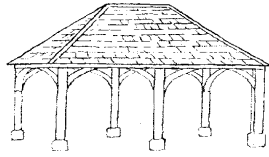


The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 14 Number 3

December 2010

The important dates in the Charlbury diary as Christmas approaches are Thursday December 9th and Thursday December 16th when there will be the usual late-night shopping in the town. Do please make a note and try and do some of your festive shopping locally. It is hoped that there will be carol singers to entertain as well.

Reluctantly we are having to increase our advertising charges. This is the first time since we launched the *Chronicle* in 1997, which is not bad going. However, over the last couple of years we have begun to show a drop in our income, mostly due to the rise in printing costs. From now on everything is going up by £5 - it shouldn't break your bank, but should help to keep us in the clear. Do please read our advertisements and support our advertisers when you can as without them you wouldn't get your *Chronicle* for free.

We have a delightful nonsense poem on page 15 to amuse you, interesting statistics about speeding spots in Charlbury on page 38, a plea for information about war memorials in the county on page 3, how to

avoid scams on page 10, and hints on clearing snow on page 26 - to name but a few of the articles in this issue of your *Charlbury Chronicle*.

Many, many thanks to all who help to produce the *Chronicle* four times a year. Whether it's our advertising, keeping our accounts, distributing and delivering, producing articles or gathering information - everyone is worth their weight in gold to the Editor. I am immensely grateful to all of you.

Heartiest Christmas and New Year greetings to all our readers!

Lynette Murphy

***Deadline for copy for the March Chronicle is
February 1st 2011***



Market St ♦ Charlbury ♦ 01608 811805

It's Christmas time at Cotswold Frames
Our first since we have moved
We think we have some smashing gifts
And hope that you approve.

We try and cater for every taste
At times it can be tricky
And only visit the best trade shows
We really are quite picky.

We take the traditional line in toys
Like marble games for girls and boys
Wooden puzzles to paint and draw
Cuddly toys and lots lots more.

It's Heyland and Whittle for hand creams and soaps
Luxurious diffusers and cufflinks for blokes
Jewellery and pens handcrafted with care
Beautiful bronzes like dogs and a hare.

Seasonal decorations to adorn any room
Candles and incense with delicate perfume
Paintings and prints to hang on the wall
And a great framing service we cater for all.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

© T.K.Widdows 2010



CHARLBURY CHRISTMAS TREES



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

Turn off the A44 onto the B4437 to Charlbury - look for the banners

Bric a Brac Stall

In the last edition of the *Chronicle* I sent out a call for items for the bric a brac stall which I run annually at Street Fair. I was unprepared for the deluge of generosity which ensued. I quickly amassed enough boxes to fill my 2 spare (double) bedrooms, and still it kept coming in. We had to postpone a visit from family members because we couldn't actually find the beds under this embarrassment of riches!

In the end I had to call a halt and for the last 10 days had to refuse many kind people who phoned to offer yet more. I can only apologise most sincerely to all those of you who cleared out your cupboards, lofts and garages and who were then left stranded. I beg you not to be put off by this year's problems. It was the result of my not having enough time to process it all. Next year I shall make a point of starting earlier so that the same problems don't occur again. If you have had to return this year's bric a brac to the same cupboards etc that they came from, I promise to take them of your hands next year!

In the meantime you may be interested to know that the stall made £666, fifty percent of which was given to the Primary School to help towards upgrading their outdoor area. This is a wonderful sum for four hours selling time on the day, and my huge thanks to everyone whose contributions made it possible.

Marion Greenfield

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN CHARLBURY

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has been quietly active in many areas of Charlbury for several years. However, there is scope for wider participation leading to a safer and more caring community as more people watch out for their neighbours and their property. Recent meetings, held in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), have resulted in positive action in this regard with several people expressing interest in starting new watches. A watch is generally a group of about 15 or more homes on one street and there are currently 16 established watches in Charlbury. Another result of the meetings has been the filling of the vacant position of town co-ordinator by Howard Griffiths. Howard has lived in Charlbury for 19 years and has been a watch co-ordinator for 15 years. The main role of the town co-ordinator is to encourage and support the establishment of new watches and to act as a liaison between individual watch co-ordinators and with organisations such as the police, Trading Standards, NAG and the regional NHW administrator.

If you would like to know more about setting up a watch in your area and perhaps becoming the watch co-ordinator please contact Howard by telephone on 810 440 or by email at hpgriffiths@yahoo.co.uk

Howard Griffiths

Further Update on Nine Acres Pavilion and Changing Room

As anticipated we commenced building the new pavilion and changing rooms, on the Nine Acres Recreation Ground, at the beginning of September. We were able to do this due to the generous grants, donations and pledges of various interested parties both local and further afield.

Fund-raising will continue to help finance these pledges, therefore it would be appreciated if you would please give freely to support this project at any future money raising occasions.

If the winter weather is not too severe, we would hope to complete the pavilion some time in March 2011. Before that time various events will take place to mark the different stages in the building of the pavilion.

*Further information is available from
Robert Caston on 810240.*

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP

Calling all valiant litter pickers!

Come and give the town a quick spruce up in readiness for Christmas!

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER at 11am

Meet on The Playing Close. All equipment provided, but bring your own gloves. 2 hours max. Further info from Gareth Miller on 811410.



RESULT !! This was another great year in terms of fund-raising and yet again the weather was very kind to us. A big thanks to Robert Hardy for opening the fair and judging the Competitions.

Of equal importance, the feedback we have received suggests that everyone enjoyed the weekend.

As a result, this year we are able to give the Corner House and Memorial Hall Committee approximately **£13,000**. We would like to give a big thank you to all of you who so generously gave of your time, money etc to make it such a huge success. There are too many people to thank – but you know who you are, so a BIG thank you from all the Street Fair Team.

The date for next year's Street Fair Quiz, which proved very successful, has yet to be decided, but will probably be some time in March – so watch out for information on the Charlbury website. The Open Gardens and Jazz Lunch will be on Sunday 5th June and Street Fair will be on Saturday 17th September 2011 – so don't you dare be away! We will be holding a meeting on 29th November, in the Garden Room, to see how we go forward to next year, so if you are interested in attending, please just turn up. It will start at 8pm. The date for the first meeting to organise next year's fair has yet to be decided, but again look out on the Charlbury website.

HELP!!

Some of the Street Fair Team members are leaving this year and we urgently need to bolster the Team for next year. Street Fair has been in existence since 1956 – and we don't want it to end now, because of lack of support in organising. It doesn't necessarily mean attending meetings; it's about getting things done and putting new ideas forward. So to all of you, who enjoyed this year's fair, please think about even giving just a few hours of your time.

Please don't just read this, and say well maybe I will help – and then forget about it. Contact me **NOW!** I look forward to hearing from you all. Phone number is 01608 810861 or by email at susanna_finch@hotmail.com.

Susie Finch

The **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, given by Liz & Bob Tait at Brice House on Friday September 24th has provisionally made about £1,400, which is a very satisfying sum. Heartfelt thanks go to all who contributed in any way, and made a miserable Friday morning such a successful event. It is thought that about £6.5 million was raised nationwide for this great charity.

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Evening surgery at North Leigh by appointment

THE LAWRENCE HOME NURSING TEAM

Lawrence Home Nursing Team was launched in May 1999. Dr Martin Lawrence had been a GP in Chipping Norton for 25 years. Sadly he developed cancer and became terminally ill. While he was being nursed at home he discussed with his District Nurse Jane Phillips the need for a service to enable people to remain at home to die. Jane had worked with Dr Lawrence for many years and they were both aware that there was a lack of this type of support in our area.

The District Nursing service was only available between 8-4.30 and they only had time for short visits. Sometimes people needed more help - someone to help care at nights or offer some relief during the day. Dr Lawrence wrote a plan of how this could be achieved.

Armed with his plan Jane Phillips approached people in the local community to help make it reality. So many people helped in so many different ways. The Lawrence Home Nursing Team was launched at the Town hall in Chipping Norton on 4th May 1999. By the summer of that year we were able to advertise for nurses and appoint a Nursing Co-ordinator.

We are now able to offer support to those people who are terminally ill and wish to remain at home. The care provided is led by need. Patients are referred to us, usually by the District Nurse, the GP or Macmillan Nurse. We visit and discuss with them and their carers what support is needed. Sometimes this can be every night or as little as once a week. The most important thing is that patients and their carers feel supported.

