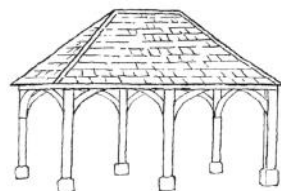


Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 21 Number 4

Christmas 2017

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



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Plus much much more....

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From the Editor

Well it's that time of the year, when we will be all finding the Christmas decorations and looking forward to buying the tree. I can't believe how quickly its come round again!

The late night shopping in Charlbury will be on 15th December—see page 6, so please do support our local businesses and buy your presents there. You don't have to wait until then, as Cotswold Frames have many gifts, the Post Office have lots of cards and wrapping up paper, plus stamps, and the Deli some delicious grub! Also the Corner House will be selling warm drinks and there is the Community Carol Party in the Community Centre at 8pm—along with mince pies and mulled wine!

St Mary's Christmas Bazaar is taking place on Saturday 2 December

Congratulations to Street Fair who raised at least £9,300 for the Corner House and Memorial Hall. If you would like to help at Street Fair 2018 please contact Hannen Beith—see p. 15.

I would like to thank all those who help keep the Chronicle going—and to those who also submit such interesting articles.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Peaceful New Year

Susanna Finch



**Please note the deadline for articles for the Spring issue is 1st February 2018
Please send all articles to editor.chronicle@outlook.com**



Anyone for... erm Pickleball?

So what is Pickleball?

Well, it's a fun and very social game played on a badminton-sized court with a tennis-sized net and is in simple terms, oversized table tennis. It combines many elements of these three sports and is very easy to learn and play.

It is a game for everyone – age and athleticism (or lack thereof) aren't a hindrance as it's also a game that can pit a 16 year old against a 60 year old and there's no saying who'll have the advantage.

The Pickleball club runs on Friday nights at the Charlbury Community Centre from 8:00pm to 10:00pm and there are membership options to suit most people. If you'd like to give it a try, you'll be welcomed and there is also some informal "coaching" to help you start playing.

There is also a Thursday morning session at 10am and more proposed sessions in the pipeline - please contact Vijay for further information.

Equipment is available for those that don't have their own but as with most sports, if you want to play regularly, you will probably want to get your own paddle. Vijay has recently secured a contract with a paddle manufacturer and can get equipment at wholesale prices – feel free to ask him if you're interested.

You can contact Vijay by email: vijaysmobile@gmail.com or on 01993 891 043.

Bring Wallies
& Gloves!

Charlbury CHRISTMAS TREES



**Come and choose your own Christmas tree growing in the field.
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Open November 25th and 26th to choose for collection later,
and then December weekends until Saturday 23rd to choose and collect.

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





The Botany Spot

Winter is almost here and whilst in late November and early December some of the autumn flowering plants linger on producing one or two blooms, and a few nuts and berries still cling to the hedgerows, the countryside begins to look very bare.

Even now though, there remain things to interest the botanist – I always enjoy examining the winter twigs of the trees and bushes along the field edges. With a bit of practice it is quite easy to identify many of them and some are really attractive.

Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, with its purplish-red twigs stands out even in the weak winter sunshine and **Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*** has very characteristic paired matt black buds and smooth grey twigs.

Hazel *Corylus avellana* starts to show its catkins in the autumn and very early in the new year the familiar male catkins open, covered in pollen. The female flowers are much less conspicuous and take the form of tiny red tufts of styles, barely 5mm in length, attached to a small bud.

Pussy Willow, the common name for several species of willow which produce the much loved furry catkins, flower a little later and are a real harbinger of spring.

Around this area I have spotted several different types, but the **Goat Willow *Salix caprea***, produces particularly showy male catkins. Also beloved of children are the giant 'sticky buds' of the **Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum***,

some of the first buds to open once spring really starts. This is not a true native but was introduced to England from SE Europe around 1615 and recorded here in the wild by 1870.

Apart from trees and shrubs, other flowers in spring are often from bulbs or corms, making use of the energy stored underground.

Immediately January begins and the Christmas decorations are put away, faint signs of the new growing year gladden the heart in the form of the **Snowdrop *Galanthus nivalis***, so loved by many the term 'galanthophile' is now widely known. Strictly Snowdrops are a garden escape, when found in the wild, but are now so widespread in all the many forms, we have adopted them as English flowers.

Winter Aconite *Eranthis hyemalis* from the buttercup family

RANUNCULACEAE is not a native either, but has been established in the wild since the 1800s and is found in many places especially near houses.

Still available, I see one of my much read books as a child was the Flower Fairies poems and the 'Winter Aconite' sticks in the memory.

Deep in the earth

I woke, I stirred.

I said: 'Was that the Spring I heard?
For something called!'

'No, no' they said;

'Go back to sleep, go back to bed.....'

And so the poem continues with the Aconite defying advice and coming out into the 'wintry world'

(From *Winter Aconite* by Cicely M. Barker: *Fairies of the Flowers and Trees*)

These poems and their wonderful illustrations are still worth a read and introducing to younger relatives, who will find many of the flowers in the Oxfordshire countryside and in their gardens.

jo@joanna-bell.net

Charlbury Christmas Fair

Sunday 10th December
11am - 4pm
Memorial Hall

Entrance £1 (includes a raffle ticket)

CHILDREN FREE

Lots of unique gifts for him, for her, for pets

All proceeds will go to the Corner House and Memorial Hall. Add this date to your diaries and join us for refreshments on the day



Growth at Garden Society

This year has seen an increase in members, an increase in the number of exhibitors and visitors at the annual Flower and Produce show, and an increase in funds in the bank. We also held a successful jazz and poetry evening in partnership with the Art Society.

Nick Johnson – who has been involved with the Garden Society for forty years -- stood down as chair, and Geoff Holmberg was elected in his place. Sue Cox takes over from Angela Gwatkin as treasurer.

We look forward to a flourishing 2018. The Society's year begins on 18th January with Gardeners' Question Time when Charlbury's horticultural sages John Moore and Peter Bridgman (and others) will answer your queries. On February 15th, Jenny Chambers will talk on *Secrets of the Soil* – preparing for the long-term health of the garden.

Rob Stepney

Goodbye
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We would first like to thank Street Fair for all their efforts which has raised a Grand sum of £9,300 for the Corner House and Memorial Hall.

Our current secretary is leaving, so the committee are seeking a volunteer to take on this role. To express an interest or to request further information, please contact the chairman, Ron Prew on 01608 810060.

Grand Coffee morning and Sale

This will take place on Saturday 9th December in the Memorial Hall, 9.45 to 11.45am. Refreshments, Christmas wreaths/baskets, cakes, raffle, bric a brac.

Christmas Fair—10 December

The Corner House and Memorial Hall are bringing Charlbury residents their first Christmas Fair! We are very excited about this new annual event. Our first Christmas Fair will be held on Sunday 10th December 2017, 11am-4pm. There will be 20 stalls selling Christmas gifts that will suit everyone, including the family pets! Entrance will be £1 which includes a raffle ticket and it's free for children.

All proceeds will go to the Corner House and Memorial Hall charity. Add this date to your diaries and come and join us for refreshments on the day, we look forward to welcoming you...

Late Night Shopping

Friday 15 December, 6-8pm at the Corner House. Please come along to browse our pre-owned sale room and enjoy a complimentary tea, coffee or hot chocolate.

Live TV at the Memorial Hall

Free Sat television is now available in the hall. The first live screening took place for the Tour of Britain cycle race on 9 September. Further events are

planned for 2018, including the Six Nations Rugby.

Wi-Fi in the Corner House

The committee is actively pursuing the installation of Wi-Fi throughout the Corner House. A comprehensive survey has already been completed and hopefully Wi-Fi will be available early in the New Year.

Pre-owned Sale Shop

This is open on Friday and Saturday mornings. All proceeds go the Corner House.

Jane Parsons

Royal British Legion Charlbury Branch



Coffee Morning 17 February

This will be held in the Corner House from 9.45am to 11.45am.

For more information about the work of the Royal British Legion, becoming a member or for assistance, please contact Nick Potter (Branch President) on 01608 810388, Derek Fowler (Branch Chairman) on 01608 811706 or Jane Parsons (Branch Secretary) on 01608 810822. Any enquiries about subscriptions should be made to Barry Canham, Membership Secretary on 01608 81176.

The telephone number for the Royal British Legion Contact Centre is 0800 802 8080.

Jane Parsons

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1st Charlbury Scout Group

Since our last report in June, our youngest section (Beaver Scouts) enjoyed being part of the Family Summer Camp at Northleach (climbing, abseiling, learning mapping and navigating skills), followed by a geocaching hike to finish the term. The Autumn term has included Emergency Aid practice (some very good bandaging!) and learning all about codes for our Communicator badge, as well as Fitness Badge activities at the new Charlbury Community Centre.

A team from Charlbury Cubs earned 2nd place on County Skills Day out of 32 participating teams, as well as leading a song at the campfire! Excellent work by the six Cubs who took part. Our first ever Jamboree on the Air was somewhat hindered by poor weather conditions, but despite high winds the section contacted other groups from as far afield as Scotland and Germany. We finished off the half term with a pioneering challenge to build their own shelter, perhaps ready for when we forget the tents at camp...

The Scout Troop entered two patrols in the County Patrol Camping Weekend, achieving 19th and 26th place out of 54 patrols. The weekend gave Scouts the opportunity of camping without adult leaders, as well as planning their menus and cooking over open fires. The Scouts also enjoyed activities such as caving and driving mechanical diggers. Adventurous activities continue this term with night hikes planned.

We'd like to thank all our volunteers and families who support the Group throughout the year - special thanks this year to the County Scouting team who provided the Climbing Wall at the Street Fair - we hope you enjoyed it!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all meet in the Scout Hut on Nine Acres Lane, Charlbury. Scouts are on a Monday evening 7.00pm - 8.30 pm, Beavers meet on a Thursday evening 5.00pm - 6.15pm and Cubs also meet on a Thursday evening 6.30pm - 8.00 pm.

If you are interested in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts then contact Cheryl Horsey, Group Scout Leader on cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk for more details.



Charlbury Late Night Christmas Shopping 15th December

The shops will be open until 8pm—so come and order your Christmas Food and

Drink from the Deli—buy your Christmas gifts from Cotswold Frames—don't forget your Christmas cards from the Post Office (and stamps!) and sample the cured bacon, sourdough bread and other goodies at the Curiosities Company. The Corner House will be also serving warm drinks after which the Community Christmas Carol party led by Charlbury Primary School will take place in the Community Centre, with mulled wine and mince pies

St. Mary's Church

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Saturday 2nd December
10.15 - 12 noon
War Memorial Hall

*in aid of YCare International and
Cecily's Fund.*

Join us for Sausage Butties and Tea or Coffee with our popular stalls, including Cakes, Toiletries, White Elephant, Plants, Raffle, Gifts, Jewellery, Books, Bottles and Toys and stock up for Christmas! Further info: Sarah Potter (810388) or Bob Tait (810150).

