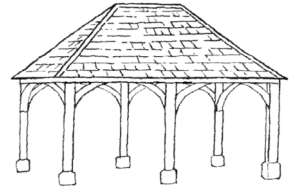


# Charlbury Chronicle



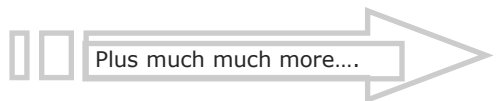
**Volume 27 Number 3**

**Autumn 2023**

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

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## From the Editor

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

We start off with the the Garden Society's Annual Flower and Produce Sale on 2nd September and then the Farmers Market on 9th September together with the Children's Bike Ride and Stride also on that day.

The following week we have the legendary Egg Throwing Competition on 15 September getting us in the mood for Street Fair the following day on 16 September. Do all come along and enjoy and enjoy the fair and spend lots of money! 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.

And the first annual general meeting of the Community Workshop will be held on 21 September. Please see p.27.

And it's the Beer Festival

Oktoberfest on 30 September. See more on p.30.

A shout to all! The Chronicle needs help with the organisation of the distribution as Brian Murray and Shelagh Scott are bowing out after doing this for many years. Would you like to take on the job? Please see request on p.3 and contact either me or Graham at the given email addresses. Thank you in advance!

Would you like to go on a Guided Tour of Oxford which the Charlbury Society have organised? Please see p19 for more details.

Would you like to start a Brownie Pack here in Charlbury? The Guides are in need of them—see page 42. Contact Michele to find out more.

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

*editor.chronicle@outlook.com*

Happy holidays!

*Susanna Finch*

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



## Charlbury Street Fair 16<sup>th</sup> September

### GOOD NEWS: THE STAGE FITS BEHIND THE WALL!

A question that has been on many people's lips is how the improvements at the Bell will affect the Street Fair and I am pleased to report that Steve Jones and I have had a friendly meeting with the site manager at The Bell and measured the area inside the new wall. We can now report that there will still be room to put a stage in the usual place. This is obviously a big relief and it means we can have the usual entertainment, including the now very popular Sea Shanties, sung by our own Charlbury and Finstock Morris, as well as a variety of other bands and groups playing and singing all afternoon and into the evening, when the stalls are cleared away to make space for 'dancing in the street'.

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, Hatwell's Fun Fair, a Puppet Show with Noddy, Big Ears and the Goblins, and Go-karts.

The day itself will start with the Fancy Dress Competition and Parade led by the King and Queen who this year are Ronnie Watson and Georgina Stimpson respectively. There will be a wide range of stalls and sideshows in the street with something for everyone. You can enjoy tea and homemade cake in the Memorial Hall, where you can also look at the Children's Art Competition. Not forgetting the Morris dancing, Classic Cars and a new 'Mini Landrover Challenge', run by the Scouts, outside the community centre. Do please come and join in the fun!

There will be further details on social media and all up-to-date information on Facebook—see *Charlbury is a Town & not*

*a Village*, Twitter and [www.charlburystreetfair.org](http://www.charlburystreetfair.org).

As you know, all of the funds raised on the day of the Fair, go to the upkeep of the Corner House and Memorial Hall. Money is particularly needed at the moment since the Trustees of the Corner House and Memorial Hall have commissioned local architect, Pete Smith, to draw up plans for the refurbishment of the Corner House to make it more accessible and user-friendly. His drawings will be on display in Church Street during the Fair so make sure you take a look.

### 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. **Calling for BOTTLES:** Donations gratefully received please take to Corner House or contact Liz Partington, 32 The Slade or 07800 744787

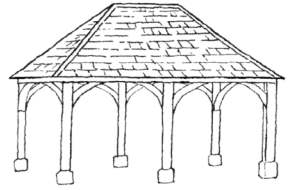
### Thanks

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.

*John Dora, Chair*  
[csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org](mailto:csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org)



# Charlbury Chronicle



## Could this be our last year? We need your help!

We need help with the Treasurer's role and Advertising, either to lead or assist these roles which are vital to our future

Without our advertisers we cannot pay our printers

We also need someone to manage the distribution of The Chronicle by arranging for the 1600 copies received from the printers to be collected by our army of deliverers.

After the December issue we do not have anyone to do this

Please contact Graham Jowett or other members of the team and help keep the Charlbury Chronicle dropping through everyone's doors each quarter.

A few hours each quarter could make a huge difference!

Please contact: [gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com](mailto:gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com) 01608 810666 or the editor at [editor.chronicle@outlook.com](mailto:editor.chronicle@outlook.com)

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## **A Day's Life: Flora Gregory**

*Many of us know Flora Gregory through her work with nature, and especially her activities to increase the profile of our local hedgehog population. I wanted to know how she became interested in nature and how she set about the task of forming a new group, the Charlbury Wildlife Society*

I have been coming to Charlbury since the 1970s, passing though really, but came to live here about 10 or so years ago. I have had a long working life, often in offices, with teams of people, which was very creative. But when I reduced my working hours, I took some time to think about and choose what I wanted to do next. With the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss confronting us all, I decided to prioritise nature and wildlife – about which I am passionate. Most of the things I do now have this focus.

I knew I wanted to be outside a lot more, among trees and in the natural world. I love the feeling of the wind on my face. I particularly concentrate on the human-nature relationship, looking at ways of understanding it and trying to improve it. Our time here is very brief, and how very lucky we are to be on such a beautiful planet at this time.

There's a lot going on in the town, and various amazing groups such as Sustainable Charlbury, and the Charlbury Green Hub. But none of them are specifically about nature and wildlife and our interaction with it, and none with 'wildlife' or 'nature' in their names. I hesitated for a long time as the town already had so many groups but started talking with people about forming one in 2021, connecting via Zoom calls.

There was particular interest in knowing about what was happening locally in and around Charlbury [Ed: see *Charlbury Forum thread in 2021, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June*]. With this in mind, we started the Charlbury Wildlife Society and now have about 50 members and a distribution list of over 100. We are a typical Society with talks in the Autumn/Winter/Spring months and outings, and we also

undertake practical work such as putting up bird boxes and doing surveys. Everyone is welcome to our talks, it's not necessary to be a member to attend them, but membership fees and donations do help us pay for speakers and support organisations which support nature and wildlife.

I personally have been inspired by the work of the Kirtlington Wildlife and Conservation Society. Their aim is practical – to look after wildlife and habitats in the parish and encourage the community to get involved. They have done a lot with hedgehogs and created a Hedgehog Street [Ed: see <https://kirtlingtonvillage.co.uk/kwacs/>] in the village. Kirtlington residents have created openings in their gardens, so far 60 gardens along with the church, school and pub have connected together, allowing hedgehogs to travel more freely around the village. Charlbury is not dissimilar to Kirtlington, just bigger and I imagine it opening up its gardens for hedgehogs.

I have been doing research into hedgehog numbers and distribution around Charlbury for several years now. Why hedgehogs? They are at the top of the list of people's favourite animals, and it's a way of involving the whole community. Often I will ask people in the street if they have seen a hedgehog recently, and can be seen with Eric—a hedgehog hand puppet—tucked into my jacket.

Charlbury Wildlife can help people create small openings in their stone walls or fences, dig tunnels, and build ramps. We collect data such as where hedgehogs are found dead on our roads—as it helps us understand where hedgehogs need support.

It is clear from information collected so far that there are modest hedgehog populations around the edges of town, the challenge is for them to move easily through town which they need to do. They travel up to three miles a night to find food and each other. Now there is the new Hedge Fund, a

hedgehog first aider in Charlbury working with a team of volunteers to support sick or injured hedgehogs with the aim of getting them back into the wild. They can be supported with financial donations via the Charlbury Wildlife Society. Contact [charlburywildlifesociety@gmail.com](mailto:charlburywildlifesociety@gmail.com) for more information.

My love of nature came from my childhood. I was the youngest of 5 children, our parents were both scientists. We lived in a Victorian house with a massive garden. We would stay outdoors for hours, and walked and cycled around for miles. We grew our own food and had an orchard and greenhouse.

There was space for other creatures – for example, sparrows, swifts, martins, and flycatchers. We learnt to be independent. You don't see children out and about in this way now. As a biologist, my mother would dissect owl pellets with us, for example, on the kitchen table, and we would examine the contents. This was a normal part of our life.

In my teens, I was torn between art and science, and ended up studying psychology. For many decades, I worked in documentary film production and broadcasting, still managing to take courses in art as well. I studied at the old Hornsey School of Art, and at Oxford Brookes, where I took an MA in Social Sculpture. I was particularly taken by the ideas of a German artist - Joseph Beuys which I found liberating. He maintains that everyone is an artist, and all of life is art.

In my working life I have focussed on helping people tell their own stories in their own way - giving a voice to the voiceless, and I continue to do that in my role as a mentor with an NGO helping filmmakers around the world. My interest in wildlife is not dissimilar, if we really listened to wildlife and considered its voice and enabled it to thrive, this will help us find a way through the massive crises that confront us.

We are all stewards here, treading in

others' footsteps. It helps to know what has gone before - having such a line back enables us to understand why we are where we are and think about where we are going and the future. My work as Artist-in-Residence with the Wychwood Forest Trust - looks at people's historical, present and future relationship with the land. In other collaborative work that I do I look at the Rights of Nature also considering this historical chronology.

Sentimental love is no good without practical love and action and we can all be wildlife champions. The Charlbury Wildlife Society contributes towards helping hedgehogs and other wildlife around town, but none of what we do is possible without the support of the community.

One example is the good work of Andrew Lawson who over the last 30 years has helped support a stable swift population and there is currently an ongoing programme of putting up swift nesting boxes each Spring.

This summer we have been surveying our remaining house martins and swallow populations (there used to be hundreds) and with the help of Louise Spicer we are looking at different ways in which we can support them going forward. It's much easier to build on an existing population however small than start one from scratch, so the few we have are incredibly important.

I am also involved with the Land and Nature Group which advises Charlbury Town Council and is developing a Nature Recovery Plan across the parishes of Fawler, Finstock and Charlbury [Ed: see <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/land-and-nature-team>]. A part of the plan includes expanding and improving wildlife rich habitats, corridors and highways.

As I walk around Charlbury, I often imagine myself as a hedgehog and look for highways so I can get through town.

*Flora Gregory was talking to Barbara Allison July 2023*



## The Community Links Service and how it might help you or someone you know

The Community Links Oxfordshire service is contracted by the County Council to provide local information about sources of support and opportunities and activities available to help anyone over 18 to connect better into their community. The service is free of charge.

The Community Links area teams aim to support community members to be as independent as possible and live life to the full in the way that they want to. They are there to help people to find out about what support and opportunities exist in their local area. They will listen to what matters to them, then offer bespoke support that is tailored to what they need.