We are amazingly well supported by the

local community, and if it wasn't for this support we would not be able to offer the care that we do. We have a bank of seventeen nurses.

Fundraising is an ongoing process. **There is no charge to the patient for the care we provide.** We are very grateful for all the support we receive.

Jenny Nolan, Nursing Co-ordinator
77 The Leys, Chipping Norton OX7 5HJ
01608 641549

Nikki Nott, Fundraising,
Litchfield Farm, Enstone, OX7 4HH

Note from the Editor: I can personally vouch for the amazing service the Team provides - they are quite simply wonderful.

CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL

The charges for the use of the Corner House and Memorial Hall will rise by 5% for 2011 in order to keep pace with our anticipated costs. Charlburians will be pleased to note that we remain one of the cheapest and best value venues in West Oxfordshire.

Five new, longer tables have been purchased for the Memorial Hall to replace those damaged over the last few years so we now have a full set of both these and the smaller, lighter, tables. Please treat them with respect when folding them away and storing them.

There will be a Coffee morning on behalf of the Corner House on December 11th. Please come and support us.

Steve Andrews



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT, No. 57

By Councillor Helen Bessemer-Clark

Charlbury Railway Station

The great excitement of the last three months has been waiting for the final go ahead for the new shelter, footbridge and access route to the new platform for Charlbury station to cope with the re-dualling that should be completed by June 2011. As we write today, November 1st, we have heard that WODC Uplands Planning Committee have approved the plans, so, to coin an old fashioned railway connection, it is full steam ahead. There are also on-going discussions about increasing the size of the car park, about which we will learn more later. We would like to acknowledge the helpful way that Network Rail have included the Town Council in their consultations, and have at all times kept us informed and updated.

Bus Services

We are aware that RH transport is not providing an entirely satisfactory bus service to Witney and Chipping Norton, and this fact has been passed to Highways and Transport at OCC for their comments.

Meanwhile, the good news is that the bus shelters at Enstone Road crossroads and Fiveways have been refurbished.

Street Fair

Yet again - and this happily becomes a regular item - congratulations to the Charlbury Street Fair Committee who had a most successful day, and profits are reported to be about £13,500 (subject to audit) which go towards the upkeep of the Corner House and War Memorial Hall.

Remembrance Sunday

Councillor Valou Pakenham Walsh laid the Council's wreath at the War Memorial in St. Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday

Waste Bins

You will all by now have received your various new waste bins. Any problems encountered with the new system should be addressed to WODC help line, 01993 861025 or www.westoxon.gov.uk/waste or speak to one of the District Councillors for the Charlbury and Finstock ward – Glenna Chadwick or Mike Breakell. Residents are reminded that it will help the appearance of the town if these are only put out on the collection days, and not left impeding the pavements. To this end, we are also hoping to encourage everyone to keep an eye on the areas in front of your properties – maybe moving litter, or even some gentle weeding or mowing of any grass verge. It is ultimately the OCC responsibility, but as you will notice their visits are infrequent, and we can all help to maintain the town in good shape.

Open Surgeries

The Council has decided to continue with their Open Surgeries, which will be on the 1st Saturday of alternate months, and held in the corner House, from 10.0 a.m to 12.0 noon. The dates for next year are:

Feb 5th , April 2nd , June 4th., August 6th, and October 1st

Two or three members of the Charlbury Town Council will be in attendance to answer – or direct you to the answer - of some of your questions.

Noise

We are aware of the concerns of some people about the noise level of some of the social activities that take place in the town, and on the Mill Field and Cricket Club, and we hope to have helpful discussions with the relevant parties about this, to find some mutually satisfactory solution. You will all be aware that the “original” Cornbury Festival is moving, and that it is possible that other activities may take place in the Park instead. We are monitoring this carefully.

Sports Pavilion

The old Sports Pavilion has now been demolished, and the new building started, and progressing well. We should be able to look forward to the opening ceremony in 2011.

Finance

We are unable to report on the precept until March, as this will not be agreed until December.

The Permissive Paths on Wigwell Nature Reserve and Nine Acres Recreation Ground will be closed all day on 5th January, 2011. This is a legal requirement. Residents with gates opening on to Oxpens Allotments and Nine Acres Recreation Ground are reminded that this does not create a Right of Way

Snow and Ice clearance

Finally, as we are approaching the time of year when we can expect snow and ice, there has at last been a directive from the government concerning a more practical guidance for clearing our pavements. This can be read as a separate item in the Chronicle (see p 26).

A Happy Christmas to everyone.

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

For those who want to read Council Minutes, or keep up with who's who and what is happening in the Council, don't forget that the Town Council has its own website at www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk which is separate from the Charlbury Info site.



On my patrols I have been approached by a number of people asking me about scam letters, emails and telephone scams. These can be fake lottery and prize draw wins, get-rich-quick investment cons and miracle health cures. The-

se are just some of the tricks scammers try. The most recent and frequent scam I have come across is either through a letter or email saying the person is from a war-torn African country and needs to move millions of US dollars to a UK bank and promises you at least 20% for help. All you have to do is send across your bank details.

NEVER give your banks details to anyone, not over the phone, letter or email.

Remember if you didn't enter a competition, lottery etc how can you win it? If it sounds too good to be true then it probably is. Though anyone can fall for a scam, the elderly and vulnerable are more likely to be targeted.

Anyone who thinks they have been a victim of a scam, or suspects a scam is being attempted can contact Consumer Direct for clear, practical advice.

TEL: 08454 04 05 06

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

For leaflets or more information please visit the Charlbury Police Office on Mondays 12pm-3pm or Fridays 9am-12pm

Or contact me on 0845 8 505 505 or email:

wesley.smith@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Scheming
Crafty
Aggressive
Malicious

Don't let them con you!

PCSO Wes Smith

Dear Editor,

As part of Oxfordshire's healthy weight strategy NHS Oxfordshire wants to find out about what you do to maintain a healthy weight. If you know where to go for information and what support you think should be on offer to help people to maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle. You can tell us what they think online at:

<http://bit.ly/dnmQe4>

Or, to request a paper version of the survey please contact Annika Howard at NHS Oxfordshire on 01865 334643. Once completed, it can be returned freepost; the address is included at the end of the form. The consultation is open until Friday 3rd December 2010.

We will also be out and about in Banbury and Oxford, offering free BMI checks, measuring people's weight and height in November. We will be at the Castle Quay shopping Centre in Banbury on Friday 19 November from 10:00 – 4:00 and in Oxford, at the Westgate Centre, on Friday 26 November from 10:00 – 4:00.

If you are able to promote this piece of work to your local community, and have space in your next newsletter, that would be really helpful. However, I appreciate that it may not fit in to your publication schedule and that the next few issues may be very busy in the run up to Christmas.

Kind regards
Annika

Annika Howard

Communications and Engagement Coordinator
NHS Oxfordshire,

Jubilee House, 5510 John Smith Drive,
Oxford Business Park South, OX4 2LH

Office: **01865 334643** Mobile: **07917 826917**

email: annika.howard@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk

<http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk>

DOING THINGS BY HALVES: the 2010 Charlbury Beer Festival

It's bound to happen one year. We'll have to begin our report on the annual Charlbury Beer Festival with a sentence such as 'Compared with previous years, this year's event was something of a disappointment' ... But it certainly hasn't happened yet. The 2010 event wasn't just bigger than ever before: it was also, dare we say it, even better. But then that's thanks to you, who keep on supporting it, thereby supporting all the good causes that we exist to raise money for.

After running dry in 2009, we were determined not to do so again this year. With the aid of our generous sponsors, we bought in fifty barrels of real ale – over 4000 pints of beer. But we were already chalking them off by teatime, and by 8 p.m. we'd squeezed the last half pint from the final barrel. For those who were still thirsty, though, the scrumpy cider, perry, bottled ale, wine and Pimms continued to flow, and by the end of the evening we'd raised an amazing £17,000 for causes here and overseas.

There was a change in our admission policy this year, because in previous years some non-beer drinkers had wondered why they should pay for a souvenir glass that they weren't going to use. So this year, non-beer drinkers got in for a reduced rate, and could enjoy the varied entertainment, great food and live music (not to mention the new eco-toilets, constructed by members of the committee) throughout the day. As always children got in free, with loads of activities especially for them.

