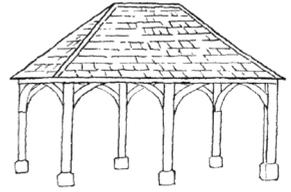


# Charlbury Chronicle



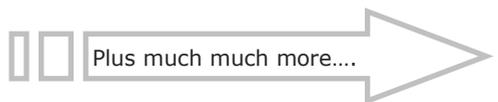
Volume 23 Number 1

Spring 2019

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

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## From the Editor

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I cannot believe that I have been editing the Chronicle for over four years now—and I would like to thank all the many contributors who make this newsletter so varied and all the distributors who bring this to your front door.

Art Weeks in being held from 18-23 May and look out on the website for more details nearer the time.

There is to be a second Charlbury Festival from 7-16 June. This is being organised by the Arts Society but will include events and workshops from the world of arts, music and drama. Open Gardens is also timed to coincide with this event and will be held on 16 June.

The Beavers are looking for an assistant Beaver Leader. Would this be up your street? If so, please contact Cheryl—see page 13.

There is an article describing the Honoured Citizen Award which Ken & Margaret Taylor were presented with on 26 January, on p. 16.

There is another article from Joan Jay about *Charlbury Remembered* and Jennifer Bartlett has also contributed an accompanying article *Albright House* see pp. 18-20.

It really makes me proud to live in Charlbury when you see all that goes on—from tennis, to cricket, to the Community Centre and Pre-School and much much more.

If you have any ideas on what else you would like to see in the Chronicle, please do contact me at:-

*editor.chronicle@outlook.com*

I wish you all a very Happy Easter

*Susanna Finch*

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Summer issue is 1st April 2019  
Please send all articles to *editor.chronicle@outlook.com***



## Charlbury Festival 2019

The 2019 Charlbury Festival programme is almost complete. There will be concerts, theatre, film, literature events, creative workshops, heritage walks and much more. There will also be a number of special exhibitions running during the festival.

For The Secret Art Exhibition, artists are invited to donate one or more postcard size (6" x 4") pieces of work. We welcome drawings and original prints as well as paintings in any medium or even 3D work that would fit in a box 6"x4"x3" deep. These will form an exhibition during the week and be sold to raise funds for the festival. Once a work is purchased the artist will be revealed. We are also planning an Open Photography Competition and a Sculpture Trail.

The Charlbury Museum will have a special event celebrating the return of the restored wagon and its history and the Charlbury Society is planning an exhibition of historical maps. In the library there will be a display of books by many of Charlbury's forty published writers.

Charlbury Festival is generously supported by the Charlbury Beer Festival, Charlbury Town Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

This support, together with several fundraising events to be held over the next few months, will enable many of the festival activities to be free, so do come along and join in.

Fundraising events include:

**Tuesday 16th April:** "Backing into the Limelight" The Story of T.E. Lawrence, Stonesfield Players - David Lines in conversation with Rebecca Johnson.

**Friday 3rd May:** Juliet Heslewood 'England's Green and Pleasant Land' Exploring landscape painting.

**Wednesday 15th May:** "Behind Closed Doors" a peek into the past: Charlbury's artists, writers and craftsmen. Discover more about their lives and their creative work. Illustrated talk by Sue Rangeley referencing artefacts in Charlbury Museum.

So as you think about your plans for 2019, make sure you are not away between 7th and 16th June. Look out for more details in the next Chronicle.

Contact: [secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk](mailto:secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk)

*Tony Lloyd*

### CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL

Office: 01608 810879

Office hours: Mon 9.30am - 11.30am; Wed & Sat: 9am to 12 noon  
(closed first Saturday of every month)

Emergency Contact: Richard Cocks (01608 810032)

Most of the hard work has now been done and the team is focused on pulling the Neighbourhood Plan together into a form that is easy to understand, clearly expresses the community's vision for the future, and sets out the specific policies that will ensure that new developments in the parish will help us to get there. Once this is complete, the draft plan will be published for public consultation and you will have a chance to comment. We urge you to take part in the consultation and let us know what you think. This plan will affect the future development of Charlbury for the next 15 years, so it really matters.

Once our Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, it will be a statutory document which planning officers at WODC must take into account alongside the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the recently adopted WODC Local Plan when determining planning applications within the parish of Charlbury. Our Neighbourhood Plan builds on the policies in the local plan, identifying in greater detail how the special character and landscape of Charlbury can be maintained and respected in future development. Our Plan contains policies specific to Charlbury, addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities. It aims to ensure that the views and needs of the local community shape and direct future development in the town.

Housing affordability is a key issue for Charlbury. To maintain a thriving and diverse community with a balanced age and social structure, Charlbury needs a mix of housing, including properties affordable by those on lower incomes and including those who do not qualify through the housing register but cannot afford local market prices. Most recent market housing development has not reflected this need, so the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to redress the balance with policies that support the provision of a limited supply of new housing affordable by those on or below the median income

for the town. This could include social rented housing, with a particular emphasis on properties accessible by older people or those with disabilities, shared ownership housing and other types of housing available at lower cost in perpetuity.

The Neighbourhood Plan's vision for Charlbury gives high priority to the protection of the historic and natural environment while maintaining a balanced and lively community, able to fulfil its role as a Rural Service Centre (RSC) successfully. This role, based on relatively good transport links and the range of community facilities and services available, adds to the vibrancy of the community and is highly valued by local residents. However, it also brings challenges in areas such as traffic and parking, issues identified in the town survey as the top concerns for local residents. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address these matters through policies requiring or encouraging new developments to reinforce Charlbury's RSC role, protect and enhance employment and services, support sustainable tourism and address traffic-related concerns. For example, new developments will be expected to provide and/or actively support safe walking and cycling routes to the town centre and primary school.

Charlbury's strong historic and natural environment is already recognised and protected through the NPPF and WODC Local Plan due to our location in the Cotswolds AONB, the large number of listed buildings and by the designation of the town's conservation area. The Neighbourhood Plan supplements this protection, drawing on a locally produced Local Character Assessment by detailing specific matters and locations of importance to Charlbury. This includes significant views (e.g. across the Evenlode Valley), green corridors for wildlife (e.g. Sandford Slade & Wigwell) and local green spaces (over 20 identified). It also includes a local design guide containing guiding principles to ensure that Charlbury's unique character and identity is maintained for future generations.

*Peter Kenrick*



## Artweeks in Charlbury 2019



## Charlbury Street Fair 2019

A date for your diary: 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May (inclusive)

Once again Charlbury will be alive with all sorts of art to delight the viewer. All the usual venues will be open and we look forward to seeing some new exhibitors this year.

Look out for further details on the Charlbury Website and around the town. The Festival Guides will be available soon.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Wendy Clifford*

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### Charlbury Day Centre

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Last week we said goodbye to Ruth Gould, who has been our manager for over 12 years. A nostalgic moment for us all, but a chance to mark her considerable contribution to the Centre and for her to bid farewell to everyone.

She had unfortunately been away, because of poor health for nine months, but our wonderful temporary manager Karen Stay, who looked after us while Ruth was absent, has taken over on a permanent basis, much to our relief and both members and volunteers have given her a big thumbs up.

Our membership numbers have increased and we are financially safe for the immediate future, but we would still like more volunteers to help, drive or assist putting chairs and tables away at the end of our day. If you would like to know more about volunteering or you know someone, who might like to be a member, please make contact.

Bob Tait 01608 810150  
[taitsofbrice@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:taitsofbrice@tiscali.co.uk)

Carolyn Connolly 01608 819001

We want to make 2019's Street Fair one to remember as we celebrate Larcum Kendal's 300th birthday on Street Fair Day, 21st September. Kendal was a pioneer of watchmaking, making a copy of John Harrison's first chronometer, which was used by Captain Cook to aid accurate navigation on his second major voyage. So, this year's theme will be 'Time'...

If you are able and willing to help, then please contact me at the email address below. We'd really like fresh ideas from you as well as help with the Quiz (23rd March) and Open Gardens (16th June) events. Some ideas could include street-by-street events and a Fun Run - and extra pairs of hands to arrange all our events will be most welcome!

Being part of the CSF Committee is a nice way of meeting people in Charlbury, helping the community and raising money for the Corner House and the Memorial Hall. Above all, it makes the most entertaining days for the whole town happen.

For the Quiz on Saturday 23rd March, details and entry forms are on the [charlbury.info](http://charlbury.info) website and [www.charlburystreetfair.org](http://www.charlburystreetfair.org).

Charlbury Street Fair is the key fundraiser for the Corner House and War Memorial Hall. Last year we provided nearly £6,000 for the upkeep of these two well-liked community assets, and this enables them to continue to provide a venue for local groups and activities.

If you would like to be part of the Street Fair team, please contact me at [jmdora@btinternet.com](mailto:jmdora@btinternet.com)

Thanks!

*John Dora*



## Charlbury Cricket Club

The club is taking on its most ambitious programme of games this year and has been preparing with an expanded pre-season of indoor training in the community centre, including special coaching sessions for both young and senior players. At weekends, we are now running six league teams, three in the Cherwell League, one in the OCA and two women's sides. In addition, there are midweek 20/20 evening games, as well as the wide spectrum of youth fixtures up to the U17 age range. Plenty of cricket for all!

Our well-established pre-season tour is this year to Sheffield, over the weekend of April 13/14. If the weather's bad, no doubt the fall-back is indoor hospitality! Another pre-season event is a club dinner on Saturday April 27 at the Tiddy Hall in Ascott-under-Wychwood. As well as a good night out, we are hoping to raise much-needed funds for the club's expanded ground and playing

commitments. Details are on the club website.

Other dates for the diary include the annual Charlbury Beer Festival on Saturday June 29, our hosting of the county U13s finals on Sunday July 21 and the OCA League's 20/20 finals on Sunday July 7. Visitors are welcome, as they are to all our games and events.

In 2018 we took on a new venture by entering the Cherwell League for the first time and were successful with our 2<sup>nd</sup> team winning the title in Division 8. The aim is to cement and build on that start, entering a 3<sup>rd</sup> team in Division 10 and hoping our 1<sup>st</sup> team can improve in Division 4. Our women, who won their division in the Midlands League, have secured promotion and we are now putting out a 2<sup>nd</sup> team in a new Home Counties league.

It was also a good year for involving more members in the running of the club. Chairman Tom Eaton's message is to build on this and adhere to a 3-5 year plan allowing us to remain at the heart of cricket in Oxfordshire.

*David Horne, club vice chairman*

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Charlbury's Own Cinema

ChOC's programme for spring starts in March with a screening of "The Children Act". April's film is the Golden Globe winner and Oscar nominated, "A Star Is Born" and in May Robert Redford's feature, "The Old Man & The Gun", is the film of the month.

 **Sunday, 10th March at 7.30pm:** "The Children Act" Cert. 12 / 103mins.

Fiona Maye (**Emma Thompson**) is an eminent High Court judge in London presiding with wisdom and compassion over ethically complex cases of family law. But she has paid a heavy personal price for her workload, and her marriage to American professor Jack (**Stanley Tucci**) is at a breaking point. In this moment of personal crisis, Fiona is asked to rule on the case of Adam (**Fionn Whitehead**), a brilliant boy who is refusing the blood transfusion that will save his life. Adam is three months from his 18th birthday and still legally a child. Should Fiona force him to live?

**Admission: Adults, £5 / U15s, £3.**

 **Sunday, 14th April at 7.30pm:** "A Star Is Born" Cert.15 / 2hrs 10mins.

Seasoned musician Jackson Maine (**Bradley Cooper**) discovers and falls in love with-struggling artist Ally (**Lady Gaga**). She has just about given up on her dream to make it big as a singer - until Jack coaxes her into the spotlight. But even as Ally's career takes off, the personal side of their relationship is breaking down, as Jack fights an ongoing battle with his own internal demons.

**Admission: £5**

 **Sunday, 19th May at 7.30pm:** "The Old Man & the Gun" Cert 12A / 93mins.

An elderly man is driving down a Texan freeway when he sees a woman whose

car has broken down. He offers her a lift and she accepts. They start talking and soon strike up a rapport. She asks him what he has been doing. He replies 'robbing a bank'. She laughs, as most of us would. But what he says is true. The man is Forrest Tucker (**Robert Redford**), a career criminal who has recently escaped from San Quentin prison and is responsible for a string of bank robberies across the USA over the course of many decades.

Tucker is a gentleman bank robber who carries out his crimes in a low-key manner, never resorting to violence or histrionics. Detective John Hunt (**Casey Affleck**) is on the scene when Tucker pulls his next bank job. But as he is unaware that a crime has been committed, he has his leg pulled ruthlessly by his colleagues. Stung into action by their barbs, Hunt becomes intrigued by Tucker's antics and resolves to track him down and bring him to justice.

Based on a true story, and widely reputed to be the last movie of Redford's illustrious career, *The Old Man & the Gun* is a warm and charming film with an old-fashioned feel somewhat redolent of 1980s cinema. It features a masterful central performance by Redford and acts as a fitting swansong for the great Hollywood star.

**Admission: Adults, £5 / U15s £3.**

*All films are shown in the Memorial Hall, Browns Lane, Charlbury. Just turn up and pay at the door. Doors and licensed bar open 45 minutes before the film begins.*

ChOC's bar prices have been held at the same level since 2013. Unfortunately, further recent increases in the cost of wine and beer have finally made it necessary to update our price list. Therefore, with effect from March 2019, wine will be £3.50 per glass and beer £3.50 per bottle.

ChOC is a not for profit cinema, income from ticket sales and bar receipts is used to run ChOC and includes the payment of licences, hall hire, public liability and equipment insurance, Cinema For All membership, and the purchase of DVDs.