There are five friendly Community Links workers available to help residents of West Oxfordshire. They can help someone to:

- meet new people
- access information, advice and support
- get help at home
- navigate a care or benefits system
- find out about services and support available
- discover and join in with a local group or activity
- access transport
- learn something new
- feel confident to get involved

They can provide:

- Telephone support
- Home visits
- Email/text support
- A range of fact sheets and guides

You can access this service for yourself, for a family member or for a friend or a neighbour by calling the Community Links service on **01235 849 434**. Or you can email [community@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:community@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)

### Also – Carers Oxfordshire

If you are giving unpaid support to someone of any age in your family or household – i.e. you are an unpaid carer (whether or not you would give yourself that title) – you can get support from another service – Carers Oxfordshire.

They can help you access resources to make sure that you are caring for yourself as well as the person you are looking after and can also provide information and advice on what can be a confusing care system, if you need it.

Carers Oxfordshire can be contacted by phone on 01235 424715 or by email at [carersinfo@carersoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:carersinfo@carersoxfordshire.org.uk).

They have a website: <https://www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk/>

### And ATIC

And finally, don't forget – to ask for ATIC help with transport to an appointment, with a practical task or someone to come to have a chat from time to time call **01993 776277**.

This will get you to the staff of Volunteer Link-Up who kindly act as our call centre and who will see if one of our local volunteers can meet your request.

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

*Meryl Smith*

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## Charlbury Beer and Wine Circle

The Circle's programme for 2022/2023 has ended with some very enjoyable events. Our May tasting was presented by Oli Gauntlett, the proprietor of Eynsham Cellars, who gave us a well-chosen and varied selection of wines. It was quite a novel idea to compare a Prosecco with a Loire and then to go on to compare two Chardonnays.

Thanks Oli for a very informative evening and several of us plan to see you at your Witney Wine Festival on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Later that month a group of us took a leisurely walk through parts of Oxford which were largely unknown to most of us. Walking through the science area we learned about some of the scientific developments that perhaps today we take for granted; penicillin, the lithium-ion battery which powers our various mobile devices, MRI scans and a few more.

Continuing through the University Parks and beside the River Cherwell proved to be a peaceful contrast and emphasised just how much green space Oxford has. We hungry walkers were rewarded with an informal lunch at High Table in the 400 year old dining hall of Exeter College.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1978, the inaugural meeting of the Charlbury Beer and Wine Making Circle was held, so, to mark our 45<sup>th</sup> birthday, we gathered on 30<sup>th</sup> June this year, for an informal party in the Garden Room. No more 'making' but still great interest in beer and wine.

The weather was disappointing, meaning the patio garden saw no use but copious quantities of fizz and a wonderfully decorated cake surely made up for that.

Three founder members, Jean, Jilly and John all of whom still regularly attend our meetings, were with us and our chairman, Ant Horn presented the ladies with a bouquet of flowers, whilst alcohol was thought to be more appropriate for John.

Our annual garden party was held in July, with members Des and Alison generously hosting the evening in their lovely, secluded garden.

Further concerns about the weather prompted our putting up two gazebos but this time the weather was kind to us and a lovely summer evening was enjoyed by all. Thank you Des and Alison.

The following week saw twenty of us travel the short distance to Ditchley Park, there to enjoy a guided tour of the house which was brought vividly to life by Mike Montagu, the former bursar.

For many it was a repeat visit but widely acclaimed as their most informative. Well done Mike and thank you.

We have a break now until Monday 18 September when our AGM takes place at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. The AGM business will take little more than 30 minutes, leaving plenty of time for wine and conversation and maybe even the chairman's dreaded quiz.

New members and guests are always welcome at our tastings in the Memorial Hall and if you would like to attend, please email either;  
*sec.charlburybeerandwine@yahoo.com* or  
*charlburybeerandwinecircle@gmail.com*

*Brian Murray*



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**CONTACT LORRAINE:**

**lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk**

**07516262560**

**www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk**





## Charlbury Garden Society

I hope, when this is being read, we are enjoying an Indian summer. It has certainly been a wet one this year and gardeners have not had to water precious crops as we had to last summer.

We had a blistering hot day for the annual Open Gardens event in June. It was a joy to see so many different styles of garden on show.

One visitor to my garden commented that this event is "so much nicer than the NGS one because you see real gardens here – weeds and all." I wasn't offended as I knew what she meant. I think we can all take away things that we can use in our own garden by having a look at other people's. The event raised a brilliant £1600 to help the Street Fair.

We had two self-drive events this summer – one to gardens in South Newington in sweltering heat in June and another to Chastleton House in pouring rain in July. Both were hugely enjoyable.

We purposefully don't run many events in the summer as people are away or busy with families but there is lots to look forward to this year:

### **Annual Flower and Produce Show**

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have our annual Flower and Produce Show. We would encourage you to have a go at exhibiting.

Children particularly enjoy showcasing produce and crafts and we aim to attract as many youngsters as possible, so do look at the schedule which is also on our website at <https://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk/events/annual-flower-and-produce-show-2023/>

Shows are open to everyone, members and non-members!

At the show, anyone joining the Garden

Society for 2024 will be given free membership for the rest of 2023.

### **Harvest Supper and AGM**

On October 12<sup>th</sup> we plan to hold our AGM. Following that we are arranging a Harvest Supper. This will be a ticketed event for a 2-course seasonal supper to celebrate the end of the growing season. We will send out more details a bit nearer the time but put the date in your diaries!

### **Talk by Bob Brown**

'So many plants, so little space'

On 16<sup>th</sup> November we welcome Bob Brown the founder of Cotswold Garden Flowers to a talk in the Memorial Hall. Remember that all talks are free for Garden Society members.

### **Future Events**

We also hope to do another Plant Swap in October - date to be announced - as well as our very popular wreath making event, so do keep your eyes peeled for news.

If you would like any information about becoming a member then contact [membership@charlburygardensociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@charlburygardensociety.org.uk). Remember that you get discount on plants at many local garden centres for being a member.

The Garden Society is working with various local initiatives to help create and maintain different gardening projects around Charlbury. One thing we would like to encourage is volunteers to help maintain some of these. Please do let me know if you would like to be involved on regular maintenance of any of our projects – either large or small.

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



## Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society News

Rehearsals for CADS September production are in full swing. The new Committee, elected at the AGM in March, under the Chairmanship of Olive Woods, chose to perform two or three One Act plays. This gives all members a range of roles to try, from the purely comic to the highly dramatic.

Olive Woods will direct "The Cagebirds" by David Campton, with parts for an all-female cast. It is a highly charged atmospheric play, based in an institution, where all the inmates have their own idiosyncratic traits.

Introduce a newcomer who threatens their "contented" routine and the danger becomes apparent. The play ranges from the humorous to the disturbingly serious and ends with the unexpected "twist" so typical of this playwright.

"An Englishman Abroad" by Alan Bennett, directed by Sue Haffenden, reveals what exile in Moscow was really like for the English spy, Guy Burgess in the 1950s. By turns witty, ironic and wistful, Bennett's play cannot fail to amuse and challenge.

Interest persists in the Cambridge group of the 1930s, who having joined the Foreign Office or Intelligence Services then spied for the Soviets. Many books have been written about them and "Spy among friends" is currently on TV.

At the time of writing, the third play "Tea for two and sixpence" is yet to be fully cast. It is a light comedy, directed by Olive, in contrast to the other two choices. We hope these plays will contribute to an enjoyable evening out for our audiences. It is certainly good to be back trading the boards after the challenges of the pandemic years.

The plays will be performed in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th September at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 on the door or reservations can be made by phoning the Secretary, Sue Haffenden on: 01608 676 642

Anyone free to help on the night with Front of House or stage please let Olive or Sue know.

After the September performances, we will continue to meet for play readings, social activities and auditions for our Christmas show to be held in January. New members are very welcome.

If you are interested in acting, directing or helping in any way with lighting, sound, costumes, make-up, stage, poster, props design then CADS is the place for you! We are a long established, welcoming group, so do ring the Secretary for more information or email : [sue.haffenden@gmail.com](mailto:sue.haffenden@gmail.com)

The Committee is as follows: Olive Woods (Chairman); Sue Haffenden (Secretary); John Kearsley (Treasurer); Helen Wright; Richard Franklin; Nicky Bayliss; Sally Aldridge. The villages of Chadlington, Spelsbury, Finstock and Shipton-under-Wychwood are thus represented as well as Charlbury, so we welcome members from surrounding villages and hamlets too.

The Christmas Party will take place in December at The Grove, Chapel Row, Chadlington and will take the form as of last year with members bringing a food contribution and being prepared to sing, recite or perform an item, around a welcoming fire! Date to be advised.

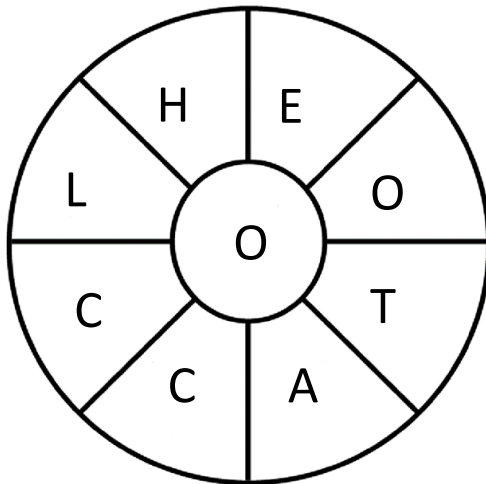
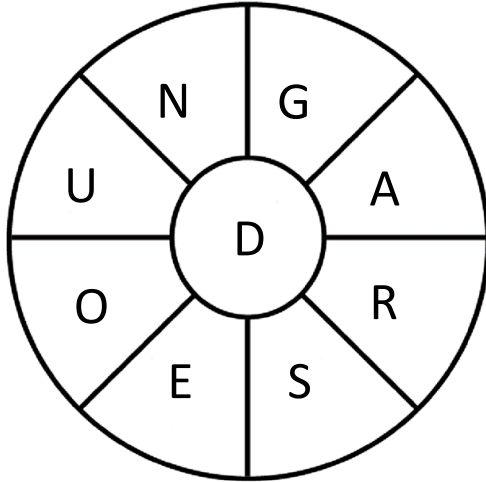
*Sue Haffenden (Sec)*



# Coffee break page

*Compiled by Miles Walkden and Michele Marietta*

This issue's puzzlers are word wheels for you to tackle! Find as many (2+ letter) words as you can for each puzzle – all words must contain the letter in the centre. In each, there is at least one nine letter word.





## News from Charlbury Pre-School

Charlbury Pre-School has enjoyed a flurry of activity and community collaboration this term! Here is just a snapshot of what we have been doing and what's happening over the next few months.

Summer had been an exciting time for the pre-school school children. We had visits from our local Police, Fire Brigade and Dentist.

The warmer weather allowed the children to spend more time in the playground where they were able to enjoy their new sand pit. May the beautiful weather continue so they can enjoy the new sensory garden we will be installing in the new term!

We were so proud to say goodbye to 19 of our children at the end of summer term. We celebrated with an end of term family picnic and 'Graduation' celebration for all the children who were venturing off to Primary school in September.

We wish our leavers all the very best in the next stage of their 'learning journey'. They have all grown in confidence and independence since this time last year when they were still the "little ones" – they will be very much missed!

