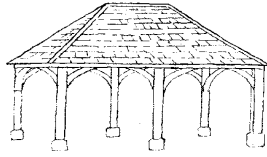


The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 16 Number 1

March 2012

Welcome to your March 2012 *Charlbury Chronicle*. Some of you might have noticed that it is wee bit larger than usual - there was so much news and information submitted this time that there was nothing for it but to add another four pages, which hasn't happened for a long time.

Please don't forget the May Council Elections, where there is a chance this year to change the face of our Council quite considerably. Several long-serving Councillors are standing down, so here is your chance to come forward and offer yourself for election and take your turn in serving the community.

We are delighted to feature the news that the Community Centre Appeal is coming to life again and you can read all about it on pp 4 and 5. Although you may think that the subject has been dormant for the last four years or so, in fact a great deal of work has been going on all the time, many obstacles have been overcome and now at last there is the assurance that

we are going to have our Community Centre before too long. This means that the CCCA is being resurrected and there will be lots of exciting fund-raising ideas for us all to support.

We have some unusual stories to tell - The Charlbury Pub Crawl that Ended in Murder on page 8 tells us about an incident that took place on the Ditchley Estate in 1861; the mysterious matter of The Charlbury Hum which seems to affect some people quite seriously; and an insight into Charlbury WI in the 1920s when they had talks entitled 'How to Manage a Husband', 'Home Cobbling' and 'Odd Jobbing' amongst others! And there's lots more. Read on !

Please make a note that the deadline for copy for the June *Chronicle* is May 1st.

Lynette Murphy

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET

Playing Close, Charlbury on Saturday
March 10 from 9am to 1pm

FRIENDS OF CHARLBURY LIBRARY

On 12 December 2011, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet decided to cut the staffing of our Library by one half instead of the threatened two-thirds. We are grateful to County Councillor Neil Owen who spoke on behalf of Charlbury at the Scrutiny Meeting and at the Cabinet, and Town Councillor Nicolette Lethbridge who also addressed the Cabinet. At the time of writing it is unclear how the new system will work in practice but we have invited a representative of OCC to explain at the AGM on 6 February (see below). We shall need more volunteers and if you feel able to do so please fill in one of the forms in the Library.

After this disheartening news it was a surprise to hear that OCC were reinstating their contribution to the proposed Community Centre which would include a library. We shall be working with the Thomas Gifford Charity and OCC to ensure that a new facility is an improvement on our present library which is the smallest in West Oxfordshire despite Charlbury being the fifth largest community.

There is a national meeting, Lobby for Libraries, to support public libraries at the Central Hall, Westminster at noon on Tuesday, 13 March. If you are able to, please attend to show you value libraries which are under threat nationally but are used by 40% of the population.

My thanks to all those who have supported the Friends over the 13 years I have had the honour to Chair the Friends of Charlbury Library.

Amanda Epps

Stop press: FRIENDS OF CHARLBURY LIBRARY - UPDATE

Thirty-seven people braved the cold weather to be at the AGM of the Friends of Charlbury Library on 6 February and hear Jillian Southwell, Library Services Manager, explain the County Council's latest thinking on the Library Service. Twenty-two libraries in Oxfordshire will have their staffing fully funded, five will receive two-thirds funding and sixteen, including Charlbury, will be 50% funded and expected to make up the staff hours lost with volunteers. All libraries will have books, IT etc provided by the County. Many questions were asked and it became clear that working out how this will affect us in Charlbury is an on-going process.

Amanda Epps was thanked for all that she has done to ensure that we still have a library in Charlbury. We are delighted that Jill Judson has been elected to chair the Friends and to help steer us through what may be turbulent times ahead.

Rosalind Scott - Secretary.

NEWS FROM CORNBURY *from the Cornbury Park team*

We're looking forward to a busy spring at Cornbury Park! On 25 March we welcome *Pooches in the Park*, our first sponsored dog walk in aid of Helen & Douglas House. We're hosting a sponsored walk in aid of the Wychwood Project on 21 April and a 30 mile sponsored walk for ROSY on 28 April. Then on 5 May we host *The W hole Hog Challenge* in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care, an adventure assault course through the forest. Check out these and other happenings on the events page on our website if you'd like to join in.

The Bushcraft Company are running some exciting campouts in the forest at Cornbury this spring including a Family Camp during the Easter holidays, with discounted rates for locals.

Special offer Wilderness tickets are now on sale at Charlbury Post Office. Just take along proof of address with an OX7 postcode for a great local discount to this popular arts & outdoors festival to be held August 10-12 . Last year over 1000 locals took up the offer, so hurry while stocks last!

We now have a new website at Cornbury which is more informative and easier to use at www.cornburypark.co.uk.

Follow us on Twitter @CornburyPark and at [Facebook.com/CornburyPark](https://www.facebook.com/CornburyPark), or get in touch by emailing us at: estate@cpark.co.uk or phoning on 01608 811 276.

CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE

After much anxiety about our future funding prospects, we were delighted to learn that this is not in jeopardy, at least for the year ahead. The grant that we receive will continue to pay our manager's salary and the rental of The Garden Room.

We have a full membership at the moment and a small waiting list, but would always be pleased to hear of anyone who might like to join us at the Centre, which provides an unthreatening and happy day out for all those who come.

The weather has been kind this year and did not interfere with any of our festive plans; carols on December 7th, a very social and well attended Open Morning on 14th and a much enjoyed Christmas lunch on 21st at Horace Holifield's farm in Finstock, sponsored generously by the Charlbury Beer Festival.

We still would love to hear from anyone, who could give even just an hour a month to drive members from their homes in to the Centre, or indeed anyone who would like to help during the day. Please contact me on 01608 810150.

Bob Tait, Chairman

CHARLBURY ARTS SOCIETY: On Saturday 14th April, the Art Society will be holding their Spring Exhibition in the Garden Room of the Memorial Hall, from 9.30am to 5pm. Entry in the morning only 30p. After noon, the exhibition will be combined with the Garden Society's Spring Show, when 50p will admit visitors to both. Delicious teas and a splendid raffle complete a delightful social event.

As well as the pictures there will be a variety of hand-painted cards, which always prove popular, and this year there will be a calligrapher ready to personalise cards with names or greetings of your choice.

Information about the society may be found at www.charlburyarts.co.uk, or by ringing the secretary on 01608 810116.

Marion Coates



To all Charlbury Residents

It is with great pleasure that I have agreed to take over from Lynette Murphy as Chair of the **Charlbury Community Centre Appeal**.

To those who do not know me I have lived in Charlbury all my life, and served with many organisations, including the CCCA, and was also one of the owners of the old Spendlove Centre before its demise in 1992.

I have always felt that we needed a Community Centre to serve all of Charlbury in a multitude of ways.

As you may be aware we have now received confirmation from Oxfordshire County Council that they have set aside £348,000.00 towards the project with a condition it must include a new Library.

Along with other funds raised by the Appeal, contributions from the Town Council, and the Charity's own funds, we have a total in the region of £600,000.

The Trust is in the process of finalising the design and specification for the new facilities and we should have drawings to show you soon. We know that we will need to raise a similar sum again, the bulk of which will come from selling part of the Spendlove site for the development of flats.

I am writing to you to ask for any offers of help and any ideas you may have as to ways to help raise the required funds. Events do not need to be grand and costly, every penny will help.

If you belong to any Charlbury Organisation you as a group could put on a fund raising event for the benefit of the Appeal.

As time is of the essence I would be pleased to hear from as many of you as possible, and to meet with you should you so wish.

Yours in anticipation, ALAN HANKS

NB You will shortly see a billboard about the new building erected on the Spendlove site



Good news at last! Eagle-eyed readers of the *Witney Gazette* and the *Oxford Mail* will have seen that Oxfordshire County Council has sent a letter to the Gifford Trust confirming that it will commit £348,000 to the development of new community facilities at the Spendlove site. These monies are those that Charlbury has argued are owed to it following the County's sale of the old primary school site in the early 1980s.

To obtain this commitment, the Trust had to prepare a business plan which demonstrated that new facilities would be financially viable and would deliver some of the County's educational objectives. Certain conditions are attached to the funding to ensure that the project is developed in a reasonable timescale and uses appropriate construction contract processes.

During the process of drafting the business plan, the trust reviewed the activities that the new facilities should serve. We concluded that it would be best to deliver a genuinely multi-purpose hall. This would include provision of indoor sports facilities – five-a-side football, indoor cricket, netball, and so on – consistent with the findings of the Town Appraisal in 1995. Part of this space should be designed for larger social events such as dances, antique fairs and weddings, similar to the uses to which the old Spendlove Centre was put before its demolition. The County has also asked that the existing Charlbury library be 'co-located' in the new centre through potentially joint use of space provided for other purposes such as adult education, or IT facilities. Trustees will work with the Friends of the Library to make the most of what the new community facility can provide.

The County's grant can be added to the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal's existing funds of £143,000 and £65,000 committed over the last few years by the Town Council to the scheme. The Appeal is being re-launched – see Alan Hanks' letter opposite – to raise a minimum further £100,000. A further major sum will come from selling a long lease on part of the site to a developer partner for the construction of flats.

Trustees are now working hard to finalise the specification of the new building so that it can seek an appropriate developer partner for the residential space and proceed to making a planning application for the site as a whole. These are exciting new developments which will mean that the currently derelict site will be transformed to provide flourishing community facilities offering opportunities for leisure and educational activities for all ages in the town.

And if you think that's exciting, wait until you see some of the proposals that come out of the Appeal for raising funds over the next twelve to eighteen months. This looks like it's going to be fun fun fun – making Charlbury an even better place to live (if that were possible!).

Liz Reason

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Charlbury Garden Society Spring Show and Plant Sale

The Society's **Spring Show** this year is on Saturday 14th April in the Memorial Hall. Staging 9.30-11.00 am. Open to the public 12 noon-4pm. In addition to daffodils, there are classes for other spring bulbs and plants. Children can enter a pot of spring bulbs, a posy of spring flowers, and an "egg head" planted with grass seed or cress. Schedules containing an entry form will be available in advance from the station, pharmacy, library and post office and can also be found via the website. You do not have to be a member of the Society to exhibit but members benefit from a discount when buying goods at six local garden centres.

Plant Sale Saturday 12th May from 9.30am in the Memorial Hall.

Rob Stepney

The Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society will hold their AGM and March lecture on March 14, 2012. The title of the lecture is "Matisse & Picasso" by Nina Levick. The AGM takes place at 10.30, one-half hour before the lecture.

The April lecture will be by Neil Faulkner on "The Ancient Greek Olympics", looking at what we know of these ancient games from literature, archaeology and art. The May lecture celebrates the bicentenary of Dickens with a lecture by Jane Tapley "Dickens Revisited".