If you've seen two very relieved-looking people in Charlbury recently, it's probably Stuart Parker and Tom Lindley, who co-chaired the committee that organised this year's event. They've now handed over to Will Chadwick, who is already co-ordinating things for the next beer festival on 9 July 2011, and who'll be very happy to receive suggestions, help and advice. There's not enough space to thank all our wonderful sponsors, or to list the good causes we've been able to support – but our website www.charlburybeerfestival.org has the details. There are lots of photos, too ... See if you can spot yourself in the crowd!

Edward Fenton

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET 2010

Charlbury Farmers' Market will be held on the Playing Close, Charlbury, by kind permission of Thomas Gifford's Charity, between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, 11th December 2010

Charlbury Farmers' Market has proved successful in bringing shoppers into Charlbury, as well as being a popular local event with residents who appreciate meeting the producers with fresh local produce.

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd. The Market is organised by Nick Potter, Roger Watts and Geoff Burroughs. The contact address is: Lancut House, Lyneham Road, Milton-u-Wychwood, OX7 6LW. Tel 0784 328 7091
Fax: 01993 830948 Email rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

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CRANDALL UNIVERSITY OXFORD PROGRAMME

(Previously known as Atlantic Baptist Union)

ACCOMMODATION WANTED FOR CANADIAN STUDENTS.

From mid January to early April 2011 a group of Canadian students from the Crandall University Oxford Study Programme will be staying in Charlbury in order to follow a course of study at Regent's Park College Oxford.

I would very much like to hear from anyone with an interest in young people and a spare room (or possibly two) which they could offer as rented accommodation. The requirement is for a study bedroom with access to bathroom and kitchen facilities, and the provision of breakfast ingredients for the student to use on a self serve basis. Most of the students are in their early 20's and in the past they have thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to meet and form friendships within the local community. They very much value the experience of being welcomed into the homes of Charlbury people, and come from backgrounds in which good behaviour and thoughtfulness for others is the norm.

For further details please contact one of the following

Marion Greenfield (Coordinator) – T01608 810896 mob: 07722550977

e: mg.littleles@gmail.com

Gill Colman (Assist. Coordinator) - 01608 810221 e: gill_colman@yahoo.co.uk



CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS

This year the Charlbury Museum was awarded another Heritage Grant from the West Oxfordshire District Council, of £400 for the alteration of two display cabinets. The work will be carried out by Mark Evans during the winter, and will greatly improve the visibility of the exhibits. This is the fifth Heritage Grant the Museum has received, and we are very grateful to the WODC for their continuing support.

Charles Tyzack

PRE-CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

Andrea Bates will be holding an exhibition of paintings, prints and cards **on Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th December, and Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th December**, from 11 am to 6 pm at Hillside, Oxford Road, Enstone.

*Parking in side road by the
Harrow Pub in Enstone.*

**www.andreabates.co.uk.
Tel. 01608 677231.**

Project to record Oxfordshire's War Memorials

In the autumn of 2009 I embarked upon a personal project to travel the length and breadth of Oxfordshire to record and photograph our county's war memorials. To date I have visited almost 250 Oxfordshire towns and villages, taking over 1000 photographs of more than 300 different war memorials.

I have discovered a fascinating and diverse range of memorials across the county, including stone crosses on village greens, church windows and lychgates, photographic books of remembrance, memorial halls, stone and brass plaques and many, many more. All of my photographs, plus a searchable database of more than 5000 names (to date), are available to view for free at my website www.oxfordshirewarmemorials.co.uk. The inspiration for the project came whilst researching my family history and I hope that any readers who may be researching their own family histories may also find the website of use.

Readers can also get involved with the project by advising on locations of memorials not yet recorded and by sharing stories or photographs of service personnel remembered on the memorials. I am also supporting the forces charity SSAFA in 2010 and anyone who finds the site useful and would like to make a donation to SSAFA would be more than welcome.

With our last WW1 veterans now departed, WW2 veteran numbers declining and our current armed forces engaged in conflict, I hope you'll agree its now more important than ever that we remember the sacrifices our brave service men and women have made and continue to make.

Shane Bywaters (Witney)

Website: www.oxfordshirewarmemorials.co.uk

Email: contact@oxfordshirewarmemorials.co.uk

Telephone: 07506 738183

CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is pleased to be delivering meals to residents of Charlbury, Stonesfield, Chadlington, and Spelsbury each Tuesday at noon. A hot, freshly cooked meal including a pudding is delivered for a charge of £2.00 per meal. We are accepting names for a waiting list for new recipients – please contact Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 810 161.

Meals on Wheels is fortunate to have such wonderful group of volunteers preparing, cooking and delivering the meals. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Jan Griffiths on 01608 810 440.

Happy Christmas to all!

Plain Language From One-Duck Scott (after Bret Harte)

I reside in Charlbury Village and my name is One-Duck Scott;
I have friends who merely peck at food, and friends who eat a lot;
And I'll tell in simple language what I know about the fight
That erupted over dinner on that cold December night.

But first I would remark that, for a host, it's an ordeal
For any lump of meat to speak and criticise the meal,
And if the other dishes there don't happen to agree,
To reply by flying round the room, to any great degree.

Now nothing could be finer for the guests, all tired and starved,
Than the little roasted waterfowl that waited to be carved;
And when the knife had done its work and cut it to the bone,
One leaned across and asked the duck if he had come alone.

The duck, though disassembled, sobbed "Yes"; but all his life,
From paddling pool to butcher's shop, he stuck beside his wife;
And were there less of vegetables and pudding, he opined,
She might be right beside him now and not be left behind.

At this, the roast potatoes and the swede were heard to say
That no one needed meat at all if they had 'five a day';
At which the bread and gravy and the butter kicked up rough,
And made the point that, but for them, there'd never be enough.

Now I hold it is not etiquette for any cut of meat
To comment on the bill of fare and what there is to eat;
Nor should the other dishes there, who happen to be meant,
Reply by getting uppity, to any great extent.

Then the trifle on the sideboard claimed he was a special case,
And a Brussels sprout let out a shout and hit him in the face;
And he smiled a sort of sherry smile and toppled to the floor,
And the fisticuffs that followed in-ter-est-ed him no more.

For, far quicker than I write this down, the food began to brawl
In a gastronomic battle taken up by one and all,
Till the port appealed for order with some words both stern and wise;
And a lump of chestnut stuffing caught him smack between the eyes.

And this is all I have to say of what is best forgot,
For I live in Charlbury Village and my name is One-Duck Scott;
And I've told in simple language what I know about the fight
That erupted over dinner on that cold December night.

Malcolm Gibb

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designer and
embroiderer

Usually I wake up at 7 a.m.. I always have to have a cup of tea and biscuits. I sometimes use this time to read or make work plans and generally think things through. Occasionally if I am teaching or doing a show promoting my book I am up well before 7 and am often out of the house by 6.30. If I have a deadline for a commission I can get up at 5 o'clock to finish something, or into the midnight hours stitching away to the sounds from my Roberts radio. I do, however allow myself a decadent lie-in occasionally if I have been very busy or away working weekends. When I get up I usually do a check on e-mails to get them out of the way before the working day. There are quite a few at the moment ordering my first book - "Embroidered Originals" - or correspondence from students doing research, or requests for talks. Breakfast time is variable according to work and the meal changes with the time of year – now it's porridge with blueberries but in the summer I enjoy all the fruits available, finishing with toast and coffee. Then it is work. This can vary considerably. I may have a commission such as recently I have been asked to do a very elaborate embroidered cushion as a wedding present, it was embroidered with a stanza from a poem, so a very romantic piece. This autumn has been particularly busy as I have been attending shows promoting my book. They are usually four-day shows and I have been to Alexandra Palace in London and the exhibition halls in Harrogate. Now I am also planning for next year: talks, workshops or guest appearances at textile events and arranging visits to gardens for future design research. The lectures on my work are a fusion of inspiration references and contemporary stitch techniques. For instance at the moment I have a request to go to Northern Ireland and will be attending a convention in Adelaide in 2012, recently I gave lecture for the Silk Heritage Trust Museum in Macclesfield and for the Costume Society in Bath. In the past 30 years, my embroidery and lecturing has taken me across the globe, which has been really exciting as I love travelling, a favourite place is Vancouver, which I have visited five times!

