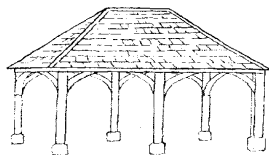


The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 15 Number 2

June 2011

We are always so disappointed when another of our local shops closes down. The *Chronicle* therefore has no compunction in blowing a trumpet for one of our shops which is trying to extend its range to tempt residents to shop locally. Tim Widdows of **Cotswold Frames** in Market Street has informed us that he now has a Kodak Picture Kiosk in store so that people can print their digital photos from disk or memory cards, ID photos and Bluetooth from their mobile phones. Now you will be able to have your passport and driving licence photographs taken too. He has also just bought a slide and 35mm negative scanner so as he says 'I hope that all options are covered to save a trip into Witney and to keep people local'. Well done, Tim! If any other shops who

regularly advertise with us want to let us know of additions to their ranges the *Chronicle* will be glad to mention it.

As always at this time of the year there is lots going on in the town - and you will find full details in these pages.

May I ask contributors to the *Chronicle* please to note that the deadline for the next (September) issue is August 1st. We are always glad to receive articles from anyone in Charlbury about anything that has a connection to Charlbury - so please don't be shy in coming forward.

Have a happy summertime!

Lynette Murphy

***Deadline for copy for the September Chronicle is
August 1st 2011***

HOW TO RECOGNISE A STROKE

We have been asked to advertise the following piece of information in the hope that people will recognise the first signs of a stroke. If patients can get medical attention within three hours the chances of the effects of the stroke being reversed are very good.

The problem always lies with those around the victim recognising the signs.

(Remember the first four letters of the word 'stroke' .)

Here are the vital signs:

- S * Ask the individual to SMILE**
- T * Ask the person to TALK and speak coherently
a simple sentence ('It's a sunny day today')**
- R * Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS**
- O * Ask the person to stick Ot the tongue. If the
tongue is crooked, if it goes to one side or the
other, that is also an indication of a stroke**

If someone has trouble with any one of these tasks call emergency **immediately** and describe the symptoms

SIT. VAC. IN CHARLBURY

The Good Food Shop is looking for a Company Secretary

We hope that this (very) part time administrative position will be of interest to someone returning to work or in semi-retirement.

For further details including salary and approximate annual working hours, contact Dawn Colvin on 01608 810545 or by e-mail on dawn@drcolvin.plus.com

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

Branch Treasurer :

The Branch is urgently seeking a volunteer to take on the role of Branch Treasurer. Anyone interested is asked to contact Branch Chairman Derek Fowler on 811706 or Branch President Nick Potter on 810388 for more information.

Assistance

For further information about the work of the Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on 810388 or Derek Fowler [Branch Chairman] on 811706.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

The Royal British Legion 90th Anniversary

The Royal British Legion was founded in 1921 with the Charlbury Branch starting in 1926. To celebrate the Royal British Legion's National 90th Anniversary the Charlbury Branch is holding a Picnic on the Playing Close from 2.00pm to 5.00pm on Saturday 13 August.

We hope to have entertainment from "The Accidentals [Silver Band].

A Beer Tent will be provided by The Olde Three Horseshoes and a Tea Tent" will be provided by the Charlbury Branch.

Entrance is free – bring your own picnic.

There will be a collection for the Poppy Appeal.

In the event of wet weather the picnic will go ahead in the War Memorial Hall.

Everyone welcome

For more information please contact Jane Parsons on 01608 810822.

FRIENDS OF CHARLBURY LIBRARY

Our thanks to all who have supported our campaign against the proposed closure of the Library by writing letters, signing the petition and attending the Read In, AGM and the Public Meeting. It has been heart-warming to receive so much help, including that from all our local councillors.

The view of those attending the AGM was that we did not wish to run our own Library as suggested by Oxfordshire County Council and did not see such a proposal as viable given the already massive volunteering in the community.

Our thanks also to Charlbury Town Council and the Clerk for arranging the Public Meeting and to Cllr Heathcoat, the Cabinet member with responsibility for libraries and John Jackson, Director of Community Services for attending.

The petition signed by 919 residents was handed to the OCC representatives. The majority of speakers wished the Library to remain open and were critical of the decision made by OCC. The well-attended Meeting unanimously passed a motion requesting Charlbury Town Council to support efforts to persuade OCC to keep Charlbury Library open run by trained staff and librarians.

There is to be a consultation starting in May and ending in September about the proposed library closures but details of the process are not yet available but will be put on the Charlbury website. There is a long battle still to fight and your continued support will be invaluable.

Amanda Epps



CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2011

This year's theme is 'Under the Sea'

This year's **Street Fair** is to be held on **Saturday 17th September 2011**, and we will have all the usual stalls, funfair, displays and festivities in the street until 10pm. It always is a great day, so put this date in your diary and make sure you don't miss it. Organisations wishing to book a stall should contact Peter Kenrick on Charlbury 01608 811021 or email him at peter@kenricks.plus.com.

If you are thinking of having a clear out, then we would be grateful for both books and bric a brac. Please contact Marion Greenfield (mg.littlelees@gmail.com) or Peter Kenrick (peter@kenricks.plus.com.) and they will collect these from you.

There will also be the **Street Fair Fun Run** and **10K Run** through Cornbury Park, by the kind permission of Lord Rotherwick, on Sunday 18th September. If you wish to either help with the run or partake, then please contact Geoff Griffiths at g.h.griffiths@reading.ac.uk

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF STREET FAIR and OPEN GARDENS, whilst intending to entertain local people, is to raise money for the upkeep of the Corner House and War Memorial Hall – the two community buildings that play such an important part in the lives of so many people in and around Charlbury.

HELP!!

We still need lots of help on Street Fair day. Have you wondered about helping with the Evening Conga - yes, we are going to have a giant Conga – or selling draw tickets , or making cakes and selling teas, or helping on the BBQ – to name but a few! Just a little help will make a massive difference.

So to all of you, who enjoyed last 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.

Contacts:

Susie Finch: susanna_finch@hotmail.com
Fergus McVey: fergusmcvey@hotmail.com

Susie Finch

N.B. Will residents of Church Street and Park Street please note that we have been granted road closure permission for the 17th September 2011 from 9 am to 10 pm.

HISTORY OF OLD CHARLBURY

THE TOWN HALL, CHARLBURY Chapter 2: 1914 – 1939

Public halls in Charlbury

Public halls included the Town Hall and Club Room, the YMCA Hall (or Red Triangle Club) opposite the Town Hall in the same alley off Park Street, the Central/British School and the Grammar School and rooms at public houses. In June 1933 at Chadlington Petty Sessions, Mr V J Dore who had erected the new Victory Hall in Church Street was granted a six months licence for plays to be staged there: he hoped to be able to run a cinema. The Victory Hall stood opposite the Royal Oak and eventually lost its licence because it could not provide a separate fire exit via Mr Frank Bailey's property. In the early 1960s the derelict building was demolished and replaced by a house.

Wartime, music, drama and whist

The Town Hall and the Club Room behind the Royal Oak continued to be used during WWI for meetings on recruitment, the showing of Army films (on the cinematograph), and entertainments raising funds to send parcels to Charlbury men at the Front – and later for St Dunstons. In March 1918 a Victory Ball was held with forty couples and prizes for the best costumes. After the War, meetings of ex-servicemen were held in the Hall each November and in 1926 the Charlbury Branch of the British Legion was formed.

Few entertainments took place without songs and a short play, farce or sketch in the programme. Dozens of organisations laid on whist drives, concerts and socials: the number of organisations rivals that at the present day: Guides, Scouts, Rovers, Rangers, League of Nations, Men's and Women's Hockey Clubs, Clubs for Tennis, Football, Bowls, Billiards, Chess, Quoits, Mrs F R Nash's Girl Entertainers, Mrs Barber's Girls Singing Class, Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Anglican Churches, Friends' Meeting House, Temperance organisations, Women's Institute, Horticultural Society, Fire Brigade, British Legion, Motor and Motor Cycle Clubs. Political parties (Conservative, Labour and Communist) joined in too.

Dancing

Charlbury danced its way through the 1920s and 1930s when not playing whist or going to lectures. Dr Croly, long-standing local GP, arranged many dances and variety performances in aid of the Charlbury Nursing Association, local hospitals and charities, some in the Hall, some on his lawn at The Poplars on Dyer's Hill. At his and other dances, music was provided by dozens of dance bands: the Non-stop Melody Boys, Mr Jack Viner's Band, Mr Harry Wright's popular jazz band from Witney, the Americans' Jazz Band from Oxford, the Mystic Band from Chipping Norton, Mr Bert Long's No 1 Oxford Optimist dance band, Mr C Hicks's band, Charlbury British Legion Band, Mr Frank Dyer's Symphony Orchestra, Charlbury Savana band, Mr Cecil Lane's Climax band et al. Mr B Davis was often Master of Ceremonies.