To accommodate other events, the film screenings in December and January will **NOT** be on the second Sunday of these months. **Please note amended dates and times below.** The winter programme begins in December with **ELF** starring **Will Ferrell**; a Christmas film the whole family will enjoy. In January, **The Martian**, directed by **Ridley Scott** and based on the book by **Andy Weir**, is our first sci-fi film for some years. February's film **Brief Encounter** is the first in the 'ChOC Classic Cinema' strand, more of which below.



Sunday, 17th December at 3pm:
The Christmas Family Matinee is "ELF" Cert. PG / 93mins.

Buddy (**Will Ferrell**) accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler is raised among Santa's elves. Now grown up, Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father, Walter Hobbs (**James Caan**). Walter, with some reluctance, begins a relationship with the childlike Buddy with increasingly chaotic results. "A movie full of Yuletide cheer" **Prizes for the best dressed elves! Free popcorn for children and mince pies for adults!**



Sunday, 7th January 2018 at 7pm: The Martian Cert 12 / 2 hrs 20mins (plus short intermission).

When astronauts blast off from the planet Mars, they leave behind Mark Watney (**Matt Damon**), presumed dead after a fierce storm. With only a meagre amount of supplies, the stranded visitor must utilise his wits and spirit to find a way to survive on the hostile planet. "Smart, thrilling, and surprisingly funny, *The Martian* offers a faithful adaptation of the bestselling book" - Critics Consensus



Sunday 11th February at 7pm:
Brief Encounter Cert PG / 86mins.

As a change from our regular programme of present-day movies, almost all of them in colour, the ChOC committee have decided to try something new for 2018. In the first of what we hope will become a regular series, we will be showing an old black-and-white film in February under the banner

ChOC Classic Cinema

Some of you will already know (and love) many of the films we intend to show as part of this strand. But these are films that rarely get shown on terrestrial television these days and which you may not have seen for many years. Even if you have seen them recently, we hope that you'll still come along and watch them again as part of a large and appreciative ChOC audience.

Many titles were vying for the accolade of being the first **ChOC Classic**. The likes of **The Third Man**, **Kind Hearts and Coronets** and **Some Like it Hot** all received honourable mentions and may well get an airing at a later date. But in the end we plumped for **Brief Encounter** (1945) as our February film. Rated the second greatest British movie of all time by the British Film Institute, **Brief Encounter** stars **Celia Johnson** as a bored housewife who begins an affair in a railway station buffet with Dr Alec Harvey (**Trevor Howard**), that soon threatens to destroy her marriage. Written by **Noël Coward**, directed by **David Lean** and with music by **Rachmaninov**, plus steam trains aplenty, all the ingredients are in place for a memorable evening. With our showing scheduled for three days before **Valentine's Day**, please join us to watch one of the greatest romantic dramas ever to grace the screen and help launch **ChOC Classic Cinema** in real style.

All screenings are held in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Doors and the popular ChOC bar open 45 minutes before the scheduled performance time. Admission: Adults £5 / U15s £3 (when applicable), Matinee Family Ticket £12 (2 adults and 1 or 2 children)

A Day's Life: Pradeep Shakya, cameraman and bread-maker

I am from Nepal but have lived in the UK on and off for the last fifteen years. We moved to Charlbury over five years ago and we feel very at home here. I didn't start off my life in the UK as a professional baker.

I actually trained as a cameraman and have a degree in broadcasting. When we lived in London I worked in the film industry, but gave it up to look after our children as my wife Clare worked full time. I still do a little film work and have made some short films about the artistic talent in and around Charlbury, including one about my mother in law, Patricia Freeman who is a local silversmith.

I also make music videos for musicians among the Nepali community here in the UK. The videos are based on traditional Nepali music and can be viewed on YouTube as well as on TV in Nepal! They are a little like Bollywood films, with lots of dancing but are also quite different. I am currently working with a Nepali folk singer Bir Chandra Rai who lives near Dover. There is a large Gurkha community around Dover. The Gurkhas come from the Midhills region of Nepal where the British Army still go to recruit from the three or four different tribes there. There are three regions in Nepal – the Himalaya, the Midhills, and the Plains. I come from the Midhills region.

My wife Clare used to work for the British Government in South Asia so as a result we have lived in Bangladesh and India as well as doing a stint in Nepal. I have always been passionate about cooking and growing my own food but my life as a baker began in India where my wife and myself were keen to find an alternative to the sugared flat breads (naan) that you find there. I was introduced to sourdough bread by my brother in law and loved it, so I decided to try and make my own.

Real sourdough bread is made only from 'wild yeast', flour and water. However, commercial bakers often add regular active yeast to their 'sourdough' breads

as well as many other additives. I started by taking a wild yeast starter back to India, after a break in the UK. The temperature and humidity is very important in making sourdough bread. It has to be right. So I made mistakes but kept going and gradually improved.

Sourdough bread has been made for thousands of years and is now getting more popular. When we returned to the UK from Delhi, I decided to carry on with my passion of making different Sourdough breads and began my own bread-making business from home. I converted a building in the yard into my bakery and bought a specialist wood fired oven from Germany.

Before setting up the business, I studied with the master baker Andrew Whitley in Edinburgh, who started the Real Bread campaign in the UK to get bread made with less additives. His course was on 'Baking for a Living'. It was a four-day course but I stayed only for three days, as I was only interested in the sourdough part. Whitley learnt about sourdough bread in Russia, and I was lucky enough to get some fifty-year old Russian culture from him that he had managed to smuggle out of Russia a few years before. It was with Andrew's wild yeast that I started my business – The Bread Shed. My culture is made from flour – usually rye flour- and water, mixed and left overnight. To get a stronger culture, I halve the mixture, add more water and some salt and this takes a week to ferment.

When I first started, I made bread only one day a week but I have slowly increased it to two days. I now bake on Tuesdays and Fridays. The sourdough process is a long one. It takes 24 hours, so I need to start it the day before the baking day. About 11am on the day before, I begin to feed the starter culture with a little more flour and water and leave for the next 18 hours. On the baking day, about 6am, I mix the bread flour with water – making two loaves takes about 800g of flour and 600ml of water, but the exact amounts depends on the type of flour I'm using. I leave this for about half an hour before adding

about 192g of the culture. Mixing the flour and water together a little while before adding the culture gets the gluten going and shortens the kneading process. I also add a little salt. I now leave the dough to ferment, a process called bulk fermentation.

I also light the oven at 6am. I have a German Haussler oven. It takes about 18 kilos of firewood. I source this locally, buying the wood in larger pieces and using a log splitter to get the pieces the right size for the oven. It takes two hours to burn and reaches a temperature of about 500°C. I spread the embers and when the oven cools to 310°C, I can bake.

In the meantime I knead the bread. I used to do it all by hand, but now as I make about 30-35 loaves in a batch, I use a dough machine. Depending on the flour I'm using, I put the loaves in either a loaf tin or a Benetton basket, which is made of rattan, to prove. Proving takes about two hours. The loaf tins are rectangular, and I use them for organic stoneground flour. The Benetton baskets can be round or oblong, but both have curved sides. I use these for loaves made of rye, or spelt, or wholemeal. Occasionally I make baguette-type loaves, putting them to prove in a linen cloth. I put a different mark on each type of loaf so that it is easy to tell what flour they are made from. When the oven is at the right temperature, I rake out the embers and brush the floor clean, and put in the loaves. I put the tins in the oven, but the loaves that are in the Benettons I take out and cook directly on the oven floor. They take about 30 minutes to cook.

Lastly, I deliver the loaves to my customers. I mostly bake to order, and supply the bread to the Charlbury Deli, Chadlington Quality Foods, a local veg box scheme, as well as taking private orders. Occasionally I will bake more loaves and take them to special events, such as Chadlington Apple Day, and the Plough Inn at Kingham. I tend not to do the local markets, as it is not financially worthwhile, as the stall rents are too high for me.

Eventually, I would like to bake more, but I am taking it slowly at the moment. I would like to increase the variety of breads I make, for example, making some focaccia but I also need to find time for my other passions: cooking, gardening, photography and woodwork - as well as spending time with my family.

Am I an organised person? I have to be!

Deep was talking to Barbara Allison

Deep's contact details are:

Facebook: The bread shed-deep baked

Phone: 07733 360623

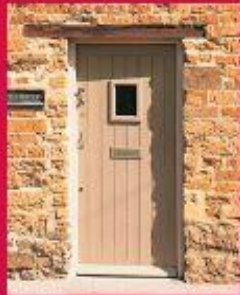
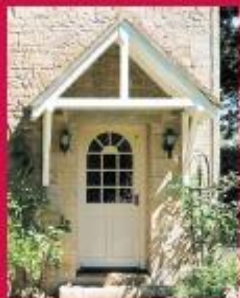
Email: thebreadshed.deepbaked@gmail.com



Strictly Come Dancing

"Strictly" came to Charlbury this morning (4 Nov) when the Memorial Hall filled with dancers keen to take part in the Dance Taster Class under the instruction of Debbie Whitehead, an I.D.T.A qualified dance instructor. The class lasted 1.5 hours and during the session, Debbie taught the basic steps for the foxtrot, waltz and jive. The session cost £8 per person. Everyone who came along seemed to really enjoy the taster and were keen for a regular class to be organised. The consensus was that a Saturday morning would be the best time slot of the week and with that in mind it was decided that weekly classes would be organised, starting in January. Further information on the start date will be provided.

Jenny Howe



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Charlbury Society

Our season started well with a new format of a Question Time style panel designed to explain and explore the challenges of development in Charlbury. Sixty five people attended the evening and interest was high. Eleven questions were received on four main topics – the Neighbourhood Plan, Impact on Infrastructure in Charlbury, AONB status and its effect and Democracy in Planning Decisions. Initial feedback from the evening has been positive so we may think of having question style panels in future seasons so your suggestions of possible topics would be most welcome.

Although we are only a couple of meetings into our new programme, planning for the 2018-19 programme is already underway. If you have any specific topics that you would like to be included, or if you have heard a talk elsewhere that you think Charlbury Society members would enjoy then please let us know – we would like to hear from you. You can do this at any meeting or you could e mail me, Anne Lawson-Porter, at kennap1@icloud.com

We welcomed two new Committee members in the summer – Lisa Barber and Selina Thomas. Lisa has taken on the role of helping to organise the programme of talks for next year and Selina keeps the Society informed about the Historical Research Group. You may have noticed that we were able to serve refreshments at our opening meeting this year thanks to Mary Evans, who has kindly offered to coordinate refreshments for each of our meetings this year. Thanks to Mary and her small team of volunteers and to Ann Davidson for her induction.

As always we would be happy to receive any expressions of interest to join the Committee – all help is welcome. I shall be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM in May 2018 and so if you are interested in becoming involved with the Society please contact me for a chat about what's involved. I'd be very happy to speak with you.

