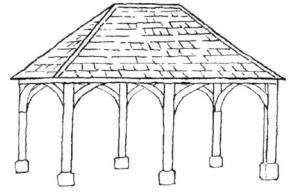


# Charlbury Chronicle



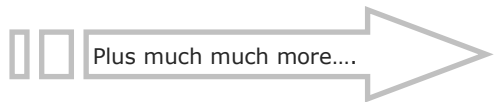
Volume 26 Number 3

Autumn 2022

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

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## From the Editor

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You would have thought that after the busy festival season with Cornbury, Riverside and Wilderness Charlbury would go back to being quiet. But oh no.

We start off with the Farmers Market on 10th September, together with the Children's Bike Ride and Ride and Stride (p. 3) and the Garden Society's Annual Flower and Produce Show is also on that day.

The following week we have the legendary Egg Throwing Competition on 16 September getting us in the mood for Street Fair the following day on 17 September with a fly past at the beginning of the fair of a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Flight. 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.

You can read about the changes afoot with the Corner House & Memorial Hall on how they are run and are now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation—see p.14.

Pre-School are now extending their opening hours, and will be open Monday to Friday 8.45am to 5pm. See p8.

The Sunday Tea Concerts held by CRAG are starting again with the first on October 16th. See p7.

And congratulations must go to Charlbury Primary School for winning the Eco School Green Flag Award with Distinction—see p.34.

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

*editor.chronicle@outlook.com*

I hope you all had a great summer and enjoyed the lovely weather.

*Susanna Finch*

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



# Charlbury STREET FAIR

**Charlbury Street Fair, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

**SUCCESS LAST YEAR—MORE TO FOLLOW!**

After our COVID-19 induced pause, Charlbury Street Fair in 2021 was a roaring success, a beautiful day with lots of happy faces! Our revised format brought more music and use of the Medical Centre car park (thanks to the Charlbury Medical Centre) and Sea Shanties, all of which attracted many positive comments. This year already we have had a great Quiz Night and, with Charlbury Garden Society, a stunning fundraiser with Open Gardens.

On the Fair, we are ramping up our final arrangements. This year again we have Sea Shanties from the Charlbury and Finstock Morris Men and more live music around the centre of town. The day will start with the Fancy Dress Competition and Parade, and please come and see the Children's Art Competition, Morris dancing, Classic Cars and take part in *Dancing in the Street* in the evening. Do please come and join in the fun!

Activities start with the Egg Throwing competition on Friday evening, in association with Riverside. We will have a Prize Draw and a 'silent auction', stalls in Church Street, the return of Scouts' Climbing Wall, Hatwell's Fun Fair, a Puppet Show with Noddy, Big Ears and the Goblins, and Go-karts.

There will be details on social media including Facebook – see *Charlbury is a Town & not a Village*, Twitter and [www.charlburystreetfair.org](http://www.charlburystreetfair.org).

All of the funds raised on the day of the Fair go to the upkeep of the Corner House and Memorial Hall.

### **Road Closures and Parking**

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.

Reminders will be sent to affected Charlbury residents in these locations nearer the date of Fair, and we respectfully request alternative parking to be sought to allow room for the Fair Stands in Church Street.

### **Help us 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.

### **Stop Press**

We have just had confirmation that, around the start time of the Fair, a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will perform for us in a fly past!

We all hope that you will all enjoy the 2022 Street Fair!

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

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





## On Yer Bike – or Scooter!

### 10 September - a good day out for all the family

#### **The annual Ride and Stride & Children's Bike Rally**

On Saturday 10 September the roads of Oxfordshire will see hundreds of cyclists and walkers taking part in OHCT's annual sponsored Ride and Stride. Whatever the weather they visit as many churches as they can to raise money to help maintain Oxfordshire's churches of all denominations.

It is not just a good way of raising money for a very good cause; it is also good exercise and good fun for all the family. You set your own target, and, just when you think your lungs cannot cope with any more, you reach another church offering refreshments, encouragement and an excuse to stop and have a look round.

You do not have to be a churchgoer to take part and enjoy a really good day out. You can sign up at [ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/](http://ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/) and start getting sponsorship online. There are also sign-up and sponsorship forms in each of Charlbury's churches.

But here in Charlbury we are also doing lots more! The Town Council is organising the sixth great kids' bike rally round the five churches of Charlbury. Individual children start at short intervals any time between 11.45 and 12.45. Some forty children took part last year and enjoyed it enormously raising money for the Charlbury School Association as well as for OHCT. This year will be an added attraction for older children. There will be a Ten Mile Challenge, an additional route round Ditchley Park.

Parents should sign their children in from 11.30am at St Mary's showing that they have created a fundraising page for their child (via [ohct.org.uk](http://ohct.org.uk)) or making a suggested minimum donation of £5 per child. More details on [ohct.org.uk](http://ohct.org.uk) and [charlbury.info](http://charlbury.info).

The rally finishes up on the school playing field on Wychwood Paddocks where the Windrush Bike Project is organising a Bike Gymkhana for the rally children to show off their biking skills.

The Windrush Bike Project and the Town Council's Journeys Group are also organising a BikeFest there with an opportunity for adults to try out some e-bikes. The Windrush Bike Project's bike doctor will also be on hand throughout the day offering free bike checks and minor repairs. (Slots for the bike checks and e-bike trials should be booked via <http://windrushbikeproject.uk/>)

Immediately after the Rally, weather and Covid permitting, the Charlbury School Association invites anyone (with or without children taking part in the Rally) to bring a picnic lunch and set up (suitably distanced) round the central area of the school playing field.

We need help to organise this Charlbury event and marshals to help with the traffic at the various crossroads on the children's route. The marshals will only be on duty from 11.30 to 1pm that morning. If you would like to help please contact Alison Eastwood 0787 089 3223 ([stabledalison@gmail.com](mailto:stabledalison@gmail.com)) or Basil Eastwood 0796 997 0003 ([basil.eastwood@gmail.com](mailto:basil.eastwood@gmail.com)) (who can also advise if you want to take part in the adult Ride and Stride).





## Charlbury Garden Society

There has been a great deal of activity in the society over the Spring and early Summer. The last three months has included a return of many events. Short reports from some of our new and energetic team are below which showcase just some of the society's recent activities.

### **Catherine Goyder—Events Coordinator**

The Open Gardens, held on June 19th was a hugely enjoyable Charlbury occasion. The Garden Society arranged a tour of 12 gardens, including the colourfully planted museum garden and the tranquil spaces of the Baptist Church garden and the Friends Meeting House garden. These three gardens, together with the Corner House garden are open to the public to enjoy at any time. 9 varied private gardens provided settings for local sculpture organised by the Art Society as part of their Festival.

The Street Fair provided teas in the Hall where the school choir sang and the Morris Dancers kept punters and Garden Society volunteers selling our beautifully designed programmes entertained. £2,581.74 was raised for the upkeep of the Corner House and the Memorial Hall which the Street Fair treasurer says is unprecedented!

Following Craig Blackwell's popular talk on Wild Flowers in the Cotswolds last March he led a walk for 12 members on July 2nd through the species rich limestone grasslands of Glyme Farm with the source of the river Glyme and along some green lanes to the conserved landscape of Over Norton Park. Despite starting in heavy rain we had a totally fascinating time, along footpaths that were new to most of us and learnt a huge amount about ecology and conservation.

Then on a hot early evening on July 7th,

20 of us toured the beautiful wild flower meadows and gardens of the Gray House in Chadlington with the gardener Rick and Emma Mills and Christine Elliot from the Kitchen Garden Project at Farm Ed. The Project began in the walled garden where artichokes are now grown with strawberries available from the greenhouse and asparagus in May and June.

We are planning another self-drive visit to the gardens at Rousham in early September so keep an eye on our website and the newsletter for dates. At the time of writing September 8<sup>th</sup> is the planned date.

### **Genevieve Hug—Membership Secretary and publicity team**

Our membership is strong as in previous years, with 255 members to date, made up of roughly equal numbers of single members and joint members. And 50 new members for 2022!

### **Zoe Burton Publicity Team (and holder of the Wilson—lade Allotment Cup)**

As we reach August, the hard work of sowing, planting and nurturing throughout spring and early summer is reaping its rewards. Trips to the allotment at the moment are rewarded with everything from beetroot to beans, salad to squash and, of course, a glut of courgettes! This year, the allotments are full of flowers with dahlias, cosmos and salvias in amongst the classic sunflowers and sweet peas.

With the recent extreme heat and lack of rainfall, growers have been watering systematically to limit stress to plants. This is a contrast to last year, when conditions were unusually wet and cool, and early tomato blight took hold of many crops. As always, we take pleasure in what we can grow and learn from what Mother Nature throws at us.

## Charlbury Garden Society (contd)

### Alison Derham Secretary

We were very relieved to be able to reinstate the Annual Plant Sale this May, after the pandemic forced us to put it on hold for two years. We were able to offer a wide variety of plants sourced from a local nursery, as well as plants grown by some of our members.

Money raised from events such as these help us to support local garden initiatives such as the Eco project at the Primary School and maintenance of the new border at the Corner House.

### Geoff Holmberg Show Secretary

The Spring Show reinstated after three years saw a hall full of daffodils, tulips and other Spring flowers. It was again held in conjunction with the Art Society's Spring Show.

It was a delightful afternoon and included a stunning flower arrangement which won the Best in Show.

In early September we are looking forward to the return of the main Annual Flower and Vegetable Show which includes cookery as well as Craft classes.

Membership of the Society is open to all.

*Geoff Holmberg*

## Charlbury Museum

Your Museum in Market Street will be open each weekend until the end of September, Saturday mornings 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, Sunday afternoons 2.30 - 4.30 pm, admission £1 for adults, free to children.

Apart from the general history of the town where you live, the special exhibition in 2022 centres on Jubilees.

Special visits can be arranged by prior appointment, with suitable notice.

As the Street Fair theme is on Broadcasting, the Museum will do its best to draw attention to some of its relevant exhibits, and the Museum will be open all day on Street Fair Day, 17th September.

Thanks to all our stewards for the work they do in welcoming visitors from all round the town and the globe!

## Fitness 4 Seniors

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**1\* class £4 with this voucher  
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07879 685579/ [louisebarnespt@gmail.com](mailto:louisebarnespt@gmail.com)  
\*New progressive class starts 13 October

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[gabrielekern31@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielekern31@gmail.com)



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



## All Together In Charlbury – a local helping hand

### Support with cost-of-living increases

Conscious that we are all currently experiencing significant price increases which are likely to continue for some time, ATIC, Cornerstone and the Town Council have been gathering together some useful information, which we hope will interest anyone wondering how to try to manage increasing pressures on their finances.

