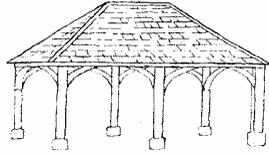


# The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 12 Number 4

December 2008

**The Editor wishes all Charlbury Chronicle readers  
A Very Happy Christmas  
and a Prosperous New Year**

**Heartfelt thanks are due to all those who help in any way in  
its production and delivery, in managing our finances and  
dealing with our advertisers.**

Lynette Murphy  
Editor

***Please Note  
The deadline for the  
March 2009 edition  
is February 1st***



## CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2008

**WOW !!** I think you will all agree that this year was a bumper year in all respects. Not only did the sun shine, but we had Sir Ben and Lady Kingsley to open the fair, which was a great boost to Street Fair.

As a result, this year we are able to give the Corner House and Memorial Hall Committee approximately **£11,000**. We would like to give a big thank you to all of you who so generously gave of your time, money etc to make it such a huge success. There are too many people to thank – but you know who you are, so a BIG thank you from all the Street Fair Team.

The Charlbury Street Fair Team is planning **Charlbury Expo 2009**, an event to be held in both the Corner House and Memorial Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 to celebrate our vibrant volunteer community and to allow all of the local clubs, societies and other interest groups to promote themselves to the whole community. Come along and be amazed at the range of activities and interests represented. Then get involved and enrich your life! If you are involved with any volunteer organisation in the area and you have not yet signed up to take part in the Expo, please contact Peter Kenrick (01608 811021 or [peter@kenricks.plus.com](mailto:peter@kenricks.plus.com)) for details.

The date for next year's Open Gardens has yet to be decided but will be sometime late May/June and Street Fair will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – so don't you dare be away! The first meeting to organise next year's fair will be on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 8pm in the Garden Room.

### **HELP!!**

Some of the existing Street Fair Team are standing down this year, so we do need **lots** of help and new ideas in organising the fair; it's not too much work if we have lots of people to help – and it's good fun too (we go to the pub afterwards!). If we are to continue the success of Street Fair we really do need help.

So to all of you, who enjoyed this year's fair, please think about even giving just a few hours of your time. Please don't just read this, and say well maybe I will help – and then forget about it. Contact me **NOW!** I look forward to hearing from you all. Phone number is 01608 810861 or by email at [susanna\\_finch@hotmail.com](mailto:susanna_finch@hotmail.com).

*Susie Finch, Street Fair Committee*

Charlbury Street Fair is the fund-raising organisation of the Corner House, Charlbury  
Registered Charity No 304282, which also includes the War Memorial Hall  
Registered address: The Corner House, Market Street, Charlbury, Oxon OX7 3PN



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We're not your average high street store  
They're robot cloned and such a bore  
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To handmade cards to send with glee  
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But don't forget we're framers too  
So bring your Art both old and new  
And let us work what some call "Magic"  
Transform your Art away from tragic

So a Christmas message to one and all  
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With Season's Greetings from us to you.

Merry Christmas

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## Any Old Apples?

Beauty of Bath, Blenheim Orange, Bramley Seedling, Discovery, Ellison's Orange, Gascoigne Scarlet, Greensleeves, John Standish, Kidd's Orange, Howgate Wonder, Lady Henniker, Laxton's Superb, Laxton's Advance, Lord Derby, Newton Wonder, Sunset, Tydeman's Late Orange, William Crump, Worcester Permain – these wonderful names are varieties of apples we've found in Charlbury – just a few of the 2,300 named cooking and eating varieties listed in the UK. Charlbury could boast even more - if you have apple trees in your garden, do you know what they are? Lots of varieties have been "lost" and you might have a heritage tree in your own garden. If you do have an old apple tree, please contact [charlburysarecroppers@cwag.org.uk](mailto:charlburysarecroppers@cwag.org.uk) who are mapping the apple trees in the town and getting them identified (or phone 01608-811831).

From August to November, Charlbury Sharecroppers picked and redistributed well over a ton of apples, most of which would otherwise have gone to waste. Hundreds of people, including many children, came to the Big Apple Take-Aways held on the Playing Close on Sunday afternoons. People were able to taste the varieties before taking away whatever they fancied totally free of charge. Some were juiced for tasting and this highlighted the wide range of exquisite flavours which came as a great surprise to most people – rather reminiscent of wine tasting.

People have loved this opportunity to try out traditional varieties and appreciate the different qualities that established them in the first place. Each variety is propagated by grafts onto a rootstock, any apple grown from a pip, e.g. from thrown away apple cores will be a new genetic mix. All Blenheim Oranges – one of the greatest English apples and perfect for Apple Charlotte – will have come directly or indirectly from the original tree found growing in a garden next to the wall of the Palace in Old Woodstock around 1740 – maybe you have one in your garden and it might even be an original graft!

*Christine Elliott*  
[www.cwag.org.uk](http://www.cwag.org.uk)

### **BURFORD SCHOOL SIXTH FORM NEWS**

On Friday 16th January, Burford School sixth form block will be closed to the regular students and Year 11 students will be able to have a 'taster day' of life in the sixth form. This will include a day of AS level study and lessons.

On Thursday 22nd January there will be a sixth form Information Evening from 7.00pm when students will be able to ask questions of members of staff to help them decide which subjects to study after GCSEs.

If you are not currently a pupil at Burford School and would like to attend the taster day please call Ms Denny (Head of Sixth Form) on 01993 823303 or for further details email <mailto:sixthform.4040@burford.oxon.sch.uk> [sixthform.4040@burford.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform.4040@burford.oxon.sch.uk)

# LIFE AT CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*A report from School Governor Birgit den Outer*

Now well in our 2008/2009 academic year, the school is going through busy times. The new extended school provision has turned out to be a huge success and this is due to the efforts of a team of people. We are particularly grateful to Anneke, Dianne, and Lewis, the 'My Time' managers, but administrator Shirley Steele and the head teacher Jane Holt also deserve a special mention for their mammoth efforts in making this initiative so successful. The after school activities have increased hugely and children can now enrol in clubs in areas like gardening, film, dance and drama, as well as old favourites like cookery, gymnastics, and Spanish. Lewis, a professional chef, cooks healthy snacks everyday, using fresh ingredients and sometimes has help from the children too. 'My Time', the chill-out zone, is known for its 'home-from-home' atmosphere and children are welcome here every school day until 6pm.

We are also happy to report the start of a process that will ultimately lead to a fabulous new website for our school. We have roped in the professional expertise of Vicky Buser, end user workshop facilitator, and Liz Donnelly, project manager, who are also parents at the school. We have had the first two stakeholder workshops to ensure that the new website is as effective as it possibly can be in various areas of communication.

In the last Chronicle, we promised updated SATS results for Key Stage II. However, for administrative reasons outside the School's control, these are still not available so will need to wait their announcement until the next Chronicle. In the meantime, we are happy to report that our School Improvement Partner, a local government adviser, has now upgraded us to a level 2, which is 'good', in all areas.

## **Charlbury School Association**

This is a busy time of year for CSA fund-raising with the run-up to Christmas. By the time the Chronicle reader has read this column, we will have had a Quiz Night, organised by John Grain and Associates, a very popular event and regular fixture on the CSA calendar. We will also have hosted a Christmas Shopping Evening for local traders selling lovely Christmas goodies, and you may just catch our Coffee Morning at the Corner House on 29 November where there will be homemade cakes and preserves to buy. The School's Christmas Fair will be held on 12 December where the children will have great fun meeting Father Christmas and trying their luck on our many stalls.

As announced in the previous Chronicle, the money raised from our very successful Cornbury Festival Tea & Cake Tent event will be going directly towards a new Adventure Trail for the school grounds. Other money raised has already been used for a new Science computer program for Key Stage II pupils and to subsidise future transport costs to ensure our school trips are affordable to all. We have also been able to increase the CSA allocation towards individual classes to help address their specific requirements such as reference books, cooking equipment and art & craft materials. As always, many thanks to the wider community for their continued support!

## SPARE ROOM FOR A PAYING VISITOR 10 JANUARY TO 6 APRIL?

Canadian students from the 2009 Atlantic Baptist University Oxford Study Programme will be staying in Charlbury from 10 January to 6 April, while they undertake their studies in a course entitled, 'From Renaissance Art to Victorian Science'.

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

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

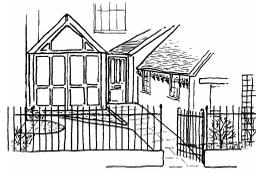
If you feel you can assist for part of the time but not the whole duration, it may be possible for students to be moved to another home stay during their time here.

