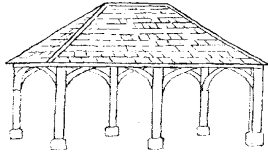


The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 14 Number 1

March 2010

Welcome to the fifty-third issue of the *Charlbury Chronicle*. My apologies for any mistakes in content or lay-out as this has been a difficult edition to produce with only one eye and one hand (don't ask!).

Please note that one of our colourful local shops is re-locating Happily not leaving Charlbury, but Tim Widdows is simply moving diagonally across the road into Market Street, opposite the Corner House - we wish him well at his new premises,

Having all experienced the dreadful snow and ice in January, readers will be interested to read Helen Bessemer Clark's well-researched article about snow clearance. Our County and District Councillor also have comments to make on the subject.

We are introducing an unusual sort of Quiz on page 31, which also gives the answers! It will be interesting to see how many readers partake and send in their solutions - if it seems popular the quiz setter would be happy to produce more for future editions of the *Charlbury Chronicle*.

Wishing all our readers a belated Happy New Year and a Happy Springtime,

Lynette Murphy

***Deadline for copy for the
June Chronicle is May 1st***

The Priory, Gothic House
and Heathfield
will be open for the
**National Gardens
Scheme**

in aid of charity on
Sunday, 9th May from
2pm until 6pm.

Teas at the Memorial Hall
in aid of the
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Appeal

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Charlbury Area Waste Action Group



www.cwag.org.uk

Pavement Clearing of Snow

The subject, of whether we are allowed to clear the pavements in front of our property without fear of litigation if someone subsequently falls, is a minefield of mis-information and no information. Because I cannot believe that all common sense has gone out of the window, I have done a little independent digging of my own, which reveals the following:

(a) A few weeks ago in parliament, Lord Adonis, the Secretary of State for Transport, was quoted in the Lords as saying that the urban myth that you could not clear your pavements was nonsense, and everyone should take a practical commonsense approach. This view was supported in the Commons by Siddiq Khan, the Transport Minister.

b) A report in the Witney Gazette, and, indeed, later in the Telegraph, quoted a Bicester lawyer saying, in effect, that Adonis and Khan were politicians, and not lawyers. The latter, and particularly a judge, would see things in a different way. Indeed, I spoke to this lawyer, who confirmed that the problem is that the law of negligence is largely our old common law, and it therefore becomes very difficult to give a clear decision. Everything "turns on the facts"

c) I also spoke to an independent Insurance Broker who gave it as his view that if property owners had normal household insurance, with general public liability, then this would probably cover them for such eventualities, as long as they had taken reasonable care in clearing the pavement (ie. Had not thrown hot water on the snow, leading to immediate icing over!). He thought that a reasonable judge would know the difference between a householder's negligence and his effort to be a good citizen.

d) Oxfordshire County Council have been issuing guidelines from Communities and Local Government of what to do in bad weather, including a quote from Volunteering England, saying "help clear pavements to prevent slips and falls – don't believe the myths about being sued". However, when I rang Volunteering England they confirmed that they had not actually taken legal advice about this.

e) An article in the Times of January 16th, written by Janice Turner, includes a well run complaint that we have lost our capacity to think for ourselves, and take risk, and our self-reliance, and, on the subject of snow clearing of pavements, she says she rang the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) whose spokesman insists that risk of legal action is, indeed, a myth. If we clear the snow we must merely show "reasonable responsibility".

It will be seen that there are as many answers as there are snow-covered pavements. Unless and until there is a definite law instructing property owners to clear their pavements (as happens on the Continent), then there is no absolute answer to the problem. However, it would appear to my layman's mind, that if due care and attention is paid to the action of clearing the pavements, then we are probably unlikely to be prosecuted, or, at least a judge would find in our favour, but that is only my personal opinion, worth, as any lawyer would confirm, absolutely nothing!

It is, though, understandable that the Charlbury Town Council are unable to give a definite ruling on this, as if they did, and a compensation claim was pursued by someone

Continued on page 5

MATHS EXTRA

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Evening surgery at North Leigh by appointment

who slipped, then the householder could hold the Charlbury Town Council responsible for issuing the instructions. Obviously the Town Council insurance would not be sufficient for such eventuality, and we will have to await further information from the County Council.

A meeting has been arranged between representatives of the Charlbury Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council to discuss this matter, as well as working out a system in the future whereby our roads, especially those to the station, might possibly have some priority for gritting.

Helen Bessemer-Clark

CHIPPING NORTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday March 5th – Saturday March 20th

The 98th Chipping Norton Music Festival opens with **The Youth Jazz Band Challenge** on Friday 5th March.

This was a new innovation in 2009 and if that was anything to go by this should be full of toe-tapping jazz and a great way to start the Festival.

We have two professional concerts for you offering quite a diversity.

Diabolus in Musica are performing a programme of historical music played on authentic instruments at **Chastleton House** on Sunday 7th March at 12:30 and 2:30pm.

Tickets are £12.50 to include wine and canapés.

Jacqui Dankworth & Charlie Wood

The celebrated jazz singer Jacqui Dankworth with Hammond organ/piano/vocalist Charlie Wood will be celebrating the music of legendary 1961 duo Ray Charles and Betty Carter.

Sunday 14th March, Chipping Norton Town Hall. Tickets £15

The highlight of the Festival is:-

Festival Concert

Saturday 20th March 7.30pm

This concert is a showcase of performers from the Festival classes and gives an insight into the wealth of talent who take part in our Festival.

Chipping Norton Town Hall Tickets £5.00 concessions £4.00

Tickets for all the above concerts are available from Jaffé and Neale, 01608 641033

Throughout the Festival fortnight individuals have the opportunity to perform in front of experienced professionals and are given feedback. Audiences are welcome to listen to the many and varied classes which are held in Chipping Norton Town Hall and usually start at about 4:00pm. If you would like to know anything more about the Festival information is available on the website www.cnmf.org.uk or email secretary@cnmf.org.uk

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

The Poppy Appeal for 2009 raised £5,185.52 in Charlbury and the surrounding area [Finstock, Fowler, 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 2010 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 Barry Dodman-Edwards with Brian Mitchell.

The Annual Band Concert

The Band Concert was given by the Accidentals, another fantastic evening - note your diary now for Charlbury's "gig of the year" in November 2010. During the evening Poppy Appeal collector certificates were awarded to Malcolm Dix for 10 years and Nigel Walsh for 5 years. After the event certificates were delivered to Tessa Haddon [Fowler] and Sandra Slater, both for 5 years.

Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday by the Charlbury Branch Mr. Cyril Kerry - Charlbury Branch Vice Chairman, Thames Valley Police, WPC Sam Hunter and Charlbury Town Council Cllr.Nicolette Lethbridge. The Kohima Epitaph was read by Pamela Keating. The wreaths remain at the Memorial until Candlemas when they are removed and the Branch wreath is relocated to the War Memorial Hall.

Branch Website www.Charlbury.rbl.org.uk

Has full details of the Branch including minutes of the meetings. There is also a selection of photographs taken in November during the concert, parade and so on. The branch would like to thank Dave Murphy for his help with this.

Branch Coffee Morning

Will be held on Saturday 8 May in the Corner House. For information please telephone 810822.

Trip to the National Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire: The Branch is hoping to arrange a trip on the 19th or 26th October 2010. Expressions of interest to Jane Parsons, 01608 810822 by April 1st 2010 please.

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.

The 13th Charlbury Beer Festival 10th July 2010

A Fun Day for Everyone from Midday – 11pm

Put the 10th July in your diary and make sure you will be visiting the Cricket Ground for The 13th Charlbury Beer Festival. For 2010, our theme is “Growing and getting greener” and we are going to make this year’s festival the most successful ever.

Remember in 2009 The Charlbury Beer Festival was a great success and raised over £10,000 and as a result we have been able to help many local charities.

So for 2010, from a charity perspective, we will of course be maintaining our roots in Charlbury where we will continue to support local causes, however we also feel that in the world of today we can share with those further afield who have less.