There are currently leaflets on the following:

- Sources of help and advice on a range of cost-of-living issues, including help if you are struggling to pay bills
- Sources of debt advice
- Eligibility for benefits check for people over pension age produced by AgeUK
- Government cost-of-living grants – what they are, who will be receiving them and when - If one or more of these grants applies to you, the money will usually be paid automatically and it does not need to be paid back.

We hope we will all be able to benefit from practical hints and tips and suggestions of sources of information and advice and other support.

There will be a dedicated noticeboard and a display stand of leaflets at the Cornerstone project, which is based in the Corner House in Market Street opposite the “Rose and Crown” in the centre of town and is open from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Monday to Saturday. Pop in and have a look when you are next in town.

There will also be information on the [charlbury.info](http://charlbury.info) website (go to the ATIC page in the Community section – Charity and World where you can get copies of the leaflets mentioned above) and also on the Town Council website: [www.charlbury-tc.gov.uk](http://www.charlbury-tc.gov.uk) – look at Community information – Cost-of-living support.

We hope that town residents who have useful ideas and suggestions will be able to share these by emailing information to us at [cornerstone@charlburychurch.uk](mailto:cornerstone@charlburychurch.uk) or [charlburyalltogether@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyalltogether@gmail.com), so that we can use these to help each other. If you have any questions, email them to these addresses.

### Other help available from ATIC

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

- Transport to appointments or activities/visits
  - Occasional household tasks/gardening
  - Shopping
  - Help with a form or letter or accessing information on the internet
  - Someone to pop in for a chat or to read to you
- you can call ATIC on **01993 776277**.

This will get you to the staff of Volunteer Link-Up who kindly act as our call centre and who will see if one of our local volunteers can meet your request. The phone line is now staffed from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday with a regularly-checked answerphone when staff are not available.

*Meryl Smith*

## A Major Milestone for CRAG

**Charlbury Refugee Action Group (CRAG)** is a group of local people who raise funds for the benefit of refugees. We also raise awareness about refugees and about the difficulties faced by asylum seekers and refugees in this country and abroad.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters in Charlbury and beyond, we have so far raised over £100,000 and been able to help refugees facing appalling conditions in France, Greece, Afghanistan and Lebanon as well as supporting Asylum Welcome in Oxford, and those fleeing from wars in Syria and Ukraine. We have also organised collections of clothes, tents, bedding and hygiene items, arranged talks about refugee issues, held fundraising social events and set up an information hub for hosts and volunteers to welcome our Ukrainian guests.

Vital funds have been raised through online and 'real life' concerts; pop-up cafés during Art Weeks; bring-and-buy, car boot, and garage sales; second-hand book sales, cookery demonstrations; quizzes and cabaret evenings; an Art Fair; a Ceilidh; Christmas appeals; sponsored New Year challenges; publishing and selling booklets of our recipes, and making and selling industrial quantities of cake and thousands of cups of tea!

Reaching this major milestone, we are enormously grateful to all the individuals and groups who have raised and donated funds and supported us in many different ways, including Charlbury Friends, Charlbury Cricket Club, the CSA, the Charlbury artists, Louise Littledale, Usborne Publishing, St Mary's Church, Charlbury Methodists, Charlbury Baptists, John Partington and the Corner House Bookshop, Cotswold Frames and all the world-class musicians who have volunteered their time and extraordinary

talents at our Sunday Tea Concerts.

Sadly, the need to help refugees both in the UK and the rest of Europe is ever greater, so this autumn we have another exciting programme of fundraising concerts planned for Sunday afternoons in the Memorial Hall. On **October 16<sup>th</sup>** we welcome classical oboist James Eastway and friends. Pianist Margaret Fingerhut returns with violinist Bradley Creswick on **November 6<sup>th</sup>**, and we round off the year with the wonderful Somerville College Choir returning on **December 4<sup>th</sup>** with an unmissable festive concert.

We are able to offer a season ticket for all the concerts again, and don't forget that tea and a slice of one of our amazing cakes is once again included in the ticket price!

### Could YOU help us?

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

[www.charlbury.info/community/crag](http://www.charlbury.info/community/crag) or you can email [charlburyrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyrefugee@gmail.com)

To book concert tickets, please email [nick.parker@cooptel.net](mailto:nick.parker@cooptel.net) or phone 01608 811558

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR INTEREST AND  
SUPPORT





## Charlbury Pre-School News

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

Our new joiners settled quickly into Pre-School life in September. During Circle Time we explored emotions based around the story of "The Colour Monster" (check out our related artwork, currently on display at the Community Centre!). For Christmas the children created beautiful decorations and cards for their friends and family, some of which were proudly displayed at St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. Spring saw us planting bulbs with Charlbury Garden Society. We have enjoyed sharing the delicious harvest from our fruit and vegetable patch at snack time.

The older children have loved their Forest School adventures with Little Wild Things, where they have taken part in a spectrum of activities from making leveret sock puppets and role playing super heroes to listening out for woodpeckers and observing the seasonal changes in their beautiful woodland. In May, Sophie Countess of Wessex joined our Pre-Schoolers in the local Library where she participated in Rhyme Time and talked with the children about the Solar System.

Pre-School celebrated the end of the summer term with a family picnic and festival-style fun and games in our playground. Local photographer, Edmund Blok, kindly donated his time to capture beautiful images of the children for their families to treasure. We also held a Graduation Ceremony for those venturing off to Primary school in September. They have all grown in confidence and independence since this time last year, when they were still the "little ones"! We are so proud of all our leavers, and wish them all the very best

in the next stage of their learning journey.

Following the re-opening of our setting to visitors we have been delighted to welcome back family members to the Parent Rota. This is a great way for parents to share in our day, to see how their children participate in activities, and to follow the friendships they build at Pre-School. We really appreciate the extra support and skills our parents and volunteers bring to the setting - on one occasion even accompanied by some Quail chicks!

We have been fundraising throughout the year to support the continuing development of our facilities and enhance the learning opportunities we offer. As a charity, we are incredibly grateful to our local community for their enthusiastic support in attending our events, including the Halloween Disco, Snowman film and crafts, Bandoeke (in collaboration with Charlbury Primary School), Art Weeks and outdoor cinema. Look out for our advertising posters, and for details of future fundraising fun on our website! On this note, we have beautiful greetings cards with artwork by Geoff Clifford, which can be purchased from Charlbury Deli, the Community Centre or direct from Jim Goad via email - [jnrgoad@mail.com](mailto:jnrgoad@mail.com).

On the next page please see details about the launch of our "Friends of Charlbury Pre-School" scheme, following interest from relatives and alumni. We welcome all kinds of support, so please do contact us if you would like to get involved.

As part of our continuous evolution, and to actively respond to the needs of our community, we are very excited to announce we will be increasing our operational hours to 8.45am - 5.00pm,



## Charlbury Pre-School continued

Monday to Friday. We believe the newly extended hours better suit the needs of local families and will provide children with additional social, and educational opportunities. Our extracurricular activities from 3.15pm - 5pm will include music, "Social Smarts", Spanish, dance, gardening, crafts and more.

In staffing news, our beloved Pre-School Manager, Chris Weston is taking a well-earned sabbatical, and will be returning to a new role in January. Claire Cooper will also be leaving at the end of term. Claire has been a highly valued member of the team for the past 7 years and will be greatly missed. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours. We are thrilled to announce that Dawn Baker has been appointed as our new Pre-School Manager. Dawn has a wealth of experience in Early Years education and will be a great asset to Pre-School. Passionate about child-led learning, she shares the values that we hold dear at Charlbury Pre-School, and is very much looking forward to leading the team from September.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed in so many ways to making Pre-School such a vibrant and nurturing environment where our children can thrive. Massive thanks, in no particular order, to Andy Pickard, Portable Pictures, St Teresa's RC Church, Lauren Bond, Josie Cope, Clarimore Boutique, "Tractor Santa", Geoff and Janet Burroughs, Daniela Jenkins and the Hoyle family. If we've missed anyone from this list, please accept our sincere apologies, and know that your support has been greatly appreciated!

The biggest thanks must go to our fantastic team of staff and volunteers, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year, keeping our children safe,

happy and ready for the world that awaits them.

Finally, thank you to Committee members Jim Goad (Co-Chair), Jill Petersen (Treasurer) and Brek Taylor (Fundraising Lead) who are all stepping down or into different roles at the end of term. As we say goodbye to them, we look forward to welcoming new Committee members, with Magda Adams joining as Treasurer and Hattie Mordaunt and Mizue Tams as Fundraising Leads.

One last shout out: if anyone has digital cameras and/ or out of date iPads/ tablets they are not using could they consider donating them to the Pre-School? Staff need to be able to document children's progress and we want children to show us more of how they see the world through a lens. Please email [admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk) and we can pop round to pick up. Many thanks.

For more information, please check out our website [www.charlburypreschool.org.uk](http://www.charlburypreschool.org.uk).

We are now taking applications for 2022/23. For enquiries or to arrange a visit, contact us on:

Tel: 01608 811200

Email: [admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk)

### CHRONICLE ADVERTS

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To place an advert please ring Graham Jowett on 01608 810666 or email: [gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com](mailto:gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com)



# Friends of Charlbury Pre-School

Charlbury Pre-School is a cherished and valuable asset for the children, families and community of Charlbury. Its steady growth from a parent-run playgroup into a quality early years education provider and community-based charity, run by outstanding staff and volunteers, is the result of many years of hard work.

We are delighted to be launching our **extended opening hours** in September 2022, to better serve the needs of local families and enable more children to benefit from this fantastic start to their education. We also have exciting plans for further improvements to our site, including enhanced outdoor learning facilities.

To support our plans, we are establishing a **'Friends of Charlbury Pre-School'** initiative, and reaching out to individuals and businesses who would like to offer financial and/or practical support to a much-loved local asset.

In addition to a small thank you gift from Pre-School, Friends would also be invited to enjoy a variety of Pre-School activities throughout the year, such as open days and fundraising events. We see this as a real opportunity to nurture the valuable connection that exists between the Pre-School and our wider community.

Your support will help us provide our next generation of Charlbury residents with the perfect environment to thrive. Please join us today!

