

Volume 15 Number 4

As usual, your December editorial always starts with an admonition to do as much of your Christmas shopping in Charlbury as you can. Read the advertisement on page 4 and that will give you some ideas of what is available on your doorstep! There will be two late-night openings for those who come home from work on Friday December 9th and Friday December 16th, and there's usually a cup of good spirits offered to shoppers to make the whole experience an enjoyable one.

Many, many apologies to the CADS group for forgetting to include a whole page about their activities in the last issue - mea culpa. Do catch up with Madeleine Wheare's article on page 33. Whilst on about things theatrical, have a read on page 9 of the recent visit of Shoestring Opera to the Memorial Hall with a splendid production of Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte* which Christopher Betts has wonderfully brought to life for us.

Getting personal, may I please ask readers to note that I have now changed my address and, more importantly, my telephone number - do please look at

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page 40 for the details.

It is customary at this time of the year for the Editor to thank all those who help with the production of your *Charlbury Chronicle* in any way. The *Chronicle* flops on to your doorstep four times a year and only gets there by dint of some very hard work by a band of loyal supporters. May I thank Jack Potten for organising the advertising, Dawn Colvin for keeping us financially OK, our many contributors, and the great number of people involved in getting the *Chronicle* delivered to every household in the town. Everyone gives so generously of their time, and I am enormously grateful to all those who help.

Please see below for the deadline for copy for the March *Chronicle*. Make a note in your nice new 2012 diaries.

May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

Lynette Murphy

Deadline for copy for the March Chronicle is February 1st 2012

Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas Exhibitions

This year the Oxfordshire Craft Guild will be mounting two Christmas exhibitions--one their long established show at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock where they have been a seasonal feature for over 25 years--the other a first in the centre of Oxford at the new gallery within the Old Fire Station which will have just reopened to the public after a complete and exciting transformation. Both will feature a range of crafts made by some of the best makers and designers in the county. Those who love skillfully crafted and designed work or are looking to find unique gifts for Christmas will find a wealth of beautiful objects to choose from at these two venues.

The exhibition in the Garden and Brewhouse Galleries of the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock runs from 2 pm on Saturday the 19th of November until Tuesday the 3rd of January. The museum is closed on Mondays. Normal opening hours are 10-4:45 Tues through Saturday and 2-4:45 on Sundays, but check their website for Christmas and New Years schedules.

The exhibition in the gallery of the Old Fire Station runs from the 6th to the 23rd of December. The gallery is open from 10 to 5 Tuesday to Saturday and is most easily accessed via the Gloucester Green entrance.

Contact details:

Oxfordshire Museum, Fletcher's House, Park St., Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1SN; tel: 01993 811456 www.tomocc.org.uk ; oxon.museum@oxfordshire.gov.uk The Old Fire Station: George Street Oxford and Gloucester Green, www.oldfirestation.org.uk ; info@oldfirestation.org.uk Oxfordshire Craft Guild www.oxcg.co.uk



Need Computer Training?



CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE

We continue to worry about whether our funding will be reduced next year and by how much, especially as Oxfordshire County Council has indicated that they hope day centres such as ours should become self-funding. On the bright side we have a full membership of clients and one on the waiting list. Our volunteers continue to give generously of their time, but we would welcome anyone, who feels that they could spare a few hours a month to come and help. We would also like to hear from relatives or friends, who know of someone who would like to join "our club" on Wednesdays in the Garden Room. Christmas approaches and we plan to have an open morning with coffee and mince pies and of a raffle on the 14th of December. Everyone is most welcome.

Bob Tait, Chairman.

JIM'S MARATHON EFFORT FOR HEADWAY

Heartiest congratulations to Charlbury's Jim Pearce who only a few months after undergoing brain surgery, successfully completed the Snowdonia Marathon on October 29th, raising over £1,500 for the charity **Headway Oxfordshire**, which supports people affected by acquired brain injury.

Snowdonia is well known as one of the toughest UK marathons, and that coupled with the driving rain and high winds this year made it just that little bit more testing.

Jim finished the 26 miles in 4 hours 32 seconds, and was a very respectable 901st out of a field of 2,000 runners. He would very much like to thank all the people who have supported him through their good wishes and, not least, their donations to his charity. His *justgiving* page is still operating, so people can continue to donate if they so wish.

Www.justgiving.com/james-pearce

CHRONICLE SMALL ADS

SPELSBURY VILLAGE HALL:

Whist Drive held fortnightly. Mondays at 7.30pm For further details please ring 01608 810918

To place a small ad please ring Jack Potten on 01608 810991

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COTSWOLD FRAMES

MARKET ST • CHARLBBURY 01608 81180 The time is right the time is here Christmas shopping should give you no fear At Cotswold Frames we're here to help With gifts galore we like to shout

With candles and incense, pictures and frames Cute wooden letters to make the kids names Cuddly teddies for girls and the boys And lots of exciting original toys

Soaps and diffusers from Heyland and Whittle And currency hankies for noses that dribble Beautiful jewellery for those who want bling At sensible prices oh I could sing

Stunning glass baubles and stars for the tree Superb Christmas cards for loved ones from thee The shelves are so full & stacked to the hilt A pity the shop wasn't bigger when built

But remember last year the time of the snow For some stuck in Charlbury did come as a blow No parcels delivered the trees would be bare Thank God for the shops in the centre are there

Merry Christmas

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Friends of Charlbury Library

Penny Price, our Library Manager, retired at the end of September after almost 20 years of service to this community. Initially Penny assisted Jean Porrill, and then took sole charge when Jean retired in 1998. Penny will be sorely missed for her welcome to all library users and her readiness to go the extra mile to help, whether in finding books for readers, helping those struggling with computers, assisting in research on family history and even helping with elusive crossword solutions. She was particularly welcoming to children for whom gaining pleasure from reading is so vital to their ability to learn. I have been told that she will be missed too by visiting grandchildren. We have been fortunate in having for nearly 40 years just two Library Managers who were also local and very much part of the community. Penny knows how she is appreciated by the gifts she has received and good wishes for a rewarding retirement. She will continue to sit on the Friends of the Library committee. Penny is succeeded by Lucy Tyrrell, who has a temporary contract until the end of March, the future after that being under consultation.

The Consultation on the future of the libraries closed on 30 September. The Town Council and the Friends of the Library have sent in a joint response. The Save Oxfordshire Libraries also sent in a response on behalf of all the libraries in that group, which includes Charlbury. Thanks to all who sent individual responses. There is strong feeling that the smaller rural libraries are being unfairly targeted when half the population of the County lives in this area. The 3,500 replies will be analysed by an independent body and the result will be known in November. The future plans will be discussed at the OCC Cabinet meeting on 12 December.

The Friends of the Library will need a new Chair and Treasurer after the AGM, which is likely to be held in early February 2012. If anyone would be interested in taking on these roles please contact Amanda Epps on 810573 or Nigel Walsh on 810246. You can also help by using the library regularly; remember the adage, use it or lose it. There are forms in the Library for those who would be prepared to volunteer to help in the Library if that is to be the future and also for anyone who would like to be a Friend of the Library and whose name we do not already have from this year's AGM.

Amanda Epps

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Evening surgery at North Leigh by appointment

CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS



Charlbury Museum will be open on the two Christmas shopping evenings, **December 9th and 16th.** We have some ideal Christmas presents for sale this year: (a) Museum tea towels, 'Rules for the School.' The fearsome regulations of a girls' charity school in Charlbury c.1800. Only £4 ; (b) The DVD, Memories of Charlbury, at the special Christmas reduced price of £4 – normally £7.50; © the new booklet 'Charlbury in the 1930s,' with Vic Brackenbury's boyhood memories of the town before the 2nd World War, excellent value at £5; and (d) Parish Maps, a snip at £3.50 Also, a range of books, cards, notelets and Museum pencils. Entry to the Museum will be free on these two evenings.

Since 2012 will see the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Museum Committee is considering putting on a special exhibition looking back to the 1950s, and to the Coronation in particular. We would like to hear from anyone who has mementoes of life in Charlbury at that time, who would be prepared to lend them to the Museum for the Exhibition. For example, we have some Coronation mugs, but no copy of the Charlbury Coronation Programme. The 1950s saw, among other things, the opening of the Memorial Hall, the first Street Fair (to raise money for the upkeep of the Hall and Corner House), and the building of Hughes Close and Sturt Close; it would be very interesting to see photographs or press cuttings of these events. Anyone who would like to lend items should contact the Curator, Celia Faulkner, on 810656.

Charles Tyzack

Last orders for Council's £99 Insulation Offer

Thanks to a Council insulation grant, residents who own their home or rent privately in West Oxfordshire district can get loft and cavity wall insulation professionally installed for just £99 each. However, the funds are being allocated fast.