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

More information can be found at [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

### **Sunday 10th March—10am**

*Beyond Warmington*

12 miles 5 hours

*A circular walk exploring the countryside to the north of Banbury on the fringes of the Cotswolds.*

Start: Warmington, by the Green

### **Thursday 14th March—10am**

*The Rake and the Highwayman*

6 miles 3 hours

*A circular walk through Dean and Chadlington including part of the route dedicated to highwayman Claude Duval.*

Start: Spelsbury, near the church

### **Thursday 21st March—10am**

*Two Settlements separated by Centuries*

4.5 miles 2.5 hours

*A short walk travelling through time. A village largely created in the twentieth century and a settlement inhabited 2,500 years ago.*

Start point – The Greedy Goose on the A44 GL56 0SP

### **Sunday 24th March—10am**

*Stones and Ditches*

8 miles – 4 hours

*Walk along Oxfordshire Way to Stonesfield with views over the Evenlode. Then through Kingswood joining Shakespeare's Way to Ditchley Park with views of the house and past Grim's Ditch returning to Charlbury. A good reasonably priced meal can be had after the walk at The Bell*

Start: The Bell Charlbury

### **Saturday 20th April—10am**

*Three Churches and a River*

6.5 miles - 3.5 hours

*A walk with views over the Evenlode Valley and visiting Shorthampton Church with its fine wall paintings. The second church is Spelsbury with its fine memorials to the Lee family and finally the return to Charlbury with a 12th Century church.*

Start: Spendlove Centre Car Park

### **Sunday 28th April—10am**

*Skip over to Shipston*

11 miles - 4.5 hours

*A circular walk to Shipston.*

Start: Layby in Upper Brailes near the village hall

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May—10am**

*Bluebells in Foxholes*

6 miles - 3 hours

*Starting from the New Beaconsfield Hall Shipton under Wychwood the walk passes Bruern Abbey reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where the bluebells should be in flower. We return by woodland and field paths.*

Start: New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood

### **Friday 10th May—10am**

*Views and Blues*

7.5 miles - 4 hours

*The walk is mainly on field tracks in Warwickshire's rolling countryside with far reaching views and [hopefully] bluebells in Whichford Woods.*

Start: Whichford Village Green

### **Saturday 11th May—10am**

*A Tite Circle*

5 miles - 2 hours

*A circular walk from the Tite Inn going past Dean and Spelsbury. The return is via Dean Grove and along part of the Oxfordshire Way.*

Start: Tite Inn, Chadlington

*Rosemary Wilson*

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## **A Day's Life: Tony Lloyd – artist and printmaker**

*I had been to Tony's studio during Artweeks, and I wondered when he became an artist and printmaker*

I have always been interested in art, and had gone to evening classes in painting and ceramics all through my working life. I decided to retire two to three years early from work about ten years ago, in order to do a fine art degree at Banbury. I left work on the Friday and started at Banbury on the Monday.

It was a brilliant full-time art course. I realised I would never be a really good painter –my tutor told me that painters had to be in the top 1% to get anywhere with their art, and obviously I wasn't. I decided to concentrate on other things, tried a number of alternatives, and then discovered printmaking. I absolutely loved it, and sculpture as well. This is probably because of my background, this love of making things.

I trained as an engineer, studying Chemical Engineering at Swansea University. I was born in London but moved as a child to Cockermouth in the Lake District. My father was an engineer in the steel industry, so we moved around a bit due to his job. He also worked in Cardiff at the East Moors steel works.

The steel works in both areas have closed now. Swansea was a lovely university to be at, and very cosmopolitan. At that time, it had roughly a third science students, a third arts and a third applied sciences. I was able to live in halls of residence, so most of my friends were from different disciplines.

I knew that industry was an exciting place to be from my father and going with him to his work places. So I always wanted to work in industry and when I finished my degree, I got a job in the paper industry and remained there for all my working life. The paper industry is a seriously heavy industry, producing huge reels of paper ten feet wide at a rate of 40 miles an hour, 24/7! If anything goes

wrong, it goes wrong dramatically. My first job was with a company called Scott Paper, based in Gravesend on the Kent coast, but most of my working life-40 years or so-was with Kimberly Clark, also in Kent. This part of the county is very industrialised, its coastal location giving it access to the sea for obtaining raw materials and sending out the finished products.

I worked on the technical side as a production engineer, which is fairly hands on, and moved gradually towards project management. For a number of years I ran the operation which produces one million Andrex rolls a day! Kimberly Clark was a wonderful company to work for, full of creative people. I was very lucky to be there – working as part of multi-disciplinary teams to make things happen.

I met my wife Ann, who worked at Heathrow, and when we married, we went to live in Gravesend, Sevenoaks and then Maidstone, near my work. But Ann has long wanted to live in Charlbury ever since we took our children to the pantomime in Chipping Norton and explored the area.

So when the chance came for me to retire, we sold our house in Kent, I was accepted at Banbury and a house in Charlbury came up for sale – everything fell into place at much the same time. Our house here was in very good condition, so we could enjoy it and take our time deciding what alterations we wanted to make

What was it like studying art in Banbury? Of course, most of the students were young people, but the course attracted a lot of part-timers, who were older. So there was a real mix of people and some very inspiring teachers.

As I said, I specialised in printmaking and sculpture, and my work on these were the only items I had in my degree show. I then studied for a masters in print-making at UWE in Bristol with its fantastic facilities. This was a part-time course, one day a week for three years. And now I continue to study printmaking, at Kensington and Chelsea College one

day a week, again with a wonderful teacher. I have learned many printmaking methods, and the one I particularly enjoy is etching. I like the fact it is still the same process as Rembrandt was using almost 400 years ago. When I am developing an idea, I sometimes find that combining different printmaking techniques gives the result I want.

The best paper for printmaking is made out of cotton. Because cotton is long fibred, it is strong and lasts for ever. It will also not turn yellow, which old books tend to do, and will remain white. You get much better results with this type of paper, especially if etching, where it is necessary to press very hard.

Water colour artists also prefer to use paper made from cotton. There is only one mill left in the UK that makes it, in Wells in Somerset, [Ed: *St Cuthberts Mill in Wells*] but some still do in France and Germany. On the other hand paper used for everyday household products such as Kleenex tissues, are made from wood pulp, a by-product of the timber industry. The pulp—from pine, eucalyptus and other trees—comes from Sweden, Canada and South America. The trees are grown specifically for the timber and paper industries. It is generally a 70 year crop, but for eucalyptus it's only 7 years.

What do I do in a typical day? I am not a morning person, and tend to take a while to get going. Also it is too cold to go and work in my studio first thing at the moment [Ed: *January*]. At present, I am doing some stone carving. For eight years, I have taken part in Artweeks, and

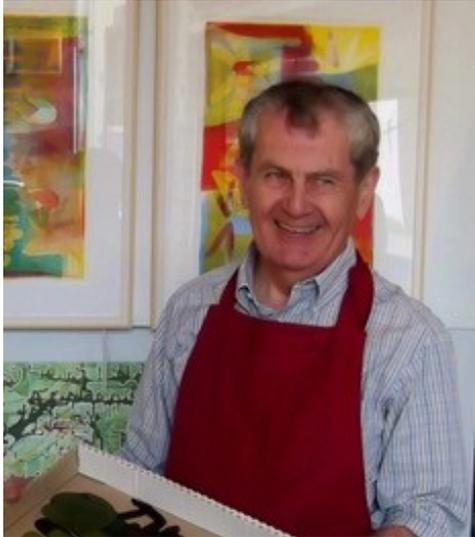
also the Banbury biennial Ironstone Prize. In the summer I run print-making workshops, for beginners right through to established artists.

The Charlbury Art Society has over 170 members and is run by a fantastic committee, of which I'm the chair. We are trying to broaden our appeal beyond the visual arts to include literature and music.

To reach out to more people and to get them involved in making art, whether they are members or not. To make it a society for The Arts, rather than simply visual art. In the past year or two we have held workshop sessions for people to come and try out different techniques. The most recent activity involved sixty people each making a mosaic swift. These now make a dramatic swoop of swifts at the Community Centre.

About fifteen years ago, there were a couple of Charlbury Festivals with events spread over a month. We have revived that idea, and are preparing for our second Charlbury Festival with literature, music, talks, plays, activities, walks and more. The first one we organised (in 2017) was such a success that we find people and societies have approached us to be involved in this second one. The Festival is like an umbrella for all the good things in Charlbury, and raises the profile of all that is going on, undertaken by people who generously give their time. It is Charlbury entertaining itself!

*Tony Lloyd was talking to Barbara Allison*





Charlbury WI continues to flourish with new members and new activities. In addition to our speakers at our monthly meetings, we have craft workshops and theatre visits. If you feel inspired to try new activities and make new friends then why not try Charlbury WI?

In January we had a talk on the "Ascot Martyrs" which was very interesting and informative. In February we heard from Russell Cherry on "The Ridgeway Explored".

In March its our AGM and 10th birthday—so it will be a social with some cake!!

April sees us listening to Helen Plumb, who will be speaking about her company Just Gems.

And in May, well it's the Resolutions Meeting but more importantly, Pudding Tasting!

You are welcome to come along to the WI as a visitor to have a chat and see what we do, before deciding whether to join. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Details of forthcoming events are on the Charlbury website or contact Margaret Jowett at

*charlburywi@gmail.com*

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

*Susie Finch*

We currently have 40 members who enjoy meeting together for lunch on the 1st Wednesday of each month, except January, at the Witney Lakes Resort. Each meeting lasts about 3 hours and includes time to socialise at the bar before sitting down to a two course lunch, followed by a short presentation from an invited speaker.

Our speaker for February was Anne Lawson-Porter who talked us through her trip to South America, illustrated with photos taken by husband Ken. Our March meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and will not have a guest speaker.

We have an enhanced festive Christmas lunch in December, but no lunch in January, however we do have an Annual Dinner to make up for the missing lunch date.

We usually have a number of outings during the year including a visit to see a show at the wonderful Watermill Theatre near Newbury, a trip to the Birmingham Symphony Hall for the classical music fans amongst our number, and a day trip. The day trip last year was to the Black Country Museum in Dudley, and the previous year to the Severn Valley Railway.

The meetings are informal we have a dress code of smart casual. Membership currently costs £15 per annum plus an additional monthly cost of £17.50 per lunch. We always welcome new members, you can find follow us on the Charlbury Community website. You can also contact Mike White the club Secretary on 07710 296814 or at *mike.ewhite7@gmail.com*.

*Mike White*

## 1st Charlbury Scouts Update

The Beavers have started the new term by choosing the badges which they'd like to do this year – Air Activities and Experiments were popular!

This term's plan also includes outdoor conservation activities with the Wychwood Project and, looking further ahead, an adventure day at Youlbury. Some of our older Beavers will move up to Cubs, by which time they will have completed the Chief Scouts Bronze Challenge Award, no mean feat in the two to two-and-a-half years of a Beaver's career!

The Cubs enjoyed a busy term through the autumn, working towards their My World and Digital Citizen badges. We awarded 41 badges ranging from Artist, Emergency Aid, Paddle Sports to the Chief's Scouts Silver award (the top award for Cubs).

This term we will be finishing off the My World challenge working with the Wychwood Project. We are also starting to do some work towards our Adventure Challenge badge, which we will progress once the nights get lighter after Easter. We look forward to the Winter Challenge at the start of March, somewhat of a rite of passage for the older Cubs, and we hope to get some solid camping in in the summer. Scouts continue with very healthy numbers. The leaders are

planning a great range of activities for 2019, from Astronomy to Orienteering and Climbing, as well as completing the Creative Challenge – we have some very musical Scouts! Although we haven't had an official parent helper at Scout meetings, we do welcome an extra pair of hands, especially on our outdoor/night time activities.



### Help Needed:-

#### *Assistant Beaver Leader*

Beavers are age 6-8 and are the 1<sup>st</sup> rung in the Scouting Ladder. Their motto is 'fun and friends' and Beaver Leaders help them achieve this through facilitating a wide range of activities, leading to their Chief Scout Bronze Award. Other than a sense of fun, no special skills are required. A great part of helping Beavers is that they are very receptive to new ideas.

Interested in finding out more? Email [cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk)

Relax, unwind, read the papers, catch up with friends and colleagues and enjoy some delicious home-made cake along with a steaming cup of Fair Trade tea or coffee at the

### **Font Cafe**

**St. Mary's Church, Charlbury**  
**10am to 12 noon every Thursday**

For smaller children we provide a play area with toys. Free Wi-Fi available



## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

*The Poppy Appeal for 2018* raised £6272.09 a new record, in Charlbury and the surrounding area (Finstock, Fawler, Chilson, Shorthampton and Cornbury with Wychwood). We would like to thank all those who collected and contributed.

The Poppy Appeal Organisers for Charlbury and the surrounding villages are Pam Rolls (01608 810042) and Ian Parsons (01608 810822).

Anyone who would like to help the 2019 Poppy Appeal in any way is asked to contact either Pam or Ian.

### *The Annual Band Concert*

The Band Concert was given by the Accidentals on 9 November, another wonderful evening.

*Please note your diary for 2019 the concert will take place on Friday 8 November.* During the evening the following awards were announced:-

Poppy Appeal collector awards to :- Jo Bell, Martin Callaway and Alison and Richard Cherry each for 5 years and George Chambers for 10 years.

A Branch Certificate was awarded to the staff and customers of Ye Olde Three Horseshoes for their continuing support of and donations to The Poppy Appeal.

*On the afternoon of Sunday 11 November wreaths were laid at the War Memorial* which is in the Memorial Chapel inside St Mary's Church. For the Charlbury Branch Derek Fowler, for Thames Valley Police Inspector Steve Hookham, for Charlbury Town Council Cllr. Vince Hill, for Charlbury WI Jo Murphy and for Oxon Fire and Rescue Bob Cross.

The Kohima Epitaph was read by Jenny Chambers and the salute was taken by Cllr. Peter Kenrick.

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

To commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI the parade route from The Playing Close to St Mary's Church was decorated with Poppies. Many thanks to all those who made some 1500 poppies, the sewing team and the business and homes who embraced the decorations. Sincere thanks also to Cyril Kerry who made the "Silent Soldier" statues that were placed outside the Primary School and around the Town Centre.

Primary School pupils produced some heart warming art work and nearly 300 poppies that were on display in the War Memorial Hall and a large wreath on show in St Mary's – a splendid contribution – thank you.

### *Trip to the National Army Museum - London*

The Branch is hoping to organise a trip to this Museum on 27 April 2019.

Expressions of interest please to Jane Parsons (01608 810822) as soon as possible.

### *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 01608 810388 or Derek Fowler (Branch Chairman) on 01608 811706 or Jane Parsons (Branch Secretary) on 01608 810822.