Lectures take place at the Bradwell Village Hall, Burford, OX18 4XF. Please note the new start time of 11.00 am with coffee and tea available from 10.15. Non-members are very welcome (suggested donation £8). For more information please see our website www.cotswolddfas.org.

COMMUNITY LEARNING GROUP FOR DEMENTIA AWARENESS

Following a successful launch in December, Barbara Dunmore, a local carer, and Oxon Adult Learning has established a **Community Learning Group in Charlbury** for dementia awareness. Just before Christmas Barbara spoke on Radio Oxford about her experience caring for her husband at home.

We welcome new members joining us at any time to develop a dementia action plan for Charlbury. No prior knowledge or experience of dementia care is needed. A dementia specialist will talk about all aspects of dementia on Thursday 1 March from 10.30am – 1pm and Thursday 8 March from 10.30am – 1pm in the Garden Room at the Memorial Hall. There is also an evening group (7 – 9.30pm) running in Enstone, if this is more convenient for people. **Barbara Dunmore** (01608 810002) is the local Charlbury contact for this group.

Catharine Arakelian works as both Project Worker and Dementia Care Specialist. 07751 809271/01865 849768 / catharine@newdementiacare.org.uk We seek more local people and volunteers to lead on different aspects of the local plan according to their time and interests. Please feel free to tell your family and friends about the group and invite them along.

THE CHARLBURY PUB CRAWL THAT ENDED IN MURDER

The White Hart in Market Street has seen several changes of use over the centuries. It has been a coaching inn, a pub, and a private dwelling: but on at least one occasion it served as a public courtroom for the inquest into a notorious local murder.

It was late December 1861, and according to press reports of the time Charlbury was in a state of 'considerable excitement' following the shooting of a gamekeeper, Stephen Moulder, on the Ditchley Estate. The gunman had fled the scene, but just hours later police arrested a local man. A 33-year-old former soldier named John Hall was pulled from his bed, handcuffed and taken into custody in Chipping Norton.

Boxing Day crowds

The first part of the inquest was held the same day at Ditchley House, where Moulder's body had been taken: then on Boxing Day the accused was brought before a jury in the makeshift courtroom at the White Hart. 'The large club room ... was crowded to excess,' reported *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 'and the investigation appeared to excite the greatest interest.'

Among those giving evidence were gamekeeper Thomas Curtis, who had been with Moulder on the night of the murder; a poacher named John Tuckey, who had been overpowered at the murder scene, and who was also under arrest; and George Sorrell, a drinking companion of the two suspects.

Hall and Tuckey, it transpired, had been drinking all day in various pubs around Charlbury, including the Railway Arms on Sheep Street and the Royal Oak on Church Street. By the time they reached the Oxford House on Market Street, Hall was still not 'terrible drunk', according to Sorrell who met him there: but he was 'the worse for liquor', and declaring to everyone in the room 'that he should not mind shooting a man'.

After saying goodbye to Sorrell on the corner of Fisher's Lane, Hall and Tuckey called in at the house of John Maycock, who had been repairing Hall's gun. On trying to load it, though, Hall was so drunk that he gave up and said: 'Here, Jack, thee do it!' Maycock did so, though he was under no illusions about what his guests were planning to do. As he later told the packed room in the White Hart, 'they said nothing about going poaching, but that was my impression'.

Serious moonlight

Hall and Tuckey then headed out of Charlbury along the Woodstock Road in the moonlight: and turning into Shear's Copse they were spotted by the two gamekeepers, who followed them. The men were only about ten yards apart when suddenly Hall turned, put the gun to his shoulder and fired. Moulder fell instantly, and Curtis went in pursuit. While Hall escaped, Curtis knocked the other poacher to the ground so hard that he begged for mercy, crying: 'Mate! Mate!'

Once Tuckey was in custody, the police investigation began; and so many people had seen the two men drinking together earlier that Hall immediately came under suspicion.

Tuckey initially tried to shield him, saying that he had gone to Shear's Copse with someone he'd just met and whose name he didn't know. But now in the White Hart he admitted that he'd been lying: his fellow poacher was indeed John Hall.

After that, the jury took only a few minutes to come to their verdict. Hall was found guilty and sent to Oxford Gaol to await the next assizes.

'Callousness and indifference'

Press coverage at the time showed little sympathy for Hall. *Jackson's Oxford Journal* said that his appearance 'betokened a degree of callousness and indifference' – in contrast to Stephen Moulder, an upstanding family man with a wife and seven children. But there were two things in Hall's favour: his war record (he had taken part in the Relief of Lucknow three years earlier), and the possibility that it had just been an accident. And at a time when suspected murderers had no automatic right to a defence, he was lucky to win the sympathy of an unnamed 'lady of the city', who paid for two lawyers to represent him.

The evidence against Hall was overwhelming, so his defence hinged on the fact that 'the gun was a very insecure one, and the pull was so slight that it was almost equal to an air-gun trigger, and very different to the weapons which he had been accustomed to use in India' – making it possible that the gun had gone off accidentally.

The jury weren't convinced, and again they needed little time to reflect. After an hour's deliberation they found Hall guilty of 'wilful murder': but they recommended him to mercy on the grounds that they didn't believe he meant to kill Moulder, only to 'do him some grievous bodily harm'.

Grim ritual

Mr Justice Crompton responded that it wasn't in his power to grant leniency, only 'to administer the laws as he found them'. He then went through the grim ritual of putting on the black cap and reading out the sentence of death.

But Hall was lucky. Just three weeks after the trial, in March 1862, came the news that the Crown had accepted the recommendation for leniency and commuted the death sentence. John Hall was to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Back at Ditchley, Stephen Moulder's name lives on. Shear's Copse is still private, but organised farm walks occasionally take place on the estate. The most recent of these was in October 2011, when Ditchley's current gamekeeper David Hathaway showed a hundred local residents the monument marking the spot where the tragedy took place exactly 150 years before.

Meanwhile in Charlbury, the Oxford House and the Royal Oak are now private houses, but you can still get a drink at the former Railway Arms (now Ye Olde Three Horseshoes). Customers with murderous tendencies, however, may find it harder to get served than it was a century and a half ago.

Edward Fenton

A Farewell to Peter Cahill – Barber and Hairdresser in Charlbury for 42 years

Compiled by Diana Potten with the help of Brian Shurmer

Peter wanted to be a draughtsman but when he left school aged 15, his father thought he should be apprenticed to Stan Atkins, the local hairdresser and barber. He left school on the Friday and started work on the Monday. In 1969 he was given the chance to buy the business and decided to do so. Brian met Peter at the Charlbury Boy's Club in 1978 and as he was leaving school aged 16, Peter offered him an apprenticeship. He worked there from 1978 to 1985 and returned again in 1989 to work part-time till the present day. Brian found Peter a great person to work for. There was rarely a cross word, perhaps the occasional look. He was a good teacher. Brian said he tried to instruct him on how to do a shave with a cut throat razor. They used a tightly blown up balloon with a face on it. Shaving foam was applied and if you burst the balloon you had cut the customer. The shop was a real social centre – renowned for Peter's jokes and his sense of humour. He was burgled on the first night he owned the shop. Reporting the crime to the police and noting what had been taken from the shop, he suggested they look for two men, who were very cleanly shaven, were smoking heavily and were definitely sex maniacs. He also could not resist practical jokes. One day Vernie Hutt came in for a short back and sides. Peter was rather bored, so he started shaving the back of Vick's head in columns, which he was going to get rid of when he showed him it in the mirror. Unfortunately the fire siren went and Vernie dashed off. Peter waited late for him to come back and he could put it right. Apparently the fire went on into the night and Vernie's colleagues had had plenty of time to tease him. He came back the next day covered up with a hat and scarf and was not happy at first but saw the funny side of it. Apart from the shop being a pleasant place to work, there were many famous clients, dukes, lords, actors. One day Hank Marvin from the Shadows came in. He was staying in Finstock.





Besides the service Peter gave in the shop, he did a lot of work locally. He gave much of his time to youth clubs locally. He served on the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and was responsible for getting the Christmas tree decoration of Charlbury under way. He was on the Steering committee of the Town Appraisal. Now he has decided to move on. He and his wife are going to live in or near Stamford, where his wife Gwen was brought up. The business will be uninterrupted as Gemma Bull from Witney has taken it over.

Peter will be much missed. His contribution to Charlbury life has been appreciated. Everyone will want to wish him and Gwen a happy and peaceful retirement.

The rainfall measured at Lees Rest between 1 January and 31 December 2011 was 611mm (24.44ins), much less than last year by 135mm (5.4ins), making it the driest year since 1996 . The wettest month was December (87mm/3.48ins) and the driest was April (8mm/0.32ins). Lees Rest is about a mile and a half east of Charlbury, so the rainfall in the middle of the town may have been completely different!

Nick Potter

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CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS

Charlbury Museum will reopen for the summer on Saturday March 31st, and will be open as usual on Saturdays from 10 to 12, and Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2.30 to 4.30, until the end of September.

The special exhibition for this year, on Charlbury in the 1950s, related to the Diamond Jubilee, is progressing well, and the Museum is very grateful to Charlbury residents who have loaned items to us.

The Museum could not open without the faithful support of its volunteer stewards; if you would like to join them, please contact Janet Jeffs on 810709. There will be a stewards' evening in the Museum on March 23rd.



Charles Tyzack



Would you like to receive **free crime alerts and information** from Thames Valley Police and our community safety partners – via email or telephone?

Tens of thousands of people already receive Community Messages, either individually or on behalf of a group such as Neighbourhood Watch, Business Watch, Country Watch, Education Watch and Pubwatch.

Local, personal and directly to you

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve engagement with the public, we are developing our Community Messaging service to provide you with more information about community safety issues that are specific to your area.

What's in it for me?

If you live or work in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes or Oxfordshire, you can apply to receive Community Messages direct to your email or phone, and get information on: Crime in your area; action taken by the police and partners to tackle crime; crime prevention advice; appeals for witnesses or for help to trace missing people; events and opportunities to meet your neighbourhood policing team and have your say about events in your area

How do I register? To find out more about this free service and to apply online, [visit the Thames Valley Community Messaging website \(opens new window\)](#). Your online application will be reviewed by our administrators prior to arranging your access. Alternatively, call 101 and ask to speak with your local Neighbourhood Watch administrator.

Please note: the Community Messaging service is **not** for reporting crimes or incidents – to report these please call 101, the 24-hour Thames Valley Police non-emergency number. In an emergency, call 999. For more details, [view our Report a crime webpage](#).