**Thank you.**



"The ethos of child-led learning and encouragement of independence have had a dramatic effect on my daughter. Her self-esteem and focus have grown hugely and she seems more content in herself."

- A Pre-School parent



**Charlbury Pre-School**  
**Open 8:45am - 5pm**  
**Monday to Friday during**  
**term time**

**Now taking bookings for**  
**September 2022!**

☎ 01608 811200

🌐 <https://charlburypreschool.org.uk>

✉ Old Grammar School, Park St, Charlbury

📧 [admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk)





# Friends of Charlbury Pre-School Application form

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Donation** (please circle)

£20 £50 £100 Other £ \_\_\_\_\_

One-off donation or Annual donation

**Thank you for your support.**

**Please return to:**

**Friends of Charlbury Pre-School**

✉ committee.charlburypre  
school@gmail.com

✉ The Old Grammar School  
Park Street  
Charlbury  
OX7 3PS

**Bank details for transfer/  
standing orders**

Sort code: 09-01-55

Account: 34595707

Please make cheques payable  
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Registered Charity No. 273783

## Charity Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must **tick the boxes below**:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... and any donations I make in the future to Charlbury Pre-School. [ ]

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. [ ]

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.



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## COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER

- Looking to improve your outside space but stuck for ideas on how to make the most of it?
- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



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

CONTACT LORRAINE:  
[lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk](mailto:lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk)  
07516262560  
[www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk)

## Charlbury Society

After a very successful season ending in May, with a good proportion of our members logging onto Zoom to hear an excellent series of talks, we hope to bring you an equally interesting season, starting on the first Thursday evening in October, with a balance of topics relating to history and subjects of local relevance.

We are aware that there are some strong views either side on how the talks should be delivered, whether in person at the Memorial Hall, or by Zoom. We took note of this at our AGM and as a result we are working on a members' questionnaire at the time of writing, to establish whether we should return to the Hall for some of the talks, in order for members to socialise, as well as listen.

Based on speakers' preferences, it is likely that this season will be a mixture of

the two, with the early autumn and the spring talks being in person .

We are also currently organising a tea party on August Bank Holiday Monday, for members to meet one another and renew their membership. There will be a further opportunity to do this at the Charlbury Society table in the Museum garden during Street Fair in September.

Some of the speakers we have engaged recently will be talking on subjects such as the pollution of our rivers, the changes in Charlbury over the last few decades, past major weather events, Christ Church's Land, and Oxford University, stories from the Archives.

We hope you will join us and look forward to an excellent new season.

*Nikki Rycroft  
Chair, Charlbury Society*



### Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle

We're a friendly group and among us there are those who really know their wines, others who are keen to learn more and those who just like to enjoy a social occasion without being surrounded by any 'wine snobbery'. Our meetings and other social events are held monthly, with the Memorial Hall being our usual venue.

May's tasting was given by our Chair, Ant Horn, and the 'blind tasting' of light, fresh whites and medium bodied reds caught out quite a few members, whilst one or two were equal to the challenge.

June saw twenty of us enjoy our annual BBQ, hosted by two members in their garden. Although the weather was cool and there was some light rain, a substantial gazebo saved the day and the occasion was enjoyed by all. Thank you, Margaret and Graham for your hospitality.

On a glorious July day, eleven members walked on the Thames Path from Botley Road to Iffley, learning about many aspects of Oxford's non-academic life. Lunch was taken in the garden of a riverside pub, where the views of the river and passing boats were enjoyed while we waited for lunch. Any disappointment over lunch was eased by our visit to the wonderful Romanesque church of St Mary, Iffley.

A late change of venue for our garden party was forced upon us when the intended hosts 'tested positive'. Although without the manicured lawn everyone had expected to be seeing, the Memorial Hall Garden proved to be an excellent alternative and we were delighted when two guests, new to Charlbury, joined as members. Welcome Ginny and Phil.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September sees our AGM and all members are encouraged to attend. The evening will include a truly surprising tasting.

For further information please email [charlburywineandbeercircle@gmail.com](mailto:charlburywineandbeercircle@gmail.com)

## The Corner House and Memorial Hall – the baton changes hands

After what seems to have been a terribly long time, the hand-over of responsibility for looking after The Corner House and the Memorial Hall from the previous management committee to the newly established trustee board finally took place in mid-July. And, of course, as far as everyone who uses the buildings' facilities is concerned, the changeover actually means no change at all. The facilities are there, waiting to be used, with the new on-line booking system working well.

With peoples' focus often on the iconic Corner House, it can be easy to overlook the Memorial Hall and everything that it has to offer. In fact, over the past couple of years – taking advantage of the drop-off in bookings during and since the lockdowns – the management committee has spent over £20,000 on giving the Memorial Hall a make-over.

The last jobs to complete the project were being done at the end of July, when the decorators who had earlier given the inside a new coat of paint came back to finish off the outside walls and window-frames.

What we have now is a community hall that is as good as, if not better than, any other in the district. Both the main hall and the Green Room behind it are equipped with current-standard projection equipment for talks, meetings and presentations.

The Garden Room provides a comfortable venue for less formal occasions, and the fully equipped kitchen is used week-in, week-out by both the Day Centre and Meals-on-Wheels.

By the time you are reading this, the kitchen will also have had a professional make-over, to make sure that it is

completely up to scratch in terms of health and safety.

Over the past couple of months, the Memorial Hall has been used for activities such as pilates, martial arts and judo. The toddler and poetry groups, the WI and the town council are all regular users, while the hall was also an important venue for events during the Charlbury Festival. Bring or Take returned after being thwarted by lockdowns, and there have been several occasions where the hall has been used for children's parties and other large-scale private events.

All-in-all, the Memorial Hall can provide a comfortable venue for everyone, from small groups who need just the Green Room or the Garden Room, right up to large-scale events that take over the whole building – and the garden too. And it's important to remember that the garden around the hall and behind The Corner House is available to anyone who wants to make use of it: for meetings, for music, or just as a quiet spot in the centre of town.

The buildings and the garden are for you to use – so please do so.

*Roy Scott*

### **Reflexology** in Charlbury

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## Charlbury Bowls Club

Over half way through our summer season, and whilst the Pandemic continues to play havoc with our schedules and member availability, many new regulations change opinions on "How it used to be", and the way forward.

Fortunately the committee is strong enough to handle these minor blips in the English countryside, and whilst we have already cancelled three meetings due to Bowling commitments, we have all managed to communicate effectively and continue to meet our objectives, some learning methods from Covid and best practice going forward, very much helped with our newly adopted Club Manager System. It really is great that all members can book and cancel any game from the comfort of their own PC, Tablet or mobile phone, or view the calendar on TEAM UP and plan from the updated fixture list.

Our open days went well, and we welcome all of our new members with open arms. With well over 100 members now on board, we are sailing in new directions.

A big thank you to all the coaches for their continued assistance. For many of our Junior Academy members it has been the first time they have played outdoors, and on that point congratulations must be mentioned to the five members who have been selected for the Under 25 County squad.

The Men's League team on a Thursday evening is proving to be more like a lottery and our newly promoted team has had mixed results by taking valuable points from the favourites and losing them the next week but we are—with only two games left confident of being mid to upper top in the table and securing a place in Division Two next year.

The Ladies Team on a Wednesday, playing on its own for the first year in the league, has done fantastic. They have a very hard group and tough opposition, but again with the help of the Junior

academy players, and many playing at county level for the first time, the team have shown a strong commitment and will benefit from the experience. A big thank you to all the members that supported the Bowls England Disability Ladies pairs finals held at the Ox Brew Green, it was a great day and supported with our own range of Disability equipment.

Many of the club's internal competitions are progressing well and will continue to conclusion. The 6.30pm Tuesday Night open triples, sponsored by Charlbury Garage, is a good game to start with - only flat shoes required to play.

County competitions were well supported by our members this year; we still have a Ladies Fours in a semi Final and also one player in the Alison singles Quarter finals, both games delayed due to the weather.

Short mat—the new Winter season planning is well under way. We have entered three evening teams and two afternoon teams in the Oxfordshire Short Mat League (OSMBA). We have a number of players and teams in both County and National competitions at Senior and Junior level and we are still playing in a OSMBA Summer League. We have just taken delivery of two new top of the range mats and the Summer League and Friday roll up will play on them now.

Our next Bingo night is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm, but you don't have to wait to then to visit us. Come along on a Tuesday evening from 6.30pm; Juniors section for ages 7-15 every Saturday, and we will be holding the Summer School again on a Wednesday from 11 am during the holidays. Bring some Flat soled shoes if you want to play or just have a social chat. If attending at any other time it may be wise to check if travelling. Please look at our website.

[www.charlburybowls.co.uk](http://www.charlburybowls.co.uk) or email [enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk).

*Ron Smith, Secretary*

## Charlbury Fire Station Update

Most of you will be aware that your town has a fire station. But what do you know about it and the team of firefighters that work there?

Your fire station is crewed by "On Call Firefighters". This means that they all have primary employment and also commit to providing cover for Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, either when working in their primary job or when they are at home in the evenings and weekends.

It is a big commitment from the team, who all have busy family lives and a 'day job'. However, the rewards are great. In that they do get paid and the job satisfaction from helping others in difficult situations is second to none.

The station attends many different types of incidents. Fires, car crashes, floodings, dealing with chemical spills and assisting other agencies, such as South-Central Ambulance and Thames Valley Police.

To be ready for the incidents, the crew attend training courses throughout the year and every Wednesday evening, practice different skills at the fire station.

You may also see the crew around the area at various events. Where they are there to give out safety advice and let everyone have a look around the fire engine and see all the equipment they use.

The crew is currently made up of Caspar Morris, who is our Watch Manager.

We have two Crew Managers, Lee Harbord and Paul Mumford.

The rest of the crew is made up of Bob Cross, Dale Norris, Chris Edson, John Goldsmith, Jack Millard and our newest member, Harry Bradbury.

Recently firefighters that had served over five years, were presented with the Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal by our Chief Fire Officer, Rob MacDougal. To commemorate the Jubilee and thank them for their service to the community.

Charlbury Fire Station has a proud

history of serving the town and we are committed to keeping that going. To do this, we are continually recruiting new team players from all members of our community.

If you would like to find out more about the things the station does. Please have a look at our Facebook page, or if you, or someone you know is interested in becoming a firefighter.

**Please get in touch.** You can call into the station on a **Wednesday evening between 6.30pm and 9pm** Email me at **gary.crone@oxfordshire.gov.uk** or give me a call on **07775 827281**.