The topics for our next three meetings are listed below and we hope to see you at some, if not all, of them:

Friday, 8 December 2017: **Allan Ledger** – 'Jane Austen and the Cotswolds'

Friday, 12 January 2018: **Will Hazell** – 'Local History is Awesome: Stories of Charlbury's Murders and Misbehaviour'

Friday, 9 February 2018: **Elizabeth Koepping** – 'How long does it take to belong? Rural Lutherans in South Australia, 1841–Present'

Finally, as we approach the festive season, we would like to send all our members' season's greetings with all good wishes for the New Year.

Anne Lawson-Porter - Chair of the Charlbury Society

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CHARLBURY Community Centre

Charlbury Community Centre

As Mr Cameron observed when he, along with former Charlbury resident and celebrated actor, Freddie Jones, officially opened Charlbury Community Centre on 9th September, "This is a fantastic facility made possible by all those who have volunteered their time and energy – as well as generosity – to provide our community with a space that everyone will benefit from".

A place to connect, read, learn and play. It has always been our aim to offer something for everyone and during its first three months, the Centre has made fantastic progress.

It's great to see groups of friends getting together in the café and young people meeting each Friday evening for the youth club in The Thomas Gifford Room and sports hall. And it's a sight to behold three afternoons a week in term-time when 60 children from Charlbury Primary School are in the sports hall for their PE classes. There's storytime for little ones in the library, fitness classes for all ages and ability, pool and table tennis, sports that some people have never heard of..... And there's still more that can be done!



The new library is a fantastic facility with its warm and welcoming environment, and the added benefit of the self-service machine allows books to be borrowed or returned at any time when the Centre is open, even outside library hours.

Many of Charlbury's sports clubs have regular bookings in the main hall, and new activities including pickleball and walking football have got off to a flying start. Witney & District Football League is running a futsal tournament that will start in December and continue throughout the winter season, putting Charlbury at the forefront of this fast-growing sport. Badminton courts can be booked on a casual or regular basis and there's now a thriving Monday evening club. These are just some of the regular activities taking place at the centre.

For 2018, we are working with Age UK to provide activities such as strength and balance classes for older people. There's so much exciting potential and to make sure that no-one, of any age or ability, misses out through lack of opportunity, we need your feedback and ideas. How about a jigsaw club? Scrabble and chess sessions? Board games? A reading club? If you are interested, please let us know, and there's a suggestion box in the reception area for other ideas. Or just pop in and talk to Jenny.

These are some of the points you have raised:

Q. There's still work going on to complete the building. What more needs to be done?

A. Inevitably with a project of this scale, there have been a few teething problems, especially with the operation of the main doors, all of which the contractor, Beard, is committed to resolve. The new front canopy frame is now installed, and the next stage will be to add glazing over the part nearest the building so it will provide a sheltered approach to the main entrance.

Chelsea Flower Show garden designer, Susan Dunstall (who lives in Charlbury) has donated her time and expertise to create a planting scheme for the borders, which will be carried out over the coming weeks when the conditions are favourable. Unlike Chelsea, the Community Centre gardens are for the long-term and will mature at their own pace with the emphasis on fragrance and seasonal interest.

Q. Can the café have longer and different opening times, for example, on Sunday?

A. We are working closely with Charlbury Deli, which operates the café and we are listening to people's comments. Café hours will be adapted to suit the busiest times, and any changes will be posted on the Centre's website and in the café/reception area.

Q. Can I book the centre for a children's party?

A. It's a perfect venue! A suggested programme is one hour in the sports hall with Jenny or Jason to burn off some energy, perhaps using some of the sports equipment, followed by an hour in The Thomas Gifford Room for games and refreshments. Bring your own food, or catering can be provided on request.

Q. What about activities for children in the school holidays?

A. This October half-term Jason organised three very successful afternoons of activities in the sports hall, which is likely to be just the forerunner of regular programmes for the future.

Q. Are the iPads in the library available for anyone to use?

A. There are currently three iPads available for all visitors to the centre. They will also be invaluable for searching the library catalogue, reserving books and for general browsing when, for example, all the library PCs are occupied or when the library is closed. They can also be used by young people attending the youth club, but only under supervision. Ask a member of staff or a volunteer if you would like to borrow one.

Q. Can I bring my dog into the centre?

A. To ensure that the Community Centre provides a pleasant and comfortable environment for all visitors, we regret that only assistance dogs are allowed inside. There are tethering and drinking stations just outside both entrances.

A question of sport

Q. I want to get fit but don't want to join in a team sport. What is there for me?

A. There are weekly yoga, Dancercise and Pilates classes in The Thomas Gifford Room.

At the time of going to press, Jason's first **Commit To Get Fit** programme, a new seven-week course of exercise classes, will be underway, and it's not too late to join in. It consists of one body-conditioning and two circuit-based classes with people working at their own pace in a fun, relaxed environment. All levels of fitness can be accommodated, from beginners to people looking for more of a challenge. This programme runs until Christmas and restarts on 6th January 2018. The three different classes are:

Jason's Body Conditioning
Wednesdays, 9-10am. Gentle toning aimed at targeting problem areas;

Jason's Super Circuits:
Thursdays, 6.30-7.30pm. Cardio vascular fitness and muscular conditioning;

Jason's Sunday Circuits:
Sundays, 10-11am. Fun circuit/interval training in which everyone works at their own pace. Open to all levels of fitness.

To find out more contact Jason at jason@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk or call him at the Centre on 01608 811878.

Q. I would like to use some gym equipment. Can this be provided?

A. Jason is looking into organising a regular pop-up gym if there's likely to be enough interest.

Keeping in touch

All the information about activities in the Centre, including the library, café, sports

activities, classes and events is regularly updated on the website – www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk – or you can find out the latest by calling on 01608 811878. Better still, visit us regularly and see for yourself.

Christmas message from the trustees

From all the staff and volunteers of the Community Centre and the trustees of The Thomas Gifford Trust, we wish you every happiness this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Together, let's make 2018 the year in which your Community Centre becomes the place that truly offers something for everyone.

Marjorie Glasgow



The Friends of Charlbury Library

What a pleasure it is to be able reflect on the move to our new library! Thank you so much to everyone who has helped to make this happen. A warm welcome to Julie Ward, our Library Manager, who has had something of a baptism of fire in taking up her post as the new library opened.

We are hoping to be able to offer a number of book-related events during the course of 2018 but, in the meantime, early though it seems to be writing this,

**A Merry Christmas to all our Readers
And a Happy and Healthy New Year!**

Christmas opening times and events

The centre will be open from 10am-4pm each day between Christmas and New Year, closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Normal library hours will continue, apart from the Bank Holidays.

15th December @ 8pm: 'A Community Christmas Carol' – Sing-a-long with mulled wine and mince pies sponsored by St Mary's Church.

CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels prepares and delivers meals on Tuesdays to residents of Charlbury, Chadlington and Stonesfield. **Meals now cost £3 delivered.**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:

Are you new to Charlbury and looking for ways to become involved in the community? This is an important service and relies on local people to drive, or to cook, or to help in any way to keep it going.

Please ring Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 819253 or Jan Griffiths on 01608 810440 if you can help. We are also accepting names of new recipients for our waiting list. Again please contact Marjorie.



Street Fair Update

Thank you all who helped make this year's Street Fair a great success! Even the weather held off (most of the time!) which helped attract lots of visitors on the day.

The accounts show that, with all the generous donations, sponsorship monies and takings, the Corner House and War Memorial Hall Committee is now over £9,300 better off. This is a superb result given that this year's committee were mostly newbies - and of course we acknowledge the generous and wise advice from our predecessor Committee members.

For 2018 we are aiming to kick-off our preparations in January. If you'd like to volunteer, in any capacity, even just for a couple of hours on the day, please contact our Secretary - Hannen Beith at hannenbeith@gmail.com. We hope to garner a larger group of volunteers this year, to spread the workload, and to have even more fun!

John Dora



Charlbury Cricket Club

This year has been the club's most successful for many a year, with our 1st team winning the premier division of the Oxfordshire Cricket Association (OCA), our 2nds coming second in Division 6 and the development 3rd team taking third spot in Division 8 North. There have been some great performances throughout the season from all teams as well as excellent individual contributions and credit goes to all three captains, Josh Hornsby, Charlie Sinton and Vicky Strobe for their leadership. Players of the year awards went to Stuart Atkins (1st team), Tim Jarvis (2nds) and Abi Flory (3rds), while Emily Fothergill won the honour for the women's team in the Midlands League.

2018 heralds new challenges, as both the 1st and 2nd teams are poised to move to the Cherwell League where competition is tougher in the higher divisions. The club, however, will still have a presence in the OCA with the 3rd team remaining and helping to progress youth players into the senior game. Our youth section remains in good heart, catering for well

over 100 boys and girls, and having this year embraced the new All Stars initiative to introduce even younger children to the game.

The annual meeting was held in late October and appointed a new chairman, Tom Eaton, to take over from Colin Olliffe who has given devoted service to the club for many years. He will still be helping us move forward as well as remaining involved in the executive committee of the OCA. Tom, who has already master-minded five highly successful pre-season club tours, is part of a younger generation which now needs to take a fuller role in the club and bring new ideas for its future direction.

The club is already making use of the excellent indoor net facilities at Charlbury's new Community Centre where the seniors will start preparing in January for the challenging new outdoor season in a new league. Meanwhile, the game goes on with Charlbury continuing to take part in the winter indoor league at Banbury.

The Charlbury Cricket Club website gives details of how to get in touch and remains with open doors to all who want to get involved in the game, whatever their ability.

David Horne, CCC vice chairman

Charlbury Day Centre

We would love some more friends to join us at Charlbury Day Centre. Maybe you are thinking about it but wonder what happens, so here's a taster.

Every Wednesday a volunteer driver collects you from home and delivers you to the Memorial Hall at 10am. Over coffee and biscuits, we catch up on everybody's news and then Ruth, our Co-ordinator, arranges a variety of interesting things to do—sing songs, talks and demonstrations, visits, exercises to keep us supple, quizzes and word games to keep our brains supple! We have a delicious two course lunch and maybe follow this with some quiet time reading the papers (or having 40

winks!!). During the afternoon we might have a visitor with slides or telling us about their hobbies, or topical subjects. More tea and coffee of course and then more volunteers arrive to take us home at 3pm. We also have regular trips out for lunch or theatre visits.

We really do enjoy our day and I'm sure you would too, so if you or a relative might benefit from one day a week with new friends, why not get in touch.

So, maybe this is a good time for you to join us at our "Christmas Open Day" on December 13th at 10.30 in the Garden Room in the Memorial Hall for coffee, mince pies and a raffle. We very much look forward to seeing you.

Pat Court



How Charlbury got a new Library

The story begins in 1997, when Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) was considering the closure of 30 of the County's smaller libraries to save money. The Town Council (CTC) arranged a public meeting to consider this on 21 November and it was at this meeting that there was a suggestion that the Friends of Charlbury Library (FOCL) should be created. Interested residents registered an interest and the first meeting was held on 10 December.

The priority had to be to retain the Library but it was agreed that if we were successful, we would then campaign for better premises as the current one was cramped, too small and had no access for the disabled.