You can apply for the West Oxfordshire District Council Home Insulation Grant online at <u>www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/westoxon</u> or call 0800 8048 777 between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The grant is being managed exclusively by Cocoon and is offered on a first come, first served basis. Insulation is the most cost-effective way to keep the heat you pay for where you want it - in your home - making it an excellent investment.

Can you help?

Local people wanted to join new study group aiming to transform Charlbury into a dementia-friendly town

When Alison gets up in the morning she isn't sure who she is or where she is. Roused by a loving voice, guided gently through her breakfast and daily routine, she later goes out for a walk along roads long familiar but hard to place. She is greeted by friendly voices. She is shown across roads and into the local post office. She chats and laughs - especially if the conversation turns a bit unusual. Alongside her are neighbours who understand what she can do for herself and what she needs help with. She is happy. She is living independently and well with her dementia.

Barbara Dunmore, who cares for her husband, invites people in Charlbury to join a new group aiming to transform Charlbury into a dementia-friendly town. The group is going to explore practical ways in which each of us can make a difference. People affected by dementia and the people caring for them can lead a full everyday life in the community with the support of people who understand what the condition means.

This project, led by Oxfordshire Adult Learning and supported by Guideposts Trust, Age UK Oxfordshire and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, aims to bring together local people of all ages and backgrounds to learn from specialists all about living with memory loss and dementia.

During the six free sessions participants will be able to share their experiences and together create a local plan to transform their area into a dementia-friendly community.

Resources are available to enable people living with dementia and their carers to attend.

Information Event Thursday 8 December 10.20am - 12 Garden Room, Memorial Hall

Refreshments and things to do and see. All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. There are also volunteering opportunities.

Interested? Call Barbara Dunmore 01608 810002 or Project Worker, Catharine Arakelian 01865 849768 <u>catharine@newdementiacare.org.uk</u>

This project has been funded by the Skills Funding Agency

Mozart comes to Charlbury

Who would have thought it? Grand opera in the Memorial Hall? *Così fan Tutte* is perhaps not as grand as *Aida*, say, but with a singing cast of only six, all with delightful roles, it is perfectly suited for a small semiprofessional outfit like Shoestring Opera. They perform locally but also take their productions to Italy, which must take some nerve.

So we had *Cosi* sung in Italian: very nice and clear Italian, but no concessions to the discerning patrons of Charlbury and beyond (one had come from Brazil). Some might have wished for facilities like supertitles which, if we had the kind of hall this town needs, could have been possible. The venue, then, must have been a bit of a challenge, but the set made the best of the limited space and the production triumphed, at the cost of much ingenuity and, no doubt, some inconvenience to the performers.

A small orchestra was squeezed in: we could have done with more, but they just had room to puff and scrape, and did so very well, most ably conducted by Chris Davey. There was only one heart-in-mouth moment of the kind you fear on such occasions, but to their credit singer and accompaniment quickly sorted themselves out, and we settled down to yet another beautiful Mozart aria elegantly and effortlessly performed. It would be wrong to single anyone out, but wrong also not to say that the young women. Hannah Davey and Victoria Jess, not only sang marvellously, but acted together as if they had been doing it for weeks. And in general the acting was better than one sometimes sees on the professional stage, everyone hamming it up a bit, which suited the opera's typically absurd plot.

It is blatantly anti-feminist - *Women are all the same* - but the audience seemed not to

mind. They were captivated no doubt by the wit of the stage business (lots of silly play with things like brooms and underwear) and the all-round quality of the performance. Giles Dawson, as director taking an appropriate role as mastermind of the plotting, looked at the end as if he enjoyed being proved right about the inconstancy of women. Certainly he had the right to look satisfied as director, because the whole thing was extremely enjoyable, and it sounded from the applause as if a good time had been had by all.

Christopher Betts



LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITY

An interesting collaboration has recently caught our attention, between a local Travel Agent and an Oxfordshire charity. Nicola Leyland launched her home-based Travel Agency during 2011 and is committed to using the agency to also raise funds for the charity Rosy – Respite Nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters.

How is this possible? For every booking made by Charlbury residents, a contribution will be given to Rosy. **Does this increase the cost of the service offered?** No, Nicola offers competitive prices to her clients and the donation to Rosy comes directly from her business. **How secure is it to book through Nicola Leyland?** As a customer you will receive expert advice from an experienced Travel Agent, you also have the peace of mind of 100% financial protection. **What kind of holidays can Nicola arrange?** A full range from short breaks, activity holidays, cruises, group holidays, ski trips and tailor made itineraries.

Look for Nicola's advertisement in this publication (p27) and keep an eye out for her travel clinics held regularly in The Bell Hotel.

nicola.leyland@travelcounsellors.com 01608 811255

Letter to the Editor

Having been at Charlbury Library for three months short of twenty years, it is a little strange not being there any more. It was a job I loved very much, but nothing stays the same for ever. I would like to thank everyone for all the gifts, cards and good wishes that I received. I will miss everyone very much.

I have now become a member of The Friends of Charlbury Library and so hope to continue the link and help do whatever is necessary to ensure that some form of library remains in Charlbury for many more years.

Once again a big THANK YOU to everyone,

Penny Príce

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Meet the world at home! Volunteer hosts are urgently needed to offer hospitality for a one-off weekend, or a few days at Christmas, to international students at UK universities.

HOST visits promote international understanding and goodwill. HOST is a well-established national charity, with a volunteer local organiser. Please see <u>www.hostuk.org</u> or call Rosemary Clegg on 01235 -868047. A NEW CHRISTMAS CAROL !

to be sung to the tune of



'The Twelve Days of Christmas'

On my walk round Nine Acres this is what I found, *says Sheila Peacock:*

> 12 bits of paper 11 empty crisp bags 10 fizzy drink cans 9 bottle tops 8 cigarettes 7 beer bottles 6 lager cans **5 Co-op Bags** 4 sandwich wrappers 3 French letters 2 kiddies jumpers And a bag full of squidgy dog poo !



NEW Singing Group

WOAPA – West Oxfordshire Academy of Performing Arts launched its singing group for ages 16+ in September. No auditions and no requirement to read music, the emphasis is on having fun while singing with like-minded people. What we sing will mostly be decided by the group, but the repertoire will be contemporary – Queen, Adele, GaGa, Glee etc.

Sessions are held at The Batt School, Witney, each Wednesday during term times, from 7.30 - 9pm. First session FREE – subsequent sessions are £5.

For more information email <u>info@woapa.co.uk</u> or ring 07943 353032





Cold calling: there are a few scams doing the rounds at the moment, one being the burglar alarm scam. The caller might say that the alarms are free, but then they'll hit you with an extortionate service contract. The rogues are reported to scaremonger about rising crime levels in the area, while some make misleading claims about the alarms being directly linked to the police.

There's also the **Windows scam**: you receive a phone call claiming to be from 'Microsoft' or someone claiming to work on their behalf, telling you that you have a virus on your computer which they will help you fix over the phone, it is a scam. Hang up the phone, do not let them have remote control access to your computer and do not give them any money. Salesmen trying to sell you something over the phone or on your doorstep could be anyone!

Cycling: Please can I remind people that the one way system on Market Street and Browns Lane applies to cyclists as well as vehicles, that also includes cycling the wrong way on the pavement. On a number of occasions Chipping Norton officers have had to stop people doing one if not both of these offences. So far advice has been given however it is still occurring and we will have no option but to start handing out £30 fixed penalty tickets.

Please contact me if you require any more information. You can either email me: <u>wes-ley.smith@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk</u> or use the new non-emergency number which is changing from 14 November to <u>101</u>. The old 0845 8 505 505 number will run side by side with the new one until March. But please start using <u>101</u> when it comes in.

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CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT, No. 60 By Councillor Helen Bessemer-Clark

Charlbury Station: <u>The Prime Minister</u>, David Cameron, in his capacity as MP for Witney, formally unveiled a plaque at the station on 14th October to mark the re-dualling of the Cotswold Line, in front of an audience of Morris Dancers, senior personnel from the Railway Industry and Local Government including the Chairman of the Town Council (and some rather bewildered passengers and members of the public!). First Great Western confirm that they have been allocated a Government Grant to extend the Car Park into the old allotment/works site. Draft plans have been shown to the Town Council which strongly supports this project. The exact layout and work programme will be announced in due course. Work on the new garden on the new platform was delayed because of student holidays and the weather, but has now re-started. It is being carried out by the Staff and students of Abingdon & Witney College, led by Nik Thomson. An old-style GWR bench has been donated by CLPG and installed on the new platform. Councillor Ron Prew represented the Town Council on the Steam Train trip from Worcester to London as a guest of First Great Western on 17th September.