*Charlbury Station Manager Gary Crone*



*Fire Practice*



## Charlbury Community Centre News

### CHARLBURY Community Centre

#### **Celebrating our fifth birthday on 9<sup>th</sup> September**

In September this year Charlbury Community Centre will have been open for 5 years! We will be hosting a birthday party, to which everyone is invited. It will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September from 6-8pm at the Community Centre.

There will be music, a barbeque and the café and bar will be open. We hope you can come and help us celebrate and we hope you'll agree that we have achieved a lot in our first five years.

#### **Gym Extension**

Our aim of building a dedicated gym is making progress and we have recently taken the decision to appoint architects to draw up some plans so that we can get a realistic costing for the project and some detailed designs. This will enable us to apply for planning permission and work out how we can raise the necessary funds.

#### **Community Workshop**

You will no doubt read more about this elsewhere in this issue. The Community Workshop will be run as a separate Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the Thomas Gifford Trust has agreed to allow it to be put on our land at the end of the Community Centre and to help significantly with the funding of the structure. We feel it will be a great asset to the town.

As always, there is a lot going on at the Community Centre and we encourage you to look at the website to keep up-to-date with new opportunities for sport, fitness and social contact that the centre offers.

[www.charlburycommunitycentre.org](http://www.charlburycommunitycentre.org).

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

*Tanya Stevenson*

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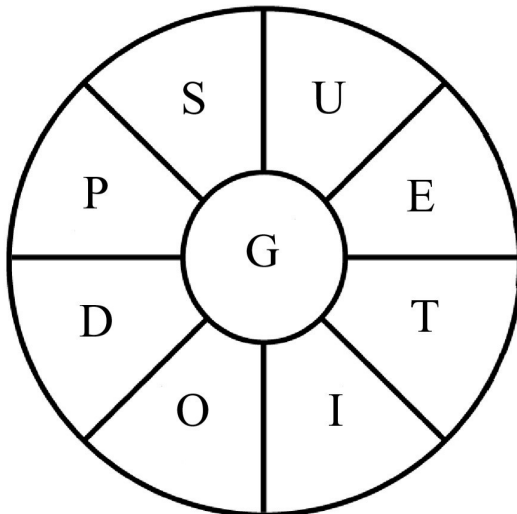
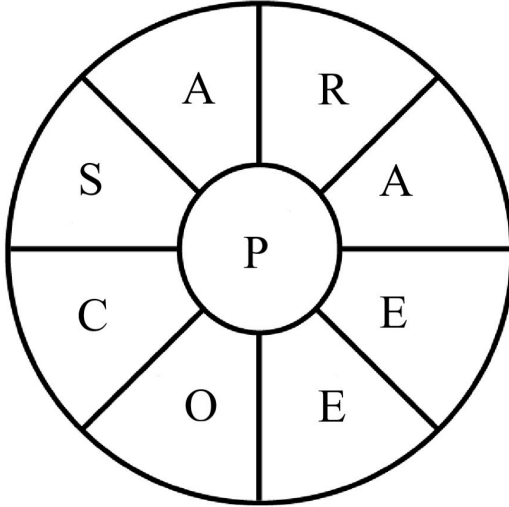




# Coffee break page

Compiled by Miles Walkden and Michele Marietta

Word Wheels! How many words can you find? All words must use the centre letter. There is ONE 9-letter word in each wheel.



Answers on page 42



## Charlbury and District Probus goes from strength to strength

Following the frustration of the last two years the Probus Club of Charlbury and District is now going from strength to strength. Our membership is expanding now with many new members both men and women and we have many events planned going forward this Autumn.

We now have eight women members but more would be welcome. We continue to hold our monthly lunch meetings at Witney Lakes resort on the first Wednesday of each month and these are followed by a presentation by an invited speaker.

Coming up we have talks on: "The New Charlbury Town Council First Year" by Liz Reason, Town Council Chair in September, "6 years on" by Tim Crisp Director Southill Solar Farm in October and "Farming after Brexit" by James Scott of Perdiswell Farm Woodstock in November.

In May we were given a presentation on Charlbury Community Centre by Chris Potts Chair of the Trustees of the Charlbury Community Centre. He explained the challenges faced by the committee in designing the building and raising the money to build it.

Before the lunch there is a chance to meet and chat informally with members guests and speakers over a relaxed drink. The lunches start at 12.30pm and generally last about two and a half hours. There is also a raffle after the meal with a chance to win a bottle of wine.

In addition to the lunches there are a number of other events organised by Probus.

These include theatre visits such as the Watermill Theatre near Newbury and the Mill at Sonning this autumn with more planned for next year. We are also organizing a series of walks related to the English Civil war led by the military historian Stephen Barker who will give the background relating to the sites visited.

There will also be a chance to visit the Christmas Market at Stratford and to Ditchley House later this year. Other events being considered are visits to FarmEd at Ascott under Wychwood, the Bletchley and National Computer Museum and the Battle of Britain HQ at Uxbridge. This exciting series of events is open to members and their guests.

As a variation from our usual lunch venue, in July we held a BBQ lunch at Charlbury Bowling Club. We enjoyed some very tasty food prepared by Marcia, Amarelo Cuisine, who will be opening a new bistro in Charlbury. After the lunch we all had an opportunity to try our hand at bowling. It was a very enjoyable experience which we will look to repeat in the future.

Probus is a great way to meet new friends and to talk to them in a pleasant and informal atmosphere.

We have a wide range of backgrounds and interests so you are sure to be able to have interesting conversations with people. In addition, there is a regular magazine which is full of articles and stories to read.

For more information or to join us then please contact Simon Handley Charlbury Probos Secretary, at [simon.handley8@icloud.com](mailto:simon.handley8@icloud.com). He will send you a copy of the latest magazine.

**STOP PRESS:** Probos have decided to help Street Fair and are running the Bottle Stall this year. So ..



Let's have your bottles please— deliver to the

Deli or we can collect if you text us on 07974 565618. Many thanks.

100% revenue to Street Fair for Corner House & Memorial Hall upkeep.

*Tony Merry*

## **Charlbury Branch**

**The Branch AGM** will be held in the Morris Room at Charlbury Corner House at 8.00pm on Thursday 20 October 2022. 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 War Memorial Hall on Saturday 5 November 2022 with raffle, cakes and poppies for sale. For further information please contact Kim Harrison on 07826 898496.

### **The Annual Band Concert**

will be held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday 11 November 2022 with " Jubilee Brass". There will be a raffle, light refreshments and a licensed bar.

Details may be obtained from the Branch Secretary or from posters in the usual places nearer the time.

Tickets, at £10 per person, 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 13 November 2022. The Charlbury Parade forms up at the Spendlove Car Park at 2.30pm and the Service is at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church. Everyone is welcome to join the parade and/or the service. The parade will be led by Pipers and Drummers of the Scots Guards Association [Berks, Bucks and Oxon Branch] under the direction of Pipe Major Steve Duffy [details correct at time of going to press] and commanded by the Charlbury Branch President, Major Nicholas Potter [late Scots Guards]

The salute will be taken by Colonel Mike Montague, Oxfordshire Colonel of the

Rifles. Colonel Montague is a Charlbury Resident and a former Bursar at the Ditchley Foundation. 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 9 November 2022.

### **The Poppy Appeal**

Poppies will be on sale in and around the Town from 29 October to 12 November and at Charlbury Station on the mornings of 1 and 8 November.

Kim Harrison is our Poppy Appeal Organiser 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 Kim on 07826 898496 or by email at [charlburypoppyappeal@gmail.com](mailto:charlburypoppyappeal@gmail.com).

### **The National Two Minutes Silence**

will be at 11.00am on Friday 11 November 2022. Please support this small yet significant event.

*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 Chairman on 01608 810347 or Jane Parsons, Branch Secretary, on 01993 357468.

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 0808 8028080.

## **A Life: Jennifer Bartlett (1935-2020): Museum enthusiast, Peace Group member, artist, and friend of many**

*Many people remember Jennifer with great fondness- she was an artist, opening her studios for all to see her work, a stalwart of Charlbury Museum, a help with various Charlbury organisations, and a good friend to many. Here we share a few of our memories of her life.*

Jennifer was Charlbury born and bred, one of the four children of Helen and Sidney Price. Helen taught domestic science at Charlbury School, and Sidney ran Brice and Price, the garage at the top of Dyers Hill. Jennifer always showed artistic talent, and after school in Charlbury and Chipping Norton, went to the Whitelands Teacher Training College to study to be a secondary school teacher, with art as her main subject. She married Fred Bartlett at St Mary's in 1957, and they lived and raised their family, in a number of places -London, Doncaster, Nottingham and eventually Leicester -where Jennifer taught.

### *The Museum and shoes*

Jennifer came back to live in Charlbury in 1981 when she inherited her Aunt Alma's shoe shop in Sheep Street. She kept the shop open for several years, but in the end gave it up.

This is the start of her long involvement with Charlbury Museum, giving it her grandfather Henry Price's shoe-making tools, notebooks, and boots. Jennifer herself wrote in an article "I remember being shown Aunt Lizzie's shoes when I was quite small, by Uncle Chris and Auntie Alma in their shoe shop in Sheep Street.

My Grandfather, Henry Price made the tiny leather shoes, embellished with a velvet rosette and pearl button, for his first child Elizabeth Jane in 1880-81. Recently married, Henry and Edith moved to Myrtle Cottage, Church Street in 1879; his shoe-making workshop was at the front of the cottage, the back

room was my Grandmother's sitting room. Myrtle Cottage was home to their nine children, my father Sidney was their youngest child."

She donated a large number of items to the Museum from her uncle's shoe shop, from her parents' garage, from Gothic House including Bessie Marchant's typewriter, and domestic items, books and toys from her own home.

She was always helpful in lending items to the different exhibitions in the museum. Sue R remembers-"a favourite of mine is the pair of rubber miniature boots for lambs' feet manufactured by Dunlop to protect against foot rot - a fairly rare item. Jennifer told me that Aunt Alma used to keep them on her counter to amuse the younger visitors to the shop". Working with Jennifer "rekindled my love of historical research and started a passion for Charlbury's past"



*Celia and Jennifer at the Museum's 70th birthday*

Janet remembers "Jennifer introduced the system of stewards welcoming visitors to the museum. No task was too small or too large for her, from cleaning items in the Mini-Museum, to advising on the restoration of the wagon. She worked closely with Ann Gilbert, another

artist and museum enthusiast, and with the curator Ron Prew, all three worked hard for the Museum. And we all remember Jennifer's delicious scones which were always a best seller at the Museum's coffee mornings!