Janet Jeffs

Read the next edition of the Charlbury Chronicle and visit the Museum to find out about the early days of cinema in Charlbury. Charlbury Museum is open from 10 am – 12 on Saturdays, and 2.30 – 4.30 pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from Saturday 2nd April to Sunday 25th September 2011. See more of the Entertainment story there.

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Evening surgery at North Leigh by appointment

Charlbury Day Centre

Following our successful coffee morning in February we gained not only some useful financial support, but also some new volunteers to help us run the Centre. However, we would still welcome anyone who would be willing to give just a few hours of their time a month.

We are very sorry to announce the retirement of Graham Canning from the management committee. His name has been synonymous with the Centre, having chaired, recruited both members and volunteers and organised it for so many years. The management committee and the members are immensely grateful for all the enthusiasm, hard work and love that he has poured in, and are delighted that he will continue to help us as a volunteer. Our membership has held up well.

Before we closed over Easter, we were able to beat the rest of the town and had an early and very happy Royal Wedding celebration - much bunting, sparkling wine and fancy cakes.

Bob Tait

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 a good 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.

Marjorie Glasgow



Come and support Charlbury Museum

May 28th - **Coffee Morning** in aid of the Museum, from 10 a.m. at the Corner House

June 4th - Annual Museum **Plant Sale**, from 10 a.m. in the Museum Garden

Come and see this year's **special exhibition** on entertainments in Charlbury in past years - how Charlburians enjoyed themselves at concerts, plays, recitations, debates, and cinema shows.



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT, No. 59

By Councillor Helen Bessemer-Clark

Charlbury Town Council

The Council as presently constituted is now three quarters of the way through its four year term of office. All twelve seats of the whole Council will be available for election in May 2012. Some of the present Councillors are known not to be seeking re-election, so new candidates are needed. It would be good if there were about 18 candidates to make a proper election, rather than undergoing a process of elimination. Electors wishing to stand who may want to learn more about the Council's work are, like all members of the public, welcome to attend Council Meetings, or speak to the Town Clerk, Roger Clarke (see below).

Open House Surgeries

These are continuing, as there seems to be an appreciation by residents that Councillors are available on the first Saturdays of alternative months, to listen, in private, to any individual local concerns. The next surgeries will be on June 4th, August 6th, and October 1st. They are held at the Corner House from 10.0 a.m. to 12.00 noon.

Annual Parish Meeting

This was held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday, April 1st. In attendance were eleven Town Councillors, two District Councillors, one County Councillor and forty five members of the public. There was one question only from the floor.

Charlbury Library

A public meeting about the future of Charlbury Library was held at the War Memorial Hall on Friday, 25th March. Councillor Judith Heathcoat (Cons. Faringdon and Coxwell), OCC Council Member with responsibility for Public Libraries, and Mr. John Jackson, OCC Director of Social and Community Services (whose department has overall responsibility for Public Libraries) were in attendance to answer questions. A petition containing 919 signatures was handed over by Amanda Epps, Chairman of Friends of Charlbury Library. 102 people, including Councillors, were present, and a unanimous resolution was passed, as follows: "We request Charlbury Town Council to support efforts to persuade OCC to keep Charlbury Library open run by trained staff and librarians". This resolution was supported unanimously by Charlbury Council at the meeting on March 30th, and sent to Oxfordshire County Council, with a copy to the local M.P.

Pot Holes

A thorny, if stony concern!: The number to ring if concerned about any particular hole that has appeared, or even re-appeared, is: 0845 310 11 11. However, it is possible that by the time you read this, the Enstone Road will have been re-surfaced.

Sports Pavilion

This has gone well. The keys were formally handed over by the builder to John Merri-man, representing the Management Committee, at a small ceremony on April 1st. There was a Grand Opening in May, which will be more fully reported in the next edition of the Chronicle.

Charlbury Station

Another success story. The Line Dualling is almost complete, and regular passengers will have noticed that the work on the new platform has started, and the heavy works traffic for the bridge and shelter are much in evidence. **The station will be closed between May 28th and June 5th.** This will mean that, hopefully, the new lines and new platform will all be in use for the 07.13 train to Moreton-in-Marsh on Monday, June 6th. The London trains will depart from Platform 1 as usual. There is a strong possibility that the works site on the old piggery/allotment area will be converted to provide more car parking space.

The Riverside Festival

Permission has been granted by the Town Council to use the Mill Field free of charge on June 18th and 19th, subject to conditions and the issue of a licence by WODC.

Public Events

A number of public events are planned to take place in and around Charlbury during the summer. Some members of the public find that such events can cause them inconvenience. Matters concerning Traffic Management, including Car Parking and Public Order, including Anti-Social Behaviour, should immediately be reported to Thames Valley Police on 08458 505505. Matters concerning noise should be reported immediately to West Oxfordshire District Council on 01993 861000 (weekdays, 0900 hrs – 1700 hrs) or 01993 705056 (during weekends and out of hours)

Pavements

Residents are again, at this time of year, asked to cut back any overhanging branches, bushes or plants that may obstruct pedestrians walking on the pavements. It would also help to keep Charlbury tidy, if waste and recycling bins could be removed as soon after the Tuesday morning collection as possible.

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)

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET 2011

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, June 11th 2011

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

CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL

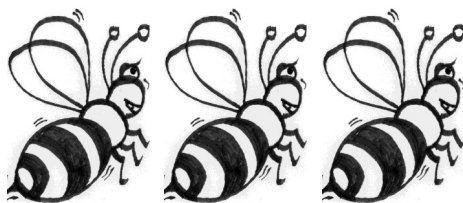
Please can hirers properly wipe down and clean the tables in the Hall after use - they should be left as you would wish to find them.

In order to limit our waste disposal costs and benefit the environment, please also take appropriate material (glass, cans etc) for recycling to the Spendlove site or home.

Steve Andrews

Charlbury and District Garden Society

The Big Bee Buzz



The NEW children's project for 2011

**Well done all the children who are joining in this project!
Lovely posters and wonderful Bee boxes – lucky bees!**

The next part is on Saturday 18th June in the Memorial Hall.

Part 2 quizzes are still available now!

Full details

on the Garden Society webpage on Charlbury website;
or phone Wendy Clifford: 01608 811006

SEARCHING for the YOUNG SOUL REBEL

Charlbury loves the arts, and we have a particularly strong musical tradition. But how many people know that the man widely credited with originating the Northern Soul scene, Roger Eagle, spent much of his earliest childhood here?

I didn't know about it either till a writer named Bill Sykes contacted me about his biography of this musical pioneer. When I said I was intrigued by the local connection, Bill sent me an extract from an interview he conducted with Roger Eagle before the latter's premature death in 1999. Eagle's mother Dorothy, he told me, worked for Oxford University Press, and co-edited the *Oxford Literary Guide to the British Isles*.

Bill Sykes: How long did you live in Oxford?

Roger Eagle: Until I left school. I lived in the country a bit during the War.

Bill Sykes: What, outside Oxford?

Roger Eagle: Charlbury, yeah.

Bill Sykes: Was your father in the War?

Roger Eagle: Yes, he flew Catalinas. He was in the Fleet Air Arm. I remember seeing the vapour trails, the con trails of the fighter planes, and everybody used to say 'Is it one of ours or is it one of theirs?' It's a very early, very dim memory but it's there. I suppose at three years old you're just about able to remember a few things ... A lot of tanks in the streets, the country lanes jammed up with boxes of ammunition, a lot of half tracks and stuff.

So what eventually made Eagle leave the area and move north? In an interview in 'The New Breed', he's quoted as saying: 'I'm a Southerner by birth – but a Northerner by emotion. I prefer the North. I'm not saying I don't like Southerners, but they tend to be so temporary down there. To me if something's solid then it's worth looking after. Whereas they're into it and out of it.'

It's a fair point ... But with so much great new music to discover – at events like the Riverside Festival, for instance – I'm not sure we need take it as a criticism. And if you can shed any more light on Roger (or Dorothy) Eagle's time in Charlbury, please let me know.

Edward Fenton

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPORT FOR CHARLBURY

At a Parish Transport Representatives meeting in Oxford at the end of March we were told that Oxford County Council will have to make some big financial savings in 2011/12 from its public transport budget, and there is to be no more spending on capital programmes for public transport infrastructure for the immediate future. However, until the contracts expire (December 2012) we will be keeping our present system, though there is serious doubt, eventually, over the continuation of the Charlbury and Kingham rail bus.