Thanks to an anonymous donation we were able to leaflet every house in the town explaining the situation and providing a sample letter to be sent to the MP. A petition was started and delivered to the OCC Chairman and the County Librarian on 20 January. Nearly a third of the population had signed. A coach took protesters to County Hall on 27 January 1998 when the relevant OCC committee was debating the Library closure.

On the day, we left the Spindle carrying residents ranging in age from 90 years to 6 months! We had a banner and posters and joined other similar groups outside the Hall. One speaker from each Library was allowed to address the meeting. The meeting lasted all day and the outcome was that no Library would close but the opening hours and book fund would be reduced. This was good news and FOCL were now able to move on to the campaign for a new Library. Thanks to generous donations from those on the coach, we were able to open a bank account and began fund raising with coffee mornings. CTC also gave a grant to help pay for meeting rooms.

County Councillor Brian Hodgson was a founder member of FOCL and through him we found that our Library had been identified as below standard. The Committee visited the Library in January 1999 and saw for themselves. We then began a dialogue with the Library officers and initially looked at other venues in the town but none was suitable.

FOCL made donations of books to the Library and continued fund raising with coffee mornings, stalls at Street Fair and talks by authors including Angela Huth, Michael Crick and Prue Leith.

A feasibility study was carried out by OCC in 2002 which concluded, as had FOCL, that the ideal site for the new Library was in the Charlbury Community Centre (CCC). We agreed with OCC that we would contribute £10,000 towards the cost and this had been raised by 2007. As the funds had been raised, it was decided that activity would be put on hold for the time being.

Then in 2010, came a bombshell from OCC who were again considering Library closures, including ours. Again a leaflet was delivered to all homes and a successful Read In was held at the Library on 5 February 2011 as part of a national campaign to promote Libraries. CTC arranged a public meeting on 25 March 2011 and again FOCL took the lead in opposing the proposals. Thanks to additional government funding, once again the Library was saved but half the opening hours would be staffed by volunteers.

On 4 September this year, something happened which I had long wondered if I would live long enough to see. The new Charlbury Library opened in the new Community Centre. The space, displays, the staff counter, the children's area are a joy. The only snag was that the self-service machine was not working but that is now operating again.

It is thanks to so many people that this happy outcome came about. All the committee members and officers of FOCL over the almost 20 years, the members of FOCL who paid their subscriptions, those who attended the fund raising events and provided raffle prizes etc.,

CTC who supported the campaign, West Oxfordshire District Council who paid for the lost opening hours while they could, those Library officers and staff who worked with us. Jean Porritt who arranged and cooked for the Coffee Mornings, Willem Hackmann who devised competitions for the Street Fair stalls and gave the Magic Lantern show (I don't think I shall ever forget the snoring man and the rat) and the late Brian Hodgson, who contributed so much from the OCC angle and found speakers for the talks, the speakers who gave of their time and expertise for free. Rosalind Scott who took on the task of organising the volunteers. And from me, to Janet Walker and the late Nigel Walsh, my secretary and treasurer for 13 years. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me.

Amanda Epps



Charlbury Art Society

CAS Christmas meeting on December 13 will be a little different to our normal format when Briony and Andrew Lawson will be in conversation about a selection of art that has been significant to them, starting at 7:30 sharp in the Memorial Hall, Brown's Lane, Charlbury. A Christmas glass of wine and nibbles will be served.

On January 10 well-known wildlife artist Jackie Garner will tell us about her discoveries as a wildlife art detective, "Uncovering Ancient Egypt".

Wednesday, February 14 will find Isabel Knowland and Arne Richardson talking about "Creativity in Prisons", what working with prisoners to release their creativity can do for them.

All these Wednesday meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. sharp in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury, and include refreshments during the evening. Members are free, and there is a small charge of £3 for visitors. Information about the Society can be obtained from Kati Eidenbenz on 01608 810911 or email secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk.



Charlbury WI

Christmas is nearly here and our thoughts turn to being with family and friends, but in the New Year would you like to make new friends? If you are a woman who likes learning new things and trying new activities then why not try Charlbury WI?

In September we had a talk about Scrapbooking by one of our members, in October we enjoyed a cheese and wine tasting session and in November we heard about Evidence based Medicine in everyday life.

Our December meeting is the Christmas meal for our members. Our January meeting is called Days for Girls and you will have to come to the meeting to find out what it is about. In February we have Bruce Duncan, the "Loan Soldier" talking about his experiences in Borneo, Africa and the Middle East.

Our WI Carol Service is on Thursday 7th December at 7pm in St. Mary's Church, all are welcome and there are mince pies and mulled wine afterwards!

Just a reminder that the Yack and Yarn group of WI and non-WI members meets in The Bell, Church Street, Charlbury on the first Tuesday of the month, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. All are welcome, just turn up.

If you are curious but unsure, why not come along to the WI as a visitor to have a chat and see what we do, you would be very welcome!

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Details of forthcoming events are on the Charlbury website or contact:-

Pat Hill on 01608 810714 or
Louise Cashman on 01608 676522

Trish McCallum

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FITNESS PROGRAMME

Charlbury Methodist Hall: Mon 7-8pm

Charlbury Community Centre

Tues 10.15—11.15am; Wed 7-8pm

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CARDIO/CORE+CIRCUITS

Charlbury Methodist Church Hall

Mon 8.15-9pm; Wed 8.30-9.15pm

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Charlbury web-site: Business/Health/Lifestyle



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Charlbury Pre-School

This term at Charlbury Pre-School we have been enjoyed watching the autumn leaves change colour across our wonderful view to Cornbury Park.

There have been lots of bright, sunny days and the children have been out walking as well as collecting and examining the leaves in the garden. We had Halloween fun making soup, investigating pumpkins and hunting for giant bats hidden all around our much-loved building. The children will soon be making Christmas decorations and going to help decorate the Christmas Tree in the Community Centre at the start of December.

Being a charity, the pre-school relies heavily on fundraising and the help of dedicated volunteers to keep welcoming children and their parents term after term.

Our recent talk by Will Ord was not only insightful but also raised money for our charity, so thank you to everyone who came along for the evening. We'd also like to say a big thank you to Will for volunteering his services and to parent and committee member James Styring for organising the event.

As usual, we'll be at the Charlbury Farmer's Market on 9th December. Come and say hello if you would like to know any more about what Charlbury Pre-School has to offer, if you're interested in

volunteering, or to eat cake and drink mulled wine!

⇒ **Save the Date**

On 20th December we will be hosting a pre-school benefit gig at The Shed with brilliant Oxford based lo-fi folk band, The August List (featuring The Rose and Crown's very own Tommy Longfellow of The Epstein fame). Support will come from The Great Western Tears with a warm up from Andy Pickard. Join us! Doors 7.45pm. Tickets £7 in advance from pre-school and The Rose and Crown, £8 on the door. Watch out for further announcements and posters around town.

All funds raised go to enriching the experience of the children. With our most recent grant we have ordered maths equipment, lots of natural resources such as wood and bamboo tubes, a large construction kit for outside, a den making kit, cable drums and some real saws and woodwork equipment.

Thank you to everyone who has collected Sainsbury's vouchers for us -- Our order arrived recently and included space hoppers, digital scales and tennis rackets.

I hope this gives you an insight in to some of the many activities and experiences the children can enjoy on a day-to-day basis at Charlbury Pre-School.

We currently have 35 children from 32 families attending but still space for more, so do get in touch if you'd like to come and have a look around and find out more about what we do:

Call (01608) 811 200 or email admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk

Jackie Daish

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
10am to 12 noon 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.

NEWS FROM CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a great start to the academic year for the whole school as we continue to go from strength to strength.

We welcomed a new Year 4 teacher this term, Mrs Jackie Davids, and she has already made an enormously positive impact. Her previous broad and rich experience has enabled her to inspire and engage pupils with her wonderfully creative cross curricular lessons.

In other news, we were delighted to be given the opportunity to use the new Charlbury Community Centre this year for our PE lessons. Children in all year groups are now taking advantage of the wonderful facilities every week, and benefiting from the expertise of coach Jason Biles. We are also in discussion with the Library with a view to using this improved and welcoming facility more regularly.

The whole school has again been actively involved in a wide range of events connecting us to the wider Charlbury community. In September, we welcomed Revd Sally Welch into school to lead our Harvest Assembly. Also in September, we held a 'Bake-Off' in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. Children from all year groups contributed their best bakes, rosettes were awarded and an impressive £571 was raised by pupils, parents and members of the community, who came to taste the delicious offerings.

In October, our fundraising efforts focused on the 'Wear it Pink' campaign for breast cancer research. Pupils came to school dressed in pink (head-to-toe or a flash of pink socks!) and made donations to the charity.

In November, the school again raised Money for Children in Need. A day that's always popular in school as it enables pupils to be part of a nation-wide campaign, and teaches children the important value of giving.



In what is fast becoming a wonderful tradition, our younger pupils were treated to a Bedtime Story session. Children came into school in the early evening wearing their pyjamas to listen to our teachers read a selection of their favourite stories while they sipped hot chocolate. Younger siblings were also invited to attend, enabling our future pupils to start feeling comfortable and happy in the school setting.

And at the other end of the school, our Year 6 pupils had their much-anticipated residential to Yenworthy, North Devon. Spending a week away from home, and taking part in a wide range of outdoor team pursuits fosters their growing independence and allows them to get thoroughly wet and muddy in the process!

We have lots more community-focused events planned for the end of the term. Radio Oxford will come in to record the whole school singing a Christmas song, and our school choir will be singing at the Woodstock Christmas Market on 25th November and to the Evergreens in Charlbury on 30th November. On 1st December, we will be welcoming children from Charlbury Pre-School and Little Monkeys for a Christmas pantomime in our School Hall.

A final note for prospective parents with children starting school in September 2018: if you missed our open mornings this term but would like to see the school in action, please call us on 01608 810354 as our Head Jane Holt will be very happy to show you around.

Catherine Ball

A place at your table?

Welcome a refugee for Christmas!


Charlbury Refugee Action Group invites you to make a space at your Christmas table, by leaving an empty chair in which a refugee would be welcome.




If it represents one refugee, we invite a *minimum* contribution of £10. If it represents a family, we suggest £30.

If your Christmas visitors want to contribute too, the more the merrier!

The money we raise will go to groups of volunteers supported by the charity Help Refugees and working with refugees mostly in France and Greece.

There are more details on our donation page. And we will let you know how much we raise in the new year.

 So here's how to make a space at your table ...

-  Visit our new fundraising site at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/charlburyrefugee> and choose your amount
-  Do remember to add Gift Aid, if you are eligible, as it adds 25% to the total you give. And tell us what you have done, so we can thank you!
-  Keep in touch on our new website at www.charlbury.info/community/88 and stay up to date with what we are doing. Discover how we can all best help people in desperate need. You can sign up for our newsletters, and get information about our future events (including our concert programme) and collections.

Thank you so much for what you do!

