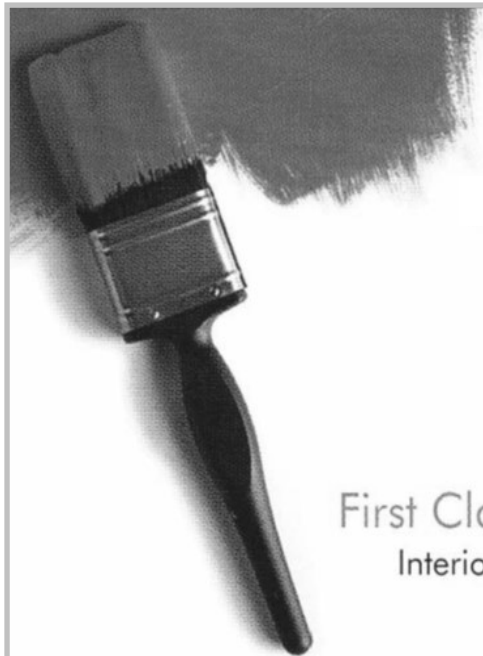
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## Monday 27 September

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## Charlbury Bowls Club

As the Bowls Club grows from strength to strength, we continue to progress our four-year development plan in line with our status as a community amateur sports club. Bowls is a fully inclusive sport where people of all ages and ability can compete as equals alongside others as well as promoting competitive sports. Numerous new members have made their debuts in friendly fixtures and club competitions as the season has progressed. Our range of equipment has been extended with the purchase of bespoke items for people with a variety of disabilities and for junior bowls.

In May we commenced our monthly *Bowled Over* session for people with memory problems and their carer, friend, or family member. Over twelve people attended and enjoyed an afternoon of social bowls with tea, biscuits, and a chat to follow. Our thanks go to *Dementia Friendly Charlbury* for its assistance in helping start and run this initiative.

On 4 July we hosted the finals of the Disability Bowls England Ladies Pairs competition and the write-up by DBE in the magazine, *Bowls International*, reported, 'The setting was wonderful, and the club could not have been more helpful to make the event a huge success.' We are delighted that DBE has asked to return to Charlbury in 2022 and we have accepted.

In addition to our friendly matches, Charlbury had a record entry in the various County Competitions with our ladies Senior Fours reaching the county semi-finals, the men's senior fours reaching the quarter-finals, and club captain Eddie Abbey reached the quarterfinal of the singles Longford Cup, and is currently still in the singles Allison Cup, with finals day due in August.

In the Oxfordshire Men's League, the team is determined to return to Division

Two after relegation in the last season it was played. We started with a 5-1 win in a local derby against Chipping Norton and have been top of Division Three since week one. With just one blip of a home defeat, we have continued with excellent form and with two matches to play have a significant points lead and shot difference over second placed Thame. Promotion is now certain, and winning the division is highly likely.

The establishment of a Junior Academy from scratch in April 2021 has been a great success. With initial support from Charlbury Primary School we started an after-school club as well as running a Saturday morning group. We also held open days and welcomed Charlbury Cubs and Scouts, and Kingham Guides. We have had 85 young people aged 7 to 13 try out bowls and 30 have joined as members of the club. Our first ever summer-school is over-subscribed with 29 young people attending (maximum 18 on any one day) over the school holidays, with the club charging just an administration fee of £5 to attend. Bowls is an affordable sport for all.

And on the social front, the very popular Bowls Club Bingo is back on Monday 27 September! Entry from 6.00pm to secure a table – arrive early as we fill up quickly. Eyes down 7.00pm. Bar.

Shaun Morley

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## **A Days Life: John Dora, engineer and Street Fair chair**

*I had the whole train set –steam trains, dozens of carriages and trucks, old fashioned signal boxes and stations.*

2020 was a difficult year for all of us, and perhaps more so for people planning and organising events. The Street Fair had to be cancelled that September, only 9 days before it was due to take place. John and his committee are planning again for this year. By the time you read this, we hope it is going ahead.

I became chair of the Street Fair about five years ago. I knew Peter Kenrick was stepping down and several people suggested I take over as chair. I had chaired a lot of committees in my professional life, and I thought it would be nice to put something back into the community. I talked it over with Peter and with Susie Finch, and they persuaded me to give it a go!

Peter and the previous team had put together a wonderful thing called a Street Fair Manual, which covered everything, and it became my bible. There was already a lovely committee, with people who knew what to do. How did we cope with Covid last year? In the 1990s, I worked for the Environment Agency on contingency planning, and my view has always been to have a Plan B in the back pocket. So I said why not plan for the Fair, even though we knew we would have to scale back our plans. We had fewer stalls booked, a smaller funfair would come, no dancing in the street but some music on a stage set up beside the Community Centre, buskers round the town, and some Morris Dancing with fewer people dancing jigs. On the 10<sup>th</sup> September, we had the news that things had to change due to a change in the Government's Regulations. (*Ed: see John's post on the News section of the Charlbury website for the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020*). At our committee meeting that same day we unanimously decided to cancel the Fair, for the first time in its history, and after all our work.

We did do some things though: for

example Rachael (*Lunney*) organised the scarecrow competition last year which we are holding again, this time with the theme of 'Fantastic Stories'; there's another art competition with the school and we have some other possible projects. We do need to finalise these soon to put them into our programme, and get it distributed round the town in the Leaflet. I remain optimistic that we can have the Fair.

I am a Scottish born and Scottish trained engineer. I did Civil Engineering at Dundee University, and then joined British Rail as a graduate trainee, and became a chartered engineer. I moved from Scotland to South Wales to work on the BR Western Region, which was great as I am a fan of Brunel (*Ed: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the eminent 19<sup>th</sup> century railway engineer*) To begin with, I worked in different departments, learning about maintaining old bridges and tunnels, stations and buildings, what to do about tracks that buckle and bend, in heat, and the importance of things like drainage. This was real hands-on stuff. I may be called in an emergency look at, for example, a serious crack in an old bridge. In one instance near Warminster, there was a crack in a girder. A heavy train went over, causing the girder to twist alarmingly, so I asked for a speed restriction to be put on the track. This was great, to be able to react to things and make decisions, even if it causes upsets, such as delayed trains.

I then moved to Devon to work on the tracks, the Permanent Way, or P-Way we called it. This included the well-known line at Dawlish, along the Dawlish Sea Wall. It was a lovely job, out and about all over Devon. But the railways were contracting, and in the 1990s, I got a job in Oxford with the National Rivers Authority, now the Environment Agency. My teams repaired locks in the winter, and in the summer, built weirs and made things like timber laybys for boats to moor up. After several years, I became responsible for the western half of the Thames, the Upper Thames, as the flood defence engineer. This was a lovely patch, extending from Marlborough to Banbury in the north, and from

Cheltenham to Maidenhead. The area I covered had some real issues with flooding. It included some chalk streams that would flood in the summer, not because of rainfall so much as weeds growing which choked the river. So we had chaps going out to scythe back the vegetation and stop the flooding. We moved to Charlbury then, having lived in B&Bs around Oxford while we looked for a house. It had to be near a mainline train station, and I didn't want to see Didcot Power Station!

For a year in 2001, I became chief engineer on a heritage railway, the Severn Valley Railway. What a dream job! I had the whole 'train set' – steam trains, dozens of carriages and trucks, old fashioned signal boxes, stations - the lot. I was there for a year, when some while after the Hatfield derailment (*Ed: in October 2000*) the then Railtrack was recruiting experienced engineers, especially those with railway skills. So I re-joined the railway, now Network Rail, as a Standards Engineer, where my contract was to produce specifications for all sorts of railway civil engineering. I stayed with them until 2012, when their HQ moved from Euston to Milton Keynes, as I didn't fancy the drive there.

Since then I have worked as an independent engineering consultant for a number of organisations, such as British Standards and its international equivalent ISO; Birmingham and Surrey universities, and so on, generally looking at climate change resilience –that is the ability to cope with extreme weather and to build back better. For instance, I helped design a Masters course for Surrey University on Engineering Management and Resilience; and a course on sustainable railway asset management for Singapore metro, run from Birmingham.

I would teach on these courses as well. For several years I would go to Guildford and give eight lectures at Surrey University, where I am a visiting professor, but last year and this, we had to use Microsoft Teams (*Ed: it's similar to Zoom*) to give our lectures. The University had recorded my previous

years' lectures, so now the students had a week or so to listen to the recording, and then we had a two hour tutorial on Fridays. It's wonderful: I no longer had to spend hours travelling to and from Guildford. It is so easy. And there seems to be far more interaction with the students. But I do miss seeing people.

Some four years ago, I became a member of the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, and some of the study work they have been doing has looked at experimenting with 'Slow the Flow', that is slowing the flow of river waters. One experiment we tried is on the Evenlode headwaters above Shipton-under-Wychwood. There the river could get blocked by a low bridge in the town and cause flooding when the water came rapidly off the hills. We opened out culverts and made them into ditches, letting water flow across meadows, and built 'leaky' dams. It seems to have worked.

Apart from working, I also run a weather station at Charlbury.info (*Ed: go to the web site, and click on Environment and then on Charlbury Weather Station*). Recently I was persuaded to try Morris Dancing, and thinking it might help me keep fit, I joined our local team. Before I knew it, I was in four dancing sessions, including one at Rousham as part of a wedding celebration. It was very nerve racking as I still felt a bit uncoordinated.