I have been interested in art since I was a child although my family were not artists, they appreciated the arts and they encouraged my creative activities. I was brought up on the family farm in Moreton Pinkney, I went to primary school there and it had 17 pupils! There was a definite emphasis on creative craft work and outside school I was always inventing and making things. I can distinctly remember what I did then. There was a lot of painting and drawing and of course we had the freedom to roam and explore. Later my parents sent me to board at Brackley High School, a day school with thirty boarders and my younger brother went to the boys school in the same town. I was particularly impressed by the huge art room where I could indulge my passion, I remember my first painting was inspired by the poem, 'The Jabberwock'. I was able to also continue with my needlework, which I enjoyed. I took A level Art in the Lower Sixth and went on to do a foundation course at Loughborough Art School, which had an excellent reputation for textiles. I had particularly enjoyed the Fine Art so I decided to do a course in it at Lanchester College in Coventry. It was a three year D.A.D.course (now the B.A.) my work then was influenced by a conceptual group of tutors, so rather minimalist, but I was always conjuring up embroidered and sequinned outfits for arts balls and discos! Then followed a year's teacher training in Brighton, which was linked with Brighton Polytechnic and Sussex University.

I usually stop work at 11 o'clock and have a cup of coffee. One of the things I have to arrange is my teaching commitments. I started teaching when I left college and was at

one of the first comprehensive schools in Reading from 1971 to 1974. It was a challenging experience with pupils from diverse backgrounds and I liked working with young people. Not only did I teach Art & Design but also worked with textiles and did screen printing. During this time I went to creative embroidery courses given by Constance Howard, who was a very talented embroiderer and a lecturer at Goldsmiths College, London. The Craft Council was set up in 1974 and it was a renaissance time for the crafts in Britain, I was so inspired to do my own work that I suddenly gave up my job. It was a gamble but I was really determined and thought I could teach part time to pay the bills. I was living with friends in Hampshire when I went to an exhibition of tapestry weaving at West Dean, near Chichester. I heard about a studio being set up by Michael Haynes in Gloucestershire; I very much wanted to be in the milieu of other artists and so asked to join. I went there in 1975. It was in a large freezing Victorian building but was exciting to be working among so many interesting people, many from the Royal College of Art. We held exhibitions and it was at one of these I met someone from Vogue and she put a picture of my work in the magazine. This led to me working for a designer, Bill Gibb, in London. That was my launch. In 1978 I got on the Craft Council Index and they promoted me on the cover of their magazine. My work was seen in this country and abroad and I was very busy working on commissions and for galleries. I was in Stow on the Wold until 1980. I continued to teach and I was then working at the North Oxfordshire Art School in Banbury on the Foundation course. Then I became a visiting lecturer at the University of Central England in Birmingham on the BA course in Fashion and Textiles. After living and working with twelve other artists for five years, I thought I would like a cottage of my own and that is how I came to Charlbury. On a Saturday in May I visited the town and thought I want to live here. 11 Market Street was for sale; I loved it – its quirky spaces and later in 1990 I was able to convert the barn (rather John Crockford did!) at the back into a studio, so it suited me well.

My teaching now is more confined to workshops, about six a year, or to courses I organize myself. These specialist Masterclasses appeal to students of creative design embroidery, sometimes we have a theme like “Stitch Poetry” a poem can be the inspiration for the embroidery. Recently I have run a residential course at Farncombe, near Broadway, where we can use the facilities on the estate. Students bring their sewing machines to embroider and we work on creative projects all day and into the evening, then adjourn to the bar for a glass of wine and a chat.

I will usually break for lunch about 1 o'clock. I have to get out in the fresh air and will walk around the garden, now that I am living in “Egypt”, or out onto the Playing Close, or around the town. Again in the afternoon there will be commissions, which are very varied, such as hangings of my lace pieces – I also have some clients who I have done work for on a regular basis. Commissions can be a small intricate corsage, a fashion piece, or in the past I have created an amazing large scale tapestry for a writer and television critic, it was an heirloom piece with all of their children's names embroidered on it. The new lace pieces are based on the Swiss guipure lace technique. I do machine embroidered designs based on flora and foliage. While the Swiss put their designs on material that can be chemically dissolved I put mine on voile and soak it in hot water until only the stitching remains. You never know the result until you wash it out For the future I have also been asked to do an exhibition in the north of England in 2013 and again as with past exhibitions it will be a fusion of my botanical paintings and my embroideries, inspired by

garden themes.

I am also collecting ideas for another book. I started thinking of doing “Embroidered Originals” in 1990. Michael Wicks had been photographing my work and we talked about a book, then he formed a small publishing company for embroidered textile books, and my book was selected. There has been so much interest in the book both here and overseas that I would like to produce another one. At four to five o'clock I break for tea and indulge in cake, which I love, particularly chocolate cake in the winter. I always have a good supply as I enjoy cooking cakes. I check the day's e-mails before I have an evening meal and catch up on correspondence again, or have a chat with family or gossip with a girl friend.

Sometimes in the evenings I will go out to a film with friends and we also have a meal out. I like films and particularly appreciate Chipping Norton Theatre. If I stay at home I'll have a decadent supper in front of the television at about 8.30, my 'must see' program at the moment is 'Mad Men' on BBC4. I will be in bed by about 11. I like to read and at the moment I am reading a 'Flora Poetica' a book of botanical verse, and 'The Museum of Innocence' by Orhan Pamuk. I also love to escape into glossy magazines, fashion or interior. Fitting everything in has been very tight this year with my book making it busier than before, so I am always ready to go to sleep and dream.

Sue Rangeley will be holding an exhibition at her studio at Egypt, on the Playing Close on the first weekend in December 4th - 5th, 10am – 4pm. Paintings and embroideries.

Her book is called “Embroidered Originals” and is published by d4daisy @ £19. Signed copies of Sue's book will be on sale at her exhibition.

Sue Rangeley was interviewed by Diana Potten

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CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

Charlbury Bowls Club

Ever wondered what to do on those dark, cold, winter nights?

We have rolled out the mats indoors where we are enjoying friendly and league games. Why not come along on a Wednesday evening at 7pm and try this fun game out for yourself. We have a great clubhouse with a bar, where members not only enjoy playing bowls but also enjoy socialising. So, whatever your age come and have a try. We are happy to loan you the equipment you need to get started. What's more, it won't cost you a penny to try it out. We are always on the lookout for new members of all ages; men, women and youngsters. You are never too young or old to play this skilful game.

Heather Hill, Hon. Secretary (810229)

Charlbury Bowls Club,

Ticknell Piece Road, Charlbury

The Charlbury Society

Our Programme of talks continues:

December 10th: **Dale's Tales**

Robin Dale will talk on the walks he does from and around his farm (Bourton on the Hill) taking in local history, farming, wildlife and countryside.

January 14th: **House and History**

David Clark reads buildings for clues to the past.

February 11th: **Brideshead or a Handful**

of Dust: Nick Way (Director General of the Historic Houses Association) will talk on the work of the Association, helping owners to conserve historic houses for future generations

March 11th: **John Harrison, Larcum Kendall: The Problem of Longitude:**

Willem Hackmann will talk about our local hero. Harrison's invention of the chronometer solved the problem of calculating longitude, but it was Larcum Kendal, born in

Charlbury in 1719, whose skill as a clock-maker provided the workmanship.

April 8th: **Monks and Heraldry**

Br. Mark Elvins, Chairman of Oxford University Heraldry Society, will talk on Monks and Heraldry. **(Please Note: This meeting will be in the Friends' Meeting House.)**

If any member, or indeed guest, has any particular interest that they would like to bring to our attention, or has a lively idea for further talks, please let us know.

All meetings will start at 7.30 p.m. and are held in the Memorial Hall. Visitors are welcome, and for further information please contact Simon Walker, Chairman, (881414) or email simon.iets@btinternet.com

CHARLBURY BROWNIES

As from January 2011 we will be meeting on a Tuesday evening 6pm to 7.30pm.

We are always doing different things and are now looking for new members. We are also looking for adults who would like to come along and see what it takes to become a leader.

Fay Kempson

fay@faykempson.orangehome.co.uk

01993 779350

CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB

After the travails of the previous summer, the 2010 season was much more successful for Charlbury's league teams. Leading the way were the First XI, who bounced back from relegation in 2009 to win promotion to the top tier of the OCA League at the first attempt. Both Chris Morgan and skipper Ashley Rump made well in excess of 400 runs but the standout performer was undoubtedly Bimalka Liyanarachchi. The off-spinner, and captain-elect for 2011, took a magnificent 51 wickets (a Club record) at a miserly nine

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

runs apiece.

Charlbury Seconds confirmed their reputation as the "Harry Houdinis" of the Club. After saving themselves from relegation on the last day of the 2009 season, the team had to wait slightly longer for salvation this time around. Despite ending the summer in the drop zone, a post-season restructuring of the league allowed the Seconds to retain their status in OCA Division 4 for another year.