Also, reducing our carbon footprint has been at the forefront of our planning and we will be reducing our wastage this year.

We of course want to remain dynamic and have been listening to your feedback about what you have enjoyed in previous years and what you would like to see in future at The Beer Festival.

In 2010, we are making The Beer Festival a fun day out for everyone. We will be satisfying the palates of beer drinkers with 48 beers - including 8 CAMRA Gold medal winners and 8 nominated ales from local CAMRA branches - and for those who can't resist a glass of cider on a lovely summer's day there will be 12 ciders from Devon and a headlining locally made Charlbury cider! For those of you who prefer the grape there will be an English (yes, English!) wine and a range of international wines. We will also be introducing instructed “speed wine tasting” slots!

There will be fun for all the family, with many exciting children's activities, games and entertainment and, just when everyone is getting hungry, we can satisfy those appetites with a wide range of locally sourced food on offer all day this year.

Of course the music is a popular feature of The Beer Festival and bands will be playing from midday until 11pm. Make sure you join us for the Saturday evening, because last year the band and atmosphere were excellent. Come and enjoy the choices of beer, wine, cider and food which will be available till closing time.

So you will really be able to enjoy yourselves as a family, a group of friends or as an individual visitor to The Beer Festival this year. Look out for the Beer Festival programme which will be available from June and in the meantime you can keep up to date with all the news on our website www.charlburybeerfestival.org/

Support The 13th Charlbury Beer Festival, make it a great charitable success and come along for a full day's entertainment. Tell your friends to come along too and it is only £5 to enter! Cheers.

Monty Phillips



CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS

The Charlbury Museum will be reopening on the Easter weekend, 3-5 April. As before, it will be open on Saturdays from 10 to 12 AM, and on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 2.30 to 4.30 PM.

Later in the year, to celebrate the Centenary of the Girl Guides, there will be a special exhibition on the history of Guides and Brownies in Charlbury. (In the interests of equality there will also be material on Scouts and Cubs).

The Museum cannot open without the help of its volunteer stewards, to whom we are all very grateful. If you would like to become a steward, please contact Jennifer Bartlett on 810312. There will be a reception for all stewards, old and new, in the Museum, on Friday 26th March, from 6 to 8 PM.

Other dates for your diary: there will be coffee mornings in aid of the Museum in the Corner House on April 10th and May 29th. The annual Museum plant sale will be held in the Museum garden on June 6th.

Copies of the DVD 'Memories of Charlbury' will be on sale in the Museum (£7.50) when it reopens.

Charles Tyzack

THE DAY CENTRE - HELP!

Since the last issue of the Chronicle when we asked for volunteers, helpers, drivers and cooks, three of our cooks have had to stand down for one reason or another, and we are desperate. If you, reading this, could respond by cooking a meal, once a month, or even less, or would like further information, do not hesitate and please let me know.

Janet Walker
Vice Chairman. Tel: 810681

CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is pleased to say that neither ice nor snow interrupted deliveries of hot meals in January with many thanks to all volunteers.

If you know someone who would like a hot cooked meal delivered to their door at noon time on Tuesdays for just £2 please contact Marjorie Glasgow on 810161 or Jan Griffiths on 810440. Anyone wishing to volunteer one morning per month please contact Marjorie.

Ensemble OX: chamber music in Charlbury September 09

Marion Ackrill reports back

11am Outside the Memorial Hall under an electric blue sky we assembled the giant marimba. We unfurled magnificent flags of the 11 countries represented in the programme, kindly lent by embassies such as Argentina, Armenia and Azerbaijan for the occasion. Shimmering sun alongside startling Saracen and silken stripe were hung on the hall's end wall to make a stimulating backdrop for the music. **1pm** Percussion battery, harp, piano, marimba, chairs set on stage and floor for twelve OX musicians to rehearse the programme for the first time since its last performance 6 months before. How would it feel, how change in response to that experience? An ill singer needed replacing; how would the income fare with 3 tricky songs learnt in just three days? **4pm** Tea and cake in the garden room, wonderfully soft chairs. The musicians read, knitted, discussed ailments, exchanged amusing performance anecdotes. **5pm** 6 neighbours arrived: the front of house team. I felt my good fortune. **5.30pm** A pleasing hall of faces known and unknown – well here goes!! **7.30pm** We greatly enjoyed making the music, the audience seemed to enjoy it too. Now it's all gone. **9pm** Then there were 2. We dismantled the marimba, unpegged the flags, stacked the chairs, pulled out the plugs, loaded the van. We'd been in the hall 10 hours back and front stage without stopping.

Outside The Bell we drank to future chamber music in Charlbury.

"...fast moving and delightfully informal...this refreshing concert." Oxford Times

CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

We are pleased to announce that we now have 120 full place settings for hire for functions in the Hall and Corner House. Booking sheets are available in the Corner House or via our community page on the web.

By popular request the Brize Singers return to Charlbury on 30th April. The concert raises funds for the Corner House and Memorial Hall. It starts at 7.30pm. Tickets from Cotswold Frames.

*Stephen Andrews (811212)
Chairman of the Committee*

Join Neighbourhood Watch!

Neighbourhood watch is a great way for you and your neighbours to keep an eye on each other and reduce your chance of becoming a victim of crime.

You can set up a neighbourhood watch scheme in your street with as few or as many people as you like. You'll receive specific neighbourhood crime alerts and advice direct from the police, either by email or telephone - the choice is yours. Once you're a member you'll have street signs and windows stickers to display and a pack of crime reduction leaflets offering advice and guidance.

Signing up is easy. Either join online at: www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org or telephone Danielle Hilton at the Safer Communities Partnership on 01993 861640.

Your local crime reduction advisor Bill Butcher also offers free home security surveys.



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Bring & Take in the Memorial Hall, Saturday 13 March 2010 (see advert below)

In addition to the normal household items, you can also bring PAINT which needs to be reusable in the original container and in usable quantities (more than 1 litre emulsion or half a container of gloss or eggshell paints). Also SPECTACLES which will be reused and dead LIGHTBULBS and BATTERIES which will be taken to Dean.

Do you have good quality
unwanted items in your home?

Bring & Take

Memorial Hall Saturday 13 March

Items can be brought in
between 9.30am-11am and
taken from 10am-12 noon

This is a cashless event
where anyone can take items
they want at NO cost

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group



www.cwag.org.uk

THOMAS GIFFORD'S CHARITY

The trustees continue to work with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Cottsway on the proposed Spendlove Development. OCC completed their draft feasibility study in December – the trustees have raised some questions on this study with OCC and are awaiting their response at the time of writing this report. The trustees have appointed Blake Laphorn as the Charity's solicitors for the legal work using their Oxford office. Blake Laphorn have agreed to carry out the work on a special low fee basis for the Charity and the trustees much appreciate this. Work has now started on the legal framework and if we get satisfactory responses from OCC we will be able to confirm the appointment of David Saxby of OO Architects as the architect for obtaining planning approval for the development.

The trustees are delighted to hear that the Nine Acres Committee have had grant funding confirmed for the new sports pavilion on Nine Acres. We will be working with them to ensure good coordination between the projects whether the two projects are under construction at the same time or on different timelines.

We will be carrying out work on the Playing Close railings later this year – firstly, to repair the broken railing, and later in the year to re-paint the railings. The Town Council has kindly included a grant towards this project in the next financial year, for which the trustees are very thankful.

The next Farmers Market will be held on the Playing Close on the morning of Saturday March 13th.

Trevor Jones, Chairman of the Trustees.

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

CHARLBURY SCOUTS AND GUIDES

May Day Fair

Monday 3rd May, 2-4.30pm on the Playing Close

We will be holding our annual May Day Fair again this year on the Playing Close. The procession will leave the Scout Hut at 1.40pm and then march round to the Playing Close where the fair will be opened and the May Queen crowned at 2pm.

There will be lots of traditional stalls, plus a raffle, BBQ, tea tent and activities.

All money raised goes towards the running and upkeep of the Scout Hut.