Follow us at
www.facebook.com/charlburyrefugee



Coffee break page



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Guess the first lines of these Christmas songs using the initials below

1. OCAYFJAT
2. ICUAMCTGSOO
3. WTKOOABGWTA
4. SNHNAICAIB
5. AIAMNCFAB
6. CROAOFJFNAYN
7. FTNWAJHS
8. ISMKSCUTMLN
9. OTWOIFBTFISD
10. IDOAWCJLTOIUTK

General Christmas questions

11. Which horse won the 1964 Derby?
12. Who is Aladdin's mother?
13. What are the names of Cinderella's two Ugly Sisters?
14. What was stolen from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950?
15. What was the first thing Scrooge purchased after his change of heart?
16. What country did poinsettias originally come from?
17. Who discovered Christmas Island?
18. Who had the Christmas number ones in 1975 and 1991 and with which song?
19. In Holland what do children put out on Christmas Eve instead of stockings?
20. What did Donald Gardner want for Christmas?
21. What is the name of Grinch's four-legged friend?
22. Who wrote the Bing Crosby hit 'White Christmas'?
23. What are the edible fruits of the tree 'Castanea Salvia'?
24. Which Beatrix Potter book is set around Christmas?
25. Which event on Christmas Eve 1968 was, at the time, the most watched broadcast ever in the history of television?
26. In which fictional land was it "always winter but never Christmas"?
27. Traditionally, after kissing someone under the Mistletoe, what should you then remove?
28. Which Christmas item was invented by Tom Smith in 1847?
29. Name the three of Santa's reindeer that start with the letter 'D'.
30. In North America, which organisation is always the first to spot Santa is underway?
31. What is a baby turkey called?
32. 'If music be the food of love' comes from which Shakespeare play?
33. What is the other name for the Holly plant?
34. Which plant did the Celts refer to as 'all healer'?
35. Who composed the music for the festive season ballet 'The Nutcracker'?

Compiled by Pat Court

Answers are on page 37

What's On in Charlbury

I have been asked to include a list of "What's On" in Charlbury in the forthcoming three months. It surprised me how much there was! If you would like to include your event in this list, please contact me at editor.chronicle@outlook.com just stating your organisation, time of the event, and place of the event.

December

- 2—St Mary's Christmas Bazaar, 10.15-12, Memorial Hall
- 2—Town Councillor Surgery, 10-12, Corner House
- 3—CRAG Tea Concert, 3pm, Memorial Hall
- 5—Yack & Yarn, 7.30pm, The Bell
- 6—Christmas Wreath Workshop, 10-12.30 see p. 39
- 7—WI Carol Service, 7.00pm, St Mary's
- 8—Charlbury Society, 8pm, Memorial Hall "*Jane Austen and the Cotswolds*"
- 9—Farmers Market, 9-1pm, Playing Close
- 9—Corner House Coffee Morning, 9.45-11.45, Memorial Hall
- 10—Christmas Fair, 11-4pm, Memorial Hall
- 11—Christmas Wreath Workshop, 7.00-9.30pm see p. 39
- 13—Book Launch, 6-9pm, Back Room, The Rose & Crown
- 13—Day Centre Christmas Open Day, 10.30am, The Garden Room
- 13—CAS Mtg, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 15—Charlbury Late Night Shopping, 6-8pm
- 15—Community Christmas Carol Party, 8-9.15pm, Community Centre
- 17—ChOC Matinee, "Elf", 3pm, Memorial Hall
- 17—St Teresa's Carol Service, 3pm
- 20—Pre-School Benefit Gig, 7.45pm, The Shed
- 24—Carols by Candlelight, 5.30pm, St Mary's
- 27—New X9 Bus Timetable starts

January

- 2—New GWR train timetable starts
- 6—CRAG Bring & Buy, 10-1pm, Friends Meeting House
- 7—ChOC "The Martian", 7pm, Memorial Hall
- 10—CAS Talk, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall "*Uncovering Ancient Egypt*"
- 12—Charlbury Society, *Local History is Awesome*, 8.00pm, Memorial Hall
- 14—CRAG Tea Concert, 3pm, Memorial Hall
- 17—WI Mtg, *Days for Girls*, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 18—Gardeners Question Time, 8pm, Memorial Hall
- 19—CRAG Mtg—*What makes a refugee?*, 8pm, Memorial Hall

February

- 4—CRAG Tea Concert,, 3pm, Memorial Hall
- 9—Charlbury Society, 8pm, Memorial Hall, *Lutherans in South Australia*
- 11—ChOC "Brief Encounter", 7pm, Memorial Hall
- 14—CAS Talk, *Creativity in Prisons*, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 15—Garden Society, *Secrets of the soil*, 8pm, Memorial Hall
- 17—British Legion Coffee Morning, 9.45-11.45am, Corner House
- 21—WI Mtg, *The Loan Soldier*, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

Weekly events

Monday

- 9.30am—Toddlers Group, Memorial Hall
- 1.30-3pm—Tennis Club
- 7-8.30pm—Scouts, Scout Hut

Tuesday

- 6pm—Bowls Club
- 8pm—Wychwayz Border Morris, Scout Hut

Wednesday

- 7.45pm—Bell Ringing, St Mary's

Thursday

- 10-12pm—Font Café, St Mary's
- 5-6.15—Beavers, Scout Hut
- 6.30-8pm—Cubs, Scout Hut
- 7-9pm—Tennis Club

Friday

- 9.30am—Exercise for 50+, Memorial Hall
- 10-11.30am—Corner House Coffee Morning
- 7pm—Choir Practice—St Mary's
- 2-5pm—Tennis Club

The housing question

Work is continuing on a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Charlbury. The biggest question is housing: how much the town needs, where it should go and the size and type. A report is underway looking at local housing needs. This will provide evidence on the affordability problem in Charlbury as well as the need for specialist housing for elderly or disabled residents.

In the spring, we invited landowners and developers to come forward with proposals for development sites. We received two responses, which will be considered once we have a better understanding of the scale of housing needed. You may wonder why we are looking for development sites. This is because West Oxfordshire's Local Plan will require a certain amount of new development within our area. If we can identify our preferred sites for future development in the Neighbourhood Plan, this will give us more control over its

location and of the mix of housing to be built on the site. If we do not do this, we will be reliant on sites put forward by developers which might not meet the needs of the town or be well located.

Preserving Charlbury's Character

Protecting Charlbury's heritage and character is a priority for the Neighbourhood Plan. This is why we are carrying out a "character assessment" of the town. A team of 24 volunteers are, between them, visiting every street and green space in the parish. Their assessment will include the buildings, spaces, views and greenery.

Some volunteers have specialist skills in architecture, heritage conservation or local history, whereas others have no particular experience and are learning "on the job". Their work will be drawn together into a single report providing an assessment of Charlbury as seen by local people. This will be used to produce policies to protect and enhance the town's character. For example, these could be to ensure new development fits the character of the town, important features are preserved and valued views are protected. Results should be available in January.



Spendlove Centre, Charlbury, OX7 3PQ
www.hooknortonvets.co.uk

CHARLBURY

T: 01608 811250

Appointments:

8.00am - 9.30am (Mon - Fri)

4.30pm - 6.30pm (Mon - Fri)

10.30am - 11.30am (Sat)

Opening Times

8.00am - 6.30pm (Mon - Fri), 10.00am - 12.00pm (Sat)



24-Hour Emergency Service

In the event of an emergency all telephone numbers will transfer to the 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE



Main Hospital - Hook Norton

Equine, Farm & Accounts T: 01608 730085 (option 1)

Small Animal T: 01608 730501 (option 2)

Branch Surgery, Deddington

T: 01869 337732

Charlbury Church Services



Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)
Sunday services at 10.30 am
See website / phone for details
charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/dyershill/>
Please look at our **Noticeboard** or **Facebook** page (above)
from September, to find our venues while major repair
work to our premises is being undertaken. We hope to
be back to normal in the new year.



St Mary's C of E Church, Church Street

St Mary's Church, Charlbury and All Saints
Shorthampton
Full details of all church services are available in the
Leaflet or in the Church porch.
Vicar – Revd Dr Sally Welch Parish Office (01608
810230)
www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk



Friends' Meeting House, Market Street

Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House
Sunday mornings 10.30am
For further details contact Paula Dunleavy (01608
646056)



Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane

Sunday services at 10.30am
Further information from Gill Grason (01608 810154)



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

Sunday Mass. 9.15am every Sunday at St Teresa's.
9.00am on second Sunday of each month at St
Kenelm's Enstone.
Weekday Mass. 9.30am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and
Saturdays at St Teresa's.
Carol Service—Sunday 17 December, 3pm
Parish Priest. Fr Tony Joyce, Holy Trinity, Chipping
Norton (01608 642703). Charlbury Catholic Parish
Council joint chairs: . Clare Carswell and Mike Flanagan
(chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com)
Website: <https://stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/>

Churches Together in Charlbury

At our AGM on 22 October we welcomed Helena Cullen from Asylum Welcome in Oxford, who told us about the difficulties of refugees arriving in the UK, especially about young refugees under 18 years with whom she works. After the trauma of leaving their home country and the dangers of travelling across the sea and much of Europe, those who manage to reach the UK who have no family here will be looked after and educated by the local authority where they are first discovered.

In the past year there were 99 young refugees, some as young as 12 years, in and around Oxford. Up to 17 years old they have financial and practical support but when they turn 18 they lose their benefits, have to re-apply for asylum and may then face deportation. Asylum Welcome gives support and advice to young people and adults facing great uncertainty about their future. The help ranges from legal and medical expertise for those applying for asylum, including those who have suffered torture, to providing a youth club, a lunch club and a food bank for people with few friends or resources.

Now Churches Together has started a new year with Stella Bristow from the Methodist Church in the chair. We are looking forward to Advent and Christmas celebrations, followed by the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January and

the Women's World Day of Prayer in March. We are also planning bread and soup lunches in various churches on Fridays in Lent in support of Christian Aid.

Also in Lent we are planning a series of talks on the theme 'Modern Prophets'. How do we define a prophet? We may think it means someone who foretells the future. Or we may have an image of a fierce Old Testament prophet shouting doom and gloom at a local tyrant. A more useful definition from the Concise Oxford Dictionary is 'a person who advocates and speaks innovatively for a cause'. In this sense a prophet is someone who sees the present situation more clearly than most of us, who faces up to reality and who recognises what might be done to change things for the better.

In these talks we shall be looking at inspirational people who have changed the way we see the world in our lifetime, particularly the way we treat other people, and what they themselves have done to bring about that change. We plan to introduce the series with a new film, 'Summer in the Forest', about the work of Jean Vanier who started the L'Arche communities where people with learning difficulties and other complex needs can live and work. Look out for more information in the New Year.