Please contact one of the following for further details:

Madeleine Wheare - 01608 810092 ;  
[mad@wheare.org](mailto:mad@wheare.org)

Marion Greenfield - 01608 810896;  
[mq.littlelees@googlemail.com](mailto:mq.littlelees@googlemail.com)

Peter Colyer - 01608 810107;  
[pjc@paintbrush29.plus.com](mailto:pjc@paintbrush29.plus.com)



## MUSEUM NEWS

Charlbury Museum is now closed until next April, when it will reopen as usual on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

However, individuals and groups can still visit the Museum during the winter, by special arrangement with the Curator, Ron Prew. (tel. 01608 810060)

*Charles Tyzack*

## SORRY! SORRY!

The Editor apologises to Andrew Lawson for failing to mention him as the author of the article about Charlbury Station in the September issue.

Apologies, too, to District Counsellor Glenda Chadwick for getting her email address wrong. The correct one is on p 36.



Hello everyone! Sadly, Kat Patrick's contributions to Tot Bits have now come to an end, and I'd like to start my first article by thanking her for all her entertaining nuggets on Tot-rearing/survival. So, to introduce myself – I'm Carina Loweth and, like Kat, I grew up abroad (Geneva, Switzerland). I came to study law at University of Bristol and ended up finding my husband, Craig, in Birmingham where we used to live and work before moving to Charlbury almost four years ago. Motherhood began for me in November 2005, with the early arrival of my son, Jack, which caught me somewhat off guard and unprepared! I'm finding Charlbury to be an amazing place to bring up a child and so I feel honoured to take over from Kat in bringing news to you of what's going on for Tots in the area.

We really are spoilt for choice, and so I thought I would focus on something close to my heart – ways of keeping my Tot physically active now that the winter weather has arrived and the local parks seem less inviting (I hate the cold). I have reviewed below some of the indoor options you might like to consider trying with your Tots. I've also included a list of soft play centres at the end in case you are new to the area or to grand/parenthood.

**JINGLE, JANGLE & JUMP:** This is a dance and music class for toddlers and pre-schoolers run by Tina Piotrowsky. Tina is a London choreographer who has danced with many artists such as Beyonce, Destiny's Child, Robbie Williams and Take That to name but a few, so we are lucky to have her teach our little ones here in Charlbury! Tina has devised an action packed routine full of singing,

dancing and jumping around. But that's not all - there are props galore to captivate and involve all the Tots (particularly those feeling a little unsure about dancing) including animal masks, star wands, cowboy/girl hats and sparklies. I just love watching them all have such fun - and they adore her!

Timing: 2.00pm-2.45pm on Wednesdays during term time

Venue: Methodist Church, Fishers Lane, Charlbury

Cost: £3.50 (£1 extra for siblings)

Tina also runs "Let's get Funky" dance classes for children aged 7-12yrs and 12+teenagers on Mondays. And not forgetting us older ones, Tina has started a Ladies Funky Fitness Class on Mondays at 8pm.

For more information call Tina on 01608 813087.

**BOUNCE BALLS:** I don't have personal experience of this class, but it sounds great. The aim of these 45 minute sessions is to introduce and improve ball skills, to improve hand-eye coordination, to gain self-confidence and most of all, to have fun and exercise!

Timing: 1:30pm on Fridays during term time

Venue: Charlbury Memorial Hall

Cost: £3 per session

For more information contact Lisa Wilkinson on 07811174733.

**LITTLE MONEYS GYM:** What I particularly like about Little Monkeys Gym is its relaxed set up (baby siblings are welcome), although the sessions always start off with action songs using lumni sticks. After this, Tots have the freedom to choose from a wealth of activities. They



can practice their climbing skills on the large climbing frame with slide, or their co-ordination when rolling over/balancing/jumping off the soft play equipment. Alternatively, there are the mini badminton rackets with soft fluffy balls to hit, or the vegetable bean bags to throw into hoops, or Velcro balls to throw at a giant dart board.... you get the picture. In addition, at some point during the session, the older ones can join in on group fun such as beanbag relays or a mini obstacle race course. Never any pressure to participate, it makes for a stress-free time for you and your Tot.

Timing: 9:30 am on Tuesdays during term time

Venue: Stonesfield Village Hall

Cost: £5 per class payable per term

For more information contact Jane Brooks on 01865 841409.

### **TUMBLE TOTS:**

There are a number of classes on offer depending on the age of your Tot. Gym-babes caters for the 6mths to walking age group, and focuses on stimulating their senses through playing, exploring and crawling. Tumble Tots is split into three groups of classes covering confident walkers through to school age children. The walking to 2 yr olds programme encourages your Tot to develop body awareness by starting to climb, jump and roll, and includes an action sing song in the middle of the session. For the 2 to 3 yr olds, the sessions are much more structured and teach Tots to listen to instructions. After an initial group chat, the Tots form little "trains" to move from one activity station to another at the blow of a whistle. The equipment is set up to further test their co-ordination, balance and agility. In the

3yrs to school age group, the children attend the sessions without their carers for the first time. Higher pieces of equipment are introduced together with more challenging task sequences, which continue to develop co-ordination, ball skills, body awareness and control.

Timing: Wednesday morning - see website for more details

Venue: Chipping Norton Football Club (also Witney Burwell Hall)

Cost: £5 per class payable per term

More info: [www.tumbletots.com/Witney](http://www.tumbletots.com/Witney) or call Lesley Callum on 01993 702851

**CLEVERMESS:** Ok, so this isn't really a movement class, although my son's balancing skills were tested when he had his bare feet in a tub of slippery paint before stepping out to leave footprints along a long sheet of paper (in The Elves and the Shoemaker Clevermess session). However, as Clevermess promotes sensory development in little ones aged between 12mths and 4 yrs, it deserves a mention in this article. For those of you who don't have the space or the inclination to get out the paints or other messy play inside the house, give this a go! Kate, a former primary school teacher, believes that "Mess is Best", and that Tots really benefit from experimenting with mess. So, each session offers them a number of messy explorative play "stations" which the Tots can chose to indulge in (or not) in the order they please. Using kinesthetic learning strategies, these activities are all devised according to a theme (this term traditional tales, next term fairy tales), so Tots are not only having fun getting dirty but learning at the same time. Just remember to dress your child in old clothes and bring a change of clothes too! (over)



Timing: 10am /1:30pm Tuesdays during term time

Venue: Hook Norton Sports and Social Club/Churchill and Sarsden Village Hall

Cost: £5 payable per term

More info: [www.clevermess.co.uk](http://www.clevermess.co.uk) or call Kate on 01608 644026

**BABY AND TODDLER GROUP:** The Baby and Toddler Group meets every Monday during term time from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Memorial Hall and welcomes mums-to-be and babies as well as pre-school children. There is a variety of fun activities and children especially enjoy having lots of space to use tricycles and ride on toys. Sessions include a craft, story time with juice and a biscuit, singing and sometimes parachute play. A friendly environment, a hot cuppa and conversation also awaits (£2 per family).

#### **SOFT PLAY CENTRES:**

KinderKids (Witney; tel: 01993 700125; 14 Thorney Leys Park)

Ace Centre (Chipping Norton; tel: 01608 644 440 - Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30 only)

Kangeroo Joe's (Carterton; tel: 01993 847374 ; [www.kangeroojoes.co.uk](http://www.kangeroojoes.co.uk))

Rugrats and Half Pints (Banbury; tel 01295 250060; [www.rugratsandhalfpints.com](http://www.rugratsandhalfpints.com))

Funky Monkeys (Bicester; tel: 01869 252478; [www.funkymonkeys.co.uk](http://www.funkymonkeys.co.uk))

Fundays (Bourton-on-the-Water; tel: 01451 822999; [www.fundaysplaybarn.com](http://www.fundaysplaybarn.com))

Jambinos (Oxford; tel: 01865 712846 ; [www.jambinos.co.uk](http://www.jambinos.co.uk))

Enjoy!

Carina Loweth

*Please send all TotBits information to Carina at  
[ssloweth@btinternet.com](mailto:ssloweth@btinternet.com) 01608 810870*

### **The Community First Responders**

The Community Responders Team would like to thank everyone for their support, and wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year for 2009.

If there is anyone who would like to join the team, or would like any information, please email Carol at [carol846@btinternet.com](mailto:carol846@btinternet.com) or phone 01993868710

### **HAVE YOU LOST A KEY?**

A key was found on the Playing Close after the last Farmers' Market in September.