Let us hope that improved rail services will mean more use of the bus, since it is presently costed at £8 per passenger in 'real terms'. Incidentally, Oxfordshire has the highest public transport use of any English county.

There are to be some noticeable changes to the **concessionary fares**:

- a) Since April 2010 a progressive increase (one month for every two months of age) in the age when one is eligible for a pass
- b) No more tokens will be issued
- c) All bus passes will be usable, for journeys starting in Oxfordshire, from 9 a.m.
- d) The Companion Pass, for people who can demonstrate that they cannot travel by bus without assistance, will still obtain for those in receipt of a Carers Allowance. Dial-a-ride passes will still be usable.

Although at a previous meeting with RH transport they promised to install an answer-phone in their office, this, unfortunately has not happened, and there are still complaints that there is no reply when passengers ring to query changes in the timetable or daily bus activities.

RH communication generally is not always up to standard, but they have been asked to make sure appropriate notices are placed on the bus stops where changes are made. It would, though, be helpful if passengers could also spread details of any alterations through word of mouth – even ringing RH if road works finish early, for instance. Their number is: 01993 869100

*Helen Bessemer-Clark,
Parish Transport Rrepresentative
helen.bessemerclark@btinternet.com
01608810914
or ring Roger Clarke, Town Clerk
01608 810608*

Letters to the Editor

From Terence Parsloe

I have just received the March 2011 edition and was delighted to read the article concerning the history of the Town Hall. The chapter 1 of Charlbury's old history implies that there is more to come - I do hope so and look forward to the next revelations. Is the author of this history related to or descended from the Jeffs family of old Charlbury? Having just re-read the Lois Hey history of Charlbury and John Kibble's CHARMING CHARLBURY within the last two weeks, the arrival of your splendid *Chronicle* was a wonderful coincidence! Please note that although I left Charlbury in 1958 I was born there in 1934.
Yours sincerely
Terence Parsloe.

*Jane and Terry Parsloe
Quartier Saint Paul
13250 Saint Chamas
France*

From Wendy Glading

I had two replies to my letter which was featured in the March issue of the *Charlbury Chronicle*.

One was from a Terence Parsloe in France, who wondered if he should know me! Seeing that I was only 3 years old when we left Charlbury, it wasn't very likely.

The other reply arrived from an elderly lady in Chadlington. A friend had passed a copy of the *Chronicle* on to her, and she has sent me a photo of Market Street. It is a new photo to me, probably taken in the very early 1900's. I have phoned her this morning to thank her. It was an interesting conversation as she knew my grandparents who lived in

Chadlington, and also remembered my Mother. Its a small world!

I must say the most help and information I have had came from Celia Faulkner. She even sent me a photo of my father in the volunteer fire service, something I had no idea about. He never mentioned it.

I hope to come up to Charlbury when the museum opens in April, and shall enjoy looking around. Thank you and everyone involved in helping me solve a few missing years in my Father's life.

*Wendy Glading
8 Harvester Drive
Catisfield, Fareham,
Hants PO15 5NR*

From Mike & Vicky Pratley

We would like to thank all our friends and customers for all the very kind gifts, cards and letters received on our retirement. We were completely overwhelmed with everyone's generosity and kindness at what we feel is a very sad time but unfortunately necessary as we are not getting any younger.

Please remember our door is always open to all our friends.

Mike and Vicky Pratley

The Probus Club of Charlbury invited Sqdn/Ldr Tony Iveson, DFC to its luncheon in November past. Aged 91 years, he is one of the last four remaining aircrew of the famous 'Dambusters' 617 Squadron, Bomber Command. It was during the latter part of WWII that Sqdn/Ldr Iveson, having been invited to join this Squadron, flew Lancasters on all three bombing missions which scuttled the vast German battleship Tirpitz almost to the day, 66 years ago. During the final sortie, twenty-nine 5-ton 'Tallboy' bombs were dropped onto the capsizing vessel in four minutes from waves of Lancasters flying in formation at 13-, 14-, and 15,000 feet.

Before that, Iveson had flown over 120 hours in Spitfires with 616 Squadron, Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain (70th Anniversary, November 2010) – and survived! The lunch, presided over by Chairman Prof Michael Marsh, attracted ninety-two people, who were entertained to a fascinating, personal account of these heroic missions. Over £1,000 was raised towards The Bomber Command Memorial, to be erected in Green Park, London during 2011. Twenty-five signed copies of Iveson's authoritative book on the Lancaster bomber were also sold, copies of which are still available on request (810029).

*Stephen Cavell, Secretary,
The Probus Club of Charlbury*

The Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society is pleased to announce its June 2011 lecture. The title is "Joseph Wright of Derby – a Great and Uncommon Genius", the lecture is Nicholas Bagshawe.

The lecture will take place on June 8, 2011, at Bradwell Village Hall, Burford OX18 4XF, and will begin at 2 pm, with coffee and tea available from 1.15 pm. Non-members are very welcome to attend, suggested donation is £8.

Wright was an out and out Derby man and one of that small celebrated band of painters who made a national reputation outside the capital. His money was made by a successful portrait painting practice, producing highly direct likenesses of an increasingly affluent Midland middle class – very much warts and all. However he is best remembered for his observations of the scientific and technological advances of his day. His "Philosopher giving a Lecture on the Orrery" and his "Experiment on a Bird in an Air-Pump" are quite outstanding – not only for their technological content, but for their highly unusual treatment. This lecture will look at all sides of this strikingly individual Midland painter and attempt also to place him in the context of his day – that of the 18th Century Enlightenment.

Nicholas Bagshawe trained at Sotheby's and spent all his working life as an art dealer. Currently he is dealing in 18th, 19th and 20th century pictures from gallery premises in London. He lectures regularly at Sotheby's Institute, the V&A, Southampton Institute and Tate Britain.

Please note, there are no lectures in July and August.

Dear Editor,

I am the Volunteer Coordinator for Volunteer Link Up, the Volunteer Centre for West Oxfordshire.

Established in 1983, we recruit volunteers for more than 100 local organisations, as well as for our own 'in-house' projects: transport, befriending and practical tasks. Originally set up to serve the need of Witney residents, we have, over the past year, been broadening our horizons to include the town of Charlbury.

In particular, our fundamental goal has been to recruit volunteer drivers for our community transport scheme, which serves elderly, disabled and vulnerable people who do not have their own transport, or who are unable to use public transport. This crucial service is reliant upon the good will of voluntary drivers who give their time and use their own cars to transport members of the scheme.

However, despite a raft of publicity, including several articles in this publication, we are still waiting for our first Charlbury driver to come forward! This means that elderly people in Charlbury have to rely on drivers living further afield to get out and about, and sadly, there have been occasions when we have had to turn people away as no driver can be found.

While a lot of informal support already happens in communities such as Charlbury, there are times when there are 'gaps' in this network. Those living alone, with no family nearby, rely on transport schemes such as ours to attend essential medical appointments, visit day centres, or perhaps, to visit their partners in residential care and nursing homes.

Of course, we all lead busy lives these days, but surely in a community the size of Charlbury, there must be half a dozen people with a few hours a week to spare! After all, it has been proven that being part of a community where everyone helps each other actually makes you happier. Don't leave it to someone else. After all, it could be you one day.

*Liz Williamson
Volunteer Coordinator
Volunteer Link Up*

*10 Wesley Walk
Witney OX28 6ZJ
01993 776 277*

Wilderness Festival

Wilderness is a pioneering new festival of music, food, theatre, literary debate and outdoor pursuits, which will be set among the lakes, forests and parkland of Oxfordshire's Cornbury Estate on August 12-14.

Michelin-starred chef, **Skye Gyngell** of Petersham Nurseries Café and **Sam and Sam Clark** from Moro restaurant will headline the outdoor dining experiences, creating sumptuous banquets for 800 people.

The people behind one of the best-known and best loved theatres in the world, **The Old Vic**, will bring their spin-off **The Old Vic Tunnels to Wilderness**. **The Tax Deductable Theatre Company and Factory Theatre** will also put on a range of theatre performances.

The finest names in musicianship are set to perform, including **Antony & the Johnsons, Laura Marling, Daniel Johnston, Gogol Bordello, The Low Anthem, Dry The River, Guillemots, Toots & The Maytals, Hypnotic Brass Ensemble and Hayseed Dixie**.

Wilderness will come alive with stimulating debate, and shared thinking from the UK's greatest thought leaders including: **Intelligence Squared, The Idler, Headspace, Ian Goldin, Mark Stevenson, Robert Rowland Smith, Julian Baggini and David McCandless**.