Her legacy lives on in the Charlbury museum and we are fortunate to have historic Charlbury items which she has donated. We miss her".

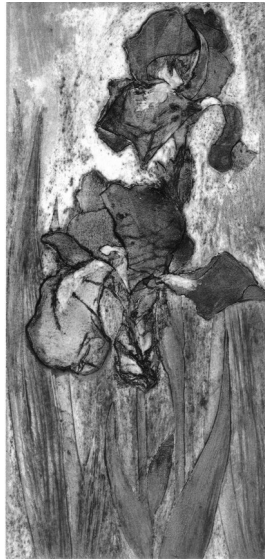
### *The Peace Group*

Charlbury Peace Group was already going by the early 1980s, and Jennifer was an active member from its earliest days. Sue S remembers 'taking a specially chartered train to an anti-Trident demonstration with Jenny and her youngest son Simon along with other Peace Group members in 1984. We left Oxford station at the crack of dawn for Barrow-in-Furness'. Liz remembers that "one year we organised a Peace Fair in the Corner House. It was very ambitious, with refreshments, lunch, a Civil Defence type of 'shelter' that we rigged up for younger people to clamber into, a small exhibition, and at the end of the day, the symbolic releasing of balloons" The group regularly ran a stall at Street Fair, organised petitions, and in late 2003, set up daily vigils in the centre of the town in opposition to the war in Iraq.

Once a year, Liz and Anna remember, "we made the 'Hiroshima flowers', every August. We met, usually in Jennifer's workshop, to arrange five vases of flowers, mainly green and white, using as much as possible from our own gardens. Jennifer designed and made the little wooden doves for each vase, with 'Remember Hiroshima' printed on". The flowers were put outside the five Charlbury churches, on the Saturday before Hiroshima Day, which is 6<sup>th</sup> August. Gradually this activity faded away and the pandemic has ended it now.

Jennifer supported the cause of peace all her life: her gentle manner and her strong ethics helped to define who she was.

### *A talented artist*



Jennifer was a print maker, and converted an outhouse in her garden into her studio. She made her collagraphs on a converted mangle before, much later, obtaining a more modern press. Di remembers: "we both set up our studios in 1993 or 94. Oxfordshire Art Weeks was very Oxford based then, and there were no artists showing in Charlbury in

1995.

So we went round the Oxford studios, and in 1996 we decided to open our studios here for Art Weeks. By 2000, there were 7 of us exhibiting. It was initially very studio based, but nowadays, people exhibit in churches, village halls and so on, which is good". Charlbury is now well known for the amount of work shown during the Art Weeks. Jennifer belonged to the Printmakers Co-operative in Oxford, and had exhibitions locally and further afield. She was inspired by standing stones, Africa (from her visits there to see one of her sons and family), plants and the natural world around her.

### *Friendship*

We all have many memories of her friendship and kindness. Here are just a very few. Vi remembers Jennifer as her first friend in Charlbury "she persuaded me to help dust the objects in the museum, and I stewarded many times since then.

She was so easy to talk to, and would share her wide knowledge of wild flowers as we went on our walks. Thanks to her, I got to know more people in Charlbury".

Barbara has fond memories of outings with Jennifer and Ann Gilbert: "walking gingerly along the clapper bridge between the two Eastleachs, visiting Waterperry gardens and its museum, and more. A special treat was a visit we made, with my daughter Kate, to the New Look exhibition at the V&A in 2007. I still remember all four of us watching a video of a model being tightly laced into a 'waspie.' We shuddered, remembering such things. Kate was horrified".

Sue R remembers that having tea with Jennifer "was always a treat. She would bring out her Chastleton china tea set, inherited from her Auntie Alma; it had belonged to her Great Aunt Lizzie who had worked at Chastleton House.

I was always inspired by her stories of growing up in Charlbury, her early childhood memories of Bessie Marchant, who lived at Gothic House and so on." And Di described her as "a deep friend. We collaborated together for many years"

*And more*

Jennifer was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels for many years. She became President of the Charlbury Society in 1997, and was very protective of the Charlbury of her youth. She had a deep knowledge of the town and its people, and a wealth of anecdotes from her childhood.

She kept in touch with her old college friends and ex pupils from Leicester, and was very keen to encourage young people. She continued her own education, undertaking a lot of different courses at Continuing Education in Oxford. She was able to absorb information and use it to be such an interesting and informative person.

"And she made the best meringues in Charlbury"

*With many thanks to the Bartlett family, and to Dawn Colvin, Anna Coryndon, Christine Battersby, Leah Fowler, Di Gold, Janet Jeffs, Liz Pitts, Sue Rangeley, Sue Stewart, and Vi Welbourn for sharing their memories.*

*Barbara Allison July 2022.*

## **A community workshop: come along and get involved!**

A couple of months ago, a working group was formed to take forward the idea of having a community workshop for Charlbury.

Although in it's early days yet, the current concept is to have it in two specially adapted shipping containers situated at the end of the Community Centre (nearest to the surgery).

It is widely recognised that having facilities where people can meet and do things together can have real benefits in improving social inclusion and having a positive effect on mental health.

At the moment, the working group is looking at the types of activities that could be given a home in the workshop – with all sorts of things ranging from woodworking to sewing having already been suggested.

The workshop could also provide a place where repairs can be undertaken, and training given in practical skills. In fact, the plan is to create a space that can be used by as many different people from Charlbury and its nearby communities as possible.

While the workshop will probably be run through a new charity, the real need right now is for people who can offer practical help in getting the building set up and fitted out with things like work tables and storage space.

So, if you are interested in being involved in any way, please contact

[info@charlburycommunitycentre.co.uk](mailto:info@charlburycommunitycentre.co.uk) or call 01608 811878.

This will be a proper hands-on project!

*Simon Walker and Chris Potts*



## The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens: hands-on and professional

Each time you go for a walk on our local footpaths, the chances are that you will see the little round discs with arrows on, showing where the path goes or where there is a change of direction. Who puts them up? Or when you go through a kissing gate, or across a footbridge over a brook – who installed them and makes sure that they stay safe to use? And what about those patches of nettles and brambles that seem to grow just where the footpath runs? Someone cuts them back to keep the footpath clear; but who?

The answer is, of course, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. Set up as long ago as 1968, the Wardens today have around 400 members who regularly go out in groups all across the Cotswolds to look after the countryside so that people can enjoy it to the full.

Run under the umbrella of the Cotswold Conservation Board – which has its headquarters (and a pretty good teashop) in Northleach – the Wardens are here to do what needs to be done.

And what many people don't realise is that there is more to being a Warden than just wielding a brushcutter or being able to fix a piece of fencing.

For a start, all of the Wardens (and right now there are around 25 active Wardens who cover this area of the Cotswolds) have to have regular First Aid training, as

well as training to be able to use specific types of machinery – such as those brushcutters – safely and in line with current regulations.

Each job is carefully planned in advance, with proper risk assessments to make sure that the people available that day are up to the tasks involved, whether it's clearing nettles or building a bridge. And the teams who go out on site, with a work party leader in charge, are fully insured as well, for their own security as well as that of the general public.

So, what have we been doing around here over the past couple of months?

Keeping footpaths clear is the easy answer, but there's been more to it than that.

We have given the old sheep washes – an often-missed part of our landscape – at Ascott and Milton their annual 'haircut', and we got the Foxburrow Wood site trimmed and ready for this year's Wychwood Forest Fair at the end of July.

Maybe we saw you there!

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

*Simon Walker and Rosemary Wilson*

### **CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET**

on the Playing Close between  
9am and 1pm on  
**Saturday, September 10th**

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



**All Together In Charlbury –  
a local helping hand**

#### **If you need:**

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

**Local ATIC volunteers are here to help  
Call 01993 776277**

# Charlbury Church Services



## Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

**Sundays 10.30am.**

Communion on the first Sunday of each month

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

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

**HARVEST Thanksgiving:** September 25<sup>th</sup>. Gifts for Cornerstone

[charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/dyershill/](http://www.facebook.com/dyershill/)



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

St Mary's Church, Charlbury and All Saints Shorthampton

Full details of all church services are available in the Leaflet or in the Church porch

Parish Office (01608 810230)

[www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk](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)

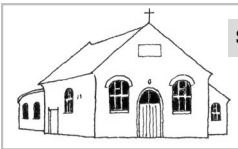
You are very welcome to join us



## 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 Parish Mass. 9.15am

Weekday Masses;

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9.30am

Friday Mass is followed by Adoration/Benediction

except in Lent when it is Stations of the Cross

Wednesday Holy Hour: 6-7pm

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



## Churches Together in Charlbury

The churches in Charlbury are facing a period of change. The Revd. Sally Welch has left St Mary's and All Saints, Shorthampton, to take up a new post as a Canon at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford. At the same time the Revd. Rose Westwood has moved from being Superintendent of the Witney Methodist Circuit, where she was also the Minister of Charlbury Methodist Church, to a new ministry in Cambridge. And Churches Together in Charlbury is losing Louise Littledale from St Teresa's who has been in the chair for the past three years, all through the pandemic. Louise is moving to be near her family in Bristol and we will miss her very much.

We also have to adapt to changes in the way church buildings are used. The parish church now regularly provides space for art exhibitions and concerts. There are plans for new kitchen and toilet facilities making hosting such events easier and more accessible for people with disabilities.

Churches were pioneers in offering basic education – mainly reading and writing – before the provision of state schools. Church buildings are now used for all kinds of learning opportunities. The Methodist Church school room for example hosts classes in painting and tai

chi alongside other activities. All the churches welcome visitors and their gardens are open for everyone to enjoy.

At the beginning of August St Mary's was transformed into a farm for this year's Holiday Club, on the theme 'The Good Shepherd', run by Churches Together. Around 50 children attended. Our next event is our usual stall at the Street Fair on September 17th when we will be selling Home Made and Home Grown produce. Please get baking, growing and making, in readiness for this. Contact your church representative or our organisers, Liz and Bob Tait tel. 01608 810150, for more information or to offer help. We always look forward to running the stall and making a contribution towards the upkeep of the Corner House and Memorial Hall.

On 23rd October we will be holding a united service for One World Week in St Mary's and our AGM, when the Revd. Elizabeth Koepping will take over the chair from Louise Littledale. At this point we start planning for the year ahead and wondering what changes the next year will bring.