Cathryn Taylor

CHARLBURY GARDEN SOCIETY: SHOW AND SPRING SALE

The Society's Spring Show this year is on Saturday 27th March. You do not have to be a member to enter exhibits and, even if you don't enter an exhibit, the spectacle of the Memorial Hall filled with a host of golden daffodils is enough to make the heart dance. For children aged 5 to 8, there is a competition for a pot of spring bulbs and for an "egg head" planted with grass seed or cress (see show schedules in local shops for details). For children aged 9-14, there are competitions for an Easter card and posy of flowers in a basket. The Garden Society Show is held in conjunction with the Charlbury Arts Society's Spring Exhibition.

Looking a bit further ahead, the Garden Society's annual sale of plants is on 22nd

May, also in the Memorial Hall, starting at 9.30. Our usual supplier of professionally grown plants has retired this year, but we will do our best to find an alternative source of high quality perennial and bedding plants and hanging baskets.

Rob Stepney

CHARLBURY SOCIETY

March 12: Keith Crawford: Wool, Weaving and Witney

April 9th: Russell Robson: the Thames; from birth to present day

May 14th: Annual General Meeting followed by films

Verity Brown

CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB

Thanks to all those who supported the annual fireworks display last November: the event generated very nearly £2000 for the Club's funds. You may well be wondering "What happens to all the money the Cricket Club raise?" and so I thought I would devote most of this month's column to answering that question.

Running a cricket club is a very expensive business, not least because the playing surface (or "wicket") is a delicate piece of equipment that needs a great deal of care and attention. Our groundsmen work extremely hard throughout the year and only the rabbits spend more time on the cricket pitches than they do! The entire cricket ground, including the buildings, trees and parking areas, requires regular maintenance and the Club's mowers and rollers often need expensive repairs. Just to give some examples of the amounts of money involved, in an average year the Club

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

spends roughly £600 on utility bills, £500 on equipment for the Youth Section, £600 on cricket balls, £1000 on renting the ground from Cornbury Park and £3000 on machinery. The total annual cost of running the Club is approximately £20,000, half of which comprises repayment of a loan taken out to finance the building of the new pavilion. It will therefore be appreciated that we are faced with a constant need to fundraise in order to continue to provide high-quality cricket facilities for our 250 or so members, the vast majority of whom are youngsters.

After that preamble, it is perhaps inevitable that I should end this column by announcing our first major fundraising event of 2010! That well-known raconteur and cricket commentator Henry Blofeld (star of BBC Radio's *Test Match Special*) will be bringing his popular one-man show to the Memorial Hall on Friday 19th March. The event starts at 7.30 pm and tickets, priced at £20, are now available from the following outlets: Evenlode Books, Londs, News & Things, Cotswold Frames, The Rose & Crown or Malcolm Harper (The Cottages, Church Lane; Tel. 810464). This promises to be a very entertaining evening so do come along, support the Club and enjoy listening to the wit and wisdom of a true broadcasting legend.

Derek Collett

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS FESTIVAL:

Saturday 22 May – Bank Holiday Monday 31 May

Fifteen Charlbury artists will be opening their studios as part of this year's Art-weeks Festival.

Andy Hopkins & Georgia Clark –

Sculpture, Carving and Print Making

Catherine Goyder – Paintings

Clare Carswell – Installations

David Joy – Blacksmith

Di Gold and Ben Gold – Glass and Mosaic

Joan Marsh – Textiles

Jennifer Bartlett and Jenny Haxworth – Pottery, Mixed Media

Maureen Sparling – Botanical and Bird Watercolours

Prescilla Frost – Photography

Sue Rangeley – Textiles

Sarah Pulvertaft – Jewellery and Metalwork

Wendy Wilson – Paintings

More information: www.artweeks.org

WEA : A reminder that we shall be holding a Day School on Saturday 13 March in the Garden Room of the Memorial Hall, entitled "Spin Doctoring in the Middle Ages" which promises to be a fascinating exploration of propaganda methods at that time with special reference to the Bayeux Tapestry and the motivation behind the 11th and 12th century Crusades. Please apply as soon as you can.

All enquiries to Dawn Colvin on 01608 810545

CHARLBURY BOWLS CLUB

The club is currently enjoying the indoor season playing short mat bowls. We are looking at recruiting new members of ALL ages. We can loan woods and shoes and it won't cost anything to have a try.

Practise nights is on Wednesdays at 7pm

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

– why not come along and have a go in this skilful and enjoyable game then relax with a drink afterwards at the club bar. Everyone is most welcome.

Gone are the collar and tie, to be replaced with new team shirts which all members should hopefully be wearing by the start of our outdoor season. Members wish to thank John Baylis of the Pioneer Country Music Club for his kind donation of profits from his country and western night with J.C. King on 6th February.

The outdoor season kicks off with our annual open day which is on Saturday 17th April at 2pm. Members will be there to help and advice if required, to anyone wishing to have a go.

Remember! Bowls isn't just for the over 60's, it's for everyone to enjoy. So, whether you're 8 or 80, come along and enjoy a game that is competitive and skilful, but most of all, is fun.

Heather Hill, Secretary 01608 810229

CHARLBURY ANGLING CLUB

Coffee morning at Charlbury Corner House on Saturday 15 May 2010
Cakes, raffle, produce etc.

Jane Parsons 810822

CHARLBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Charlbury Town FC men's teams have reached the midpoint of the season and both sides are in good positions heading into the business end of the season.

John Fitzgerald steered the first team to 'runners up' in the Premier Division last season, and is hoping to go one better this year. The team is lying in third position, having lost only two games and drawing with Hailey and Ducklington, the two stronger outfits in the division. Mark Fitzgerald and Craig McCullum have provided the creative attacking flair, and Steve Knight and Andrew Woodley have been firing in the goals, whilst Gareth Benfield has made a welcome return to bolster the defence. They've been unlucky in the cup competitions loosing out on penalties in the Oxfordshire Cup and Fred Ford Cup, and loosing a tough quarter final match against Hailey in the Junior Shield. They will be hoping for a bit more good fortune in the Senior Challenge Cup.

Having been promoted to Division Two last year and being tipped for the wooden spoon at the start of the season by many of the Witney and District pundits, the Reserve team have shown their quality and team spirit by battling their way to a respectable mid table position. A recent result also saw Charlbury beat Witney Royals who had been unbeaten in all league and cup competitions this season. There has been a number of new players join the club this year such as Ashleigh Smith and John Potts adding strength in depth to the squad. Sam Cleaver is the current leading goal scorer and has formed a solid midfield partnership with the classy Mark Deller, whilst Liam Kelly and Kevin Duester are proving to be a solid pairing in the centre of defence. The Reserves also suffered the dreaded penalty shoot out as they were knocked out in the quarter final of the Jack Busby Cup to Chipping Norton Town, but

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

are hoping for a good run in the Junior Challenge Cup.

In other news, along with the boy's teams, Charlbury Town will be organising a number of events to raise money for the proposed new Nine Acres Sports Pavilion, which is currently awaiting planning permission. Please keep your eyes open for up-coming events and support this worthy cause that will enhance the sports facilities in Charlbury.

CHARLBURY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

CADS was founded in 1976 and has been going strong ever since, with at least two productions a year and often more. The range of plays tackled is wide: from Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* to this year's pantomime, *Cinderella*, taking in *Twelfth Night* and musicals like *The Matchgirls* on the way. We are also available to put on small-scale cabarets for other organizations, and have performed short pieces at Charlbury Street Fair. We are always looking for new members, but if the idea of getting up on a stage terrifies you, fear not. There are always back-stage jobs to be done: stage management, collecting and making props, scene painting, lighting and sound. CADS has its own extensive wardrobe, and costumes are adapted and made for each show. During performances we need front-of-house staff and helpers for the bar. CADS has a social life, too: currently we meet once a month for such activities as treasure hunts, quizzes, visits to other groups' performances and acting workshops. Everyone is welcome in CADS regardless of age.

Secretary, Deirdre Kincaid, at dkincaid@clara.co.uk, or 01993 881369.