Rosalind Scott
Secretary to Churches Together in Charlbury

St Mary's services:-

Sunday 3rd December
6pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 17th December
9am Messy Church Nativity
3pm Carols by Candlelight at All Saints'
Shorthampton

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve
5.30pm Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day
8am Holy Communion

9am Holy Communion at Shorthampton
10.30am Christmas Parish Communion
Sunday 21st January
4pm Stories on Sunday for young children

Sunday 28th January
9am Messy Church for Candlemas
6pm Taize

Wednesday 14th February
9am Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at Shorthampton
7.30pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

Sunday 18th February
4pm Stories on Sunday for young children



Charlbury Town Council report

Nine Acres consultation

Nine Acres is owned by the Town Council and managed by the Nine Acres Management Committee on its behalf. The committee includes users' representatives as well as two town councillors.

The construction of the Community Centre, relocation of the footpath, proposal for a new Football & Sports Club, and other changes together have led the council to review how Nine Acres is run, and we would like to hear your views. In particular, we would like your input on how users of Nine Acres – formal and informal – can best be represented in the day-to-day running of the field and pavilion.

If you have views on this or any other aspect of the running of Nine Acres, please contact the Town Clerk, Roger Clarke, on charlburytc@btinternet.com or by post at 9 Hill Close.

Separately, Robert Caston is stepping down as the chairman of the Management Committee. We are immensely grateful for the dedication and time he has put into the role, ensuring that Nine Acres has remained a part of the town fabric used and valued by all ages. Thank you Robert.

Speaking at Town Council meetings

We are always pleased to offer Charlbury people the chance to speak at the Town Council's monthly meetings. We hold two regular meetings: one considering our responses to planning applications, and a full council meeting for all other matters. In common with other councils, the Standing Orders of the council do not allow for open participation during discussions, but a time is set aside at the start of each meeting for the public to address the council. In particular:

- Please contact the Town Clerk before noon on the day of the meeting to let him know you would like to speak.

- Please limit your address to five minutes (for full council, or three minutes on particular planning applications). If it is possible for people with allied views on a single topic to co-ordinate one single address, that would be appreciated.

- We publish our agenda in advance so that Charlbury people are informed what will be discussed at the meeting. This means that the council cannot usually enter into discussion of matters raised, as these will not have been published on the agenda. They can, of course, be considered for the agenda at a future meeting; or may relate to issues already on the agenda, such as correspondence received. If you'd like a written response to any questions raised, please leave your details with the Clerk.

- A brief record will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The chairman does have the right to rule any statement as inappropriate though obviously we hope this will not be the case. Please ensure that comments are not personalised.

A full set of rules, and the council's Standing Orders, are available on request from the Town Clerk.

Correspondence addressed via the Town Clerk for the attention of councillors is routinely circulated for consideration during the full council meeting. Please ensure this arrives three days before the meeting – thank you.

Permissive paths

The permissive path across Nine Acres Recreation Ground will be closed all day on Wednesday 3rd January 2018. We understand that the Wychwood Project will be closing the permissive paths across the Wigwell Nature Reserve on the same day.

In brief

- The Town Council is continuing to advance plans for a 20mph speed limit in much of Charlbury, and has met again with Oxfordshire County Council and submitted revised plans. We are

optimistic we now have broad agreement and that a traffic order will be published during 2018.

- We have expressed serious concern to West Oxfordshire District Council that many tasks previously done by WODC are now being carried out by a shared services company, Publica, set up with a number of Gloucestershire councils. Our concerns include consultation and the loss of local knowledge when matters concerning West Oxfordshire are dealt with in Gloucestershire.
- Congratulations and thanks to all those involved with organising and staging this year's Street Fair. (See elsewhere in the Chronicle for a full Street Fair report.)
- Cllr Ron Prew laid the Town Council's wreath at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday, 12th November.
- And, of course, Charlbury Town Council wishes everyone in the town a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Contacting your Town Council

Full council meetings will be held in the Corner House at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29th November and 20th December, with planning meetings two days before (8pm unless there is a speaker). The precept-setting meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 6th December.

The next open 'surgeries' will be in the Corner House from 10am–12pm on Saturday 2nd December, 3rd February (tbc) and 7th April (tbc).

You can email Roger Clarke, the Town Clerk at:-

charlburytc@btinternet.com or phone 01608 810608 (9am–5pm weekdays, not weekends or bank holidays).

Richard Fairhurst

From Robert Courts, MP

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

It feels like only yesterday that I was enjoying the delights of this year's Charlbury Street Fair, walking into the newly-opened Community Centre for the first time, or cheering on the cyclists who flew through the town as part of the Tour of Britain. So much has happened over the past few months, and I wanted to update you on a few issues which you may not have seen in the national news, as well as those of local interest.

In October, I was pleased to host a Westminster Hall debate on the Future of Healthcare in Oxfordshire, as local healthcare has been my top priority since being elected. In the debate, I made very clear my disapproval over the lack of proper consultation regarding recent healthcare decisions in West Oxfordshire; I am sure you will agree with me that patients *must* be involved in the decisions that affect them.

As many of you raised with me at my Street Surgery in the summer, or when I have been out and about knocking on doors in Charlbury more recently, protecting the natural world is a critical matter for the UK. I absolutely agree, and I hope you will welcome the recent announcement that the Government is looking into 'reward and return' recycling schemes as part of our great effort to reduce plastic waste. I also hope you will welcome the ban on ivory sales, as well as the recent reform meaning the maximum sentence for crimes of animal cruelty will be increased from six months to five years.

I was particularly honoured to speak in the debate on baby loss during Baby Loss Awareness Week. The death of a child is the most devastating loss for a parent and baby loss is too often a hidden subject, even in a community as compassionate as Charlbury; I am sure you will agree that we must do all we can to support those who have felt the pain of losing a child.

If you would like to have your say on local, national or international issues, please do complete the Charlbury Residents' Survey which can be found on my website at www.robertcourts.co.uk/surveys. You can also sign up to my fortnightly updates here, and find out how to contact me about the matters you care about most – I would greatly appreciate hearing your views.

I look forward to reading my purchases from the Corner House after my MP surgery there in October and I hope to see you in and around Charlbury !



From County & District Councillor Liz Leffman

01608 810153 liz.leffman@westoxon.gov.uk

At a recent Oxfordshire County Council meeting, I put forward a motion proposing a "rural weighting" for GPs in rural parts of Oxfordshire. This is because we are 30 GPs short across the County, and practices are finding it very hard to attract new GPs to an area where housing is very expensive. I put a similar motion to West Oxfordshire District Council a few months earlier, which was supported by all councillors. It was disappointing that the Conservative and Labour members on the County Council turned my motion down. However, I was very gratified to see a few weeks later that the Secretary of State has effectively adopted the principal, by offering new GPs in rural areas a "golden hello"! I hope that this will help to alleviate the shortages that we are experiencing, especially in and around Witney.

I have been going out and about with Highways officers to alert them to the problems that we have on the roads in our area. One of the worst in Charlbury was recently in Church Lane. I received an e mail from a resident one Sunday telling me that her sister-in-law had broken her ankle on a pothole there. I alerted Highways and was pleased to see that the following day the potholes had been marked up, and were filled a week later. Pleased, but also very sorry that it took an accident to get them sorted.

And even now I have to say the work is far from high quality. That is why the Lib Dem group on the Council recently proposed prudential borrowing to pay for repairing our roads, but this was turned down by the Conservatives and Labour. Our view is that unless we are prepared to borrow to repair our roads now, we will have to find even more money in future, and refusing to borrow while interest rates are low is false economy. Our roads are visibly worse than those a few miles away in Gloucestershire, and is hard to understand why that should be so.

The new WODC recycling system has been in place now for a few weeks, but it has suffered a lot of teething problems. I have had complaints from residents who have not had their blue bins delivered, and also from people who have received them but do not need them as they have no space to store them. On top of that, there have been a large number of missed collections. I raised this at a recent Environment Committee meeting. I have also raised a question regarding the fact that fly-away plastic is no longer being recycled. The answer that I received was that the processors no longer want to handle fly-away plastic as the cost is greater than the return. If it was put into recycling bins it would simply be sent to landfill. This is far from satisfactory and I have asked that the policy is reviewed regularly in case the situation changes.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Charlbury residents a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Recycling has dominated local services and I am afraid, the new system with a new contractor has proved to be problematic with bins not been collected, and confusion over what is being collected and how. Councillors have received many complaints and we have taken action to pass on the information and remonstrate with officers to ensure that this is put right. For clarity fly away plastic, (and that means carrier bags and light plastic wrapping) is to be placed with the main rubbish-grey bins) glass and electricals in the black box. Please let us know if you are still having problems. An apology has been issued by the council for the upheaval but really better planning, communication and foresight could have avoided many of the problems.

Can residents also please ensure bins are not left at the ends of pathways/driveways once the rubbish has been collected. I am sure you will agree it makes our street look better.

Regarding the long awaited Local Plan, we are hoping this will be in place by February/March, a further delay caused by the inspector seeking further clarifications. An end to property speculation and the start of structured planning for housing with infrastructure will then commence and hopefully our communities can feel more confident in a sustainable future being more fully realised.

On the issue of homelessness in West Oxfordshire, I have been meeting with agencies around Oxfordshire to bring about a more comprehensive approach and understanding of homelessness. Whilst the issues are complex, the solutions of ensuring everyone has a roof over their heads can be achieved with some creative, joined up thinking together with a commitment to sustainable living. A conference is being planned to bring organisations together in the new year. If you want to help or want to contribute, please let me know!

Finally, a support group is in the process of being set up for the LGBTIQ community in rural West Oxfordshire, one of the first of its kind. By the time you read this, three meetings will have been held in Chipping Norton, Charlbury and Witney and more are being planned in the new year. A plan is being drawn up so that meetings, advice and social events will take place regularly across the district, reflecting the needs of a wide cross section of the LGBTIQ community. For more information, go to Facebook LGBTIQ West Oxfordshire.

Regarding Syrian refugees housed and now living in West Oxfordshire, we need to ensure that the support offered particularly in the learning of the English language is sustained and that the good work done to date is not undone. It is too easy to forget the plight of Syrian refugees and those in other parts of the world because the news media has turned its attention elsewhere. A report will feature in the next edition.

There are a number of people in our communities who continue to lead by example and keep their campaigns going, notably CRAG in Charlbury and I want to personally thank them on behalf of us for their continual fundraising and events they arrange.

As your local councillor for two and half years now, I feel you have given me the support I need to represent you and ensure your voice is heard.

May I wish you festive greetings and may the New Year bring us all peace, support and positive outcomes!!

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

If you would like to be included in this list, or need to update entries, please contact the Editor at editor.chronicle@outlook.com or by telephone on 07879 693733.



Charlbury Refugee Action Group

Charlbury Refugee Action Group is incredibly busy fundraising for refugees, and our series of Sunday Tea Concerts are particularly successful at this. We are also launching an occasional series of talks and discussions which will try and explain why millions of people worldwide are fleeing their homelands.

We now have a comprehensive website at www.charlbury.info/community/88 And you can always email us at charlburyrefugee@gmail.com

Here's what we have planned for the next three months:

Looking forward to Christmas? You're invited to make a space at your Christmas table for one of the millions of refugees who have nothing to celebrate. The seat will remain empty, but your donation will go to make life a little easier for an individual refugee or family. Details on our colour page in this Chronicle, page 24, and on our website (above). Donating is easy.