*Rosalind Scott  
Secretary to Churches Together in  
Charlbury*

### St Marys Services

Join us at any of our regular weekly services

Every Sunday—8am Holy Communion – St Mary's Church

Every Sunday—9.45am Parish Communion – St Mary's Church

### All Saints

October 9<sup>th</sup>—6pm Harvest service at Shorthampton

November 1<sup>st</sup>—9am All Saints Day Holy Communion

November 13<sup>th</sup>—11.15am Morning Service at Shorthampton

### St Mary's Messy Church

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 3pm—Messy Church for Harvest

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 3pm—Messy Nativity

Places need to be booked in advance for Messy Church—email

[parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk](mailto:parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk)

### Ignite Contemporary Worship Service in St Mary's Church

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 6pm

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 6pm

Join us at 5.45pm for refreshments

### Choral Evensong

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 6pm St Mary's Church



## Charlbury Town Council News

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

### Grass cutting

Grass cutting has been a hot topic recently. The responsibilities are complex, with different areas cut by the County Council, West Oxon District Council, Housing Associations, the Town Council and private residents.

The Town Council is switching towards more nature-friendly mowing patterns to encourage wildflowers and insects, but this doesn't mean not mowing at all. You can read our agreed mowing policy here: <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/land-and-nature-team/>.

The County Council has stopped mowing some of the grassed areas which it owns and which it used to mow – for example at Five Ways – and the Town Council is working to resolve this situation. At Ticknell Piece Road, where West Oxon District Council has had responsibility for mowing, an agreed cut in March/April did not take place, so the grass grew longer. This has led to discussion with residents on how grass areas there could be managed, reflecting all views.

There are other areas such as the Green, where ownership of grassed areas, and responsibility for their mowing, is unclear. Nevertheless, following complaints about mowing there, we are going to meet residents to investigate what mowing can be arranged.

### Street Fair 17th 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 an upcoming consultation into traffic improvements for the town.

*Town Cllr James Styring welcoming the Countess of Wessex during her visit to the*



*town on 17th May, on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Charlbury. The royal visit was organised by the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Marjorie Glasgow, to mark the contributions made to the local community by volunteers during the pandemic.*

**E-bike** The Town Council has been promoting e-bikes as an alternative to cars for local journeys. Evidence suggests that people buying electric bikes tend to use them more and more over time, as they discover how useful and enjoyable they are to ride, and the Town Council's e-bike is designed to act as a taster for people thinking of going electric and we now have an e-bike you can borrow if you live or work in Charlbury. If you fancy borrowing the e-bike for up to two weeks (free of charge) then please fill in the contact form at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/borrow-the-council-e-bike/>. Bookings are now being taken for September and into the autumn.

### Grants for the Financial Year 2023–24

Each year the Town Council makes grants to local organisations for the benefit of the community. If your organisation may need a grant for the financial year 2023–24, you can complete an application form at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/apply-for->

## Charlbury Town Council News

*a-grant/* or ask the Town Clerk for a hard copy. Applications, along with supporting documents, must be received by midday on 31st October 2022. Late applications cannot be considered. The Clerk can advise on what can, and cannot, be grant-aided under the Local Government Act.

### **The Bell**

We know people are concerned about the Bell, which has now been empty for some eighteen months. Its owners, Greene King, say they are in the process of finding new tenants and we believe that some refurbishment work is planned. To protect the pub's future, the Town Council has had The Bell listed as an 'Asset of Community Value' (ACV), meaning that if it were put on the market, the local community would be able to put together a bid to buy the premises to keep it in use as a pub. An ACV would also give some protection in planning terms.

### **Teaching Ukrainians in Charlbury**

Town Councillors Claire Wilding and James Styring are running a programme to teach English to local Ukrainian refugees. We currently run seven classes in Charlbury and three over in Icomb, near Stow-on-the-Wold. We teach around 20 students with a team of 14 volunteer teachers. One of the biggest needs of Ukrainians when they arrive in the UK is to improve their English. Our students' English has improved quickly since we started this programme in May. We are very grateful to Charlbury Baptist Church for allowing us free and very frequent access to their church hall at the top of Dyers Hill and also to Charlbury Refugee Action Group (CRAG) for helping us get started and providing us with hundreds of pounds worth of teaching materials.

### **Traffic Survey**

Almost a year ago a team of 30 volunteers collected traffic data at different times of the day, over two sessions a couple of weeks apart (in term time and during the summer holidays) to gauge the volumes and directions of traffic that is passing through Charlbury every day. Richard Fairhurst has processed the many thousands of data

points that we collected and has produced a report which you can read at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/journeys-team/>. The data showed that the majority of vehicles driving were travelling from Witney to Enstone and back again in the afternoon, but the flow is heavy all day. Traffic flow to and from Spelsbury (in other words, Chipping Norton to Witney) is the second largest flow and there's also significant flow towards Woodstock in the mornings and back again in the afternoons, which is traffic mainly originating in Charlbury.

As would be expected, town centre traffic levels are lower than on the Slade. Consistently through the day, 10% of turns at Five Ways are into the town centre via Park Street or Hixet Wood; and 15%–20% of turns at the Enstone Road crossroads are into the town centre via Enstone Road. The one-way system serves to funnel traffic through Market Street and about 80% of Market Street traffic then leaves Charlbury via Dyers Hill: however, much to our surprise, the great majority does not turn into the station.

At the bottom of Nine Acres Lane, meanwhile, the major movement is from Thames Street onto Nine Acres Lane. This is mostly traffic originating from Dyers Hill. This suggests a significant flow from the Burford area to the Enstone and Woodstock roads. The data is being used to inform Charlbury's 'Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan' which is currently under development. You can read the full report at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/journeys-team/>.

### **Graffiti**

The Town Council has purchased a graffiti removal kit so that we can tackle the graffiti that has sprung up around town.

### **Accessibility**

We have worked with the Thomas Gifford Trust to create an accessible entrance to the Playing Close to help residents with wheelchairs, walking frames and pushchairs. We are working on other improvements to make our green spaces more accessible.

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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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When I was first elected as County Councillor for Charlbury and the Wychwoods, there were several things that I wanted to do for the town.

I wanted to sort out the parking problems on Nine Acres Lane. Many people contacted me about the fact that the double yellow lines did not go far enough up from the corner, which meant traffic frequently backing up behind parked cars.

I also wanted to make it easier for buses to get along Brown's Lane by slightly increasing the length of the double yellow lines there, and for parking near the pre-school to be restricted to make it safer.

So it was with great delight that I chaired a meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>, where I stood in for the Cabinet member for Highways, as I was able to approve a raft of measures which I had worked on with the Town Council, and which will go a long way towards improving traffic and parking in our town, including the measures that I have described. I don't know exactly when the new lines will be installed but it will be fairly soon.

A week later, OCC started work on the Enstone Road crossroads, a scheme designed to improve visibility and safety for everyone. Again, this is something that I have worked on in partnership with the Town Council to achieve and I look forward very much to seeing that completed.

In order to slow traffic coming into the town from Banbury Hill, on July 21<sup>st</sup> I also approved a build-out which will force cars to stop and wait, so that too will help to make that end of the town safer.

Another transport-related improvement that I dearly want to see happen is an increase in the frequency of trains from Charlbury to Oxford and London, and I've been working on that too.

Plans for the North Cotswold Line are currently being considered by the Department for Transport, but as there is something of a hiatus in government at the moment we are unlikely to see much come out any time soon.

The current plan is for four trains per hour from Hanborough and only one from Charlbury but I have been told that they have now worked out a way to allow for two trains an hour from Charlbury.

This development is really important as I would not want to see people driving to Parkway or to Hanborough because the train service there is so much more frequent, as that could have a negative effect on both the environment and the future of our station.

I will continue to press for this and for other improvements. Now that West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council are both led by the two councillors for Charlbury, we have no excuse for not being able to achieve the very best for our town!

*Councillor Liz Leffman*

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

Office: 01608 810879

Office hours: Mon 9.30am - 11.30am; Wed & Sat: 9am to 12 noon

Emergency Contact:

Roy Scott (01608 810562)

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## From Robert Courts, MP

[robert@robertcourts.co.uk](mailto:robert@robertcourts.co.uk)

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I was pleased to host a 'Welcome to West Oxfordshire' event for Ukrainian refugees and their sponsors recently.

The aim of the event was to bring together, in one place, as many of the people as possible who can offer support and help and, above all, to say a big West Oxfordshire "welcome" to our new friends and neighbours who have been through so much.

The event brought together local organisations and charities including Citizens' Advice West Oxfordshire, Asylum Welcome, Volunteer Link-up and the Job Centre who were able to provide direct information about the support they are able to offer to newly-arrived Ukrainians and their hosts.

It was great to have a large turnout at the event and such a positive response from attendees who found the event of value.

I was also pleased to be able to meet our Ukrainian families in person, many of whom my office and I have assisted with obtaining visas and accessing other local support over recent months.

It is important that all those who have been forced to flee the war in their homeland are made to feel welcome in their new community here in West Oxfordshire, and I hope that this event has gone a small way towards achieving this.

We are all immensely grateful for the extraordinary generosity shown by those in our community who have come forward to host a refugee family. I welcomed the opportunity to thank our local hosts in person for their kindness and compassion.

It was pleasing to hear about how smoothly Ukrainians have settled in West Oxfordshire, with many already finding employment and getting involved in their new community. The event was also a useful forum for newly-arrived Ukrainians to connect with one another, building

bonds and support networks.

I want to also say a huge thank you to all the local businesses whose generosity enabled us to hold a fantastic free raffle to give some families a little extra gift as a welcome, including Blenheim Palace, Crocodiles of the World, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Delice and the Shake Shop.

To coincide with the event, I have prepared an information booklet, both in English and Ukrainian, which contains the key contact details and information on how to access the wide range of local support available.

The booklet is available to download on my website here:

[www.robertcourts.co.uk/ukraine](http://www.robertcourts.co.uk/ukraine)

or, if you would like a hard copy, please contact me at [robert@robertcourts.co.uk](mailto:robert@robertcourts.co.uk) and I will arrange for one to be posted to you.

My office and I are continuing to work hard to ensure all newly-arrived Ukrainians are settling in well in West Oxfordshire and are receiving the relevant support.

If you are hosting a family and need assistance, or are thinking of registering as a host, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do everything I can to help.