The next production for CADS is on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th April, 2010 at 8.00 pm. The Dreaming Dust by Dennis Johnston and directed by Sue Haffenden. This is an exploration of the relationship between Jonathan Swift (author of Gulliver's Travels) and the two women in his life- (Stella and Vanessa). It is a dramatic period play set in 18th century Dublin and London Society, with a whole host of colourful characters who surround the "mad Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral."

Should you require any further information please contact me – Lesley Earles – Tel: 01608 813028.

Details of cost and ticket supplies etc will be supplied at a later date.

If you have an article for inclusion in this section please contact Julia Caston on 810240

TOT BITS

I have highlighted below a few cultural outings that you might like to try with your Tot this Spring (especially if you are thinking of indoor places to escape to on those rainy days).

If you have a dinosaur-mad Tot, you might want to visit the dinosaur garden at **the Oxfordshire Museum** in Woodstock which features a life-size megalosaurus (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/the_oxfordshire_museum ; tel 01993 811456). There's also a nice enclosed sculpture garden ideal for a run around after a session in the children's gallery which has dinosaur and replica historical costumes to try on as well as various seasonal/themed craft activities. Entrance is free and they are open Tuesday to Saturdays 10-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm. The café serves light lunches. Family drop-in activities are also offered during school holidays and cost £1.50 per child. Also likely to delight your dinosaur enthusiast is **the Oxford University Museum of Natural History** (tel: 01865 272 950; see <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/learning/pdfs/dinosaur.pdf> for more information on the dinosaur skeletons on display).

There are a number of other family friendly museums in Oxford including the **Pitt Rivers Museum** (www.orm.ox.ac.uk; tel 01865 270 927) and **Science Oxford Live** in St Clements (www.scienceoxfordlive.com; tel: 01865 810000; open 10-5pm from Monday to Saturday). Also, the recently re-opened **Ashmolean museum** (www.ashmolean.org; tel: 01865 278002) is certainly worth a visit as there are lots of interactive displays and also family workshops on at weekends and during holidays.

An ideal museum to take your little transport enthusiast to is the **Oxford Bus Museum** (www.oxfordbusmuseum.co.uk;

tel 01993 883617; admission is £4 for adults and £2 for children aged 3 to 16) in Long Hanborough. On display are a number of vintage buses, photographs, uniforms and other memorabilia including an arrangement of road signs. Popular with most Tots is the designated playbus, where children can sit in the driver's seat, as well as the full-sized working set of traffic lights. There is also an area set aside for children including transport themed puzzles and colouring materials and a nice double decker brass rubbing. The museum is open between 10:30-16:30 on Sundays and Wednesdays and Bank Holidays throughout the year, Saturdays from Easter to end of October. There is a free ride on a vintage bus every first Sunday of the month between March and October, and light lunches can be purchased from the café.

As an alternative to museums, you might like to consider taking your older Tot to the **Chipping Norton Theatre** (www.chippingnortontheatre.com; tel: 01608 642324) which provides an ideal first introduction to theatre in view of its small size. They have a number of forthcoming performances for children, including "Something Else" on 6th April at 2:30pm, Giraffes Can't Dance on 24th April at 2:30pm and "Scarecrow" on 15th May at 2:30pm. For the younger Tots, there are also workshops (both for 6-18month olds and 18months to 5yr olds) led by actor, singer and teacher Paula Stephens called "The Orange Hat", which revolve around Peggotty the Hen and her friends who join her each week. These music sessions will engage your Tot through singing, movement and puppetry. The theatre also runs the Cinema Bambino, which is a club for carers of children aged until 18 months, providing an opportunity to socialise and enjoy a stress-free film experience. Other



theatres which put on child friendly productions are the **Oxford Playhouse** (www.oxfordplayhouse.com; tel 01865 305305) and also **The North Wall Arts Centre** (www.thenorthwall.com; tel: 01865 319 450).

Finally, you might enjoy taking your Tot to the **Cushion Concerts** at the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's College (see www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/index.php/What-s-on/cushionconcerts.html). These are 45 minute informal concerts led by Mark Hooper and devised especially for the under 5s. At each "concert", a different instrument is featured, introducing children to its sounds, its shape and any components necessary to play it. There is also an opportunity to sing along to familiar tunes. Forthcoming concerts take place at 9:30, 10:30 or 3pm on Sundays 16 May (trumpet) and 20 June (viola) and tickets cost £5 (these should be ordered in advance from the Oxford Playhouse or Tickets Oxford 01865 305 305). Enjoy!

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

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

singing with musical instruments and sometimes parachute play. Providing you with a chance to relax, have a tea or coffee and enjoy some friendly conversation! (£2.50 per family).

CHARLBURY PRE-SCHOOL

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

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

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Our NEW
NATURE
TRAIL

Life at Charlbury Primary School

The school looks forward to a busy second half of the school year! The end of last term saw a wide variety of seasonal activities such as the Young Voices Concert in Birmingham in which our school choir participated, Christmas plays by the foundation stage, years 1 and 2, and the Carol service at St Mary's by the older children. The theme for the Carol service for this year was Christmas around the world and the audience was able to learn how Christmas was celebrated in places such as Chile, Germany, the Netherlands, and France.

In January the School hosted a theatre production by the Oxfordshire Theatre Company: Peach Boy – The Adventures of Momotaro. This production was sponsored by the Charlbury School Association (CSA) which meant that tickets to school children cost as little as £3. It was a beautiful production, which was very well attended by not only school children but also by their older siblings, parents, and theatre lovers from the wider community.

The CSA are planning many events for the Spring and Summer terms. In the pipeline are a Summer Ball, a John Grain Quiz Night, and of course our tea and cake stall at Cornbury. We hope we will be able to welcome the Chronicle readers at at least one of these events!

Birgit den Outer, Parent Governor

The Annual Boundary Walk – your opportunity to go off paths!

Rogation Sunday this year is Sunday May 9th and elsewhere in this edition you will find the notice, from the Town Council, of the Annual Parish Boundary Walk.

The Boundary Walk is our yearly opportunity to keep up a centuries old tradition and to walk quite legally over some parts of the parish normally off limits to the casual walker. In 2009, a dozen of us enjoyed all or part of the walk, and arrived back in Town wet but cheerful in spite of the torrential downpour which delayed the start and the rain which fell on and off (mostly on) most of the day. We'll hope for better weather this year!

Why not come and join us? The whole route is about 11 miles but there are several opportunities to join or leave at different points if you prefer not to walk the whole distance – one of the benefits of a route that encircles the Town!

Start is at 10.00 am from the old oak tree just before the turning to Leafield on Forest Road. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

(Even if you are unable to join the walk there is a need for drivers to give lifts to the start of the walk and to meet the party at road crossings. If you are prepared to give some of your time to help I will be pleased to hear from you (phone 810729).)

Tony Graeme

**MARION
GREENFIELD –
Retired teacher
Interviewed by
Diana Potten**

I'm usually awake by 7.30 a.m. when Andrew brings me a cup of tea. I am not very good in the mornings and now we are semi-retired we like to have breakfast in bed and read the newspaper. Andrew soldiers downstairs and gets it. We are usually up by 9.30 and on a Wednesday I go off to Green Gym. This is an organisation that was set up by a doctor from Sonning Common, who felt that his patients needed more activity. I belong to the branch that works between Woodstock and Chipping Norton. The Woodchip Green Gym is a group of volunteers, who go out into the countryside and do a variety of things such as clear ivy from the walls and headstones in churchyards. We also go into nature reserves to clear brambles, and take down dead trees, and every year we do a survey of bee orchids in a reserve in Woodstock. We often work in the water meadows at Woodstock trying to get rid of the Himalayan Balsam, clearing the water ways and, on one memorable occasion, making an otter holt. Councils often find projects for us and pay us. It is not very much but it keeps us going and allows us to buy new tools when necessary. A group of adults with learning difficulties from Banbury are also members of the Green Gym. It's great for us to work with them and they seem to love coming for both the physical activity and social interaction. We work till one o'clock and then often have a meeting to deal with the business of the project. I am chairman and it usually lasts for an hour by which time it is home for a late lunch.