Charlbury's Third XI won nine of their fourteen matches, which was enough to earn them promotion to OCA Division 9 for the first time. Two youngsters, Tim Lowe and Sam Haselgrove, starred with bat and ball, respectively but many other players (young and old alike) also performed well over the course of the season.

Our women's team, now in their fourth year of existence, made a strong showing in Division 3 East of the Midlands League. They were unbeaten until August but a couple of late-season reverses meant that they just missed out on topping the final league table. Nevertheless, it was another admirable performance from a talented and youthful side and they duly achieved promotion to Division 2 as a result.

Finally, the Club's inaugural Summer Ball in September was a huge success: as well as being an enjoyable event it also raised a superb £7500 for Club funds. We hope that the Ball will now become a regular fixture on the Charlbury social calendar.

Derek Collett

CHARLBURY WI The WI has enjoyed a really successful second year with our membership continuing to grow. We meet in the Morris Room in the Corner

House at 8pm (7.30pm from Jan 2011) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, inviting speakers to educate, entertain and tell us of their experiences. In September we held our first open meeting featuring a talk and practical demonstration of home wine making from Hops and Vines, Burford, so thank you to the men of Charlbury who came along to support us and share in the tasty samples. We also pride ourselves on contributing to Charlbury, with one of the highlights from this year being our first appearance at the annual Charlbury Street Fair. Homemade cakes, jams and lots more produce were snapped up quickly and enjoyed by adults and children alike. We raised a tidy sum, donating half to the Charlbury Corner House. We all look forward to more events like this, so do look out for the first of our Saturday coffee mornings at the Corner House next year. In the meantime, visitors and new members from Charlbury and beyond will always receive a warm welcome at our monthly meetings. For any questions or queries please contact Pat Hill (secretary) 810714 or Clare Salter (president) 810422 or visit our page on the Charlbury website.

*Lindsey Leach
(Vice President Charlbury WI)*

*Please ring Julia Caston (810240)
if you have an article you would like to
include in this section*

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE CORNER HOUSE

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

*Proceeds for the upkeep of the
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ChOC NEWS

To ChOC's delight and that of our audience, the projector used for our film shows has been overhauled, with the result that we've had a fantastically improved picture for our last two films. This is especially good news because we have a first class programme coming up. All films are shown in the Memorial Hall at 7.30, with the bar open from 6.45. Tickets are £4.50: just pay on the door.

And remember, ChOC is always looking to expand its programme and activities, and to do that, we need more helpers, including people with specialist knowledge of sound systems. If you are interested in getting involved, let us know. Contact information, as well as updated news of our programme and future films, and links to trailers, is all on our website at www.chocfilms.info or phone 01608 238242.

Sunday December 12 - Le Concert (2009) cert 15, 122mins

Your second favourite in ChOC's "I want to see" poll. Sentimental and perhaps melodramatic, it's a tear-jerker in places. And the music is superb. In French and Russian, with subtitles. *"This feel-good comedy drama follows the former members of a Russian orchestra as they try to set up a prestigious reunion gig in Paris. ... It's corny at times, and the comedy is a mite too broad and strident for the more serious themes of Soviet-era oppression and anti-Semitism. But, by and large, this is symphonic fun with a nicely filmed climax of Tchaikovsky's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D major."* (Radio Times)
"The Concert is a breakneck melodrama that milks laughs and wrings tears." (Philadelphia Inquirer)

Sunday January 9 - Wild Target (2009) cert 12A, 98mins

Arguably the best British comedy of the last couple of years, which had audiences in Chipping Norton in stitches. A perfect follow-up to Christmas. This comedy-thriller about the consequences that befall a professional hitman when he cannot go through with the killing of his latest victim stars Bill Nighy, Emily Blunt, Rupert Grint, Rupert Everett, Martin Freeman and Gregor Fisher. Directed by Jonathan Lynn. *"When Wild Target works it's a lot of fun. There's some decent comic chemistry between the three leads."* (News of the World)

Sunday February 13 - Coco Chanel and Igor Stravinsky (2009) cert 15, 115mins

A period drama depicting a passionate affair between the famous fashion designer and the Russian composer in the 1920s. Paris 1913: at the Théâtre Des Champs-Élysées, Igor Stravinsky premieres his Rite Of Spring. Coco Chanel attends the premiere and is mesmerized... But the revolutionary work is too modern, too radical: the enraged audience boos and jeers. A near riot ensues. Stravinsky is inconsolable. Seven years later, now rich, respected and successful, Coco Chanel meets Stravinsky again — a penniless refugee living in exile in Paris after the Russian Revolution. The attraction between them is immediate and electric. Coco offers Stravinsky the use of her villa in Garches so that he will be able to work, and he moves in straight away, with his children and consumptive wife. And so a passionate, intense love affair between two creative giants begins... Another top choice in the Charlbury "must see" list. *"Exquisitely styled, beautifully scored and redolent of eroticism and artistry, Jan Kounen's sensuous film restages the creative process as amour fou."* (Film4) *".....Picking up almost where last year's Coco Before Chanel left off, the film opens with a bravura recreation of Stravinsky's notorious premiere of The Rite of Spring in Paris in 1913."* (The Guardian)

Jon Carpenter

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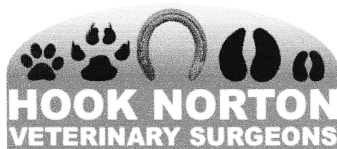


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What luck - our day is still Tuesday!

At last our food waste is being made into compost and electricity at the new anaerobic digester at Cassington. If you already compost your food waste at home then please don't stop, and don't give back your food caddy bins either, because they are needed for things you can't home-compost i.e. compostable bags which don't compost at low temperature, cooked food, bones and dairy products. When you run out of free compostable liners, then either buy more, use newspaper, or just wash out the bin – but don't use super-market carrier bags to line them – these aren't compostable and need to be put in black boxes for recycling.

If you have a garden and particularly if you are growing your own veg, then why not buy a £14 garden compost bin (www.owp.getcomposting.com, phone 0844 571 4444) and use the compost yourself rather than lose this valuable resource.

Now that food is taken out of landfill, we're not left with much to put in the new grey bins because so much can be recycled – probably more than you realise i.e. hard plastics and composites such as toothbrushes, plastic razors, and coat hangers. If you're in doubt about whether something can be recycled then the advice is put it in the black box and learn from what is left behind.

The new vehicles are designed for the recycling to be sorted by the operators at the kerbside. So any of you who separate out paper, cardboard, plastics, tins, and glass will be very pleased – this kerbside sorting produces a higher quality recyclate which sells for a higher price. You might like to sort out your recycling to help save the operators time but you don't have to. This human operation is the reason we still have black boxes and aren't using big wheelie bins for recyclables - these wouldn't enable kerbside sorting. Please squash bottles and cans to minimise space taken up in the collection lorries – this is really important to avoid wasting valuable fuel making extra journeys carrying around a load of thin air!

WODC are arranging a contract to recycle Tetra Paks but until then, please continue to bring them to the Spendlove the first Saturday in each month. Everyone can now register for a free fortnightly green waste collection, so CAWAG will stop having the monthly green waste collection at the Spendlove. Instead, in 2011, we will start collecting lightbulbs to take to Dean and CDs/DVDs to send to Polymer Recycling Ltd on The Wirral for deconstruction and more effective recycling than if left in your black box. Please take spent batteries to retailers such as the Co-op and please tell them when the boxes get full.

So much can be recycled, but recycling isn't a complete answer – it still uses lots of energy and generally recycled (or rather downcycled) material is poorer quality than the original. A better answer is to reduce the need for recycling by using things that can be reused as much as possible - anything used once and thrown away has to be a bad idea. It is also really important to buy things made from recycled material to make a market for it – this applies to A4 printer paper as well as clothes.

Come to the CAWAG stall at the Farmers Market for ideas about reducing your food waste and bring along your landfill waste to find out if it can be recycled.

Christine Elliott, Charlbury Area Waste Action Group

Clearing snow and ice yourself - new guidance published from **www.direct.gov.uk/en/nl1/newsroom/DG_191868**

Last winter many people helped keep pavements and public spaces around their homes clear of snow. However, many other people were put off doing so because of fears of being sued. Read on for advice on your rights and responsibilities when clearing snow and ice from public areas.