The festival will also offer:

Healing treatments & Yoga, The Wilderness Spa, Lake swimming,
Bristol Institute of Natural History, Boating, Fly-fishing, Children's area
and Boutique Babysitting

Limited local resident concession tickets are available (for those residents in an OX7 postcode) – weekend adult priced at £80, weekend young person £40, adult day £40, young person day £20. Family tickets are also available at £250.

Visit www.wildernessfestival.com for further information.

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

CHIPPING NORTON AMATEUR

ASTRONOMY GROUP (CNAAG) started over 5 years ago and regularly meets up on the third Monday of every month (start 8pm) in the Fox Hotel, Chipping Norton to socially catch up on anything topical, and often a small talk is given by a member or guest speaker. We also hold planned events and casual observing evenings in permitted sites in and around CN and the Charlbury area. In the last year or so, we have had a trip to meet Sir Patrick Moore, and had wonderful opportunities to meet enthusiastic professional speakers and visit buildings usually not open to the public. Some members have also jointly started a GCSE Astronomy by distance learning. We welcome everyone, any age or experience, with an interest in astronomy and space. Further details and specific diary dates are at www.cnaag.com or you can phone the chairman, Robin Smitten, 07900 858 690 for further details.

CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB

Our season outdoors started early, in the glorious weather of mid-April with a get-together golf competition at the Hinksey Hills club, followed the next day with the real deal, cricket inter-club practise games on our two fields. It was the beginning of a very busy season, with over 90 games due to be played at the Station Road ground, including Saturday 1st, 2nd and 3rd league teams, Sunday friendlies and women's competitive matches, midweek games, and a full range of boys and girls youth fixtures. We are also hosting several county and district games. All in all, plenty of cricket for players and spectators alike, with visitors always welcome throughout the summer to our first class facilities. Our flagship men's team, the Saturday 1st

XI, is this year being led by Bimelka Lyana-rachchi (aka "Bim"), the first Sri-Lankan cricketer to captain at Charlbury. If last season's performance is anything to go by - an off-spinner breaking the club's records by taking 51 wickets - then "Bim" could be on the way to becoming a legendary local "Murali." Oxfordshire's top woman cricketer, Vicky Strode, leads the Charlbury Ladies who this year are competing at a higher level, in Division 2 East of the Women's Midlands League. We wish her and the rest of the team a competitive and enjoyable season.

Coaching and training is an essential part of the club's set-up throughout the season, with the adults meeting on Wednesdays, the women on Thursdays and the youth on Fridays, all from 6.30pm. There are some new faces among the players this year - and it is not too late for others to join them. There are plenty of opportunities for new players whatever their ability, from OCA top division to midweek "Curry Night" 20-20 friendlies. Just click on to the website, www.charlburycricketclub.com for further details and contact numbers. *David Horne*

CHARLBURY TENNIS CLUB

Fine weather and the Pavilion nearing completion on Nine Acres got the tennis season off to a great start, with lots of sessions of social tennis, and the first summer league fixtures being played. Club coach John Werner is continuing to run the popular junior sessions, held at Nine Acres on Monday evenings (6pm to 8pm). These are free to junior club members. Events are planned to take place using the new Pavilion - so there's more tennis on offer than ever before, for all ages and abilities. Subscriptions remain among the lowest in the county, and prospective members are welcome to try out a session. For more details contact charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

CHARLBURY SOCIETY

Members are advised that our summer excursion has been arranged for Wednesday, June 22nd, to Doddershall House, near Quainton, Aylesbury. There will be an afternoon guided tour round the house, with tea included. The cost will be £12.50 per head, including the Society's organisation "fee". If numbers permit, members may bring guests. This is probably the last year that visits to Doddershall are going to be available - the proposed high-speed rail line runs close by, and the owners (Mr & Mrs Prideaux) are fighting the plans tooth and nail.

If people want to make a day of it, Waddesdon is not far away and could be visited in the morning.

Details of the Society's proposed speakers for the autumn will be announced in the September Chronicle. Please note, that for an experimental year, we are arranging lectures on the second Thursday of each month, not Friday.

CHARLBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Charlbury WI provides an exciting calendar of events with monthly talks to appeal to women of all ages and interests. Recently we have been honoured to receive a frank and riveting account from Renata Calverly of her Jewish childhood in wartime Poland. We have also been fascinated by a heart-warming talk and demonstration from the Medical Alert Dogs charity, hearing research and real-life stories showing how specialist dogs can be trained to alert owner's prior to medical emergencies and make a radical difference to the lives of people suffering from life-threatening conditions.

A big thank you to everyone who came along to our coffee morning in the Corner House back in March, it was a great success so please do come and see us again

on Saturday 22nd October. On 1st May we hosted cakes and cream teas for the Charlbury Open Gardens and enjoyed meeting several hundred visitors from Charlbury and beyond. Our next event will be a stall at this year's Street Fair, so please come along and pick up some home-made treats and produce. We are always looking for new members and welcome visitors so please come and receive a warm welcome at one of our regular meetings in the Morris Room in the Corner House at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. For any questions or queries please contact Pat Hill (secretary) 810714 or Lindsey Leach 819292 or visit our page on the Charlbury website.

*Lindsey Leach
Hon. President Charlbury WI*

CHARLBURY ANGLING CLUB

The new season begins on 16th June and new members are of course most welcome to join us. Annual Memberships are open to all at an exceptionally reasonable price, via Jean Mills (tel 01608 810980), who lives a short distance from Fiveways Stores. Furthermore, we have decided to make Junior memberships free of charge for the forthcoming season; young anglers should just contact Jean for their membership book (and of course always ensure that they are accompanied by an adult when fishing).

The club is fortunate to have exclusive fishing rights on around 7 miles of the River Evenlode, running almost unbroken from just below Ascott Mill, all the way down to Fawler. This really is an exceptionally picturesque and tranquil river, which we are privileged to access courtesy of Lord

CLUBS, SOCIETIES (CONT'D)

Rotherwick. We also have another short stretch further downstream at Ashford Mill. The River Evenlode boasts exceptional Chub fishing, with specimen fish approaching 6lb, plus good stocks of beautiful roach, perch, pike, dace, gudgeon and the odd Brown Trout and Bream! We operate a strict catch and return policy and are fortunate that the river thrives with wildlife, and we can see creatures such as Kingfishers, Swans, Coots and even Otters here on occasion. The Environment Agency has recently conducted fish surveys and found the Evenlode at Charlbury to still be some of the most productive on the whole river - and this has been further enhanced this winter by significant habitat improvement works on the river at Cornbury. For the social and competitive the club runs a programme of matches for members, or just treat yourself to membership for some peaceful solitude down by the river. Enquiries to Stewart Moss (810462).

CHARLBURY BOWLS CLUB

Ticknell Piece Road, Charlbury

What is your first thought when someone says 'bowls'? Most people associate bowling with the 'older person' but this extremely enjoyable sport is for all ages and all abilities. We are always looking for new members so why not come along on a Tuesday evening between 6pm – 8pm where we will loan you all the equipment needed to have a go on the green. Whether you are an experienced bowler or having a go for the first time, our members will be there to offer you help and advice if needed. For more details please call Heather Hill on 01608 810229.

If you would like to contribute to this section please contact Julia Caston on 810240

Aunt Sally Championships at the Charlbury Beer Festival

The Charlbury Beer Festival was born over 14 years ago as a community fundraising event for all ages to enjoy. As a pupil of Charlbury Primary, it has made a contribution to school life every year. It has also raised money for many local good causes. More recently, as it became a teenager, the Beer Festival had to move to a bigger room and developed an interest in cricket and travel. It has always wanted to provide its friends with great days out and loves live music and good food.

This year the Beer Festival wants to try something new. Most major sports these days have a World Cup. Oxfordshire has always been the epicentre of a challenging and skilful game, Aunt Sally.

So for the first time ever, we will be hosting the **World Aunt Sally Singles Open Championships**. Players from Oxfordshire leagues, along with visitors to the Beer Festival, are invited to compete for the Finings Cup. A sparkling award and the first ever in West Oxfordshire.

Ian Cox

The 14th Annual Charlbury Beer Festival takes place at the Cricket Club from 12 noon on Saturday 9th July.

Come and enjoy 50 real ales, quality wines, scrumpy cider, children's activities and live music ...

Please see our website
charlburybeerfestival.org
for more information



TREASURE ISLAND

Charlbury's Riverside Festival
Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June at the Millfield

Can this year's Riverside Festival top last year's? Yes it can! As well as a fantastic array of acts, playing across two stages, we're adding a dedicated family disco marquee – great for dad dancing on Fathers' Day. To add to the family fun there is a Treasure Island theme, so if you'd like to dress up as a pirate or a sea monster, don a grass skirt or just fancy digging out that Hawaiian shirt from the back of the wardrobe, you'll fit right in.