Thomas Gifford Charity: The Town Council nominates 3 Trustees. Councillor Willem Hackmann has stood down as a trustee after 11 years as both a Councillor Trustee and a Council-appointed Trustee. The Council appointed Jim Clemence to replace him, on the advice of the trustees. The Council does not have to appoint a serving Councillor, although the person appointed has to have the same qualification as a candidate standing for election to the Town Council.

Local Government Boundaries: The Town Council has supported the Local Government Boundary Commission's recommendation to alter the present Oxfordshire County Council Charlbury Division and re-name it the **Charlbury and Wychwood Division**, which will consist of the following West Oxfordshire District Council Wards: Chadlington and Churchill, Milton under Wychwood, Ascott and Shipton, and Charlbury and Finstock. (The present **Charlbury Division** consists of the Parishes of Chadlington, Charlbury, Chilson, Churchill, Combe, Cornbury and Wychwood, Fawler, Finstock, Kingham, Sarsden, Spelsbury and Stonesfield).

Street Fair: Our, fortunately regular, peon of praise and congratulations goes to the Charlbury Street Fair Committee for profits raised towards the upkeep of the Corner House and War Memorial Hall of £14,000 (subject to audit).

Charlbury Fire Station: Oxfordshire County Council are seeking men and women to volunteer to be Retained Firefighters (part-time, and paid) based at Charlbury Fire Station. They are particularly interested to hear from people who are available during day-time. *Please see Chris Wilson's article on Page – Lynette says she has heard nothing from him so far*

Oxfordshire County Council Armed Forces Community Covenant: Following a written request from the Leader of the County Council the Town Council pledged their support for the Community Covenant at their July meeting. "The Community Covenant aims to encourage charities, local authorities, businesses, communities and individuals to

work together with the military to offer support to service personnel and their families as well as reservists and veterans". If you would like to know more about this scheme, please contact the Town Clerk or Chairman of the Town Council. As a matter of interest, Oxfordshire now has the largest number of service Personnel, after Yorkshire and Hampshire, with garrisons at Abingdon, Bicester and Didcot, RAF Benson and Brize Norton and the Defence Academy at Shrivenham.

Councillor Activities: Councillor Nick Potter (Chairman) represented the Town Council at the Frideswide Civic Service at Christ Church Cathedral on 18th October. Councillor Nicolette Lethbridge laid the Council's wreath at the War Memorial in St. Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday.

Town Council Surgeries: The Council has decided to continue with it's surgeries which will take place in the Corner House, 10.00 - 12.00 noon on the first Saturday of alternate months. Two Town Councillors will be available to listen to residents' concerns at the next two scheduled dates of Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 and Saturday, February 4th, 2012

The Library: We supported Friends of the Library and their report was the basis of our response. Please read Amanda Epps' article in this Chronicle.

Affordable Housing: South Oxfordshire Housing Association (SOHA) has made a new planning application for the proposed scheme at the Little Lees site. The Plan has been amended as a result of consultation with the public and the Town and District Councils.

Local Government Elections: These will be held on May 3^{rd} , 2012. The Polling Station will be at the War Memorial Hall from 7.0 a.m – 10.0 p.m. The whole Town Council (12 members) will be standing down, though some will be standing for re-election, together with, it is hoped, many other applicants. One seat, currently held by Councillor Glena Chadwick (Lib Dem) will also become vacant for the Charlbury and Finstock Ward on the West Oxfordshire District Council.

Anyone interested in putting themselves forward for election might find it helpful to talk to Roger Clarke, Town Clerk, who can explain the duties and the possible time it might Involve and the powers and responsibilities that the Town Council has. Although not permitted to speak at Council Meetings, it is always possible for members of the public to sit at the back of the room where Council Meetings are taking place, and follow the proceedings. Those interested are reminded that the Town Council has its own website at <u>www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk</u> which gives up to date information about the Council, and copies of the Minutes.

Snow and Ice: Councillor Valou Pakenham-Walsh, with Roger Clarke, attended an Open Day on Snow Clearance, under the aegis of the Oxfordshire County Council. As a result, new grit distributing machinery has been purchased, and as well as those bins already in situ, additional bins will be located at Enstone Road crossroads, Church Lane/ Dyers Hill junction, Ditchley Road/Chartwell drive junction, Nineacres Lane/Nineacres Close junction, and at the Dancers Hill junction with The Slade.

The Permissive Paths on Wigwell Nature Reserve and Nine Acres Recreation Ground will be closed all day on Wednesday, January 4th, 2012. 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.

Vandalism: It is a continuing shame that we have sadly to report that there have been more instances of mindless vandalism taking place in the town. On property belonging to the Town Council it is particularly nonsensical, as it only means the rates may have to go up to cover such costs.

The Queen 's Jubilee, 2nd - 5th June 2012: We are anxious to hear of any suggestions and ideas that individuals might have for ways for Charlbury to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee next year. Please contact Roger Clarke with any of your plans or proposals.

A Happy Christmas to everyone, and should we have snow and ice again, we hope, with the various measures that have been put in place, and directives allowing us to keep the pavements safe, that Charlbury will be well able to cope with any possible problems.

To contact the Town Council, e.mail the Town Clerk, Roger Clarke, at <u>charlburytc@btinternet.com</u> or telephone 01608 810608 during normal working hours (weekdays 9.0 a.m. - 5.0 p.m. but NOT weekends or Bank Holidays)

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 at the

Font Cafe St. Mary's Church, Charlbury 9.15 to 11.30am Every Thursday

For smaller children we provide a play area with toys. There is also a **Traidcraft** stall selling a range of fairly traded foods, crafts and cards.

Charlbury Morris (your local side) Needs You !

We started way back in 1984 as a 'young turks' side – didn't know a lot about the dancing but we leapt about with great enthusiasm. Over the years we have evolved into an established side with a variety of dancers and musicians from all walks of life with a good standard of dance and music. You might have seen us out at the Street Fair taking turns with our friends in Wychwayz – the Charlbury Border Morris side with the black faces.

Having a good time is the reason for the effort we put into learning and practicing the dances, and to put on a good show in the summer months. Morris Dancing is a local tradition, with a history dating back to the 19th century and earlier, with many dances and tunes recorded from this area of the Cotswolds .

Practice in the winter can be demanding and help keep us all fit – you'll soon find out if you aren't! We usually end up at the pub for a social pint after but it is not compulsory. There are about twenty of us which ensures we have a pool of dancers to call on at any time to form a side – usually about 10 or 12 of us This avoids having to ask dancers to turn out when they have other commitments. We dance out with the Morris because it is so enjoyable.

We are called Charlbury Morris but actually are Charlbury/Finstock Morris and currently have members living in Burford, Shipton, Witney, Oxford and Chippy. We do need to recruit more men every year to keep the numbers of dancers up and give the practice season some focus. Now is the ideal time to have ago as you have time to master the basics over the winter before our main dance season during May to September.

We perform at a variety of events locally and have occasional visits further afield – Brixham in Devon next May - and occasionally abroad. We have performed in Munich, Nerha in Spain, Bruges three times and Antwerp. We also have social events during the off-season; barn dance and pub evenings; and join other sides for socials

We are a friendly sociable group and welcome new men to join us. If you think you would like to give it a go contact me – Peter on 01608 811 007 or <u>peter-smith@talk21.com</u> Our practice nights are Fridays 8 – 10pm in the School most weeks during the winter always check with me first as the hall is not always available.

Hope to see you soon !

Peter Smith

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET 2011

On The Playing Close between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, December10th 2011

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd. The Market is organised by Nick Potter, Roger Watts and Geoff Burroughs. The contact address is: Lancut House, Lyneham Road, Milton-u-Wychwood, OX7 6LW. Tel 0784 328 7091 Email rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

CHARLBURY BOWLS CLUB

Ticknell Piece Road, Charlbury Come and try short mat bowling – Wednesdays at 7pm

As the weather gets colder and the nights get darker you are sure of a very warm welcome in our clubhouse where you can come and have a go at short mat bowling or just enjoy a drink and a chat at our fully stocked bar.

Our friendly club is a great way to meet other people from your local community. Members will be at hand to show you the ropes and we can loan you everything you need to get started. And the best thing is it doesn't cost you **anything** to try! So, why not come along or if you would like further information, give me a call.