The law on clearing snow and ice from public spaces

Reporting problems with pavements and maintenance of private streets:
There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces. If an accident did happen, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you:

- are careful
- use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Tips and advice on clearing snow and ice:

- start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it
- don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury
- be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property
- if shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels
- make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on
- spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming - table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it
- pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients
- use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight
- if there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives



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Church Contact: Joan Belshaw (810130)

St Mary's C of E Church



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

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

www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

Friends' Meeting House, Market Street



Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House

For further details contact Angela Kyte (01993 880368)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



Sunday services at 10.30am

First Monday in every month

10.30 - 12.00 At Home (tea, coffee and talk)

Further information from Gill Grason (810154)

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



Sunday Mass 11 am St Teresa's & 9am St Kenelm's, Ch Enstone
Daily Mass: 9.30 St Teresa's with Morning Prayer 9.15 am
Holydays Mass at 9.30 am and 7.30 pm

Confessions before Mass or on call at Presbytery

Rev Canon David Evans Ph.L., 5 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR
tel: 810576 or see www.communicate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury

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

News from Volunteer Link Up

With the evenings drawing in and the days getting colder and wetter, perhaps you are looking for some ideas to beat those winter blues? If so, Volunteer Link Up, the Volunteer Centre for West Oxfordshire, can help! Here is just a small sample of the range of volunteering opportunities available in and around Charlbury:-

Befriending

A lady in her late 40s, who is feeling lonely and in need of friendship, is looking for a volunteer befriender to accompany her when walking her (well-behaved) dog.

An elderly lady affected by Parkinson's is seeking a volunteer befriender to visit her regularly for a cup of tea and a chat. This would provide some respite for her husband, who is her main carer.

An elderly gentleman with Alzheimer's would like a weekly visitor to provide company and conversation.

Driving

We are also seeking volunteer drivers who are willing to use their own vehicle to pick up clients and deliver them to medical and other appointments. You can choose which journeys you want to do and we will pay for your mileage and other expenses.

DIY/Gardening

Volunteers are needed to help with "one off" projects, such as grass cutting, leaf collecting or painting and decorating.

Interested? To find out more about the opportunities available please call Liz Williamson, Volunteer Coordinator on 07545 923327 or pop into Volunteer Link Up's office at the Highlands Day Centre, 73 Burford Road, Chipping Norton between 10:30am and 12:30pm on Thursdays for an informal chat. Alternatively, visit the Do-it website (www.do-it.org.uk) to search by postcode for a volunteering opportunity near you.

CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE

We have received two generous cheques, one from Waitrose (via the green tokens)) of £222 and another from the Charlbury Beer Festival Committee for £200. These will go towards the Christmas festivities and other expenses, and are very much appreciated.

We have hopefully secured the services of two more volunteer drivers, but would still be very happy to hear from anybody who would like to help or drive. West Oxon social services are reviewing our funding - an anxious time, but we should know more by Christmas.

*Bob Tait, Chairman
01608 810150*

Community First Responders

Community First Responders Team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year. If you would like to join us, or are just interested in what we do, please phone 01993 868710 or email Carol846@btinternet.com, where Carol would be delighted to tell you all about responding.

Please continue to recycle spent (small) printer cartridges and mobile phones in the box in the shop /school/ doctors/Charlbury post office, or contact Carol and she will collect.

Carol Hughes co-ordinator

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Our NEW
NATURE
TRAIL

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

New waste bins and explanatory leaflets are arriving all over WODC. There have been one or two teething problems but mostly it seems as if what is, after all, a massive operation is going smoothly. When you read this the new system will have started-----here's hoping it will work well and achieve the great reduction of waste going to landfill (and financial saving) that we expect.

Tourism is vitally important for our region and it is very good that six local operations (including WODC Tourist information office at Burford) and have been won awards for excellence in the South East area.

The news that a spinning studio had been added to the Windrush Leisure centre in Witney as part of its refurbishment scheme made me visualise a quiet room with people working peacefully at spinning wheels. Not so, apparently this is a new form of exercise class on cycles-----part of WODC's determination to get us all fit !

**Report from District Councillor Mike Breakell (01993 868201)
michael.breakell@westoxon.gov.uk or mjbreakell@aol.com**

Regional planning is no more, as Oxfordshire prepares to bid for additional Government Funding through a new system of Local Enterprise Partnerships. No more will Guildford tell us what to do and instead West Oxfordshire appears to be increasingly working with Cotswold District and other Councils in Gloucestershire. All rather confusing for those involved in long term planning. Meanwhile the Development Control system operates much as before with the Uplands Planning Sub Committee meeting on the first Monday afternoon of every month. This public meeting, which I attend, determines the more controversial planning decisions, although these days the vast majority of planning decisions are decided at officer level. Only occasionally, in really difficult cases, does a Government Inspector get involved.

As far as I can see we are so fortunate to live in Charlbury especially when we can enjoy such a wonderfully colourful autumn in the surrounding countryside. Meanwhile work proceeds apace on dual tracking the Cotswold Line and all are in agreement that the new work at the station involving a new platform and footbridge looks very promising. Licensing of events and levels of noise are always an issue in local communities and Charlbury is no exception when seeking a sensible compromise to suit everyone, but as a Member of the Licensing Committee I try to help when needed. So rather than despair about issues like noise, or refuse and recycling, or sufficient sand and grit for a severe winter, maybe we should just be a little more patient and wait to see what this new world of the Big Society and coalition cutbacks will bring us next.

REPORT ON CHARLBURY CEMETERY 2010

Once again the severe weather last winter kept everything in check for weeks during the winter with flowers very reluctant to emerge into the ice and snow. Snowdrops were even later this year as they did not appear until the end of January and were still at their peak throughout March. Crocuses were also late to emerge but made up for this with a long flowering season.

Some meadow saxifrage leaves were appearing in late January. Primroses were very late again but continue to expand their range down the slope. A new bed of primroses under the management of Nicolette Letheridge has been established in the newest cemetery extension and promises to enhance the floral diversity of this site. The small colony of cowslips near the south kissing-gate in the original extension continues to expand and is a nice addition to the limestone flora.

Due to poor flowering last year it was decided to try and keep the vegetation in the saxifrage area cut lower this year (particularly three-cornered leek which is very invasive) in order to give the plants more space and less competition. However due to lack of rain from early April onwards the saxifrage needed watering regularly. By mid-May the plants were blooming and 257 flowering stems were counted - an increase over last year of 107 stems. Watering was continued through the summer however the plants disappeared during the drought. Hopefully they will re-emerge next spring!

The curbed graves on the south side of the cemetery appear to have reverted to mainly grass, but a small colony of orange hawk-bit has been established. The ox-eye daisies on the north-side curbed graves along with the existing limestone flora were spectacular. The uncut strip by the wall on the south side has a number of large anthills which will be very attractive to the green woodpeckers. This summer there were six flowering stems of ladies smock in this strip - a welcome addition to the flora.

As in previous years the cemetery proved attractive to birds particularly swallows which nest nearby and house martins and as always our resident birds such as blackbird and robin find plenty of food in the grassland. Sadly there was no sighting of the spotted fly-catcher. This bird seems to be suffering declines due to problems in over-wintering countries and adverse breeding conditions.

Once again I would like to thank the Town Council and Roger Clarke for their support.

Louise Spicer

Sarah Pulvertaft Christmas Studio Sale

Celebrated Oxfordshire jewellery designer Sarah Pulvertaft is opening her Charlbury studio for an exclusive Christmas Sale. Anyone who is looking for a fabulous Christmas present or simply interested in the jewellery-making process is welcome to come and meet the designer and watch her at work, as well as browse her collections.

Sarah's Studio at The Workshop, Ranger's Lodge, Charlbury, OX7 3HL will be open during the weekend of 4 and 5 December, from 12 until 6pm.

www.sarahpulvertaft.com

JOHN STANLEY'S WEATHER REPORT

August 2010 will be remembered as a record month - for all the wrong reasons. Firstly, we had no particularly hot days - the highest being 75° on 8th. This equals the lowest figure in the previous 21 years. Temperatures did fluctuate during the month, but the lowest daytime temperature was only 59° on 26th. This also equals the lowest in the 21 years. The average daytime maximum temperature was 68.23° which is well below the 21 year average of 71.68°, beating the previous record low, which dates back to 1992. At night, temperatures ranged from 62° to 44°, the latter also equalling the record low.

Not surprisingly, **Summer 2010** (June to August) was disappointing overall, with daytime temperatures averaging 71.16° - just below the 21 year average of 71.37°. This is despite June and July producing above average figures.