We still have spaces available for full and partial days, so if you or someone you know is looking for high quality early years education for a 2, 3 or 4-year-old child, do get in touch!

### Upcoming Events

In October, we are very excited to be running again in the Oxford Half Marathon in support of the pre-school. A mixture of parents, committee members and local residents are kindly running and raising money for the pre-school. If

you would like to take part and join us don't hesitate to get in touch! You can also support us by donating to our Just Giving page:  
<http://justgiving.com/campaign/cpsohm2023>.

We will be running our annual 'Halloween Disco', in November and 'Christmas Movie' in December. More information can be found on our fundraising page on our website.

**Thank you - we value your support!**  
A huge thank you to everyone who has donated their time and money to our pre-school. Thank you to our 'Friends of Charlbury' members for their much-needed donations which help us to support our projects and future initiatives.

To our beloved local photographer Edmund Blok, who kindly donated his time once again to take some wonderful pictures of the children (proceeds of photos purchased are donated to the Pre-school) and a big thank you to Matt Brock for donating a laptop and new iPad, which will help aid our learning activity.

A big thank you to all of you who came along to our fundraising events such as 'Family Fun Exercise with Jason' at the local Community Centre, and to our pop-up tents at the Charlbury Beer Festival and Riverside Festival.

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

*Susanne Williams*



## Christmas Shoeboxes

We invite you to share the love and joy of Christmas with a child or needy family in Eastern Europe by contributing to the Shoebox Appeal. All the details can be found on the website at [www.teams4U.com](http://www.teams4U.com)

Fill the box with small gifts and toys and other useful items. Knitted hats, scarves and mittens and other hand crafted items are very welcome. If you are in need of ideas, there are helpful videos on the website plus all the information you need to get started. Cover your box and lid separately with decorative paper and decide whether to fill it for a child or family. Print off a label and please include a donation of £3 to cover transport costs.

Please phone Joan Belshaw on 01608 810130 if you need help obtaining or covering a box. Surplus empty boxes are also welcome.

If you cannot access the internet, leaflets giving all the necessary details will be available in St. Mary's Church, the library and the Corner House.

Collection date this year will be Saturday, 11 November at the Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill between 10am and 12 noon or phone to make alternative arrangements.

Meanwhile get together with friends or family and enjoy filling your box.

Thank you.

### CHRONICLE ADVERTS

Advertise your business in the **Charlbury Chronicle** and reach over 1600 residences.

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



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## Corner House: It is time to chip in!

The trustees of the Corner House and Memorial Hall are doing their best to try to ensure a successful future for these town assets. Having improved the Memorial Hall in recent times, and with the help of the Garden Society brought the garden to life as a public space, attention falls now especially on the Corner House itself.

The building is one of the most prominent in the town and is much liked by the people to all of whom, collectively, it belongs.

But although liking the building, people have also complained about its faults. It is a difficult structure to improve, mostly because what we have has evolved over a number of generations.

The original building at what we now think of as at the rear was probably built as a weaving shed, with its large upstairs windows. Later a house was attached at right-angles and that is the frontage which faces up Browns Lane towards Enstone Road. It has a very grand frontage but the house was only one room deep. Later occupants, the famous Spendloves, built an extension on the back and thus created what we now think of as the front facing Market Street.

That part of Market Street was previously called Observatory Street because at the top of the Corner House was a room from which occupants could observe Cornbury Park.

A result of all these additions and changes is that inside the building is on differing levels, noticeable on the ground floor and on the first floor. There are structural walls separating the original parts of the building and these realities make radical changes very difficult.

But these days the Corner House is well used. All the rooms are occupied with activities for the Common Good. The most obvious is Cornerstone on the ground floor, but the bookshop has expanded to ground and first floors (probably now the largest second-hand bookshop in West Oxfordshire!). There is an active art room

near the back, and the headquarters of Global Healthcare Information Network is also there on the first floor. Charlbury town museum occupies a large part of the building, and together all of the Corner House certainly has practical value in our town and beyond.

Inadequacies the trustees hope to resolve are to make circulation around the building easier. That involves putting in a user-friendly staircase and hopefully a basic lift similar to the one in the Methodist Church.

The building is to have decent toilet facilities with disabled access, and of course there are ideas of how to make the building warmer in winter.

The main lobby will become a more open wider space with opportunities to display large copies of ancient town maps so we can all appreciate how Charlbury has changed and grown.

Plans have been drawn for these changes and it is hoped to display them at the Street Fair on September 16. There will also be a possibility to hear about Corner House and Memorial Hall developments at a public meeting on November 2.

Drawing up these ideas is one thing; paying for them another. The trustees must look to all the people of Charlbury to contribute, as best they can, to the cost of these developments. The total required is not beyond reach, especially when some local people are willing to put in a few thousand pounds each.

Donations of any size will undoubtedly help improve the building for the good of all. We expect Sustainable Charlbury to help out of profits from the solar farm and of course the Street Fair is an important contributor along with other town events.

Please note a change of telephone number for the Corner House. It is now 07826 056496. A mobile number so whoever is looking after bookings can be tracked down when not in the actual Corner House office space.

*Roy Scott. chairman*

## Creative Piano Lessons

I'm a piano teacher and composer with many years' experience of offering piano lessons focussing on developing musicianship, creativity and most of all enjoyment!

Whilst I do coach for exams (Grades 1–8 and GCSE and A Level performance), in an increasingly high pressured exam-orientated culture I'm also pleased to offer an environment for creativity to blossom.

Whether you're contemplating piano lessons for your child or yourself, feel free to get in touch.

Rosemary

[Rosemary.Jefford@gmail.com](mailto:Rosemary.Jefford@gmail.com)

<https://www.rosemaryjefford.co.uk>



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As we start our programme for this season, we hope you will have joined us for our annual Society tea in the beautiful Corner House garden which this year will have been held on Saturday 26th August.

You will have had an opportunity to renew your membership, with the subscription remaining the same at £8.50, and obtain a copy of our forthcoming programme, with some further information about each of the talks.

This season our lectures in October, November, March April and May will be held in the Memorial Hall, always on the first Thursday of the month, and December January and February held by Zoom.

As you know, to attract the widest variety of speakers, we do ask those who live some way away to present by Zoom.

This season we have an fascinating range of talks including:

- FarmEd, how and why it was set up and its aims and successes
- Drivers' roads through Oxfordshire and beyond
- Liz Woolley returns to talk to us about Felicia Skene: Oxford writer, prison reformer and friend to the

poor, who was a tireless advocate for prison reform

- The development of the A40 from OffBeat Cotswolds
- Recycling, by a member of the WODC team, on the environmental impact, how it is dealt with, where it goes, and how we can help
- The history of the introduction of chocolate to this country; and the story of gloving.

Do join us for these talks and contact us if you are not yet a member and would like to be, or indeed, if you are interested in joining our committee or helping source the subjects and speakers for our programme.

We also have an exciting event to offer members in early October, and further details will be sent to you shortly by email when we have finalised the arrangements.

We are offering a limited number of people a sponsored specialist walk in Oxford to learn where JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis lived, taught and worked.

Please see the poster attached to this article and contact Chris Gowing, our Secretary, who has organised this event, if you would like to attend.

*Nikki Rycroft*

### CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels prepares and delivers meals at lunchtime on Tuesdays to elderly and disabled people in Charlbury and Stonesfield. Meals now cost £4 delivered.

**We are now accepting new recipients.** Please ring Susan Merry on 07979 840838 or email [susanmerry2@gmail.com](mailto:susanmerry2@gmail.com). **We also urgently need an additional cook to join the team on a monthly rota. If you are able to help please contact Susan in the first place.**





The Charlbury Society

# Oxford Guided Walk Tuesday 10 October

2.00 pm

J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis were both members of The Inklings, an informal literary discussion group in Oxford for nearly two decades between the early 1930s and late 1940s.

In this 50th anniversary year of Tolkien's death, join a specialist walk, sponsored by the Charlbury Society, and see where they lived, taught and worked.

**Charlbury Society Members' price £8**



Contact Chris Gowing at [sect.charlsoc@gmail.com](mailto:sect.charlsoc@gmail.com)  
or 07712 626107 to book a place.



## Probus .... Open to all

The club recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday at a well-attended BBQ at the Bowls Club. Catering by Amarillo/Marcia was excellent. We look forward to the opening of her new restaurant in Market Street.

The picture shows Micheal Crumpton former Chair and member for many years (now retired) cutting the cake with current chair Paul Jackson.

**The Club welcomes occasional visitors to its events (see below).**

**Wednesday September 6th:** Lunch. "Blue Plaques in Oxfordshire" Dr Robert Evans Chair of Oxfordshire Blue Badge Society Please book and pay via website [www.charlburyprobus.co.uk](http://www.charlburyprobus.co.uk)

**Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>** Visit to Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge. [battleofbritainbunker.co.uk](http://battleofbritainbunker.co.uk)  
Leaving Charlbury (car share) 10.30 back 16.30 £15. 3 prepaid tickets are still available. Contact Paul Jackson 01608 811370

**Wednesday September 27th**  
Cropredy Civil War tour/pub lunch. Call Simon Handley 01608 810597

**October 6th (FRIDAY):** Lunch: Victoria Prentis MP: 'Getting to know Victoria Prentis'. Please book and pay via website [www.charlburyprobus.co.uk](http://www.charlburyprobus.co.uk)  
**Mid-October** Bletchley and National Computer Museum, car share. Call Mike Summers 01608

**Date (to be advised)** Ditchley Tour. 8 booked so far need a few more to reach minimum. Call Mike White 01608 811726

Probus was started in the UK by Rotarians in 1963 and was designed for those Rotarians who no longer wanted to be active in fund raising or running the club but still wanted to keep in touch with former Rotarians.

It has grown to an estimated 1,200 clubs with 40,000 members in the UK and over 5,000 clubs worldwide especially in Canada, South Africa, Belgium, France, India, and Australia. Probus Members are encouraged to visit each other's Clubs in the UK and around the world.



*Michael Crumpton & Paul Jackson at 40th birthday party*

*Paul Jackson*



## St Marys Church Charlbury 5th Christmas Tree Festival 8th – 28th December 2023

We are excited about holding the Christmas tree festival again this year, and hope that many organisations, groups and families from Charlbury will participate by sponsoring a tree.

The festival will begin early evening of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December and run until 28<sup>th</sup> December. We will have 40+ trees available to decorate

We will be having two competitions this year, one for children's trees, which will all be placed inside the church, and the other for the adults' trees which will be outside on the churchyard path

As well as the display of trees, there will be a 'Christmas tree lighting celebration, with food and drink, free to all on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, and a Christmas Quiz on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Information and timings about both events will be on the Charlbury website and in other local publications soon.

The Christmas Tree Festival is a special way of bringing the community together, to share the joy of Christmas, to raise money for the local church, and to have lots of fun on the way! Please support the festival, and keep St Mary's at the heart of the community by either coming to the events, or by offering to help in some way.