> Heather Hill, Hon. Secretary Tel: 01608 810229

CHARLBURY ANGLING CLUB

Annual Christmas Bingo to be held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday 16 December 2011. Doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 7.45pm

The Angling club would welcome new members. Subscription tickets are now also available at Charlbury Post Office. Juniors [up to age 16] are able to join the club free of charge its wonderful scents and fresh spring flowers and shrubs. It's generally voted as favourite until the Summer Show comes; then the beauty of the roses and scented sweet peas take over and early fruit and vegetables inspire admiration. Many people are giving up on gardening by September when it is the Annual Show, but our gardeners come up trumps with marvellous vegetable, dahlia and chrysanthemum displays. Now, we show cookery and handicraft skills, too with a wide variety of photography, pictures and needlework exhibited.

It is part of our aim to involve children and there are lots of activities for them to join in; the hope being that at some point they will be moving up into the adult classes with prize-winning entries of flowers and vegetables.

As well as Shows, we hold extremely successful plant sales, talks and our celebrated Harvest Supper AGM. We also have a thread going on the Charlbury website where you can get advice, plants and general gardening conversation from the comfort of your

computer. The committee are justly proud of its achievements and invite you to join the Society and come along to the AGM in October and get involved with a satisfying and enjoyable activity.

Nicola Morgan

CHARLBURY GARDEN SOCIETY

The Charlbury Garden Society is a thriving group of people committed to furthering the cause of gardening in Charlbury and around. We run 3 very successful shows every year, each special in its own way. The Spring Show elicits oohs and ahs for

CHARLBURY PROBUS CLUB

Last Thursday's visit to the Birmingham Symphony Hall was the last in our Summer Events Programme. A scintillating performance was heard, preceded by dinner in the environs of the Hall. (continued)

CLUBS, ETC

Earlier in the year, following lunch at the Hare & Hounds, Tetbury, members were able to see the gardens created by HRH at Highgrove House. It was a pleasure to see wild and domesticated flowers in full bloom.

Perhaps the keynote trip was our annual visit to The Watermill Theatre in Newbury. We were all thrilled by "Radio Times" - a wartime account of work at the BBC put on by a small but highly versatile group of actors which had us rocking in our seats.

More serenely, on a warm sunny September afternoon, we took the coach to Westminster Pier and headed down river to Greenwich. It was a balmy moment, after which we were able to enjoy the Naval College, restaurants, parklands,

museums and a welcome ice-cream. We are now looking forward to our 2012 Programme, starting with our Annual Dinner at Witney Lakes Resort in January.

Steve Cavell, Hon. Secretary

Items for this section please to Julia Caston (810240)

NEWS FROM CORNBURY from the Cornbury Park Team

This year, Cornbury estate has delivered a bumper harvest, whilst still preserving the environment for our bird population. Surveys show that Cornbury is a haven for songbirds, owls, woodpeckers, kingfishers, hawks and bats.

There has been some interest in our recent tree clearing near the Evenlode by North Lodge and at Southill. The trees are predominately poplars, planted as an industrial crop some 50 years ago to supply wood to a match manufacturer. In consultation with Natural England, the trees have been felled, both to restore the flood plains and to make way for a more characteristic plantation of trees. The removal of the poplars will also go some way to preventing the build up of woody debris which has blocked

build up of woody debris which has blocked bridges during recent floods. The wood has been sold as bio fuel; to date 100 oak trees have been planted on the banks above the flood plains, and sheep are grazing the area once more.

The Bushcraft Company is one of the great successes at Cornbury Park. For nearly three years they've been organising real outdoor adventures for schoolchildren in the forest at Cornbury; during 2011 they've taken over 11,000 children into the Cornbury woods. Working with around 250 schools, they also do extensive work with charities and children with special needs. With exciting and educational activity programmes that harness the energy and imagination of students, they help them become fully immersed in the environment and develop an affinity with the natural world (see <u>www.thebushcraftcompany.com</u> for more details).

We are always happy to answer any questions that you might have about Cornbury - please get in touch by emailing us at <u>estate@cpark.co.uk</u> or phoning on 01608 811 276.

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CHARLBURY CHRISTMAS TREES



Come and choose your own Christmas tree growing in the field. Thousands to choose from - Norway Spruce & Blues Open every weekend in December 9.30am - 4pm at Halcyon Honey Farm, Woodstock Road, Charlbury tel: 01608 810260

> Turn off the A44 onto the B4437 to Charlbury and look for the banners

CHARLBURY BEER FESTIVAL - get those grant applications in!

The Charlbury Beer Festival isn't just about beer. More important are the good causes we support – mainly locally, but now also in the developing world.

When we first put forward the idea of targeting projects in communities less privileged than ours, there was some initial suspicion that we wouldn't really know where the money was going. But with our first partner project, the Karm Marg Orphanage near Delhi, we hope we have demonstrated that it's a two-way process. We have not only provided the children at the orphanage with some much-needed equipment: pupils at Charlbury Primary School (our main beneficiary right from the first Charlbury Beer Festival) have also learnt from the project, and have benefited from the links that have been set up.

But most of the good causes remain local, and now is the time to start applying for grants. The grant application form can be downloaded from the Charlbury Beer Festival website, <u>http://charlburybeerfestival.org</u>; and we hold monthly meetings at which new applications are considered. For many members of the committee, being able to support worthwhile local projects and events is the most satisfying part of what we do.

But of course it wouldn't be possible without you turning up on the day, and without our generous sponsors. In 2011 our main sponsor was JD & Associates, and we also received support from Banbury Hill Farm, the Wednesday Stiffs, Rollright Facilities Ltd, Charlbury Cricket Club, Northender, Sonnox, Charlbury Morris, Oxford Urbano, Green Gauge Trust, Sunnyside Films, Savills, the Southill Partnership, Cornbury Park Estate, Charlbury Garage, DustScan Ltd, Professor Geoffrey Walton and Associates, Pearn Kandola, the Rose and Crown, Hook Norton Veterinary Surgeons, Patrick Lunney Associates, the Bull Inn, Zycko, Worths Motor Services Ltd, Wesley Barrell, Knight Frank, the Greyhound in Besselsleigh (who also provided staff), Mercedes-Benz of Bristol, the Duke Of Marlborough, Corn Street Dental Practice, Callow Farm, Fiveways Londis Convenience Store, John Grain Associates Ltd, Benchmark Holdings, Martin & Co., Bronsens Chartered Accountants, Tom Handley, Hardware.com Ltd, Maine County, Cotswold View Camping and Caravan Park. Many thanks to you all, and to anyone whose name we may have omitted.

Tim Crisp and Edward Fenton

The fifteenth Charlbury Beer Festival will be held at the cricket pitch on Saturday 14 July 2012. Put the date in your diary now!

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE CORNER HOUSE

A reminder that HOT DRINKS & HOT SCONES are served every Friday morning between 10 and 11.30am at the Corner House. Come and meet your friends.

Proceeds for the upkeep of the Corner House and Memorial Hall

Prepare for rising energy prices

The message isn't new, but it has more urgency. The Prime Minister met the Big Six energy suppliers and they agreed to write to 4 million households inviting them to **Check, Switch and Insulate to Save**.

The concern is over rising energy prices. According to the *Financial Times*, the average dual fuel customer now spends 6% of income on energy bills compared to 3% in 2004. If the trend persists the average household faces fuel poverty by 2015.

The trend is upwards, so how do we counter it? Here are some tips.

1) Insulate Your Home: Take the frost check. If the frost thaws faster on your roof than your neighbour's, heat is escaping. Top up your loft insulation to 270mm (10.5") to prevent this. Council grants reduce the cost and it could be free if you are aged 70 or over.

2) Go Solar: You can now get Feed in Tariff payments for having solar panels on your roof. These are index linked so they will rise with inflation over 25 years.

3) Switch Energy Supplier: With 400 tariffs available, a comparison site can help. If you prefer not to switch, review your payment method - direct debit is cheaper. Ofgem has said it will simplify standard tariffs so like-for-like comparison will get easier. For more information, visit www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk or phone 0800 8048 777. Cocoon Your Home compares prices for insulation, solar and energy. The service is impartial, independent and run by United Sustainable Energy Agency, a not-for-profit organisation.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - CHARLBURY BRANCH

Servicemen/women lost in action returning to RAF Brize Norton

As has been widely reported in the press, British Servicemen and women who are sadly killed in action abroad are now repatriated through RAF Brize Norton. Repatriation Ceremonies are held at Brize Norton/Carterton and Headley Way, Oxford. If any Legion member or members of the public would like to attend please contact the Branch Secretary, Jane Parsons, on 810822 and she will be able to put you in touch with the relevant organiser as arrangements are often not announced until the last minute because of flight timings etc.

<u>For more information</u> about the work of the Royal British Legion, becoming a member or for assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on 810388, Derek Fowler [Branch Chairman] on 811706 or Jane Parsons [Branch Secretary] on 810822 or visit the website at www. Charlbury RBL.org.uk

A 'Wild' Summer of Cake Making!