In the Kids' Zone, Andy Hill and Zarah Tehani of BG records are running DJ, lyric writing and art workshops based around Hip Hop music; and younger festival goers can join in hands-on music sessions organised by the Salt Box Music Company. With a bouncy castle, face painting, willow weaving and clay modelling (with willow and clay donated by Churches Together in Charlbury) this promises to be the most family-friendly Riverside ever.

Festival goers of all ages can be part of a major community art installation sponsored by Time For Change – a national campaign to challenge ingrained attitudes to mental health. This ambitious project to create a forest of life-size trees covered in buttons is already taking shape at The Mill day centre in Oxford with individuals and groups across Oxfordshire donating buttons, and local children and visitors to the centre attaching them to chickenwire trees - if you have any spare buttons at home, bring them along to the Mill Field and add them to a button tree. To find out more about the project or to donate buttons visit buttonforest.co.uk

THE MUSIC

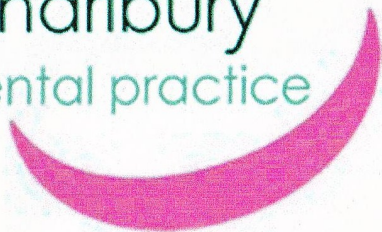
Musical highlights include the return of cabaret rock band, Borderville, and Saturday's headline act Rock of Travolata, playing with string and brass sections. New to Riverside are local family band The Fenns featuring 10CC guitarist Rick Fenn; and blues rock trio Steamroller. Playing professionally since the 1960s, these seasoned rockers have shared stages with The Rolling Stones, the Animals, Tom Jones, Steve Winwood and Dusty Springfield. Keep an eye out too on the second stage for our youngest band, The Reaper, a talented group of boys ranging in age from 9-12 years' old. For more details of the musicians playing at Riverside and on the Riverside stage at the Cornbury Festival at Great Tew Park (1-3 July) go to riversidefestival.charlbury.com

Riverside is on Saturday 18 June from 12.00pm – 10.00pm and Sunday 19 June from 11.00am – 8.00pm. The entrance is on Dyer's Hill, opposite Charlbury Railway Station. Due to licensing laws no alcohol can be brought onto the site, but the bars and other refreshment stalls will be selling drinks at very reasonable prices as well as a variety of food. No dogs allowed, other than assistance dogs.

Riverside Festival is run by local volunteers and free for all to enter. If you would like to help, call Chris Johnson on 0797 950 3555.

Kathryn Custance

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Events and films at ChOC: what's on and how you can help

ChOC is making decisions about its future programme on a monthly, sometimes it seems daily, basis. We hope you enjoy the programme and like what you see.

(1) However, we'd like to increase our informal selection panel. To be involved would not mean attending committee meetings. It could mean getting together occasionally to discuss what we've been watching, and things we've read or heard. It would certainly entail receiving occasional emails from me passing on information about forthcoming films and other events, and offering to lend you DVD's to review. ChOC occasionally buys or is sent DVDs to review and consider for a future screening. The value of the exercise is that we would have a wider spread of feedback and opinion.

We can only 'review' a film on DVD once the DVD has come out, but that's months after the film hits the big screens. We'd like feedback from what you have seen in cinemas. Did they live up to the hype? Is there an audience in Charlbury for them? Have you seen another very remarkable film that has not made it to the multiplexes? If you join the selection panel, you'll be able to take part in the process. **If you would be interested in providing this kind of feedback, please tell me and I'll add you to our panel.**

(2) **We could show different kinds of film.** Our costs have risen for many of the films we show, and we are examining the option of showing less popular films on a smaller scale in the Morris Room using our own equipment. This would mean we could break even on audiences of maybe 20 or fewer, enabling us to show a very much wider range of films to very different audiences in addition to the monthly 'big films' in the Memorial Hall. Choosing appropriate films for this venue will be challenging and exciting. **If you would like to help select films for this smaller venue, let me know.**

(3) **ChOC is reviving the practice whereby we bring productions and performers of various kinds into the town.** A new scheme for Oxfordshire called 'Good Night Out!' means we are able to preview a variety of different acts that we could book to appear in Charlbury over the coming year. Charlbury could be an excellent venue for everything from string quartets and operas to stand-up comics, jazz bands and poets. **If you would like to help choose and run some of these events, please tell me.**

If you have the time and energy to take part in any of the ways I have outlined, tell me. If you would like to join the committee and help further with the regular nitty-gritty, tell me that too. You will be very welcome at our next meeting to see how we work and what you might be able to do. Or phone me on 238242 for a chat.

(4) Here is our revised programme for the next three months:

The King's Speech (12A), Sunday June 12

The King's Speech was crowned best picture at the Oscars, with Colin Firth named best actor. Tom Hooper was named best director for the film, which also won best original screenplay.
(continued over.....)

(CHOC continued from previous page)

Never Let Me Go (12A), Sunday July 10

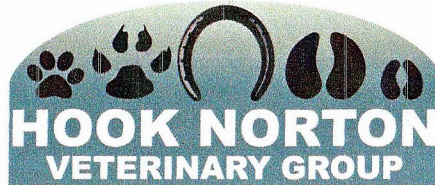
'A poignant love story, it focuses on three children as they grow up and come to terms with both their feelings for each other and a sinister fate that awaits them. British film at its very best, with outstanding performances from Carey Mulligan, Andrew Garfield & Keira Knightley.' (*Daily Telegraph*).

The Story of the Weeping Camel (U), Sunday August 14

The remarkable and moving film about a family of nomadic shepherds in the Gobi desert, their efforts to save a camel calf rejected by its mother, and the intervention of a musician and a miracle.

Films are shown in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm, and the bar opens at 6.45 (you can sit outside too). Tickets are £4.50 on the door. Enquiries 01608 238242. Latest news at www.chocfilms.info

Jon Carpenter (Secretary) 238242 / secretary@chocfilms.info



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Crandall University Oxford Study Programme 2011

The Canadian students of 2011 left Charlbury in mid-April taking many happy memories with them. They were a smaller group than usual but their appreciation of Charlbury and its community was as strong as ever. Below are some of their comments:

From the moment we arrived in Charlbury I was touched by people's open friendliness. As I walked through the narrow streets, passing the named cottages and entered the graveyard on the way to the train station every morning I felt as if I was living in a story book. I am so happy that I got to call Charlbury home for three months and met some of its wonderful inhabitants! I so hope to return in the future. *Hannah C*

This town is incredibly charming, and the community has been wonderful. You are so welcoming and willing to be helpful, especially the members of the Charlbury Baptist Church and the coordinators of the programme. Thank you for including us in your lives and sharing your town with us. You have made this town unforgettable. *Maria G*

I have had a wonderful time staying here in Charlbury. It is such a beautiful place, especially when the sun is out! Your town is amazing, clean, and beautiful. I especially love the Cotswold stone and everyone's beautiful gardens! It's so quaint and picturesque with convenient access to Oxford! All of the people that I have met are lovely. Everyone is so friendly. The last three months have been the best months of my life and that is thanks to you! Thank you all for making these months so memorable. Special thanks to my hosts, the programme coordinators and Charlbury Baptist Church! *Beth O'B*

Charlbury is a place that I will always refer to as my second home. It's a beautiful fairytale town, and its residents are just as charming. I'm so sad to be leaving it, and I will always look back fondly on the people I've met and the places I've seen. Thank you so much for everything you all have done, whether it was saying a simple "hello" in passing, or perhaps playing a larger role in making our time here a dream come true. Thank you, Charlbury, for everything. *Shawna P*

First of all I would like to thank everyone in Charlbury who helped to make me feel comfortable during my stay. I will always think back to this trip and remember Charlbury with fond memories. I loved all the flowers that can be seen around the various houses - especially when there is still snow in Canada. It has been pleasant walking through Lees Heights and Little Lees and smelling the flowers along the way and it has been a wonderful way to escape into nature. I will never forget all the exercise that Dancer's Hill has provided me! I hope that I can return in the not too distant future and visit with all the familiar places and friendly faces. *Evan P*

Being in Charlbury has been the highlight of my time in England, and this beautiful town is full of the most friendly people. I feel so blessed to have been able to meet and get to know so many incredible people, and cannot thank you enough for all you have done to make my stay here an experience I will always treasure! *Mareika D*

How perfect is this town of Charlbury. Placed in the middle of rolling fields and centuries of history, the streets are frequented by warm expressions between complete strangers.