Where did my surname come from? Dorà is an Italian surname, and my grandfather moved to Scotland from Emilia-Romagna in the early 1900s to join some family members who ran a chip shop in Dundee. He eventually settled in Arbroath with his own chip and ice cream shops. He built a special side car for his motor bike, and in the summer would drive round the beaches on the east coast selling ice cream, and in the winter round the local area selling fish and chips. I think I inherited my engineering abilities from him.

*John Dora was talking to Barbara Allison  
July 2021*



John Dora's grandfather c.1935

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# Charlbury Society

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As you will have heard, we have decided to continue with Zoom for the next season, accepting that this disadvantages some people, but also accepting that with the current situation at the time of writing, the majority of our 140 members would be more comfortable with watching and listening to our talks by Zoom, rather than in the Memorial Hall, where of course, we would not be able to accommodate even half of our current membership safely.

The programme for this season is below, and in order to encourage you to join us again, we are organising tea and membership sign up in the Corner House garden on the afternoon of the 28th August, and again in the Museum Garden during the Street Fair.

Do come and see us.

*Nikki Rycroft*

## **2021/22 Programme**

### **7th October**

Dr Simon Townley  
Cornbury Park: Research from the VCH

### **4th November**

Rod Evans  
A Whistle-stop Tour of the Planning System loosely based on 23 Years a Planning Inspector

### **2nd December**

Dr Janice Kinory  
The Production, Distribution and Use of Salt in Prehistoric Britain

### **6th January**

Trevor Jackson  
RAF Brize Norton: Over 80 Years of Operational History

### **3rd February**

Clare Shakya  
Climate Ambition in the time of Covid-19

### **3rd March**

Dr Kathy Haslam  
The Kelmscott Manor *Past, Present and Future* Project:  
'a vision rather than a dream'

### **7th April**

An Evening with the Charlbury Museum

### **5th May**

Judith Curthoys  
Cows and Curates: Christ Church's Land and Livings in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds



## CHARLBURY Community Centre

### **Gradual re-opening of the Community Centre**

It's not really true to say that things are completely back to normal at the Community Centre, because like most other organisations, we are taking things slowly with the safety of our staff, volunteers and users in mind. The gym is still operating an appointment system to make sure it does not get too busy in there and we still request masks to be worn (when you are not eating or doing sport), hands to be sanitised and people to keep their distance. Fortunately, we have a large, airy building with a state-of-the-art air handling system which ensures a constant flow of new air into the building.

All that being said, many activities, sports and clubs have now resumed in accordance with the guidance from their national bodies and it feels almost normal. There is so much to choose from if you want to improve your fitness and health. Jason's circuits and Line Dancing classes, which he valiantly kept going throughout all the lockdowns over Zoom, are all back as live sessions. I hope this is still the case by the time you read this!

### **New Sessions for Young Children**

Starting in September we have some exciting new sessions for the younger residents of Charlbury:

**Songbirds baby and toddler group on Tuesdays 10-10.45am.** This will replace the Bump-to-Two session and is aimed at 0-3 year olds. Come along to sing with local musician and teacher Jenny Mahler.

**Supastrikers** football fun for 2-5 year olds on Thursdays 12-1.30pm starting on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

We are also in discussions about a new mother and baby class. Please see our website for information about all of these activities. Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to run the Maker's Club after school craft sessions, but we are

always on the lookout for new opportunities to bring you. If you have an ideas, please get in touch.

### **Career Mentoring for 16-18 year olds**

As the new school year starts and young people turn their attention to what they will do next, do not forget about our young person's career mentoring programme. One of the most important and valuable things in life is having advice from those around us. If you ask successful people later in life about the 'secret' of their success, they will not point to a single event, but they will often point to a single person who took the time to talk to them and provide them with advice, support and encouragement when they most needed it.

We have a number of trained mentors who can provide advice and guidance to young people, between the ages of 16 and 18, who may be asking themselves some of the most important questions about their future studies and careers. A mentor will offer up to three 1-hour sessions to discuss career choices and provide advice. If you are interested and would like to be connected with a mentor, please contact Daniela at [info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk).

As we have said many times, we are extremely grateful to all the volunteers, our wonderful staff and our careful and considerate centre users for helping us, and each other, to get through these difficult times. Let's hope life can now get back to normal. Do take a look at our website [www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk/](http://www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk/) or pick up a What's On leaflet from reception to see what is happening at your Community Centre.

*Tanya Stevenson  
Charlbury Community Centre*





## Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle

After a false start in June, we were finally able to get together on 19 July! As promised, we provided the drinks and members brought their own food. As the weather was so good, we met outside in the Memorial Hall garden, where there was plenty of space to spread out and enjoy the occasion. Turnout was around 20 including some new members and we had a very enjoyable evening.

During August we are planning a BBQ meeting and an Oxford walk. Our next meeting is our AGM on 20 September in the Memorial Hall, with members bringing their own refreshments.

We are arranging tastings on October 18<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> and plan to have a Christmas Dinner on December 13<sup>th</sup>

We are looking forward to, hopefully, being able to run a full programme this coming year. We keep our members up to date by email and anyone else is welcome to join our mailing list, so that they too can, if they wish, join a future tasting or get together.

In the meantime, continue to enjoy your favourite tippie, follow the guidelines and stay safe.

For more information please contact:  
[charlburywineandbeercircle@gmail.com](mailto:charlburywineandbeercircle@gmail.com)

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## All About CRAG

Since 2015 CRAG (Charlbury Refugee Action Group) has been raising funds in and around Charlbury by organising concerts, art cafes and other events for the benefit of refugees, mainly in France and Greece. We also raise awareness about refugees and about the difficulties faced by asylum seekers and refugees in this country and abroad. Very sadly, Jon Carpenter, CRAG's inspirational co-founder, died in June - but his legacy very much lives on in CRAG and we plan to continue the amazing work he started.

Since last September we've raised over £16,000. We've sent this money directly to a selection of refugee charities working in the UK and Europe, including: Choose Love/Help Refugees, Refugee Community Kitchen, Hope Project Greece, The Baobab Women's Project, Asylum Welcome, Attika, and Safe Passage. Sources of funding include personal donations, proceeds from second-hand book sales, online concerts, and other online campaigns and sponsorship.

We've also organised several collections of clothing and hygiene items for people in camps in Lesbos (Greece) and in the Calais area.

We'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to every one of you who've helped us achieve this in some way - be it donating money, second-hand books, or clothing for collections, attending one of our online concerts, or signing a petition or writing to our MP. You've supported us in a myriad of ways, and we couldn't do it without you.

Looking ahead, as the situation for refugees continues to deteriorate, we

hope you'll continue to support us. Please visit our web page on the Charlbury website, at **[www.charlbury.info/community/crag](http://www.charlbury.info/community/crag)**, and follow the 'sign up now' link to become a CRAG member and receive our email newsletters.

Our web page also has information about how to watch the delightful 'The Road Goes On' virtual concert, created by our very talented Charlbury-born singer/songwriter Jenny Mahler (aka Jenny Larsen). You can also find out about our second-hand book catalogue, as well as our cookery booklets featuring recipes from our concerts, cafés, and tea parties. We're also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charlburyrefugee](http://www.facebook.com/charlburyrefugee) and JustGiving at [www.justgiving.com/charlburyrefugee](http://www.justgiving.com/charlburyrefugee).

We're currently planning a series of exciting fundraising events over the next few months, including a series of tea concerts, a car boot sale, and an art fair. We hope to organise another clothing collection for Calais soon. We're also participating in the Oxford welcome of Little Amal on 26th October. Amal is a 3-metre high puppet of a Syrian refugee girl, and she has walked from the Syrian-Turkish border to draw attention to the odysseys of refugees. Please do keep an eye out on [charlbury.info](http://charlbury.info) for details of all these events and how to get involved.

Finally, we always welcome others who would like to join us in our campaigns and fundraising - please email [secretary@charlburyrefugee.org.uk](mailto:secretary@charlburyrefugee.org.uk).

*Vicky Buser*



## Charlbury Cricket Club

Despite the setback last year when our cricket season was shortened because of the urgency to deal with the covid virus, we have been making progress this year with a measure of improvements to take the club forward.

High on the agenda was the priority to install a safe disability access, with paved pathway leading into the main pavilion. This helps us now to cater not just for supporters and spectators but to welcome disability cricketers, with our first full game with a team representing Oxfordshire at our ground.

We have also expanded our outdoor training facilities with a new mobile net, available for club adults and youth cricketers.

In addition, we have plans in the pipeline for a new static cage net for further outdoor training, positioned at the end of the club's second field. Under coached supervision, there should be ample opportunity for young and older cricketers to improve their skills.

There have also been improvements to the main pavilion, with new furnishings for the lounge and bar area, as well as fresh interior paintwork and maintenance of the exterior woodwork structure. We have been fortunate to make a collective effort to raise funds for all these improvements, and there may be more yet to come!

On the playing front, the club has made a determined policy this season to stage as many games of cricket as possible, given

the fact that in 2020 we missed out on half of the season. Necessary regulations, however, have still been put in place by strictly observing health and safety guidelines for social distancing, covering all players, umpires, scorers and ground staff. Out of reasonable caution, we have kept both changing rooms and showers out of bounds.