If you asked me how many cakes have been made by and for the Charlbury School Association (CSA) this summer, you probably wouldn't believe the very large number! We baked cakes for the Car Rally, two Festivals, a Street Fair, a theatre production and several other school events too!

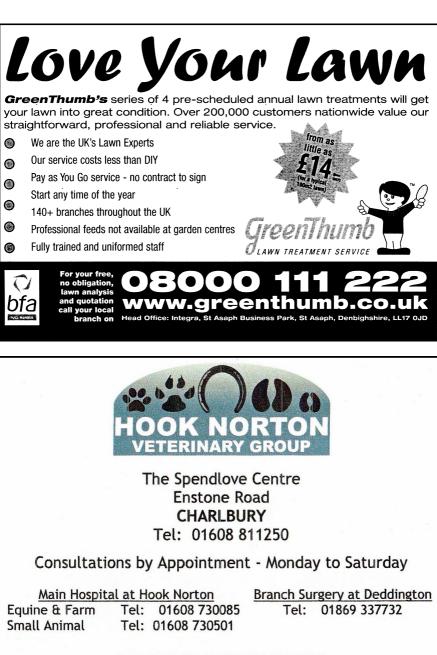
Our biggest challenge was the Wilderness Festival 'Tea & Cake Tent', which we ran in conjunction with Finstock School - Charlbury baking cakes and Finstock baking scones for cream teas. The festival was a new venture for Cornbury Park and we were taking a step into the unknown, not knowing exactly how many cakes we would need. Eight years of experience at the Cornbury Festival gave us a good starting point and, along with information from the organisers about crowd size, we thought we were well prepared.

A quiet start on the Friday night gave us no warning of what was to come. By 8.30am on Saturday we had a queue of customers wanting tea, coffee, cakes & scones - and that queue did not diminish all day! The cakes were selling faster than we could fill and decorate them, and the scones were selling faster than we could whip the cream. After lunch we realised we were going to run out of cakes completely, leaving us with nothing to sell on Sunday. It was time to hit the phone begging for help; and a well placed posting on Charlbury Info asking for cakes! Family, friends, and school contacts rallied round, baking cakes to restock our depleted stock. Once home in the small hours, some of our helpers choose to bake cakes whilst others got up early to bake before going up to site.

Sunday morning started early with our coffee percolators doing overtime serving our customers with much needed fresh morning coffee. During the next several hours cakes keep appearing - from school mums, relatives, friends and from residents of Charlbury. We were totally blown away by the response from the wonderful community that we live in. Thank you all! Needless to say we had a queue more or less all day again, but thanks to the efforts and kindness of everyone involved we were able to serve cake to our customers until late afternoon.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Wilderness Festival and are extremely grateful to Lord & Lady Rotherwick for supporting us in our efforts. Our partnership with the Friends of Finstock School worked well and we hope to work with them again in the future. Our joint effort was well rewarded with just over £8000 raised to be shared between the two schools. Thank you to everyone who helped out, made cakes or just supported us - and we hope to be doing it all again at Wilderness 2012!

Alex Westbury, Chair of Charlbury School Association



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NEWS FROM CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the second year running, members of the school choir took part in the Soundtracks community performances in October to celebrate the redoubling of the Cotswold Line. The children performed alongside singers, musicians, a poet, and Morris dancers from Charlbury, Evesham, and beyond. The school would like to say a big thank you to the organisers of Soundtracks, and Kath Lucas in particular, for giving the children the opportunity to be part of this inspiring event. The choir is now looking forward to participating in the annual 'Young Voices' concert in Birmingham, where they will sing with thousands of other children.

Meanwhile, younger children in the school continue to enjoy Forest School. Inspired by early years education in Scandinavia, Forest School is a pioneering project aimed at encouraging children to learn through nature in a woodland environment. Every week throughout the year, whatever the weather, groups of children visit a special area in the Wychwood Forest to combine play with outdoor and environmental learning.

Here the children have the freedom to respond to, and explore, the natural environment in their own way. Forest School allows the children to work independently and develop their self-confidence by learning new skills and encountering new physical challenges. And they can make as much mess and noise as they like!

Forest School provides a fun and hands-on way of exploring and extending science topics, such as forces and motion, as the children naturally experiment with pushes and pulls by making swings and seesaws for example. Experiencing these fundamental learning concepts in a very practical way in the forest helps to lay the foundation for future learning in the classroom. Forest School can also help with language development and storytelling, as the children become absorbed with their surroundings and want to articulate their responses to them.

For the past two years pupils in Year 6 (at the top end of the school) have been enjoying a return to Forest School as part of their D&T 'shelter building' project. The children construct life size shelters using only materials found in the woodland. This promotes practical building skills, along with team building and a sense of achievement. It's also great fun!

A new initiative at school this term is the introduction of Lunchboox, a weekly lunchtime reading club for children aged nine to eleven, run by an Oxford-based organisation called Bookfeast. Its aim is to promote and stimulate children's enjoyment of reading by encouraging children to read more, explore books beyond their comfort zone, and become life-long-readers.

Finally, if you have a special skill, talent or experience that would be of interest to children at the school, would you be willing to join our Knowledge Well project? If so, please contact the school on 01608 819354 or via our website at <u>http://www.charlbury.oxon.sch.uk</u>.

Vicky Buser, Parent Governor



As a parent I have found that my personal calendar is starting to run in tandem with the school term. Dolly, my daughter, only goes to Charlbury pre-school for one morning a week but I already seem to be measuring things in terms and holidays. When we meet other families there is always a quick bit of arithmetic to see whether Dolly and her new friend will be in the same class at school. This is becoming more of an issue these days because in January my wife and I are planning to send our daughter to pre-school for four mornings a week. I am often accused by family members of being far too dramatic and whilst they are, in all probability right, I can't help but feel a bit wistful about this next step in Dolly's life. Quite often these days there is absolutely no rush to get ready for anything in the mornings and we find ourselves not getting out of our pyjamas until after 10am. Whilst I am aware that this behaviour could be justifiably labelled slovenly, I rather like it. January will see that change and the start of a life of getting up to go somewhere every day begins.

There are many advantages too for Dolly with regard to this change, the main one being the pre-school itself. Any parent worries about handing over the care of their child to people they don't really know and I was no different. Whilst it is easy to read Ofsted reports and speak to other parents about the quality of a school the day comes when you have to leave your son or daughter and the worries I experienced were completely unfounded. Everyone involved with the pre-school has worked incredibly hard to make it such a success, from the day-to-day educational matters to the voluntary committee which looks after the running of the school behind the scenes. Constant fund-raising means

that the committee is able to put money back into the school to ensure the children get the best available resources to help foster a fantastic start to their learning careers.

Over the summer the pre-school saw some big changes inside and out with, amongst other things, the playground getting a huge makeover. A beautiful new covered seating area has been installed along with a softer, wet pour surface being laid around the climbing frame. The interior didn't escape a Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen style makeover either. Fresh paint and new storage areas mean there is even more room for the children to play and explore, (or cause mayhem if we're being completely honest). As mentioned, these exciting changes were only possible thanks to the tireless fundraising of people in and around Charlbury. A huge thank you must go to everyone involved in events like the hoa roasts for the Wilderness and Cornbury festivals and the Farmer's Market.

With this in mind I would like to bring to your attention a provisional date for your diaries. The committee is planning to hold a Kiddy Clobber event on February the 18th at the War Memorial Hall. It is a chance to get rid of your old baby, toddler and children's clothes that take up too much room and raise money for the preschool at the same time. The date for this event could change so please look out for more information on the Charlbury website or contact me on 811751 or 07747 592620 for details.

Another Charlbury event going from strength to strength is the Monday morning parent and toddler group. We are still very well attended and are always happy to



welcome new families. Sessions are held in term time and run from 9:30 to 11:30. Along with a wide range of toys for the children to play with we have crafts, singing and story time. There is also tea and coffee for adults. The session costs £2:50 per family and that also includes a snack for the little ones. Again, if you have any queries please feel free to contact me on the numbers mentioned earlier.

George Ogier

CHARLBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Charlbury WI have enjoyed a diverse selection of talks this year, with recent highlights including a fascinating insight into the world of forensic science. We are pleased to report that our stall at this year's Street Fair was a great success raising £125 to donate to the Memorial Hall. We enjoyed meeting all those who came along to treat themselves to homemade cakes, jams and more. Thank you also to everyone who came to our recent coffee morning on 22nd October and enjoyed a drink and a chat with us. We are arranging an exciting calendar of events for next year to appeal to women of all ages and interests, so please come along to one of our meetings. We are sure you will enjoy the night out, and there is never any pressure to join. We meet in the Morris Room in the Corner House at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

For any questions or queries please contact Pat Hill (secretary) 810714 or Lindsey Leach (president) 819292 or visit our page on the Charlbury website.