With the exception of 5 days towards the end of the month, **September 2010** produced temperatures in the 60s. The highest was 69° on 9th and 11th. The lowest was 52° on 24th. The average daytime maximum temperature was 63.23° (21 year average 64.95°). At night, minimum temperatures were in the range 58° to 38°.

To complete a trio of below average temperatures, **October 2010** came out at 55.13° (21 year average 56.73°). The month started relatively warm and, for the first 11 days, was well above average, the highest day temperature during the month being 65° on 8th. Then we had a taste of winter with only 45° on 20th and our first air frost on the following night at 29°. Temperatures did rise again towards the end of the month but only to around average. The highest night time temperature was 55° on 8th/9th.

Report from County Councillor Neil Owen (01993 8308751)

The 20th October has come and gone and now Oxfordshire County Council know what financial targets they have to aim for. Of course, the devil is always in the detail and we shall have to wait for a fuller clarification of the financial settlement which will take place around November or early December. So, for the moment all capital projects are on hold – in our case, the proposed and future Spendlove Centre. The Gifford Trust continues to watch and fight for the cause and, although we have our concerns we continue to be hopeful.

The other issue which concerns Charlbury is the uncertain future of the Library. I have pressed the County Librarian and the Cabinet Member for re-assurance and possible ways to maintain our Library should – and I emphasis 'should' – cuts necessitate closure. But I have been assured by the County Librarian that the possibility of closure would be a last resort.

There is good news from the Highways Department – double yellow lines on Thames Street will happen. There will be the statutory six-week public consultation and then I hope to see them by January or February 2011. The other major highway issue is the notorious 'pinch-point' at the end of Park Street. The measure for restricting parking at this point will happen within the same time frame. I am sorry it takes so long to get anything done but it is a sad fact of life!

For myself, I continue to enjoy representing Charlbury, even in these difficult times.

Life at Charlbury Primary School

The eldest children have just returned from a residential trip to Yenworthy, an outdoor activities centre in Exmoor. Some of the children wrote brief reports about their experiences each day, which were put online on the school blog for everyone at home to read. These written accounts and the accompanying photos show how much fun the children had kayaking, surfing, walking in the moors, tackling obstacle courses and roasting marshmallows over the fire.

Earlier this term children in the school choir, which consists of about thirty pupils aged seven to eleven, really enjoyed participating in the Soundtracks concert at the Memorial Hall in celebration of the redoubling of the Cotswold Line. Musicians from Kismet came to several choir lessons in the summer term for practice sessions, and the children even helped to compose one of the Soundtracks songs themselves by imagining the train of the future. The school would like to thank the organisers of Soundtracks, and Kath Lucas in particular, for giving pupils the opportunity to take part in this inspiring community event. The choir is now busy preparing for this year's Young Voices concert in Birmingham, where they will perform alongside thousands of other children.

Another musical highlight this term was the annual Harvest Festival assembly, which gave younger pupils the chance to delight an audience of parents, grandparents, teaching staff and the older children with their harvest songs and stories. Singing and music are a key part of school life. In addition to the activities that take place in the classroom, and the annual class performances, pupils are able to learn a variety of musical instruments in school. Fifteen children aged seven and upwards have weekly piano lessons, others learn flute and cello, and guitar lessons are just starting.

CSA fundraising efforts for the current academic year were kicked off with a cake stall at the Street Fair. The CSA is the school's parent fundraising body and the main focus of this term has been the installation of new adventure play equipment in the playground, which will be a great asset to the school and should last for many, many years.

The next CSA fundraiser is the long-awaited quiz night on Friday 3rd December, closely followed by a coffee morning at the Corner House on Saturday 4th December. We will also be taking orders for Christmas wreaths at this event. Our other event before the Christmas holidays is the Christmas Fayre on Friday 10th December.

The CSA is also very proud to present the Oxfordshire Theatre Company's production of Alice in Wonderland on 12th February 2011. Tickets are now on sale and are available from Alex Westbury 810203 or online at www.wegottickets.com.

For more details about school life and the CSA please visit our new website at <http://charlbury.oxon.sch.uk>. The aforementioned blog, featuring the children's reports from Yenworthy, is at <http://charlburyprimaryschool.wordpress.com>.

*Vicky Buser
Parent governor*



Is your love for your child getting lost in translation?

I'd like to share with you a book I am reading entitled "*The Five Love Languages of Children*" by Gary Chapman PH.D and Ross Campbell M.D. The key message of this book is that we must communicate love in a language our children understand. Speaking their love language will meet their deep emotional need for love. Learning how our children interpret love and giving them this love they most deeply crave will ensure their "love tanks" will be full and give them a sense of security in which they can thrive.

It is not enough to assume that, because we love our children, they automatically know this. Nor is simply telling a child "I love you" sufficient to transmit that love. If you and your child speak different love languages, your affection might get lost in translation, affecting your child's attitude, behaviour and development.

The authors explain that children are behaviourally motivated, that they respond to actions and will sense how you feel about them by how you behave towards them. Behavioural expressions of love can be divided into physical touch, quality time, gifts, acts of service and words of affirmation.

These are the five "love languages", and one of these is likely to be your child's primary love language that best communicates your love to him/her. Children need all five love languages to keep their emotional tanks full, particularly those aged under five as it is unlikely that their primary love language will have emerged clearly by this stage. What is key is that, as your child develops a primary love language,

you are able to identify it and ensure that he/she receives a sufficient supply of it.

When you use your child's primary love language, it speaks of your love with the clearest and loudest voice. For example, although a tender hug communicates love to any child, it will shout love to children whose primary love language is physical touch. This is one of love's strongest languages and includes any kind of physical contact, not just hugs and kisses. So if you are not naturally a "hugger", other meaningful touches may include a gentle touch on the arm, reading a story with your child on your lap, holding hands on a walk, snuggling on couch, watching a film, piggyback rides, a pat on the back or a hair stroke, wrestling, bear hugs, tickle fights or contact sport games. Note that physical touch used as an expression of anger or hostility is particularly devastating to children whose primary love language is touch.

For children whose primary love language is words of affirmation, nothing will be more important to their sense of being loved than to hear their parents verbally affirm them. Words of affirmation are not limited to "I love you" but include words of affection and endearment, words of praise and encouragement and words that give positive guidance.

A child whose primary love language is gifts will receive tremendous pleasure from getting presents. For such a child, gifts are more than material objects but tangible expressions of love. To qualify, the gift must be freely given and not in exchange for good behaviour or a task done. Gifts cannot be the substitute for the other love languages as a child needs to feel genuinely cared for. If your child's primary love

TOT BITS

language is quality time, the authors state that he/she “will experience a gnawing uneasiness that his parents do not really love him” if he does not receive a sufficient supply of your undivided attention. This means carving out special time in your schedule for just you and your child. As well as attending events together, quality time may include sharing thoughts and feelings in quality conversations or storytelling sessions. Positive loving eye contact is also very important.

Finally, if your child's primary love language is acts of service, it is important to be sensitive to any of their requests. Your child may not just want you to get a task done, but be crying out for emotional love. If you respond and give the help with a loving and positive attitude, and avoid critical words or resentment, your child will go away with a full love tank. Daily and mundane acts of service are expressions of love with long-term effects. Acts of service should be age appropriate, doing things our children may not yet be able to do for themselves, yet teaching them to serve themselves and then others when they are ready. However, with children whose love language is acts of service, it is important to avoid pushing them to independence and self-reliance too soon, especially when they say they need you and ask for help.

The last two aforementioned love languages require the most time involvement and so are perhaps most at risk of being neglected if not given priority over busy schedules. So how do you recognize your child's primary love language, the one which makes them feel most loved? It is a process that takes time, especially in young children who are beginning to learn how to receive and express love in the

various languages. They will experiment with actions and responses that are satisfying to them. It is also possible that a child's primary love language may temporarily change, particularly during adolescence.

The authors suggest the following methods in helping you seek to discover your child's primary love language:

- (1) Observe how your child expresses love to you.
- (2) Observe how your child expresses love to others.
- (3) Listen to what your child requests most often. Is there one area your child's requests tend to focus on?
- (4) Notice what your child most frequently complains about not receiving from you. Some complaints may only be indicative of immediate desires but if more than half focus on one love language, then they are highly indicative.
- (5) Give your child a choice between two love language options and see which they chose most often over a course of several weeks.

Good luck!