Ways of helping include

- Sponsoring a tree to be decorated by your organisation, school, charity or family. Booking forms will be available from Hilli Waller or the Charlbury website link from [September](#)
- Providing help in setting up or catering support for the Festival
- Sponsoring the publicity, the opening event, the quiz or the set up of the festival

More details of all the events will follow

but, if you or your organisation want to be part of the festival this year, or have any queries, please get in touch with Hilli Waller or the Parish Office.

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

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

Hilli Waller  
[charlburyctf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyctf@gmail.com)  
St Mary's Church Office  
[parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk](mailto:parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk)

### Charlbury Methodist Church

Charlbury Methodist church is celebrating its bicentenary in October this year (2023) and is planning an event/exhibition.

We would love to hear from anybody that has been or, has had relatives connected with the church in any way (past or present). There have been many Charlbury names over the years connected with the church.

This could be from School (it was temporarily used as a school), Sunday school, Adult education, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Youth Clubs, Choirs, Classes, or even ancestors (family history) etc.

We look forward to your reminiscences.

Please email [aliecollins65@gmail.com](mailto:aliecollins65@gmail.com) with any contributions or ring 07717 057741 for an address to write to.

Thank you,

*Alison Collins on behalf of Charlbury  
Methodist church*

# SPONSORED CHILDREN'S BIKE RALLY



plus  
**BIKE GYMKHANA and PICNIC**

## Saturday 9 September from 11.15

Join the seventh Children's Bike Rally round Charlbury's five churches – plus, a 10-mile route for slightly older children that tours the quiet lanes in and around Ditchley Park. Free for riders with sponsorship – or pay £5 at the start. Sign up NOW and start getting sponsored, 50% for Charlbury School Association and 50% for OHCT.

All of the bike rally routes end at Wychwood Paddocks (the school playing field):

- bring a picnic lunch and set up round the central area of Wychwood Paddocks
- join in Windrush Bike Project's bike gymkhana for children with their bikes
- try out an e-bike!
- get a free bike check and minor repairs c/o Windrush Bike Project

For more info, to view maps and to sign up for sponsorship, please visit [ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/take-part/charlbury-kids-rally/](http://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/take-part/charlbury-kids-rally/) or scan.



## Opportunities to talk to other people living with dementia organised by Dementia Oxfordshire

### **Online sharing sessions**

These online sessions bring together people living with dementia together to learn, talk openly and make new connections. Dementia Oxfordshire understands that being given a diagnosis of dementia can be difficult to come to terms with and it is easy to feel alone.

Their online sharing sessions aim to give people the opportunity to meet others sharing the same journey, to learn positively about dementia and to swap practical tips and advice about living well and retaining independence.

The sessions take place on the third Friday of every month from 2pm-3pm. There is one on 15 September, if you want to join in.

For more information contact Dementia Oxfordshire at [training@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:training@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk)

### **Post-diagnosis Dementia Education Session (in 2 parts)**

These sessions aim to help people recently diagnosed with dementia understand and cope with the changes ahead and spend time and share with other newly diagnosed people and families. They are "face-to-face" sessions held at a Community Centre in Headington, Oxford.

Part One will take place on 15 September from 1.00pm. to 3.00pm. and Part Two on 22 September at the same times.

The sessions are designed to help participants:

- Understand what dementia is and how it feels to be living with it
- Encourage independence for as long as possible
- Empower people to have open, supportive conversations

- Enable people with dementia to play an active role in planning their own future

They are completely free of charge to anyone living with dementia and their families and caregivers in Oxfordshire.

For more information contact Dementia Oxfordshire at [training@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:training@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk) Or phone their helpline on 01865 410210

### **Thinking about the carers**

The Alzheimer's Society have some useful thoughts on their website about a common issue of how to manage guilty feelings as a carer.. Go to Home – About Us – News and Media – Alzheimer's Society Blog and look for the Advice Blog on Guilt and Dementia.

They also have pages on how to look after yourself as a carer. Go to Home – Get Support – Help with care – Carers: looking after yourself.

If you do not have access to the internet and would like a printed copy of the Alzheimer's Society advice, contact Dementia Friendly Charlbury (details below).

**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 or would like to receive information about living with dementia and support available, you can contact us on 01608 810192 or email us at [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com).

*Meryl Smith*



## Charlbury Museum & Heritage Centre



# Sir Peter Parker 1924-2002 Cotswold Line 150

A unique piece of railway history which celebrates the life of Sir Peter Parker and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cotswold Line, which opened between Oxford and Worcester in 1853. The name plate, provided by the CLPG, was launched on a high speed train by First Great Western at a ceremony on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

Sir Peter Parker, Chairman of the British Railways Board from 1976 to 1983, was a regular traveller from Charlbury Station to London Paddington Station.

He lived at Minster Lovell. During his time in office the iconic high speed First Great Western train was first introduced to passengers (1976); known as the 'power car', the train is the world's fastest diesel powered train capable of 148.5 m.p.h. and a maximum open speed of 125m.p.h. Approximately 200 were built.

This name plate from the 'power car', First Great Western Class 43, 43127, would have travelled the tracks across the GWR network from London Paddington to Penzance, into South Wales, to Cheltenham and Gloucester and our own Cotswold Line through to Hereford.

The gross mileage during the train's lifetime could likely be 8,000,000! This

weighty metal sign will soon rest on a wall within Charlbury museum, a short walk from the station where it would have been a familiar sight on the blue liveried G.W. train, railway history preserved in the town for us all to enjoy.

Sir Peter Parker, as Chair of British Rail, is credited with guiding the organisation through difficult times and seeing the beginnings of the resurgence in train travel in the United Kingdom.

As a campaigner against the anti-rail lobby he opposed the recommendations of the Serpell Report (1982), which was advocating drastic closures of stations. One can speculate that as he was a regular traveller from Charlbury Station, perhaps his influence did give support to our town's station in the early 1980s?

In the current context of the threatened closure of ticket offices and the impact to our town's station, one can ponder on what Sir Peter's views might have been if he were alive today.

There are two train name plates in his memory, one is on the wall of Charlbury Station ticket office and we hope that it will be available for train travellers to admire once again.

The beautiful station garden is also dedicated to the memory of Sir Peter

## Charlbury Museum & Heritage Centre

Parker. The second name plate will be on display in Charlbury's museum in time for Street Fair 2023; a timely appearance as it will be nearly twenty years since the train was named (17.9.2003), and 170 years since the Cotswold line opened!

Finally Charlbury Museum & Heritage Centre is most grateful for the generous gift from the Cotswold Line Promotion Group of this special commemorative piece of railwayana – it will inspire a wall of Charlbury Station memorabilia.

The CLPG is a voluntary organisation with a large membership. It was formed in 1978. The group actively works to support the Cotswold line and liaises with passengers and the rail industry. In the past it has helped prevent closures of small stations such as Combe and Finstock in 1994. [www.clpg.online](http://www.clpg.online)

With thanks to Colin Major Chair of CLPG, and Brian Murray CLPG committee member for their assistance with the donation and this article

*Sue Rangeley*



FORMER British Rail boss Sir Peter Parker put his wellies on for a visit to his favourite railway station, at Charlbury.

He was helping out at a tree-planting session on Saturday organised by the local branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

The former BR chairman who lives

in Minster Lovell contributed to the £750 fund for the scheme.

About 20 volunteers were on hand to plant the 36 maples, oaks, ashes, walnuts, silver birches and wild cherries around the station. Shrubs will be planted next year.

Pictured left to right are Sir Peter, Mr Don Porter and Dr Peter Mond of the CPRE, and booking clerk Mr Ernie Akers.





## Charlbury Bowls Club

Charlbury Bowls Club is proud to support everyone in the local community, regardless of age, gender, or ability / mobility. Our dedicated team of coaches are always on hand to offer advice and support in the game. We play both outside during the summer and also inside (ShortMat ) throughout the whole year.

You do not need to supply any equipment as we can loan almost anything that is required, you only need a pair of flat soled shoes/ trainers to play outside; heels may damage the green), and inside slippers will suffice in practice games.

The Ox Brew Green is located at 74, Ticknell Piece Road, the road turning and lane are both on the opposite side of the primary school. Do drop in if the gate is open - we have a very well stocked bar and also hot beverages and a selection of snacks to keep the energy up.

We are progressing well into the outside fixture programme. As I write, the club have completed over 40 Mixed Fixtures with other Clubs, most have been on a friendly basis, some in the Mixed League, and others in inter Club competitions. All of the members involved in County competitions, both men and ladies are now finished for this season; well done to everyone who entered and better luck for next year. Our very own internal competitions are now in full swing with ladies and men's, singles and pairs and the same in mixed along with triples. Our plan is to have a finals weekend on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September, with the ladies and men's single winners representing the club in the Champion of Champions on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Oxford City and County Club.

Broadsword Junior Academy, which is supported by West Oxfordshire District Council will have started by the time you are reading this article. They meet on a Saturday morning from 11am and also on

Tuesday afternoons at 3.15pm. All ages from 7-15 years old are supported by DBS vetted and trained staff. Once competent the academy players can play at full club level both inside and outside.

We also have managed this season to have home and away fixtures with just Academy players. What a great turn out! Some Junior members have managed to get selected for Club League games, a very great achievement for our young outdoor Squad.

Short Mat, is the affiliated game with Oxfordshire Short Mat Bowling Association, OSMBA and we are already planning the six teams to play in the mixed leagues, Evening (four Teams) and the afternoon (two Teams) and each team will ideally have 12 players with 8 selected to play each game on a league home and away basis.

Our Building Extension is now operational and proving a great asset to the short mat experience. We can safely say that we have probably the best playing conditions for short mat in the county with our newly installed lighting and heating systems alongside our triple glazing and automatic blinds; it's a great place to bowl. Why not give it a try? See our website [www.charlburybowls.co.uk](http://www.charlburybowls.co.uk) or pop in any time the club is open.

As well as bowling at the club, we are providers of a community facility and open for hire for group and private events , alongside our charitable causes, if you would like to know more on this please email: [enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk) .

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors for your very grateful support allowing the club to provide assistance and equipment to allow every one equal opportunities to enjoy this club and its great surrounding.

*Ron Smith.*  
[secretary@charlburybowls.co.uk](mailto:secretary@charlburybowls.co.uk)



# Charlbury Bowls Club

Ticknell Piece Rd

## Autumn



# BINGO



## Monday 25 September

Doors open 6.00pm, start 7.00pm, Bar

## Charlbury's own Community Workshop

**A place for everyone — what will *you* come and do?**

**Visit us on Street Fair day: we'll have a stand and the Workshop itself will be open for you to come and see for yourself what's on offer !**

**And – save the date !**

**The Workshop's first annual public meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> September at the Community Centre.**

**[www.charlburycommunityworkshop.org.uk](http://www.charlburycommunityworkshop.org.uk)**

## Charlbury Community Workshop: open soon for business

Since TV's Suzie Fletcher cut the ribbon on 20th May, the team involved in organising Charlbury's Community Workshop has been working towards getting the building ready for its intended purpose – to provide a place where anyone from the town and its surrounding communities can come and join in.

Our intention is for there to be a range of activities, including woodwork, upholstery, bike repairs, stained-glass ; whatever people want to do and to learn about.