It has been very heartening to see what has been a virtual festival of cricket, with a full fixture list for our three Cherwell League teams, Women's team in the Home Counties League, an array of T20 and friendly matches, as well as games for U11, U13 and U15 boys and girls.

We have also welcomed for the first time the Oxfordshire Over 60s teams against other surrounding counties, as well as entertaining an array of fixture for the county's youth teams, including girl teams who are now a growing force in the future of cricket.

*David Horne, club chairman*

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## Walkers are Welcome keeps on growing!

The recently set up group for "last minute" walks is now over 30 members and is adding more as walkers short or long join to meet new people and discover new walks.

It is very simple to operate, text **07974 565618** and you will be offered an under five mile group and an over midday walk, usually 7 to 10 miles. You can join both. Once one is a member, you can invite who you wish.

Members create their own walks and offer others to join, the most popular so far is the walk to The Plough at Finstock especially on Tuesday when Fish & Chips is two for one!

Suggested for future walks are train or bus to Kingham or Chipping Norton. More distant walks by car will come later.

The recent new Gateway footpaths established will feature the day after the Street Fair with added special interest guides. More details will be in the Programme.



## St Mary's Fete

St Mary's community was delighted to be able to hold the Church Fete – full of traditional stalls and activities as well as the less well established 'Teddy Bear Zipwire' from the church tower, which proved extremely popular.

The sun shone, people enjoyed spending time together and the building will benefit from the amount raised for its maintenance.

The limitation on numbers because of Covid did not dampen the enthusiasm of those taking part in the annual Churches Together Holiday Club. Teaming up with the Community Centre meant that children could enjoy songs, crafts and activities in the morning and sports at the Centre in the afternoon.

The autumn of 2021 will see the beginning of St Mary's 'Year of Creation', during which different aspects of ecology, diversity, the theology of creation and our responsibility for the planet will be explored through lectures, events and sermons.

All will be advertised on the website and the church noticeboards – and do take a look at the noticeboard in the porch picturing the different flora and fauna found in the churchyard over the seasons.

We are looking forward to an autumn of engagement with the community through regular services and events, our presence as Cornerstone in the Corner House and, of course, preparing for Christmas and the Christmas Tree Festival.



### 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

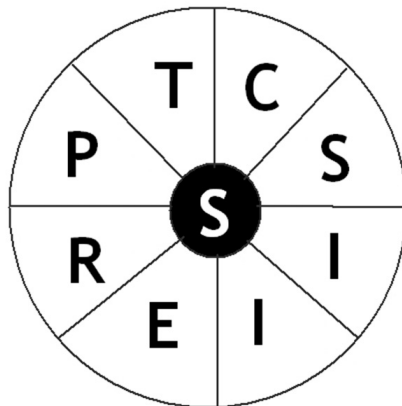
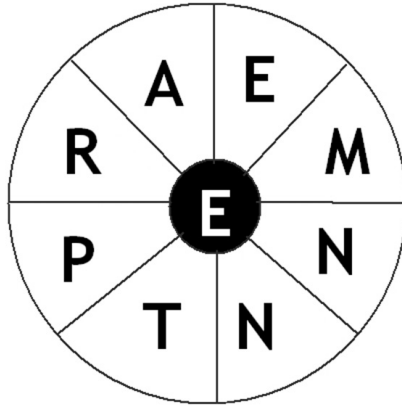
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# Coffee break page

Compiled by Miles Walkden and Michele Marietta

Two puzzles. Find as many words as you can within each wheel – but every word you find **MUST** use the letter in the centre. There exists **ONE** word that uses all the letters: Can you find it?



Answers on page 36

## **“Bowled Over” sessions at Charlbury Bowls Club – what a success!**

Since May of this year 6 to 7 people living with dementia and their carers have been enjoying specially-tailored monthly bowls sessions at Charlbury Bowls Club organised by the friendly members of the Club who have volunteered as coaches and companions to all those attending.

The Club advertises the benefits of outdoor and indoor bowls as being ideal to improve fitness and co-ordination while engaging in a sport where social interaction is important. This has certainly proved absolutely right on all counts from the start of the first Bowled Over session. DFC members attending in support can see how important it is for everyone involved to be able to join in an activity with others and to be able to relax for a couple of hours away from the sometimes challenging routines involved at home.

If anyone was worried that bowlers living with dementia might have difficulty with the motor skills required to aim and deliver the bowls effectively, they were proved wrong. The Club’s guests were soon putting Dementia Friendly Charlbury members to shame in their ability to get their bowls near the target. And the opportunity for carers to join in conversation with others in the same position and to swap notes and sources of information and support is just as important.

The Bowls Club must be congratulated on this caring initiative, which they think is the only one of its kind in this county. The Bowls Club facilities are a perfect setting and are a tribute to the hard work of Club members.

For further details of the Bowled Over sessions contact Dementia Friendly Charlbury at [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com). The next sessions will be as follows: 20 September (outdoor bowls), 18 October and 15 November (indoor bowls), all 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

### **Dementia Carers Count**

A local carer whose husband is living with

dementia has recommended Dementia Carers Count (DCC), a national charity dedicated to family and friends who are caring for someone with dementia. Their website offers a range of online courses aimed at providing an opportunity to learn, connect and develop strategies which support the wellbeing of family carers and people with dementia. Their Virtual Carers Centre provides access to practical information and advice. All DCC’s services are designed and delivered by expert qualified health and care professionals, in partnership with carers.

DCC also offers the opportunity to meet and connect with people in a similar situation and are available to listen, too. Their website is here:  
[www.dementiacarers.org.uk/](http://www.dementiacarers.org.uk/)

### **When someone does not understand or accept a diagnosis of dementia**

The Alzheimer’s Society has a fact sheet of advice of what to do when a person does not understand or accept their diagnosis of dementia. This may be because the person is in denial, or because they have what is known as ‘lack of insight’. You can find it here:  
[www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/help-dementia-care/understanding-denial-lack-of-insight](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/help-dementia-care/understanding-denial-lack-of-insight)

### **Move More at Home for Memory – free exercise DVD**

AgeUK Oxfordshire’s Generation Games team has produced a free exercise DVD especially for people living with dementia to encourage them to exercise at home. To register an interest in receiving a free DVD and information pack, email:  
[helehharman@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:helehharman@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk).

### **Visiting someone in a care home**

The Government published national guidance on visiting care homes in England on 21 June as part of its plan to gradually ease restrictions. The Alzheimer’s Society has information and advice on what to expect and how to prepare for a visit here:

[www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/coronavirus/dementia-care-home-visits](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/coronavirus/dementia-care-home-visits)

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## Charlbury & District Probud Club

Like many clubs and societies we are just awakening after a period of inactivity due to the Covid-19 crisis. On Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of September we are, once again, meeting for lunch and a speaker presentation at Witney Lakes Resort, this will be our first social event since February 2020. Each meeting lasts about 3 hours and includes time to socialise at the bar before sitting down to a two course lunch. Our speaker for the September meeting will be Dennis Pope who will be talking to us about the Royal National Lifeboat Institution who have been saving lives since 1824. Lunches are open to members, their guests and anyone who might have an interest in the speaker/subject, or indeed, be interested in joining us.

We usually have a number of outings during the year including a visit to see a show at the wonderful Watermill Theatre near Newbury, a trip to the Birmingham Symphony Hall for the classical music fans amongst our number, and a day trip. Our most recent day trip was to the Black Country Museum in Dudley, and the previous year to the Severn Valley Railway. Following a presentation on the English Civil War in Oxfordshire we have also participated in a battlefield tour at Edgehill, and have a trip to Oxford in the near future.

We are currently seeking new members to join us for our lunches and social events. We have a male only membership but welcome ladies to join us for any of our activities.

The meetings are informal we have a dress code of smart casual. Membership currently costs £15 per annum plus an additional monthly cost of £20.00 per lunch. We always welcome new members, you can find follow us on the Charlbury Community website. You can also contact Mike White the club Secretary on 07710 296814 or at [mike.ewhite7@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ewhite7@gmail.com).



## Christmas Shoebboxes

Christmas may be some way off, but it's not too early to start making and collecting items for this year's Shoebox Appeal. Knitted hats, scarves and mittens are especially welcome in the cold areas of Eastern Europe.

If you are a crafter I'm sure you have lots of other ideas for items to make for your box.

The website:

**[www.teams4u.com](http://www.teams4u.com)**

has all the information and ideas you need to get started.

Cover your box and lid separately with decorative paper and decide whether to fill it for a child or family. Print off a label and please include a donation of £2.50 to cover transport costs.

If you need help obtaining or covering a box, please phone Joan Belshaw on 01608 810130. Surplus empty boxes are also welcome. Why not make it your half term project with your children or grandchildren!

If you do not have access to the internet, leaflets containing all the information will be available in October in St Mary's Church and the Corner House.

Collection date will be Saturday, 13th November at the Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill between 10am and 12 noon or phone to make alternative arrangements.

Thank you.

*Joan Belshaw*



## **Charlbury Branch**

**The Branch AGM** will be held in the War Memorial Hall at 8.00pm on Thursday 21 October 2021. All members are encouraged to attend. Anyone who would like to join the Branch is most welcome to attend.