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Looking for a stimulating and caring environment for your child to play in? Would you like to meet other local parents and carers of preschool children and babies? Then why not give us a try! The Baby and Toddler Group meets every Monday during term time from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Memorial Hall and welcomes mums-to-be, babies and pre-school children with their parents or carers. Alongside a baby play area, there are a variety of activities to choose from which change regularly. Children especially enjoy having lots of space



for physical play on the slide, tunnels and ride on toys. Sessions include a craft activity, story time with juice and a biscuit, singing with musical instruments and sometimes parachute play. Providing you with a chance to relax, have a tea or coffee and enjoy some friendly conversation! (£2.50 per family).

CHARLBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Charlbury Pre-school is a thriving, voluntary-run organisation that seeks to provide education through play for children from 2 1/2 to 5 years, and is open to every family in the community. It is led by a dedicated group of play leaders and their assistants with a maximum of 24 children per session providing a high adult to child ratio. The sessions run during school term time only, Monday to Friday - 9am to 1pm, so children will need to bring a packed lunch. Alternatively, you can choose to pick your child up at 12.00 to cover free Voucher Sessions only. Enrolment can be from as little as one morning a week to the full five day depending on your requirements. Pre-School premises can be hired either on Saturdays from 2pm or all day Sundays or in the afternoons during the week. Please contact us for further information or to arrange a visit 01608 811200.

Please send all TotBits information to Carina at ccloweth@btinternet.com 01608 810870, including ideas for any topics you would like to see covered in future TotBits.

TRAVEL SAVERS

PLUSBUS – buy your train ticket PLUS unlimited buses at end of your journey
Oxford PlusBus costs £3.20 adult, £1.60 child, £2.10 Railcard holder
www.plusbus.info

Trainline – buy cheap train tickets in advance. www.thetrainline.com

Evening buses home from Oxford are 9.45pm (arr 10.35pm) and 11.45pm (arr 12.27am) from Gloucester Green Bus Station. www.stagecoachbus.com

Evening trains. Missed the 9.48pm train from Paddington to Charlbury? Catch the 10.21pm train to Oxford which arrives 11.38pm and leg it to the bus station to catch the 11.45pm last bus to Charlbury. www.stagecoachbus.com

Oxford Tube ticket to London – buy it on the local Stagecoach S3 bus to Oxford and get the S3 ticket free. www.oxfordtube.com

Liftshare - find or offer a lift anywhere anytime – the more people use it the more useful it becomes. www.liftshare.com

Fourshires LETS – our local exchange trading scheme – use it for exchanging lifts as well as lots of other things. 01608-676302 www.letslinkuk.net

WhipCar – put your car to work hiring it to other local people. www.whipcar.com

Commonwheels Car Club – might you be interested in renting a local car for your journeys. 01608-811057 www.commonwheels.org.uk

Commonwheels Car Club – if we start a Charlbury Car Club you might like to lease your car to Commonwheels who would pay for servicing, MOT and insurance in return for 60 free hours each month. 01608-811057

www.commonwheels.org.uk

Oxford Evening Out – Valid after 6.25pm from Charlbury, buy this Ranger ticket on the train - valid for the evening and offers unlimited travel between Kingham, Didcot and Banbury. Price £3 to Oxford, concessions £2.

The Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) is a multi-agency problem-solving group working with the police and other public agencies to tackle neighbourhood priorities identified by the community

This year, the area's priorities are anti-social behaviour, parking and speeding:

Anti-social behaviour (ASB): very happy to report that there is very little ASB activity, so much so that there is currently no specific problem for the NAG to look into.

Parking: On 21 September local neighbourhood police teams met with the West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) Community Wardens to discuss respective roles and closer working between the two. For example, the wardens will check with police which parking issues have been reported, and focus on those areas. **West Oxfordshire Community Wardens** can be contacted on 01993 861060 or by emailing: community.services@westoxon.gov.uk.

Speeding: Some speed data has recently been recorded with an SDR (Speed Detection Radar) placed in Charlbury:

Banbury Hill, average speed 34.7 mph

The Slade, average speed 32.2 mph

Woodstock Road, average speed 33.1 mph

Forest Road, average speed 34.7 mph

Members of the local neighbourhood police team are now qualified to use hand-held speed guns and will be focusing on the above areas. In the meantime, the NAG is keen to find ways to get local residents and/or NAG members involved in speed checks, and is looking into setting up a **Community Speedwatch** scheme in the town.

Promotion of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme: Following the two successful public meetings held in June and September, Charlbury Neighbourhood Watch is going from strength to strength under the guidance of a new town coordinator. Howard Griffiths is now filling this role, left vacant for more than 10 years. He tells us more on page 4.

Street Fair: Thank you to all the Charlbury police volunteers and NAG members who manned the Thames Valley Police mobile station on the day, and to all the respondents who took part in our survey. The survey confirmed a high level of awareness of local policing and facilities, and a high level of satisfaction.

Valou Pakenham-Walsh Charlbury Town Councillor and Chair of the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Action Group

Tel: 01608 811338 or email: valoupw@charlburytowncouncil.co.uk

CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Arts Week - Di Gold (810256)

Baptist Chapel - Joan Belshaw (810130))

panash_home@yahoo.co

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Deirdre Kincaid 01993 810918

Charlbury Arts Society (CAS) (810116)

Charlbury Beer Festival - Rob Stepney (810180)

walcot2@freenetname.co.uk

www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Charlbury Bowls Club - Heather Hill, Secretary- 810229

Charlbury Business Community - Joan Belshaw (810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net

819117 - chamber@charlbury.info

Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net

Charlbury Chess Club - Bob Douglas (811083)

Charlbury Chronicle - Lynette Murphy (810549)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Community Centre Appeal

Lynette Murphy (810549)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Cricket Club - Glen McCallum (810971)

karen@mccallum10@wanadoo.co.uk

www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

Charlbury Day Centre - Bob Tait (810150)

Charlbury Evergreen Club - Ken Taylor (811441)

Charlbury Fairtraders - Cara Williams (811284)

michaelcara1965@yahoo.co.uk

Charlbury and District Garden Society

Nick Johnson (810507)

Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (811007)

peter@charlburymorris.org -

www.charlburymorris.org

Charlbury Museum - Jennifer Bartlett (810312)

Charlbury Open Gardens - Vic Allison

vic.allison@btinternet.com

Charlbury Pre-School Jan Stubberfield (811200)

Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter (810388)

Charlbury School - Jane Holt, Head (810354)

office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

www.charlbury.oxon.digitalbrain.com

Charlbury School Association - Sarah

Brooks - office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

Charlbury Scouts & Guides - Fiona Snell

(810565) fiona@snellfamily.me.uk

Charlbury Society - Brian Murray (819091)

Charlbury Street Fair - Barry Cooper

barrycooper@prisymid.com or 07770 225673.

Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Curthoys

charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - Lynn

Gorton 01993 869248 carlynn@uwclub.net

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group

(CAWAG) Christine Elliott (811057)

www.cwag.org.uk; info@cwag.org.uk

Charlbury Women's Institute - Secretary Pat Hill 810714

CHOC Cinema Jon Carpenter (819117)

choc@charlbury.info

Churches Together - Rosalind Scott,

(810562) rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk

The Bell Hotel (810278)

Cornbury Music Festival - Hugh Phillimore

(0207 229 2219) mail@comburyfestival.com

www.comburyfestival.com

Cotswolds Guided Walks Peter Woolfenden

(811296)

Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps) Ann/

David Morton - (676302)

Friends Meeting House: Angela Kyte (01993 880368)

Holiday Club - Sue Holiday (810694)

Little Fishes Under 5's Group - Kate (811579)

Macmillan Cancer Care - Liz & Bob Tait (810150)

Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health Support) 01608 645296

Methodist Chapel - Gil Grason (810154)

The Probuc Club of Charlbury Michael Marsh

(810029) mike@mikemarshmd.plus.com

Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (810635)

admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com

www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com

Shed Theatre - Teresa Laughton (811000)

St Marys C of E Church Rev Judy French (810286)

St Theresa RC Church Very Rev Canon David Evans (810576)

Street Stage (touring youth fusion company) Anneke Hay (811269)

Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (811212)

Thomas Gifford's Charity - Trevor Jones (810644)

trevor.jones@ophiopogon.com

www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst

Wychwayz Border Morris - Judi Parker (810517)



CHARLBURY'S POLICE OFFICER

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

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

To contact your PCSO
call 0845 8 505 505

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

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