In the afternoon I may go into Witney and swim for 30 to 40 minutes after which I treat myself to a jacuzzi. When I get home I will sit at the computer and work on the Canadian project for students coming to Charlbury. This was started by a Canadian, who lived in Charlbury. He belonged to the Baptist church and was connected with Baptist universities in Canada. He thought it would be good for students to come over here and experience another culture but he was determined they should come to Charlbury. In 2007 Madeleine Wheare, who was running the scheme was looking for an assistant and she asked me if I would like to do it. I had just retired from teaching at Kitebrook, a private school near Moreton-in-Marsh. I was there for 21 years teaching 8 year olds and was also head of the Lower School. I wanted to be careful when I retired and not jump into anything. I didn't want to take on anything with too much responsibility having just given all that up very happily. However, I agreed to be Madeleine's assistant which lasted for two years, and then she stood down in order to pursue other things in her life. Somehow or other I was persuaded to take over from her. So much for 'no responsibility'! Each year 12 to 14 students come over from 2 universities, - one in Moncton New Brunswick and one in Ancaster, Ontario. The students are generally in their second or third years and are taking History, or Shakespeare and Drama courses. They are here for three months from January to April. They study at Regent's Park College in Oxford and also need to go on trips to historical sites such as Stonehenge, Warwick Castle and Coventry Cathedral. Of course we also take them to the RSC at Stratford and those who are hosting the students can sometimes come too, which is one way of saying thank you.

There is a lot of organisation involved - finding host families, planning the calendar and ensuring there are no clashes, liaising with Canada. We have to find lecturers for the courses and hire the venues, book their college lunches and ensure they have train tickets to get to Oxford. We are also responsible for their pastoral care, and need to ensure that they are happy and comfortable and don't get too homesick. Fortunately, I have a splendid assistant, and work closely with the Financial and Academic Coordinators, so I have plenty of support when needed. In my time with the students I have found them to

be the most wonderful young people, polite, thoughtful, cheerful and respectful.

At 5 o'clock Andrew comes home. He now works three days a week but he is also the cook of the house. We used to share it but he is better than I am, so it seemed sensible to let him get on with it.

I was brought up in a service family as my father was in the RAF. We lived in lots of different places but I used to think of Buckinghamshire as my home as that was where my grandparents lived and it was where I went for holidays. I did my teacher training in Hertfordshire and in my third year I married a pilot in the RAF. Again we moved about including living in Norway but we came back to Charlbury when he was based at Brize Norton. We had two sons and were able to stay in Charlbury when he worked at Northolt, North London. When our marriage broke up I decided to stay in Charlbury and moved to Little Lees. Here I met Andrew; his wife had died and he was bringing up two daughters. When we got married Nic, his eldest daughter, had left home, but the other children lived with us and the joint families all got on very well and still do. Nowadays they all live within an hour of us and they have given us seven grandchildren, whom we see a lot.

In the evenings I like to relax doing embroidery or tapestry but we are also involved with things in Charlbury. When I first came to Charlbury in 1975 I was looking for ways to get involved in the community and Cliff Gadsby introduced me to CADS, a new drama group which had been started from the ashes of the old Charlbury Players. At first I worked backstage doing props and scenery. My first big part was Quangle Wangle in "The Owl and the Pussy Cat". I had a zany costume and had to do quite a lot of prancing around on the stage. Recently I played the grandmother in "Cold Comfort Farm" and with my wig and make-up, a lot of people didn't recognise me, which was comforting since it was hardly my most glamorous role. I also enjoy directing and work mostly on comedies and pantomime. I directed "Cinderella" this year and really enjoyed it as I'm able to use my teaching skills in a different way. Rehearsals involve two nights a week and luckily both Andrew and I are involved. We enjoy the company of old friends, it's great fun and of course we go to the pub afterwards.

I have also been involved with the Street Fair. I joined about 14 years ago when Lisa Hadfield Law took over. The Fair was not prospering at that stage but Lisa made a huge difference and every year it goes from strength to strength. I was a committee member for ten years and chairman for three of those, and I also ran the book and bric-a-brac stalls. I now confine my activities to the bric-a-brac, which is a relief as I don't have to store so much stuff throughout the year, or lug heavy boxes of books around. Both of these stalls contribute a substantial percentage to the final sum raised.

Although these activities take up a great deal of our time, Andrew and I think it very important to spend time with our family and grandchildren and now that we have the time, we also like to travel as much as possible. We particularly like long haul journeys and going to less explored areas. We have been to Madagascar, Gambia, Borneo and southern India. There are many more places we still wish to visit.

We are usually in bed by midnight, but I am not an early sleeper and will often read or do crosswords until one or two o'clock in the morning. Perhaps this is why I am such a slow starter the next day!

SALSAFIT

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ChOC (Charlbury's Own Cinema)

Love is in the Air
at ChOC, Charlbury's community cinema

By the time you read this, you may have watched our Valentine's Day special, Cherry Blossoms, a tender and beautiful film which heralded our spring season of films about love. Here are two more!

The Time Traveller's Wife (2009, cert 12A, 107 mins)

Sunday March 14

This is based on a bestselling book that is both very funny and a real tearjerker. A Chicago librarian is born with a rare genetic disorder: whenever he gets stressed, he time travels, arriving at his new place with neither clothes nor money. His relationship with his girlfriend... well, you can imagine! As one paper put it, "it is about a woman who loves a man that she can never completely have, even though he loves her too. In this case, it's because he's forever jumping back and forth in time." Compared with the book, the film places a bit more emphasis on imagination and adventure, so it will appeal to all ages.

Bright Star (2009, cert PG, 119 mins)

Sunday April 11

This gem of a film directed by Jane Campion has attracted extremely positive reviews. It's about the (unconsummated) love between the poet John Keats (who died of TB at 25), played by Ben Whishaw, and his neighbour Fanny Brawne (Abbie Cornish). "Campion brings to this story an unfashionable, unapologetic reverence for romance and romantic love, and she responds to Keats' life and work with intelligence and grace ... This film looks unselfconsciously beautiful ... Poets, like musicians, need silence above all, and much of the film is played out in a deeply quiet calm." (The Guardian) Wonderful!

For films in May, June and later, please visit www.chocfilms.info or pick up our monthly newsletter in the library. Or email newsletter@chocfilms.info to receive our monthly email newsletter.

Films are shown on the second Sunday of each month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Tickets (£4.50) are available from Evenlode Books, Cotswold Frames, News & Things, or on the door. Our bar opens at 6.45 and serves wine and beer: come and relax with friends before the film.

ChOC is busy fundraising to buy our own projection equipment, so we can cut costs, show films to smaller audiences and cater to minority interests too. If you would like to help with this, or indeed any aspect of ChOC's work, or make a donation, please get in touch. Email info@chocfilms.info or call Ed on 811196.

Jon Carpenter

Making a home of the future

Kath Cochrane, SusCha

In the last couple of years I have visited, and read about, new homes built to very high energy standards. They are light, warm, airy and cheap to heat. Although I feel inspired by what can be done, when I get back to my not very light, and not at all warm, farmhouse, I feel slightly helpless. This is where eco-renovation comes in. Sustainable Charlbury and CAWAG are being supported by Oxfordshire ClimateXChange to help people find their way through the maze of insulation, energy, lighting, draught proofing, secondary glazing, double glazing, triple glazing (if you just won the lottery) and alternative energy sources. Although we are not experts we hope to be able to support you and, if we can't answer your questions, put you in touch with those who can. We won't all be able to achieve a super insulated, turf roofed, solar passively heated, heat recovery ventilated dreamhome; but we can make our 18th century cottage or 1970's semi warmer, more comfortable and cheaper to run.

What is the first step? If you have done anything to your house to reduce energy use PLEASE let us know. This way we can: put people in touch with others who have done similar things and share information about suppliers and installers. If you are planning changes to your house – extensions, redecorating, new kitchen, complete refurbishment etc. please let us know and we can help you to join the eco-renovators club which will give you access to a wealth of information and experience.