At the opening ceremony, chairman of the organising group Chris Potts said that once The Thomas Gifford Trust had offered the site at the end of the Community Centre, it didn't take long for things to get under way, with over 50 people signing up as being interested at last year's Street Fair.

Having decided that a custom-built steel-frame unit would be the best choice for the new workshop, the groundworks team – led by Dave Court – set out and poured the concrete slab in March, ready for the building to be delivered a month later.

Thus far, funding for the project has come from The Thomas Gifford Trust, the Glasgow Foundation, Sustainable Charlbury (which contributed to the cost of the insulation in the walls and roof), and the Town Council.

In July, Blenheim joined the list with an offer to help cover the cost of installing electricity in the building. And that doesn't include the huge number of really generous individual donations of materials and equipment, ranging from the paving blocks for outside the front door, to professional workbenches and a wonderful assortment of tools of all shapes, sizes and uses. Thankyou everyone!

Around 130 people were at the opening to hear Suzie explain just how important she feels that workshops like this are. "What I love about these community-based sheds," she said, "is that they are open for everybody to come, everybody to share their levels of skills, and for everybody to come and learn something that perhaps they didn't know."

Turning to all the equipment that people have already donated to the workshop, she went on: "That is fantastic in these days where we need to recycle and reuse all the stuff that commonly people don't realise the value of, and don't know what to do with it.

It's really important that we keep those nuts and bolts and useful little wizz-bangs out of landfill, and bring them to your community shed."

A new charity has been set up to run the workshop, with all of its members having a say in what goes on. The design inside provides for a 'clean' area for upholstery, sewing and other fabric-based activities, separated by a partition from the dust and noise of the woodworkers at the other end of the building.

As with any building for community use, the basics – such as electric cabling, a water supply and drainage – all have to meet Building Control approval before serious workshopping can get under way. We are working towards that as quickly as we can, and are aiming to have the workshop open for business in the autumn.

Meanwhile, everyone who has an interest in anything to do with the workshop needs to put **Thursday 21st September** in their diary, when there will be a public meeting to tell you about progress to date. Please come along and find out more!

*Simon Walker*

# CHARLBURY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

At our latest speaker event Dr Emily Parker described her time as a volunteer doctor in Subotica, a city in the north of Serbia on the Hungarian border. Many people fleeing countries such as Afghanistan and Syria end up there trying to cross the external border into the EU on what is known as the 'Balkan route' to northern Europe. Since there is no effective legal and safe way for them to enter Hungary and claim asylum, those trying to cross the border will be pushed back to Serbia by the Hungarian police without their request for asylum being heard. They therefore have to expose themselves many times to the risk of crossing the fence and being violently pushed back and mistreated. Emily explained how these people get stuck living in unofficial camps - unhygienic squats with insufficient access to water, hygiene or basic medical care, leading to conditions like scabies. They can also experience serious injuries from violent beatings by border officials, or from the three-metre-high razor wire fences built along the 175 km border. Emily volunteered with Medical Volunteers International, who provide free medical care to people who would otherwise be left without it. Thanks to the generosity of attendees at the event, CRAG was able to send £700 in donations to support this important work. If you'd like to find out more please visit their website at <https://medical-volunteers.org/>.

We have another amazing programme of six CRAG concerts for the 23/24 season, starting with jazz pianist Dorian Ford on Sunday 8th October and thereafter on

the first Sunday of each month through to the viol consort Fretwork on 4th March. Each concert is held in the Memorial Hall at 3pm. The music lasts approximately one hour and is followed by complimentary tea and homemade cake. Don't miss this opportunity to experience world class musicians on your doorstep by buying tickets in advance through our new website at <https://www.charlburyrefugee.org.uk>. We're also offering a great value season ticket for the whole programme of 6 concerts, which you can also buy through the website. Every single penny of the ticket sales will be used to support organisations which have a proven track record of providing effective aid to refugees.

You'll probably be aware that despite the best efforts of charities, migrant groups and advocates for refugees in the Lords and among MPs, the Illegal Migration Bill passed all its stages on Tuesday, 18th July, and is set to become law. Its passage evoked strong condemnation from the UN's refugee agency UNHCR and its human rights commission OHCHR, who fear that the UK's action could start an avalanche which might destroy the whole edifice of international refugee protection. Despite this loss, it's important to keep reminding our representatives that we care about refugee protection, human rights and the UK's fulfilment of its international obligations.

*Vicky Buser*

## CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL

Office: 07826 056496

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

Emergency Contact:

Roy Scott (01608 810562)



## Charlbury Cricket Club on Top of the World

As we write this update on the events at Charlbury Cricket Club for the summer of 2023, all three league sides are either top or second in their respective divisions and are looking for secure promotion to the next level. The atmosphere at the Cricket Club is often electric when all three sides win, and this has happened on many occasions this season. You may well have heard the club anthem YMCA sung shortly after all three fixtures have completed!! This is only sung when all three teams win!! We apologise to our neighbours whole heartedly who for many years have only heard silence (but it only lasts 3 mins 40 seconds)!!

The success of the senior teams follows our very successful youth season with both the under 11 and under 13's topping their divisional groups under the wonderful leadership of Tom Eaton and his coaching team. The women's team have just started their campaign in July looking to defend their Home Counties Premier champions status. Membership has grown in 2023 as we boast 246 members of which 170 are Under 18 or in full time education!!

Off the field, Friday nights have been exceptionally successful with All Stars, Dynamos and Youth training taking place whilst many local bands play on the newly constructed outdoor stage to create an amazing atmosphere and a wonderful start to the weekend for the community. This year we have had appearances from Escapades, Inflatables, Vodka Shots, King B, Mingus Tree, Crooked Little Heart and the Jesters. The cricket club remains an inclusive club and is open to everyone in the community.

We continue to invest significantly in the facilities to encourage growth in membership (at a time when most cricket clubs are struggling), and this year saw the new outdoor net facility open ensuring that along with the

community centre cricket facility, Charlbury offers the best practise facilities for cricket, within the West Oxfordshire area.

We are also investing in the improvement to the ground and especially the two cricket squares which has seen the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment and at the end of this season the replacement and of the non turf match wicket on the main ground. We have also submitted planning application to extend the main pitch boundary by some 15 metres that should facilitate the option to play at a higher standard of cricket in the future.

Overall, we are in a great place.

Things to look out for as we go forward are.

- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Oktoberfest including the Inflatables, Jubilee Brass Band and the Village Idiots. Get your tickets now (see our advert)
- 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Annual bonfire (yes, its back) and firework display

Finally, next year is our 150<sup>th</sup> year!! Look out for event details including a visit from the MCC!!

Come on the CEES!!!



# CHARLBURY CC

• PRESENTS •

SEPTEMBER

# 30



**UNDER 16**  
*Go free!!*

**GATES OPEN 1PM**  
& **CLOSE 11:45PM**

**TICKETS**  
**FROM £13**



**FOOD SERVED BY**  
*Copper Pot Catering*



**MUSIC BY**

**MINGUS**  
**TREE 2pm**

**JUBILEE**  
**BRASS BAND**

**3:30 TO 7pm**

**5pm THE**  
**INFLATABLES**

*The Village Idiots*  
**9pm**

*Scan me to buy tickets!*



# Charlbury Church Services



## Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

**Sundays 10.30am.**

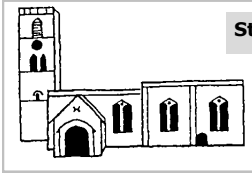
Communion on the first Sunday of each month

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

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

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

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



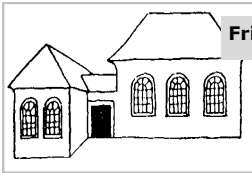
## St Mary's C of E Church, Church Street

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

Wednesday Mass: 9.15 am ( followed by Adoration/ Benediction) except in Lent when Stations of the Cross)

Friday Mass: 9.15 am

Sunday: 9.15 am Parish Mass.

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

## Churches Together in Charlbury

The Christian Aid Week house to house collection in May, using delivery only envelopes, raised £2687.37 including Gift Aid. The committee were very grateful to Cornerstone for receiving donations again and to everyone who donated or helped. The money raised is used through Christian Aid's partner organisations and helps people of all faiths or none. Recent projects include introducing new crops to drought stricken farmers in central Africa, providing emergency shelter and supplies following earthquakes in Syria and Turkey and floods in Pakistan and Ukraine, giving educational opportunities to young people growing up as refugees in Bangladesh, along with safe places for women and girls living in the camps to meet, and defending human rights and livelihoods among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Charlbury is not neglected either. At the beginning of August, St Mary's Parish Church was transformed into a time travelling spaceship for this year's Holiday Club, on the theme 'The Amazing Charlbury Time Machine'. 52 children booked to attend. This has become a significant community event with more families wanting to take part every year and support from all five Charlbury churches.

Another important community event is the Street Fair on Saturday 16th

September. Churches Together will be selling Home Made and Home Grown produce. Please get baking, growing and making, in readiness for this. Pies, cakes, jam, fruit and flowers will all find satisfied customers. 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 22nd October we will be holding a united service for One World Week in St Mary's led by the Quakers. Our AGM, following the service will mark the beginning of a week of celebration for the Charlbury Methodist Church's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Methodist Church will be hosting an exhibition during the week relating to the church in Charlbury over two centuries and for the AGM we are delighted that the Methodist Church archivist is coming to tell us about her research into local records and other relevant history. The Methodist Church has played a hugely important part in the social and political life of this country, which we can all honour and be thankful for.

*Rosalind Scott - Secretary to Churches Together in Charlbury*

### St Mary's News

**Rev Fergus Butler-Gallie** will be starting as Vicar for St Mary's and All Saints' Churches in January 2024. Prior to this he will be taking two services for Harvest:

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 8am and 9.45am Harvest at St Mary's Church  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 6pm Harvest service at All Saints' Shorthampton.

All are welcome to come along to these services.

**Messy Church:** Sun 1<sup>st</sup> October 3pm in St Marys Church. For families with preschool and primary school aged children. Craft, singing and stories, with refreshments. Please book on [parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk](mailto:parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk)

**Choral Evensong:** Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> October in St Mary's Church. All welcome.



### **The gym is go!**

Our headline news is that Charlbury's own purpose-built gym has got the go-ahead with planning permission to build! It will be an extension of the existing Community Centre building – you can see a visual projection of what it might look like at Reception in the centre. This is really the result of lots of hard work and engagement of all interested parties and we hope that the gym will benefit as many as possible in our community in terms of an easy and convenient way to improve our physical health and mental well-being. Watch this space for next steps and how you can help support the building.

But it's not all about the gym – as ever, we try to provide something for everyone at the Community Centre, and here's an update both about what's been happening over the summer and what's in store for the autumn months.

### **Fun & Games with Jason**

After the success and popularity of last winter's family exercise sessions, the Pre-school organised a fantastic day out in Nine Acres on a (rare) sunny Sunday in July. The younger children had their choice of a fantastic variety of play equipment, from playing with hoops to making bridges, while the older children and parents alike took part in games such as badminton and a great game of rounders led by our own Wellness Manager (and new grandad!) Jason Biles. Afterwards, 'Mr Pickleball' Vijay Desor barbecued and families enjoyed a well-deserved burger or their own picnics, with drinks, cake and ice cream from the centre. Look out for some great photos of the day in our autumn newsletter.