There is a Royal British Legion Pop In Centre which is held in the Congregational Church, Welch Way, Witney on the second Thursday of the month between 10.30am and noon, where "information, advice and guidance is available for serving members of the Armed Forces, Reservists, Veterans and their families". These sessions are run by Legion staff and although held in a church have no religious association.

*Jane Parsons*

# Charlbury Bowls Club

The Oxbrew Bowls Green, 74 Ticknell Piece Road, Charlbury, OX7 3TW

[www.charlburybowls.co.uk](http://www.charlburybowls.co.uk)

## Open Day

Enjoy a game of skill, but which anyone of any age can play? Like being outdoors, in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere? Looking for a summer sport? Or just want to find out what happens at a



bowls club? Then come along to an open day and roll up a few bowls. No obligation, but you might actually enjoy it and want to play more!

Email [enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk) for more information

**Saturday 20 April &  
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## **Celebrating Volunteering in Charlbury Inaugural Honoured Citizen Award presented to Ken & Margaret Taylor**

On Saturday 26th January, well over 100 local volunteers packed the War Memorial Hall in Charlbury to witness the presentation of the first ever Charlbury Honoured Citizen Award to Ken & Margaret Taylor, long term residents of the town who have dedicated an immense amount of time and effort to the community over several decades and who epitomise the spirit and commitment to the town that has made Charlbury the lively and supportive place that it is today.

This inaugural award was presented by Peter Kenrick, chairman of the Town Council, who explained that the council had introduced the award to be a tribute to individuals who have given dedicated voluntary service, normally over many years, and have made a significant positive difference to the community and to the lives of residents. He congratulated Ken and Margaret and thanked them for their dedication to the community. Following the presentation, both Ken and Margaret delighted those present with entertaining reminiscences and memories of Charlbury in earlier times.

The presentation event was also a general celebration of volunteering in the town, an opportunity to thank all local volunteers in recognition of the invaluable contribution they make to the community. Those attending represented more than 40 volunteer organisations operating in the town.

### *Ken and Margaret Taylor - Charlbury Honoured Citizens*

For over 25 years Ken and Margaret have served the Evergreens, starting with some 20 members and ending with 80 plus. A major achievement which demonstrates the interest in and need for such a gathering. I am sure that this is now much missed following Ken and Margaret's "retirement". During their time it had been the practice to arrange two holidays per year for members, one week in the summer and another later in the year when the turkey and tinsel

season begins. There were regular day trips to places of interest with visits to the club meeting by guest speakers, magicians, comedians, singers, choirs and general entertainment including bingo.

Four coffee mornings each year were arranged to raise funds for the Evergreens in order to provide members with a Christmas meal, initially in the Memorial Hall but latterly at the Wychwood Golf Club. The club provided an interest and activity for the evergreen sector of our community and was without any doubt highly appreciated. When the club closed there were considerable balances in the funds and these have provided very generous grants to numerous local organisations and charities.

Ken and Margaret have also contributed to the Street Fair, as committee members and organisers for coffee mornings, tea and cake sales at the Memorial Hall on Street Fair day, assisting with organising evening parades, street dancing and finally clearing up the mess the next day. Well beyond the call of duty! Coupled with this they are no mean dancers themselves and doubtless were among the first to grace Church Street on Street Fair evening. They have organised many events to raise monies for the upkeep of the Corner House and War Memorial Hall including annual concerts by the Brize Norton singers, generally a sell-out.

They have both worked with the Royal British Legion as standard bearers and I believe Ken reached the literally dizzy heights at the annual service at The Albert Hall.

Ken and Margaret, you can be extremely proud of your contribution to Charlbury. On behalf of the whole community, we thank you wholeheartedly for all your efforts, without which Charlbury would be a poorer place.

We expect this event to become a regular feature of the Charlbury calendar so if any member of the community would like to nominate another Charlbury resident please contact the town clerk at [charlburytc@btinternet.com](mailto:charlburytc@btinternet.com) (or 01608 810608 during office hours) for details.



*Ken & Margaret Taylor receiving their award*



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## ***Charlbury Remembered by Joan Jay (nee Tidmarsh)***

One dark night in about 1943 when Dad was up in the signal box, a troop train pulled in briefly. After it had gone on up the Worcester Line, Dad heard footsteps clanking up the iron staircase... most unusual.. followed by a tap on the door. He opened it to find Winston Churchill standing there to thank him for manning the box and to shake his hand! Churchill was then taken by car to Ditchley Park, a rather creepy house which always had the blinds drawn. It would have been used by the cabinet, if we had been invaded. Dad said nothing of this for at least 30 years after the war – it was such a huge secret.



The war brought soldiers, ATS girls and GIs into Charlbury and Cornbury Park. My mother took in their washing and we enjoyed talking to them. Sergeant Watson liked me particularly as he had a little girl in Durham my age. He gave me a pink hankie case before leaving for Dunkirk where, like so many others, he was killed. I still have the pretty case and once visited Durham Cathedral and read his name on the War Memorial there.

Food rationing made things difficult so we kept a few hens at the Pit in Ditchley Road. Dad grew vegetables there on his allotment and looked after Mr Chris Price's plot too, so we never starved. Baskets of beans, peas, carrots etc. were swapped for other food stuffs and our bacon ration was always exchanged for extra cheese for Dad's sandwiches. We drank Camp coffee and Gran shook the cream from the milk in a Kilner jar to make butter. At the Bull Inn, free range chickens scratched about and two wandered into our yard. They never went home but laid eggs and slept in our shed for years!

Air raid warnings were frequent and, at first, we all tried to sleep downstairs but no one slept so we stayed in bed. Dad took us all outside one night and we saw the red glow of Coventry burning. In Charlbury the Home Guard kept us safe...

though 'Dad's Army' could have been based on it. Mr Osborne as Capt.

Mainwaring and dear old Sam Godden as L. Cpl. Jones, always out of step. We were so proud of them.

My brother Roy was a member of the ATC and was crazy about aircraft. He would make me join him to stand on top of the shed and I had to record every plane. After school – we all went to Chippy – he would often walk to the airport and hitch a lift in any plane either to Enstone or Gt Rissington and walk back home from there.

During the war, the Corner House was transformed into a British Restaurant 1-2 days a week. Occasionally we would go there and enjoy the treat of shepherd's pie and apple tart and custard, for about 6d. To us it was very exciting. Jumble sales were held there too and post-war, a library was installed downstairs. Saturday nights were dance nights; generally Old Time Dancing but always huge fun and with Frank Jeffs as DJ.

Leisure time was spent locally and was dictated by the seasons; sledging in the Winter down Mount Pleasant. If you went too fast the stream at the bottom soaked you! In Summer there were bike rides, walks around the lanes and swimming in the river, avoiding the cows if possible. Occasionally, an inner tyre could be cadged from Bruce's garage and we could use it to float down-stream. Most of us could swim well enough to avoid drowning and some brave souls would dive in the deep areas or cross the river on a rope suspended from a tree.

Dad took us for walks along the railway line when we wanted to collect frogspawn or the huge roman snails for racing purposes. It seems foolhardy now, but Dad knew the train times and would tell us to listen to the metal lines – if they started to hum, we knew to get up on the bank. We were never endangered; but the head of a team of Gangers was not so fortunate and was killed one wintry night.

The Winter of 1947 was particularly severe, with very heavy snowfalls that prevented the bus from taking us to school for three weeks. Exhilarating at first but soon very dreary as even sledging was hard going until the lads cut channels like the Cresta Run into the drifts. We ran out of coal and the delivery lorries couldn't get through, so Mum, Rosa and I took the sledge to the station coal yard and filled up two sacks. Hard-going downhill: but even harder struggling to push such a weight up Station Hill - and in our ancient wellies while slithering about reduced us all to helpless laughter. We were very warm by the time we reached home! Even when school resumed, the huge drifts remained higher than the top windows of a double-decker bus.

During the war, every roadside had huge piles of empty bomb cases stacked neatly, ready for use. Silver radar strips floated from the sky and the boys collected them. Help was needed on the farms to help with the grain harvest and, over the October half term, with lifting potatoes.

Roy, Rosa and I were all eager recruits, though rarely working together. I worked for Wally Baughan and loved sitting on the cart behind a huge horse before reaching the fields. We walked for miles round and round following the binder and stoking up.

I discovered that oats are light; barley is horribly prickly and reaches everywhere and wheat is heavy. We were paid 2/- (10p) per hour. Spud-picking on a cold October morning was hard. The ground was uneven and, if the yield is good, speed is essential. We wore sacking aprons and emptied them into sacks. Mr Baughan let me drive the tractor for hay-making but threshing was an all-male job.

Sometimes we worked for John Foster and I remember sitting on the seed drill making sure the seed was trickling through. Suddenly, I was catapulted into the air as the ancient leather straps linking drill to tractor had snapped. Landing on a stony field was very bruising but I wasn't badly hurt. Work

stopped temporarily for emergency repairs to both me and the drill!

The GIs were based in Cornbury Park, requisitioned by the government. Their vehicles were camouflaged between the many trees and a lot of the men were mixed race which seemed very exotic in our eyes. Occasionally the GIs held a dance in the Victorian Hall in Church Street and sold tiny ice cream cornets for 1/2d.

8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 was Victory in Europe - VE Day. It seemed to be a mixture of huge relief together with apprehension as to what the future might bring and of course, the war in Japan was fierce still.

Although we had all watched the myriads of planes going South for D Day in 1944, none of us children had any real idea of peace and it was an odd sensation. Realistically, conditions were worse as rationing was then more severe - I was through college when it finally ended in 1954.

However, Charlbury celebrated in style with a street party held at the widest point in Church Street opposite the Bell. It was huge fun. There were others to follow, sometimes with floats and fancy dress. We knew how to enjoy ourselves. How we had loved the parades of the Guards, Scouts, Guides and Brownies and Charlbury Town Band puffing away their limited repertoire!

I still feel extremely fortunate to have had those early years in Charlbury and rejoice to see how well it is being cherished now.

*Joan Jay*

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## Albright House

In the last issue my old friend Joan Jay, nee Tidmarsh, wrote about her memories of Charlbury from 1935, when she was three, when her family came to live here. She asked if anyone knew who the old, bearded ladies were who sat in the bay window of Albright House, Church Street.

Well I do because those two ladies were our Land-ladies. Their names were Mrs. Sturge and Mrs. Harwood. They were sisters and were connected to the Albright family. We lived in Myrtle Cottage, as my grandparents and their family had since 1879, I think.

I was born in 1935, and I did not know Joan until much later, when we went to Chipping Norton County Grammar School, as it was then.

During the war we went to the shelter, the cellar, in Albright House, which Mrs Sturge and her sister had made comfortable. Our next door neighbours were the Shayler family.

I remember two things from spending time in the cellar, apart from seeing everyone, our neighbours, the old ladies and their niece, Miss Brown who stayed with them. The first is the noise of the bombers flying overhead, to Coventry, I was told. The second was that before the all clear had sounded, I heard footsteps coming down to the cellar. I thought it must be Hitler.

Luckily it was my father telling us that it was safe to go home. He was in the Fire Service at the time and was on night duty.

Joan also mentioned the black velvet bands around the necks of the old ladies. It was quite common to see ladies of a certain age, and I suspect, class, to wear neck bands. It was a fashion of the time.

There is more information in the Charlbury Museum about the Albright families.

*Jennifer Bartlett ( nee Price)*

## New poetry anthology: call for contributions

Several years after the successful Charlbury anthologies *Because We Never Said Goodbye* and *Poems from a Little Town of Stone*, our appetite for reading and writing poetry is undiminished. Combine that with the fresh appeal from Shorthampton Church, which needs work on the roof, and there is a clear case for another fundraising book.

Mick Rooney RA has kindly offered to produce a painting for the cover. Jon Carpenter is no longer publishing, and we do not have his shop as an outlet. So we are asking contributors to meet the up-front costs of design and printing (estimated at £30-40 per writer; or perhaps £10 per poem), in return for free books – which will have a cover price of £10.

Anthony Landale and I will edit the material and organise production. Please mail [robstepney@outlook.com](mailto:robstepney@outlook.com) if you'd like to discuss having your poems included. We would also be very happy to hear from anyone – author or not – who would like to contribute to production costs. They too will receive a couple of free books, as well as grateful acknowledgement.

*Rob Stepney*

*We would like to thank everyone who attended the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Rolls at St Mary's Church and for joining us at the Memorial Hall for refreshments.*

*We also appreciate the donations that were made in the memory of John for the Haematology & Oncology departments at The Churchill Hospital.*

*Sincerely,  
Pam and family*



Our annual series of monthly talks and presentations continues. These will be in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.30.

On Wednesday 13th February: we had **Jill Colchester** - Sketching the Figure. Jill demonstrated her experimental drawing techniques.

Wednesday 13th March: **Martin Andrews** will talk about Allen W. Seaby and explain his extraordinary colour woodcut printing technique.

Wednesday 10th April **Mary Acton** from the Continuing Education Department of Oxford University will give a talk entitled "How to look at Sculpture"

The last talk of this season will be on Wednesday 8th May when **George Speake** will talk about Saxon Art and Archaeology and tell us about a major recent discovery he has been working on.

The **Spring Show** will be on 5th and 6th April together with the Garden Society. As well as an exhibition of members' work we are planning a retrospective exhibition celebrating the life and work of **Geoff Clifford**. As well as being actively involved in the Art Society for that last 30 years Geoff was also an enthusiastic member of the Garden Society. There will be a private view on Friday and the exhibition continues on Saturday.

*Contact:*  
[secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk](mailto:secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk)



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## CHARLBURY Community Centre

# The Charlbury Community Centre Appeal

It often happens that when something stops, it is because it is a victim of its own success. Such is the case with the CCCA, which has decided to wind up its activities after an impressive 15 years.

Since 2003, when the group was established by the redoubtable Lynette Murphy together with Richard Neville and Diana Potten, this stalwart group of volunteers has been organising the most astonishing range of very successful events in Charlbury with a specific aim of raising £250,000 towards construction costs for the proposed Charlbury Community Centre for the benefit of the town.

Their first event, in April 2004, was a Valedictory Concert by The Royal Engineers Band, organised by General Sir Scott Grant, which raised a very impressive £5,204.