PCSO Wesley Smith



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT, No. 61

By Councillor Helen Bessemer-Clark

Christmas Trees

Again, Charlbury put on its festive face for Christmas, and thanks are due to everyone involved with co-ordinating, distributing and indeed lighting their trees and other decorations. Particular thanks are due to Geoff Burroughs for his donation of a tree for the Corner House. Our business premises also gave us two enjoyable and useful late night shopping events.

Town Council Reception took place on 8th February in Corner House.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.0 p.m. on Friday, 30th March in the War Memorial Hall, and is an opportunity for all Charlbury residents to ask questions of your Council, and to make comments. It is hoped that the Saturday surgeries, which take place every other month, are helping with some of the queries, but there are often many live issues that may need clarification or explanation. A particular case in point may be the new Neighbourhood Plans.

Surgeries

This Council has reserved rooms in the Corner House for surgeries on Saturday, 7th April, and then 2nd June, 4th August and 6th October if the new Council wish to continue. If they do, then there will be a review in October and dates for 2013 agreed. Surgeries are held between 10.0 a.m. and 12.0 noon.

Annual Meeting of The Town Council

This will be on Wednesday, 16th May, 7.30 p.m. in the Corner House. It will be the first meeting of the newly elected Council, and will deal with the election of Chairman and Committee members for the following year. Details of this, and all other Council Meetings (to which members of the public are most welcome – and indeed, are encouraged to attend) can be found on the Town Council notice boards, which are outside the Corner House, opposite Five Ways store, and next to the Enstone Road bus stop. Minutes of meetings can be seen in the library, and together with other information, on the Council's own website, www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk. Anybody wishing to address the Council at their monthly meetings should notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Local Government Elections, Thursday, 3rd May

The Polling station is in the War Memorial Hall, 7.0 a.m. to 10.0 p.m. Details of the election can be found in the December Chronicle Town council report, but it will be known that the whole 12 members of the present Town Council will, as is customary, be standing down. Some may be standing for re-election, as well as new candidates putting themselves forward. One seat on the West Oxfordshire District Council will also become vacant in the Charlbury and Finstock Ward.

Annual Parish Boundary Walk

This will take place on Rogation Sunday 13th May. The new walk leader is Geoff Griffiths, who can be contacted on: 01608 811 312 It will start at 10.0 a.m. at the Old Oak

Tree on Forest Hill. There will be a break for picnic lunches at Model Farm, Ditchley, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Hobill. The Town Clerk would welcome any offers of help with stewarding and chauffeuring

Pot Holes

It is hoped that by the time you read this, work will have started on resurfacing Park Street and Grammar School Hill and we are told that the Spelsbury Road will be subject to a HAMP review to assess its condition. "Unfortunately", bad as we all know the road is, it has to be noted that the condition is caused more by loss of surface covering, rather than actual holes. However, should you find others, please report them to Oxfordshire County Council on 0845 310 11 11.

Refuse Collection – Bulky Waste

The Town Council approached officers at WODC asking them to consider the reintroduction of bulky waste skips, sited in Charlbury, as an interim measure following the closure of Dean Pit by OCC. The intention would be to enable residents to deposit large recyclable waste items without a long journey. This idea has not initially been supported, even though it has worked reasonably well previously but the Town Council has asked that the matter be taken up by our District Councillors.

Charlbury Fire Station

This is to remind readers that Oxfordshire County Council are seeking men and women to volunteer to be Retained Firefighters (part-time and paid) based at Charlbury Fire Station. They are particularly interested to hear from people who are available during daytime. If interested, please ring Chris Wilson at Rewley Road Fire Station, Oxford on 01865 242 223

Dyers Hill Road Markings

The new Scheme has been agreed with OCC and we are hoping that parking issues will be resolved shortly.

Affordable Housing

WODC granted planning consent to SOHA (South Oxfordshire Housing Association)'s scheme at the Little Lees site on 9th January. Building should start later this year.

The Library

Good News – OCC is keeping Charlbury library open. Bad news: OCC are cutting the permanent staff hours. As a result volunteers are needed to help run the library, but explanatory articles by Amanda Epps & Rosalind Scott appear on page 2 of this *Chronicle*.

Station Car Park

Charlbury Town Council have made some significant comments on the draft proposals. FGW expect to proceed under "permitted development" but we do not yet know when the work will start.

Decentralisation and Localism Bill – Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the Localism Bill local Councils are encouraged to produce neighbourhood

Continued over

plans. The Town Council are preparing a draft for public consultation. As soon as the initial draft is ready a public meeting will be arranged to consider this.

Precept

The details of the Town Council Precept (budget) for 2012 can be obtained from the Town Clerk, but are as follows: The Town Council element of the Council Tax for the year 2012/2013 will be £84,292.00 (previous year £76,341.00). Band D will be £64.44, which equates to a 10.34% increase. There are three main reasons for the increase this year:

- i) The new water supply system for the New Pavilion on Nine Acres;
- ii) a start up fund for new play equipment on Nine Acres;
- iii) set aside funds for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (QDJ) for a project to repair and restore the iron work on the Drinking Fountain.

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 Fair Traders is a group of individuals, mainly from St Mary's Church, who promote and encourage the use of fairly traded products. A wide range of items provided by Traidcraft, including coffees, teas and sugars; pastas, rice, dried fruits and cereals; confectionery and handicrafts, is normally for sale at St Mary's Church after Sunday morning service and at the Font Cafe on Thursday mornings.

Products are also provided to all other churches and at Street Fair and may be supplied at other events as required. Any profits from the sales are donated to charities and last year The Traders helped a Children's Project in Namibia, Practical Action, Traidcraft Exchange and Water Aid to the tune of £1000. Thanks to all those who purchase from The Traders, a good number of smaller producers world wide, not only benefited from fairer prices for their crops and products but were able to enjoy better housing, education and release from poverty.

As part of Fair Trade Fortnight Charlbury Fair Traders are holding a joint meeting with the Woodstock group on Friday 9th March at 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm in the Friends' Meeting House. A banana grower from St Vincent, Anton Bouoman, will talk about how the Fair Trade movement affects him, and a representative from the Fair Trade Foundation will also be at the meeting. Everyone is invited to enjoy fair trade tea, coffee and cake.

Any queries on the above can be directed to ted@tedwelsh.plus.com or by phone on 01608 819113.

The contact person for enquiries about The Traders is Cara Williams 01608 811284 (as in the Community Directory page of The Chronicle).

THE CHARLBURY HUM

Over the past couple of years, the local council has received numerous complaints about an incessant, low-frequency hum in the Charlbury area. People who hear it say that it's like a distant diesel engine, or a sort of modulating electricity sound, or even a washing machine on spin cycle. It can be heard indoors as well as outdoors, in the mornings as well as night, when all the electricity is off in the house or not. It's easiest to hear when ambient noises are at a minimum, so people who are worst affected find it difficult to sleep. And lack of sleep contributes to a whole series of physical and mental complaints that can, therefore, be traced back to hearing The Charlbury Hum.

Such Low-Frequency Hum complaints are not unique to Charlbury. The most famous Hum was in Bristol in the 1970s, when over a thousand people heard it and complained of nosebleeds, sleeplessness, and headaches. That particularly Hum seemed to mysteriously vanish, but others have popped up all over the world since: the Taos Hum, the Auckland Hum, and most recently, a Hum reported in a tiny village in County Durham. No one is sure if all these Hums are from the same source, like military communications which make use of Extremely Low Frequencies and can travel practically around the world; or from different sources like local telecommunications masts, electricity substations, natural gas mains, or various geological phenomena.

One thing is for sure: it's not a problem with the people's ears. Many "Hummers" – people who hear the noise – have excellent hearing. Even those who might suffer from tinnitus are quick to point out the difference between their tinnitus symptoms and hearing the external, environmentally produced Hum. Often, visitors, workmen, and family members will hear it, too, and going on holiday to a different area may offer complete respite from it. Someone with hearing problems would never escape it if it were an internal issue. So far, the council has not been able to isolate the frequency, nor the source of the Charlbury Hum. However, the more people who hear the Charlbury Hum, log their experiences of it, and make complaints to the council, the sooner we can all get to the bottom of it and reclaim a quiet night's sleep.

If you do suffer from The Hum, and you have made a complaint to the council, the only options you have in the meantime are either: to get a pair of wax-style earplugs (Hummers report that these are the only effective way to block out the sound); or to mask the sound with a fan, a humidifier, the telly, or other similar device.

To make a complaint to the West Oxfordshire District Council about The Charlbury Hum, you can either phone their message line: 0845 3039706 or use their online form at <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/furtherinfo/onlineservices.cfm?frmServiceformID=121>

Kat Patrick

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB

Preparations are under way for another busy season at the club, when over 100 games in senior, women's, youth and social cricket are expected between mid-April and mid-September. Club committees have been meeting during the winter, while essential work starts in early March to get the ground ready for such a demanding schedule.

Already, one trophy has been brought home with the Charlbury A team winning their division of the Banbury Indoor Cricket League, held during the winter months. And indoor training, held on Sundays at Burford School, has been catering for players of all ages and abilities. Nets, training and games all go outdoors from mid-April. For full details, visit the club's website at charlburycricketclub.com

New blood, new faces, are always welcome, perhaps more so now that the club has three league teams playing on Saturdays, a full programme of Sunday fixtures, midweek competitive and friendly games, and the county's leading women's team playing in the East Midlands Women's League. In addition, there is a full range of fixtures for boys and girls in our thriving youth section which has gained two newly trained coaches, Vicky Strobe and Ellie Norton, to help on Friday evenings. We're looking forward to another enjoyable and exciting season - why not come and join us.

David Horne

THE CHARLBURY SOCIETY

By the time you read this, we will have already enjoyed five out of seven of this season's scheduled talks. Once again, the society's committee has put together a wide-ranging programme that so far has covered a long-distance walk, butterflies,

two different views of Charlbury then and now, and the Cotswolds railway line.

Two different views indeed – and following Geoffrey Ellis's personal 'tour around the town' in December, in January we were treated to a four-way perspective of some of the societies that have provided Charlbury with a range of interests through the years. Ably assisted by Celia Faulkner, Janet Jeffs looked at some of the societies that featured in the past ("from A to Z, missing out most of the letters in between", she said), Derek Collett brought us up to date with the Cricket Club, Pam Bradley, Geoff Clifford and Madeleine Wheare looked at CADS through the years, and Christine Elliott provided a thoughtful finale about the Waste Action Group, energy saving and making the best use of our personal and community resources. It was an excellent evening indeed, and something that we may well revisit in a couple of years' time.