(continued from previous page)

Returning to Charlbury from a day of lectures in Oxford felt so comfortable, and the hospitality when I walked into any shop or pub was much appreciated. Thank you so much, people of Charlbury, for showing such kindness to us, and such genuine investment into our lives. From the Co-op to the Rose & Crown, good conversation came easy and great memories followed. *Jenina de V*

Coming to Charlbury has been one of the best experiences of my life. This town has been so welcoming, and I loved being able to go to the Rose & Crown and listen to the live music. The whole of my time here has been fantastically amazing and I would just like to thank you all. *Sally B*

CRANDALL UNIVERSITY OXFORD PROGRAMME - 2012

ACCOMMODATION FOR CANADIAN STUDENTS.

We are always on the lookout for suitable hosts for the above programme, which happens every year between January and April. We need accommodation within walking distance of Charlbury station and the Coop, for one or two students at a time. Each student needs a room big enough to study in, with cupboard space in your kitchen for their food.

The students are all aged between 20-24 and come from strong faith-based backgrounds. Many of them forge strong, long term friendships with the people who accommodate them, and they are extremely appreciative of their time in Charlbury which is unlike anything they experience in Canada

If you think that you might be interested in offering accommodation for our 2012 programme and would like to know more, please contact either Marion Greenfield (01608 810896) or Gill Colman (01608 810211)

Marion Greenfield

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NEWS FROM CORNBURY *from the Cornbury Park team*

This summer we're hosting several exciting events which as well as being entertaining, we hope will prove great fundraisers for our community:

On the afternoon of Sunday 10 July we welcome the Oxford Shakespeare Company with their production of *Comedy of Errors*. You can buy tickets at <http://www.oxfordshakespearecompany.co.uk/>

Then on 17 July classic cars will be on show in Cornbury – more info at www.classicshows.org. And from 12 – 14 August we play host to Wilderness, a pioneering new festival of music, food, learning, literature and rejuvenation. It will include performances, fireside banquets, theatrical spectacles from the Old Vic and award-winning musicians such as Laura Marling and Antony and the Johnsons. There will be talks and debates from organisations such as Intelligence Squared and The Idler. Restorative healing treatments and yoga workshops will be on offer as well as hot tubs, saunas and massages, lake swimming, boating, fly fishing, and a magical children's area with games on the front lawn. For Wilderness, Charlbury Primary School is teaming up with Finstock School to run the tea tent and Charlbury Pre School will be running the pig roast. A number of discounted tickets are available for locals - for further details and tickets, please go to: www.wildernessfestival.com

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

Church Services

Baptist Chapel, Dyer's Hill



Sunday Services at 10.30am

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 & 9 am S Kenelm's, Ch Enstone

Daily Mass: 9.30 St Teresa's, 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.communigate.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

CHARLBURY OPEN GARDENS ON SUNDAY 5th June 2011



This will be the **13th** annual ***Open Gardens Day***.
To celebrate we are holding a **JAZZ LUNCH** - so come along early for a cool, relaxed, Jazz Lunch with Alan Fraser & Friends in The Memorial Hall at 12.30 pm.

Numbers are limited to 60 for the lunch and you can buy the tickets outside the Corner House on 28th May or 4th June. You can also contact Vic Allison directly. The ticket prices will be **£10.00** each so put the date in your diaries **NOW** before they all get sold out.

Garden tickets will be on sale at The Corner House from 1.30 pm on the day and the gardens open from 2 - 6 pm – great raffle prizes – teas and plant sale at the Memorial Hall.

For more information please contact Vic Allison 01608 811262 or email vic.allison@btinternet.com.

BULK OIL BUYING SCHEME ~

Interest increases each day for
Oil Buying Scheme

The huge level of interest in ORCC Trading's new oil buying scheme has certainly kept us on our toes over the last few weeks and it's great to see how many communities have already responded positively and got co-ordinators in place. The numbers of both co-ordinators and members are going up every day and the scheme is set to be a huge success. We reported on the very first members' experiences before Christmas. Since then, as all oil-buyers know, the snow, Christmas and desperate oil shortages all came together – along with a predictable hike in the price per litre. Thankfully, things have eased during January but there's a strong lesson for next year – don't leave your winter oil purchases too late, or you could find yourself paying a hugely increased price.

The scheme members who bought at the end of January got a really good deal, paying **50p per litre, compared to an average price on the day of 56p per litre and a maximum that day of 62p per litre.**

Lots of people have asked us about how much a tank of oil will cost them and we have to point out that the prices vary from hour to hour and from day to day, so there is no single answer and if you are buying on a different date there is no guarantee that the prices will look anything like those you see above. (We only started the scheme in November and already we've seen prices ranging from 43.9p to 70p per litre!). But what we can say is that whatever the average price on the day you order, you will do better as part of the ORCC buying scheme than you would do on your own – on average, saving about £50 on

1,000 litres. With a household membership fee of only £20, you can't lose. And you can order as many times as you want during the year. So come and join us – remember, you benefit, ORCC benefits, the environment benefits. What's not to like about that?

Annual Memberships fees: Individual - £20; Community organisations - £30; and Business - £100

If you would like to join the scheme look at the ORCC website www.oxonrcc.org.uk for a membership form, or if you know who your local co-ordinator is, just get in touch with them.

*Christine Bartle, Administrative Officer
ORCC Trading Ltd
and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney OX29 4SZ
Tel: 01865 883488. Fax: 01865 883191
Email: christine.bartle@oxonrcc.org*

Bridewell Organic Gardens

will be open on Sunday, 5th June 2011
Sunday, 17th July 2011
Sunday 11th September 2011
from 2 - 5pm

Teas, plants and Bridewell Organic
Wine for sale

Bridewell is situated in Wilcote, between
North Leigh and Finstock

For more information, please telephone
01993 864530 or 868313

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

I am writing this at a time of blossom, spring sunshine and the royal wedding - all delight and optimism. Who knows what June and the future will bring ?

However, to continue in the optimistic vein, after a spate of seasonal AGMs, I was able to report at all of them that the WODC grants have not been cut. This has great repercussions for us; the three biggest grants go to organisations which do much in our immediate area and are very dear to the hearts of many of us.

The first is the Citizens Advice Bureau in Witney which helps and counsels a very large number, not only in Witney but all over the surrounding area. Unfortunately, as times get harder this organisation will become more and more vital. The second is the Theatre at Chipping Norton which is hugely enjoyed by many of us and not only at pantomime time ! It also adds greatly to the attraction of this area for tourists and that industry is worth near £250,000 to West Oxfordshire. The third is the Wychwood Forest Project which enhances and protects the forest, a crucial part of our heritage and landscape.

These all have in common, not only that they are the recipients of grants from WODC but also that they are supported and assisted by devoted volunteers - as is the case with our splendid new sports pavilion on Nine Acres, which received a grant last year from WODC. However, this would have been no use without the untiring efforts of many people - especially the late John Merriman and Robert Caston. This is our big society and we should be thankful for it.

Mike Breakell stood down from representing Charlbury and Finstock on the District Council in May, and writes:

' I have thoroughly enjoyed, well for the most part anyway, representing residents of Finstock, Fawler, and Charlbury for the past nine years. All three communities are very different, but Charlbury with almost three thousand lively inhabitants usually provides as many different suggestions as to how to resolve any particular problem, like clearing snow or rubbish or making buses operate effectively.... Listening to all these views can often be enjoyable, sometimes exhausting, but so often difficult to resolve to satisfy everyone. This is particularly so regarding planning matters which is my own particular interest. However, I must say that everyone has been remarkably patient, and polite, so that matters have generally ended amicably. I feel it is such a satisfying way to end my term of office and want to thank everyone via the excellent *Chronicle* and its hard-working editor, and equally hard-working colleagues, and now indeed friends, on the Town Council and the Charlbury Conservation Committee, and of course my fellow District Councillor Glena Chadwick and County Councillor Neil Owen. *Mike Breakell*

Adult Learning Workshops 11th June 2011

There's nothing like learning something new, or exploring an interest, to revitalise you and give you a new lease of life. These workshops have been designed to inspire you, and to fit in to busy lives. All workshops take place on Saturday 21st May 2011 at Chipping Norton Adult Learning, which is based at Chipping Norton School.

Indian Embroidery Workshop with Judith Gussin: Using the shapes and techniques of mainly Indian or Bangladeshi textiles, designs will be developed and a piece of embroidery started. Learners can bring their own textiles and some of my collection will be available for study. There will be examples of different embroideries, from relatively easy ideas that can be completed in the one day, to those that could be developed and set up, and could be completed at home. **This workshop runs from 10 – 4 at a cost of £36. Please quote course code CN07T062LL**

Life Drawing (mixed ability) with Jill Colchester: On this course the learners will make many drawings from short poses and fewer drawings from longer poses. The learners will be taken out of their drawing comfort zone and encouraged to extend their drawing skills by experiencing fresh approaches to life drawing. New learners will be tutored more closely and work at a pace that is appropriate to them.