Since then there has been a regular stream of events for us to enjoy, including a fete day at Ditchley Park which raised an astonishing £22,000. In addition there have been Burns Nights, variety shows, concerts, film quizzes and a regular stall selling Pimms at the Beer Festival. The Buy-a-Brick scheme raised over £10,000 and the names of the supporters can now be seen as a very long list next to the sports hall doors. The CCCA is proud to have exceeded its target; it raised £282,494.87 in total.

The Community Centre still needs to raise money: 80% of the running costs are covered by user fees; 20% needs to be raised through grants, donations and fund raising events. Many of the original CCCA members are still actively supporting the centre either as trustees or as volunteers, organising and supporting events.

In fact, a new scheme is to be launched for those who missed out on Buying-a-Brick: these will be the *Friends of Charlbury Community Centre*, giving regular donations by standing order, and whose names will be displayed in the centre's lobby.

Regular and very successful quiz nights are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month, providing a further opportunity to support the centre while having fun. Do come along to join in, or even offer to set a quiz for us!

Meanwhile the CCCA committee will be standing down. Richard Neville is also retiring as a Thomas Gifford trustee, and we all owe him a huge debt of gratitude for so efficiently and effectively running the finances for so many years. Thank you Richard, and Lynette and all the other stalwart volunteers over the years who have worked so well to raise essential funds and have made Charlbury Community Centre the fantastic resource we now enjoy.

*Sue Terry*

Thomas Gifford Trust, February 2019

For more information or to become a Friend of Charlbury Community Centre, please email:

[info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk)





## A Gig, a B&B, and so much more!

CRAG's annual **Bring & Buy** sale, which took place on 12 January, raised no less than £877 for refugees. This success followed our very moving **Twelfth Night gig with folk musician Brian Boothby**, which not only enchanted the audience but raised a further £1044. Our thanks also go to the **Lawson** family for donations from craft and book sales, and to **Geoffrey Strachan** for the proceeds from sales of books by Andreï Makine that he has translated. Together with other donations we were able to send another £2000 to the charity Help Refugees in January.

The discussion meeting we held last September, "**Should it be a crime to rescue refugees?**", kindled such interest in the subject that we have been asked to speak on the same topic at Amnesty International's March meeting, which will be held at 7.30pm on 14 March in the Lower Town Hall, Chipping Norton. If you missed the discussion in Charlbury, you will be welcome in Chippy.

Fran and Hilary are developing a **module on refugees for use in schools** (initially for sixth-formers). It will include a PowerPoint presentation and an opportunity for students to discuss questions such as who are the refugees, where they come from, why they come here, and how they should be received. We would welcome input from interested teachers: if you would like to be involved, please get in touch on [charlburyrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyrefugee@gmail.com)

Our friend Anne-Marie from Join the Dots took a lot of **your donations of men's clothing, sleeping bags, blankets etc.** to Calais in January, and made a second trip in February. Thank you to everyone who contributed, and who

helped with the sorting and packaging. Finally, look out for our popular **CRAG café in St Mary's during Artweeks**. This year that's Sat 18 to Bank Holiday Monday 27 May. More about this nearer the time!

## Flute and Harpsichord Recital

On Sunday March 24 the last of this season's ever popular CRAG tea concerts will feature a recital by the baroque flute and recorder player **Rachel Beckett**, accompanied by the harpsichord player **Alastair Ross**. The latter makes his third appearance at the CRAG tea concerts.

Rachel Beckett is principal flute and recorder with Sir John Eliot Gardiner's English Baroque Soloists, principal recorder with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and regular guest principal with other period orchestras such as the Academy of Ancient Music. She is a frequent soloist on the legendary English Baroque Soloists' Bach Cantata Pilgrimage recordings, made during Bach's anniversary year. More recent recordings include Monteverdi's opera *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse*, Bach's B Minor Mass and St Matthew Passion.

The programme will include sonatas for flute or recorder and harpsichord by Handel and JS and CPE Bach, and preludes and fugues by Bach for harpsichord.

In the Memorial Hall at 3pm, followed by free tea and cake. Doors open at 2.30pm and seating will be strictly first come, first seated. Tickets £12 from Cotswold Frames or Larcum's nearer the date, or reserve a place by emailing [charlburyrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyrefugee@gmail.com)

**Follow CRAG** with our newsletters (email [charlburyrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyrefugee@gmail.com) and ask to sign up) or at [www.facebook.com/charlburyrefugee](http://www.facebook.com/charlburyrefugee), or find all our events on [www.charlbury.info/events](http://www.charlbury.info/events) You'd like to get involved? Just email us! We'd like to welcome you on board.

*Jon Carpenter*



## News from the Charlbury Patient Participation Group

### CPPG OPEN MORNING

The Charlbury Patient Participation Group has now been running for a year and to celebrate this we hosted an open morning on Saturday 19 January at the Medical Centre.

There was a lively discussion on various topics and patients were also invited to place post-it notes on the board with ideas for improvements. Wesley Rouse, the Practice Manager was present to answer questions. Responses from the Practice are in set out below, but it has not been possible to respond to all the queries raised at the meeting. Further responses will be available on our website and in the Newsletter following the next CPPG steering group meeting.

- **Doors:** A patient reported that the entrance doors were very heavy making opening them difficult for disabled and frail patients, wheelchair users and people pushing pushchairs.
- **Appointment System:** There was a comment that overall the appointment system was working well. However, there was sometimes a problem when a doctor had requested a follow-up visit within a time frame and there was no appointment available. *Two appointments are set aside each day for patients who have been called in by GPs.*
- **Test Results:** A patient reported confusion about test results. She was informed by the receptionist that they were normal, then contacted regarding abnormalities by the GP. She wondered whether it would be possible for the GP to inform patients of the results of all test results. *GPs do not have the time to phone all patients with normal results. Receptionists should only disclose normal test results to the patient. If they are abnormal the patient is asked to make an appointment with the doctor.*

- **Remember** that test results are available on-line to patients who have registered for on-line access.
- **Carers:** A member who had been a carer raised the problem of finding adequate support. *It is important that anyone, including children and young adults, who is caring for a relative or friend tell the Practice about their caring role. This will be noted in their medical records and additional support offered when appropriate.*
- **Mental Health Provision:** A member queried what mental health provision is available at the surgery. *There is no mental health specialist at the surgery, but if patients come to see the Doctor they will either be given the relevant information/ telephone numbers for self-referral or in some cases a referral will be made by the Doctor.*
- **Missed Appointments:** Patients are aware that missed appointments mean that a patient who could be seen is denied an appointment and has a cost implication for the surgery. Those at the meeting felt it would be useful to have further information as to how much this is a problem for the Charlbury Practice.
- At the moment a text messaging alert service is not available from the Practice (see below), although some patients would be grateful for a reminder of their appointments.
- **CPPG Members:** The CPPG is keen to attract more members, particularly representatives from a younger section of people registered with the Practice.

### NEWS FROM THE PRACTICE

**Hearing Issues:** Many practices are no longer offering an ear syringing service and ask their patients to go to the John Radcliffe Hospital or to be seen privately. The Charlbury Practice is continuing to offer this service and in addition also offers a basic hearing check and can refer patients to a hearing test provider. Batteries for National Health hearing aids can be obtained from the Surgery on production of the patient's brown book.

**Text Message Alerts:** Although the Charlbury Practice is not currently offering this service, one patient received a text message purporting to come from the surgery. Anyone receiving such a message should contact Action Fraud on 0300 123240.

**Dr Bayliss** retired at the end of January. Her patients will be transferred to Dr. McIntyre, although patients are able to choose to see a GP of their choice. The CPPG wish her well in her retirement.

**Hospital Referrals:** Patients are often concerned about delays following referral to a hospital consultant. The reception staff cannot deal with these queries. The Charlbury Medical Practice has a team of secretaries to deal with such enquiries who can be contacted by telephone and choosing option 3. An additional full-time secretary has been appointed for this task. However, patients should allow two weeks following referral before contacting the secretary.

If you have on-line access, referral letters can be viewed as part of your record.

**Reception:** It is important that reception staff ask why a patient needs an appointment as they can direct the patient to the most appropriate practitioner. All receptionists are trained and have on-going training regarding patient confidentiality.

**Patient Contact Details:** The surgery would find it helpful if patients ensured that their contact details were up-to-date, and let the surgery know when they move from the area.

**Pharmacy:** Remember that you can seek advice about minor ailments from your pharmacist who can also help you decide if and when you need to see your GP.

## **NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY**

Free courses are being run by the Oxfordshire Community Diabetes Service across the county for people who have been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. For further information telephone 01869 604091 or check online at [www.oxfordshirediabetes.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordshirediabetes.nhs.uk)

Contact us at:  
[patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net](mailto:patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net)

## **vOx Chamber Choir in Charlbury on 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

After our hugely successful concert at St Mary's in December, vOx, Oxford's leading a cappella chamber choir, will be returning to Charlbury on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, for our spring concert. Who doesn't, we wonder, have a recording of the Allegri *Miserere* somewhere in their CD or mp3 collection?

We shall bring you our version of that most famous piece of sacred music – with all the soaring top Cs in the soprano section – which might never have seen the light of day outside the Vatican but for the 14-year-old Mozart attending Mass and transcribing the music as he listened to it. Or so the story goes.

Accompanying that masterpiece is Sir James MacMillan's *Miserere*, written for The Sixteen exactly ten years ago, and featuring the same text from Psalm 51, King David's penitence after ravishing Bathsheba and having her husband killed. It is a bleak and mournful composition which travels across many moods before finally settling for redemption. Not to be missed.

If that is not enough to whet your appetite, the choir will also perform a number of other glories from the Renaissance right up to today, including works by Lobo, Anerio, Byrd, Kuhnau, Rheinberger and Vaughan Williams. And we shall introduce you, finally, to some works by Alexander Campkin, a young British composer gaining a well-deserved international reputation, of whose music we shall be recording a CD later this year.

Further details, including how to buy tickets, can be found on the choir's website

[www.vox-choir-oxford.co.uk](http://www.vox-choir-oxford.co.uk).

7.30 p.m., 23<sup>rd</sup> March, St Mary's Church.



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## Charlbury Tennis Club 2019

Now we are bursting into Spring, turn your thoughts to tennis! Charlbury has a well established tennis club that caters for both those who want to play competitive league tennis and those who want to play socially.

We presently run several men's, ladies and mixed doubles teams with matches played both at the weekend and on week day evenings all year round. The club also runs three weekly social sessions.

We welcome everyone of all ages and abilities and have the cheapest membership fees of any tennis club in the local area. Come along to the AGM in the clubhouse at 7.00pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March to meet people. For an annual fee of just £160 for a family (up to 2 adults and 2 children up to the age of 19 years) and £75 for an adult single you can:

- Join in social club tennis sessions all year
- Use the pavilion at Nine Acres Recreation Ground
- Take part in competitive tennis of all standards
- Come along to fun social events
- Play tennis under floodlights on all four courts – summer & winter

If you want to book outside club sessions, you can do so via the Community Centre website

[www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk/booking/](http://www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk/booking/) or at the desk.

Bookings are free for club members.

If you are already a competitive match player and want to join one of our teams then phone Mark Jarman on 01608 811692.

Or if you are interested in playing social tennis just turn up to one of our club sessions on Sunday / Monday afternoons or Thursday evenings. There will always be a committee member there to organise a game for you.

To find out more about Charlbury Tennis Club go to [www.charlbury.info/community](http://www.charlbury.info/community), phone:

Nick Johnson on 01608 810507 or email: [charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk).

*Nick Johnson  
Chair Tennis Club 2018-19*

### CHRONICLE ADVERTS

Advertise your business in the **Charlbury Chronicle** and reach over 1550 residences.

To place an advert please ring Graham Jowett on 01608 810666 or email: [gjowett2015-chronicle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gjowett2015-chronicle@yahoo.co.uk)

## Information session about dementia and dementia care

In December 2018 Dementia Friendly Charlbury (DFC) was pleased to be able to organise a very successful information session for family and friends of people living with dementia which aimed to help them be more confident in providing care and support. The session was run by a local dementia care professional, Rikki Lorenti, who is a member of our Group.

13 people attended – some from Charlbury and others from surrounding villages – including family and professional carers and some people who were themselves living with dementia.

The feedback received from them after the event was extremely positive – “really helpful and informative” One carer said that the session was the best two hours she had ever spent and her whole family had benefited from what she learned. Many thanks to Rikki for sharing his professional expertise in dementia care in such a friendly and accessible way for the benefit of all attending.

The presentation from the session can be viewed on the Dementia Friendly Charlbury page in the Community section of the Charlbury website:

[www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info) (Charity and World). If you do not have internet access and would like a printed copy, get in touch with us by phoning Meryl Smith on 01608 810192.

DFC is now considering how to follow up this initiative. If you have ideas about what information it would be helpful for us to cover, let us know by emailing [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com) or phoning the number given above.

### **A dementia-friendly walking group?**

DFC is exploring the idea of setting up an informal walking group for people with dementia and their carers. Getting out and about and engaging in physical activity is helpful and stimulating for people with dementia and for their carers – as it is for any one of us – and we are looking for ways of providing opportunities to get involved together in an “everyday” activity.

Would this be something that would be of interest to you or someone you know – either as a participant or a walk leader? We have found that there is help available for setting up “Health Walks” from West Oxfordshire District Council. Interested volunteers can be trained to be walk leaders and the group can then benefit from a lot of useful information and advice and practical support from the local West Oxfordshire Walking for Health project.

Do let us know if you are a keen walker (not necessarily long-distance! – Health Walks are generally taken at a gentle pace) and this is something that you would like to help us to take forward (contact details above).

### **Sources of support for people with dementia and their carers**

Dementia Oxfordshire  
Helpline 01865 410210,  
[www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk).

Carers Oxfordshire  
Helpline 0345 050 7666  
[www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk)

Dementia UK – Helpline 0800 888 6788  
[www.dementiauk.org](http://www.dementiauk.org)

Alzheimer’s Society – Helpline 0300 222 1122, [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

*Meryl Smith*



## News from Charlbury Garden Society

The society's year began with a talk from Julie Penny, local gardener and horticulturalist, on the subject of no-dig gardening. Sixty people came to hear about the growing successes she achieves using this method in her own and clients' gardens. This was followed in February by a fascinating talk from rose expert, Andrew Hornung, with surprising facts about the history and development of roses and where to plant them in your garden.