Which neatly brings us on to the rest of this year's talks – Carol Anderson on Woodstock's steel industry in March and Chris Galloway on Ditchley Park in April – before we get together for the AGM in May. That won't be the end of our programme, though, with plans being drawn up for at least one visit to somewhere of interest during the summer.

In the mean time, the committee is looking for topics for talks to include in the 2012-13 programme, so if you have specific ideas on suitable subjects, or have contact with speakers who would be able to come and inspire us, please get in touch with me on 811414..

In common with many other groups here and elsewhere, one of the biggest challenges facing The Charlbury Society in the future is to maintain both an active membership and involve people who can spare the time to help organise our events. As mentioned in the last *Chron-*

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

ice, we really do need some extra help in two specific areas right now: someone to pick up the baton (or should that be hiking-pole?) from Tony Graeme and organise the monthly walks that featured so prominently in the past, and someone else to organise the refreshments rota for our meetings. The walks have already gone into hibernation pending the arrival of a new organiser, and the future for our teas and coffees looks bleak unless someone steps up to the plate (and cup and saucer). Last of all, please remember that membership of The Charlbury Society is open to everyone, and that visitors are always welcome at our Thursday evening talks. We aim to tailor our programme to appeal to as many interests as possible – hopefully including yours.

Simon Walker
Chairman, The Charlbury Society

CHARLBURY BOWLS CLUB

Open Day – 21st April 2012 – 2:30pm

Many people having seen bowls competitions on T.V., or maybe having stopped to watch a game in progress in their local park have at some time thought 'I wouldn't mind giving that a try.' Well, the reasons and excuses why they haven't are probably far too numerous to list here, I will just try to give you an insight into giving the game a try.

Probably the number one reason you haven't tried bowls yet is that it is considered by those not involved in the game to be a sport for the older generation. Well, I would love to say the youngsters are coming, but, they are already here, the under 25 scene is flourishing both at County, National and International level. The next reason is that

people decide they wouldn't be any good at the game. This really is a terrible excuse as no one is any good when they first start, let's face it the d**m balls don't even roll in a straight line for heavens sake! Having already watched the game do you really think you are going to be playing against Alex Marshall or David Gourlay the first time you go on the green.

When you finally decide to give the game a try, pop in and see us. We welcome potential new members, so believe me, we will be overjoyed to hear from you. We can arrange for you to meet the club coach, he is a volunteer who has qualified through various courses at his own expense to do the job he loves, coaching newcomers to the game. He will show you the basics of the game and ensure your delivery of the bowls is correct, yes the object of the game is complicated (get as many bowls as you can, as close to the little white ball at the other end of the green as you can - that's it).

When you are ready to try a competitive game there are many friendly games arranged against other local Clubs, in these games you will find many like yourself who have only recently joined the sport, so no one will expect you to perform like a superstar, they will just expect you to enjoy the game, after all that's what the game is all about, enjoying yourself. Yes, you will sometimes come up against stiff opposition after all County, National and International players also play Club games, but often what you can learn from these players is invaluable in improving your own game. Well, once you have got this far the sky's the limit, so I don't have to write anymore. Hope to see you at the open day.

*For more details please call Heather Hill
on 01608 810229.*

Continued over

CLUBS, GROUPS, etc

CHARLBURY TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club will be holding their successful 6-a-side Football Tournament on Sunday 27th May. It will be held on the Nine Acres Playing fields and will feature teams from all over Oxfordshire. We will be running competitions from under 7's up to under 14's. There will be a BBQ, drinks and games as well as all the football.

This will conclude another superb season for the youth football club that currently runs teams in 10 age groups and it will be our first tournament with the fantastic new pavilion.

Clive Brooks. Chairman

*Items for the Clubs, Groups & Societies section should be discussed with
Julia Caston (810240)*

CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL

In addition to the paper diary on display in the Corner House, weekly bookings for both the Corner House and Memorial Hall can now be viewed on the Charlbury website. They can be located via the 'tabs' Community, Town Facilities. For convenience, booking forms can also be downloaded from the same web page, but they still need to be submitted on paper for consideration by the Management Committee meetings in the normal way.

Friday Coffee Mornings in the Corner House continue to be popular and the Brize Singers make a welcome return to the Memorial Hall for an evening concert on April 20th.

Tickets from usual venues. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the buildings for these events.

Stephen Andrews, Chairman (811212)

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is pleased to offer a hot lunch, including pudding, delivered each Tuesday at noon. The cost is £2.00 per meal. If you or someone you know would like to receive a meal, please phone Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 810 161.

Extra volunteer help is always appreciated. If you would like to help with either delivery or in the kitchen, please contact Jan Griffiths on 01608 810 440. Thank you to all the volunteers for their help in 2011. An extra thank you to our talented cooks, Ali Bailey and Marianne Lewis.

Margie Glasgow

TIM WIDDOWS

**Picture
Framer,
Gallery &
Gift Shop
Owner**

A DAY'S LIFE

I normally wake up about 7.20 am and catch the day's news on the TV whilst in bed; then after a quick shower, I take my dog Emma up to my parents' farm on Banbury Hill, where she usually spends her day. Emma is a Springer Spaniel and she needs her exercise, so I take her around the farmland for her first walk of the day after which I have breakfast at the farm usually either toast or porridge. I'm normally back at the shop by 8.30 am. Since moving into the new premises on Market Street I have had some extensive renovations

done to the shop and the accommodation above which are just about completed, I've had to make the roof watertight, and I've updated the kitchen and bathroom facilities. I have installed wood burners in the shop and the flat for heating which are great. I feel that the shop has gone full circle as my parents once owned it in the late 1970s and early 80s where they ran a small DIY shop called 'The Tool Chest' and now it's my turn to make my mark on Charlbury.

On arriving back in the shop the first job is to light the wood burner to warm everything up for the day ahead. I then switch on the computer and compressor for the framing machines. At 9 o'clock I am ready to fling open the doors to let the customers flock in but then again this is Charlbury, which likes to do things sedately nowadays so I take the chance to trawl the internet and read the newspapers on line. Normally I start framing about 9.30. I can never predict what pattern the morning will take – sometimes I have a flurry of customers in the shop, sometimes it will be very quiet and the only person I see is the postman. Saturdays are very variable; gone are the days when it was a bustling town which is a great shame because the town centre has a lot to offer. From April till the end of December inclusive the shop is open on Sundays from 12 o'clock to 4 o'clock. Again this can be a mixed bag on how busy we will be. At 11 o'clock I allow myself a coffee break, during which I look at the internet again, usually E-bay where I occasionally pick up some display ideas and material. I got the Ferris wheel that I used this Christmas like that back in September. You have to do a lot of forward thinking and be prepared to buy at any time of the year. After my break I continue with framing and serving customers until lunchtime about 1pm.

I was born and bred in Charlbury. I went to the local primary school and then onto Spendlove. When it closed in 1978, I used to travel by bus to Marlborough school in Woodstock. My education and experiences after that, I think, have led to where I am today. After school I went to the West Oxfordshire Technical College in Witney to do a Certificate in Further Education in Engineering and Construction. It was good fun because I was interested in electronics, particularly radio, audio and TV systems. In 1983 under the Youth Training Scheme (earning £25.00 per week) I went to work in Ken Price's electrical retail shop in the High Street in Witney. I did a further one day a week training in retail management in Blackbird Leys in Oxfordshire. I would drive there in my first car a Simca LX - a luxury model - it was yellow with a brown go-faster stripe and sheep skin seat covers. Driving to college on my first day, I drove all the way with the choke out and ended up in a lay-by trying to work out why the car was not running well (my knowledge of cars hasn't changed much since then). Ken Price's was a great place to work; they let me repair radios and televisions and I was even allowed to buy stock for the shop off the vans that used to call by in those days albeit on a small scale; it was good training. My first proper job was for Solid State Logic. This was a local company that made mixing console desks for the music industry. First of all I was a loomer that meant dealing with the cables inside the mixing desk. Then I was Frame Kit technician putting

together the casings that held all the computers systems together, I used to like to think that I was helping Kylie Minogue on her climb to fame!

I was now 20 years old and decided I needed to travel, so a friend and I went to Europe. We got a month's rail pass and in that time did Holland, Germany, France, Italy and Yugoslavia, which was great fun. We parted company in Spain and I travelled onto Gibraltar, the one place where I could speak the language. I managed to get myself a job in The Red House, which is the equivalent of Harrods. I walked in, asked for a job and within 2 weeks I was an employee. They started me off selling Rolex watches and Leica photographic equipment; after a while I was even made temporary manager of their Kodak wholesale department -a great experience for me. I did this for about eight months after which I decided to return to the UK. I was offered a job managing Ken Price's old shop in Witney which had been bought out and It was very different working there than it was before. After a couple of months I moved on and decided to work on the parents farm and caravan site. Working on the caravan site was different again; you have to be prepared to put your hand to anything from serving breakfast to cleaning the toilets and checking in customers. It was during this time that I did a residential course at West Dean College, Chichester in picture framing and went on to framing for family and friends, which was great.

However the lure of travel was still there and in 1991 my sister and I applied to work as cook and bottle washer in a French ski chalet. During the interview I was offered the chance to be Resort Manager for the company, they just had 2 chalets in the resort of La Plange in France. It was the time of the winter Olympics and the bob sleigh races were being held there. It all went very well. I was ski guiding as well as being a rep but unfortunately I started to suffer with bad headaches and ended up in hospital. Apparently the altitude was affecting me and after a few more attacks I decided to return home and continued to work at the parent's farm. Then in November 1993 I decided to do some more travelling but in the far East this time, Christmas in China, New Year in Hong Kong, elephant trekking in Thailand, Tai Pu San festival in Malaysia, chilling out in Indonesia, sheep farming in Australia, skiing, bungee jumping, and whale watching in New Zealand and lots more it was a packed 8 months. After returning home I returned to working on the parents' campsite until 2003, when I went to work for The Burford Garden Company as a temporary assistant; by early 2004 I was deputy manager of the Sundries Department selling seeds and chemicals, outdoor furniture and setting up Christmas. After some restructuring of employees I was moved into the maintenance department, which is just as well as gardening was not my forte. In 2006 all the things I had been doing in my past seemed to come together and I decided that my artistic side was beckoning and I opened my own shop. My first site was in the gallery at Newington House, Sheep Street, which had been Mrs. Ley's old shop and within 6 weeks of making the decision to open I was up and running. I think some of Charlbury thought I was mad but if you're a specialist shop I reckon you have more of a chance of survival and it seems to be working and customers realise that they can get some great gifts that they wouldn't normally find on the High Street, as well as a good local framing service.