How to contact us:

The best way is to email info@sustainablecharlbury.org

Or you can call me on 07729846778

For more information on the project please see <http://climatex.org/ecorenovation/>

Kath Cochrane, Sustainable Charlbury

BATTERIES

Since 1 February 2010, the Co-op has started collecting dead batteries for recycling - there is a box on the counter. Until now, only 3% batteries have been recycled nationally and the government hopes to increase this dramatically now that shops selling batteries are responsible for recycling them. We've had battery collection boxes in Charlbury since November 2007 which were organised by the Charlbury Area Waste Action Group. In that time about 10,000 batteries have been collected for recycling - many thanks to everyone who deposited their batteries and please continue - but please now take them to the Co-op.

Charlbury Waste Action Group

SPRING FEAST and CEILIDH

Saturday 27th March

**7pm Doors, 7.30pm Feast begins,
8.30pm Dancing**

Following on from the success of THE BIG LUNCH (a community feast of local food) in July last year, we now have a **'SPRING FEAST and CEILIDH'**. Bring your delicious seasonal, local (UK) dishes to the Memorial Hall to share and once the feasting is over we will push the tables aside and the dancing will begin.

Music from the well-known group: The Kismet Ceilidh Band. All dances will be called so there's no need to be afraid. A bar will be available with local beverages. **EVERYONE WELCOME**
Cost £5 / £3 (10–16yrs) / under 10s free

Please book by contacting:
Christine Elliott: 01608 811057
charlburyfeasts@cwag.org.uk

We can give advice/suggestions about food to bring



A NEW WRITERS' COOPERATIVE LAUNCHES ITS FIRST BOOK

It is a new cooperative, but for older writers. The over-sixties find it hard to get publishers interested in their more personal *legacy writing* for families and friends, because of limited demand and no promise of many further books. So four local would-be published writers and a book-lover have set up 3SCORE PUBLISHING LIMITED as a cooperative business to edit, print, publish and publicise their books. It is group-publishing, proud- as opposed to vanity-publishing, and it exploits the fact that the costs of small printing runs and local marketing have fallen in the digital era.

Their first book is **POEMS by June Osborne**. June joined 3SCORE at the invitation of the members because the quality of her poems was well known through her readings at several POEMS IN A PUB events in Charlbury, where her verse was voted the best by fellow-poets more than once. The poems are made for reading, witty celebrations of great paintings, glorious evocations of the rude vigour of animals (especially cats and kites), and musings on parents and children. June writes about the special place of poetry in her personal life in a brief foreword.

The animator of 3SCORE PUBLISHING LIMITED is Peter Clifton, at 891956. 'Everyone has a book in them, but you need help from friends to get it completed' he says. The co-operative's logotype hints at time running out, but the group welcomes approaches from new candidates. Next books in the pipeline are **Daisy Walks Across the Channel**, written by Peter for children of 8 to 80 years, and **A Miscellany of Poetry and Prose** by Priscilla Frost. A family history is being written even now by Pam Nixon, and further fiction should make the list later in the year.

'We are very proud to have June's high quality poetry as the first book under our imprint.'
Peter Clifton **POEMS by June Osborne** is on sale at Evenlode Books.

CHRONICLE SMALL ADS

Hilltop Garden Centre: Spring is here at last! Time to get busy in the garden!

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

So nothing rhymes with Charlbury!

So what,
who cares one jot!
why worry,
these modern times
who needs rhymes
when a body can scurry
round to Five Ways
for a Curry!

Anon.

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CHARLBURY W.I.

Charlbury WI was reformed last year and we are just coming up to our first birthday in March. Since we started, we have had meetings each month (except August), and every month we have had more members join us. We are a lively bunch of women, and we have had some good speakers to entertain us.

We are very excited at the way our first year has gone, and we now have the programme for 2010. So please come and join us in the Morris Room at the Corner House each 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 pm. Our AGM is on March 17th.

If you would like any more information
please contact
Pat Hill (Secretary) 81071 or
Clare Salter (President) 810422
or see our page on the
Charlbury Website

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET 2010

Charlbury Farmers' Market will be held on the Playing Close, Charlbury, by kind permission of Thomas Gifford's Charity, between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, 13th March 2010

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

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd.

The Market is organised by Nick Potter, Roger Watts and Geoff Burroughs. The contact address is: Studio One, Sheep Street, Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3RR. Tel. 01608 811559 Fax 01608 811554. Email rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

ANNUAL RAINFALL

The rainfall measured at Lees Rest, one and a half miles due east of Charlbury and 500 ft above sea level, between 1 January and 31 December 2009 was 807mm (32.28 ins).

The wettest month was November (126mm/5.04in) and the driest was September (21mm/0.84in). Of course, the rainfall in the centre of the town may have been completely different!

Nick Potter

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Charlbury Area Waste Action Group

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT THEN

Wow ! Great Christmas and New Year - all those parties and the food and booze and it's been so wet and snowy recently - can't really get out in the countryside for a walk or jog but so what !

Oh ! – that's strange the wife has been fiddling with my trousers again tightening up the waistband.

Strange, felt a bit out of breath on the way to the Pub last night - Oh ! and those bathroom scales are wonky again ! – must be - ah well !

Perhaps I should join the Gym ! seems daft to drive all that way just to be shown up by all those hunks and then there's the cost – seems ok until you add it up for a year ! Would I keep it up for a year – unlikely – no real motivation.

I could join the aerobics, but it's embarrassing with all those supple women bending all over the place and anyway I don't suit a leotard !

Well, what then ?

Ah ! well - my mate mentioned he was off to try the dance practice at Charlbury Primary

School on Friday evenings at 8pm – what like strictly ? - Nooo – much more macho and

steady and using stick-clashing to get the beat sorted – tell you what it is amazing how

puffed new blokes get when they try it and then you see 'em at the Street Fair in Charlbury in September and they are managing a full set in the sun in front of the crowds and fit for a pint in the Rose & Crown after without showing it – amazing I might just give that a try ! - after all it is a local tradition and all that - it's what they do round here and they could always do with new men – and most of all they seem to be having a good time when you see them out in the summer at all the best events and they've even been abroad - Munich last year!

Worth a try? – I think I 'll give them a ring on 01608 811 007 or just turn up at the school 8pm any Friday ! See you there?

CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2010

SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

Yes, it's that time again when we are starting to organise this year's **STREET FAIR**. For those of you new to Charlbury, this event is run to raise funds for the upkeep of the Corner House & Memorial Hall, which as you will know is constantly in use by members of the Charlbury community and really does need support in this way.

This year's Street Fair will be held on Saturday 18th September, and we will have all the usual stalls, together with the evening parade and dancing in the street until 10pm. It always is a great day, so put this date in your diary and make sure you don't miss it.

Open Gardens – June 6th – Calling All Gardeners:

This will be the 12th Open Gardens Day held as part of the Street Fair and it has been an enormous success from the start. Spring is here and like nature we are emerging from hibernation to plan this year's event! We are looking for volunteers to offer to open their gardens - of any type – large or small, formal or informal, established or new. Would you be willing to show your garden?

The atmosphere at Open Gardens has always been friendly and lots of tips and information are given and received. The gardeners put in a tremendous amount of effort but I think they would all say it is rewarding on the Sunday afternoon when so many people wander round genuinely interested in what has been achieved.

The gardens will be open from 2pm to 6pm. Tickets and route map available on the day from outside the Corner House from 1.30pm. Teas and plants will be on sale in the Memorial Hall and Garden Room. If you would like to open your garden, please contact Vic Allison on 01608 811262.

HELP !!

However, these events cannot be run without the full commitment of the whole community of Charlbury. We are always on the lookout for new helpers to join our Team. We need new ideas and energy to help achieve the same amount as we did last year – which was a record £15,579. If you would like to help, in any capacity, please contact Barry Cooper at barrycooper@prisymid.com or 07770 225673. I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Finally, will residents of Church Street and Park Street please note that we will be applying to WODC for road closure permission for the 18th September.

Barry Cooper

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**Over-worked?
Working from Home?**



Need manuals, handouts, leaflets, flyers, all types of photo-copying - colour or black and white - email originals to rogerw@bfocus.co.uk for a quick turn round.