**The Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning** will be held in the Corner House [or War Memorial Hall] on Saturday 6 November 2021 with raffle, cakes and poppies for sale. For further information please contact Jane Parsons on 01608 810822.

**The Annual Band Concert** will be held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday 12 November 2021 with the fantastic "Accidentals", once again. There will be a raffle, light refreshments and a licensed bar. Details may be obtained from the Branch Secretary on 01608 810822 or from posters in the usual places nearer the time. Tickets may be purchased in advance from the Cotswold Frames or on the door. All the proceeds will go to Poppy Appeal and everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike.

**Remembrance Day Parade and Service** – Sunday 14 November 2021. The Charlbury Parade forms up at the Spendlove Car Park at 2.30pm and the Service is at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church. Everyone is welcome to join the parade and/or the service.

The parade will be led by Pipe Major Steve Duffy, late Scots Guards and commanded by the Charlbury Branch President, Major Nicholas Potter [late Scots Guards]

The salute will be taken by Lieutenant General Sir Scott Grant KCB, a former Chief Engineer. General Grant is a Charlbury resident and a member of the Charlbury Branch. Wreaths will be laid by the Legion, Charlbury Town Council, Thames Valley Police, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Charlbury WI.

After the Service and Parade, tea and biscuits will be available for all marchers, Legion members, serving and ex-serving service personnel, in the War Memorial Hall.

The rehearsal for all standard and flag bearers, wreath layers and readers etc will be at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

## **The Poppy Appeal**

Poppies will be on sale in and around the Town from 30 October to 13 November and at Charlbury Station on the mornings of 2 November and 9 November. Pam Rolls and Ian Parsons are our Poppy Appeal Organisers for Charlbury and the surrounding villages.

Anyone who would like to help with the Poppy Appeal in any way is asked to get in touch with Pam on 01608 810042 or Ian on 01608 810822.

**The National Two Minutes Silence** will be at 11.00am on Thursday 11 November 2021.

Please support this small yet significant event.

**ALL THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE PROVISIONAL AND WILL ONLY TAKE PLACE IF GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ALLOW.**

**For more information** about the work of the Royal British Legion, becoming a member or for assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on 01608 810388, Cyril Kerry [Branch Vice Chairman] on 01608 810347 or Jane Parsons [Branch Secretary] on 01608 810822. Any queries about subscriptions should be made to the membership Secretary, Barry Canham on 01608 811176.

The telephone number for the Royal British Legion Contact Centre is 0800 8028080.



## Walks and work with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Fancy walking through the Cotswolds, guided by someone who knows the countryside? Or maybe spending some mornings helping to maintain the area's network of footpaths that everyone can use? Or maybe both? The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens is the answer.

The Wardens are leading walks for members of the public again – but things are a little different. Most importantly, you have to book; to do this, visit [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk) and follow 'Walking and Exploring' and then 'Guided Walks'. A bit of scrolling down and you will see walks displayed both on the map and in a list, along with the booking form. *The Cotswold Lion*, favoured by many as a source of all sorts of information, is currently only available on line, and does not list walks at the moment.

Walks can be booked up to three weeks in advance, although for the time being, the number of people on a walk may have to be limited. Importantly, this means that we are Covid-compliant and can contact walkers if a Covid case is reported to us. Walks for the rest of the year will be posted with plenty of time for booking, so keep looking!

Our guided-walk leaders have not been idle over the past few months; some new routes have been worked out, and new leaders have been trained and are looking forward to helping members of the public enjoy our countryside to the full.

The website also has walks that you can download and venture out on your own to follow the routes – which the Wardens' walk leaders have checked out.

Meanwhile, the Wardens' work parties have gradually been reinstated, with our focus being on making sure that the main footpaths around the Charlbury district are as clear as possible from overhanging nettles, brambles, elder and blackthorn. People who use the permissive path across Clarke's Bottom from Hundley Way towards Widdows Wood will have seen that we have surfaced a long length of it with woodchip (kindly supplied by Ditchley Model Farm), to make walking easier along the field edge.

We have been maintaining footpath gates, to make sure that they open and close properly, and we have been helping to keep the footpaths open in both Centenary Wood and the Wychwood Project's Foxburrow Wood, between Hailey and Witney.

One of the joys of walking or working in a group is just that – meeting new people who share a common interest – something that we have all been missing over the past year and more.

For more information on the Cotswold Wardens and what we do, our contact details are in the Directory at the back of the Chronicle.

*Rosemary Wilson and Simon Walker*

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## The Cornerstone at the Corner House St Mary's working in the community

By the time you read this, the Cornerstone will have celebrated its very first birthday! The Cornerstone moved into the Corner House in August 2020 as an effort by St Mary's Church to build on and expand the give and take program which took place in Charlbury during the first lockdown.

Since then the Cornerstone community hub has continued to develop and grow, and has benefited greatly from surplus food products donated by both Charlbury citizens and food hubs that distribute surplus supermarket foods. We hope everyone will come down and have a look and a browse – the food really is free to take, as it would otherwise be going to waste! Think also of whether you might have anything to bring with you next time - whether extra fruit or vegetables in your garden that you will not be able to use, or unopened items in your cupboards that no one in your household will eat.

In the last quarter, the Cornerstone has completed a number of activities. For example, the Learning Café has had a really successful term which saw eight children receiving help with homework and learning, whilst having fun and growing in confidence. The last day of the Learning Café before summer was celebrated with cake, gifts and games!

The Cornerstone has been able to support a dozen families with extra food packages this term, a programme that is running well and of much benefit to all involved. We have also been able to connect people to Citizens Advice for help with a range of difficult situations, be it financial, legal, family or mental health.

In the Corner House rooms we have given our books a good sort out, put more bookcases up and implemented a new rotation system which means there is always a section for new books. Do come down and have a look.

We have also put all the donated school uniform items out on display – all items are free to take.

Finally, we want to say thank you so very much to all you kind and generous Charlbury people who have donated food, uniforms, plants from their garden, home baked goods etc, as well as financial donations. Without you there would be no Cornerstone and we are confident that the community hub will continue to grow as a result!

*Helene Provstgaard*  
*cornerstone@charlburychurch.uk*

The Cornerstone at the Corner House is open Monday to Saturday, 10am-1pm

### **Font Café at St Mary's Church is delighted to be open again.**

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

### **Font Cafe St. Mary's Church, Charlbury 10am to 12 noon every Thursday**

For smaller children we provide a play area with toys. Free Wi-Fi available  
Covid-19 restrictions are still in place so we will provide table service only



## ST MARY'S CHURCH CHARLBURY 3rd CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Last year's festival was so successful despite the Covid restrictions that we have decided to move forward with the plans for this year.

The festival will begin on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December with events over that first weekend, and run until 27<sup>th</sup> December. We will have 50 trees available to decorate. This year we are buying rooted trees, which will be in large pots; these will be more stable in the churchyard, and much more environmentally friendly. We have decided to keep the trees outside in the churchyard, as this was very popular with everyone, and the trees will keep better. However, the children's trees will all be inside the church. This will give the children's groups more opportunity for homemade decorations that won't get spoilt by the weather. There will be a competition to run over the first weekend. Forms to fill in will be available from the church, and the winners will be announced on Sunday evening, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

As before, the festival aims to bring people, local organisations, charities and schools together—each decorating their own tree. As well as the display of trees, a café will be available on certain days, and there are to be a number of events – including an opening party, a Christmas concert, some carol singing in the churchyard, and a community Songs of Praise (or something similar). The 'jazz and trees' party on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>, and the concert on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> will be ticketed events. Tickets will be available from Charlbury Deli and the Cornerstone from early November.

A Christmas Tree Festival is a wonderful way of bringing a community together to share the joy of Christmas, to raise money for a good cause and to have lots of fun on the way! Our objectives are to encourage the local people to support

this wonderful church (as they have done for centuries) and to keep St Mary's in the heart of the community by either coming to the event, or by offering to help in some way, or both.

Ways of helping include

- buying a tree to be decorated by your organization, school or charity. Booking forms will be available from Hilli Waller from September
- providing catering or stewarding support for the Festival, and for the musical events
- sponsoring the party or concert or helping with costs for the trees or any aspects of the festival

More details of all the events will follow but, if you or your organisation want to be part of the festival this year, or have any queries, please get in touch with Hilli Waller or the Parish Office from September to apply for a booking form.

The money raised by the Festival will be donated to the St Mary's appeal.

We would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved in any way!

*hilli.waller@gmail.com  
01608 811204*

### 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](mailto:gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com)

## STUDENT GRANTS

Are you under 25, living in Charlbury, with a place at university or college or an apprenticeship?

If so, you may be eligible for a grant from the Charlbury Exhibition Foundation:  
<https://www.charlbury.info/community/90>

*Even if you have received a grant in a previous year, you may qualify for another, so do apply again.*

Apply by **30 September 2021** to:

charlburygrants@hotmail.com

Please include the following details:

- Name and date of birth;
- Home address in Charlbury;
- Schools you have attended;

*For students:*

- ⇒ The name of the university or college,
- ⇒ The title and level of your course (for example: BA Hons in European History),
- ⇒ The year of study (for example: first year, second year, ...);

*For apprentices:*

- ⇒ The name of your employer,
- ⇒ The type of apprenticeship and level;
- ⇒ Outline information on the costs involved in the course or apprenticeship.