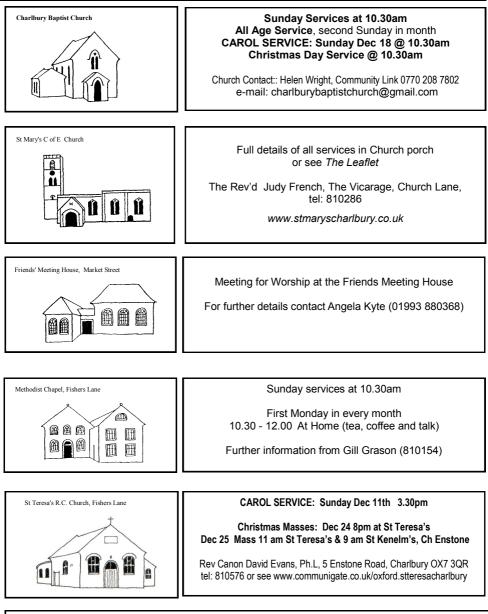
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Christmas Church Services



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY have several shared activities, Including the Bible Study Fellowship. For further information contact Rosalind Scott - *rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk* or ring 810562

Music and Poetry

Churches Together in Charlbury are planning a series of musical evenings and talks in Lent 2012 to explore the Psalms.

Psalms are songs that were sung by Jewish people thousands of years ago and have continued to be sung by Jews and Christians ever since. They are songs about life, about what it means to be human and they speak to us in a language we can still understand. Their music and poetry link generations and cross cultures. They allow us to take part in the spiritual journey of human beings across the centuries and to bring our own personal meaning to the words. We will be finding out when the Psalms were written and who wrote them. We will be discovering what they can mean for us today. There will be musical presentations and we may even sing a bit ourselves.

The series will be held on Tuesday evenings from 28 February to 27 March at 8 pm in St Mary's Parish Church. Please look out for more details nearer the time.

> Rosalind Scott – Secretary to Churches Together in Charlbury Contact: <u>rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk</u>

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REPORT ON CHARLBURY CEMETERY 2011

Last year's winter weather was severe deep snow and bitterly cold for two months. This set back all the early spring flowers, but snowdrops managed to struggle through by mid-February. The crocuses were next with primroses eventually producing a wonderful display. A small colony of bluebells has also appeared. The meadow saxifrage suffered due to extreme dry weather just when growth was taking place. Despite being watered weekly it did not find conditions to it's liking - perhaps too hot and dry, so flowering stems peaked at only 62 stems with some clumps being non -existing - a big decline on the previous vear of 257 stems and the highest number of 600 in 2006.

The weather conditions obviously favoured ox-eye daisies as they appeared in a profusion on the north side of the old cemetery and had to be severely cut back in order to allow access to the graves. Bird life was down due to the drought conditions in the spring which meant a total lack of mud for nest building and blackbirds and thrushes struggled to find worms etc to feed their young

One exciting floral addition to the cemetery was the appearance of a pyramidal orchid first recording on this site and fortunately in a position where it could grow undisturbed. Despite a generally very dry year, the grass continues to grow profusely in the cemetery - probably due to the slope being north-facing and nutrient enriched soil!

As always many thanks to Roger Clarke and the Town Council for their support over the year.

> Louise Spicer 25th October 2011

Report from District Councillor Hywel Davies (01993 868004) hwel.davies@westoxon.gov.uk or hywel.davies7@btinternet.com

In my first report in the last issue of the *Chronicle*, I promised to keep you informed on progress. There has been a good deal.

Firstly, the announcement that Council Tax will be frozen next year will have come as huge relief to us all in these very tough economic times.

Secondly, and even more importantly to many is that District Council services will not suffer any cuts. How can this be achieved when we have inflation running at 4%? The reason is that our District Council is very well run, constantly seeking to do a better job for less expenditure. Savings have been made of £2.1m, with £1.1m planned for the next three years.

Thirdly, the new waste collection service has been an enormous success with almost 65% of waste now being re-cycled. In fact, West Oxfordshire is ranked third out of 291 local authorities throughout the country for the amount recycled. This is a great achievement by everyone concerned particularly all of us who have carefully sorted our own waste for collection.

As a result of my involvement with the Street Fair, I am pushing the District Council to offer free waste collection services to all charitable events thus reducing their costs and increasing their charitable contributions.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, a prosperous New Year and a very mild winter.

Hywel Davies

Report from County Councillor Neil Owen (01993 8308751)

The consultation process regarding Charlbury Library ended on 30th September. A vigorous response was made from the Friends of the Library, the Town Council and interested parties and supporters. Our response will be evaluated by an outside body commissioned by OCC and their assessment will be conveyed to the Cabinet which will meet on 12th December. Members of the public can attend the Cabinet Meeting and if they wish to speak prior notice must be given. I, of course, shall be there to defend our position. Between now and 12th December I shall be lobbying members of the Cabinet leaving them in no doubt as to the outcome we desire ie no change in the status quo or, failing that, the very best deal we can get.

Highways are gearing themselves up to face what might be another severe winter. We have more snowploughs and gritters than in previous years and plenty of salt. Well thought out plans have been made and Highways are confident they can meet the challenge. I wish them all the best in their endeavours.

(Neil Owen continued)

There has been some good news on the financial front - a rare thing these days! There is a very good chance that Iceland will pay back the money it owes to various local Government Authorities.

Finally, may I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and hope for a better New Year.

Neil Owen, County Councillor.

Report from District Councillor Glena Chadwick (810555) chadwick@glena.plus.com

Localism and planning are dominating the thoughts of councillors at all levels at the moment. The government's new planning bill is still being discussed and how it will sit with the desire to give power to local bodies is rather unclear. There are many grey areas: neighbourhoods can put forward plans but what is a neighbourhood---a town, a village, a group of streets ? How will these plans be balanced against the wishes and rights of other areas (perhaps other villages near them) and against the local development plan for the larger area ? There is also great concern about the need to reconcile the provision of more houses with the need to preserve the unspoilt countryside.What does seem clear is that it is a good thing for regions, towns and villages to have their plans thought out before rather than later and WODC is busy doing that.

After years of complaining about the state of the bring site at Spendlove I feel I might actually have got somewhere. I showed the new head of street scene how the area cannot be left tidy (which is what is supposed to happen) unless the bins are pulled out. His new report accepts that it is WODC's responsibility to collect the recycling regularly so that there is always room in the bins, to remove any rubbish around the bins (whether recycling or just rubbish) and to leave the area tidy. I don't suppose that standard will always be maintained but let us hope that things will show a marked improvement.

The closure of Dean Pit was sad and unnecessary. At the time of writing we are trying to find out the true facts. David Cameron asked the OCC to respond to my questions and he sent me a copy of their reply. They say that it was Redbridge, not Dean Pit that needed a £1 million upgrade and 'some had mistakenly applied this to Dean Pit'----'a genuine case of crossed wires'. So the main reason, according to the OCC for not renewing planning permission, that it needed an expensive upgrade, turns out not to be true and to refer to another pit altogether. Why is it supposed to make this mess forgiveable by calling it a 'genuine case of crossed wires' and why, now it's been admitted, can't we have our pit back ?

District Councillor Glena Chadwick

Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas Exhibitions

This year the Oxfordshire Craft Guild will be mounting two Christmas exhibitions--one their long established show at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock where they have been a seasonal feature for over 25 years--the other a first in the centre of Oxford at the new gallery within the Old Fire Station which will have just reopened to the public after a complete and exciting transformation. Both will feature a range of crafts made by some of the best makers and designers in the county. Those who love skillfully crafted and designed work or are looking to find unique gifts for Christmas will find a wealth of beautiful objects to choose from at these two venues.

The exhibition in the Garden and Brewhouse Galleries of the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock runs from 2 pm on Saturday the 19th of November until Tuesday the 3rd of January. The museum is closed on Mondays. Normal opening hours are 10-4:45 Tues through Saturday and 2-4:45 on Sundays, but check their website for Christmas and New Years schedules.

The exhibition in the gallery of the Old Fire Station runs from the 6th to the 23rd of December. The gallery is open from 10 to 5 Tuesday to Saturday and is most easily accessed via the Gloucester Green entrance.

Contact details:

Oxfordshire Museum, Fletcher's House, Park St., Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1SN; tel: 01993 811456 www.tomocc.org.uk; oxon.museum@oxfordshire.gov.uk The Old Fire Station: George Street Oxford and Gloucester Green, www.oldfirestation.org.uk; info@oldfirestation.org.uk Oxfordshire Craft Guild www.oxcg.co.uk

COTSWOLD DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

'In the Bleak Midwinter: Artists' Responses to Snow' is the title of the Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society Christmas lecture on Wednesday, December 7th, 2011. The lecturer is Ann Clements. From 17th century frost fairs on the Thames to 19th century skaters in the Bois de Boulogne, this lecture will trace how artists have responded to the challenges of winter. As this is our Christmas lecture, it will be followed by complimentary wine and mince pies.