Please see Roger Watts at Business Focus in Sheep Street who is keeping it safely, or ring him on 01608 811559



## Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action

Enabling a diverse voluntary and community sector to flourish

### Does Your Village have a “Good Neighbour Scheme”?

#### What is a Good Neighbour Scheme?

Good Neighbour Schemes are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community for those in need of help and support. The people who may need support may be older people, people with disabilities, single parents and young mothers, those temporarily in need through illness or anyone who may be isolated within the community. The help offered by Good Neighbour Schemes may include:

- Providing transport for appointments or hospital visits
- Errands, shopping a collecting prescriptions
- Household tasks or gardening
- Visiting or befriending
- Letter-writing or simple form filling
- Helping people after discharge from hospital
- Reading to partially sighted or blind people

Providing information

Where the scheme is available to the community it is well-used and highly valued by the residents.

*“I am housebound, but my befriender is wonderful. She gets all the right things. She cheers me up”*

*“As a single woman without family living near I get quite anxious whenever I get ill, wondering how I’m going to get the pre-*

*scription, my shopping etc. Knowing that there is a Good Neighbour on my street that I can call if I have to have help gives me real comfort and peace of mind”*

**Would Your Community Like to Have a Good Neighbour Scheme?** Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action is currently running a project Funded by Oxfordshire CC with the aim of supporting local communities to establish new schemes. **A limited number of start-up grants are available** to allow communities to meet the costs of setting up- buying a mobile phone, public liability cover and publicity material. (These grants will be available on a first-come, first-served basis). For further information please contact Liz on the contact details below.

#### Funding to Develop Existing Schemes:

If your village already runs a Good Neighbour Scheme of any kind, **grants may be available to help the scheme extend, diversify or develop**. Please contact Liz on the number above.

#### Establishing a Network of Good Neighbour Schemes:

Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action is supporting Good Neighbour Schemes by setting up a Network to enable schemes to share good practice, experiences and advice. To join, please contact Liz on the number above, or alternatively send an email.

**Liz Pride** on 01865 251946 or email: [liz.pride@ocva.org.uk](mailto:liz.pride@ocva.org.uk)

Oxfordshire Community  
& Voluntary Action  
The Old Court House, Floyds Row

## Because we never said goodbye: more poems from Charlbury

Well, we didn't say goodbye -- because we always hoped that a second book of Charlbury-related poems would follow the first; and by early December it should indeed be available. Almost fifty people have contributed 120 poems in total, and Mick Rooney has painted a fine cover and provided illustrations.

There's much celebration of people and places, some of it very amusing. But it's not all love and laughter. There's a fair amount of loss, and anger. So not all of the book is comfortable reading. Marvellously, people want to say a huge number of different things, but all in a way that is somehow more powerful or entertaining than everyday prose. To encompass the great diversity, we've had to introduce a "colour supplement" with sections on gardening, art, cookery, travel and motoring – if that's not too grand a term for what one does in a Robin Reliant. And we have a mystery story about the search for the Charlbury fish van. (I've told Brian that he'll have to buy the book by the crateload and sell it on the streets of Grimsby.)

There is a great appetite in our town for writing poetry, and for hearing it read. So we'll have another evening of performance in the Memorial Hall, which we've booked for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

*Because we never said goodbye* is published by Jon Carpenter and available from Evenlode Books at £9.99. £2.50 from each full-price copy sold will go to Charlbury Cricket Club's pavilion appeal.

*Rob Stepney*

### CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

The time of year is bringing us into cold winter weather and it is important that users please only control the heaters by the electric switches to turn them on or off, but do NOT adjust the temperature or other controls.. The Hall will be warm and now is well insulated. Also, please be careful to use blue tack, staples or pins ONLY on the wooden rail provided. Small cup-hooks are installed to which balloons etc can be attached.

We ask you to always treat the buildings as if they were your own - which of course they are because they belong to the town.

The Committee was disappointed not to see representatives of the many groups who are regular users at the AGM, as they could have been very helpful by giving us comments, information and reactions.

Meanwhile, we send you greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

*Ann Gilbert*

## SHED THEATRE TRIUMPHS IN EDINBURGH

Charlbury's youth theatre group Shed hit new heights this summer with its acclaimed performance of *Under Milk Wood* at the Edinburgh Fringe. The show played to full houses across its eight-day run, receiving excellent reviews. Here's cast member Bryony Cunningham's lasting memories.

**Accommodation high:** We stayed in university flats together – all 32 of us – so it was like one long party.

**Accommodation low:** Washing-up – you can't believe how much washing up that many people can make.

**Cooking triumph:** Salmon en papillote (salmon baked in foil in the oven on a bed of carrots, leeks and courgettes) with new potatoes - and it worked!

**Cooking disaster:** Spaghetti for 12 people, which I attempted to cook in one small saucepan with no colander to drain it.

**Performance high:** The first performance when we were all waiting backstage hoping to get at least 15 in the audience, then hearing a flood of people pour in as soon as the doors opened and playing to a full house.

**Performance low:** The nerves I got every night before going on.

**Best night:** Eating dinner with my family after the show in a fantastic fish restaurant, then going to see Jimmy Carr doing stand-up, and spending the rest of the evening with friends at the Fringe Underbelly venue.

**Worse night:** Every night was good, even when I was ill one night and had to stay in, a couple of friends stayed in with me and we ended up having a great evening.

**Highlight:** Having people coming up to us after the performance to tell us how much they enjoyed it, especially one man who had known Richard Burton and talked to us about him.

**Lowlight:** Wearing high heels to walk up and down the Royal Mile every day to promote the show – they don't call it a mile for nothing!

**Edinburgh Fringe daily newspaper *Three Weeks*:** *'The characters are brought to life well by this young company, who seem to understand the mundane perversity of rural village life. There is a subtle elegance in the staging, opening in darkness and allowing the language to set the scene, before sweeping into fluid movement, capturing the steady sway of the town. Shed Theatre's presentation of this classic British play combines music, dance and acting to beautiful effect.'*

**Victor Hallet, Theatre in Wales ([theatre-wales.co.uk](http://theatre-wales.co.uk)):** *'The whole production felt very musical. Not only had the company composed songs for the show...they treated the words as though they were part of a choral composition. They did this without losing the sense or meaning of the lines, in fact the humour and sadness came through very strongly.... The pace never slackened but neither was it ever rushed. As well as the songs, they had worked out elegant dance movements involving the whole company. This reached a peak with Rosie Probert's farewell to Captain Cat, the point where words, music and movement created an exquisite atmosphere of love, longing and loss. Never mind Captain Cat having tears in his eyes, I had tears in mine...the skills, enthusiasm and superb discipline they brought to Dylan Thomas made this one of the most enchanting *Under Milk Woods* I've ever seen and fully deserving of its place in Edinburgh.'*

*This report was prepared for the Charlbury Chronicle by Kathryn Custance*

## REDUNDANCY – PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY?

How are you feeling about the 'R' word? If you are over 40, then you'll remember the late 80's/early 90's when redundancy and negative equity were commonplace

I was made redundant in the late 80's. It was very stressful at the time, but a problem became an opportunity and it was the beginning of my career going in a direction that was more true to me. I used my redundancy money to pay off my debts and to give my discoloured teeth a 'face lift' with porcelain veneers, so redundancy ironically helped put the smile back on my face!

All the clients I have ever worked with who have been made redundant have gone on to something better. Did you know that only 20% of people actually enjoy their work? Often we fall into a job almost by accident, choose a career because our parents did it or thought it a 'proper' profession e.g. law, or a teacher influenced our thinking from their view of the world.

Companies often take a short-term view of saving costs, cutting headcount without considering the longer-term implications of losing people e.g. engagement and productivity of the survivors or having a talent shortage post recession. If redundancy is a possibility for you, it's worth having a chat with your employer about your skills being redeployed in the business differently, reducing your hours, or having a sabbatical.

Redundancy can be a push to make a positive change, even if it feels out of your hands and more like an unwelcome shove that makes you angry and steals your confidence. Going through a challenge makes you even more resourceful to deal with life - we need downs to realise that the ups are ups and appreciate the good times.

There is a talent shortage in the world and it is the no 1 issue preoccupying CEOs. A skills shortage is an opportunity for people being made redundant to skill-up in the areas where there is a shortage. Sheep shearing and being a trained ballet dancer may not be your thing, but jobs such as engineers, maths teachers and specialist nurses could be. Markets such as care homes, well being and security are growing for example.

The British are very modest and we all get so close to ourselves that we find it hard to see what makes us unique and marketable, and how we can use these transferable skills in a different way. The older we are and the more financial responsibilities and dependents we have, the harder and more risky a change feels. A career crossroads is a positive opportunity to take a step back and look at who you are, what you want and how to get it.