# Charlbury Church Services



## Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

**Sundays** We are hoping to reopen for our first service at **10.30am on 26<sup>th</sup> September**. The theme will be "Thanksgiving" and will include harvest celebrations. We invite you to bring gifts suitable for donating to Cornerstone

**Thursdays 7.45 pm** Join us on zoom for midweek study/discussion

Our Quiet Garden still welcomes visitors.



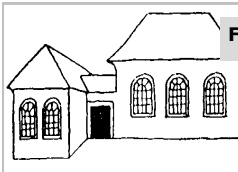
## St Mary's C of E Church, Church Street

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](http://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](mailto:sueeterry@btinternet.com)

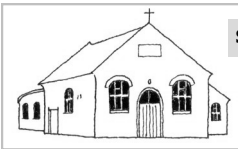
You are very welcome to join us



## 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 Mass. 9.15am every Sunday at St Teresa's.  
Weekday Masses;

9.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday;

Wednesday: 7.00pm at St Teresa's. followed by Exposition/Adoration.

Friday Mass followed by Exposition/Benediction or Stations of the Cross

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

## Churches Together in Charlbury

The news this summer has included alarming stories of excessive temperatures; fire storms in North America; the Amazon rain forest starting to release more carbon than it stores; torrential rain and floods in Europe and Asia. The climate emergency is not waiting in the future but is happening now and is likely to get worse. Like the Covid 19 pandemic, this is something that requires involvement of the whole world, every country, every organisation and every individual.

Churches and religious organisations across the world have begun to raise awareness of the need for major changes in our way of life and expectations and to offer practical solutions. Christian Aid's appeal in May this year was linked to promoting water conservation in Kenya.

We raised nearly £2000 in Charlbury to help Christian Aid's work, funding life-saving projects and sharing information and ideas. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Churches are also examining the way they use their resources. There are churches committed to becoming 'eco-churches' in Chipping Norton, Witney, Bicester and Oxford. Churches with inherited assets, including the Diocese of Oxford, have committed themselves to disinvesting from fossil fuels. Every church in the diocese is being asked to hold a Climate Sunday service in the lead up to the UN conference on climate change.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity is also a major concern. Organisations like 'Caring for God's Acre' have been encouraging churches with burial grounds to leave sections where grasses and wildflowers can develop. If you have walked through St Mary's churchyard this summer, you will have noticed that the area round the stump of the huge thuja tree that was cut down a few years ago, has been left unmown. The aim is to discover what plants have survived in land that has

never been cultivated and to support insects and other wildlife.

The UN conference on climate change, COP26, is due to take place in Glasgow in November. The Climate Coalition has helped to prepare a Glasgow action plan which can be viewed on their website. The coalition is made up of a wide variety of environmental, social and religious organisations to which many of us belong. You can see the full list at the end of the action plan on the Climate Coalition website.

The world is waiting for leadership from COP26, but governments are often unwilling to act unless they believe people support them. All over the world people are praying that at this conference decision makers will be honest about the difficulties we face, generous in the actions they propose and that promises made will be kept.

We all have a part to play to ensure COP26 fulfils its objectives. Our attitudes and actions have influence with politicians and decision makers when they show that we care. We can reuse, repair and recycle to save scarce resources and energy.

We can walk, cycle and use public transport whenever possible and opt for renewable energy when we have a choice.

Above all we can learn to respect and love the living things around us—trees and flowers, birds and insects, beetles and worms, even slugs and snails, which play their part recycling decaying matter and fixing carbon in the soil. We must protect what we love, speak out when the natural world is put at risk and help others to understand and love it too. The more we care for our Earth, the more the Earth can care for us.

*Rosalind Scott  
Secretary to Churches Together in  
Charlbury*



## Charlbury Town Council News

Contact: Roger Clarke, Town Clerk at [charlburytc@btinternet.com](mailto:charlburytc@btinternet.com) or 01608 810608 9am to 5pm (except weekends and Bank Holidays).  
[www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk/](http://www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk/)

### New Council—New Vision

Since the elections in May, your 12 town councillors—seven elected for the first time and five who sat on the previous council—have been busy planning for our three-year term. (The new council has a shortened term of three years, instead of the normal four, due to the one-year postponement to elections caused by the pandemic.) We've elected Liz Reason as Chair of the council and Gareth Epps as our Vice-chair.

You may recall that the previous council declared a climate emergency in November 2019 and your new council is working hard to make sure we respond proactively to this declaration. Council members are all really determined to improve the quality of life for residents as well. To meet these objectives, we've agreed a vision 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. We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring that Town Council services are delivered efficiently, sustainably and cost-effectively to meet the needs of Charlbury residents.
- Delivering 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.
- Engaging all of the community by providing appropriate leadership, governance and inspiration in an open and transparent way.

You can read all of the minutes and reports associated with the council's activities at [www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk/](http://www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk/)

### Environment Working Groups

The previous council set up a working group of volunteers plus a few councillors to help the council develop policies and schemes that will get Charlbury to carbon net zero. There are EWG teams looking at Land and Nature, Journeys, Food, Buildings and Energy. Volunteers are welcome to join any of the teams (contact details below).

The **Land and Nature team** has put a proposal to the Council about encouraging the management of road verges in and around Charlbury to promote wildflowers and biodiversity.

It's conducting an experiment in the Mill Field, taking soil samples in various locations to determine how different approaches to land management affect how much carbon dioxide is sequestered and stored.

The team is interested in protecting hedgehogs, which are an indicator of wider environmental health. They're in danger of becoming extinct in Charlbury unless more hedgehog highways can be created.

The **Journeys team** is looking into whether a car-club could work in Charlbury, whereby you sign up to a scheme which operates a number of cars that members can use for a small fee. It could reduce second-car ownership in town (and for some residents it could mean there's no need for the expense of car ownership at all). A parallel bike-club is being considered. Hook Norton has both.

The team is also lobbying for public EV charging points to be installed in the town. Cllr Gary Harrison hopes to join a pilot scheme investigating how people without driveways might charge their cars at or near their homes.

### Traffic

One of the most dangerous junctions in town is the **Enstone Road** crossroads. In July, the town council's traffic committee



## Charlbury Town Council News

met Liz Leffman (both our District and County Councillor – and now Leader of Oxfordshire County Council) on-site with OCC officers to look at potential safety improvements. We're hoping that OCC might paint a hatched area a few feet into the carriageway outside the Toll House, to allow the give-way lines where the Slade meets Enstone Road to be moved further into the junction, allowing an easier line of sight for drivers leaving the Slade.

The traffic committee is also preparing proposals for **extension of the 20mph limit** to cover Dyers Hill, Church Lane, Thames Street and Pound Hill, and of the 30mph limit on Spelsbury Road.

In the medium term, we want to install build-outs into the carriageway at all of the entrances to Charlbury to reduce speeds and indicate to drivers that they're entering a built-up area. We also want effective traffic-calming on busy roads such as the Slade, and to make the town centre more people-focussed and less of a car park/thoroughfare.

To achieve all of this, the council needs to have a clear picture of traffic movements within and through the town, so we're conducting a **traffic survey** and we're asking for volunteers to help us. We're doing two surveys (term time and not) on 31 August and 14 September, so if you're able to spare a couple of hours either day, please contact Cllr James Styring on 07792 375423 or [charlburytc@btinternet.com](mailto:charlburytc@btinternet.com).

And while we're talking about traffic, could drivers with wide vehicles try to avoid parking where they obstruct buses on Browns Lane and at the top of Church Street?

### **Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan was finally adopted in June, following the referendum. This is a milestone for Charlbury because the plan now forms part of the statutory development framework against which all planning

applications within the parish are determined. WODC still has the final say on planning applications in Charlbury but now, for the first time, they must adhere to neighbourhood plan policies reflecting the needs and wishes of the people of Charlbury. So the new plan gives the town council a stronger influence over what can be built and where. You can download a copy of the plan from [www.westoxon.gov.uk/charlbury](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/charlbury) or read a copy at Charlbury Library.

### **Charlbury can ride electric! 11th September**

The town council and Windrush Bike Project are running another electric bike try-out event on Saturday 11th September 1–3pm at Wychwood Paddocks. **Have you ever wondered what all the fuss with e-bikes is about?** Why not come and try one for yourself! Book your slot at [www.bookwhen.com/windrushbikeproject](http://www.bookwhen.com/windrushbikeproject). For more information call 07967 581541.

### **Street Fair 18th September**

The council will have stalls at this year's Street Fair. Please come and say hello, meet some of your councillors and tell us what you'd like to see us do for—or with—you. There'll also be information about the EWG's activities, including some electric cars and e-bikes for residents to look at.

### **Grants for the Financial Year 2022/23**

Each year the Town Council can make grants to local organisations for the benefit of the local community. Any organisation that thinks it may need a grant from the Town Council for the financial year 2022/23 must obtain an application form from the Town Clerk and return it together with supporting documents by midday on 31st October 2021. Late applications cannot be considered. The Clerk can advise on what can, and cannot, be grant-aided under the Local Government Act.

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## From County & District Councillor Liz Leffman

01608 810153, 07741 073088 [liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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Since my last report it has been “all change” at the County Council. After 16 years of running the County Council the Conservatives found that they no longer had a majority and as a result, the Liberal Democrats, Labour and Greens have formed an administration called the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance. I was elected Leader of the Council at the AGM in mid-May, and formed a Cabinet made up of members of each of the Alliance parties.