On January 11, 2012, the lecture is entitled 'Leonardo's Portraits and Madonnas: Painting, Patronage and Privilege in the work of Leonardo da Vinci' by Leslie Primo. This lecture will look at Leonardo's early use of oils and drawing to achieve his results and at his endless struggle with the Madonna and Child grouping. It will also explore Leonardo's association with particular noble families. Leslie Primo lectures at the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and several educational institutes. And on February 8, 2012, Linda Smith will speak on 'Great Tarts in Art: High Culture and the Oldest Profession'. This lecture will examine the portraits and careers of some of history's most notorious mistresses and courtesans in order to take a light-hearted look at changing attitudes to sexual morality through the ages. Linda Smith is an art historian with special interest in British art and the art of the twentieth century.

er er e Lectures take place at the Bradwell Village Hall, Burford OX18 4XF, beginning at 11.00am. Non-members are very welcome to attend (suggested donation £8). For further information please see our website at www.cotswolddfas.org.

CHARLBURY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Looking back at 2011, **CADS** has had a busy year consolidating, nourishing and widening its membership through....



OUTREACH into the wider community which has brought us some new members. All our activities are now open to the general public and advertised on the Charlbury website.

PLAY RÉADINGS which have fed our inspirations. During the fallow months between productions, we hold two or three play readings a month in different locations. You do not have to be a member and no experience is necessary. Just come along and join in! **COOPERATION** with other theatre groups which has stimulated us and brought in some new members as well. Societies which our members have appeared with include Chipping Norton Operatic Society, Nortonians and Red Fire Productions.

Our **CHARLBURY MUMMERS PLAY** which was resurrected and performed for Street Fair. We thank Geoff Clifford for researching the material and updating the script.

As I write, we are in the final stages of production for **DEAR BRUTUS** a play by J M Barrie, which will be performed on **24-25-26 November** in the Memorial Hall. Glena Chadwick directs this gentle Edwardian romantic drama.

We are always **ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS**. We are an adult theatre group serving Charlbury and its many surrounding villages. We are always glad to welcome older teenagers, students and anyone with enthusiasm and a willingness to participate!

We are particularly interested in recruiting **young people interested in the technical side** of theatre to help with lighting, sound and set design. They are welcome to join one of our productions for the final 10 days when they will receive training and get a chance to operate the equipment. This can be a short-term time commitment and would suit young people following drama courses in the secondary sector.

Upcoming society events include:

Nov 24-25-26 - Performances of **DEAR BRUTUS** Nov 29 - Read through of a John Mortimer one act play Dec 6 - Read through for Lord Arthur Savile's Crime Dec 8 - Auditions for same - to be directed by Brian Drowley Dec 10 - CADS Christmas Dinner Dance

Anyone wishing to participate in the life of the society is most welcome to join any or all of the activities mentioned above or on the website. Please contact the chairman or any member to find out more.

Madeleine Wheare - Chairman Tel: 01608 810092

Find us on Facebook Email: charlbury.drama@gmail.com Website: http://charlbury-drama.com/

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Socie-

D'OVERBROECK'S COLLEGE

Scholarships

At ages 11 and 13 - to Leckford Place

Academic, Art & Performing Arts (apply by 16 January)

Sixth Form

Academic and Science (apply by 11 November); Art, Performing Arts, Environmental Awareness & Enterprise Award (apply by 7 January)

Open Morning

Saturday 4 February 2012 10am – 1pm at Leckford Place 01865 302620 and the Sixth Form 01865 310000 Please do call for an individual visit at any time

A coeducational independent school based in North Oxford

doverbroecks.com



A Year in the Life Of...... John Munro's thoughts on the September Street Fair

This year started with a very successful **Quiz Night** held in the Memorial Hall in March. June saw the **Annual Open Gardens and Jazz Lunch** take place, with 9 gardens opened up for inspection and a Memorial Hall full of satisfied diners. September finally arrived and the **Street Fair Weekend** started with the now traditional **Egg Throwing Competition** on the Friday evening - Charlbury Street Fair is more than just a Saturday afternoon in September !

Saturday dawned and at 9:30 it looked as though our luck was out and we were in for a day of heavy rain, but despite everyone getting thoroughly soaked whilst erecting all the stalls and setting everything out, the 'Charlbury Sun God' finally came to our aid and we were again blessed with a dry day. No 'celebrity' this year, instead we were graced with our very own Charlbury 'King and Queen' who did the honours and declared the **Street Fair** open. Charlbury was again packed with visitors and purely by coincidence we also managed to have a steam train visit Charlbury station twice during the day! New this year was the **giant conga** led by 'Horns of Plenty' and the evening was rounded off as usual by two local bands. The weekend concluded with the competitors in the **10K & 5K Runs and Walk** navigating their way through the helpers who were out on Sunday morning, dismantling the stage and stalls!

Thanks must go to everyone involved with the organisation of all these various events, to everyone that donated and contributed to the success of Street Fair and not least to everyone who put their hands in their pockets to support the events. In these difficult economic times, it is really pleasing to announce that Street Fair will be giving the Corner House and Memorial Hall Committee **in excess of £14,000**!

And so to next year – our calendar starts in January with a planning meeting and when all the dates have been finalised for 2012, they will be published here in the *Charlbury Chronicle*, on the main Charlbury website at <u>www.charlbury.info</u>, on the Street Fair's very own website <u>www.charlburystreetfair.org</u> and via Facebook and Twitter.

Charlbury Street Fair is always looking for fresh faces to help with the organisation and promotion of all the various events that take place, so if you feel you could contribute in any way to the success of future events, please feel free to contact us, or come along to that January meeting!

The Charlbury Society needs you!

As many people will know, one of our committee members – Ann Revell – died suddenly in October. We will miss her help and insight on the committee, and her enthusiastic input to the Museum. Her loss does, of course, leave a vacancy on the committee, so if you feel that you can help us to run the Society's activities for its members, then please let us know.

We also have other urgent needs:

- someone to organise our refreshments rota;
- some able-bodied volunteers to help put out and collect the chairs before and after each meeting; and
- for the outdoor-minded, an organiser for our countryside walks.

Simon Walker Chairman, The Charlbury Society

News from ChOC, Charlbury's Own Cinema

Our films are shown in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. The bar opens at 6.45. There is more information about all ChOC films and ChOC*live* events on our website at <u>www.chocfilms.info</u> where you can also book tickets.

Friday December 2 Benda Billil! (2011) cert PG, 2hr 7mins French, with English subtitles: This film is immensely enjoyable partly of course for the music, but especially for the upbeat determination of the band and the children, their optimism and triumph in the face of their bleak circumstances, and the wonders of human nature they display. Shot by a French film crew over several years as the kids grew up on the streets of Kinshasa, Congo and the band faced one adversity after another, culminating in a European tour, the film was very popular at a preview we attended earlier this year. Note: we are showing this film on a Friday.

Sunday December 11 Potiche (2011) cert 15, 1hr 39mins: This French comedy has gone down very well with British audiences too, and showcases Catherine Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu. Deneuve is a submissive, housebound 'trophy housewife' (or "potiche") who steps in to manage the umbrella factory run by her wealthy and tyrannical husband after the workers go on strike and take him hostage. To everyone's surprise, Suzanne proves herself a competent and assertive woman of action. But when her husband returns from a restful cruise in top form, things get complicated...

Sunday January 8 The Way (2011) cert 12, 2hrs 10mins: The lead character, played by John Hurt, feels compelled to walk the Camino de Santiago when his son is killed in an accident when embarking on the journey himself. Carrying his son's ashes with him, he is slowly won over as the experience of the pilgrimage gives him a deeper insight into life, meeting as he does a fascinating and amusing medley of characters along the way. A touching and beautifully shot film which we found heart-warming and very satisfying. Sunday February 12 Senna (2011) cert 12, 1hr 41mins: Winner of the Sundance Film Festival 2011, Senna is not just a tribute to perhaps the greatest racing driver ever, whose tragic death in a crash on the San Marino Grand Prix racing track in 1994 was watched live on television by 300 million people, but also witness to the emotions and complexities of the man behind the helmet. Add a brilliant background score that truly

endorses what happens on screen, and this is a film not to be missed!