This workshop runs from 10 – 3 at a cost of £42, which includes the model fee. Please quote course code CN09T044LL

Gargoyle Sculpting using Mod Roc with Glyn Rowlands: Design and make a large gargoyle using wire and mod-roc. **This workshop runs from 10 – 4 at a cost of £36, which includes materials. Please quote course code CN09T512C**

Flower Arranging with Sally Ashton-Bridges: This is an introductory course for flower arranging. You will make two floral items: a fun handbag design and a contemporary line design. **This workshop runs from 10 – 4 at a cost of £36. Please quote course code CN09T715C**

Qi Gong Healing with Alan Baker: Explore the very basics of Qi Gong healing through discussion and practice. You will also be introduced to Qi Gong exercises which help to improve the flow of energy around your own body when you practice them. **This workshop runs from 10 – 4 at a cost of £33. Please quote course code CN09T400H**

Nutrition: Principles of Healthy Living with Sharyn Singer: There is plenty of information available that attempts to guide us toward improving our health and wellbeing with food. Yet it can often be contradictory if not confusing. On this workshop, Naturopath Sharyn Singer will discuss and demonstrate practical, common sense ways to understand the connection between what we eat and how we feel. You'll also have the chance to participate in preparing and trying simple tasty and seasonal recipes to make at home. **This workshop runs from 10 – 4 at a cost of £41. Please quote course code CN07T053H**

Skincare and Makeup with Julie Goodman: Spend the day learning about skin care and applying make-up in the professional way. Look at current skin care and make up trends and apply make-up using the look you have chosen. Know your skin type and develop your make up skills. **This workshop runs from 10 – 4 at a cost of £36. Please quote course code CN07T304H**

For further details, or to enrol, please call our enrolment line on 0845 351 0646 or visit our website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/adultlearning. The Chipping Norton office can be contacted on 01608 641644



Police Report from PCSO Wesley Smith

In the last month there have been five burglaries across the area. The properties that have been targeted are more often than not ones with insecure windows or doors. We have seen an improvement in the weather recently and it is therefore tempting to let the fresh air blow through our homes, however it is important to secure your home before you leave. Also, please ensure that you do not leave valuable items on display which could tempt a would-be burglar to break a window or force a door.

With the good weather rapidly approaching more and more people are choosing to enjoy our wonderful countryside by driving to certain locations and then walking. Unfortunately this has resulted in an increase in the theft of items from vehicles. The public are urged to be conscious of what they leave in their vehicles while doing this. Prior to going for a walk please consider exactly what you need to take with you. If you don't need a handbag or a 'sat nav' then please leave them at home. Our advice to the public remains the same, if you think someone or something looks suspicious please call us. We would much rather check something out and find it is in order than discover after the event that a crime has been committed.

The perfect example of this recently was following the spate of thefts from gardens we experienced in Chipping Norton. Vigilant members of the public noticed a local garden suddenly became full of new items. Further investigation by the neighbourhood team discovered that many of these items were stolen. A local 29-year old man has been charged with two burglary offences and asked for six further

theft offences to be taken into consideration..

Remember if you wish to contact me to discuss any police issues please either call the non-emergency number on 0845 8 505 505 or email Wesley.smith@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

SPORTS PAVILION UPDATE

The building of the new sports pavilion on the Nine Acres Recreation Ground has now been completed, apart from a snagging process to put right any minor faults.

At the beginning of April we held a ceremony when the builders D S J Building Ltd. and the architect Peter Smith Architects Ltd. handed over the keys to John Merri-man, who has been an advocate and campaigner for a new sports pavilion during his many years on the executive committee for Nine Acres.

Sadly John died on the 19th April and his humour, common sense and enthusiasm will be much missed by the Nine Acres Committee members. His wife, Ina, and family have very generously offered to donate money to the new pavilion in John's memory.

By the time this report is published, we will have held our official opening event in the middle of May, which will have given us the opportunity to thank all those groups and individuals whose financial contribution to our pavilion fund has made this new pavilion a reality.

Further information is available from Robert Caston (810240).

NEWS FROM CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

This edition's column consists of edited extracts from a recent letter to parents from the Headteacher, Jane Holt:

"Over the last six years we have been really creative with the school budget, making it work to the advantage of all pupils in the school. We now have a high ratio of adults to pupils, a fantastic range of interventions to aid different abilities of children, a lovely Working environment and a good range of resources to aid the teaching and learning.

However, at present we are facing uncertain and challenging educational times and we have to brace ourselves for the oncoming cuts in education budgets. There are a number of issues that are facing the Senior Leadership Team and Finance Committee of the Governing Body:

- * Our school budget is likely to be less than it was last year.
- * School will have to pay for services from the Local Authority that were previously free, such as visits from educational psychologists and other specialists, if we wish to keep the same level of support.
- * There will be no money for teacher or teaching assistant increments.
- * There will be no money to take account of inflation.
- * The Carbon Reduction Commitment came into force on 1st April and this involves a tax on the energy that school uses. This will probably be between 6% and 8%.
- * Our 'devolved capital' (money that is used specifically for building work) reduced by 80% on 1st April.
- * No grants/money will be available to improve technology in school.

Despite these challenges, following our recent OFSTED Inspection and subsequent OFSTED report, it is very clear that we are on the right track to becoming an 'Outstanding' school and have the capacity to achieve this. Therefore throughout the coming months we need to keep a positive focus and realise that Charlbury School has made huge strides forward and will continue to do so despite the pending cuts. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who makes Charlbury School such a special place to be.

I would like to stress that the CSA has been a fantastic fundraising body over the years and has given the school well over £76,000 since I arrived, six years ago. That is an amazing average of £12,600 per year. This amount of money has been used throughout the whole school and has provided many extras that our school budget simply could not afford. Please continue to support CSA activities so we can ensure future funding.

Also, thanks must go to the Beer Festival who have given the school £21,000 over the last 6 years, which is an average of £3,500 per year.

So thank you to all those members past and present. We have also been grateful to the Town Council in the past for their donation of £500 towards ICT equipment and our annual £50 from the Horticultural Society for planting is always gratefully received."



CHARLBURY PRE-SCHOOL

I would like to start my first of hopefully many Tot Bits columns by thanking Carina Loweth for her hard work and fantastic contribution to the *Charlbury Chronicle*. Her input will be sorely missed, (even more so when you have read what is to follow I would imagine) and has been appreciated by a large number of *Chronicle* readers.

When I was first introduced to Carina she explained that the *Chronicle* needed someone to take over the writing of the popular Tot Bits column. I was very interested. It's a fantastic project to be involved in and I promptly volunteered on the spot. It was only after arriving home and thinking about possible topics that I realised I had absolutely no idea what to write about. I have my own blog on which I post very occasionally and this is centred around the sports of boxing and football. My daughter, Dolly, is too young to be interested much in football and it's a little bit too soon to be regaling her with tales of Frank Bruno and his pugilist peers. You often hear people talk of 'having a angle' when writing pieces like these and I wondered what mine could or would be, after all I am just a stay-at-home Dad.....bingo!

Some of you may have seen Dolly and me on one of our daily walks around Charlbury. We're hard to miss. I've got a walking stick and tattoos and she is far taller than most 2 year olds have a right to be. Walking is an important part of our daily routine. It is good exercise for both of us, (I'm not getting any slimmer as the years progress) and it is a chance for us to enjoy the beautiful town in which we're very fortunate to live. My family and I moved to Charlbury in September of last year. We had been living in Witney for 12

months after relocating from London. The move to Oxfordshire was a huge change for us, not least because I gave up work to look after Dolly.

Living in the capital meant that my wife and I both had to work full-time and our daughter was in day-care for 40 hours a week. This isn't unusual in today's society and I wouldn't for one moment think that we were a special case. However, from a personal point of view I found it very hard. I would see Dolly awake for about 30 minutes each day and as a result she wasn't used to me. It became impossible to even sit with her in my arms as she would scream and scream. In the interests of fairness I should point out that she wasn't the first woman to complain loudly about being in my company but something definitely needed to change.