*Robert Courts*



# New sound bath studio in Charlbury – what are sound baths and what benefits do they bring?



A sound bath in my purpose-built studio involves lying down on a comfortable bed while gongs and other instruments 'bathe' the mind and body with therapeutic waves of sound, helping you to relax, de-stress and rejuvenate.

These complex layers of harmonics can be a powerful healing tool. The resonant frequencies and vibrations can help slow the mind down and bring us back into balance, leading to increased focus.

With a love of music and an interest in holistic treatments and therapies, I discovered gongs were the perfect way of marrying these two passions together.

As a result, I trained to be a practitioner through The College of Sound Healing.

My garden studio, here in Charlbury, can accommodate individual or two person sound baths.

I provide group sound baths, locally and further afield, for events, private parties, festivals and retreats.

I also offer workplace sessions – an innovative team building experience as well as helping employees de-stress and re-energise.

For further information please visit [www.mindbodyandsound.co.uk](http://www.mindbodyandsound.co.uk). If you are interested in a private session or in setting up a group sound bath for your party, event or workplace you can call me on 07841 988901 or email

[joannakeatley@hotmail.com](mailto:joannakeatley@hotmail.com)



Enjoy your own personal sound bath experience in a tranquil garden studio.

Individual sound bath £40

A sound bath for two £60

07841 988901 [joannakeatley@hotmail.com](mailto:joannakeatley@hotmail.com)

JO KEATLEY  
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BATHS

[www.mindbodyandsound.co.uk](http://www.mindbodyandsound.co.uk)

CHARLBURY

# JUBILEE BARN DANCES



CHARLBURY  
CORNER HOUSE  
EST. 1728



BLENHEIM PALACE

## THANK YOU

OVER £5000 RAISED FOR CHARLBURY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE  
CORNER HOUSE RENOVATION FUND

A special thank you to Blenheim Palace for providing the loos,  
generator and tickets. Thank you to the raffle prize givers:

Batsford Arboretum  
Blenheim Family Tickets  
Bull Charlbury Dinner  
Charlbury Deli/Oxford Wine Hamper  
Charlbury Bowls Club Membership  
Chipping Norton Film Theatre  
Community Centre Personal Trainer  
Cotswolds Camping Barn Weekend  
Cotswolds Wildlife Park  
Cream Teas, Charlbury Garden Centre

Daylesford Gift Hamper  
Ditchley Private Tour  
Fairy Tale Farm  
Karate Club Membership  
Lamb at Crawley Dinner  
Pegasus Theatre  
Swan at Ascott Dinner  
The Shed Voucher  
Tite Inn Dinner  
Wild Thyme Takeaway

**And thanks to the many volunteers!**



## Charlbury Primary school earn their Eco School Green Flag award with Distinction

Charlbury Primary School has been awarded the international accreditation of an Eco School Green Flag with Distinction for their work this year in making the school more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness in pupils. Eco-Schools is an international education programme that prompts young people to explore sustainability and climate change and take action.

Last September, the school's eco committee, the Eco Warriors, conducted an environmental review, assessing how eco-friendly the school is. They reviewed everything from the school's recycling practices, to energy usage, to how environmental themes are covered in classrooms. Based on their findings, they chose to concentrate work this year on the three areas of increasing biodiversity, improving management of waste and finding out about how plastics pollute the oceans. A year of activities was planned around these areas that would involve all classes in the school in learning about these sustainability themes and taking action around the school grounds to make improvements.

Activities included planting a vegetable and herb garden and learning how to identify and care for different plants; making seed balls to plant two wildflower meadows to provide for pollinators; building a hedgehog home, monitoring hedgehogs around Charlbury and writing to the town council about ways we can do more to protect hedgehogs. All the children in the school also had the chance to plant a tree in Wychwood Paddocks and an annual biodiversity survey has begun which will monitor biodiversity as it increases due to the tree planting and the new wildflower meadow. Classes learned about the R's of waste management (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair, Refuse) and have started to find ways to improve how waste is managed and considered. The school learned about plastic pollution during World Oceans Day where activities included creating a whole-school art mural

of sea creatures and raising money for the World Wildlife Fund's marine conservation work by adopting a turtle.

We are very grateful to all the support we have received this year from the Charlbury community including those who have kindly donated plants and offered their time and expertise, in particular we would like to thank Charlbury Wildlife Society, the town council's Land and Nature team and Charlbury Garden Society. We hope to be able to build on this year's achievements in the coming years as we continue to work together to make the school more environmentally friendly and further embed learning for sustainability within our curriculum. Finally, we are extremely grateful to Sustainable Charlbury for the grant support they have given the school this year to help fund our work.



*The Eco Warriors and members of the Charlbury community gather to celebrate our Green Flag award*





## The Charlbury Exhibition Foundation

(CEF) is a charity to promote the education of young residents of Charlbury. We trace our origins back to bequests made by local people, Ann Walker in 1667 and Richard Eyans in 1666. Most of our income comes from renting out our property, the Old Grammar School, as well as a small grazing field, Poor Boys Close.

The Old Grammar School was built in 1837 and is a Grade II listed building. Since 1975 we have rented the Old Grammar School building to another local charity, the Charlbury Pre-School. The objectives of CEF and Pre-School are complementary, the promotion of education for young people living in Charlbury, which allows the building to be used for the purpose originally intended by the donor, Ann Walker, whose name is inscribed on the front of the building.

Traditionally, the rent CEF receives from the Pre-School has been used to fund grants given each autumn to local young people who are in further education, at college or higher education, at university or who are on apprenticeships.

CEF now urgently needs to improve the

energy efficiency of the Old Grammar School, which has been little altered since it was built. We have identified as immediate priorities insulating the loft to modern standards and installing secondary glazing on the windows. Those measures will make a contribution to the climate-change challenge and will be of lasting benefit to the Pre-School children in improving the conditions in which they are taught and to Pre-School in reducing the environmental impact and energy costs each year.

We have provisionally estimated the initial budget for those first measures to be in the region of £20,000. Following a review of our financial position, and bearing in mind our overall responsibilities, we shall be looking for outside funding to assist in this work.

In those circumstances, CEF has decided with great regret that it will not be able to make grants to students and apprentices this year. We shall review the position again carefully next year.

*Janet Burroughs  
Chair of the Trustees  
Charlbury Exhibition Foundation  
Email: charlburygrants@hotmail.com*

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## Charlbury Day Centre

We are arising "phoenix" like from all the difficulties that we faced in the last two years. Apart from the enforced closure during lockdown, age, alas, caught up with many of our members, so that our numbers took a big hit and not only members, but volunteer helpers too. We have now metamorphosed into a lunch club—still in the Memorial Hall. Lots of fresh faces have joined us for the session, which now runs from 11.30 until 2.00pm.

Another casualty of lockdown was our manager, who resigned as soon as furlough ended, but we have been extremely lucky in finding Kath Lucas, who many of you may know, who has taken her place. Finally, I have been

chairing for over 12 years now and it seemed a good moment for a new person to take over, bringing with them fresh ideas. Again, we have been very lucky in persuading Tanya Stevenson, who has been my deputy for many years to step up, despite all her many other commitments.

We would love to have more new members and would welcome anyone who would like to volunteer and help. If you would like to find out more about becoming a member or becoming a volunteer please contact our secretary Carolyn Connolly 07502 451340 or Tanya Stevenson 07874 795748 or me Bob Tait 07393 983271.

# Charlbury Bowls Club

Ticknell Piece Rd

## Autumn



### Monday 19 September

Doors open 6.00pm, start 7.00pm, Bar



Premium Sponsor of Charlbury Bowls Club

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01608 810896

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Feeling stiff and inflexible?

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## Benefits for people living with dementia

If you are living with dementia, or caring for someone with the condition, you may be eligible for some benefits. Financial support could be available if dementia affects your ability to work, or if you have extra costs because of it.

The Alzheimer's Society have a factsheet about the main benefits available in England and Wales. Go to their website ([www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)) and click on Get Support – Legal and Financial – Benefits for people affected by dementia.

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/413LP-benefits-for-people-affected-by-dementia.pdf>

### Worried about changes in behaviour in someone you know?

The Alzheimer's Society have a useful page on their website dealing with what are the normal signs of ageing and how dementia is different from normal ageing.

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-dementia/symptoms-and-diagnosis/how-dementia-progresses/is-it-getting-older-or-dementia>

They also deal with the next steps, if you are worried about someone, which is primarily to encourage them to visit their GP. The Society also offers information

about dementia and how people get diagnosed and has a helpline on 0333 150 3456 for support and advice.

### Our local dementia support service

Don't forget Dementia Oxfordshire, which supports all people with a diagnosis of dementia who *do not* live in residential care and are either living in Oxfordshire or are registered at an Oxfordshire GP. They accept referrals from the health care sector and voluntary sector, as well as self-referrals from people with a diagnosis, their family and carers.

Have a look at their website: [www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk). They offer online carer education sessions and details of various types of support available.

### Dementia Friendly Charlbury (DFC)

...is a group of volunteers who want Charlbury to be a friendly and welcoming place for everyone to live, especially people with memory and thinking problems.

If you have any comments or concerns to pass on to DFC, you can contact us on 01608 810192 or email us at [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com).

*Meryl Smith*



## Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Our last production was a contribution to the Charlbury Festival in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. 'Merry Moments of Monarchy' was a light hearted romp through 1,000 years of Monarchy, held in St Mary's it was well received.

Our Committee are currently assessing suggestions from members for our new

season. Also One Act plays in the Spring would offer an excellent opportunity for any new members to 'tread the boards'.

Please get in touch if you feel you might be interested, or would like to support by preparing scenery or props.

*Helen Wright, Secretary*  
[charlbury.drama@gmail.com](mailto:charlbury.drama@gmail.com)



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

### **COVID Vaccination**

A combined flu and COVID vaccination programme is likely to start at the end of September/beginning of October.

Over 50s will be offered the flu vaccination, but the cohort for the COVID booster has not yet been confirmed.

### **Missed appointments at the Surgery:**

It has been reported to us by Wesley Rouse, (Practice Manager) that many patients are not attending their asthma review clinics even though they have a booked appointment.

The number of patients not turning up for their face to face appointments with GPs has also increased which is an enormous waste of precious resources.

### **Social Prescribing:**

Jennifer Dixon-Clegg is the Social Prescribing Link Worker attached to the Charlbury Medical Centre. Jennifer works with her colleague Emma Fox, another Social Prescribing Link Worker in the Rural West Primary Care Network (PCN). Jennifer and Emma work for Age UK Oxfordshire who provides Social Prescribing Community Link Workers for many GP surgeries in Oxfordshire. As Social Prescribers, Jennifer and Emma work with anyone over the age of 18.