Sunday Tea Concerts

On Sunday 3 December, **Alastair Ross**, principal keyboard player for the Academy of Ancient Music and The Sixteen, will play Bach, Haydn and Soler on a wonderful harpsichord kindly provided and tuned by Simon Neal from Oxford.

On Sunday 14 January we have a piano recital by the distinguished concert pianist **Margaret Fingerhut**. The programme will include Haydn's Sonata No.60 in C major, three pieces by Chopin, and two of Rachmaninov's Moments Musicaux Op.16.

Margaret Fingerhut is one of the UK's most distinguished and poetic pianists. As a concerto soloist she has appeared with many leading orchestras, among

them the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the BBC Philharmonic.

She is often heard on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and many radio stations worldwide.

On Sunday February 4 we welcome the much-loved Oxford-based contemporary folk band **Kismet** (Melissa Holding, Jon Fletcher, Jackie Singer and Kath Lucas) who combine accordion, clarinet, koto, fiddle, guitar, keyboards and voices in a unique and diverse musical experience. With music from Celtic to Eastern European genres as well as their own compositions, Kismet have been described by the Oxford Folk Festival as 'balm for the soul'.

All Tea Concerts are held in Charlbury Memorial Hall at 3pm. Tickets £10 include FREE tea and cake, under 15s £5. Book in advance at charlburyrefugee@gmail.com

Bring & Buy! Dispose of unwanted Xmas presents and treat yourself to a bargain at CRAG's famous annual Bring and Buy sale. It's on Saturday 6 January from 10-1 at the Friends Meeting House, Market Street. Items can be delivered in advance to 16 Collinsons Row, off Hixet Wood, or bring them along after 9.30 am on the day. There'll be coffee and home-made cake for sale too.

"What makes a refugee? And why are there 60 million of them worldwide?"

CRAG invites you to a meeting on Friday 19 January at 8pm, at the Memorial Hall, at which these questions will be discussed by human rights and environmental defender Nicholas Hildyard of The Corner House solidarity and research group, in conversation with a member of the Rethinking Security Group, and CRAG committee member and refugee lawyer Frances Webber. Admission free, collection to cover costs.

Thank you for everything you do.



All Together In Charlbury A local helping hand

Just to remind you that All together In Charlbury (ATIC) is now up and running and providing informal help and support to people in the community who need it by linking them up with a Charlbury resident who has offered some of their time to meet requests.

ATIC is here to help Charlbury residents of all ages and circumstances who, for whatever reason, are unable to carry out a task or trip themselves and who have no family or friends available to help.

We know that there is a lot of informal caring and good neighbourliness already going on in Charlbury. ATIC aims to fill any gaps and to support existing acts of kindness and sharing.

Between them the members of our growing team of local volunteers are driving people to medical or other care appointments or providing transport for other purposes such as to get to the shops, to take part in a local activity or club or to visit someone. They are helping with shopping and occasional gardening or calling in for a chat or to read to someone.

We can help with form-filling and fiddly household tasks such as changing an awkward light bulb or smoke alarm battery.

We also wonder if there is a need for short-run transport help in getting into and out of the town centre for people who live in outlying areas of Charlbury and want to pop in to one of the businesses or go for a coffee with friends. As we all know, you can't start to get around our community without encountering a hill (or two) – a daunting or impossible prospect if you cannot walk far and do not have your own transport.

Thanks to the Charlbury Leaflet team, in September our ATIC publicity brochure was delivered with the yellow Leaflet to every house in the town. We hope you received it and have put it on your mantle-piece or your notice board to remind you that we are here to help, if you need it.

If you can't now find our brochure, have a look at our page in the Community section (Charity and World) of the Charlbury website: www.charlbury.info. Or contact us on the mobile phone number given at the bottom of this article.

To ask for ATIC help call 01993 776277. The friendly staff of Volunteer Link-Up in Witney, who are acting as our "call -centre", will answer on our behalf. However, all our volunteers and the members of the ATIC Steering Group are local Charlbury residents.

If you want to contact the ATIC Steering Group to find out more about us, to talk to us about local wellbeing and care issues or to offer to help us as a volunteer, ring 07487 413892 or email: charlburyalltogether@gmail.com.



FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE CORNER HOUSE

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

Proceeds are for the upkeep of the Corner House and Memorial Hall

Come and meet your friends!

PLEASE NOTE:

Distribution of the Charlbury Chronicle

Each year this will be during the last week of February, May, August and November.

If you receive more than one copy, please notify the distribution coordinators, Brian and Shelagh

Call: 01608 819091

If you know of someone who does NOT receive a copy, let Brian and Shelagh know and the necessary arrangements will be made for future deliveries.



Walking with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

The following walks are a reasonable distance from our villages. Some are on the doorstep whilst others involve some travelling. The walks vary in distance and difficulty so you can choose something to suit your ability. Sorry but dogs are not allowed on walks with the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens.

All walks are led by the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens and as such are not "just a ramble in the countryside". The themed walks are a way of understanding and appreciating our Cotswold landscape.

A full list of walks for the Autumn/Winter 2017/18 can be found on the website at www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk or in a copy of the Cotswold Lion, available in various locations.

Tuesday 28th November 10.00am

Saltway, Quarries and Woodland

A short easy walk of 6 miles lasting 3 hours

As well as interesting countryside to enjoy, this walk also explores the picturesque town Charlbury. Lunches can be bought at the end of the walk at The Old Shed café at Banbury Hill Farm.

Start: Banbury Hill Farm

Wednesday 13th December 10.00am

All Hands to the Plough

6.5 miles 3 hours

From Finstock to historic Wilcote Manor, Ladywell and on to Stonesfield. Return via the Oxfordshire Way in time for lunch at The Plough.

Start: The Plough Finstock OX7 3BY

Friday 12th January 10:30am

Short in Distance – High in Interest

A short easy walk of 4 miles lasting 2 hours

The village of Churchill was home to various famous people who have left their mark in different ways. A lovely interesting walk and, weather permitting, far reaching views across the Evenlode Valley.

Start: Please park tidily near the church in Churchill

Sunday 28th January 9:30am

History of Brailles and Surrounding Area

A strenuous walk of 11.5 miles lasting 5.5 hours

A walk exploring the history of this corner of Oxfordshire. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Cherington Parish Church

Thursday 22nd February 10:00am

Thor's Stone and Rochester's Tomb

A moderate walk of 7 miles lasting 3.5 hours

A circular walk through varied countryside and woodland including a local nature reserve and the villages of Taston and Spelsbury.

Start: Spendlove Centre Car Park Charlbury

Wednesday 28th February 10:00am

On the Edge

An easy walk of 6 miles lasting 3 hours

An undulating walk from Hook Norton, which is only just outside the AONB. With good tracks, quiet lanes and field paths, this is a good winter walk in an area not so well known.

Optional lunch at the brewery after the walk.



Dementia Friendly Charlbury (DFC) is a local group of volunteers who want Charlbury to be a friendly and welcoming place for everyone to live, especially people with memory and thinking and/or communication problems. Our vision is for residents, businesses and organisations in Charlbury to be supportive to people with memory and thinking and/or communication problems, so that people, families and carers who are affected are able to live well in our town.

We aim to be a local contact point for anyone who is worried about their memory and thinking skills, or who is worried about someone they know, and who wants to know how to get support.

Have a look at our page in the Community section (Charity and World) of the Charlbury website:
www.charlbury.info.

We also want to hear from people living with dementia and/or their friends, family or other carers, if they have ideas as to

how we can help to make Charlbury a good supportive place for them in which to live.

If you have any comments or concerns to pass on to DFC – or if you would like to join us – you can contact us via Sue Smith on 01608 811007 or Meryl Smith on 01608 810192 or email us at charlburydf@gmail.com.

Dementia Awareness – are you aware?

Dementia Friendly Charlbury is keen to offer dementia-awareness sessions to local “customer-facing” businesses and community activity groups. Awareness sessions are run by volunteer Dementia Friends Champions, who are trained and supported by the Alzheimer’s Society. The sessions are run free of charge at a venue of your choice (although if your chosen venue charges for use, you will need to cover that cost). Each Information Session lasts around one hour. You will learn more about dementia and how you can help to create dementia friendly communities.

If your business or group would be interested, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Meryl Smith

NOT THE OFFICE PARTY

For those who don't have the luxury of a kiss in the stationery cupboard, join us at

The Bell's Cornbury Rooms on
Tuesday 19th December at 6.30pm
for a finger buffet and bar

Price £6.50 to be paid directly to The Bell
in advance

Tell your friends and see you there

Ho Ho Ho!



Coffee Break answers

1. Oh come all you faithful, joyful and triumphant;
2. It came upon the midnight clear that glorious
song of old; 3. We three Kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts, we traverse afar; 4. Silent Night,
holy night, all is calm, all is bright; 5. Away in a
manger, no crib for a bed; 6. Chestnuts roasting
on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose;
7. Frosty the Snowman was a jolly happy soul;
8. I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus underneath
the mistletoe last night; 9. Oh the weather
outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful; 10.
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas just like the
ones I used to know; 11. Santa Claus,
12. Widow Twankey; 13. Anastasia and Drizella;
14. The Stone of Scone; 15. A turkey;
16. Mexico; 17. Captain Cook; 18. Queen,
His Bohemian Rhapsody; 19. Clogs (shoes); 20. Two
front teeth; 21. Max; 22. Irving Berlin;
23. Chestnuts; 24. The Tailor of Gloucester;
25. Apollo 8 Christmas broadcast; 26. Narnia;
27. One of the berries—for good luck;
28. Christmas Cracker; 29. Donner, Dancer,
Dasher; 30. NORAD—North American Aerospace
Defense Command; 31. A poultry; 32. Twelfth
Night; 33. Ilex; 34. Mistletoe; 35. Tchaikovsky

FISH & CHIPS



AT SPENDLOVE CAR PARK, CHARLBURY
SUNDAYS 4PM TO 8.30PM

And now in Finstock on Saturdays 4pm to 8pm
Well Hill Road, Opposite Village Hall

Thank you to the residents of Charlbury for your support

TEL: 07599 416571

FURTHER INFORMATION: THE CODFATHER SHOP, THORNEY LEYS WITNEY, 01993 359951



Credence Counselling

Clare Byers Ad Dip PC, MNCS (Accred)
Psychotherapeutic Counsellor

Unhappy? Frustrated? Confused? Stuck? With the
New Year approaching might you consider coun-
selling as a way forward?

Explore challenges or worries in a supportive envi-
ronment. (Individuals only)

North Leigh location

Daytime and evening availability

Confidential, empathic, respectful

1st consultation £30 / weekly sessions £40

07391 721083

www.credencecounselling.co.uk



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Quality Seasoned Hardwood Logs
Softwood also available

Kindling & Stacking Service

Order Online: www.jagtimber.co.uk

Email: office@jagtimber.co.uk

Tel: 01993 868001



Words Go Out to Play

Five years ago Rob Stepney, Adrian Lancini, John Lanyon and I got together and published a book of poems and stories, *A Funny Way with Words*. The Sunday Telegraph picked up on it and gave it a friendly review. We sent a copy to radio announcer Kathy Clugston, who offered to come to Charlbury to present a show based on the book, and we promptly became friends. That led to us being asked to do more shows: at the Woodstock Poetry Festival, at Riverside, in Oxford for National Poetry Day and elsewhere.