When the opportunity to move to Oxfordshire arose we looked at the facts and figures. By virtue of the fact that my wife is far more intelligent than me she has always been the main breadwinner and when we factored in the cost of childcare against my wages it became apparent that we would be virtually no worse off financially if I were to stop work and become a stay-at-home parent. With absolutely no thought as to whether or not I could do the job, (there is a definitely a pattern forming here) I decided that I would give it a go. That was 18 months ago. I have never been happier and now have a fantastic relationship with my daughter. It has not all been plain sailing although in typical male fashion I have a habit of exaggerating stories. Going food shopping is on a par with solving the crisis in the Middle East and calling the NHS Helpline becomes the equivalent of an emergency tracheotomy using a biro and a butter

TOT BITS

(continued from previous page)

knife. One of the hardest things I have found is the world of parent and toddler groups. We had tried one whilst living in Witney and it was a bit like gate crashing a Freemasons meeting. Lots of furtive whispering and disapproving looks. I don't think I have ever felt so unwelcome in my life. I did once get on with one of the mothers and suggested meeting up so the children could play together. I was greeted with a look that said the lady thought I was going to show up with half a dozen carnations, a bottle of Blue Nun and Chris De Burgh's Greatest Hits.

Luckily moving to Charlbury changed that and Dolly and I discovered a fantastic baby and toddler group. I have met some wonderful people there and we even get together socially! It has been run superbly but as Carina mentioned in her last column the lure of work has got too strong and Sophie is handing the running of the group over to someone else. I can only assume that the early spring sun clouded Sophie's judgement as that person is me. I can't promise that the stories will be read as well or that the singing will be as tuneful but I vow to try to emulate the enthusiasm and goodwill that has been my experience of the group to date.

We will still be meeting on 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 some-times parachute play. Providing you with a chance to relax, have a tea or coffee and enjoy some friendly conversation! (£2.50 per family).

If you have any queries about the group or any other issues relating to Tot Bits you can contact me on 07747 592620 or email at george.ogier@gmail.com

Macmillan Coffee Morning:

The official date for the "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" will be Friday September 30th this year. We have held it in our home for several years, but hope that this event could be organised by somebody else, or a group of people this year. Macmillan is really good at supporting the event, providing literature and resources and we have felt thrilled every year by the enormous positive response from Charlbury. We will be away this year so not able to co-ordinate or provide the venue. Other local people have had really successful mornings too, but hopefully this notice might inspire someone new to take it on. Any queries do contact us on 01608 810150

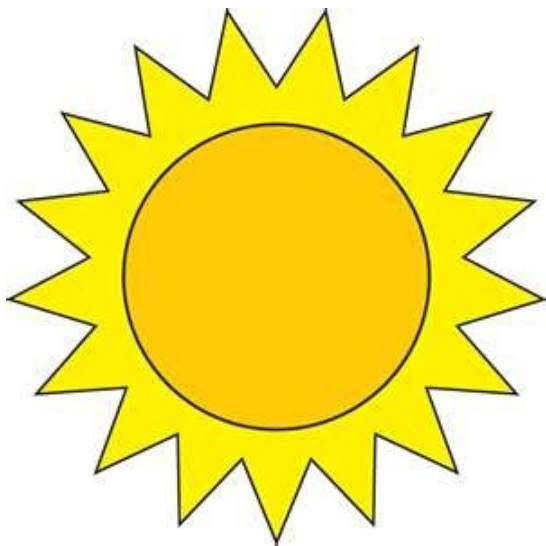
elizabethtait@msn.com Liz and Bob Tait

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE CORNER HOUSE

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

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

JOHN STANLEY'S WEATHER REPORT



It is a change to report a month of above average temperatures. After 6 consecutive months which were below average, **February 2011** came out at 47.29°. The average for 1989 to 2010 was 45.92°. A graph of the month looks like a mountain range, with three peaks - 53° on 6th, and 54° on 11th and 24th. In between, there were lows of 45° on 8th and 40° on 21st (and also on 28th). There were air frosts on just four nights, with the lowest being 27° on 1st. The highest night temperature was 48° on 6th/7th.

After such a cold December, it will probably come as a surprise to hear that the **winter of 2010/11** (December to February) was not quite as cold overall as 2009/10. Nevertheless, at 41.19°, it was well below the average of 44.26° and was the third coldest in the 22 year period.

After a warmer than average February, the first part of **March 2011** came as a bit of a shock. The first 10 days of the month were colder than February had been, with a daytime low of only 37° on 3rd. Then, temperatures were on the rise and by 21st, they had reached 59°. After this, I thought that my thermometer would no longer go any higher, as 59° was also recorded on 22nd, 23rd, 24th 25th and 28th. Finally, we did reach 60° on 31st. The daytime average for the month was 51.23°, just slightly below the average of 51.35°. There was an air frost on seven nights, the coldest being 25° on 7th/8th. This equalled the lowest March night temperature. The warmest night was 47° on 21st/22nd.

It is strange how, in meteorology, things have a habit of averaging out. After such a dreadfully cold December, we would surely have a record breaking warm month sometime afterwards. It duly came in **April 2011**. The 22 year average maximum daytime temperature for April is 56.77°. This April, we only failed to reach this on 3 days, with the lowest being 54° on 4th. Having struggled to reach 60° in March, we managed this on no less than 22 days in April. This included 11 consecutive days from 16th to 26th, during which 70° was reached on 4 days. The highest was 75° on 23rd, which equalled the previous record high for April (recorded on 16th April 2003). At 63.57°, it was the warmest April in 23 years, beating the previous record set in 2007 by 0.80° and only just being below the May average of 63.71°. You will have to wait for the September issue to see what May 2011 had in stored for us. For the third consecutive year, there were no air frosts during April. The lowest night temperature was 37° on 11th/12th and the highest 51° on 5th/6th.

Tips for sorting your recycling box

Most households have at least two recycling boxes. We're often asked if materials should be separated within the boxes. This is not necessary but it does help our crews if items could be grouped together in the following ways:

Box one

- Phone directories / catalogues
- Glass
- Textiles
- Shoes and trainers

Box two

- Plastic
- Tins, cans, foil and aerosols
- Cardboard and tetrapaks
- Household batteries (in a bag on top of other items in box)

If you have more than two boxes you can separate these materials further:

Car batteries, engine oil and cooking oil can also be recycled:

- **Car batteries** should be left beside your recycling boxes.
- **Engine oil** should be put in a sealed and labelled, non-returnable container beside your recycling boxes.
- **Cooking oil** should be allowed to cool. Small amounts can go straight in your food waste bin. Larger quantities can be put in a lidded **plastic** bottle, such as an old drinks bottle, and left either in, or next to, your food waste bin.



www.westoxon.gov.uk/waste

01993 861025



Email alerts

You can now sign up online for email alerts about bin collection days and service changes, such as weather disruption or Bank Holidays. Simply register at:

www.westoxon.gov.uk/waste

Extra recycling

Additional boxes for your recycling are available free of charge, please contact us.

Extra recycling can be put on or next to your boxes in either open clear bags or carrier bags. Please ensure that it is only one material per bag ie plastics or paper or card. For health and safety reasons, glass must go in your recycling boxes.

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)

Madeleine Wheare 810092

chabury.drama@gmail.com

www.charlbury-drama.com

Charlbury Arts Society (CAS) (810116)

Charlbury Beer Festival - Liz Donnelly

(810056) liz.donnelly@yahoo.com

www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Charlbury Bowls Club - Secretary, Heather

Hill - 810229

Charlbury Business Community - Joan

Belshaw (810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net

819117 - chamber@charlbury.info

Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (810130)

hughandjoan@uwclub.net

Charlbury Chess Club - Bob Douglas (810183)

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 - Colin Olliffe (01993

704108 or 07909 9788863) colin.olliffe@gmail.com

www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

Charlbury Day Centre - Bob Tait (810150)

Charlbury Evergreen Club - Ken Taylor (811441)

Charlbury Fairtraders - Cara Williams (811284)

michaelcara1965@yahoo.co.uk

Charlbury and District Garden Society

Nick Johnson (810507)

Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (811007)

peter@charlburymorris.org -

www.charlburymorris.org

Charlbury Museum - Jennifer Bartlett (810312)

Charlbury Open Gardens - Vic Allison

vic.allison@btinternet.com

Charlbury Pre-School Jan Stubberfield (811200)

Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter

(810388)

Charlbury School - Jane Holt, Head (810354)

office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

www.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 Simon Walker, (811414)

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 carlyynn@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

Church-

es Together - Rosalind Scott,

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

The Bell Hotel (810278)

Cornbury Music Festival - Hugh Phillimore

(0207 229 2219) mail@cornburyfestival.com

www.cornburyfestival.com

Cotswolds Guided Walks Peter Woollenden

(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 Probus Club of Charlbury Michael Marsh

(810029) mike@mikemarshmd.plus.com

Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (810635)

admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com

www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com

Shed Theatre - Teresa Laughton (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

United Nations Association (West Oxfordshire) -

malcolm.harper@ukonline.co.uk tel: 07778 450515



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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