Full information on Live acts from ChOClive

We've had fantastically successful performances recently to open ChOC's new project: to bring quality live entertainment to Charlbury. Shoestring Opera's production of *Cosi fan tutte* and the comedy act, *Madame Galina*, between them drew audiences of around 300! But we are keen to draw on local talent too, so here is our next event under the ChO-*Clive* banner:

Friday 27 January in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury: A Live Gig This will be a night with **1000 Mile Highway** and **Fused**. These bands are extremely well known in the Oxfordshire area, where their gigs are always well attended. **1000 Mile Highway** performed at the first *Wilderness Festival* last summer and both bands also performed sets at *Riverside* and *Charlbury Street Fair* in 2011.

ChOClive events, and online ticketing, is available at www.chocfilms.info/live

JOHN STANLEY'S WEATHER REPORT



Do you remember **August 2011**? If not, then it is probably best forgotten! Despite the first three days reaching 81°, temperatures then dropped quickly with the result that, at 68.81°, it was the fourth coldest August in the 23 years that these records have been kept, with only 1992, 2008 and 2010 being slightly cooler. The average for August is 71.52°. It was the seventh consecutive August with below average temperatures. The coldest day was 56° on 18th, which beat the previous record low for August by 3°. Night minimum temperatures ranged from 61° on 31st July/1st August to 45° on 18th/19th.

Summer 2011 got nowhere near to the average daytime maximum temperature for the summer months of June, July and August of 71.37°, only achieving 68.91°. By the smallest possible margin, it was the coolest summer in the 1989-2011 period. The previous lowest was 68.92° in 2007 and this is not surprising, as all three summer months recorded below average temperatures. It was also the fifth consecutive summer of below average temperatures.

By contrast, **September 2011** was a warmer month than usual. With the exception of 2nd (73°) temperatures were in the range 61° (on 18th) to 69° until the last three days when they climbed rapidly to reach 76° on 30th. The average for the month was 66.30° compared with the long term average of 64.87. Night temperatures were in the range 60° (on 9th/10th) to 42° on 14th/15th.

October 2011 started not by just breaking a record, but by smashing it. On 1st October we recorded a maximum temperature of 77°, followed by two days at 74°. These all beat the previous record, which has stood at 72° since 1st October 1997. After that, temperatures fluctuated, but with nothing extreme. The coolest days were 17th and 27th at 52°. Overall, 2011 produced the warmest October in 23 years with an average of 60.48°, beating the previous record of 60.19° set in 1995. It was only the fourth time that October has recorded an average of over 60°, the others being 1995, 2001 and 2006. At night, temperatures ranged from 58° on 2nd/3rd to 34° on 19th/20th.

Sarah Pulvertaft Christmas Jewellery Sale 3rd-4th December 12-5pm

Sarah is opening her studio on the first weekend of December selling handmade contemporary jewellery for women and men. All welcome, whether you're looking for a special Christmas gift or stocking fillers I have something for everyone - or just come and have a look at what I do.

> The Workshop, Ranger's Lodge, Charlbury, OX7 3HL t. 01608 810221 e. <u>sarah@sarahpulvertaft.com</u> www.sarahpulvertaft.com



Two play rangers, along with a van full of equipment, will be visiting venues across West Oxfordshire encouraging children and young people to make more use of their local outdoor space.

Free sessions will be running from 3.30pm - 6pm on:

Mondays:	Charlbury, Nine Acres Recreation Ground
Tuesdays:	Bampton, Pembroke Place Play Area
Wednesdays:	Stonesfield Recreation Ground
Thursdays:	Eynsham, Oxford Road Playing Field

- All sessions are free of charge
- Children are free to come and go as they please, this is an open access scheme
- Parents/carers remain responsible for their children at all times
- All ages are welcome (children under 5 should be accompanied by an adult)
- Parents/carers are very welcome to join in
- Play isn't always clean and dry, so wear something suitable
- All Play Rangers are qualified playworkers and CRB checked
- Sessions are due to take place in any weather but from time to time they may need to be cancelled or may finish early.

All activities are outdoors and may include den building, cooking on fires, arts and crafts, sports and a range of playful games. Children are encouraged to play freely and choose what they do. They do not have to do anything if they don't want to.

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

Arts Week - Di Gold (810256) Baptist Church - Helen Wright (07702 087802) charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) Madeleine Wheare 810092 www.charlbury-drama.com charlbury.drama@gmail.com Charlbury Art Society (CAS) (810116) Charlbury Beer Festival - Liz Donnelly (810056) liz.donnelly@yahoo.com www.charlburybeerfestival.org Charlbury Bowls Club - Secretary, Heather Hill -810229 Charlbury Business Community - Joan Belshaw (810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net 819117 - chamber@charlbury.info Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net Charlbury Chess Club - Bob Douglas (811083) Charlbury Chronicle - Lynette Murphy (810688) lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com Charlbury Community Centre Appeal Lynette Murphy (810688) Ivnette.murphv@cchronicle.plus.com Charlbury Cricket Club - Colin Olliffe (01993 704108 or 07909 9788863) colin.olliffe@gmail.com www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk Charlbury Day Centre - Bob Tait (810150) Charlbury Evergreen Club - Ken Taylor (811441) Charlbury Fairtraders - Cara Williams (811284) michaelcara1965@yahoo.co.uk Charlbury and District Garden Society Nick Johnson (810507) Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (811007) peter@charlburymorris.org - www.charlburymorris.org Charlbury Museum - Jennifer Bartlett (810312) Charlbury Open Gardens - Vic Allison vic.allison@btinternet.com Charlbury Pre-School Jan Stubberfield (811200) Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter (810388) Charlbury School - Jane Holt, Head (810354) office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk www.charlburv.oxon/digitalbrain.com Charlbury School Association - Sarah Brooks - office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk Charlbury Scouts & Guides - Charlbury Scout Group - Marcus Goodwin 01608 676207 Charlbury Brownie Guider – Fay Kempson 01993 779350 Charlbury Society - Simon Walker, (811414) Charlbury Town FC - Keith Claridge 810201 or 07870426707 Charlbury Street Fair - Barry Cooper barrycooper@prisymid.com or 07770 225673. Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Curthovs charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - Lynn Gorton 01993 869248 carllynn@uwclub.net

tine Elliott (811057)www.cwag.org.uk; info@cwag.org.uk Charlbury Women's Institute - Secretary Pat Hill 810714 CHOC Cinema Jon Carpenter (819117) choc@charlbury.info Churches Together - Rosalind Scott, (810562) (rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk The Bell Hotel (810278) Cornbury Music Festival -Cotswolds Guided Walks - Kevin Myhill, Walks Leader (737490) Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps) Ann/David Morton - (676302) Friends Meeting House: Angela Kyte (01993 880368) Holiday Club - Sue Holiday (810694) Little Fishes Under 5's Group - Kate (811579) Macmillan Cancer Care - Liz & Bob Tait (810150) Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health Suport) 01608 645296 Methodist Chapel - Gil Grason (810154) The Probus Club of Charlbury Michael Marsh (810029) mike@mikemarshmd.plus.com Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (810635) admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com Shed Theatre - Teresa Laughton (810934) St Marys C of E Church Rev Judy French (810286) St Theresa RC Church Very Rev Canon David Evans (810576) Street Stage (touring youth fusion company) Anneke Hay (811269) Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (811212) Thomas Gifford's Charity - Trevor Jones (810644) trevor.iones@ophiopogon.com www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst United Nations Association (West Oxfordshire) malcolm.harper@ukonline.co.uk tel: 07778 450515

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group(CAWAG) Chris-

Wychwayz Border Morris - Teresa Laughton (810934)



CHARLBURY'S POLICE OFFICER

Our Police Community Support Officer is C9837 Wesley Smith who works out of the Charlbury Police Office at the Spendlove Centre.

This office is open for general enquiries, lost property and the production of documents etc, Mondays 12 noon - 3pm and Fridays 9am - 12 noon. 9am – 12 noon on the 1st Saturday of each month

To contact your PCSO call 0845 8 505 505

If anyone is interested in helping to run the Spendlove Centre Police Office please get in touch with Rosie White, Volunteers Coordinator, Thames Valley Police, 01993 814065 or email her

We have a mailing list for people wishing to receive *The Charlbury Chronicle* who no longer live in the town. Now £3.50 per four issues; £6 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. Editor: Lynette Murphy Gracecroft, Crawborough, Charlbury OX7 3TX

tel: 01608 810688 e-mail:

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Assisted by: Diana Potten (810991) Julia Caston (810240) George Ogier (07747 592620) Advertising: Jack Potten (810991) 9 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR

Treasurer: Dawn Colvin 3 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR tel: 01608 810545

Artwork: Ann (Gilbert) Buckmaster (810664)

> Distribution: Robert Caston (810240) Peter Woolfenden (811296) Alan Hanks (811090)

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