I am going to be doing a monthly *Steer your career* workshop locally with another career coach Lesley Reader, to help people review their career direction. Dates are Saturday 6 December and Saturday 10 January – please get in touch for details.

Rachel Brushfield, Charlbury resident and career strategist at Energise  
01608 811427 [www.liberateyourtalent.com](http://www.liberateyourtalent.com) [rachel@liberateyourtalent.com](mailto:rachel@liberateyourtalent.com)

## STAGECOACH STAR

Did you know that our local 20/20A Stagecoach bus service now boasts a national prize-winner among its team of 11 drivers? Well, it does. On 13 July 2008 Jim Wright won the Stagecoach Oxfordshire Bus Driver of the Year competition for the second time, competing against drivers from Oxford, Witney and Banbury depots. Then on 7 September, in the UK Bus Driver of the Year competition (the industry's premier skills contest, which originated in a Coventry Corporation road safety competition for bus drivers in 1967) he came joint third out of 125 of the cream of all drivers in England, Scotland and Wales. The cups and prizes for the national competition will be awarded at a ceremony in London on 18 November, when Jim is on a further special shortlist for customer service, competing against the nation's top 10 in that category. See <http://www.ukbusawards.org.uk> and [www.bdooy.co.uk](http://www.bdooy.co.uk) for more. Jim has 23 years' experience of buses of every type, including Oxford/London, Oxford/Heathrow/Gatwick and European tours, and can drive anything from minibuses to the 14 metre Oxford Tube. I'm sure you would agree that as a community we are immensely lucky to have him on our route, setting an exemplary standard of safety and service.

Not only that: it was announced on 25 September that Routes 20 and 20A had themselves been nominated for an award in the UK Bus in the Countryside competition, another category in the 18 November event. Competing for this nomination, Jim recently took a film crew out on the 20A journey, and they were understandably impressed by the beautiful, scenic stretch between Stonesfield and Charlbury.

Finally, a note from Jim himself, who asks if the people of Charlbury would help him and his colleagues to help them, by parking cars straight, and clear of double yellow lines, to give buses an unimpeded passage through our narrow streets.

I feel sure readers, and especially those who use our buses, will join me in sending our warm congratulations and good wishes to Jim – and our appreciative thanks to all our bus drivers, Stagecoach and Worths, for all that they do for us so well.

*Serena Moore*

### MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels serves clients in Charlbury, Chadlington, Spelsbury and Stonesfield a hot, home-cooked meal at lunchtime on Tuesdays. Twenty-four people are currently receiving meals and we can provide six more. If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 810 161. The cost is £2.50 per meal and we can provide vegetarian meals if required.

Meals on Wheels is also looking for a relief cook to prepare meals one morning per month. Please contact Marjorie at the above number if you'd like more information.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Letter from Rachel Bloomfield, WODC:

Firstly to introduce myself - I am the Leisure Development Officer (Young People) at West Oxfordshire District Council

I just wanted to inform you of funding opportunities that are available to benefit both your Parish/Town and the young people in your area.

Firstly, there is the Youth Opportunity Fund. More information can be located at [www.spired.com](http://www.spired.com) and there are guidance notes available. Secondly, the Big Lotto Young People's Fund 2 - again guidance notes are available and more information can be found at [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

Also there is the Grass Root Scheme, which funds kit for local groups, coaching new volunteers or even painting the village hall. It's aimed at any small and local community groups with annual incomes below £20,000 (click on the following link for more information:

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/  
third\\_sector/news/  
news\\_stories/08094\\_grassroots.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/08094_grassroots.aspx)

*Rachel Bloomfield  
WODC  
Telephone: 01993 861557*

*NB The Charlbury Chronicle was asked to publicise this letter by Charlbury Town Council*

## MOLL FLANDERS

As the Director I may not be the right person to write a report on CADS' recent musical production of **Scenes From The Life of Moll Flanders**, but it does give me the opportunity to thank the cast for their time and enthusiasm over the last three months.

**Moll Flanders**, written by Daniel Defoe in 1732, is the story of the escapades of a woman who despite some extremely dubious behaviour keeps the sympathy of the audience.

We started this musical production by meeting once a week to learn the songs based on early English music, which proved to be a challenge for a Drama Society. However, with three lead singers, a lot of coaching and an excellent accompanist, it became familiar to us. Rehearsals increased as we added the music to the selected scenes. At the same time the production team were busy gathering the required props, making the costumes and the publicity was arranged. The weekend previous to production the Memorial Hall stage was built, painted and dressed by as many willing hands as possible. Add the effective lighting and by Thursday it was curtain-up for the first night.

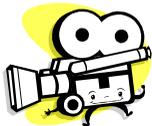
So much effort I'm pleased to say, was much rewarded by a warm receptive audience, whose generous comments on a very enjoyable evening have been appreciated by us all.

*Olive Woods*

### CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET

Charlbury Farmers' Market is held quarterly on the Playing Close, and the next one is on **Saturday December 13th** between 9am and 1 pm. The contact address is: Studio One, Sheep Street, Charlbury OX7 3RR. Tel 01608 811559

**Please support local growers and producers**



## News from ChOC: Charlbury's Own Cinema

I hope you were among the lucky people who enjoyed the tasty and generous helpings of food at the Street Fair film show in September, not to mention Clint Eastwood and Lee van Cleef at their vintage best. It's a long wait for the next Street Fair offering but meanwhile ChOC has plenty to bring you.

We are now screening the films which ChOC audiences voted for back in the summer. Top-scoring *Goodbye Lenin* has already been enjoyed by the November audience. Then in December we have the gentle and moving film, *Il Postino*, followed in January by the resoundingly popular and enjoyable *Mamma Mia*, both films close runners-up to our top scorer. In February, when winter always seems to have been dragging on for a depressingly long time we hope to cheer you with the exuberant, *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*.

Dates for the coming months are as follows:

Sunday 14th December: *Il Postino*

Sunday 11th January: *Mamma Mia*

Sunday 8th February: *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*

All ChOC films are shown at 7.30 p.m. usually on the second Sunday of the month, in the Memorial Hall. For further information about ChOC or any of the films ring Ed on 01608 811196, take a look at the ChOC website <http://www.day-books.com/chocweb.htm> or look out for posters around the town. If you have access to email and would like a monthly news update sent to you, ring Hilda on 01608 810423. Alternatively, printed copies of the newsletter can be found in the library.

Hilda Reed

## CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE

Our Charlbury Day Centre continues to flourish and provide a day's enjoyment for a dozen elderly residents, with roughly equal numbers of men and women.

We meet at the Memorial Hall Garden Room from 10 am to 3 pm on Wednesdays. Lunch is cooked on the premises by our excellent cooks and is provided for a small charge.

We offer varied entertainments and activities under the supervision of our professional coordinator Ruth Gould and the atmosphere is friendly and supportive. We have a large band of volunteers, some who help at the Centre, others with transport.

We welcome new members and if you are interested or know of someone who might be interested please contact us.

Equally, if the idea of being a volunteer appeals to you ring The Day Centre on Wednesdays on **01608 811337** or ring me on my number below.

**Roger Farrow, Chairman**  
**Day Centre Management Committee**  
**01608 819108**

# CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

## The Charlbury Society

Meets at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. New members and visitors are particularly welcome. Please do join us for an interesting series of talks:

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Barbara Allison presents *Petticoats and Partlets* the fascinating story of women's clothes of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Followed by pre-Christmas wine and mince pies.

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January

The story of *The Victoria County History* and Charlbury's place in it, told by Janet Cooper.

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Elaine Steane talks about her recent work *The Seven Shires Way* – a 234 mile walk around the boundary of Oxfordshire.

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

*Alice Stewart: the woman who knew too much?* is the subject of Conrad Keating's talk. The remarkable story of a remarkable local woman.

The annual subscription is £8.50. Visitors £1.50 per meeting. Under 18's free. For further information, please contact either the Chairman, Brian Murray (01608 819091) or the Secretary, Lesley Deane (01608 810849)

## West Oxfordshire Branch of WEA

The Branch will be offering two courses in Charlbury after the New Year, both to be held in the Morris Room at the Corner House.

(a) Romans in the Upper Thames. A 5 week course run by Philip Morris, on Wednesdays from 10.30am-12.30pm, starting on 28 January.

(b) The Detective in Fiction - a 6 week course run by Peter Leyland on Thurs-

days 2-4pm and starting on 26 February  
All enquiries for both courses to Linda Stent on 01993 813010

## Charlbury Angling Club

The club is holding its annual Christmas Bingo on Friday 19 December 2008 at the War Memorial Hall, Charlbury.  
Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.45pm.