I don't close the shop during lunch in the hope that I will pick up some more trade. Lunch usually consists of a bowl of porridge or soup out the back. The afternoon is again a mixture of work; there is always plenty to do from more framing, administration or renewing the window display, I try to change the window fairly often and enjoy coming up with different ideas all the time. Some of these window scenes come from watching the TV and films and not always from the one program; it could be a mixture of 2 or 3 with a lot of artistic licence thrown in. Most of my stock I have to buy although some locally pro-

duced items are on a sale or return basis which is great and helps give budding local artist a foot in the door to having their work exhibited.

Tuesday is my day off but I usually end up doing something connected to the shop visiting suppliers, trade shows etc

I want to get back into horse riding which I used to do a lot of but when I started the shop I had to sell "Rupert" my horse as I couldn't afford to do both. We used to do a fair bit of competing together, show jumping and cross country events and once we even made it to the National Finals at Windsor Great Park where we did a very respectable clear round.

At 5.30 I close the shop and collect the dog from the farm. Although she has been walked a lot during the day, I enjoy giving her a run. I have a cup of tea and a quick chat with the family. I head back to the house around 6.30 pm. I switch on the Radio, feed the dog and set about preparing my dinner. I am not a great fan of cooking. The reduced shelf at the Co-op is a great help! I eat my supper in front of the TV where I might stop the whole evening or decide to wallow in the bath reading a book or if I'm pushed I'm back down in the shop finishing a frame or sometimes changing the window. If it is a big job like the Christmas display it has been known that I might be there until midnight. I am usually in bed by eleven and I either watch TV or listen to the radio. Emma sleeps on my bed which is one of the reasons why I'm still single so I've been told.

I have always wanted to be a shopkeeper. I love talking to people advising them as to what different options are available when it comes to their framing. I don't believe in pressure selling and tell clients that there are no wrong or right ways to framing their picture as long as it doesn't damage their work. It's all down to personal taste.

Running a shop in the centre of Charlbury is difficult and it's always sad to see a shop disappear as once they are gone we will never see them again. Just think of the other winter when we were snowed in. It would have been even worse without Charlbury's shops. I'd love to see the Farmer's Market down in the town centre, that way the shops could benefit from the influx of visitors rather than have them just shopping in the market and walking back across the road into their cars in Spendlove Car Park and driving home, I do think that we need to put the centre back into its rightful place.

Tim Widdows was interviewed by Diana Potten

ERIC DOUGLISS

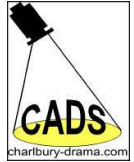
A Commemorative Walk around Centenary Wood has been arranged to celebrate the life and work of **Eric Dougliss** on Thursday May 24th starting from Charlbury Bowls Club Car park at 5.30 pm. Eric, who died last year, was Oxfordshire County Council's Forestry Officer for many years and was Project Manager for Centenary Wood.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be available at the Club House afterwards. Any enquiries should be made to David Rees on 01865 815427

Relax, unwind, read the papers, catch up with friends and colleagues and enjoy some delicious home-made cake along with a steaming cup of Fair Trade tea or coffee at the **Font Café, St. Mary's Church, Charlbury 9.15 to 11.30am every Thursday** For smaller children we provide a play area with toys.

There is also a **Traidcraft** stall selling a range of fairly traded foods, crafts and cards.

CHARLBURY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY



2012 - CADS is into a busy year rehearsing and preparing for our upcoming performances. A warm WELCOME to the many new members who have filtered into all aspects of our shows.

March 23-24 : Two performances of **ALAN AYCKBOURN's** one act plays **DRINKING COMPANION** and **BETWEEN MOUTHFULS**. CADS is sharing the limelight with THE NORTONIANS, another local am dram group. We are performing in **CHADLINGTON VILLAGE HALL** as the Memorial Hall is booked up. The two plays are excerpted from the very popular CONFUSIONS collection and feature *bijou* casts bringing you witty repartee and comic timing.... Madeleine Wheare directs BETWEEN MOUTHFULS.

Time: 8 pm Tickets £8 and &6 concs through www.wegotickets.com and News and Things. For more information contact: charlbury.drama@gmail.com or 01608 810 092

March 24: CADS Coffee Morning @ The Corner House - 10-12. Fund raising for our main production.

April 27-28-29: LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME - a period drama adapted from an Oscar Wilde story directed by Brian Drowley. This is CADS' main Spring production in **THE MEMORIAL HALL**. Lord Arthur Savile is a well-bred gentleman who is 'not overburdened with brains'. His engagement to the lovely Sybil looks like eternal happiness – but all this changes when his prospective mother in law insists he has his palm read. It is predicted that Lord Arthur will commit a murder at some time. Arthur feels duty-bound to get the dirty deed over and done with before the marriage ...

Time 8 pm. Tickets: £8 and &6 concs through www.wegotickets.com and News and Things.

May 8: FARCE Workshop - CADS Clubnight run by Chris Geary and Sue Haffenden - all welcome Methodist Hall 7.45 pm.

PAST EVENTS: 24-25-26 November - DEAR BRUTUS by J. M. Barrie. A happy and successful production from all points of view. The cast enjoyed their roles, the audiences appreciated the subtle direction and interesting unfolding of the plot - much to be pondered on and still relevant today!

A number of teenagers have come forward and are helping back stage with lighting and sound and general manhandling of equipment. Older members are finding willing hands to pass the "knowledge" on to.

10 December - CADS Christmas Dinner Dance held at the Chipping Norton Golf Club was a successful evening with a record number of people attending. Food was excellent and AJ the DJ had just the music to get us all up dancing! A great night!

12 January - CADS were very happy to participate in **The Charlbury Society's** evening talk **CHARLBURY SOCIETIES PAST AND PRESENT** held on January 12th. Pam Bradley evoked the origins of CADS, emerging from the ashes of the Charlbury Players. Geoff Clifford spoke of the heyday of CADS and of the many colourful characters who influenced its career. Madeleine Wheare spoke of recent developments and how the

society is coping with a general reduction in membership (a UK wide trend), new ways of connecting through facebook, and the pressures of publicising over the internet, keeping websites up to date etc. A table display of old programmes and photographs from previous productions attracted a great deal of attention. It was a pleasant nostalgic evening with lots of input from the audience

16 February - the AGM was well attended and new committee members have come forward.

The society is very much a going concern.

We are always **ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS**. We are an adult theatre group serving Charlbury and its many surrounding villages. We are glad to welcome older teenagers, students and anyone with enthusiasm and a willingness to participate! If you wish to participate in the life of the society you would be most welcome to join any or all of the activities mentioned above or on the website. Please contact the chairman or any member to find out more.

Madeleine Wheare - Chairman (01608 810092)

Email: charlbury.drama@gmail.com site: <http://charlbury-drama.com/>



Charlbury Drama (CADS)

ARTWEEKS IN CHARLBURY 5-13 MAY

Charlbury is full of talented artists and each year a selection open their studios and galleries to the public. It is a great opportunity to see the artists at work or to chat to them about their inspirations. Most are within easy walking distance from each other and from the centre of the town. Exhibitions include paintings, printwork, jewellery and pottery, and the artists exhibiting their work in Charlbury this year are:

Catherine Goyder - Fisher's Lane

Georgia Clarke - Market Street

Jennifer Bartlett , Jenny Haxworth, Wendy Wilson - Sheep Street

Joanna Cripps - Park Street

Patricia Freeman - Enstone Road

Rosey Bennet and Lucy Tennyson - Pooles Lane

Sarah Pulvertaft -Rangers Lodge

Maureen Sparling - Church Lane

Full details will be on the Charlbury website and the Town Trail Map. Also see Artweeks website:

www.artweeks.org.

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and moving with the times!*

CHARLBURY DENTAL - your local Dental Practice

When Mary Robson opened her practice in Charlbury nearly 35 years ago, in a tiny cottage in Market Street, Charlbury residents loved to tell stories about the first known dentist in Charlbury. This was a certain Mr Sharpe, who visited once a week, renting a room above Mrs Price's shoe shop in Sheep Street, and bringing all his equipment with him.

How things have changed! After 6 years in Market Street and 13 in the old Spendlove School, Charlbury Dental Practice is comfortably settled in the "new" Spendlove Centre. Mary Robson, the practice owner and Principal Dentist, says "We are very fortunate to have such spacious and accessible ground floor premises, with adjacent parking, so that patients don't need to worry about whether they will be able to manage."

The practice has grown so that it now provides employment for xx people, most of whom live locally. This year Mary's loyal team is joined by some new faces. Dr Kam Patel, Associate Dentist, is relocating from London to join the practice on a permanent basis: Kam brings to the team a wealth of knowledge and experience, including the field of implant dentistry. Two new Dental Nurses will be helping to manage the ever increasing standards of patient safety, and you will see a new face joining our regular team at the reception desk.

As Mary looks back over her 35 years of dentistry in Charlbury, she reflects on how technological progress has been "breathtaking" and yet – as she is keen to emphasise - the basic principles of careful, gentle patient care remain fundamental to the practice values: "We believe that every patient is special and we do all we can to meet their individual needs and aspirations. We offer a huge range of dental services, all aimed at keeping our patients healthy; we give advice about preventing dental problems wherever we can and strive to deal painlessly with problems if they arise."

As well as providing practical information about opening hours and how to find the Spendlove Centre, the practice's website, www.charlburydental.co.uk, gives practical information about many dental conditions and what can be done to overcome them. Dentistry has not been standing still and today, with the help of a dental hygienist or dental health educator, much can be done to prevent tooth decay and gum disease; your dentist can provide you with better looking fillings, or crowns if necessary, and your appearance can be enhanced with cosmetic improvements such as tooth whitening or porcelain veneers; if teeth have been lost, they can be replaced with dentures, bridges, or implants, and did you know that your dentist might be able to help you to get rid of those chronic headaches if they are caused by tooth grinding or an incorrect bite?

Charlbury Dental Practice was established in 1978 to serve the dental needs of our community, and is set to do so for many more years to come.

Mary Robson was interviewed by Kate Ward

NB Please see the notice from Charlbury Dental Practice on the opposite page

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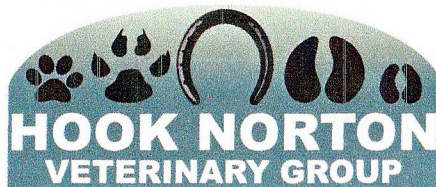
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Tel: 01608 811250

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NEWS FROM CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

With the Olympics on the horizon, it seemed appropriate to base this edition's column on PE (Physical Education) activities at school. Under the guidance of Year 5 teacher, Stuart Lester, pupils enjoy a broad programme of PE throughout the school year as part of a balanced sport curriculum encompassing dance, gymnastics, and swimming in addition to more traditional school sports. Every child participates in at least two hours of PE a week, with many also taking part in after-school clubs such as gymnastics, pop/commercial dance, breakdancing, and sports activities.