Top of the list of our priorities are climate change and the environment. We are committed to putting decarbonisation and climate resilience at the heart of our policies, as well as tackling inequalities and supporting everyone in the County to achieve their full potential. To this end we are in discussions with bus companies to set up a partnership which will improve access to buses across the county, and we have applied to government for funding to create a fleet of electric buses in the City. We will be building more cycle lanes, and we have started work on a new way of managing grass verges that will ensure safety at the same time as protecting wildlife.

The previous administration included

£250,000 in this year’s budget intended to extend 20mph speed limits across the county. They did not put in place any strategies for doing this but we are working on a new policy and this will come to the October Cabinet meeting, with a view to starting to operate this autumn. We hope to be able to support this with more funding in next year’s budget.

In my capacity as Leader, I am also a member of the North Cotswold Line Task Force, and I will be working to make sure that my commitment to dualling the line between Charlbury and Hanborough is met, so that our train service can be improved and sustained.

I am of course working closely with the new Town Council, and recent work includes reviewing the parking arrangements in the town centre, and safety issues on Grammar School Hill and at the Enstone Road crossroads. Work at the crossroads will commence in November and the plan is to make that crossing safer by extending the sight lines, improving pedestrian access, and reminding drivers of the 20 mph speed limit.

*Liz Leffman*

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## Charlbury Day Centre

As we come out of the pandemic, we find that we now have a problem with our membership, whose number has become sadly depleted due to the passage of time. There is still some Covid about, but everyone has been double immunised so we are opening for a get together over a lunch on Wednesdays. This will mean their time spent in the Memorial Hall will be much shorter, nevertheless it will enable them to catch up with friends. Those, who help will all be Covid tested. If any other pensioner from the town would like to join us, you would be most welcome. Do let me know. We can’t unfortunately offer a drop in service, because of the need to know how many mouths to feed. However we are looking for new members to refresh our membership and, as in the past, new people to help. If you fit into either of these groups, do please make contact with me Bob Tait 01608 810150.

## Our Welcome to Charlbury

I knew that having small children or dogs would be a brilliant way to meet people. We don't have either these days, but who'd have thought that tadpoles could provide a social connection?

We literally skidded into our new home in Charlbury on a dreadfully snowy day at the end of January. And a few months later, among the many other delights we were discovering about our new house and community, we found we had tadpoles in the garden pond, which contained only very few plants. Not just a few tadpoles – hundreds of them! Never having owned a pond and being unsure about the level of responsibility we needed to take for its inherited domestic livestock, we asked around for help and advice.

This led to wonderfully enlightening conversations and guidance about buying pond supplies, while getting to know new neighbours.

But not only that. A bunch of oxidizing plants was generously left by the front door, a box of tadpole-friendly fish flakes was kindly delivered and a plea via the fantastic Charlbury website resulted in someone coming to our rescue with a couple of buckets of pond plants they

had divided, which provided cover and sustenance for the tadpoles. I now understand that there is a disease risk in transferring plants from another pond and is not encouraged, but we were grateful and, thankfully, there were no bad consequences.

Another recommendation was to join a Facebook pond-lovers group (oh yes, they exist and this one had over twenty thousand members), and it has proved to be a surprising inspiration.

You know who you are and we just want to say a huge thank you to you again for your kindness and warmth of welcome – not just for us, but for our small new friends in the pond who, I'm pleased to say, are thriving and growing. It has been amazing to see the froglets develop and we marvel at the transformation since we first spotted those tiny black commas in April.

On the community front, it seems that ponds are quite the trend here and I've even heard talk of a watery expedition – a Pond Safari around the town. Charlbury life just gets better and better.

*Christine and Keith Gowing  
Dancers Hill*

### **CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET** **on the Playing Close between** **9am and 1pm on** **Saturday, September 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](mailto:burroughs871@btinternet.com)  
tel: 07969 208518, 01608 810260

### **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](mailto:gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com)

**News from Sustainable Charlbury**, a group of local volunteers concerned about the environment:

- Thousands of pounds of new funding are available to support projects that contribute to tackling climate change. We're seeking fresh grant applications from groups based within 25 miles of Charlbury. To find out more, click on the heading GRANTS on our website: [sustainablecharlbury.org](http://sustainablecharlbury.org).
- A showing of the film 2040 takes place at The Memorial Hall at 7.30pm, 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Motivated by concerns about the planet his 4-year-old daughter will inherit, award winning director Damon Gameau embarks on a global journey to meet innovators and changemakers. And if you fancy a bevvy before the show, green drinks will be served from 6.30pm.
- Read 'The Story of Southill Solar' for the remarkable tale of how a small Cotswold town came together to create a pioneering, community, renewable energy project. This account of how and why the solar farm on the road to Witney was built is accessible (free of charge!) at:

[www.sustainablecharlbury.org/southill](http://www.sustainablecharlbury.org/southill)

Mark Gregory

Charlbury WI continues to flourish during these times with all our meetings now face to face! We have even managed to get a few new members! In addition to our speakers at our monthly meetings, we will be back to holding craft workshops, theatre visits, 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 will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 4 December from 9.30—12 noon. Yummy cakes will be on sale! Hope to see you all there!

In June we had a Treasure Hunt around Charlbury, and in July we held our "Summer Jolly" with a BBQ at the Bowls Club and would like to thank them for all their help. Our forthcoming events are a Harvest Supper in September, a talk on Modern Day Slavery in October and a Festive Craft session in November.

Our two regular events; one a book club which meets six weekly, the next session is on 13 September in the Garden Room, and a monthly Craft and Cuppa Session which has now started up again at the Bowls Club. These are always on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the month, however we are not having one in September because of Street Fair.

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](mailto:charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk).

Susie Finch



- Scarification
- Hollow Tining
- Lawn Aeration
- Over Seeding
- Top-Dressing
- Removal Weeds
- Moss Control
- Professional Service

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Contact Steve

01865 331501/07894 983801

Email: [cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com](mailto:cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com)



Oxfordshire Historic  
Churches Trust

**Charlbury Children's  
Sponsored Bike Rally  
11 September**

### **Sign up from 10am – Individual Starts from 11.45 to 12.45**

This year's rally will again be raising sponsorship for the Charlbury School Association and OHCT. They will be the joint organisers together with the Windrush Bike Project. The finish will again be on the school playing field where, weather permitting, there will be a mass PICNIC, an opportunity for adults to try out E-BIKES and a BIKE GYMKHANA for the rally children to show off their biking skills.

For the rally, parents and children should go to St Mary's any time between 11.30 and 12.30 to sign in and start. When signing in parents will be asked either to show on their smartphones that they have set up sponsorship pages for their children or to make a suggested donation of £5 per child. We warmly encourage you to use Virgin Money Giving as the easiest and quickest way to gather sponsors and enable them to GiftAid their donations. Go to [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/) to set your Virgin Giving page. Remember to specify the Charlbury School Association to receive 50% of the sponsorship.

To preserve social distancing the children will start the rally at short intervals. Parents or responsible adults must accompany them (on bike or on foot). All children must wear helmets. Balance bikes and scooters will be eligible for the youngest year groups. The routes will again start at St Mary's churchyard gate and end on the school playing field in Wychwood Paddocks. Over 8s will have a longer course via Park Street, 5-Ways and Hixet Wood.

All children who complete their route will receive certificates and prizes.



## News from Charlbury Library

Footfall was a little quiet for a while when the Library first opened again after the last lockdown but it's certainly picked up recently and it's been lovely to see our regular customers back again (and new ones of course!).

At the time of writing we are still not back to our pre-Covid opening hours, but we are hoping that we can return to something like our old hours during September.

This should mean that all the library self-access options we had before, like browsing the shelves and borrowing items through the self-service machine when no staff are present, can finally return.

We're also hoping that we'll soon be able to offer weekly Rhymetime sessions for pre-schoolers again and monthly Digital Helper sessions as we used to.

Some of our pre-Covid hours however were run by volunteers and to fully return to those hours, we need a few more volunteers to add to our rota pool. If you can spare a few hours once a month to help with shelving, checking stock and assisting customers with their enquiries, please contact the library manager below.

Alternatively, you can register your interest by visiting the website for Oxfordshire County Council – Libraries – Becoming a Community Library Volunteer.

The Summer Reading Challenge will be

well underway by now, with lots of local children signing up to take part. It runs until mid-September, so there's still time to join in. This year's theme is "Wild World Heroes" and is centred around a place called Wilderville, where local characters help to look after the animals and the environment.

Children are encouraged to visit the library regularly to borrow books and get rewards and stickers once they've read and returned them, with a medal and a certificate at the end!

Parents can also help children to join on-line at [wildworldheroes.org.uk](http://wildworldheroes.org.uk), where they will find lots more links to digital rewards, competitions, games, challenges, videos and book reviews to keep them busy through the school holidays.

It's free to join the library for everyone and just takes a couple of minutes to fill out the registration form. Your library card will be issued straightaway and you then have free access to the whole of Oxfordshire Libraries catalogue of books, audio books and eBooks/eAudio, both in libraries and on-line.