With the advent of new data protection regulations we have replaced our door to door subscription process with an on-line renewal invitation in our winter newsletters. We have delivered renewal forms to members who do not have email.

Annual membership is £5 (£8 joint) and gives free entry to our evening talks, advance notice of our outings and events by email newsletter, and a 10% discount at several local garden centres when you present your membership card. All the information you need to join or renew your membership can be found on our website: [www.charlbury.info/community/](http://www.charlbury.info/community/). If you are just interested in knowing what's on, our on-line newsletter is free and you can sign up from our website too. You can also join at any of our events. Email enquiries to: [membership@charlburygardensociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@charlburygardensociety.org.uk)

### Upcoming events: The Shaded Garden

*Thursday 21 March 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall*

How many people struggle with knowing what to plant in a shady garden? Often they give up, allowing that part of the garden to wallow in self-pity. Don't despair however, as there are many plants that enjoy such conditions and it's just a case of knowing which to select.

Duncan Coombs, former Pershore College lecturer and horticultural advisor for the RHS, will share his knowledge and give advice on appropriate plant selection for shaded places. This is an illustrated talk and Duncan will bring plants for sale from Pershore College.

Refreshments from 7.30 pm for an 8 pm start. Free to members, non-members £3.

### Spring Show

*Saturday 6 April Exhibitors 9.30 – 11.00 am, Show 12.00 – 3.45 pm in the Memorial Hall*

The annual Spring Show will again be organised in conjunction with the Charlbury Art Society Spring Exhibition. Doors will open at 12 noon. Entry is free to both exhibitions. The raffle prize draw and presentation of the Ian Tolpuitt Cup for the best exhibit in the show will take place at 3.45 pm. There is no prize money.

The hall will be a glorious sight filled with colourful spring flowers, the walls adorned with local artists' work. There will be all manner of narcissi and arrangements of spring plants including primroses, polyanthi, hellebores and tulips. Anyone can enter and it is completely free. Plants for the arrangements (classes 14-18) need not have been grown by the exhibitor. Intending exhibitors can download a schedule and entry form from our website. Printed schedules with entry form will be available a week before the show at the Pharmacy, the Corner House, Larcum's and the railway station.

### Plant sale

*Saturday 11 May 9.30 am in the Memorial Hall*

These good quality and reasonably priced annuals, perennials, vegetables and shrubs sell out very quickly so get there early; beat the queues to get the best bargains.

If you have any spare plants you would like to donate to the Society for sale, just bring them along, preferably before 9.30am.



## Museum news

*Wagons and whipple trees, clod breakers and seed fiddles  
Farming in Charlbury through the years*

2019 promises to be an eventful year for us as we celebrate the museum's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and take a look at the history of farming in Charlbury and its neighbourhood. In March 1949 a three-day historical exhibition attracted over 650 visitors. Out of this event sprang the Charlbury Society and the museum was created to fulfil one of its main aims - to maintain a collection of objects of local interest. Since then the museum has grown enormously, with many local people donating a wide variety of objects and reminiscences, all helping to tell the story of the town and its surroundings. This spring we are hoping to welcome back our biggest acquisition so far - the farm wagon which has been painstakingly and lovingly restored over many years. It will occupy the room built specially to house it and for which so many people in the town generously contributed. It will be an impressive sight, resplendent in its new red and yellow paint, and we owe a huge debt to Michael Jones for all the hard work he has put in to restore it to its former glory.

In anticipation of its return, this year's exhibition will be about local farming, particularly at the time when our wagon was in use for transporting goods and produce. Farming was very labour intensive, hard work and an uphill struggle against the vagaries of the weather and the markets. Come and discover the story of this vital local industry and learn about clod breakers and seed fiddles along the way.

Another attraction is the newly-restored painting by William Bowly titled Duck Shooting in Wychwood Forest. The restorers have done a wonderful job on what was a rather gloomy and badly damaged painting, removing decades of dirt to reveal much brighter colours,

repairing damaged areas and discovering a wealth of detail in the brushwork. It is now a really attractive work of art - come and see for yourselves.

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**MUSEUM REOPENS** at 10.30am.

Opening hours, Saturdays 10.30-12.30pm, Sundays & Bank holidays 2.30-4.30pm

Extra openings: three Saturday afternoons 2.30-4.30pm

8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June for Charlbury Festival

3<sup>rd</sup> August for the Wilderness Festival

Also open Fridays in August

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **STEWARDS' EVENING**

7pm in the Morris Room, Corner House with a chance to look round the museum beforehand. We always welcome new stewards. Please contact Janet Jeffs if you would like to join our friendly team of volunteers. [janet@elmstead.plus.com](mailto:janet@elmstead.plus.com) or 01608 810709.

### **Saturday 1st June**

#### **ANNUAL PLANT SALE and coffee morning**

Your chance to snap up some unusual and quality plants at bargain prices.

### **NEW FOR CHARLBURY FESTIVAL**

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

A peek into the past: Charlbury's artists, writers and craftsmen. 7.30 pm Morris Room, Corner House

A look at the stories of some of the people who have lived and worked in Charlbury. An illustrated talk by Sue Rangeley linking to objects in Charlbury Museum.

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY DAY**

Come and enjoy exploring the museum's extensive local records and/or book a 30 minute slot for help with specific local or family history. Peter and Diana Bennett will be on hand to help you with your research. Please see the Charlbury website and Festival programme for details and how to book a slot.



# Coffee break page

Compiled by Pat Court

**CRYPTIC GROUPS** – use the cryptic clues to discover the names of famous pop and rock groups

*We were given this quiz on holiday – got 27 out of 30 – I’m sure you can do better!  
I slightly changed Q21 as it was too obscure!!*

1. Quartet in a spin
2. Cinnamon maidens
3. The shaver is not heavy
4. Distorted vision
5. Dark Sunday
6. Primates from the North Pole
7. Mexican food would be bland without them
8. Frozen precipitation guard
9. The lads from Bondi
10. Not death in the Orient
11. In the beginning ...
12. They gather no moss
13. Beckenbauer meets Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse
14. Manson, West and Sutcliffe
15. No girls allowed here
16. BA, BSc and MBA
17. Hiking siblings
18. Light the airship
19. Spring, summer, autumn and winter
20. German soldier with front runners
21. Finstock residents
22. Are they Royalty at a jumbled up Christmas
23. Lawmen
24. Gary Power’s spy plane
25. Uncomplicated intellects
26. Real trouble
27. A preserve reflected on a Thai river?
28. Mr Sinatra is off to make a film
29. A desert watering hole
30. George, Patrick, David and Andrew

*Answers on page 50*

# What's On in Charlbury

## March

- 1—World Day of Prayer at Baptist Church, 11am
- 2—Bring & Take, from 9.30am, Memorial Hall
- 8—Lent Lunch in Methodist Church, 12—1.30pm
- 8—Charlbury Society, "The Evenlode" by Tony Merry, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 9—Farmers Market, 9am—1pm, Playing Close
- 10—ChOC, "The Children's Act", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 12—"In those days", Rev Peter Silva on People, politics and power, 7.30pm St Mary's
- 13—CAS Mtg, Memorial Hall
- 14—16 CADS, "Quartet" by Ronald Harwood, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 14—Tennis Club AGM
- 15—Lent Lunch, 12-1.30pm, St Mary's
- 19—"In those days..." Prof Charlotte Roueche on Simon of Cyrene, 7.30pm, St Mary's
- 21—Garden Society, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 22—Lent Lunch in Methodist Church, 12-1.30pm hosted by St Teresa's
- 23—"The Magical Island", Charlbury Pre-School at Memorial Hall, 10-11.30am
- 23—Street Fair Quiz Night, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 23—vOx Chamber Choir Concert, 7.30pm, St Mary's
- 24—Free concert, French Guinguette music, 12.30-1.45pm, Charlbury Community Centre
- 24—CRAG Tea Concert, 3pm, Memorial Hall
- 26—Richard Ounsworth on "The World is just a great big onion" 7.30pm, St Mary's
- 27—Age UK Film, 2pm, Charlbury Community Centre
- 29—Lent Lunch in Baptist Church, 12-1.30pm
- 29—Annual Parish Meeting, 8pm, Memorial Hall
- 30—March Morris Mayhem, 2.30-5pm, Memorial Hall
- 30—A Spring Equinox Party—8pm to late, Pre-School Garden

## April

- 2—Dr Rebecca Dean on "Religion and Philosophy", 7.30pm, St Mary's
- 5—Lent lunch in the Friends Meeting House, 12-1.30pm
- 5-6—Spring Show, Garden Soc and CAS, from 12 noon, Memorial Hall
- 6—Town Council Surgery, 10-12pm, Corner House
- 6—Charity Coffee Morning, 10-12pm, Corner House
- 9—Rev Elizabeth Koepping on "Kinship, family & marriage", 7.30pm, St Mary's
- 12—Lent Lunch at St Mary's, 12-1.30pm
- 12—Charlbury Society, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 14—ChOC, "A Star is Born", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 16—"Backing into the Limelight", Charlbury Festival event, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House
- 17—Charlbury Museum Stewards Evening, 6.30pm for 7pm, Morris Room, Corner House
- 19—Walking the way of the Cross, meet at 10am, at Memorial Fountain, Playing Close
- 20—Charlbury Museum re-opens 10.30am
- 20—Open Day, Charlbury Bowls Club, 2pm
- 24—Age UK Film, 2pm, Charlbury Community Centre
- 24—Quiz Night, 7.15pm for 7.45pm start, Charlbury Community Centre
- 27—RBL trip to National Army Museum

## May

- 3—Juliet Heslewood "England's Green & Pleasant Land", Charlbury Festival event, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 8—CAS Mtg, George Speake on Saxon Art & Archeology, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 10—Charlbury Society, "The first ever English Olympics", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 11—Garden Society Plant Sale, 9.30am, Memorial Hall
- 12—ChOC, "The Old Man & The Gun", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 12—18 Christian Aid Week, United Service, 12th at 9.45am St Mary's
- 15—Charlbury Museum, "Behind Closed Doors", 7.30pm, Morris Room, Corner House

# What's On in Charlbury

## May (Contd)

18—23 Artweeks

18—Pre-School's Bandeoke, 8pm, Memorial Hall

22—Age UK Film, 2pm, Charlbury Community Centre

22—Quiz Night, 7.15 for 7.45pm start, Charlbury Community Centre

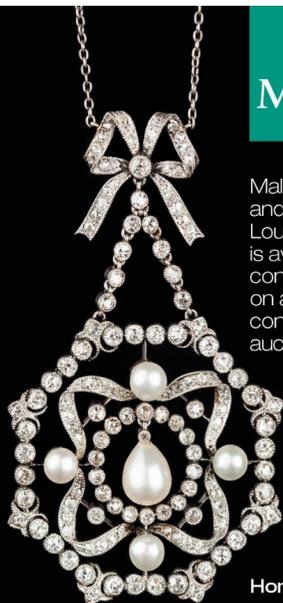
24—Boundary Walk, 10am at the old oak tree on Forest Road (B4437 to Burford)

## June

1—Town Council Surgery, 10-12noon, Corner House

1—Museum Annual Plant Sale and coffee morning, 10-12pm, Corner House

If you would like to include your event in this list, please contact me at [editor.chronicle@outlook.com](mailto:editor.chronicle@outlook.com) just stating your organisation, time of the event, and place of the event.



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## Weekly events

### Monday

9.30am—Toddlers Group, Memorial Hall

1.30-3pm—Tennis Club

2.30pm—Strength & Balance, Community Centre

7-8.30pm—Scouts, Scout Hut

### Tuesday

10-11am—Bump to One, Community Centre

11-12pm—Well Baby Clinic, Community Centre

6pm—Bowls Club

8pm—Wychwayz Border Morris, Scout Hut

### Wednesday

9-10am—LeanGym, Community Centre

10-11am, Stay & Play, Community Centre

10—11.30 am - Yang style Tai Chi, Methodist Hall

11.15-12pm, Toddler Gym, Community Centre

11.45—12.45pm - Qigong and tai chi principles, Methodist Hall

2.15-2.45pm - Rhymetime, Charlbury Library

2.30—4pm—Walking Football, Community Centre

6-7pm Hatha Yoga, Community Centre

7.45pm—Bell Ringing, St Mary's

8-10pm—Volleyball, Community Centre

### Thursday

10-12pm—Font Café, St Mary's

4—5pm—Junior Sports Club for 8-11 year olds, Community Centre

5—6pm, Basketball for age 11+, Community Centre

5-6.15—Beavers, Scout Hut

6.30—8pm—Cubs, Scout Hut

6.30-7.30pm—Circuit Training, Community Centre

7-9pm—Tennis Club

8-9pm—Walking Football, Community Centre

### Friday

9.30am—Exercise for 50+, Memorial Hall

10-12pm—TG's Coffee Club, Community Centre

2-5pm—Tennis Club

7pm—Choir Practice—St Mary's

7-9pm—Youth Club, Community Centre

### Sunday

10-11am, Circuit Training, Community Centre

Sustainable Charlbury had a 'quiet' relaunch last year and is now registered as a Charitably Incorporated Organisation (CIO). After it's frantically exciting time developing the Southill community solar farm it went into dormancy for a couple of years whilst all those involved were busy continuing the work of the newly established Southill Community Energy. Once further surplus funds are generated in future years from Southill Solar (£68k has already been paid to the Thomas Gifford Trust to cover the costs of making the new Community Centre a more energy efficient building), organisations will be able to apply to Sustainable Charlbury for grants to support other low carbon initiatives.

SusCha has a new website [www.sustainablecharlbury.org/](http://www.sustainablecharlbury.org/) and launched two new projects over the last few months. In December we kicked off our **Plastic Smart** campaign with a really interesting talk by packaging expert Ian Bates, followed by a very lively and well-informed discussion. In January we began our **Green, Healthier Homes** project, with the aim of helping residents in Charlbury live in warmer and more energy efficient homes.

**Plastic Smart Charlbury** is a campaign to reduce plastic waste and pollution. The idea is that households, businesses and voluntary groups in and around Charlbury commit themselves to 12 month action plans changing the way they use and throw away plastic. We provide ideas and advice on what specific actions people can take to reduce their use of plastic, recycle more and prevent plastic contaminants from entering the environment on our website at [www.sustainablecharlbury.org/plastic-smart-charlbury/](http://www.sustainablecharlbury.org/plastic-smart-charlbury/)

Our first step is to engage voluntary groups and businesses in Charlbury, setting up meetings with as many locally based organisations as possible.