Linking with help that already exists in your community is often the most helpful way to improve health and wellbeing, or to find the help you need when changes make life unexpectedly difficult. Your GP may refer you to Jennifer, or you may wish to contact her yourself.

You don't need to wait to be referred by your GP. She is easy to contact, has time to listen and to help with the things that may be bothering you. Social Prescribing Link Workers work with you and can visit you at home if that is best, to suggest practical day-to-day solutions for everyday concerns .

If you would like to speak to Jennifer, please call the Medical Centre Reception and ask for Jennifer's contact details.

### **Automatic Front Door**

Is now at last in place. The button to open the door is placed on the inside of the pillar nearest the door.

### **Collection of Equipment**

A collection by the Red Cross of no longer needed zimmer frames, crutches, wheelchairs etc took place in July organized by the CPPG. Please let us know if you have any equipment stowed away. If there is a sufficient quantity another collection can be arranged.

### **Muscular- Skeletal Service (MSK)**

Most patients with joint, bone and muscle problems are currently referred to a private company, 'Healthshare' (outsourced from the NHS). Many patients have reported an unsatisfactory service from this company. 'Connect Health' has recently obtained the contract and will be taking over from October.

Patient Participation Groups have been assured by Connect Health that patients will be able to self- refer, will be triaged by a clinician, and will be able to state whether they would prefer a face to face, video, or telephone consultation.

Assurances have been given that the complaints procedure will be rapid and easy to access. Please contact us if you have any concerns with this service.

### **The Charlbury Medical Centre Website**

The website is currently being updated. E-consult is now available. Please let us know your views.

To contact the CPPG please e-mail: [patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net](mailto:patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net)

*Deborah Hofman*



## **Charlbury Beer Festival beats the odds**

A week before the beer festival, the forecasts were not good. With no trains running, who would come from outside Charlbury? With the risk of endless rain, who would be interested in being on Charlbury's cricket field rather than the comfort of their home?

We need not have worried. The town turned out in droves and the buses creaked under the weight of the eager passengers from local villages. Over 2000 people visited the festival in June to enjoy the sun, music and beer. A new Aunt Sally champion was crowned, beating the defending champion in the final! The Children's Tent buzzed with its snail racing, monster making, and theatre workshops. The Culture Tent hummed with inquisitive minds. The main marquee bopped to the fantastic live music and (varying standards of) revellers' dance moves until dusk. It was a classic.

Visitors came from as far away as Australia this year and the feedback we've received suggests the nearby campsites will be full of bookings the moment the 2023 date is announced. "Best beer selection yet". "Always the highlight of our calendar". "What a brilliant day. I can't wait to bring the family back next year. Yes, all 20 of us."

Thank you to everyone who came along to the event, whether you were a guest, volunteer or sponsor. Your support meant we were able to raise over £15,000 at this year's event. This money goes directly back to Charlbury via grants to local projects and groups. We will be welcoming applications again in September. Please visit our website for more information.

The committee will now take a well-earned break before planning next June's festival. However, don't forget to visit the Beer Festival's "human beer machine" at the Street Fair on 17th September.

*Michael Peake  
2022 Chairperson  
charlburybeerfestival.org*



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## Wild flowers in your lawn help it stay green

This year has seen the worst drought since 1976 and lawns turned brown in July. Grass roots are relatively short but wild flower roots go much deeper taking up moisture to continue growing, so the leaves of some plants like self heal, yarrow, wild carrot, bird's foot trefoil, lady's bedstraw, field madder, black medick, and clovers were still green.

In June and July, I saw many examples where these plants were flowering beautifully in short grass between monthly cuts and providing essential nectar and pollen for visiting bumblebees and other insects. Sadly though, as the weather dried up and the grass stopped growing, it was unfortunate to sometimes see the flowers being mown even when there was no grass to cut - eventually they re-flowered but in the meantime the bees had to find food elsewhere. These flowery short lawns are called tapestry lawns and can be a wonderful opportunity where longer grass isn't appropriate.

Each year the weather affects how the grass grows - it needs rainfall and warmth but not heat. Growth starts at 8-10°C, optimum growth between 18-24°C, then growth declines and stops when the soil dries out. 60% of the top growth occurs in the first 6 weeks, so, even if you want to encourage a wild flower meadow, it is important to mow until the end of April - the flowering plants will then flourish and not be swamped by the lush grass. If you have yellow rattle though, which is parasitic on grass and reduces its strength, then don't cut too late otherwise this annual won't be able to flower and seed to provide plants for the next year.

During the Charlbury Festival in June, my heritage field walk included a talk from Robert Hobill, Farm Manager at Ditchley, who explained the dramatic change we've seen in the fields on the eastern side of Charlbury. Last year these fields were growing wheat but in September

they were direct drilled with a flower-rich grass mix under the Countryside Stewardship option AB8. This five-year grant scheme rests the soil and provides habitat for invertebrates and birds. In total, Ditchley have planted up 444 acres under AB8 including 150 acres near Charlbury. The seed mix is 90% fine grasses: chewings fescue, red fescue, crested dogstail, hard fescue, smooth stalked meadow grass, and bent; together with 10% flowers: bird's foot trefoil, black knapweed, black medick, lady's bedstraw, ox-eye daisy, red campion, musk mallow, red clover, sainfoin, self heal, white campion, and yarrow.

This first summer the fields have been mown several times to control black grass and rye brome, which are troublesome legacy weeds from the cereal crop. These cuts have also enabled the flowers to develop without getting swamped by the grasses and some have even flowered this first year. From mid-August the fields will either be mown or flash grazed by sheep for 2-3 weeks - having been arable fields for decades, none of the boundary hedgerows are stock-proof, so electric fencing will have to be used to control the sheep. However, please be assured that access along public footpaths will always be kept open and never be fenced off. Mobile water bowsers and drinking troughs will also be supplied.

For the next four years the land will continue to be managed to benefit wildlife (mown in April and grazed/mown from August) with 10% of each field being left untouched to provide a refuge for overwintering insects. Many birds like yellowhammers, skylarks, willow warblers and chiffchaffs nesting in ground level vegetation will also benefit from lack of disturbance.

*Christine Elliott  
Charlbury Green Hub*



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

**Artweeks** - Maureen Sparling (07779 779121)

**All Together In Charlbury (ATIC)**

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

**Baptist Church** - Kay Colyer (01608 810107)

[charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com)

**Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)**

Helen Wright, Secretary  
[charlbury.drama@gmail.com](mailto:charlbury.drama@gmail.com)

[www.charlbury-drama.com](http://www.charlbury-drama.com)

**Charlbury Art Society (CAS)** Joanna Shakir  
[secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk](mailto:secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk)

**Charlbury Beer Festival** - Michael Peake

[info@charlburybeerfestival.org](mailto:info@charlburybeerfestival.org)

[www.charlburybeerfestival.org](http://www.charlburybeerfestival.org)

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

**Charlbury Bowls Club** - Ron Smith

[secretary@charlburybowls.co.uk](mailto:secretary@charlburybowls.co.uk) (07979 980321)

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

**Charlbury Canoe Club** - Hugh Belshaw

(01608 810130) [hughandjoan@uwclub.net](mailto:hughandjoan@uwclub.net)

**Charlbury Chronicle** - Susie Finch (07879

693733) [editor.chronicle@outlook.com](mailto:editor.chronicle@outlook.com)

**Charlbury Community Centre**—Daniela Jenkins  
(01608 811878)

**Charlbury Community Speedwatch** —

[charlburycsw@gmail.com](mailto:charlburycsw@gmail.com)

**Charlbury Cricket Club** - David Horne Vice

Chairman [dw3horne@gmail.com](mailto:dw3horne@gmail.com)

[www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk](http://www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk)

**Charlbury Day Centre** - Tanya Stevenson (07871 795748)

**Charlbury & District Probus Club** Tony Merry  
[tonyherry@gmail.com](mailto:tonyherry@gmail.com)

**Charlbury Green Hub** - Christine Elliott

(01608 811057) [www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk](http://www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk)

**Charlbury Garden Society**

[secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk)

[www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk](http://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk)

**Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club**—Gill Grason  
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**Charlbury Morris** - Peter Smith (01608 811007)

[peter@charlburymorris.org](mailto:peter@charlburymorris.org)

[www.charlburymorris.org](http://www.charlburymorris.org)

**Charlbury Museum** - Curator—

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

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

**Charlbury Open Gardens** - Catherine Goyder  
[csggardens@charlburystreetfair.org](mailto:csggardens@charlburystreetfair.org)

**Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club**

(Ray & Margaret) (01993 831345)

**Charlbury Pre-School**—Emily Dytor

[emilydytor@gmail.com](mailto:emilydytor@gmail.com) (01608 811200)

**Charlbury Royal British Legion** - Nick Potter  
(01608 810388)

**Charlbury School** -Head (01608 810354)

[office@charlburyschool.org](mailto:office@charlburyschool.org)

**Charlbury School Association** -

[charlburySA@outlook.com](mailto:charlburySA@outlook.com)

**Charlbury Scout Group** - Cheryl Hornsby -  
[cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk)

**Charlbury Society** - Chairman, Nikki Rycroft  
[n.rycroft@doctors.org.uk](mailto:n.rycroft@doctors.org.uk)

**Charlbury Street Fair** - Chairman—John Dora

(01608 811328) [jmdora@btinternet.com](mailto:jmdora@btinternet.com)

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

**Charlbury Town Council**—Lisa Wilkinson, clerk

(07311 259412) [charlburytownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:charlburytownclerk@gmail.com)

**Charlbury Town Football** - Keith Claridge

(01608 810201 or 07870 426707)

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**Charlbury Town Walking Football**

—John Munroe [charlburytownwff@gmail.com](mailto:charlburytownwff@gmail.com)

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**Charlbury Women's Institute** - President -

Miriam Evans (01608 430807)

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**Corner House and Memorial Hall** -Office (01608 810879)

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**Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens** - Simon

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**Dementia Friendly Charlbury**— Meryl Smith

(01608 810192) [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com)

**Friends Meeting House:** Sue Terry (01608

811033) email: [sueeterry@btinternet.com](mailto:sueeterry@btinternet.com))

**Holiday Club**

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**Methodist Chapel** - Sue Tokumine (01608

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

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