There's a world of stunning stories and fascinating facts out there – pop into any of Oxfordshire's libraries and find out for yourself

*Julie Ward  
Manager, Charlbury Library  
01608 811104*

*[charlbury.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:charlbury.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

### Coffee Break answers

Permanent Crispiest!



ENGLISH  
HERITAGE

## English Heritage Open Roman Villa Mosaic 11 & 12 September, 2021

**Meet Roman coin expert; see conservation in action.**

For more details about openings and access to the site (which can be arduous if you have mobility issues), please visit: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/>  
Follow us on Twitter: @villa\_north  
To join Friends of North Leigh Roman Villa or arrange a special opening email: [nlrvvols@gmail.com](mailto:nlrvvols@gmail.com)

Set within a peaceful landscape on the banks of the River Evenlode, North Leigh Roman Villa is considered to be one of the largest villas in Roman Britain with a history of occupation spanning five centuries.

At its most extensive in the early 4th century AD it included three bath suites, 16 mosaic floors and 11 rooms with under-floor heating.

Today visitors can imagine the villa's former richness as they walk through the rectangular footprint of its walls – but the mosaic house hides the real gem of a near complete mosaic floor. The mosaics form the floor of villa's winter dining

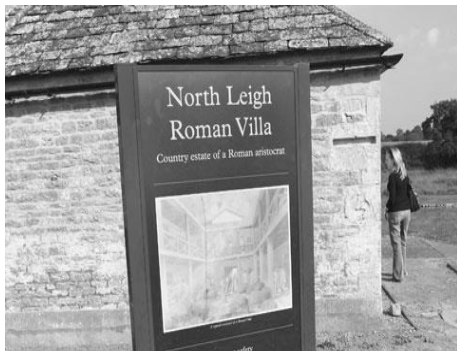
room and, as the only example in Oxfordshire still found in their original location, they give a powerful sense of the Villa's original opulence.

The mosaics were not on display to the public from the early 1990s for almost 30 years. North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers [NLRVV] are a local group working with English Heritage, who first opened the mosaics in September 2019. Since then 2,200 visitors have seen the mosaics in spite of covid restrictions in 2020 and 2021.

The group's efforts were recognised by a Heritage Alliance Commendation Award for volunteering in 2020.

As well as North Leigh Roman Villa, **English Heritage** cares for over 400 historic buildings, monuments and sites - from world-famous prehistoric sites to grand medieval castles, from Roman forts on the edge of the empire to a Cold War bunker. Through these, it brings the story of England to life for over 10 million people each year.

Registered charity no. 1140351.  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)



*Cleaning a Centurion at North Leigh Roman Villa*

GARDENING FOR BETTER  
MENTAL HEALTH

# Bridewell Gardens Open Day

*Visit our stunning walled garden and vineyard, an inspiring day out in a beautiful setting where nature and horticulture support better mental health*

SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021

11AM-4PM

Entry £5 Suggested Donation

The Walled Garden, Wilcote, OX7 3DT  
[www.bridewellgardens.co.uk](http://www.bridewellgardens.co.uk)  
registered charity 1158456







## News from Charlbury Pre-School

The Pre-school was so proud to say goodbye to many of our children at the end of summer term – we celebrated with an end of term trip to Little Wild Things, and a lovely picnic and Sports Day in Nine Acres field, and 'graduation' ceremonies with a song outside Pre-school. Towards the end of the term, we also had Edmund Blok kindly donating his time to take some wonderful pictures of the children, and a superb art session with Anna Gillespie, our supply teacher, playing with paint in the garden – riding bikes and scooters through it, painting the walls and tyres and using a variety of other painting implements and drawing all of the children in! Thanks to both of them for their time and creativity, and to Little Wild Things as well. We wish our leavers all the best for their starts at school this term – they will be very much missed!

In no particular order, massive thanks also to all those who have supported Pre-school over the last year – a challenging one but one where Pre-school has hopefully provided a good base of continuity, connection and support for many children and their families.

Thanks go in no particular order to: Andy Pickard for cutting the grass; Jeni Burnell, Darren Bloy and the team who decorated the cloakroom at Christmas; Jim Goad and the team who cleaned and decorated the playground at half term; Owen Jones at Midland Felt Roofing for supplying paint and decorating materials for this; the Burroughs family for donating a Christmas tree; Janet Puddephatt for supporting us in the classroom; Charlbury Town Council for their grant; Dave, Nick and Karlson Hoyle for all the heavy lifting and plumbing work; Isobel, Tereza, Phil and Jeni for accompanying us to the woods this term; the whole committee without whom we couldn't legally operate; everyone who has donated items for us to use or sell; everyone who has bought or sold something in aid of our fundraising efforts; everyone who has donated money through easyfundraising, justgiving or Amazon Smile; Jill Petersen and Tim Hicks for building our new sheds; all of you parents for choosing to send your child to our setting; and to all the wonderful children who continue to amaze and delight us every day. If we've forgotten anyone, please accept our sincere apologies!

The biggest thanks go to the fantastic staff team, both in the classroom and behind the scenes, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year, to keep the children safe, happy and thriving despite everything the pandemic has thrown at them. Finally, a huge thank you to Laura Barwood who is stepping down at the end of term after four years as our chairperson. She has supported the staff not only by covering for absences in the classroom, but by placing our mental and emotional wellbeing at the top of the agenda. We all wish her well in her future endeavours.

We look forward to welcoming a new committee this term, headed by Jim Goad and Emily Dytor as our co-chairs, with Jill Peterson as Treasurer, Emma Cottam as Secretary and Brek Taylor as Fundraising Lead. We're also excited to meet our new starters and to see our younger children returning and to hear all about their summer adventures. There are still some places available for the Autumn term so please get in touch if you're interested.

*For more information about the Pre-school, please check out our website – [www.charlburypreschool.org.uk](http://www.charlburypreschool.org.uk). For enquiries about places and/or if you would like to arrange a visit to see the setting please get in touch at [admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk) or on 01608 811200.*

*Mary Totman*

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## Wigwell – News from Charlbury’s Local Wildlife Site

We have been busy at Wigwell throughout the spring and summer and I have been delighted to welcome so many new members to the Wigwell Friends, many of whom have already come along to help at our regular work parties held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month – thank you!

Thanks also to Toby for running the work parties and the rest of the Wychwood Forest Trust team (formerly the Wychwood Project) and the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens for their support.

After a slow start, the meadow grasslands at the eastern end of Wigwell have flourished this year with a rich and diverse flora and, as the summer progressed, it has been great to see clouds of butterflies (especially meadow browns and marbled whites) as well as a proliferation of bees and other pollinators.

The reptile survey, organised by Neil Clennell and carried out by trained volunteers, has confirmed the presence of healthy populations of slow worms and grass snakes as well as common lizards. Other important non-reptile species were also spotted including toads and small rodents including water shrews.

Volunteers have also been working hard to protect and manage the “near-threatened” Meadow Clary on the site and a range of trials (including scything of surrounding dense vegetation) are now in progress in the caged areas to find out which approach to management of this species works best on this site.

Volunteers have been making

improvements to the popular permissive path through the site including the creation of steps up on a difficult muddy slope up from the eastern bridge and the diversion of the eastern end of the path up the slope away from the wetland areas.

Work on this path will continue and options for further improvements are being kept under review.

Some control of scrub, thistles, ragwort etc. is always necessary and features in the work party programmes but a degree of encroachment (e.g. blackthorn) is being permitted and monitored in specific locations to create and enhance habitats for biodiversity.

Serious consideration is also being given to the possible deployment of natural “beaver analogue” dams at carefully chosen locations along the stream to help create and enhance wetland habitats and to manage water flow.

Considerable care is needed in designing and planning of these measures to avoid unintended consequences but we are hopeful of being able to make further announcements on this and other initiatives before too long.

If you want to know more or to get involved, please email [wigwell.friends@gmail.com](mailto:wigwell.friends@gmail.com) to join the “friends” (no fee, no obligation!) or come and talk to us at Street Fair on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

*Peter Kenrick – Wigwell Friends*



## News from the Charlbury Patient Participation Group (CPPG)

### Staff Changes at the Practice

Helen Jones retired in May and the new practice lead nurse Kirsty McVey started work at Charlbury Medical Centre on 1 July. Nurse McVey works on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Asthma and diabetes clinics and NHS Health Checks will be re-introduced as time allows. A new receptionist Lyn Hearn is also in post. The practice is advertising for an additional receptionist to work on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Their appointment will bring the reception team to full complement.

### Making an appointment

Please continue to call the practice first thing in the morning to make an urgent, same day appointment. This might be because you are feeling very unwell, are in severe pain or have worrying symptoms about something potentially serious. You may also be worried about a baby or child. Please do not hesitate to call the practice. The medical team are here to help and care for us. If your need is not urgent, please call later in the day. It is still not possible to book an appointment on-line at CMC. The Centre asks us to wear a mask when visiting the surgery and continue to take precautions.

### Vaccination Programmes

We have no news about the booster vaccination programme except that it is expected in the autumn. Flu vaccinations will be offered locally as in previous years. It is very important that we have our flu jab this autumn. Please come for your vaccination when you are invited. Record numbers of patients were vaccinated last year. Let's repeat that success again in 2021. Please look for up to date information on [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info) and the medical centre website.