At the same time, we are inviting

households to join in too, choosing commitments they feel they can make to address plastic pollution. We're calling the campaign "plastic smart" rather than "plastic free" because this is a complex topic. Plastics have many important uses; even plastic packaging on some fruit and vegetables can be important in prolonging their shelf-life and reducing food waste. Meanwhile, alternatives to regular plastic such as biodegradable materials or paper can also lead to environmental problems. But there is a lot that we can do to change the throw-away culture around plastics, and to encourage a "circular economy" where materials are reused and recycled many times without losing their value.

Sustainable Charlbury is seeking to launch a new project - **Greener, Healthier Homes - Lower Bills**. Do you know how healthy your home is? How could your comfort be improved? How do your energy bills compare with the averages for your street? Sustainable Charlbury are applying for funding to help householders in Charlbury to reduce their energy bills, improve the comfort of their homes and live in a healthier environment.

We will be looking at building types in Charlbury. Where there is an estate of houses built at the same time in the same way - there will be common features that can be improved to reduce heat loss. If we are successful in obtaining a starter grant we hope to engage with residents of The Green, in the first instance, offering a free survey and testing to find the heat leaks. If this trial works and we can expand the funding, we will move on to your housing.

If you are interested in either of these projects, would like to know more about what we are doing, or even become actively involved, please contact us at [team@sustainablecharlbury.org](mailto:team@sustainablecharlbury.org)

*Tim Crisp*



## Charlbury Pre-School Spring 2019

It's always good to bump in to parents of other pre-schoolers. A couple of weeks ago I saw the mother of a child who left for school last year who told me how her daughter was happily settling in to Charlbury Primary. I updated her on news from the cloakroom and what my son has been getting up to (wearing his socks on his hands and refusing to put them on his feet etc.!) She said that she missed it -- chatting to other parents when she dropped off her daughter at pre-school, putting her lunch box in the fridge, finding a cubbyhole for shoes and hearing what has been happening in the classroom.

Rumour has it that she is not the only parent who misses the pre-school buzz! We're starting a new email group called the 'Friends of Charlbury Pre-School', open to anyone who would like to be kept up to date. We will send occasional emails with pre-school news and upcoming fundraising events. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please email [committee.charlburypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:committee.charlburypreschool@gmail.com). You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram.

The committee have been hard at work planning some great fundraisers for the year ahead. The brilliant Andy Pickard was selling duck and veggie wraps at the Rose and Crown Winter Beer Festival at the end of January which was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped him.

Look out for posters for 'The Magical Island', a unique interactive storytelling event in March for 3 to 7 year-olds, based on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'.

Save the date! On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, there will be a special party in the pre-school garden to celebrate the spring equinox – A mellow night of music and

fire pits, drinks, cassoulet and open mic sessions, 8pm until late. Tickets will be on sale soon.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> Bandoeke is back by popular demand! Get babysitters booked and start daydreaming about your perfect song. Then in June the committee will be hosting a quiz night with fish & chips.

Pre-school gratefully received a grant from Co-op to buy a fantastic outdoor water play feature and a grant from the Evergreens that we will use to buy a new gazebo to provide shade and shelter— we'll be set for summer! We have recently also received some donations from parents. Charlbury Pre-School is a charity and relies on fundraising, grants and donations so thank you for any support.

Meanwhile, the staff and children are looking forward to springtime – more outside play, tennis and the return of Little Wild Things on a Tuesday. All winter the children have been harvesting vegetables from the garden to make soup, so there will be excitement about all the new things that can be planted and grown.

So far this year, we have been watching some wonderful friendships blossom amongst our pre-schoolers and hope that our spring fundraisers and the 'Friends of Charlbury Pre-School' can help friendships grow between our parents too!

Registrations for September 2019 are now open. Please contact us

[admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk) 01608 811200

If you would like to arrange a visit. There is also lots of information on our website [www.charlburypreschool.org.uk](http://www.charlburypreschool.org.uk)

*Jackie Daish*

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Man grows old because he ceases to play." (George Bernard Shaw)*

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Mob: **07811 103450**

Further information on [www.charlburyosteopaths.co.uk](http://www.charlburyosteopaths.co.uk)



## The Botany Spot

Spring is a season of delicate, charming little flowers and I am always struck by the rather limited palette of pale colours for truly wild flowers at this time of year – most are white, yellow or shades of bluish-mauve. Though many of the ones which bring us so much pleasure are very common and indeed are thought of as 'weeds' in a gardening context, some of them are quite rare and in need of our protection.

The **Yellow Star of Bethlehem *Gagea lutea*** is one of the rarer species and is a member of the Lily family. It usually flowers in March in some of our nearby woods. It has a dainty small star-shaped yellow flower and needs sharp eyes to spot it amongst the vegetation, but it is worth the effort when one finds a specimen. Also in a few sites in this locality, we have some quite rare **Grape Hyacinths *Muscari neglectum***. These have flowers which are almost black towards the bottom of the bloom and are generally duller in colour than the bright blue of the garden variety. The Wychwood Flora Group carries out an annual count of flower heads in April to check on the health of the local *Muscari neglectum* population. I have also seen some of these wild Grape Hyacinths in local cottage gardens, my suspicion is that in times gone by, before people realised the importance of conservation, villagers sometimes took a few for their own patch of land.

Much less rare, but still a welcome sign of spring are the 'ordinary weeds'. In fields and on roadside verges, they have their own understated beauty, **Shepherd's Purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris***, **Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris***, the **Hairy Bitter-cress *Cardamine hirsuta*** and **Wavy Bitter-cress *Cardamine flexuosa***.

I have a garden full of these little Bitter-cress blighters and seem to spend half the year pulling them out. They are

botanically quite interesting though and with a hand lens one can easily distinguish one from the other once in flower. The hairy species has 4 stamens in each flower and the wavy species (*C. flexuosa*) has 6 ('Sexy Flexy' is one memory aid for those who remember a bit of Latin!).

There are also some other small inconspicuous flowers such as **Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*** which is quite common in our damp ancient woodland. The flowers are mainly green and are dioecious (Greek for 2 households) with male and female flowers on separate plants. Another small flower, which appears around now is the **Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis***, each little blue flower has a tiny yellow centre. **Ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*** clothes the more shady banks from March onwards and has blue flowers and kidney-shaped softly hairy leaves. The beautiful blue **Common Field-speedwell *Veronica persica*** also appears at this time along with the **Daisy *Bellis perennis*** with its white ray florets and yellow disc florets in the centre.

I have mentioned **Sweet Violet *Viola odorata*** in the past, but it really is my favourite flower at this time of year; there are several botanical features which identify it but much the simplest is the glorious scent. The flowers are usually mauve but they are also quite often white as well, which is another helpful hint when searching for this particular species. Along roadside verges close to my house, the Sweet Violets bloom in March and are followed soon after by a few **Cowslips *Primula veris***. On some of the roads leading into Charlbury these delightful spring flowers smother the banks with yellow in April. The days are lengthening now, everything feels warmer and summer can't be far away.

*jo@joanna-bell.net*

# Charlbury Church Services



## Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

**Sundays** Service at 10.30 am. Fourth of each month with Methodists in Fishers Lane

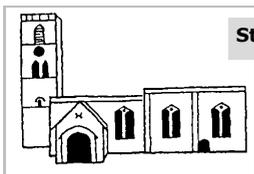
**Thursdays** 7.30 pm at the church for midweek study/discussion (except during Lent)

**Easter Day** Final service led by **Rev Jean Andrews** before her retirement. Join us!

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April** Coffee Morning at the Corner House 9.30-noon

[charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/dyershill/>



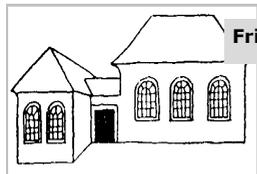
## St Mary's C of E Church, Church Street

St Mary's Church, Charlbury and All Saints  
Shorthampton

Full details of all church services are available in the Leaflet or in the Church porch or on p. 39

Vicar – Revd Dr Sally Welch Parish Office (01608 810230)

[www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk)

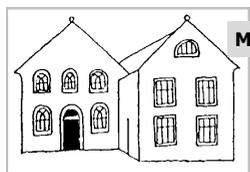


## Friends' Meeting House, Market Street

Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House

Sunday mornings 10.30am

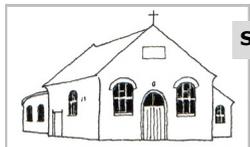
For further details contact Sue Terry (01608 811033)  
email: [sueeterry@btinternet.com](mailto:sueeterry@btinternet.com)



## Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane

Sunday services at 10.30am

Further information from Gill Grason (01608 810154)



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

Sunday Mass. 9.15am every Sunday at St Teresa's.

9.00am on second Sunday of each month at St Kenelm's Enstone.

Weekday Mass. 9.30am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at St Teresa's.

Parish Priest. Fr Tony Joyce, Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton (01608 642703). Charlbury Catholic Parish

Council joint chairs: . Clare Carswell and Mike Flanagan  
([chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com](mailto:chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com))

Website: <https://stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/>

## Churches Together in Charlbury

One of the pleasures of being part of Churches Together in Charlbury is meeting friendly and helpful people. This experience seems to be reflected across much of Charlbury. At the first Charlbury Honoured Citizen Award and Celebration of Volunteering on 26 January it was clear how many people with different interests, political views, religious persuasion or none, are willing to work together for a common cause and enjoy themselves doing so. Volunteering is good for us and for our community.

We always like trying something new. Last year, as part of our preparation for Christmas, church members made 'reverse Advent calendars'. Instead of opening doors in a calendar and perhaps finding a gift, they donated small items which would be useful to the homeless people who come to the Porch day centre in Oxford. We put together 43 boxes of essential foods and other items like washing powder and toothpaste. This was in addition to the regular contributions to local food banks which are made in all the churches.

Now we are thinking about Lent, the period of preparation leading to Easter. On 1<sup>st</sup> March we will be celebrating the World Day of Prayer with a service prepared by women in Slovenia. Slovenia is a largely Christian country which was part of the former Yugoslavia. People of all religious convictions suffered under the communist regime. The country became independent in 1991 and joined the European Union in 2004. Since 2000 Christians in Slovenia have been taking part in the World Day of Prayer. Please join us in the Baptist Church at 11am. Everyone is welcome, men and women.

Slovenia is just one country with which we have made a link in recent months. At the end of last year we sent a donation to help provide clean water in Yemen, where the danger of cholera is very great. At the united service held in St Teresa's Church in January, we raised £200 for relief work in Indonesia following the tsunami which destroyed many homes. On Fridays in Lent we will be giving soup, bread and cheese lunches

to raise money for Christian Aid's work with people living in extreme poverty in many parts of the world. Look for details in the What's On section of the Chronicle and on the Charlbury website events page.

We also aim to spend some time studying and learning in Lent. Many churches recommend books and organise discussions. Our contribution is arranging a series of talks on a theme which we hope will be of general interest. This year the title of the series is 'In those days...' The talks will cover a variety of topics, providing insight into life in the ancient world and social, political and religious background to the stories in the Gospels. The talks will be held in St Mary's Parish Church on Tuesday evenings starting at 7.30pm. We welcome everyone to these events.

*Rosalind Scott  
Secretary to Churches Together in  
Charlbury*

### St Mary's Services:

8am Holy Communion  
9.45am Parish Communion  
First Sunday - Evening prayer - 4pm in March, 6pm In April and May  
Second Sunday - Service in Shorthampton - 11.15am March, 6pm April and May  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 9am Messy Church with baptisms  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 6pm Ignite  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March Ash Wednesday 9am Holy Communion at Shorthampton 7.30pm Holy Communion with ashes  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 6pm Choral Evensong  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 9am Messy Church for Mothering Sunday  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 9.45am Palm Sunday service followed by church APCM  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 6pm Ignite  
Holy Week Compline 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday Last Supper service  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday 10am Messy Church for Good Friday  
2pm Last hour at the cross  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April Easter Day  
8am Holy Communion  
9am Holy Communion at Shorthampton  
9.45am Parish Communion at St Mary's



## What to eat or not to eat . . .

. . . that *is* the question. The food we eat has big implications for the planet but our food system is so obscure and complex that it is hard to get to the truth. So unless you are producing your own food, then you have to buy on trust. Labels on products often portray happy looking animals, green fields, trees, picture book farming images, but these images guarantee nothing, they are likely to just be a marketing ploy to get you to choose one product over another; beware too of labels saying things like "farm fresh" or "all natural" they mean nothing. We need to have mandatory method of production labelling on food showing the standards of welfare that the animals have experienced.

Let's look at eggs; since 2004 producers and retailers have been legally required to stamp eggs according to the farming system in which the hens live: 3=caged hens, 2=barn eggs, 1=free range and 0=organic. Since then, customers have clearly chosen higher welfare standards for hens because the market share of UK produced cage-free eggs has increased from 31% in 2003 to over 60%. However, there is customer confusion about what the standards mean; people might be very disappointed to see what free range actually means in practice and also not realise that organic means the highest potential standard of welfare for the hens. Also, only whole eggs have to be labelled, so liquid egg and eggs used in processed food products are likely to come from the cheapest eggs available, i.e. from caged hens.

Meat doesn't legally have to show the method of production and this makes it difficult for producers of good ethically produced meat to be able to tell the customer the full story and for people to be able to choose accordingly. Labelling beef as "Grass-fed" can mean that 49% of the diet comes from other things

besides grass e.g. soya based concentrates from areas in the Amazon where the rainforest has been felled, so look for "Pasture for Life" which means their diet is 100% grass. Also, for the best animal welfare conditions, look for RSPCA Assured labels, and please do ask about where food has come from when eating out. Ready-made foods do not have to show country of production labels and chickens typically come from Thailand or Brazil.

Many friends tell me they are trying to go meat and dairy free because of methane from cattle contributing to climate change, but again the story is not as clearcut as it might seem. The recent IPCC reports are still using the conventional metric for methane which misrepresents its actual effect. They aren't using the new metric researched by the Oxford Martin School. While methane is a more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, it is short lived and breaks down in about 12 years whereas carbon dioxide is very long lived and continues to accumulate year on year.