In addition, through our membership of the Chipping Norton Schools Partnership, every year-group also takes part in one 'participatory event' (such as a dance workshop) and one 'competitive event' (such as a hockey tournament) with their peers from the other nine primary schools in the Partnership. Pupils really enjoy these events, and over the last few years their performance has steadily improved. The school was joint winner of the overall trophy two years ago, and then won the trophy outright last year. Throughout the remainder of this academic year pupils will be taking part in a whole range of events for different year groups, including 'Schoolympics', a netball tournament, athletics events, tag rugby, kwik cricket, and ball skills.

The school is very pleased that the Chipping Norton Schools Partnership has managed to keep these events going, despite setbacks resulting from significant cuts in government funding of the Schools Sports Partnership scheme. For this we are indebted to the ded-

ication and enthusiasm of the PE staff in the Partnership schools working with a reduced budget.

The school is also very grateful to parents for their support in driving children to and from these events, and also for their fantastic efforts in collecting Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers. With these vouchers we have acquired a huge amount of sports equipment for free, including scooters and trikes for the youngest children. We're also able to use the vouchers to get cooking and gardening equipment for pupils, so please do consider giving any spare ones you may have in future to the school – it really does make a difference.

Finally, we wish the school's swimming team the best of luck when they represent West Oxfordshire at the Oxfordshire Games in July. Mr Lester is hopeful that the Indoor Athletics team will also qualify for the county finals.

Vicky Buser, Parent Governor

The CSA co-ordinate a Puffin Book Club within school, which not only gives parents access to reduced priced, high quality books, but also creates commission which we can spend on books for classrooms! We have been running the club since last summer and have been amazed by the response of parents. We have, to date, ordered over £1000 (rrp) books for school, some for each of the seven year groups. Anyone can order books from the Puffin Book Club, you need to use our School Account Number: 0007364556 to enable the school to get the commission, books can be found at www.puffinbookclub.co.uk

Alex Westbury, CSA Chair

TOT BITS

It has recently been a period of parental discovery. The main discovery being that I probably do too much for Dolly, my daughter. I went to pick her up from preschool last week and amongst the pandemonium of leaving time Dolly put on her own coat and did the zip up herself. Now, I'm not for a second claiming that my daughter is a genius, (even though she clearly is). I was surprised though as I wasn't aware that she had mastered the tricky art of certain fastenings.

This turn of events made me stop and wonder. How much can our children do without our help? One of my worst traits as a parent is doing things for Dolly to make things generally run faster. It surprised me how easily I have slipped in to this routine. I remember as a child being told that I couldn't go somewhere with my Dad as he wanted to be really quick and I would slow him down. I was so upset, and when Dad realised how it made me feel, so was he.

With a child of my own I can now understand why a mother or father would think along those lines. At the same time I had always thought to myself that I would try and make a conscious decision to allow a child of mine the time and space to develop and go at their own speed. Yet here we are. Does it really matter if something takes two minutes longer to do just because Dolly is learning? Of course not. As a family we don't run on a tight time-scale. I gave up working just to be able to spend time with Dolly and one of the main reasons is that things can be altogether more sedate. No rushing around in the morning getting ready for daycare and things like that.

It would be daft to make grandiose claims

that from now on, Dolly will do everything for herself. For a start I'm not sure a diet of dry cereal and biscuits, (the only things she can access in the larder) will do much on a nutritional level. Also, there are days when we will be running late and I'm a stickler for being somewhere on time. However, I will try and be more aware that whilst perhaps not being a child prodigy, my daughter is more than capable of doing up her own coat.

Now we are in to February and I am sure there are parents all over town with the same view. It is one of overstuffed toy boxes, play rooms, wardrobes and sheds. Christmas is a wonderful time for adding to your child's already impressive collection of toys and clothes. There is a breaking point though and sometimes something just has to go. Help is at hand though! On Saturday February 25th Charlbury Pre-School are holding a fund-raising sale in the War Memorial Hall called Kiddy Klobber. The Preschool committee are currently accepting donations of any unwanted clothes, toys and books. All of these items will go on sale and the proceeds will go to maintaining the fantastic Preschool that we're so fortunate to have here in Charlbury.

The committee kindly asks that all donations be in a resaleable condition. Donations can be brought to the Preschool and various other drop off points around the town. For full details see the posters that are currently decorating our town or call committee chairperson, Julia Raymond-Barker on 07739 113114. On the subject of the Preschool, if your child is getting to the age where their educational start is on the horizon then remember, the staff at Charlbury Preschool welcome the visit of prospective pupils and their families.



Call 01608 811200 for details.

Another fantastic Charlbury family favourite is the baby and toddler group, also held at the War Memorial Hall. It runs on Mondays during term time from 9:30 until 11:30. There is a huge selection of toys and games, and craft table. Along with this there is story time during which the children also have a drink and a snack. There is coffee and tea for the adults and it is a fantastic way to meet new families and catch up with old friends. We charge £2.50 per family and we hope to see you all there soon, everyone is welcome!

George Ogier
811751 or 07747 502620

THANK YOU ! THANK YOU !

Last July Susan Way and Joy Clark raised money for the Marie Curie Cancer Care Appeal by holding a strawberry tea in their garden for friends. They baked over 100 scones and served tea and scones to about 60 people. The weather was torrential rain (it was July!) but all their friends turned out to support them all the same.

The partners at the solicitors firm Shoosmiths in Reading, where Sue works, kindly donated a further £150 plus Gift Aid so in total they were able to send Marie Curie a cheque for nearly £500. Sue and Joy would like to thank all those who supported them on the day or made donations to this very worthwhile cause.

Sue Way

The Pearl Chinese Restaurant & Bar

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Church Services in Charlbury

Charlbury Baptist Church



Sunday Services at 10.30am
All Age Service, second Sunday in month

Church Contact:: Helen Wright, Community Link 0770 208 7802
 e-mail: charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com

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



Easter Services 5th April (Holy Thursday) - Mass of the Lord's
 Supper 7:30 pm. 6th April (Good Friday) - Celebration of the
 Lord's Passion at 3:00 pm; Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm. 7th
 April (Holy Saturday) The Easter Vigil at 8:00 pm. 8th April (Easter
 Sunday) - Mass at 9:00 am at St Kenelm's, Church Enstone; Mass
 at 11:00 am at St Teresa's, Charlbury.

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

Churches Together in Charlbury

Lent is traditionally a time of denial, of fasting before the celebrations at Easter. But it is also a time to make space for reflection, for learning and sharing, and to this end the churches in Charlbury have arranged a programme of talks, music, meals and worship open to everyone.

On **Friday 2 March** there will be a service in the Methodist Church at 11am for the Women's World Day of Prayer. The day is marked in Christian gatherings all over the world and the service this year has been prepared by women in Malaysia on the theme 'Let Justice Prevail'.

This is followed on **Saturday 3 March** by a concert of sacred music from Somerville College Choir, conductor David Crown, in St Mary's. The concert will start at 7.30pm, doors open from 7pm. Admission is free but donations towards expenses will be greatly appreciated. The concert is being given as part of a series for Lent – 'All human life is here: exploring the Psalms'. There will be four talks on Tuesday evenings from **28 February to 20 March** in St Mary's Parish Church followed by a second musical evening led by St Mary's church choir on Friday 23 March. These evenings start at 8pm, doors open 7.30pm.

During Lent the churches in Charlbury are also organising soup, bread and cheese lunches in support of Christian Aid. These will be held in different churches from 12 to 2 pm on Fridays from 24 Feb. to 30 March.

Details of these events will be found on the Charlbury website diary page, in the Leaflet and on posters around the town. Everyone is welcome at all the events. There is no charge for any of them but donations towards expenses and, in the case of the Lent lunches, for Christian Aid will be very welcome.

Although Churches Together in Charlbury is not primarily a fund-raising organization, collections at special events and united services sometimes raise more money than is needed to cover expenses. When this happens, we are able to give money away and recently we have sent donations to two local charities, the Lawrence Home Nursing Team and the North Oxfordshire Food Bank, and also to two overseas charities, Cecily's Fund, helping to educate children in Zambia orphaned by AIDS, and Joliba, providing agricultural assistance in drought prone Mali, one of the poorest countries on earth. We are very grateful to everyone whose generosity has made this possible.

*Rosalind Scott – Secretary
Contact: rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk*

A Date for your Diary

September 28th is the Macmillan Coffee Morning date. We are going to hold it this year at The Quaker Meeting House, from 10.am - 12.30am. It should provide us with a bit more space and allow everyone to relax and support us on that day. We will be having our amazing raffle, as usual, bric a brac and wonderful cakes. Please come and support us. All offers of help in any form gratefully received.

Liz and Bob Tait. 01608 810150. Elizabethtait@msn.com

Report from District Councillor Hywel Davies (01993 868004) (mobile: 07917 055120)
hwel.davies@westoxon.gov.uk or hywel.davies7@btinternet.com

In the middle of winter, it is hard to find things to be optimistic about. The world economy is very troubling and all our incomes are being squeezed. At least it has been a milder winter than last year. So far. However, I feel that there is news that is positive for all of us in Charlbury. Firstly, the Gifford Trust Committee has succeeded in persuading the County Council to return funds they have been holding for several years. The committee have worked very hard to develop a very convincing business plan to develop the Spendlove site and will be pressing forward towards the completion of a community centre for the benefit of us all. Secondly, the Localism Act comes into law this spring. The main thrust of this is to devolve decision making over an array of matters to the local community. This means that we will be able to decide ourselves the shape of our community. The Town Council has already begun the development of our Neighbourhood Plan and there will plenty of opportunities for everyone to make a contribution to the Plan. We are very fortunate to live in a great town bustling with life and surrounded by some of the most beautiful countryside. But are there areas where we could enhance all our lives whilst we conserve what we all cherish so highly? If you have ideas, please be in touch.

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

The planning issues I wrote about in December are still very current and will remain so. WODC is continuing to have workshops and seminars to try to resolve the general plan for the whole area and the application for a small group of affordable houses in Charlbury has finally been passed. These are much needed but, of course, where exactly they were to go and in what form was bound to be a contentious issue. A rather unsatisfactory first plan was amended after local consultation and with much effort from the Town Council and a better compromise has been reached. With compromises there are always details that people feel should be improved but this has shown how valuable is the combination of local input and the hard work of the those who are responsible for delivery.