## Charlbury Cricket Club

### On-field activities

The 2008 cricket season limped to a soggy end in September, with heavy rain wreaking havoc with the last few rounds of matches. It was a difficult season for the Club, with injuries and the unavailability of a number of players frequently causing problems for the selectors. It is pleasing to report therefore that, as predicted in my last column, Charlbury's Third Team were promoted from Division 11 of the OCA League as champions. Congratulations to the joint captains, Mike Shayler and Dave Rump, and to all the players (of all ages and both genders!) who contributed to this achievement. The First and Second XIs both finished the season comfortably ensconced in mid-table and will begin the 2009 campaign in Divisions 1 and 4, respectively. The Club held their annual presentation evening in September and it proved to be an enjoyable and successful event.

### Off-field activities

We are currently awaiting a decision from the Sports Foundation regarding the award of a grant towards the cost of building our new pavilion. Hopefully I will have some good news to report on this matter next time.

Our book "From the Forest to the Flood:

# CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

The History of Charlbury Cricket Club” has been selling very well since it was launched in the summer. There are still some copies available though and these can be obtained from Paul and Celia Faulkner (01608 810656) or from several shops in the town. The book makes an ideal Christmas present, particularly for anyone who used to be associated with the Club but has since moved out of the area.

*Derek Collett*

## **WychWayz Border Morris Dancers**

Now that the evenings are drawing in why not come along and experience Border Morris Dancing. It's good fun, it's good exercise and a great way to meet new friends. No experience necessary. Dancers and musicians needed. Everyone welcome. We practice on Tuesday evenings in the Scout Hut, Nine Acres Lane from 8 - 9pm. Just come along or call Teresa on 01608 811000 or 07881 963328 for further information.

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

## **Charlbury Bowls Club**

Members are enjoying the indoor season, this is when we roll down the mats and play inside the Clubhouse. We have friendly matches on Tuesdays throughout the winter. There are League games in the West Oxon League (in which we have two teams entered) and the occasional friendly match against local sides. There are also matches within the Club for members to join in.

Indoor bowling requires a more gentle approach than the game outdoors, it is a

great way to spend the winter evenings. We have recently done a great deal of work pruning around the green to get things in good shape for the winter. The green has been “put to bed” but still needs regular attention. This work is all done by members.

We are always delighted to see new faces, whatever your age come and have a try, there will be someone to show you the ropes!

New members are most welcome, all ages, men, women and youngsters.

*David Homewood , Secretary, 811321*

## **Charlbury Brownies and Rainbows**

**Brownies** ( 7-10 years) 6.45pm to 8pm  
Wednesdays - Scout Hut, Nine Acres Lane

**Rainbows** ( 5-7 years) 5.30 to 6.30 pm  
Wednesdays – Scout Hut, Nine Acres Lane

*Cathryn Taylor, Brownie Leader  
01993 771321*

*Amy Booth, Rainbow Leader  
c/o 01993 771321*

*If you wish to include any articles in this section please contact  
Julia Caston (810240)*

**Oxfordshire Craft Guild's  
Christmas Selling Exhibition  
returns to  
The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock**

The Oxfordshire County Museum at Woodstock will again be hosting a selling exhibition by some of the county's leading contemporary craft designers and makers. Admission is free. The show takes place in the museum's Garden Gallery and Brewhouse. It opens at 2 pm on Saturday, 22 November and runs through to Sunday, 4 January.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see an array of crafts including furniture, glass, jewellery, pottery, textiles, and woodturning. It is also a chance to buy something special to give at Christmas—something crafted by hand with a flare and design that you won't find in many shops. There are pieces to suit every taste and every pocket, and on the opening weekend there is a 10% discount off all purchases. In the Brewhouse you can see larger pieces and more experimental work, and have a chance to give craft makers feedback on some of their latest ventures.

Refreshments are available in the museum coffee shop.

Normal opening times are Tuesday to Saturday 10:00-5:00; Sundays 2:00-5:00.

Saturday, 22 November the exhibition starts at 2pm

Saturday, 29 November open until 7pm for Woodstock's '*A Night of a Thousand Candles*' celebrations

Closed 24, 25 26 December and 1 January

**You can also go to the Craft Guild website [www.oxfordshirecraftguild.com](http://www.oxfordshirecraftguild.com) where you will find images and thumbnail descriptions of the artists' work.**

**Membership of the Oxfordshire Craft Guild is by selection based on the need to display the finest design ability and quality of workmanship. Thus the artists taking part in this show are amongst the best craft makers in the county. For details of the unique work they are doing or for any further information, please contact:**

**Tam Frishberg**  
**Tel: 01865 454274**  
**[tam.frishberg@ntlworld.com](mailto:tam.frishberg@ntlworld.com)**

## CECILY'S FUND FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

It's that time of year again. The evenings are starting to draw in and our thoughts are turning - reluctantly - towards the daunting task of Christmas shopping. But don't worry, you can avoid the crowds and noise of city shopping centres and buy meaningful gifts that your family and friends will truly appreciate.

**Cecily's Fund Gift Cards** are on sale again this year - £25 buys a year's primary education for a Zambian orphan, £50 buys a year's secondary education. For a really special gift £250 will pay to train an orphan school leaver as a peer health educator and run six months of sessions in schools to teach younger children how to survive the HIV epidemic. Or for £350 you can give someone the gift of a teacher training course for an orphan school leaver and help them improve their chances of earning a secure living and passing on life-saving knowledge to thousands of other vulnerable Zambian children.

Also available now is our beautiful new Christmas card (£2.99 for a pack of 6 plus postage and packing), based on an original design by artist Mella Shaw - a school friend of Cecily Eastwood, in whose memory Cecily's Fund was established.

For more information about our work, or to order your Cecily's Fund Gift Cards or Christmas cards, please see our website [www.cecilysfund.org/shop.htm](http://www.cecilysfund.org/shop.htm) or give us a call at 01993 869005

## BOOKS & PAINTINGS AT THE BELL FOR CHRISTMAS

On Saturday 6th December **DAVID WHITTAKER** and **GEOFF CLIFFORD** will be strutting their stuff round the back of the Bell Hotel.

David will be offering a mind-boggling, not to say tasty, range of interesting and irresistible second hand-books, while Geoff has a selection of new paintings (paint barely dry) to tempt the refined palette.

A guaranteed unique selection of something a little bit different on offer in Charlbury this Christmas. 10am-4pm.

**PS** David will also be selling books the following weekend at the Woodstock Antiques Fair in the Town Hall (December 13/14).

## CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

The Appeal total has now reached  
**£137,500**



## COTSWOLD LINE NEWS

*A Report by John Stanley*

On 30th October, the Office of Rail Regulation published its response to Network Rail's spending proposals for the period 2009 to 2014.

Included in its 449 pages is approval to reinstate double track on three sections of the Cotswold Line. These are from about 1 mile east of Charlbury to Ascott-under-Wychwood, Moreton-in-Marsh to Evesham and a short section of about 1 mile west of Evesham. The existing section from Ascott to Moreton is already double track. This will involve building a second platform at Charlbury, Ascott-under-Wychwood and Honeybourne and a footbridge at Charlbury and Honeybourne.

Derek Potter, Chairman of the Cotswold Line Promotion Group, said he hoped the move would improve the 'patchy' service from train operator First Great Western. He said: "It is good news. What we should get is reliability. If you turn up for the 07.26 it should be there at 07.26, not 07.31 or 07.36 or not at all". He went on to add: "Otherwise, The Man On The Charlbury HST will not see very much difference in October 2010 from now - apart from a slightly longer walk back to his waiting car, bus (*with sincere thanks to Oxfordshire County Council for saving the C1/T1 Railbus - please use it if you don't want yourself and others to lose it*) or dinner, from the new westbound platform".

As at copy date for this issue, no details were available regarding how, or when, the work will be undertaken or how it will affect people's journeys. A top-level meeting was due to take place early in November between First Great Western and Network Rail.

The other news, as mentioned above,

relates to the C1 Railbus. The existing contract effectively ends on December 12th and there were fears that the service would be discontinued due to limited use and the resultant high subsidy per passenger journey. Oxfordshire County Council has decided to continue to subsidise the service from Monday 15th December on a peak time only basis. This will involve 4 journeys in the morning and 4 in the evening and will continue to be operated by RH Transport. The timetable should be available by the time this issue of the *Chronicle* falls onto your door mat.