### **Antiques Valuation Day**

Also in July, though on a rather rainier day, an Antiques Roadshow type of event was held at the Centre, with guest auctioneer Charles Hanson on hand to evaluate Charlbury's family heirlooms.

Turn-out was fantastic despite the weather, and the packed room was solidly entertained by Charles, who gave everyone's treasures and collectibles his careful assessment – items included a solid silver tea service, a jewelled casket, pottery and porcelain and strings of amber. Charles offered his expert opinion on nature and value of every object in such an engaging manner, all attending had a wonderful afternoon – especially the very surprised and lucky owners of an item valued between £15-20,000! A fun and sociable day for all – thanks go to Wendy Bailey for the superb cake and all attendees for their donations to the Centre.

### **Classes at the Centre**

We are so lucky to have such an amazing variety of sports, exercise and social activities on offer at the Centre. Note that most are open to adults of all ages, and many welcome teenagers as well. All levels of fitness are catered for. Here's some info on just a sampling of them – why not try something new this new school year?

### **Pilates and Yoga**

You are spoiled for choice with the array of Pilates and yoga classes on offer at the centre. Whether you want a class in the morning, afternoon, or evening, whether you want a gentle or more dynamic, challenging session, there is a class for you. Please get in touch with the hugely experienced and welcoming instructors directly to find the right class for you – and check the Community Centre website for class times - Loren (yoga): [killeenloren@gmail.com](mailto:killeenloren@gmail.com), Michele (Pilates): 07817 890787 or [michele@charlburypilates.com](mailto:michele@charlburypilates.com) and Sarah (Gentle Pilates): 07790025506 or [bodyfitpilatesuk@gmail.com](mailto:bodyfitpilatesuk@gmail.com).

### **Pickleball**

One of the most popular sessions at the moment has to be pickleball. Pickleball is





a racquet sport that involves elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It's played in the Sports Hall at the Centre every weekday morning! Often games are doubles matches, it's very sociable, and surprisingly easy to play. Though we have some seasoned experts playing now, we also have beginners and all are always welcome. If you've never heard of it, or are curious, come and check it out, or get in touch with Vijay at [vijaysmobile@gmail.com](mailto:vijaysmobile@gmail.com) or on 01993 891 043.

## Line Dancing

And also vying for most popular session is our fabulous line dancing class. We offer both a Beginners class (Fridays) and a 1 or 2 hour session (Tuesdays) for those more experienced in their country moves. With great music and a great atmosphere, it's really a lot of fun. Participants range in age from 70-somethings down to a happy baby in a sling being do-si-doed around by her dad. All classes led by Jason 'Yee-haw' Biles and there is no need to book ahead. Come on down and give it a go!

## Breathwork & Meditation

Our very newest class is something many of us could benefit from. This class will guide you through ancient practices that bring peace, calm and relaxation. If interested, contact Lauren at [serenebreathwork@gmail.com](mailto:serenebreathwork@gmail.com).

## Toddler classes

Wednesday mornings in the Centre are alive with the sounds of happy and confident toddlers. If you're looking for some fun and activity for your baby or toddler this autumn, and the chance to meet other parents or carers, come along to Songbirds, a singing and music class, and stay for Toddler Gym, a chance for the little ones to explore and climb with soft play equipment. Get in touch with Jenny Mahler for Songbirds at [jennymahlermusic@gmail.com](mailto:jennymahlermusic@gmail.com) and just turn up for Toddler Gym with our own Jason.

## Use the Sports Hall – it's yours!

Finally, if your schedule doesn't allow you to sign up to a regular class, don't forget that you can always book a court or the whole Sports Hall to play whatever you like. Over the summer we've had friends and family groups of all ages playing badminton, table tennis, pickleball, futsal / 5-a-side indoor football and even wheelchair basketball! You can call ahead to book, or in the afternoons walk-ins are welcome too. Prices are very reasonable - £10 per court on a walk-in basis and only £6 for youth (!!) and we have all equipment available for you to use.

## Get involved!

So many in our community have amazing knowledge, interests and expertise – the Community Centre is the place to share these. Please don't hesitate to approach us if you have an idea for a class, workshop or one-off event – the more variety, the better.

And if you have a skill or some spare time, we can always use the help – for example, we are lucky enough to have the talented and generous Edmund Blok, photographer, give his time to take wonderful photos of our classes and events, documenting our activities and community members.

Please get in touch with our manager Daniela Jenkins if you'd like to be involved, or to explore possibilities of a new class or event: [info@charburycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:info@charburycommunitycentre.org.uk).

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

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

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

*Catherine Ball, Trustee, The Thomas Gifford Trust*



## 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)

### Changes at the Town Council

In May, Cllr Gary Harrison was elected as the new Chair of the Council. Liz Reason was elected Vice-chair. Gary thanked Liz, who was chair for two years, for her drive and enthusiasm in encouraging so many of the initiatives described below.

Cllr Tim Crisp resigned in May. He was one of the main proponents of our Home Comforts project and thankfully he will continue to work on this as a regular (non-councillor) member of the Buildings Team.

Before the June meeting, we put out a call for prospective councillors to replace Tim and were thrilled by the exceptional quality of the three applicants who responded. We elected Emily Algar as our newest council member. Emily had been running our social media for some time. Emily said, "I believe strongly in equality, whether that is creating social spaces for girls that are safe and inclusive, or empowering the young and old across Charlbury to register to vote and be involved in politics.

In July, Cllr Dan Raymond-Barker resigned for personal and professional reasons. Dan led the Council's Food Group and was key in establishing Charlbury's new monthly market. Happily, he will continue to help run Charlbury Market as a member of the Food Group. Dan's replacement will be co-opted at the August meeting (not held at the time of going to press).

The Town Council is going to start holding surgeries from September, initially for three months on a trial basis. Surgeries give individual residents an opportunity to discuss issues with local representatives on a 1:1 basis. Keep an

eye out for notices about when and where surgeries are going to be held. If the initiative is popular, it will become a permanent feature of Council activity from 2024.

### Making Space for Girls

Nationally, many teenage girls don't go to their local park because they feel there is nothing there for them or they don't feel safe, and thus gave rise to the Making Space for Girls campaign. In Charlbury, Cllrs Emily Algar, Claire Wilding and Gary Harrison, and our Clerk Lisa Wilkinson, have set up a Making Space for Girls Working Group which is going to consult local teenage girls to find out if they feel there are any barriers to them enjoying the park. Depending on what the Working Group finds, it will be able to look into how they can deliver more facilities aimed at teenage girls or how they can make the park feel like a more inviting place to hang out.

### New speed limits



The 20mph speed limit is now in place throughout Charlbury. It is great to see so many drivers sticking to 20mph, respecting the safety of us all, reducing noxious emissions and allowing a quieter life for those who live alongside a busy road.

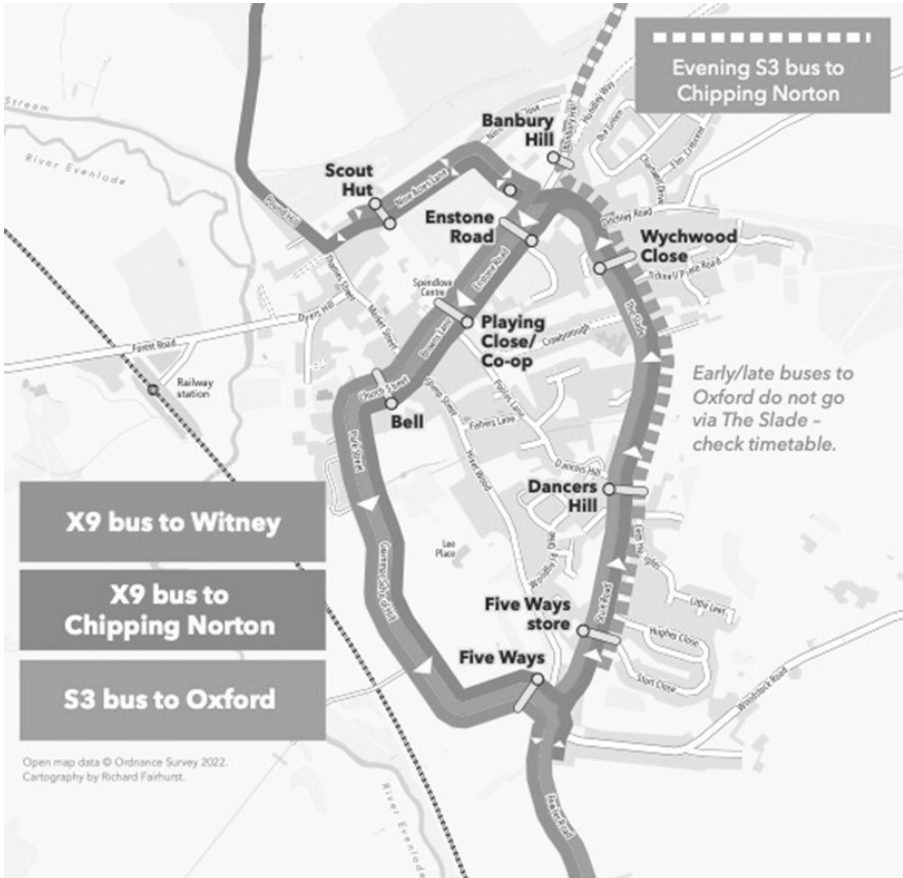
We are monitoring speeds using the mobile SID (speed indicator device) and the Traffic committee has recommended that we buy a second device to remind drivers to drive more slowly.

# Charlbury Town Council News

## Buses

Following years of neglect and vandalism, the town's bus shelters have been repainted and the graffitied Plexiglas panes are being replaced.

The Council has asked some local employers and the surrounding estates if they would run Real-Time Information systems at the bus stops on Church Street, Sturt Road and at Fiveways.



The Journeys team has produced a new bus map showing where the buses stop and where they go to. We have attached maps to all of the bus stops and bus shelters so hopefully more of us will be tempted to take the bus for easy

journeys to Chipping Norton, Witney, Woodstock and (now the trains are sadly so unreliable) even Oxford. Remember that the government has introduced a flat £2 fare for single journeys anywhere in the country.

# Charlbury Town Council News

Linda Mowat wrote an excellent article '10 Good Reasons to Catch the Bus' in the spring 2023 edition of the Charlbury Chronicle. You can read a copy on our website at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/buses/>.