This summer we were asked to do three shows at the Big Festival, where we sold the very last copies of our book. Around the same time, Adrian – who apparently hasn't discovered the autolock function on his phone – accidentally texted Kathy 'Llano ills' – whatever that may mean! When he texted again to explain what had happened, he mentioned we were considering putting together a new book. She replied 'Oh you MUST!' You don't say no to Kathy Clugston – especially when she texts in caps.

The new book, *Words Go Out to Play*, contains a smorgasbord of poems and prose and, like its predecessor, is visually striking with each piece cleverly designed by Adrian.

The book is being launched on the evening of Wednesday 13 December between 6pm and 9pm in the back room of the Rose & Crown, and everyone is welcome. (Date subject to change - please check the Charlbury website.)

For any enquiries please contact Rob (robstepney@outlook.com) or John (jonnykingB@hotmail.com).

Edward Fenton



Christmas Wreath Workshops

We are holding two workshops making Christmas wreaths in Charlbury

Wednesday 6th December

10.00am – 12.30pm

and

Monday 11th December

7.00pm – 9.30pm

Cost will be £45.00 per head, (payable on booking) & will include all materials & refreshments

The workshops will be held at The Old Dairy House in Charlbury

You will be able to choose between a traditional wreath, which might include a variety of foliage, fir cones, cinnamon, orange slices & apples, or a more contemporary wreath, with baubles, & ribbons. You are welcome to bring along anything you particularly wish to include on your wreath.

Hilli & Nikki will provide step-by-step demonstration & tuition to help you achieve the perfect wreath to hang on your door this Christmas

To book your place on this popular course, or to find out any more information

Please get in touch with

Hilli 07747695529/
lilibetflorist@gmail.com

or

Nikki 07950245000/
flowersbynichola@yahoo.com

Private party group sessions can also be arranged on request

Travel news



Railway timetable update

Great Western Railway is planning to further improve Charlbury's

train service from January 2nd. Towards Oxford and Paddington, the main changes are:

- On weekday mornings, a 09.50 departure replaces the 10.22.
- The 15.04 replaces the 15.40.
- A new service is introduced on Saturdays at 15.09, filling a two-hour gap.
- A new service is introduced on Sundays at 09.34, offering the earliest arrival in London at 11.01. (The 11.30 will however no longer run.)

In the other direction, the main improvement is that the 17.52 from Paddington will no longer call at Maidenhead, and will call additionally at Hanborough.

The intention is that more trains will be formed of intercity-type carriages, either the current High Speed Trains or the new Intercity Express trains. The current five-carriage Adelante trains are moving to the North-East and much of the Turbo fleet to the West Country. Teething problems are very possible so please do check details before travelling.

For passengers travelling from Oxford Parkway to London Marylebone, Chiltern Railways has announced late return trains from London at 00.01 (Mon–Thu), 00.10 (Fri/Sat) and 01.10 (Fri/Sat). There is already a 23.10 service arriving at Oxford Parkway at 00.18, in time for the 00.27 bus to Charlbury.

GWR and Network Rail are still working on plans for the proposed car park extension but no further information has yet been published.

X9 new bus timetable

Pulhams will be operating a new bus timetable from 27th December this year.



From Mon to Friday, buses towards Witney, will now call at Church Street, Charlbury at:

06.50, 08.05, 09.35, 11.05, 12.35, 13.50 and 17.55.

Buses from Witney to Charlbury will now leave from Market Square at:

07.15, 08.45, 10.15, 11.45, 13.15, 14.30, 17.15 and 18.20.

Buses to Chipping Norton will leave Church Street, Charlbury at:

09.08, 10.38, 12.08, 13.38, 14.53, 17.38 and 18.43

Buses from Chipping Norton to Charlbury will now leave West Street at:

06.30, 07.45, 09.15, 10.45, 12.15, 13.30, 15.20, 15.55, and 17.35

Saturday bus times have also changed

Buses to Witney from Church Street, Charlbury are:

08.20, 10.20, 13.20, 15.20 and 17.50

Buses from Witney to Charlbury will now leave Market Square at:

09.00, 11.00, 14.00 and 16.00

Buses to Chipping Norton to from Church Street, Charlbury leave at:

09.26, 11.26, 14.26 and 16.26

Buses from Chipping Norton to Charlbury will leave West Street at:

08.00, 10.00, 13.00, 15.00 and 17.30.

More information can be found at www.pulhamscoaches.com



Christmas waste and recycling information

Once the gifts have been opened, the mince pies eaten and the needles are dropping from your tree, don't forget that most of your Christmas waste can be recycled!

Extra recycling

Excess recycling can be put out in your black boxes, open cardboard boxes or clear bags. Glass must be separated and put in a recycling box. Don't forget you can recycle small electrical items in your black boxes and textiles in a clear bag.

Extra food waste

Leave out your kitchen caddy for weekly collections too.

Garden waste and Christmas trees

From 9 January, garden waste customers can recycle their real Christmas trees, holly, ivy and mistletoe. Please cut up and place **inside** your licenced garden bin, remembering to remove decorations, pots, wire etc.

Collection dates:

Normal collection	Revised collection
Monday 25 December	Wednesday 27 December
Tuesday 26 December	Thursday 28 December
Wednesday 27 December	Friday 29 December
Thursday 28 December	Saturday 30 December
Friday 29 December	Tuesday 2 January
Monday 1 January	Wednesday 3 January
Tuesday 2 January	Thursday 4 January
Wednesday 3 January	Friday 5 January
Thursday 4 January	Saturday 6 January
Friday 5 January	Monday 8 January
Monday 8 January	Tuesday 9 January
Tuesday 9 January	Wednesday 10 January
Wednesday 10 January	Thursday 11 January
Thursday 11 January	Friday 12 January
Friday 12 January	Saturday 13 January

Garden waste collections suspended 25 December - 8 January.
Normal collection dates resume Monday 15 January 2018.
For more information

visit www.westoxon.gov.uk or call 01993 861025

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CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Artweeks - Maureen Sparling (01608 810025)
Baptist Church - Kay Colyer (01608 810107)
charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com
Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)
 Tim Widdows *charlbury.drama@gmail.com*
www.charlbury-drama.com
Charlbury Art Society (CAS) Sec: Kati Eidenbenz (01608 810911)
secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk
Charlbury Beer Festival - Jim Holah
jimholah50@yahoo.co.uk
www.charlburybeerfestival.org
Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle - John Moore (01608 810700)
Charlbury Bowls Club - Secretary, Heather Hill - (01993 878828)
Charlbury Bridge Club— Secretary Monica Wilkinson (01608 810560)
Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (01608 810130) *hughandjoan@uwclub.net*
Charlbury Chronicle - Susie Finch (01608 810861) *editor.chronicle@outlook.com*
Charlbury Community Centre—Jenny Chambers (01608 811878)
Charlbury Community Centre Appeal—Tanya Stevenson *billandtanya@outlook.com*
Charlbury Cricket Club - David Horne Vice
 Chairman *dw3horne@gmail.com*
www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk
Charlbury Day Centre - Bob Tait (01608 810150)
Charlbury & District Probud Club Mike White (07710 296814) *mike.ewhite7@gmail.com*
Charlbury Evergreen Club - Ken Taylor (01608 811441)
Charlbury Green Hub - Christine Elliott (01608 811057) *www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk*
Charlbury Fairtraders - Cara Williams (01608 811284) *cara@michaelcara1965.plus.com*
Charlbury and District Garden Society
 Geoff Clifford (01608 811006)
Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club—Gill Grason (01608 810154) and Frances Canham (01608 811176)
Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (01608 811007)
peter@charlburymorris.org
www.charlburymorris.org
Charlbury Museum - Celia Faulkner (01608 810656)
Charlbury Open Gardens - Eileen Kenrick (01608 811021)
csfgardens@charlburystreetfair.org
Charlbury Music Class - Peter Fry (01993 359189)
Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club
 (Ray & Margaret) (01993 831345)
Charlbury Pre-School—Laura Barwood
laurambarwood@hotmail.co.uk (01608 811200)
Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter (01608 810388)
Charlbury School - Jane Holt, Head (01608 810354) *office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk*
www.charlbury.oxon/digitalbrain.com
Charlbury School Association - Tara Midgen
office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

Charlbury Scouts & Guides - Cheryl Hornsby
 - *cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk*
Charlbury Society - Secretary Susan Merry (01608 811022)
Charlbury Street Fair - Chairman—John Dora (01608 811328) *jmdora@btinternet.com*
Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Jarman (01608 811692) *charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk*
Charlbury Town Council—Roger Clarke, clerk (01608 810608) *charlburytc@btinternet.com*
Charlbury Town Football - Keith Claridge (01608 810201 or 07870 426707)
Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - James Ball (01608 810270) *jolliecat@btinternet.com*
Charlbury Women's Institute - President - Louise Cashman (01608 676995)
Charlbury Youth Theatre—Andy Graham
andyg2439@gmail.com (01608 659462)
ChOC Cinema - Richard Cocks (01608 810032)
Corner House Community Bookshop—Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608 811899)
Corner House and Memorial Hall - Office (01608 810879)
Churches Together - Rosalind Scott, (01608 810562) *rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk*
Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens - Harriet Baldwin (07779 157410 or 01608 811718)
akanidi90@gmail.com
Dementia Friendly Charlbury— Meryl Smith (01608 810192) *charlburydf@gmail.com*
Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps)
 Ann/David Morton - (01608 676302)
Friends Meeting House: Angela Kyte (01993 880368)
Holiday Club - Sue Holiday (01608 810694)
Macmillan Cancer Care - Liz & Bob Tait (01608 810150)
Methodist Chapel - Gill Grason (01608 810154)
Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health Support) (01608 645296)
Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (01608 810635) *admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com*
www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com
Silent Sitting—Bill McMullen (01608 811430)
billmcmullen@phonecoop.coop
St Marys C of E Church Rev Sally Welch (01608 810230)
St Teresa's RC Church Fr Tony Joyce (01608 642703)
Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (01608 811212)
The Bell Hotel (01608 810278)
The Bull Inn (01608 810689)
Thomas Gifford Trust- Margie Glasgow (01608 819253)
United Nations Association (West Oxfordshire) - Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608 811338)
Wilderness Festival—
www.wildernessfestival.com
Wychwayz Border Morris - Teresa Duester (01608 810934)
www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst



Charlbury's Police Community Support Officer

C9837 Wesley Smith

To speak to us about any concerns you may have:

call 101 if it's a non-emergency

or 999 in an emergency

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

also sign up for free crime alerts
www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

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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, Graham Jowett, whose address is in the panel on the right.

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