### MIGHT THE W.I. RETURN TO CHARLBURY?

It was good to see in *The Leaflet* that there is a move afoot to try and restart the WI in Charlbury. Unfortunately, the *Chronicle* will be at the printer when the meeting is held, but we will be looking forward to hearing the outcome.

Friends of mine were shopping recently in a Charity Shop in Witney and came across a small white porcelain bell, bearing the inscription

1919 WI 1989  
CHARLBURY

My friends bought the bell and are planning to donate it to Charlbury Museum.

LM

## OXFORDSHIRE ADVOCACY

The most frequently asked questions at our stall at Charlbury Street Fair were 'What does advocacy mean?' and 'What's involved in being a volunteer?'

Advocacy is often assumed to be a formal legal procedure but at its heart it is really very simple. It is making sure people get their wishes and choices heard and taken into account on matters of importance to them. For many different reasons some people find this hard, these include comprehension difficulties, social isolation, health problems, or being labelled as incapable of forming an opinion.

Oxfordshire Advocacy provides trained and supported volunteers who spend time working one-to-one in order to help an individual to be heard.

We run three schemes -one for people who need short term help with an issue or crisis, one for people with a learning disability and one for people of any age with dementia.

Volunteers attend a training course which leads to a formally recognised qualification with the Open College Network. They receive regular support, supervision, ongoing training and expenses. For some volunteers the qualification has helped in finding future employment, for others it is the satisfaction of making a real difference to someone's life.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer advocate or becoming a voluntary trustee of the organisation or you simply want to know more, please contact us on 01865 741200, email: [oadg@oadg.org.uk](mailto:oadg@oadg.org.uk) or on the website [www.oadg.org.uk](http://www.oadg.org.uk)

We would love to hear from you!

## REMINDERS FROM THE POLICE

### Outbuilding Thefts

Recently there have been thefts from outbuildings throughout our area. Many items such as tools, garden machinery etc. If you see anything suspicious then please report it on **0845 8 505 505**.

### Car Crime

We live in a safe area, but please remember then when you park your car don't leave any valuables on display. Sat-Navs, bags, car stereos, even coats, will all give criminals a reason to break in, usually by smashing a window.

*PCSO Wesley Smith*

## DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO READ THE CHARLBURY CHRONICLE?

Please ring the Editor  
on 810549 to request  
a large-print copy

A large-print copy is always  
available in the library



## Global Warming? What Global Warming?

*John Stanley's quarterly weather report*

In the September issue, I reported that June and July had produced below average temperatures. This was followed by an August which did the same - all three "summer months" were cooler than normal and this was for the second consecutive year.

Looking back through my notes, I see that I did not record "unbroken sunshine" on any day during the summer period, although we did have a few which were mainly sunny. The lasting recollection of summer 2008 will be one of cloud. For the record, the average maximum temperature for summer 2008 was  $69.34^{\circ}$  compared with the 19 year average of  $71.55^{\circ}$ .

**August 2008** produced an average day maximum figure of  $68.74^{\circ}$  (19 year average  $71.92^{\circ}$ ). Highest temperature was  $75^{\circ}$  on 30th, the lowest  $63^{\circ}$  on 8th. Coolest night was  $46^{\circ}$  on 14th/15th. The cool trend continued into autumn.

**September 2008** showed an average day maximum figure of  $62.47^{\circ}$  (19 year average  $65.07^{\circ}$ ). Highest temperature was  $66^{\circ}$  on 1st, 10th and 11th and the lowest  $58^{\circ}$  on 5th and 23rd. The coolest night was  $40^{\circ}$  on 27th/28th.

And so on to **October 2008** which started reasonably warm and, up until the last five days, looked like producing an above average figure for the first time since May. Then winter set in with a vengeance!

The highest temperature during the month was  $64^{\circ}$  on 12th, but the main talking point will be the maximum temperature of only  $41^{\circ}$  on 29th, which followed the coldest night of the month ( $28^{\circ}$ ) on 28th/29th, during which snow was falling, but not settling. The  $41^{\circ}$  on 29th was the lowest day maximum temperature recorded in October during the 20 years that these records have been kept. The previous record was  $43^{\circ}$  in 1992. The average day temperature was  $54.9^{\circ}$  (19 year average  $56.78^{\circ}$ ).

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AT CORNBURY

Three new sustainable energy schemes are planned for the Cornbury Park Estate, with the aim of powering business and residential properties on the Estate as well as providing energy to the local community. "We have historic natural assets at Cornbury which we can harness to generate our own energy for use on the Estate, helping us to reduce our carbon footprint and become more self sufficient," explains Lord Rotherwick. "We also hope to be able to sell the surplus energy to the national grid and biomass to the local area." The three energy schemes are currently at different stages of the planning process.

*Biomass:* "We have already started stockpiling off-cuts from our wooding operations, which will be chipped when they have dried out in about two years time," says Lord Rotherwick. These wood chips will generate enough energy to produce heating for the equivalent of 250 three bedroom houses.

*Wind:* The Estate is also pressing ahead with its exciting wind turbine test project, now that it has gained the necessary planning permission to erect a temporary mast. "We have now erected a tall test mast to ascertain the wind speed statistics at the chosen site on Newhill Plain in the middle of the Wychwood forest. These statistics will give us the information needed to determine the wind's viability in being able to supply sufficient electricity for the main house, the Estate and its commercial and residential buildings. There should be ample excess of electricity for much of Charlbury." Lord Rotherwick is confident that the turbine will not be visible to most of the Estate's neighbours.

*Hydro:* In another of its sustainable energy schemes, Cornbury is awaiting a decision from SEEDA as to whether it has been successful in securing a grant for a cross flow turbine at Southill to replace an old waterwheel. This is estimated to produce over 14,000 kWh of electricity per annum – this is the equivalent amount needed to power 3.3 average households. However, this is a conservative estimate and the water flow rate may be sufficient to nearly double this initial target.

### **Keeping Cornbury Hedges Healthy**

Hedges have an important role, they form boundaries, provide stock-proof barriers and contribute to the very English look of the Estate. They also provide sanctuary for nesting birds and small animals such as voles, field mice, weasels and invertebrates which all enjoy the protection of thickly growing hedges. Hedge management is carried out under various Countryside Stewardship and other schemes administered by Natural England. Since 2001, when the Estate farm entered into such an agreement, many miles of hedges have been renovated, replanted and maintained. Here are some facts...

- 613m hedges coppiced.
- 2087m hedges laid, with 158m next year.
- 2475 m new hedges planted.
- 2056m hedges had gaps filled, with 286m next year.
- 63 field boundary trees planted.
- 19 willows pollarded.

*More information about Cornbury can be found on the website [www.cornburypark.co.uk](http://www.cornburypark.co.uk).  
Spring and Autumn Newsletters can also be downloaded*

*Christine Elliott*

## THOMAS GIFFORD'S CHARITY

Initial architects plans for the Spendlove development were signed off by the trustees in the summer subject to co-ordination with the project for a replacement pavilion on the adjacent Nine Acres playing field.

These plans are being used as a basis for discussion with potential developer partners prior to further consultation. They have also been shared with West Oxfordshire District Council planning department who are supportive. Our meeting with them covered viability appraisal requirements, parking, footpath, sustainability issues, materials, relationship with the proposed pavilion and planning process requirements.

Early testing of the housing market had helped incorporate in the plans a view on the most appropriate mix of residential accommodation. However as the year has progressed it became clear that no private residential developer was prepared to take their interest forward in the current housing market and economic outlook.

The trustees had intended sharing plans with the community this autumn, particularly for proposed community facilities, but this has been delayed as we need to have a project which is financially feasible before taking it further. We are still optimistic in the near term and are developing our fund-raising strategy so we can move forward quickly when we are in a position to do so.

The trustees continue to follow up on development possibilities and are having discussions with certain local housing associations with our agents, Cluttons, based on our initial plans.

Early discussions have also started with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) about the possibility of incorporating a 14-19 skills centre under the Rural Skills initiative. The trustees are positive about this opportunity and believe that the plans could be amended to incorporate it. Feedback on the timetable and funding requirements for this initiative are awaited. We are also keeping the Charity Commission informed of progress on the proposed Spendlove development.

In terms of the Playing Close, we have recently had a tree survey undertaken and some minor works are necessary. There are no major problems with any of the trees but there is some work needed to keep roadways and the Close clear for pedestrians and traffic, as well as a few dead branches. This will be carried out as soon as we have the funds available.

Do not forget the Farmers Market on the Playing Close on Saturday, December 13th.