The new metric uses an *increase* of methane to be equivalent to a one-off unit of carbon dioxide and this produces graphs which better reflect the actual warming effects of both gases. The number of beef and dairy animals in the UK has declined by 25% since 1984, so rather than having contributed to warming, this has offset increases of carbon dioxide from elsewhere. So the important thing is for methane emissions *not* to increase. This ties in well with the IPCC advice to eat less but better meat and also reminds me of Colin Tudge's recommendation for a global diet that will easily feed 9 billion in 2050 – "plenty of plants, not much meat, and maximum variety".

Of course, the major impact of food on carbon emissions is the amount of food that is wasted, not just within the food production, processing, and retail stages but above all at the last stage within our own homes. This isn't just discarding bits of food that could be edible (do you still cut off and throw out the green tops of leeks, the outer leaves of cabbages, the stalks of broccoli?) but how we respond to the date labels on food.

Best Before dates are purely a recommendation for taste and texture, they are not a safety issue, so food is likely to be perfectly OK past its Best Before date, so please don't automatically throw it out. On the other hand Use By dates are for food safety reasons so only buy enough of this sort of food that you know you can eat within date. Also develop your own nose and common sense about whether food is OK to eat, our sense of smell evolved over millions of years to keep us safe from eating dangerous food and we can detect even a few molecules of mould in the air very easily.

P.S. Have you tried banana skin curry like they eat in SE Asia?

Article inspired by the 10<sup>th</sup> Oxford Real Farming Conference held at the Town Hall in January 2019 (archives available online). Read further about methane emissions and climate change at [www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/publications/view/2601](http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/publications/view/2601)

*Christine Elliott - Charlbury Green Hub*

### **CHRONICLE ADVERTS**

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email:  
[gjowett2015-chronicle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gjowett2015-chronicle@yahoo.co.uk)

## **The Cotswold Wardens: Working in Charlbury**

The local group of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens helps look after the landscape in the area that stretches from just south of Charlbury right up to Edgehill in Warwickshire. The regular work-parties maintain footpaths, repair bridges and gates and help manage publicly accessible woodlands and grasslands

During December, the Wardens made improvements to the Oxfordshire Way between Pound Hill and Dean by replacing a footbridge, with the help of OCC's countryside team and installing gates at either end, to deter horses from crossing. V-shaped openings in the field fences nearby were widened to allow better access for walkers.

We also carried out drainage work on a footpath at Wigwell, near the Enstone Road entrance. This has already proved successful in drying out this path and will be monitored when really wet weather sets in. Additionally, we have undertaken some restoration work on the path from Blenheim Farm to Quarry Lane with the aim of removing the notorious mud-trap there.

In Centenary Wood, we are continuing the battle with the very invasive blackthorn, and have started coppicing the mature hazel trees to provide material for the Wychwood Project to use in their hedge laying courses.

Look out for further works in the Spring 2019.

If any of you would like to join us in our efforts to conserve our local countryside, please contact our membership secretary at:

[edwin.L.wilson@btopenworld.com](mailto:edwin.L.wilson@btopenworld.com)



## Charlbury Town Council report

### Precept and Town Council spending

The town council precept, part of your Council Tax, has been set at £100,866, giving a Band D rate of £76.24. This is an increase of 1.7% on last year's rate. The largest part of your Council Tax goes to the other authorities that cover Charlbury, namely West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

We are delighted to report that underspend and efficiencies in the Town Council's 2018-19 spending mean that, subject to design work, we are able to begin work on several new projects. These were identified as priorities in the Town Council's new Infrastructure Delivery Plan, and are:

- Improved access to Nine Acres, including ramped access from Nine Acres Lane;
- Upgrade/replacement of play equipment on Ticknell Piece;
- Further contribution to implementing a 20mph limit throughout the town centre.

We look forward to updating residents on progress as these schemes get underway.

In 2019-20's budget, we have been able to give grants to Dementia-Friendly Charlbury; All Together in Charlbury; Charlbury Youth Football Club for the purchase of a new line marker; Charlbury Pre-School for maths learning material; the Gifford Trust for work on the Playing Close; Charlbury Arts Society for the 2019 Festival; St Mary's Church for churchyard and path maintenance; Charlbury Day Centre; Charlbury Museum; Charlbury Historical Group; Ai-Ai Youth Theatre at the Shed; and several other groups.

We will also be helping to fund the Charlbury Community Centre for those activities which benefit Charlbury residents but for which no fee is charged to users: the Youth Club, the Age UK film club, the Bump-to-Two mother/baby group, Strength & Balance classes for older residents, and the Well Baby clinic.

We are very pleased to see the progress being made on the new building for the Football & Sports Club, part-funded by Charlbury Town Council and your contributions through the precept. We look forward to the contribution this will make to Charlbury's sporting community.

Over and above this, our 2019-20 budget includes our responsibilities for grass cutting and hedge maintenance at many open spaces and other locations around town, including Nine Acres and the Mill Field; our upkeep of the cemetery; support for the Corner House and Memorial Hall; funding the Neighbourhood Plan; and many other activities around town. If you would like to see a copy of the full budget, please contact the Town Clerk.

### Rights of Way

Oxfordshire County Council has rejected a bid by the Trail Riders Fellowship to open up the Salt Way track to motorised access. OCC's decision notice says: "Stonesfield 9, Spelsbury 31&32 and Chipping Norton 4&5. From the Over Norton / Chipping Norton parish boundary near Chapel House at SP329278 to the road near Callow Farm Stonesfield at SP395181

"Oxfordshire County Council hereby gives notice that the above application submitted by Mr P Cole on behalf of the Trail Riders Fellowship on 30 March 2006, for an Order under Section 53(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the Definitive Map and Statement has been determined. The Council has determined that no Order to modify the Definitive Map and Statement will be made as the rights claimed by the application were extinguished by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006."

The detailed report by Mike Walker,

Principal Officer, Countryside Records at OCC, refutes the arguments made by the TRF. It concludes that the primary use of this and other routes in the five years before 2006 was not for motor traffic and says that "insufficient evidence has been put forward by the applicants to support any contention that an exemption does apply".

As you may have read in the national press, a cut-off date of 2026 has been announced for formalising public footpaths which have been used by custom but which are not currently recorded as footpaths.

If you know of a footpath around Charlbury which has been regularly used, but which is not currently recorded on the Definitive Map, please let Oxfordshire County Council's Rights of Way team know. You can see the Definitive Map on the OCC website, or at OCC or WODC's offices; it also forms the basis of the rights of way marked on Ordnance Survey Landranger and Explorer maps. Please do copy Charlbury Town Council in to your report.

Please remember that there is no formal public right of way across Nine Acres, nor from properties on Nine Acres Lane / Nine Acres Close directly onto Wigwell. The public rights of way are the signposted footpaths identified on Oxfordshire County Council's Definitive Map. Other access is on a permissive basis and there is an annual one-day closure to that effect.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall on Friday 29th March at 8pm. Do come along and find out more about the work of the Town Council in the last year. If you have a resolution that you wish to be considered by the meeting, please submit it in writing to the Town Clerk at least seven days beforehand.

### **Boundary Walk**

The Annual Parish Boundary Walk will take place on Rogation Sunday, 26th May. It starts at 10am at the old oak tree on Forest Road (B4437 to Burford) at the top of the hill, nearly a mile past the

railway station. The walk crosses land not normally open to the public by kind permission of the landowners. There will be a break for lunch at Model Farm, Ditchley, for which we are very grateful to Rob & Maxine Hobill. We need volunteers for stewarding and chauffeuring on the day – if you can help, please contact the Town Clerk.

### **In brief**

- Thank you to all the town centre residents and businesses for illuminated Christmas trees; to Geoff Burroughs for donating the tree for the Corner House; and to the team of volunteers led by Liz Walton and Anna Fairhurst who organise this beautiful display every year.
- Please take a few moments to check your boundaries and cut back overhanging branches and excessive growth so that the pavements are kept clear for pedestrians.
- We are continuing to work on the 20mph limit and are as frustrated as you are by the slow progress! We hope to have more news in the next issue.

### **Contacting your Town Council**

All our meetings are open to the public. Full council meetings will be held in the Corner House at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th March, 24th April, and 22nd May, with Planning & Correspondence two days before (8pm unless there is a speaker). The May meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Council (not to be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting), at which the Chair and Vice-Chair are elected and nominations to committees made.

The next open 'surgeries' will be in the Corner House from 10am–12pm on Saturday 6th April and 1st June, but please double-check in advance on the Corner House noticeboard or on [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info).

You can email Roger Clarke, the Town Clerk, at [charlburytc@btinternet.com](mailto:charlburytc@btinternet.com) or phone 01608 810608 (9am–5pm weekdays, not weekends or bank holidays).

*Richard Fairhurst*

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## From County & District Councillor Liz Leffman

01608 810153 [liz.leffman@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:liz.leffman@westoxon.gov.uk)

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The new year means a new budget for the County Council, and I have recently spent many hours scrutinising the proposals for the coming financial year. The good news is that the capital budget, which is the money we spend on infrastructure like our roads, is now being managed on a 10 year rolling cycle, so that it is much easier to make forward plans. In the coming financial year, we will be spending £30 million more than this year on road improvements which will include work in and around Charlbury. This is thanks to the decision to borrow money for this purpose from reserves, a key Liberal Democrat policy that the Conservative administration agreed to in June last year.

Unfortunately, although we can borrow money for capital investment, we are still very short of revenue for core services. The cost of both adult and children's services continues to increase, mainly because of demographic changes. That means that council tax will be going up again, to help cover these costs. The government plans to make further cuts to council grants over the next couple of years which means we will be having to make further savings.

More positively, the recent merger between Cherwell District Council and the County Council is making progress, with some sensible new joint roles being implemented. For example, the two

councils will share an HR team, and Environmental Health, which is the responsibility of the District Council, will be merged with Trading Standards, which comes under the County. This will mean closer working and easier access to these services for residents. It is to be hoped that other Districts, such as West Oxfordshire, will realise that this is a good idea and want to follow suit.

In my role as District Councillor, I am concerned about the amount of rubbish we are seeing on our roadsides, now that the hedges are bare. Driving to Woodstock recently, I counted more than 120 separate patches of rubbish on the verges of the B4437 – I probably missed some too as I was also concentrating on the road! The responsibility for keeping our roadsides clean lies with Ubico, the WODC -owned company that collects our rubbish.

I will be taking this up with the Environment Committee shortly as I believe that as a popular tourist area, we should be providing a better clean-up service that we do at present. Many people are very good at organising litter picking in our towns and villages, but clearing the verges on roads like the B4437 is not something that can be managed by volunteers for reasons of safety, and needs to be done by the District Council.

### Easter at the Baptist Church

What does the word 'majesty' mean to you?

- Royalty?
- The Monarch?

Over Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we will be looking at the 'majesty' of the events of Holy Week. Does majesty and the cross fit together in any way? Explore with us. Sundays 10.30am.

### And it's goodbye from me...

Do Baptist Ministers ever retire? Well, I'm going to try. I finish my tenure as Missioner at the Baptist Church on Easter Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> April) although I'm not moving from Oxfordshire straight away so you'll still see me around – especially in the garden. If you would like to come along on Easter Sunday to say 'goodbye', I'd love to see you. Thanks for the support that various people have given me over the last four and a bit years. I have loved being here. Prayers, Jean.

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**From District Councillor Andy Graham**

07908 832632 andyg2439@gmail.com

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Blenheim Palace has been given permission by the district council to erect a temporary mock Elizabethan theatre for a 4-month period running effectively from May to August 2019 with performances of our great national playwright William Shakespeare and attracting a wide audience from young people and tourists to our equally great cultural and heritage site in Woodstock.

Whilst fully supporting and indeed proposing temporary consent be given, it is on the basis of one year only and it may well be that the temporary structure is better sited than the current proposal close to the palace. In addition, a traffic management plan will have to be agreed. Historic England has not had any objections but that aside, we have to welcome such a cultural initiative that will attract many schoolchildren, as well as support the tourism industry that many of our towns and villages are reliant on.

This is a trial initiative which will be monitored and reviewed to ensure a win win outcome for everybody.

Charlbury Youth Theatre are looking for volunteers to continue supporting this offer for the town's young people which runs on a Monday night at The Shed in Nine Acres Lane from 5-15- 6.30 pm for any young person aged 6-13 years of

age. The next project is a Cotswold myth called King Cod and the Whispering Knights and will be hopefully appearing at Charlbury Beer Festival and Drama Festival.

We need help with administration and in the costumes department. If you can help, please let me know.

Charlbury Town Council has given a grant to the Youth Theatre which has helped to subsidise the cost, which is appreciated, as has the Charlbury Overseas and Community Fund.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for their kind wishes on the news of my marriage to my wonderful partner, Ivan which will be taking place in early March. We have been together for over 15 years and we have finally decided to make the living partnership official, so to speak.

Needless to say with the coming of Brexit and whatever that brings, may I wish you all the kindest thoughts and good wishes. May civility and respect guide us in the coming months with a good dollop of common sense.

I am proud to be your councillor and will continue to represent you all of whatever political persuasion for the common good and preserving and enhancing the town's distinct cultural heritage.



**All Together In Charlbury –  
a local helping hand**

**If you need:**

- ◆ Transport to appointments or activities/ visits
- ◆ Occasional household tasks/gardening
- ◆ Shopping
- ◆ Help with a form or letter or something else
- ◆ Someone to pop in for a chat

**Local ATIC volunteers are here to help  
– call 01993 776277**

**CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET  
on the Playing Close between  
9am and 1pm on  
Saturday, March 9th**

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd. and organised by Geoff & Janet Burroughs.

Any queries, please contact Geoff or Janet on the contact details below.

Email: burroughs871@btinternet.com  
tel: 07969 208518, 01608 810260

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## Charlbury Society

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Our 2018/19 series of talks is now well under way, and we have had some very informative and entertaining evenings in the Memorial Hall.

Mention was made at our November lecture on women's suffrage of the 1894 Local Government Act which allowed women to serve on parish and district councils.

It has come to light that Charlbury had a woman willing to take advantage of the act. Mary Ann Arabella Cooper stood for the town council in December 1894, the only woman among 25 candidates for the 12 vacancies. Only 49 votes were cast, and Arabella, as she was known, was one of several receiving no votes at all.