### Social Prescribing

*"Your doctor isn't the only person who can help you feel better."*

Social prescribing is designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs, and can

focus on improving mental health and physical well-being. Social prescribing can involve a variety of activities which are usually provided by voluntary and community organisations. Examples might include arts activities, healthy eating advice and a range of sports and exercise classes.

In the Rural West Primary Care Network of which Charlbury is a part, social prescribing is provided by Sue Richmond and Sian Whitlock who are the social prescribing link workers for our practice. They are employed by AgeUK Oxfordshire and support all adults aged 18 and over and work alongside GPs, nurses and other clinicians in our practice helping patients to find out what will help.

If you think social prescribing would help you, please ask about social prescribing when you see a member of staff at the surgery, or call AgeUK Oxfordshire on 01235 849 445, or email: [socialprescribingruralwest@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:socialprescribingruralwest@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)

### Sharing personal health records held by the GP practice.

NHS Digital has been planning changes as to how patient data is collected from General Practice, with a new framework for data extraction called the General Practice Data for Planning and Research (GPDPR) collection. This will entail the last 10 years of personal and medical data of every patient in every GP surgery being handed over to NHS Digital. Medical data is important for planning and research purposes, but many patients, doctors and organisations have expressed concerns about the security of the data once transferred and how it would be used.

Previously if our data was required for research purposes informed consent had to be sought and given, but under this scheme, in order not to have our data collected we had to fill in a 'Type 1' opt-out form and deliver it to our GP practice by 25<sup>th</sup> August, a month before roll-out of the scheme due to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## CPPG (continued)

However, so many patients and GP Practices chose to opt out of the scheme that the roll-out of the scheme, which had already been postponed, has once again been delayed for an indefinite period. Charlbury Medical Centre did not express a view on the proposed scheme.

Jo Churchill, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Public Health and Primary Care, wrote to GPs on 19<sup>th</sup> July and conceded that changes needed to take place before roll-out of the scheme takes place:

*"We are introducing three changes to the opt-out system which mean that patients will be able to change their opt-out status at any time:*

*1. Patients do not need to register a Type 1 opt-out by 1<sup>st</sup> September to ensure their GP data will not be uploaded;*

*2. NHS Digital will create the technical means to allow GP data that has previously been uploaded to the system via the GDPR collection to be deleted when someone registers a Type 1 opt-out;*

*3. The plan to retire Type 1 opt-outs will be deferred for at least 12 months while we get the new arrangements up and running, and will not be implemented without consultation with the RCGP, the BMA and the National Data Guardian."*

It is unclear exactly how the government will proceed on this and what means we will have for opting out of data sharing if we desire to do so, but the steering committee will be keeping a close eye on developments and will keep you informed.

To join the CPPG, to share your views and to obtain up-to-date information on the Charlbury Medical Centre, vaccination programmes and to download the CPPG Newsletter, please contact:  
[patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net](mailto:patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net)

*Sue Smith, Deborah Hofman*



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## Design for Sustainability – Ceremonies, Rituals and Celebrations

My name is Kath Lucas – long time resident in the area, music person, events person.

I am writing with a different hat on as I have been studying on a Design for Sustainability course for the last year.

This is many things that I won't go into as the title probably conjures up the general idea but happy to describe in more detail if you are interested. I am about to embark on the final section of the course which is a three-month design project and am looking for people who might be up for being interviewed on the subject of 'Ceremonies, Rituals and Celebrations'. How does this fit with sustainability?

It's a fair question. There is thinking afoot that we must approach climate change, biodiversity loss on many levels if we are interested to beneficially impact our planet at scale. Worldview/cultural change is one of these critical levels and as someone interested in our encounters with both land, human community, celebration I am keen to take a deep dive into how we can better connect to earth, self and each other (a Soil, Soul, Society approach) in how we design our ceremonies and celebrations.

So, if that strikes any chords with you I would be delighted to hear from you. I will be asking questions such as: Can you describe ceremonies that have/haven't worked well for you? What hasn't been celebrated in your life that you wished had/or would like in the future? What is meaningful to you in ceremonies? What would it take for you to be able to create the ceremonies you value?

Meeting one to one works well or small groups are interesting too as people spark off each other. Lovely if you fancy meeting.

*Kath Lucas 01993 868487  
kath@songspace.co.uk*

## Charlbury Beer Festival

We are sorry to announce that the 2021 Charlbury Beer Festival, which we had already postponed from June to September, will now not take place after all. In view of the continued uncertainty during the pandemic, the directors and committee did not feel confident about staging the event safely, and we were worried about spending money on an event which then might have to be cancelled. Instead we are looking into the possibility of running something a little less ambitious later in the year.

All money raised by the Beer Festival is given out to community projects, both in the Charlbury area and overseas. We have now taken our total of funds raised for good causes to well over £250,000. There have been donations to fifty local organisations, ranging from Charlbury Primary School and the town's Pre-School, to local sports clubs, Charlbury's Day Centre and Community Centre, and twelve overseas projects in Africa, India and South America.

From modest origins, Charlbury Beer Festival has grown to incorporate around 50 real ales, a variety of craft beers, a range of ciders and perries, wine, gin, and Pimm's; a great selection of food (including vegan options); tea, cake and soft drinks; live music throughout; the Culture Club tent with its varied programme of performances and talks; children's entertainment; and high-octane sport with the World Aunt Sally Singles Championships.

We must thank those generous sponsors who finance the beers and the entertainment tents, and of course, the beers themselves, plus the many hours that committee members and other volunteers put in. Cheers all round!

Charlbury Cricket Club provides a glorious setting, just across the road from Charlbury Station. There are excellent all-day (including late night) bus and train services to and from Charlbury to Oxford, Chipping Norton, Reading, Witney, Worcester and London, so you don't even need to drive if you want to have a drink.

# Goodbye Weeds



'Cheerio'



'See ya'

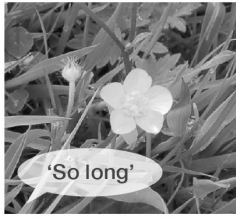
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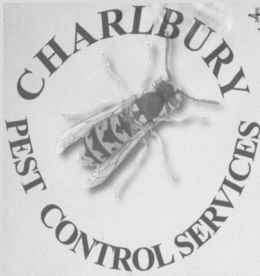
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# CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

**Artweeks** - Wendy Clifford (01608 810006)

**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)** Sec: Kati Eidenbenz (01608 810911)

*secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk*

**Charlbury Beer Festival** - Nick Millea  
*nick.millea@btinternet.com*

*www.charlburybeerfestival.org*

**Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle** - John Moore (01608 810700)

**Charlbury Bowls Club** - Shaun Morley  
*enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk* (01993 868134)

**Charlbury Bridge Club**— Secretary Monica Wilkinson (01608 810560)

**Charlbury Canoe Club** - Hugh Belshaw (01608 810130) *hughandjoan@uwclub.net*

**Charlbury Chronicle** - Susie Finch (01608 810861) *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 Probuss Club** Mike White (07710 296814) *mike.ewhite7@gmail.com*

**Charlbury Green Hub** - Christine Elliott (01608 811057) *www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk*

**Charlbury Garden Society**  
*secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk*

*www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk*  
**Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club**—Gill Grason (01608 810154) and Frances Canham (01608 811176)

**Charlbury Morris** - Peter Smith (01608 811007)  
*peter@charlburymorris.org*

*www.charlburymorris.org*  
**Charlbury Museum** - Curator—

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**Charlbury Music Class** - Peter Fry (01993 359189)

**Charlbury Open Gardens** - Catherine Goyder  
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**Charlbury Pre-School**—Laura Barwood  
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**Charlbury School Association** -  
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**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**—Roger Clarke, clerk (01608 810608) *charlburytc@btinternet.com*

**Charlbury Town Football** - Keith Claridge (01608 810201 or 07870 426707)

**Charlbury Town Youth Football Club** - James Ball (01608 810270) *jolliecat@btinternet.com*

**Charlbury Women's Institute** - President - Miriam Evans (01608 430807)

*charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk*  
**ChOC Cinema** - Jackie Hager (01608 810713)

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**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 811338)

**Walkers are Welcome** Paul Jackson 01608 811370 *pauljackson1@outlook.com*

**Wilderness Festival**—*www.wildernessfestival.com*

**Wychwayz Border Morris** - Teresa Duester (01608 810934)

**www.charlbury.info** - Richard Fairhurst



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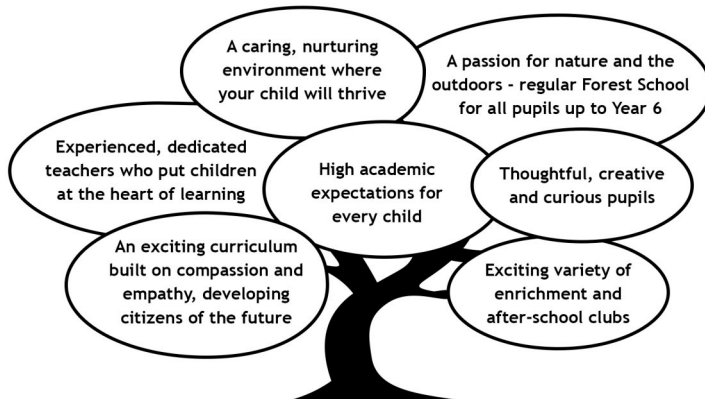
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