Some of us continue to battle on about Dean Pit---so far no apologies just much passing of the responsibility from one authority to another. What I can't understand is why, even though the responsibility lies with OCC, WODC does not fight for us now the main reasons for closing the pit are found to be invalid. It does lie in their area and we are their constituents. My collection of amazing sentences designed to camouflage the main points is growing---last month 'a genuine case of crossed wires'. This month I received a letter starting with 'I won't go into the reasons for closing Dean Pit as we all know them' ! Well yes, we all know them, but that doesn't mean we all agree with them !

Report from County Councillor Neil Owen (01993 8308751)

The year has started well for Charlbury. The library has been saved due to the efforts of the friends of the library, the town council, and local Councillors. Many thanks to all involved, especially Amanda Epps, past Chair of the Friends of the Library. She was a force to be reckoned with. Also, the Spendlove Project looks like being a reality after all these years. The Gifford Trust, with new blood running through its veins, has cut the Gordian Knot of Council beurocracy and secured the monies which Charlbury is entitled to. Finally the Dean Pit issue continues to excite us. The people who have been campaigning against the closure, I think have been treated churlishly by the County Council. I shall pursue the matter further. Whilst the closure of Dean Pit is a settled issue, the issues raised by members of the public, Liz Leffman and Glenna Chadwick etc, have not been treated in a respectable way and the community deserves better. I shall as I have said pursue the matter anew and seek some consolation for the loss of a cherished amenity.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

The Poppy Appeal for 2011 raised £5, 217.59 in Charlbury and the surrounding area (Finstock, Fawler, Chilson, Shorthampton and Cornbury with Wychwood); yet another record! We would like to thank all those who helped to raise this sum, both donors and collectors, and particularly those who gave so generously.

If you would like to help with the 2012 Poppy Appeal in any way please contact the Poppy Appeal Organiser, Mick Charlesworth on 01993 869283 (Finstock).

The Charlbury British Legion Darts Cup for the Open Pairs was held at Ye Olde Three Horseshoes and won by Phil Morgan and Simon Carpenter.

The Annual Band Concert: The Band Concert was given by the Accidentals, another wonderful evening - note in your diary now for Charlbury's "gig of the year" on 9 November 2012. During the evening a Poppy Appeal collector award was presented to Mrs Sarah Potter for 15 years. After the event a 5 year award was delivered to Mr. Andy and Mrs Pia Sullivan.

Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday for the Charlbury Branch Mr Ken Taylor, Thames Valley Police Sp. Insp. Tim Mobley, and for Charlbury Town Council Cllr. Nicolette Lethbridge

The Kohima Epitaph was read by Mr Steve Duffy.

The wreaths remain at the Memorial until Candle mass when they are removed and the Branch wreath is relocated to the War Memorial Hall.

Branch Website www.Charlburyrbl.org.uk has full details of the Branch.

Branch Coffee Mornings will be held on Saturday 17 March and Saturday 14 July in the Corner House. For information please telephone 810822.

Trip to Bletchley Park

The Branch is hoping to organise a trip this year to Bletchley Park- "Home of the Code-breakers". As well as the famous cipher machines, there are numerous exhibitions and collections to see. To name just a few - Women at war, WW2 Aviation display, and Bletchley Park Post Office where you can send a secret message. Admission charge is £10 per person [£8 for the over 60s]. The admission charge is a season ticket giving you free entry to Bletchley Park for one year from the date of your first visit. There is a café on site offering hot and cold meals etc. Transport costs will be determined by the number of passengers. Expressions of interest to Jane Parsons 01608 810822 by 30 April 2012.

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.

Chipping Norton Music Festival Celebrates its 100th

The Chipping Norton Music Festival has evolved from the aim "to encourage part singing in the country districts". This was the vision of two ladies in Cherington Warwickshire, and so the first Festival was held in Shipston on Stour in 1904. A banner was awarded to the best all round choir - that banner, and other artefacts, will be on display during the **2012 Festival 9th – 24th March**. The Festival first became known as the Stour Choral Union, a name that stuck until 1968 despite the fact that this popular Festival has largely been held in Chipping Norton since 1911. Two world wars caused some disruption hence the 100th celebration is in 2012. It seemed appropriate and fitting that any celebrations should touch with the roots of the Festival and we are very pleased to announce that a choral workshop will be held after the senior choirs' class at 4:00pm on **Saturday 10th March**. As 2012 is also the Queen's Jubilee the works for that workshop will be selected Coronation Anthems and a new work specially written by Colin Touchin to commemorate our 100th Festival. Individuals as well as choirs are very welcome to enrol for the workshop. Please contact the Festival Secretary on 01993 831810 or secretary@cnmf.org.uk for more details or to enrol.

The Festival is no longer just about choral singing, there are instrumental classes for a wide range of instruments, speech and drama, guitar, folk and of course, the professional concerts. Tastes change and the Festival has embraced these and adapted the way it is run to suit a wide range of tastes and abilities. One thing that does not change is the high calibre of the adjudicators appointed by the committee. The comments and mini masterclasses given by the adjudicators are often inspirational to all, not just those taking part but also the audience. If you have never been to any of the events run by the Festival keep an eye open for the programme at Jaffé & Neale giving precise timings of all the classes. Just pop into the town hall, take a seat for a while and be absorbed. A good audience gives participants the rare opportunity to engage with and respond to those listening.

Key Diary dates for 100th Festival 9th – 24th March 2012

Friday 9th March Youth Jazz Band Challenge Chipping Norton School 6:00pm

Saturday 10th March Senior Choirs and Choral Workshop

Sunday 11th March Anthony Williams our President will be presenting a family concert. *He is an acclaimed pianist, has adjudicated at the Festival and is very involved in his role as President.*

Monday 12th – Saturday 17th March - various classes all in the Town Hall

Sunday 18th March An evening with Claire Martin & Sir Richard Rodney Bennett

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd March - Classes and workshops

Saturday 24th A celebratory Festival Concert

For further information about anything to do with the Festival consult the website www.cnmf.org.uk or contact the secretary secretary@cnmf.org.uk and 01993 831810.

CHIPPING NORTON FIRST AID UNIT (FAU)

The FAU was opened in April 2011 to help deal with simple injuries and illnesses which cannot be dealt with at home. It is staffed by an Emergency Care Practitioner and treats the following types of conditions: Simple injuries that cannot be managed with home first aid kits; cleaning and simple stitching of wounds; minor illnesses (ear/throat/urine infections); insect bites & stings; minor burns/scalds; foreign body in the eye; bumps to the head with no loss of consciousness; bruises; sprains. **If in doubt call a member of the Unit on 01608 648 233). Open: Monday to Friday (not bank hols) 5pm to 9pm Weekends & Bank Holidays from 10am to 9pm.** (At other times contact your GP.) No need to make an appt. - this is a drop-in service.

CN War Memorial Community Hospital, Out Patients Unit, Russell Way, London Rd, C Norton OX7 5FA



The Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

is a multi-agency problem-solving group working with the police to tackle neighbourhood priorities identified by the community. As a member of the NAG, I recently visited the

Kidlington Police Enquiry Centre. It is one of four police enquiry centres (Kidlington, Milton Keynes, Windsor and Abingdon) operating 24/7 in the Thames Valley area. Kidlington is the largest centre, with up to 70 operators working at any one time. Two police control rooms, based in Abingdon and Milton Keynes, radio police officers as soon as they are contacted by the police enquiry centre.

The Thames Valley area has:

18 telephone lines dedicated to 999 calls: these calls are transferred by British Telecom operators, who first establish which emergency service the caller needs, i.e. police, ambulance or fire. The computerised call handling system aims to transfer the right call to the right operator, by identifying the operator which has the right skill set (language, area of expertise, etc.) and whether the operator is available. When the call comes from a landline number, the address of the caller is automatically displayed on the operator's screen.

About 40 lines dedicated to 101 (replacing the 0845 8 505 505 number) calls, also called public calls.

Some special lines, including:

Social services: handled by operators who have undergone a full risk assessment, as these referral calls are often difficult.

Crime recording: handled by crime recorders based at Kidlington and Windsor. Police officers can call and ask an operator to record data and information while they are on the beat.

Domestic violence: as part of a trial project called TecSOS, people at risk of domestic violence have been issued with a special phone which can be used in an emergency. It is equipped with a GPS locating facility, and works like a panic alarm which triggers a call to the police call centre, but also sends specific data relating to the caller.

Each operator determines the level of action required:

Immediate: 15 minutes maximum response time. Life or death emergency, or crime in progress. Police car will use blue light.

Urgent: 60 minutes maximum response time. No blue light.

By arrangement: 4 hours response time.

Routine: Resolution by telephone (e.g. vehicle related crime).

On the night I visited, there were about 30 operators who, together with their colleagues at the other centres, had handled by 8pm: 509 x 999 calls, of which 89% had been answered within 10 seconds (can be up to 700 a day); 2,263 x public calls, of which 89% had been answered with 30 seconds (can be up to 5,000 a day)

This visit left me buzzing with admiration for the skilled work conducted at the centre, and wanting to leave you in no doubt that any call you make to the police by dialling 999 or 101 will be handled in the utmost efficient way.

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



2012 Calendar of Events

Well, back in November, we presented The Corner House & Memorial Hall Committee with a cheque for £14,250 and now we are well into planning the various events for 2012 and this started with a New Members Social at The Bell at the end of January.

Friday 2nd March will see the return of the now annual **Street Fair Quiz** to be held in The Memorial Hall at 7pm. There is space for a maximum of 20 teams (no more than 6 per team), so if interested please contact Martin Winstone on 01993 705372 or email:

m.winstone@btopenword.com

A Sausage & Mash Supper is included in the price of £8.50 per head. There will also be a Licensed Bar and Prizes for First & Last!

Sunday 3rd June - To coincide with Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Weekend, Charlbury Street Fair's Annual Open Gardens will take place on the Sunday of this '4-Day Weekend'. More details to follow in due course, but please email: [in-fo@charlburystreetfair.org](mailto:info@charlburystreetfair.org) if you would like any additional information.

Friday 14th September - Come along and take part or simply watch the **annual Egg Throwing Competition** outside The Rose & Crown. Free Entry. First Throwing at approx 6:30pm

Saturday 15th September - Street Fair Day itself - Stalls, Sideshows, Dancing, Entertainment, Tombola, Grand Draw, Auction, Conga, Music and Fun.....

Sunday 16th September - Fun Runs & Walk – The annual 10k & 5k Fun Runs and Walk through Glorious Cornbury Park.

Street Fair now also has its very own website at www.charlburystreetfair.org where all the latest information can be found, along with a gallery of photos from previous years.

John Munro

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Jack Potten on 01608 810991

A glimpse of Charlbury 1919-1928

Committee minutes are usually brief and very dry but the early minute books of the Charlbury WI give a fascinating glimpse into the everyday life and interests of the women of Charlbury. All written by hand, they were often a struggle to read but changes in secretary gave some relief and, more importantly, some wrote more than the bare minimum and it is these entries that are now so revealing.