**Business
Focus**

Tel/Fax 01993 830948

Email: rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

England ! England! Competition Quiz by Runic

The answers to the 20 clues are English places, events, books, plays, quotations, buildings, institutions etc. The clues are straightforward, or maybe slightly cryptic.

Answers are given below! However, they appear in random order, in lower case, all vowels removed; the resultant string of consonants is inconveniently divided. For your further delectation there are extra (misleading) answers provided.

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Elgarian march | 11 | Irish March influx (Glos) |
| 2 | Dickensian retail outlet | 12 | 'Half castle' 'gainst the Scot' |
| 3 | Wiltshire stones | 13 | Baggies |
| 4 | Weekend woe (Sillitoe) | 14 | Jones' Palladian eatery (London) |
| 5 | Beatles' diurnal/nocturnal difficulties | 15 | Natural selection (Darwinian tome) |
| 6 | RAF station (fictional) | 16 | With a (Shakespearean) hey and ho! (first line) |
| 7 | Elected 1945 ground? | 17 | Austen's Notts. Recreation |
| 8 | Where the jalopies are | 18 | God's Wonderful transport |
| 9 | Regent's seaside extravaganza (Nash) | 19 | A5 |
| 10 | Norwich City FC cuisinier | 20 | Pastry delicacies (from Salford or |

wstbr mwc hlbv st nvll cl mnttll
brg htnp vln mchb ndngnthm rsh
thr gnfs pcs; tsbnh rddy snht; cclcks;
stnh ng; chl tnhmg ldc; grtw str nrlwy;
wtl ngs trt; pm pndc rcmstnc;
nrt hngbr by; dls mth; mn sfdp rk
brznr tn; thmn s nhs; thbn qtngshwh thll
drh mcthd rl; hdr nswll; thl dcrst yshp;
st rdyn ghtnds ndymrnng; twsl vrn dhslls;
brm ngh mcty ; rm nstrt; bl (ntnlm trm sm)

e-mail your answers to:- runic34@googlemail.com

or post in the Corner House Chronicle Box, in envelope marked 'Runic Quiz', giving name and telephone number with answers.

The closing date is April 15th 2010
First correct solution drawn wins a bottle of wine!
Have a go ... good luck!

Church Services

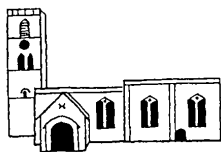
Baptist Chapel, Dyer's Hill



Sunday Services at 10.30am

Church Contact: Joan Belshaw (810130)

St Mary's C of E Church



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

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

www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

Friends' Meeting House, Market Street



Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House

For further details contact Angela Kyte (01993 880368)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



Further information from Gill Grason (810154)

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



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

Confessions before Mass or on call at Presbytery

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

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY

Art & Faith Five illustrated talks for Lent on Thursdays, 8 to 9.30 pm, in Charlbury Parish Church.

25 February - Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, on 'Does Art matter for Faith?'

4 March - Juliet Heslewood, Art Historian, author and lecturer, on 'Heaven and Hell in Romanesque Sculpture'

11 March - Nicholas Mynheer, religious artist, on 'Can Contemporary Art help Faith?'

18 March - Glenda Chadwick, Art Historian, on 'Art and Faith in the northern Renaissance'

25 March - Richard Harries, former Bishop of Oxford, on 'Art and the Passion'

Everyone is welcome. Tickets for each talk (free but donations welcome) from Charlbury churches and Evenlode Books.

Arranged by
Churches Together in Charlbury
contact
rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk

|
Rosalind Scott, Secretary
Churches Together in Charlbury

Letters to the Editor

From Jack Potten

The recent snow closed airports, disrupted road traffic and delayed trains - but Charlbury deliveries of milk and newspapers did not fail. Congratulations and thanks to Mike and Vicky at Charlbury Dairy and to Bill and his staff at News and Things. Winston Churchill was right - "We shall never surrender."

*Jack Potten
Enstone Road*

Hear! hear! - Ed.

From Jennie Jones

This is goodbye!
After seventeen enriching and happy years of the **Pendyffryn Children's Trust**, I now feel it necessary to bow out. This very important note is to thank dear Charlbury for its characteristically generous support of our cause and to rejoice in the knowledge that, at least, our friendship will continue and flourish.
Thank You.
*Jennie (Jones)
Upper Heyford*

Weather report



November 2009 gave little indication of what was to follow. The month started with a daytime high of 59° on 1st and ended with a low of 40° on 30th. Overall, it was warmer than average at 50.33° (average 48.89°), with 18 days recording 50° or above. At night, minimum temperatures ranged from 36° to 52°.

Autumn 2009 (September to November) was a little warmer than average at 57.70° (average 56.84°)

December 2009 started relatively warm, but temperatures dropped in the middle of the month before rising briefly around Christmas. The warmest day was 6th at 51° and the coldest 18th at 33°. The month was colder than usual, with daytime maximum temperature averaging 40.58° (average 43.52°). At night, minimum temperatures ranged from 21° to 46°.

Despite all the reports of **2009** being a very warm year, the average maximum temperature in Charlbury was only 56.95° compared with the average for the 1989-2008 period of 57.61°. In fact, only 6 years during this period were cooler!

People are likely to regard **January 2010** as being one of the worst on record. This will mainly be because of a prolonged cold spell, during which about a foot of snow fell on 5th/6th. The month started cold and we did not reach 40° until 16th. The coldest day was 7th when the thermometer only reached 28°, one of four days during the month when the temperature stayed below freezing point (32°F) - 4th, 7th, 8th and 9th. The highest temperature during the month was 48° on 18th. The average maximum daytime temperature was only 37.58°, which is well below the average of 44.16° for the 1989-2009 period. It was by far the coldest January - the previous lowest was in 1997 (39.19°). At night, it really was necessary to turn up the heating. We had temperatures below freezing on 19 nights, the lowest being 17° on 6th/7th. This was a January record for the period, the previous being 18° in 1997 and 2009. The warmest night was 40° on 18th/19th. There was an air frost on each of the first 15 nights of the month.

John Stanley

DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO READ THE CHARLBURY CHRONICLE?

Please ring the Editor on 810549 to request
a large-print copy

A large-print copy is always available in the Library

Report from County Councillor Neil Owen

The recent spell of extreme weather was a trial for us all. Its duration was a major factor in the subsequent treatment of roads throughout the entire county. Our stockpile of salt based on reasonable predictions was not enough and, this was further complicated by the Government taking control of supplies nationwide. Oxfordshire had 18 gritters working around the clock to keep the county on the move. 18 is the total number of gritters for the entire county which, on the face of it, doesn't seem enough to me but, given our usual winters, it should be adequate. Once again, the old conundrum – do we purchase more at the cost of thousands to the ratepayers just in case we have a similar winter next year? Although the Oxfordshire Highways Department did everything within its power – and did a fantastic job – on the priority roads, this cuts no ice (forgive the pun!) with isolated villages and communities within West Oxfordshire. We live in the most rural and beautiful part of Oxfordshire and in severe winters we pay the price for that privilege. There will inevitably be ongoing discussion at County Hall and local parish meetings on ways to better prepare for similar extreme weather emergencies ie higher priority for rural roads. For myself, when I asked residents how they fared when cut off for days, they said they just got on with it. The best was brought out in people in good-neighbourly ways and communities drew together. I walked down to my local Co-op one morning to find the street thronged with strangers and then realised that these people were commuters who leave early for Oxford and beyond and arrive home late, sleep and repeat the process daily. Of course, they were trapped within the village and I hope they enjoyed an enforced holiday. Sledges, snowmen and delighted children filled the village green and at one stage, the Co-op lorry could not get through and panic buying set in – it was all great fun!

However, we have all emerged unscathed and let us hope for a blistering summer.