*Trevor Jones,  
Chairman of the Trustees*

# Christmas Church Services

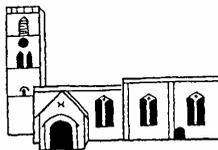
Baptist Chapel, Dyer's Hill



The Baptist & Methodist churches will be uniting for two special services over Christmas. There will be a combined **Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 14 December in the Baptist church, and a short combined Christmas Day service in the Methodist Church at 10.30am.** Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Church Secretary: Pippa Nash (811797)

St Mary's C of E Church



Full details of all services in Church porch  
or see *The Leaflet*

The Rev'd Judy French, The Vicarage, Church Lane,  
tel: 810286

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

Friends' Meeting House, Market Street



Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House  
at 11am on Christmas Day.

For further details contact: Joan Rough (810704)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



The Methodist & Baptist Churches will be uniting for two special services over Christmas. There will be a combined **Carol Service at 6 pm on Sunday 14 December in the Baptist Church, and a short combined Christmas Day service in the Methodist Church at 10.30 am.** Everyone is welcome to join us. (The Methodists will not be holding a morning service on 14th. All other services as normal.)

St Teresa's R.C. Church, Fishers Lane



**Sunday December 14:** Carols at St Teresa's at 3 pm  
**Wednesday December 24:** Mass at 8 pm (*in place of Midnight Mass*)  
**Thursday December 25th:** Mass at 11am at St Teresa's & at St Kenelm's at 9am

Rev Canon David Evans Ph.L, 5 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR  
tel: 810576 or see [www.communigate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury](http://www.communigate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY have several shared activities,  
such as the Bible Study Fellowship, Good News Group and Luncheon Club.

## Charlbury Baptist Church News

Please note that after December 31st the Reverend M Cook will be retired, and no longer the minister of Charlbury Baptist Church. All enquiries should be addressed to the Church Secretary, Pippa Nash (01608 811797), or email her [panash\\_home@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:panash_home@yahoo.co.uk)

*Stella Marks (01993 868490)*

## Christmas at St Teresa's

Bishop William Kenney, area Bishop, will be saying the Christmas Mass at 8 pm on December 24th (in place of Midnight Mass)

St Teresa's Church  
Sheep Street, Charlbury

## News from St Mary's Church

Come and see a fantastic display of nativity sets. Some from other countries, others made from unusual materials. If you have a nativity set you would like to be displayed please ring St. Mary's Parish office 810286 or e-mail:

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

Would you like to renew your marriage vows? Perhaps you got married in a Registry Office or perhaps it's a special anniversary this year, or you may just want to renew your commitment to each other, or even just give thanks for your marriage.

Whatever the reason everyone is warmly invited to a

### VALENTINE'S DAY SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE

at St Mary's Church

to include a renewal of marriage vows on SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY at 5pm followed by champagne and canapés - why not bring the whole family with you.

## What to do with used batteries?

Don't put them into landfill or the black boxes but drop them into one of our special collection boxes

Available at the Corner House, the Post Office and the School



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

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group

Do you have good quality unwanted items in your home?

## Bring & Take Memorial Hall Saturday 14 March

Items can be brought in between 9.30am-11am and taken from 10am-12 noon

This is a cashless event where anyone can take items they want at NO cost



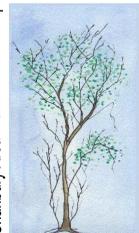
[www.cwag.org.uk](http://www.cwag.org.uk)

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group

## Green Waste Collections

First Saturday every month  
10am-12noon  
Spendlove Car Park  
Bring Tetra Paks along too for separate collection

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group



3rd January  
7th February  
7th March  
4th April  
2nd May  
6th June  
4th July  
1st August  
5th September  
3rd October  
7th November  
5th December

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

## CHARLBURY FAIR TRADERS SEEK TO MAKE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

From Argentina to Zambia TRAIDCRAFT has spread worldwide bringing a better life to many. From its small start in Gateshead the 'crazy idea' that paying a little extra would benefit the world's poorest has expanded across the globe. Every time we buy a FAIR-TRADE product we make a significant difference to someone's life. Fairtrade is practical, it backs local skills and local products without forcing people on the margins to accept willy-nilly our price for their goods. It rewards initiative, it encourages training in better skills and in improved quality for them to achieve better prices.

Years ago Schumacher was advocating that "small is beautiful" and the local element is vital to the world economy. Now with Traidcraft we see ideas like his really working as guaranteed prices allow social improvements to take place. All the things we take for granted become possible. Better water supplies, better health, better education, better sanitation, better sharing of ideas and information, better financial controls, better run (mostly small) businesses: these are the tangible benefits.

So Traidcraft is lifting people out of poverty with the poor doing it themselves. Here is one example of where the right help pays dividends... Habibulah Jinani laboured growing rice but never made it beyond subsistence even when eked out by piece-work as a labourer. Encouraged to diversify and grow vegetables too he was amazed to get good results that gave him a profit. By getting the right information, a little help and training in modern cultivation techniques he is now sharing his success and know-how with other Bangladeshis.

Charlbury Fairtraders run a stall every Sunday in St. Mary's Church after morning worship where you will find a range of every day products. Teas, coffees, rice, dried fruit, nuts, mueslis, honey, marmalade, pasta, rice, chocolates are among them. Attractively packaged and reasonably priced (even with the social premium) each product sold helps a third-world producer achieve greater financial security and a better family life while retaining the dignity of doing it himself.

These are not first-world handouts. This is a recent initiative by Charlbury volunteers who want to encourage workers abroad to benefit from their own efforts and see some rewards for their labour. We obtain good products: they improve their life-style. We do make a small profit which we give away to similar projects. In our first six months of trading we gave £150 to Water Aid as we judged that clean water is a main priority in life. As we sell more so shall we give more as none of us is waged. As well as the foods listed above, which can also be found on most supermarket shelves, excellent craft work and beautifully made clothes, toys, jewellery, pottery etc. are all available from catalogue sales. The variety is now amazing and by making a commitment to trade fairly every one of us can help to make a fairer world basically kinder to our planet earth. We hope more Charlbury people will feel willing and able to support this self-help initiative. Indeed would it not be splendid if we could make our town a Fairtrade town!

Catalogues can be obtained from Cara Williams (01608 811284; [michaelcara1965@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelcara1965@yahoo.co.uk)) as well as orders for foodstuff and wines.

*Mike Burroughs (on behalf of Charlbury Fair Traders)*

## LOCAL FACILITIES PROMOTED ON COTSWOLD LINE POSTERS

Seven railway stations along the Cotswold Line are the first to receive new travel information posters designed for Oxfordshire County Council.

The new posters, which are unique to each station, have recently been put up at Hanborough, Combe, Finstock, Charlbury, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Shipton and Kingham.

Each one has a locality map promoting local amenities, such as shops, post offices, pubs, libraries and bus stops, as well as contact details for local taxi firms who are able to serve the station and a map of local bus services in the area.

Each poster is located near the station entrance and is displayed in a new frame in the dark green colour of the council to make it easy to find.

**These are the first posters of their kind in Oxfordshire, and the county council would welcome any feedback so it can decide if they should be rolled out to other stations. Any comments should be emailed to; [sustainable.transport@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sustainable.transport@oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, said: 'As part of the Cotswolds & Malverns Transport Partnership we are committed to encouraging greater use of local bus and train services in West Oxfordshire. We want to give people all the information they need to decide the best way of getting to and from their railway station, and I hope these posters will do just that'.

## **Report from District Councillor Glena Chadwick**

**tel: 01608 810555 email: [chadwick@glena.plus.com](mailto:chadwick@glena.plus.com)**

As some of you will have seen in the local press, West Oxfordshire District Council has agreed to share their chief executive, David Neudegg, with Cotswold District Council. Initially this will be for a trial period of six months in case there are any unforeseen problems that cannot be surmounted. There were some reservations to begin with but David had meetings with all groups of councillors, our questions were answered and the vote at Council was unanimous. There will obviously be financial savings but also, given that there are many similarities between the two areas, it is hoped there will be other benefits as well.

The Climate Change Working Party's Report which I wrote about in the last Chronicle, has been submitted to the Council and passed. We hope it will lead to positive change both within WODC and also in the whole district. The working party is continuing to meet and we are going on a research visit next week, unfortunately not on a yacht off Corfu, but to Watford. The Building Research Establishment has an Innovation Park there, where various types of buildings demonstrate the latest developments in design and technology for saving energy.

If you have missed the Yellow pages collection at Spendlove these directories can now be taken to Dean Pit.