Times subsequently turned tough for Arabella who had a series of appearances before the courts for non-payment of rent through the 1890s and early 1900s, before dying here in 1920. It must have been a hard life for her, but she deserves to be remembered as an early battler for political equality between the sexes.

In December we had David Innes speak about Oxfordshire's military heritage, with much about the local regiments and the campaigns they have been involved in over nearly 700 years, from the time of the Black Prince. David is a trustee of the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock, and encouraged all who have not been to go and see this remarkable collection of military history.

Our New Year talk was by local man, Nick Millea, map librarian at the Bodleian, with a session that was enjoyed by a large crowd. He spoke of the different maps which have been produced for the City of Oxford, from that of Ralph Agas of 1578, right through to the present Ordnance Survey.

Nick is working on the Oxford volume of the Historic Towns Atlas series, due to be published in the near future, and he showed examples of the work they have been doing. It is going to be an impressive work, well worth looking out for.

Future talks will have equally impressive speakers. Many of you will know Jonathan Luxmoore, who is to talk on links between Britain and Poland, 'the east-west labyrinth', which should give much to think about. And we have talks on our local river, the Evenlode, and the preservation of Oxfordshire milestones.

We will finish with a look back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century for 'The First Ever English Olympic Games'.

These all promise to be interesting talks and we hope you can join us at the Memorial Hall on the second Friday of the month. Members and non-members are equally welcome.

*Peter Bennett  
Treasurer & Chairman  
The Charlbury Society*

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### 50+ LOW IMPACT AEROBICS CLASS

**Low impact exercise can improve your health and fitness without stressing your joints.**

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For more information  
email Gabriele  
[gabrielekern31@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielekern31@gmail.com)  
or ring **01993 880430**

## The 2019 Charlbury Beer Festival

The 22nd annual Charlbury Beer Festival will take place on Saturday 29 June at Charlbury Cricket Club, from 12 noon till late. As before there will be 50+ real ales and craft beers, cider, Pimm's, wine, good quality soft drinks, tea and cakes, and a wide variety of good food, as well as live music throughout the day, children's activities, and a varied programme of talks in the Culture tent. And all money raised goes directly to good causes, here and in the developing world. For more information, go to [charlburybeerfestival.org](http://charlburybeerfestival.org)

This year the theme is '1969', whatever that means to you. It's 50 years since the first moon landing and the Woodstock free festival. Is anyone brave enough to come along in fancy dress?

*Ed Fenton*

### March Morris Mayhem

Want to try something new, fun & exciting?  
Why not try Morris Dancing!

Wychwayz and Charlbury & Finstock Morris invite you to come and try two different styles of Morris dancing. Border Morris (rag jackets and sticks) and traditional Cotswold Morris (white shirts and hankies).

Come and give it a go.

Two left feet? Not a problem.

Not particularly fit? No need to be.

Dances are simple and easy to learn and you can make it as energetic as you like.

**Everyone** welcome (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Musicians who would like to play or learn some traditional folk tunes also welcome.

Tea/Coffee and cake will be served.

Where—Charlbury Memorial Hall

When—Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2.30—5pm

For further details: email:

[claire\\_elizabeth\\_sampson@hotmail.com](mailto:claire_elizabeth_sampson@hotmail.com)  
call: 01608 810934 (evenings/weekends)



## Charlbury Community Speedwatch News

Your Community Speedwatch Team aims to help drivers be more aware of their speed in and around Charlbury. Our hope is to make Charlbury a safer and even more pleasant place to live. You may have seen us around in our yellow jackets with our speed radar. More recently, we have also been using a special illuminated speed indicator board with smiley/sad faces.

Last year we ran 22 Speedwatch Sessions, checking almost 4,000 vehicles. A third of vehicles exceeded the 30mph limit and the highest speed was 57mph.

We continue to operate through the winter. Although we still see high speeds on the approaches to Charlbury, something wonderful is happening on The Slade. Maybe the message is getting around and we do think that our illuminated speed board is having an effect. The last checks on The Slade saw 90% of vehicles within the limit – at least when we were on duty!

We believe that only permanent alterations to road layout will help in the long term, as will a 20mph limit in the centre of Town.

So, thank you to all of you who drive within the limit and to all residents for your encouragement. Thanks also to the passing drivers who give us the thumbs up - yes, we can tell the difference and they really are thumbs-up! You make it worthwhile.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help. If you are passionate about safer speeds in Charlbury and can spare just one or two hours a month, please email us at [charlburycsw@gmail.com](mailto:charlburycsw@gmail.com).



## Well done and thanks to Jenny!

We have been very fortunate to have Jenny Chambers' professional management of the Charlbury Community Centre during the start-up phase and first full year of operation. Jenny's background in leisure management, her commitment to community service, and her leadership and personal skills have been critical in the successful launch of the Centre.

As with many Charlbury community assets, the Centre relies on volunteers as well as paid staff and Jenny has been both for the Centre. She gives her time for extra events like Quiz Nights, trustee meetings, and after hours calls. In total, Charlbury volunteers give well over one hundred hours per week to the Centre and Jenny gives a good portion of that time. Thank you, Jenny.

*The Thomas Gifford Trust*

## Exhibition of Historic Maps of Charlbury

As part of the Charlbury Festival in June, the History group will be putting on an Exhibition of historic and more recent maps of Charlbury. Come and find out what the town centre layout looked like 200+ years ago, and how it has changed. Look for the Ropewalk, and the Bleaching Ground. Where were the schools in the town? Find the pigsty next to the British School on the Playing Close. Who owned/occupied the houses in 1820? 1847? 1910? Where was New Road? How did the Turnpike roads change the road layout in the town and the roads leading out of it. Outside the town centre, were there any houses? What were the fields called where the 20<sup>th</sup> (and 21<sup>st</sup>) century houses are now? How was the land used in the fields of Charlbury? And much more!

The exhibition will be put on in the Church during the Festival, and more details will be given on the Charlbury website and the Festival programme. Come and see how your town's story has changed over the years.

*Barbara Allison  
for the Charlbury Society Historical  
Research group*



## CHARLBURY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

will present Quartet written by Ronald Harwood on Thursday 14th, Friday 15th & Saturday 16th March in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury, curtain-up at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from Cotswold Frames, Charlbury and on [www.wegotickets.com/cads](http://www.wegotickets.com/cads) priced £9 or £7 concessions (OAP & students). There will also be a bar.



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## Credit Card Scam

When you're called by someone pretending to be from your bank or building society and you are convinced to tell them your card details over the phone.

**SCAM  
ALERT!**

They arrange for a courier to pick up your card to take it away for evidence or to have it destroyed.

In reality, the card is collected by the fraudsters to withdraw money from your account.

### How it happens

You may get called on your mobile or landline by someone who claims to be from your bank or the police. They say their systems have spotted a fraudulent payment on your card or it is due to

expire and needs to be replaced.

They might suggest that you hang up and redial the number of their bank or police force to reassure you that they're genuine. However, they don't disconnect the call from the landline so that when you dial the real phone number, you're still speaking to the same fraudster.

They'll then ask you to read out your credit or debit card PIN or type it on your phone keypad. They may ask for details of other accounts you hold with the bank or elsewhere to grab more information.

Then they promise to send a courier to you to collect your bank card. The fraudster will have your name, address, full bank details, card and its PIN, and withdraw cash using the card and may even use the information to commit identity fraud in your name.

*Wesley Smith*

## Commemorative Tree Planting

In conjunction with the Woodland Trust, Oxfordshire Country Council donated an Oak tree to Charlbury Town Council to plant in commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice in 1918 which brought the First World War to a close.

The tree has been planted in the new extension to the Cemetery.



*L-R Cllr Liz Leffman, Cllr Tony Merry, Cllr Peter Kenrick, Mr Cyril Kerry*

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## Coffee Break answers

1. The Four Tops; 2. Spice Girls; 3. Razorlight;
4. Blur; 5. Black Sabbath; 6. Arctic Monkeys;
7. Red Hot Chili Peppers; 8. Snow Patrol;
9. Beach Boys; 10. Westlife; 11. Genesis;
12. Rolling Stones; 13. Kaiser Chiefs;
14. The Killers; 15. Boyzone; 16. The Three Degrees; 17. The Walker Brothers; 18. Led Zepplin
19. The Four Seasons; 20. Gerry & The Pacemakers; 21. Village People; 22. Kings of Leon; 23. The Police; 24. U2; 25. Simple Minds; 26. Dire Straits; 27. Jamiroquai;
28. Frankie Goes to Hollywood; 29. Oasis;
30. All Saints

# CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

**Artweeks** - Maureen Sparling (01608 810025)

**Baptist Church** - Kay Colyer (01608 810107)  
*charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com*

**Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)**

John Hole *charlbury.drama@gmail.com*  
*www.charlbury-drama.com*

**Charlbury Art Society (CAS)** Sec: Kati

Eidenbenz (01608 810911)  
*secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk*

**Charlbury Beer Festival** - Jim Holah

*jimholah50@yahoo.co.uk*  
*www.charlburybeerfestival.org*

**Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle** - John Moore  
(01608 810700)

**Charlbury Bowls Club** - Shaun Morley  
*enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk* (01993 868134)

**Charlbury Bridge Club**— Secretary Monica  
Wilkinson (01608 810560)

**Charlbury Canoe Club** - Hugh Belshaw  
(01608 810130) *hughandjoan@uwclub.net*

**Charlbury Chronicle** - Susie Finch (01608  
810861) *editor.chronicle@outlook.com*

**Charlbury Community Centre**—Jenny Chambers  
(01608 811878)

**Charlbury Cricket Club** - David Horne Vice  
Chairman *dw3horne@gmail.com*  
*www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk*

**Charlbury Day Centre** - Bob Tait (01608 810150)

**Charlbury & District Probus Club** Mike White  
(07710 296814) *mike.ewhite7@gmail.com*

**Charlbury Green Hub** - Christine Elliott  
(01608 811057) *www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk*

**Charlbury Garden Society**

Chairman@charlburygardensociety.org.uk

**Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club**—Gill Grason  
(01608 810154) and Frances Canham (01608  
811176)

**Charlbury Morris** - Peter Smith (01608 811007)  
*peter@charlburymorris.org*

*www.charlburymorris.org*

**Charlbury Museum** - Celia Faulkner (01608  
810656)

**Charlbury Open Gardens** - Eileen Kenrick  
(01608 811021)

*csfgardens@charlburystreetfair.org*

**Charlbury Music Class** - Peter Fry (01993  
359189)

**Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club**  
(Ray & Margaret) (01993 831345)

**Charlbury Pre-School**—Laura Barwood  
*laurambarwood@hotmail.co.uk* (01608 811200)

**Charlbury Royal British Legion** - Nick Potter  
(01608 810388)

**Charlbury School** - Jane Holt, Head (01608  
810354) *office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk*

*www.charlbury.oxon/digitalbrain.com*

**Charlbury School Association** - Tara Midgen  
*office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk*

**Charlbury Scout Group** - Cheryl Hornsby -  
*cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk*

**Charlbury Society** - Treasurer, Peter Bennett  
*pkbennett@btinternet.com*

**Charlbury Street Fair** - Chairman—John Dora  
(01608 811328) *jmdora@btinternet.com*

**Charlbury Tennis Club** - Mark Jarman  
(01608 811692) *charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk*

**Charlbury Town Council**—Roger Clarke, clerk  
(01608 810608) *charlburytc@btinternet.com*

**Charlbury Town Football** - Keith Claridge  
(01608 810201 or 07870 426707)

**Charlbury Town Youth Football Club** - James  
Ball (01608 810270) *jolliecat@btinternet.com*

**Charlbury Women's Institute** - President -  
Margaret Jowett (01608 810666)

*charlburywi@gmail.com*

**Charlbury Youth Theatre**—Andy Graham  
*andyg2439@gmail.com* (01608 659462)

**ChOC Cinema** - Richard Cocks (01608  
810032)

**Corner House Community Bookshop**—Neil  
Pakenham-Walsh (01608 811899)

**Corner House and Memorial Hall** -Office (01608  
810879)

**Churches Together** - Rosalind Scott, (01608  
810562) *rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk*

**Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens** - Harriet  
Baldwin (07779 157410 or 01608 811718)

*akanidi90@gmail.com*

**Dementia Friendly Charlbury**— Meryl Smith  
(01608 810192) *charlburydf@gmail.com*

**Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps)**  
Ann/David Morton - (01608 676302)

**Friends Meeting House:** Sue Terry (01608  
811033 email: *sueeterry@btinternet.com*)

**Holiday Club** - Sue Holiday (01608 810694)

**Macmillan Cancer Care** - Liz & Bob Tait (01608  
810150)

**Methodist Chapel** - Gill Grason (01608 810154)

**Mind in Chipping Norton** (Mental Health  
Support) (01608 645296)

**Riverside Festival** - Andy Pickard (01608  
810635) *admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com*  
*www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com*

**Silent Sitting**—Bill McMullen (01608 811430)  
*billmcmullen@phonecoop.coop*

**St Marys C of E Church** Rev Sally Welch  
(01608 810230)

**St Teresa's RC Church** Fr Tony Joyce  
(01608 642703)

**Sustainable Charlbury** - Liz Reason (01608  
811212)

**The Bell Hotel** (01608 810278)

**The Bull Inn** (01608 810689)

**Thomas Gifford Trust**- Margie Glasgow (01608  
819253)

**United Nations Association (West  
Oxfordshire)** - Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608  
811338)

**Wilderness Festival**—  
*www.wildernessfestival.com*

**Wychwayz Border Morris** - Teresa Duester  
(01608 810934)

**www.charlbury.info** - Richard Fairhurst



## Charlbury's Police Community Support Officer

**C9837 Wesley Smith**

To speak to us about any concerns you may have:

**call 101** if it's a non-emergency

**or 999** in an emergency

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

also sign up for free crime alerts  
[www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

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

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*And thanks to Graham Jowett for proof-reading this issue of the Chronicle.*

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The **Charlbury Chronicle** aims to be impartial and independent and cannot be held responsible for any of the views expressed in its pages. The editor reserves the right to alter or adapt any articles submitted for publication although hoping to discuss any major changes with the authors first.

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