## Voting in Charlbury

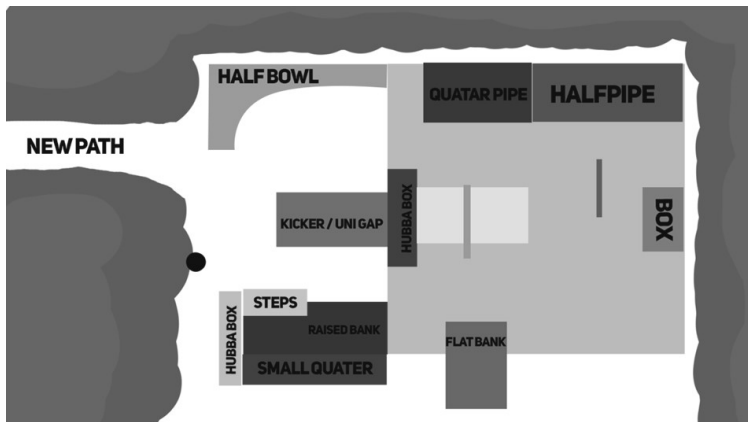
The Town Council is starting a campaign to increase voting in Charlbury using the Street Fair as the launch. The aims are to:

- To increase voter turnout in Charlbury for both local, district and general elections;
- To improve visibility for the Town Council elections in 2024 and to explain what a town councillor does;
- To push voting during election cycles and to encourage those who do vote, to sign-up to the government's free voter ID.



## Charlbury Skatepark

Resident Liam Flaxman has approached the Town Council to ask for help with improving the skatepark at the top of Ticknell Piece. With Liam, we have set up a Skatepark Working Party which has identified urgent repairs need to make the ramps safe for users. The Council has agreed to pay £2,500 for repairs. In the longer term, we would like to see the skatepark become a vibrant place for skateboarders and BMXers. As it stands, the facilities are too hard for beginners, so the Skatepark Working Party is looking at plans for adding facilities that are better suited to novice skateboarders. Below is a plan of the kind of thing we are thinking of: the 'new path' links to the existing play park. We will consult users and obtain tenders before seeking external funding to get the additional facilities built.



## Charlbury Town Council News

### Nine Acres Recreation Ground

The benches at Nine Acres have all been cemented to the ground. This means that people can enjoy them in the play park area where they are intended to be used. (We kept finding them hidden in the bushes or being used as a platform to jump onto the new trampoline.) We have also had to spend £2,500 to repair the basket swing and the safety rail on the multiplay.

### Parishes Together

Charlbury Town Council has co-ordinated the first meeting of what promises to become a powerful alliance between neighbouring parishes. 'Parishes Together' saw Charlbury, Chadlington, Fawler, Chilson, Spelsbury, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Finstock and Enstone councils agreeing to work together on nature recovery planning, cycling/walking routes that join up our communities, and river/water quality. We also agreed to co-ordinate responses to the revision of the Local Plan. Watch this space!

### Land and Nature Group

CAG Oxfordshire has just secured limited funding through the Nature Recovery Network Seed Corn Fund which will help them to continue their support for us and

other parishes embarking on nature recovery planning. Our aim is for the LNG to become an exemplar for parish cluster-level nature recovery planning.

### Grants for the Financial Year 2024-25

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 2024-25, you can complete an application form at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/apply-for-a-grant/> or ask the Town Clerk for a hard copy. Applications, along with supporting documents, must be received by midday on 31st October 2023. Late applications cannot be considered. The Clerk can advise on what can, and cannot, be grant-aided under the Local Government Act.

### Street Fair 16th September

The council will have stalls at this year's Street Fair. Please come and say hello, meet some of your councillors and tell us what you'd like to see us do for – or with – you. There'll also be information about the Land and Nature Group's activities as well as our campaign to increase voting in Charlbury.

*Cllr James Styring*



## Charlbury Lunch Club

The Charlbury Lunch Club held on Wednesdays 11.30am-2pm is almost full to capacity and we have a lovely time each week, with a delicious home cooked meal and some interesting conversation followed by games or some entertainment. It is ably led by Kath Lucas supported by a large team of volunteers (though we could always use more, so please get in touch if you could offer a couple of hours a month). We are

already making plans for a trip to the pantomime in Chippy at Christmas and for another home cooked Christmas lunch and we recently had a lovely visit from the School Choir, which went down very well.

They promised to come back -we'll hold them to that!

*Tanya Stevenson, Chair of Committee  
(tel 07871 795748)*

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**From District Councillor Andy Graham**

07908 832632 andyg2439@gmail.com

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**Diddly Squat**

Outcome of inspector's Report Clarkson given temporary car park permission; no restaurant and land brought back to original use after three years. WODC position supported- mostly. Business as usual.

**Partnership**

**Cotswold District Council** agree to partner future housing strategy with WODC and develop model to increase housing build through a housing company (pos Oxford City) and housing association (to be determined) building on land in both districts to support badly needed 1,2-bedroom units and emergency accommodation.

**Local Plan**

Development of Structure and planned consultation process in the final stages with a report to executive/Council with emphasis on qualitative engagement with residents to commence September. Whole timetable for the review detailing the various stages of the plan will be detailed and made available in the next

six weeks.

**Leisure**

A long-term strategy review/reshape of the future of leisure in West Ox to be commenced in the next few months. Residents to be engaged and consulted on their views. In the meantime, the administration has agreed long overdue roof repairs failed to be done by the previous administration to be completed at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre with immediate effect.

**Council Chamber and new community Access/facilities**

Refit of the Council Chamber with multi - function community use with accessible and welcoming reception, increased facilities and Witney town centre customer improvements at Welch Way unveiled and due to be completed by November. Planning Department moved into Wood Green offices and Elmfield to be re let to bring council rental income to support improvements to council services.

*Councillor Andy Graham*

Advertise your business in the **Charlbury Chronicle** and reach over 1600 residences.

To place an advert please ring Graham Jowett on 01608 810666 or

email:[adverts.chronicle@outlook.com](mailto:adverts.chronicle@outlook.com)

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

**Font Cafe**

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

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



**DOG TREATS, DOG CHEWS**  
**DOG ENRICHMENT GAMES,**  
**TOYS & ACCESSORIES**

Here's just a selection of what we offer...

- Camtali's Dog Treats: Peanut Butter & Banana, Blueberry & Coconut, Oaty Apple, Pumpkin & Apple, Doggy Peanut Butter plus new recipes soon!
- Dog Chews: Ostrich Bones, Pizzles, Yak Chews, Antlers, Chicken Feet, Pig Noses, Beef Tendons...
- Meaty Dog Treats: Pure Meat Coins, Paté, Biltong, Liver, Pure Meat Sticks (various flavours)...
- Fishy Dog Treats: Sprats, Sprat Bites, Fish Skins, Fish Jerky, Paté, Fish Sticks...
- Dog Enrichment Games: Snuffle mats, Lickimats, Retrieving rolls, Treat balls...
- Dog Toys: Soft toys, Rope toys, Ball throwers, Tennis balls...
- Dog Accessories: Poo bags, Whistles, Travel bowls...

Find us at:

[camtalis.co.uk](http://camtalis.co.uk)



CamtalisUK



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# Fitness 4 Seniors

FALLS PREVENTION BY LOUISE BARNES



## Evidence-Based Falls Management (FaME) Programme

**Balance & Strength classes (regular):**  
**TUE 3.00 pm (1hr) – Charlbury Community Centre**  
**FRI 11.30 am (1hr) – Highlands Day Centre, Ch. Norton**

**Balance & Strength classes (with music):**  
**MON 10.00 am (1hr) – The AM Hall, Middle Barton**  
**FRI 10.00 am (1hr) – Highlands Day Centre, Ch. Norton**  
**1st class £4 with this voucher**

£6 per class. Book your place:  
 07879 685579 | [louisebarnespt@gmail.com](mailto:louisebarnespt@gmail.com)



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



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- **All types of removals:** local & long distance
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## Girl Guiding needs YOU!

Charlbury hasn't had a Brownie unit in over 25 years, and we need one – desperately!

Brownies is for girls between the ages of seven and ten years of age. We run the 1st Charlbury Girl Guide Unit, and we can't invite girls to join until they're ten years old.

In the past, anyone interested in Brownies could go to Chadlington Brownies. Sadly, after 70+ years, unless we can find someone there as well, the Chadlington Brownie Unit will close.

So we need YOU. Yeah, YOU, reading this article. And maybe that person over there, too.

Girl Guiding can't survive without volunteers. Charlbury needs two volunteers to train to be Brownie Unit leaders. And we need them pretty quickly!

1st Charlbury Unit Girl Guides have done loads of things, and we're looking forwards to doing more. We have:

- Had a Zoom call with a Space Shuttle pilot from NASA
- Gone to Go Ape for a tree-top/zip wire adventure
- Gone camping (we're going again in September 2023)
- Learned how to do yoga, line dancing, and Zumba
- Been trained in First Aid (CPR, using an AED, burns, wounds, and more)
- Learned self-defence
- Had a Zoom call with Anne McClain, who is part of the Artemis mission back to the Moon
- Toured the F1 Renault facility
- Learned how to scuba dive

- Made sushi
- Gone geocaching
- Learned how to draw Anime, lino printing, and mono printing
- Cooked a meal over an open fire.

While Brownie units are for younger girls, Brownies get up to the same sorts of activities.

Please won't you help us provide these kinds of cool experiences (and more) for other girls in Charlbury and its environs?

Girl Guiding isn't what it was 30 years ago – it's made great strides into the twenty-first century, and we need YOU to help it continue.

Charlbury Girl Guides will be at the Charlbury Street Fair for fun and fundraising, but there will also be a stall where you can find out more information about how to get involved in Girl Guiding.

Do you get paid? No. Do you have to do a lot of prep work and organising? Yes. Do we love doing it? Yes, we do.

Get in touch with us if you can become a Girl Guiding volunteer and help Charlbury bring back its Brownie unit – and maybe its Rainbow unit, too (girls 4–7 years old).

YES -- it takes energy and effort and TIME to engage our Girl Guides. We love it, and we can't imagine not doing it.

We need your help. Get in touch.

*Michele Marietta 07817 890787  
Eric Pradel 07486 051539*





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## Special walks for a Cotswold Gateway town

It is over five years now since Charlbury was designated a Gateway Town, along with nine others across the Cotswolds. The signs as you enter the town indicate that walkers are welcome, and indeed they are. There's plenty for them to enjoy as well as the opportunity to explore the nearby countryside.

Part of the Gateway project included creating two new circular walking routes, mainly following existing footpaths and bridleways. Shown on the special map on the Church Street wall, just down from the Rose & Crown, these routes provide opportunities to discover hidden corners, views across the Evenlode valley and a rich diversity of wildlife.

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens make sure these routes are kept in good order, a challenge this year as the vegetation growth has boomed with the excessive rainfall. Recent tasks have included cutting back nettles and brambles along the permissive path below the Burial Ground, and removing branches that were obstructing other footpaths.

If you don't know about these routes, here's a reminder:

### **Cotswold Gateway – Charlbury 1**

This 1.8-mile circular route takes you down Dyers Hill, along Mill Lane and into the Mill Field where you can sit by the river and enjoy listening to the birds or watch butterflies flit from flower to flower. At the far end of the Mill Field, cross the river and then choose which way to come back to Pound Hill; either along Watery Lane, or along the Cotswold Way through the fields. A short uphill pull to the Burial Ground, using the

permissive path, and you're soon back in the town centre.