*Councillor Neil Owen,
Robinswood, Frog Lane, M-u-W OX7 6JZ.
01993 830875/
anita.owen@tiscali.co.uk*



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REPORT No. 54
By Councillor Nicolette Lethbridge

The Council would like to thank everyone who put up Christmas trees and other decorations outside their houses and businesses, Geoff Burroughs who kindly donated the Corner House tree and the Charlbury Business Community for organising two late evening openings of shops.

The snow and ice this winter made life very difficult for everyone. The Town Council had already arranged for five extra salt bins to be provided by the County Council (we did hope for more) and these will be in place by next winter. The Council is also asking for a meeting with the District and County Councils to discuss the problems and to see how they can be resolved.

The new landscaping of the cemetery extension has been much admired and the Town Council would like to thank Mrs Sarah Potter who designed it.

The Town Council Reception took place in the Corner House on 10th February.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8 pm on Friday 16th April in the War Memorial Hall and is an opportunity for you to ask questions of your Council and to make comments. The Annual Meeting of the Town Council will be held at 7.30 on Wednesday 26th May and details of this and all other Council meetings (to which members of the public are most welcome) can be found on the Town Council notice boards, outside the Corner House, opposite 5 Ways store and next to the Enstone Road bus stop. Any persons wishing to address the Council should notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting. Minutes of meetings can be seen in the library and, together with other information, on the Council's page on the Charlbury website.

The Annual Boundary Walk will take place on Rogation Sunday (9th May) starting at 10am 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.

There are no scheduled Local Government Elections for our Division (OCC) or Ward (WODC) this year: the Polling Station for the General Election will be in the War Memorial Hall, as usual.

At the December Town Council Meeting (attended by 9 out of the 12 councillors) it was resolved to leave the street light timings as they are at the moment but to review things at a later date when more information is available. (Details of the named vote can be obtained from the Town Clerk).

The Town Council Precept (budget) for 2010 of which details can be obtained from the Town Clerk is as follows. The Town Council element of the Council Tax for the year 2010/11 will be £77,634 (previous year £72,569). Much of the expenditure is routine and unavoidable such as general maintenance, grass cutting, insurance and upkeep of buildings. Capital sums need to be put aside for the Community Centre, the pavilion at Nine Acres resurfacing the hard surface there, and for repaying the loan for the cemetery extension and for grants to local organisations. An added expenditure this year is the need to provide new bus shelters at Five Ways and Enstone Road bus stops. (Band D will be £59.97).

To contact the Town Council email the Town Clerk. Roger Clarke, at charl-burytc@btinternet.com or telephone 01608 810608 during office hours.

Report from District Councillor Glena Chadwick
tel 810555 chadwick@glena.plus.com Chronicle March 2010

The problem of underage drinking and the often resultant bad behaviour in public places is being addressed in changes to the Licensing law. The law on selling alcohol to young people is being tightened up; persistently possessing alcohol in public places by young people is now an offence and the police can remove alcohol from the underage even if they are not drinking it. The police also now have the power to return young people under sixteen who are out late, (and presumably causing trouble) to their homes. This all reflects the concern about what has become an increasing problem in the streets of Witney (and possibly elsewhere) at the weekend.

The recent snow caused problems for the whole area. It also brought out community spirit in that many people shopped for their elderly, housebound neighbours. However, there was much anger and criticism about the perceived failure of WODC and OCC to cope with the situation. Also there

Continued over the page

was confusion about what could be safely done by private enterprise. Some of this criticism was because people were not clear which council was responsible for what and also what could be reasonably expected under the conditions. For example one person wondered why burglars were able to visit the Co-op three days before the refuse vehicles got into Charlbury ! However, the burglars were presumably not driving a heavy refuse van nor having to cope with side roads that were still dangerous. However, there are lessons to be learnt. Some sensible, practical suggestions have been made and these are being discussed and passed on. One positive note; although the Christmas tree chipping was postponed for a week the amount chipped has risen to 11.3 tonnes which will all go to good use.

Report from District Counsellor Mike Breakell

01993 868201 *michael.breakell@westoxon.gov.uk or mjbreakell@aol.com*

There has been much discussion about just how or indeed whether to clear the snow of late, but now the roads are clear we have a new parking regime in operation in West

Oxfordshire which is the responsibility of the District Council rather than the Police. Civil Parking Enforcement {CPE} is the responsibility of the District Neighbourhood Management Team headed by Michael McLoughlin, [01993861000] under an agency agreement between Oxfordshire County Council and the District. Parking on yellow lines and in parking bays is no longer a criminal offence, although there are important exceptions such as on zig-zags outside schools where a real danger could occur. Penalty notices of £70 and £50, depending on the severity of the 'civil contravention' will still be issued, although there is still a discount for early payment and all the funds obtained will be used to improve local transport and parking services. In theory this will allow town centres to be kept clearer and create a safer environment for all. There will eventually be six or seven wardens wearing distinctive green uniforms although at present there are only four. Witney is clearly a priority area but other towns will have visits at present on a random basis. The wardens will also note environmental issues and act as ambassadors for the District. The theory is that we will have an improved and more community oriented level of service. I have been assured that they will take a particular interest in specific locations at key times such as Charlbury Street Fair and Cornbury Festival, as well as ensuring that bus routes can operate effectively.

WODC also intends to carry out public participation relating to the Local Development Framework during February, so do look out for the proposals, which mainly affect the growth of Witney, Carterton, and Chipping Norton.

CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Arts Week - Di Gold (810256)

Baptist Chapel - Pippa Nash (811797)

panash_home@yahoo.co

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Deirdre Kincaid 01993 810918

Charlbury Arts Society (CAS) (810116)

Charlbury Beer Festival - Rob Stepney (810180)

walcot2@freenetname.co.uk

www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Charlbury Bowls Club - David Homewood -

811321 david.homewood5@btinternet.com

Charlbury Business Community - Joan

Belshaw (810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net

819117 - chamber@charlbury.info

Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (810130)

hughandjoan@uwclub.net

Charlbury Chess Club - Bob Douglas (811083)

Charlbury Chronicle - Lynette Murphy (810549)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Community Centre Appeal

Lynette Murphy (810549)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Cricket Club - Glen (810971)

karen@mccallum10@wanadoo.co.uk

www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

Charlbury Day Centre - Roger Farrow (819108)

Charlbury Evergreen Club - K 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 - Ron Prew (810060)

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 - Karen Potts

info@csauctionofpromises.com

www.csauctionofpromises.com

Charlbury Scouts & Guides - Fiona Snell

(810565) fiona@snellfamily.me.uk

Charlbury Society - Brian Murray (819091)

Charlbury Street Fair - Barry Cooper

barrycooper@prisymid.com or 07770 225673.

Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Curthoys (810488)

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - Helen

Turner 810330 - artists@harrisonsonturner.co.uk

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group

(CAWAG) Christine Elliott (811057)

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

CHOC Cinema Jon Carpenter (819117)

choc@charlbury.info

Churches Together - Rosalind Scott,

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

The Bell Hotel (810278)

Cornbury Music Festival - Hugh Phillimore

(0207 229 2219) mail@cornburyfestival.com

www.cornburyfestival.com

Cotswolds Guided Walks

Peter Woolfenden (811296)

Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps)

Ann/David Morton - (676302)

Friends Meeting House: Angela Kyte (01993

880368)

Holiday Club - Sue Holiday (810694)

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

Macmillan Cancer Care - Liz & Bob Tait (810150)

Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health Support)

01608 645296

Methodist Chapel - Gil Grason (810154)

The Probus Club of Charlbury Michael Marsh

(810029) mike@mikemarshmd.plus.com

Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (810635)

admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com

www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com

Shed Theatre - Teresa Laughton (811000)

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

St Theresa RC Church

Very Rev Canon David Evans (810576)

Street Stage (touring youth fusion company)

Anneke Hay (811269)

Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (811640)

Thomas Gifford's Charity - Trevor Jones (810644)

trevor.jones@ophiopogon.com

WEA West Oxfordshire (Arts) - Dawn Colvin - (810545)

www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst

Wychwayz Border Morris - Judi Parker (810517)



CHARLBURY'S POLICE OFFICER

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

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

To contact your PCSO
call 0845 8 505 505

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

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