The second Thursday of the month at 2.30pm would see about 100 members arrive in the Town Hall for an afternoon of education, entertainment and of course a good chat over tea in between. In days before television, people made their own entertainment: members and visiting WIs, Girl Guides, school children would perform on stage, they would sing, dance, play instruments, recite poems, perform plays and "laughable sketches". People were very talented but not everyone was so bold, during "Sing, Say, Play or Pay" sessions, a great many members preferred to pay the fine of 1d rather than "give voice". They also had Roll Calls on subjects like "What I most admire in a woman", "My Favourite Proverb", "My Pet Economy" which were a way to get more people to speak up. The meeting would finish with the National Anthem.

Before tea, and after the WI business, there would be a speaker to educate and often to amuse. Speakers would talk about the way of life in foreign countries illustrated by lantern slides: Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Russia, Korea (described as the Belgium of Asia because it was constantly being over-run by rival nations), and Natal. Nearer to home "Life in Scotland in the North & West and on the life of the fisher girls who follow the herrings as far south as Yarmouth" and in 1922 "Women's Life 100 years ago" - if only we had the details about what was actually said. There were also talks ranging from Astronomy to "How to manage a husband" and practical demonstrations of "Home Cobbling" to sole and heel a shoe and "Odd Jobbing" of small jobs around the house done with just a few tools, as well as cooking and sweet making. Weekly classes were arranged for basket making, embroidery, upholstery and dressmaking but as ever people didn't turn up so they had a 1/- (5p) deposit which was forfeit if they didn't attend the whole series. Then there were the monthly competitions such as "the best darn", buttonholes, buns and cakes.

The WI was into campaigning from the start, in 1920 leaflets were distributed on The Plumage Bill and CWI decided to send a testimonial to their MP. In 1921 after a talk about experiences in Russian camps in Germany since the Armistice, they were urged to support the League of Nations. Charlbury WI started a book club and collected books for the Rural Libraries scheme; in 1921 a Circulating Library was started with books loaned out at 1d/book/week for members and 2d for non-members. In 1926, the County WI Federation Council debated the question of paper & rubbish being strewn in the streets and members were urged "especially to try to prevent this as far as it lay in their power". Spelsbury WI proposed and Charlbury WI seconded a motion about Safety First and how "many accidents might be avoided if the Rule of the Road were better kept"! In May 1920, the goods and produce stall at the meeting raised £7-7s (£7.35p) for 'Starving Europeans' for whom they also collected a large parcel of clothing. In December 1920 they raised £3 through cake sales for the Feed (Save) the Children Fund.

Christine Elliott

News from ChOC, Charlbury's Own Cinema

Films and live entertainment from ChOC

All events take place in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Information is subject to change. See full details of all these events on our website at www.chocfilms.info. If you would like to help with any aspect of ChOC's growing programme of films and live entertainment, please email us via the website or phone 01608 238242.

Sun March 11: "Jane Eyre" (film of the month)

(2011) cert PG, 2 hours. Bar opens 6.45, film begins at 7.30

An adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's novel about a governess who falls for the master of the house, only to make a shocking discovery.

Upon turning 18 and completing her education, Jane (Mia Wasikowska) finds work as a governess for Adle Varens (Romy Setton Moore), the ward of Edward Fairfax Rochester (Michael Fassbender), master of Thornfield Hall. It doesn't take long for the young Adle to warm to Jane, and upon returning home the charming Rochester, too, falls under the spell of his modest yet captivating governess. On what was supposed to be the happiest day of Jane's life, however, a scandalous secret is revealed, and the emotionally shattered governess takes flight...

See reviews and the trailer on the ChOC website at www.chocfilms.info

Sat March 24: "Literary Cabaret – The Full Brontë" (live theatre)

7.30pm, bar open from 6.45. Tickets £8 (children and students £4)

The Scary Little Girls perform their unique homage to the Brontë Sisters with a performance romp through everything we all love about the Brontës and their creations. This homage to English literature's favourite sisters is a mixture of storytelling sketches, music and song, audience games and giveaways. This unique, fun-filled event will delight literature aficionados and theatre fans alike – and of course every devoted Brontëphile!

Sun April 8 (Easter Day) at 7.30pm: film to be announced

Sun May 13 at 7.30pm: film to be announced

Sat May 26: "The Opera Dudes – Licensed to Trill" (live opera and song)

7.30pm, bar open from 6.45. Tickets £8 (children and students £4)

One of the most popular acts on the national touring circuit, The Opera Dudes delight fans with their vast repertoire of opera classics and contemporary songs interspersed with fine piano playing and comedy.

Forthcoming films will include Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy and The Help. There is a list of films under consideration on our website: please let us have your comments! To help us be more flexible, we are not selecting films so far in advance.

Jon Carpenter (Secretary)

JOHN STANLEY'S WEATHER REPORT

November 2011 continued the "above average" trend. Temperatures ranged from the 1st, 3rd and 4th being way above average at 59°, down to 44° on 16th. The 22 year average for November is 48.75°. 2011 easily exceeded this at 52.10°. At night, temperatures ranged from 52° on 2nd/3rd to 30° on 27th/28th – the first air frost of the winter.

Autumn 2011 (September to November), at 59.64°, was the second warmest in the 23 years that these records have been kept. The average is 56.88°. This is not surprising as all three Autumn months were well above average. Only Autumn 2006 was slightly warmer at 59.84°.

What a difference a year makes. Following the record cold December of 2010,

December 2011 was a complete contrast. Temperatures in December 2011 ranged from 52° on 21st, 26th and 31st, down to 37° on 14th. The average day maximum temperature was 45.52° and the 22 year average 43.00° - the average in December 2010 was just 35.06°. At night, minimum temperatures were in the range 49° (on 26th/27th) to 28° (on 17th/18th). Air frosts were recorded on 6 nights, compared with 25 in December 2010.

2011 as a whole was a relatively warm year, but the poor summer figures prevented it from being exceptional. The BBC weather presenters proclaimed that 2011 was the second warmest in 100 years. This was certainly not the case in Charlbury, where the 2011 average of 58.32° was exceeded in 1989, 1990, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2006. The 22 year average is 57.47°. However, the BBC may have been referring to mean temperatures, which take into account night time lows as well as daytime highs. The I have not recorded the night figures for the whole period, but for 2011, the average was 44.68°. This would produce a mean temperature for 2011 of 51.50°.

January 2012 was an up and down month. The first 12 days were generally warm, with a maximum of 52° on 8th and 12th. Then there was a short cold spell until 17th, when the temperature only reached 36°. It then jumped up to 51° on 18th, after which temperatures gradually fell again right up to the end of the month. Overall, the average day maximum temperature was 45.45° (23 year average 43.77°). At night, minimum temperatures were in the range 46° on 31st December/1st January and on 20th/21st, down to 24° on 13th/14th and 16th/17th. Air frosts were recorded on 11 nights.

The Royal British Legion – Charlbury Branch

Servicemen/women lost in action returning to RAF Brize Norton:

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

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

A school that looks to the future

A great education is one that launches you into your future. One that furnishes you with excellent results, a rich array of interests, the confidence to set ambitious goals — and the skills and drive to achieve them.

To find out how we help prepare our students for the future, please come along to one of our open days, held each term. Please contact us for details of the next event – or see our website.

Scholarships We offer a range of scholarships at 11, 13 and Sixth Form – everything from Academic to Art, Science to Enterprise.

d'Overbroeck's College (from 11 years old)	d'Overbroeck's College (Sixth Form)
01865 302620	01865 310000
leekfordplace@doverbroecks.com	sixthform@doverbroecks.com

D'OVERBROECK'S COLLEGE

An independent, coeducational school with entry at 11, 13 and Sixth Form

www.doverbroecks.com

CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Arts Week - Di Gold (810256)

Baptist Church - Helen Wright (07702 087802) charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Madeleine Wheare 810092 www.charlbury-drama.com
charlbury.drama@gmail.com

Charlbury Art Society (CAS) (810116)

Charlbury Beer Festival - Liz Donnelly (810056)

liz.donnelly@yahoo.com www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Charlbury Bowls Club - Secretary, Heather Hill - 810229

Charlbury Business Community - Joan

Belshaw (810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net

819117 - chamber@charlbury.info

Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (810130)

hughandjoan@uwclub.net

Charlbury Chess Club - Bob Douglas (811083)

Charlbury Chronicle - Lynette Murphy (810688)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Community Centre Appeal

Lynette Murphy (810688)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Cricket Club - Colin Olliffe (01993 704108 or

07909 978863) 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 - Charlbury Scout

Group - Marcus Goodwin 01608 676207

Charlbury Brownie Guider - Fay Kempson 01993 779350

Charlbury Society - Simon Walker, (811414)

Charlbury Street Fair - John Munro

info@charlburystreetfair.org

Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Curthoys

charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk

Charlbury Town FC - Keith Claridge 810201 or 07870426707

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

Churches Together - Rosalind Scott,

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

The Bell Hotel (810278)

Cornbury Music Festival -

Cotswolds Guided Walks - Kevin Myhill, Walks Leader (737490) **Four-**

shires 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 (810934)

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

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

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

Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (811212)

Thomas Gifford's Charity - Trevor Jones (810644)

trevor.jones@ophiopogon.com

www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst

United Nations Association (West Oxfordshire) -

malcolm@cottages.entadsl.com tel: 07778 450515

Wychwayz Border Morris - Teresa Laughton (810934)

Witney Fair Trade Market

Saturday 10th March 10.30 to 4.00

Langdale Hall, Witney Admission Free

Beautiful fairly traded food, gifts & original hand-made crafts from around the world

Musical entertainment by Songscope Choir, Ducklington Handbell Ringers & Voicebox Choir

Food & refreshments Tombola

A popular annual event organised each year by the Witney Area Fair Trade Action Group during

Fairtrade Fortnight

Contact 01993 881364 for further information



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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Please note that **ALL** cheques for
advertising, mailing list or donations
should be made payable to *The
Charlbury Chronicle* and should be
sent to the Treasurer, Dawn Colvin,
whose address is in the panel on the
right.

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The Charlbury Chronicle is produced and
distributed free to every household in
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and independent and cannot be held
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its pages. The editor reserves the right to
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publication although hoping to discuss any
major changes with the authors first.

The Charlbury Chronicle acknowledges the
financial support of the many societies,
groups and individuals who generously
contribute to its funds. We also acknowledge
the support of our advertisers and hope that
any reader using their services will mention
The Charlbury Chronicle.



Printed by Will Print, Abingdon