### **Cotswold Gateway – Charlbury 2**

This is just a little longer than the Mill Field route and takes you along Hundley Way to Banbury Hill Farm and The Old Shed. Return to Charlbury by a traffic-free route leading to Wigwell Nature Reserve. Take time to admire the wonderful wildflowers that flourish here before heading back into the town centre.

Both walks make a nice leg-stretch after a day at work, or somewhere to take the children on a summer evening or weekends.

You can download the routes with full instructions and information at [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/walking/cotswold-gateways/](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/walking/cotswold-gateways/) The website also gives information about the other Gateway towns.

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

*Rosemary Wilson and Simon Walker*

## **Enjoyable and Friendly Local Art Courses**

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

**The Branch AGM** will be held in the Morris Room at Charlbury Corner House at 8.00pm on Thursday 19 October 2023. 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 4 November 2023 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 10 November 2023 with " Jubilee Brass". There will be a raffle, light refreshments and a licensed bar. Details may be obtained from the Poppy Appeal Organiser 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 12 November 2023. 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 Peter Durrant M.B.E. Peter was a former Colonel with the Gloucester Regiment. Peter is a Charlbury resident. 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 Thursday 9 November 2023.

**The National Two Minutes Silence** will be at 11.00am on Saturday 11 November 2023. 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, 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 0800 8028080.

*Jane Parsons*



# Charlbury Green Hub

## When are apples ready to pick?

Some varieties are ready as early as July, some as late as November, so knowing your apple variety really helps. Don't pick them before they're ripe because they won't have developed their full flavour. Unripe apples taste starchy, the pips will be white rather than brown, and they will be harder and smaller than when ripe – you might even think they are cookers rather than gorgeous dessert apples.

All apple trees drop small apples roundabout June – the famous "June Drop" – the tree is saving its energy to produce better apples later on.

You can help further by removing more small apples particularly reducing large clusters down to 2 or 3. Summer pruning in August also helps – give the tree a haircut by shortening new growth to 1/3 length – this exposes the fruit to more light and sunshine which helps them ripen and colour up.

The tree will let you know when the apples are ready – it'll start to drop ripe apples, which will also be easy to pick – lift an apple in the palm of your hand and the stalk will snap off from the twig, if it doesn't snap off easily then leave it a bit longer. Apples exposed to the sun will always be ready first – I always pick a tree over a few weeks taking those from the top and sunny side first while leaving the others to get larger. Apples bruise easily, lay them gently into your trug and don't drop them the last few inches – treat them like eggs!

Early varieties ready in August and September need to be eaten straight away – they won't keep, but apples ripening from October onwards will keep for several months in the fridge or a cool dark shed – ready to be enjoyed right

through the winter.

Here in Charlbury, we can all enjoy about 80 apple varieties, plus plums, damsons, pears, and quinces all picked locally and provided free. The fortnightly Sunday afternoon Big Apple Take-Aways on the Playing Close were a Charlbury fixture from 2008 until 2019, but since COVID all the picked fruit is now available to everyone at the Cornerstone at The Corner House from Monday to Saturday 10am-1pm. Just come along and help yourself to the different varieties throughout the autumn – all are welcome.

This unique Charlbury tradition is only made possible through the generosity of those people with fruit trees in their gardens who have more than they can eat and don't want the rest to go to waste. Please contact me if you have spare fruit I can pick this autumn, please phone 811057 or email [cropshare@charlburygreenhub.org.uk](mailto:cropshare@charlburygreenhub.org.uk), and I can also help identify your apple variety.

*Christine Elliott  
Charlbury Green Hub*

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## Charlbury Arts



Have you been out and about this summer?

On our days and trips out we often pop into Art Exhibitions, either in big galleries or small communities. We enjoy looking at recognised masterworks or collections of local art which often reflect the interests and local environment of both professional and hobby artists. Sometimes we may find a card or print, small piece or picture to remind us of an interesting outing. Last week in Harlech at the local Art Society Exhibition, we were asked to choose a favourite work and vote for it. Our seven year old granddaughter chose an amusing watercolour of a giraffe!

A visitor to Charlbury may enjoy the flock of mosaic swifts, made by local people of all ages, while they relax with a coffee at the Community Centre. A visit to 'The Deli' may be enhanced by a small exhibition by a local artist, changing throughout the year. At the Summer Fete at St Mary's Church the exhibition of local school children's work was a delightful display of varied art techniques and media illustrating Charlbury wildlife. The May and November Artweeks in Charlbury are a very rich trail of artists studios and exhibitions of works in varied media, representing the very vibrant art activities in our community.

Charlbury Arts has a spring and an autumn exhibition each year. From the membership of Charlbury Arts about thirty artists submit examples of their work. These usually include drawings, paintings in watercolour, acrylic and oil, original prints using different techniques, ceramics and sculptures in various materials. This autumn the exhibition is themed 'Myths and Legends' and will be

held at Wilcote Art Studios on the 6th to 8th of October. The gallery, 'tucked under the beech trees of the ancient Wychwood Forest' is a great venue for our autumn exhibition. The address is Wilcote Art Studios, Hunts Copse, Wilcote Riding, near Finstock OX7 3DX. There is plenty of parking.

Each exhibition we have works from local artists well known in Charlbury and also from artists new to Charlbury Arts, joining as they move into the area or as they start to feel more confident about showing their work. New artists are very welcome! It is always interesting when the submission forms start to come in so that the catalogue and labels can be prepared for the exhibition. Titles of works may be self explanatory or leave a mystery to be solved on the day that works are delivered!

We have an exciting day of receiving the works, meeting the artists and sorting the works for hanging. At our Spring Exhibition this year there seemed to be more works than hanging space in the Memorial Hall! Careful placing of works sympathetic to each other was achieved using past experience of hanging. There was just enough space and the exhibition was ready for the well attended Private Viewing and for the next few days with Charlbury Garden Society Spring Show. Many people commented that they had enjoyed the joint event.

We look forward to seeing you at our Autumn Exhibition!

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

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## Charlbury Scout Group

In the last issue, I mentioned that the Group officially celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

In November 1933, the inaugural meeting of the Charlbury Scout Group Council was held at The Royal Oak (although a Scout Troop had met intermittently in previous years).

At that meeting, the District Commissioner explained the duties of the Group Council. Mr Morris was elected as President and Mr Hughes as Treasurer, In addition a 'Lady Cubmaster' (Mrs Hughes), Scoutmaster (Mr Lindars), Assistant Scoutmaster (Mr Smithson) and Rover Leader (Mr Nash) were appointed ex officio. An additional committee member, Mr Hadland, was also elected.

The reports for the year 1933–34 record Cub camps, a rally at Yulbury, semaphore testing at Chipping Norton, Scout camps and district competitions. The Rovers put on concerts and plays in aid of various charities and worked towards their Wood Badge, aiming to become leaders of the future.

It's heartening to know that outdoor activities, competitions, helping others and learning to lead are still part of the Scouting programme today. The summer term saw all sections attending West Oxfordshire District Camp at Northmoor, as well as Scouts enjoying water activities at Dorchester on Thames. We helped with litter picking at the Beer Festival and welcomed Explorers (the approximate modern equivalent of Rovers) who led a meeting of Korean activities for us, prior to setting off for the World Jamboree.

We are planning to have an 'open house' in November, welcoming all those involved with Charlbury Scout Group (past and present) – please look out for more information on Charlbury Info and posters around the town.

*Cheryl Horsey  
Group Scout Leader*

### Charlbury Baptist Church

You are warmly invited to a **healing service** at 7.30pm on Friday 8th September at Charlbury Baptist Church.

A team will be sharing their experiences and praying for all needs whether physical, mental or financial.

Expect a miracle and see God touch lives in line with the Bible.

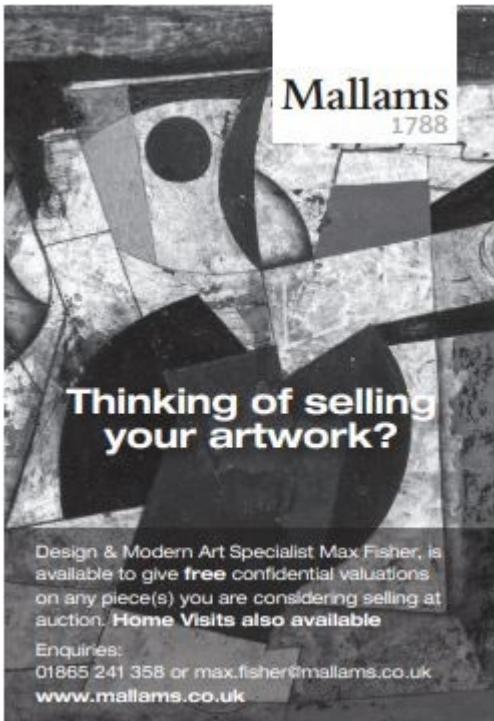


### All Together In Charlbury – a local helping hand

#### If you need:

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# CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

**Artweeks** - 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)**

Sue Haffenden, Secretary 01608 676642

[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 Community Workshop**

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

**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

(01608 810154)

**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)

**Charlbury Town Youth Football Club** - James

Ball (01608 810270) [jolliecat@btinternet.com](mailto:jolliecat@btinternet.com)

**Charlbury Town Walking Football**

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

(07388 010496) [www.charlburytownwfsc.co.uk/walking-football](http://www.charlburytownwfsc.co.uk/walking-football)

**Charlbury Wildlife Society**

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

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

Heather Hill [charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

**Corner House Community Bookshop**—Neil

Pakenham-Walsh (01608 811899)

**Corner House and Memorial Hall** -Office (07826

056496)

**Churches Together** - Rosalind Scott, (01608

810562) [rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk)

**Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens** - Simon

Walker (01608 811414) [simon.iets@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.iets@btinternet.com)

**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**

[parishoffice@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk](mailto:parishoffice@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk)

**Methodist Chapel** - Sue Tokumine (01608

810366) [suetok@hotmail.com](mailto:suetok@hotmail.com)

**Mind in Chipping Norton** (Mental Health

Support) (01608 645296)

**Riverside Festival** - Andy Pickard (01608

810635) [admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com](mailto:admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com)

[www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com](http://www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com)

**St Marys C of E Church** vacant (01608

810230)

**St Teresa's RC Church** Fr Clive Dytor (07484

158642)

**Sustainable Charlbury** - Liz Reason (01608

811212)

**The Bell Inn** (01608 810278)

**The Bull Inn** (01608 810689)

**Thomas Gifford Trust**- Chris Potts (01608

811878) [chris.potts@blakemorgan.co.uk](mailto:chris.potts@blakemorgan.co.uk)

**United Nations Association (West**

**Oxfordshire)** - Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608

811338)

**Walkers are Welcome** Tony Merry 07580

917584 [tonyherry@gmail.com](mailto:tonyherry@gmail.com)

**Wychwayz Border Morris** - Teresa Duester

(01608 810934)

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



## Charlbury's Police Community Support Officer

**C9837 Wesley Smith**

To speak to us about any concerns you may have:

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[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

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## CHARLBURY CHRONICLE CONTACTS

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