## **Report from District Councillor Mike Breakell**

**tel: 01993 868201 [michael.breakell@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:michael.breakell@westoxon.gov.uk) or [mjbreakell@aol.com](mailto:mjbreakell@aol.com)**

**SHAPING FUTURES** A sustainable community strategy for West Oxfordshire was recently completed by the West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership (WOSP). 80% of all those consulted agreed with its content, but a number of important modifications have now been made. These included adding more prominence to the need for improved rural services. Local shops and post offices are a case in point, as are local pubs and sensible rural public transport services. Under changing economic conditions such problems could become more acute as the key question is always how to influence service providers, through more joined-up thoughts and actions at various levels, and give advice and support to small businesses locally. The advice of Will Barton in the District Council's Rural Development section is always much appreciated here.

Other causes of concern included providing more homes for local people, and the need for more support for young people in the community. Health and well-being was an issue, and with this in mind West Oxfordshire has just established a working party to look closely at ambulance service provision. Community safety is still seen as an issue despite West Oxfordshire having one of the lowest crime rates in south east England. Incidentally, we also still have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the region, so despite entering a recession the new strategy should help those all-important Local Development Framework decisions that will have to be made in the coming months. In the longer term we cannot ignore the reality of climate change either which just may make us all think differently in the future

## Report from County Councillor Sue Haffenden

[sue-haffenden@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sue-haffenden@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Local bus services in the Charlbury and Chipping Norton Divisions have been up for tender at the end of their four year contract with the County Council. The new timetables will run from Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and a new guide will be issued. Every Parish responded magnificently to the consultation exercise, electing transport representatives who, after consulting their parishioners, passed on their findings to me and the County Transport Officers. The information gathered enabled me to represent your wishes at four meetings with the Cabinet member for Transport, at Group and in the Full Council Debate on Bus subsidies on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Chapter three of the Transport Policy, relating to Bus Services and subsidy policies was under review, so the clause about bus links with train services certainly worked in our favour.

### **The excellent news is that the County Council have responded to public demand and we have retained the RH Transport C1 – the Railbus.**

This decision was made despite our very real fears that with a subsidy of over £5per person and an average of only 36 users per day we could lose it. Luckily, the argument of Great Western's dual tracking and general promises of a more efficient and reliable service in future, coupled with Stagecoach's offer to run the 20A route commercially, helped to swing things in our favour. **Now, we must all use this splendid service far more to justify the continued subsidy and to enhance the positive effect the service has in keeping cars off our country roads and from taking up parking space in Charlbury.**

Other news from County includes the very welcome news of excellent examination results this summer from our Secondary schools and the continued success in SATS results from our local Primary schools. I sit on four Committees whose primary aim is to raise educational attainment throughout the County, including our Special Schools, and it is so encouraging for teachers and students to be rewarded for all their hard work and to earn recognition from OCC for their efforts. Locally, I thoroughly enjoy my role as Governor of Charlbury and Finstock schools, which prove they can satisfactorily deliver the National Curriculum.

At this time of year all thoughts at County Hall turn to the setting of the Budget for next year. This year we are still in doubt as to whether we will recover the £5m deposited with the failed Icelandic Bank. The Cabinet Member for Finance has issued a statement that no Front line services will be affected by this. Every year we have to prioritise and after Adult and Children's Services have responded to their statutory duties, we have to decide in Committee how to advise the Cabinet on their budget setting.

There is no doubt that in our rural Division, the Directorate covering Environment comes in for most criticism. Demands for highway improvements, potholes, new signage, gully and grips clearance and weed control come up at every Parish meeting and in conversation with constituents. The Flooding schemes being put in place after last year have cost millions, and have not been fully funded from Central Government, even with European money. It is therefore increasingly important that Highways receive a bigger share of the budget allocation and I shall support this on your behalf.

Community Services, which include the Fire Service, are to be congratulated on their handling of that very nasty fire at the timber yard along the Enstone road, to which I was called. I wish to record my appreciation of their professionalism on site.

*Charlbury Division*



## **CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT No. 49**

The Council would like to thank the Street Fair Committee for all their hard work (they even managed to control the weather!) and to congratulate them on raising £11,000 (subject to confirmation) to support the Corner House and War Memorial Hall. Without this effort the money would have had to be raised by an increase in the Town Council's part of the Council Tax: not nearly such an enjoyable way of doing it. However they do need more helpers, and volunteers would be most welcome.

The appalling state of the pavements, road surfaces and gutters continues to give concern to both the residents and the Council. The Council continues to battle with the District and County Councils to fulfil their statutory duties and deal with these matters; so far mostly in vain. We would again ask residents to cut back any trees and hedges which are overhanging our already narrow pavements, not to leave their rubbish bins on the pavements all week (bags and smaller bins can be obtained from the District Council) and not to drop litter. Councillor Gareth Miller (tel: 811410) is hoping to organise a meeting to discuss litter clearing and any interested people are invited to contact him.

On a more cheerful note, the Council have provided a seat in the Church Street bus shelter. It also hopes it has persuaded the County Council to improve the street lighting at the junction of Nine Acres Lane and Thames Street. The double yellow lines in Browns Lane have been extended to help the buses get through.

On the subject of buses, about which many of you have expressed concern, the Council is happy to report that at the County Council Transport Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October it was decided to continue supporting the Charlbury bus services with minor amendments to the new timetable due out in December. The Rail Bus will be kept on with some changes which will be ameliorated by a new request taxi bus service. To protect the Rail Bus in the future please will people use it whenever possible. There will be a more detailed report in the next edition of the *Charlbury Chronicle*.

Many people are concerned about access to the Quarry. This is private property and the Town Council has no control over it. It is owned by J Curtis of Radley and any concerns about it should be addressed to his agents, Kemp & Kemp in Botley, telephone 01865 240001.

Questions have also been asked about affordable housing and the situation is this. The District Council is in the process of drawing up a new Local Development Framework to replace the present Local Plan which expires in 2011. This will include affordable housing. The Charlbury Household Needs Survey shows that a further 24 Affordable Social Housing units are needed, ranging from single bedroom flats to four bedroom houses and several sites have been suggested by the public and landowners. The Town and District Councils are at the moment considering the suitability of these sites and will have a joint meeting to discuss this matter. The Town Council is in favour of sites being provided for new light industry as it considers that this will not only provide employment for local people but will help revitalise the town's shopping centre. Any development will have to go through the usual planning procedures.

The Council, together with the Nine Acres Management Committee, are working hard to provide a new sports pavilion there but are having difficulty in obtaining the substantial grants necessary.

The Police came to a meeting with the Council and informed it that last year reported crime in Charlbury was down by 22% but detection rates had halved. The Council considers that police patrols in the town play an important part in reducing crime. The police asked for more volunteers from the public to man the Spendlove Centre Police Office.

Residents should note that the permissive footpaths on the Wigwell Nature Reserve and Nine Acres Recreation Ground will be closed on 7th January 2009. This is a legal requirement. Residents with gates opening on to Oxpens Allotments and Nine Acres Recreation Ground are reminded that this does not create a Right of Way.

Councillor Reg James, who served in the RAF, laid the Council's wreath at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday.

Finally, the Council would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Councillor Nicolette Lethbridge*



## CHARLBURY'S POLICE OFFICERS

We now have two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) **Stephanie Blake** and **Wes Smith** who are working out of the Charlbury Police Office at the Spendlove Centre. Opening times are: Mondays 12 noon to 3pm; Fridays 9am to 12 noon. To contact your PCSOs call 0845 8 505 505.

**We need your help!** Thames Valley Police are asking for volunteers to help run the Spendlove Centre office and join the existing volunteers. We need help with front counter duties which will typically involve: recording lost and found property; recording driving documents; handing out crime prevention literature; taking details of non-urgent enquiries.

The office is open Monday afternoons and Friday mornings but more volunteers will help us to increase these hours. Volunteers can be anyone: over 18 years of age, who is discreet, reliable and trustworthy, who is good with people and has the ability to listen, who can take accurate messages, and who is friendly and approachable whilst still being calm and efficient. All applicants will be required to complete an application form and give the names of two referees. All volunteers are required to have a police check prior to acceptance onto the scheme, and then have an informal interview with their local co-ordinator. If you are interested and would like to apply, please contact me:

Rosie White, Volunteers Co-ordinator,  
Thames Valley Police, 01993 814065  
[rosie.white@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rosie.white@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

We have a mailing list for people wishing to receive *The Charlbury Chronicle* who no longer live in the town. £2.50 per four issues; £4 per four issues for overseas subscribers. Large-print £2.50 for **each** copy. Please note that **ALL** cheques for advertising, mailing list or donations should be made payable to *The Charlbury Chronicle* and should be sent to the Treasurer, Dawn Colvin, whose address is in the panel on the right.

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