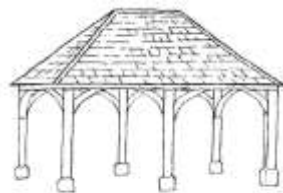


# Charlbury Chronicle



**Volume 21 Number 1**

**Spring 2017**

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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Plus much much more....

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## From the Editor

Susanna Finch

I cannot believe that I have been editing the Chronicle for over a year 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.

There are various meetings which are being held in the coming months. It is the "All Together in Charlbury" initial meeting on 9 March, to be held in the Methodist Hall (see page 3), Community Action Plan meeting on 16 March (see page 2) and the Community Centre Presentation Evening on 23 March (see page 29).

There is currently a vacancy on the Town Council, and if the vacancy is contested then the election will take place on Thursday 9 March (see page 40).

There is to be a Charlbury Festival from 10-18 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 I have to say that Street Fair still would like new members, so please contact Natasha Ely and offer your help—see page 5.

Finally, I would like to thank Dawn Colvin, the now ex-treasurer of the Charlbury Chronicle, for all her years of support and the hours and hours of time given over the past 20+ years. Dawn took the job on when the Chronicle was initially founded back in 1997 and has finally hung up her spreadsheets, and handed over to Graham Jowett. So thank you Dawn—and Graham!

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 that the deadline for articles for the Summer issue 2017 is 1st May  
Please send all articles to *editor.chronicle@outlook.com***



## **Charlbury Community Action Plan – where do we go from here?**

***We've had the Town Survey and the results are now being published. Key issues have been identified and views on needs have been expressed – so what are we going to do about them? Come along to the Memorial Hall on 16 March at 7.30 p.m. and get involved!***

The Charlbury Community Action Plan Group (CCAPG) of the Neighbourhood Forum is working to draft an Action Plan focusing on action that the community needs to take (with outside help, if necessary) in response to the views expressed in the survey.

The CCAP Group needs interested local residents to come forward to lend a hand with exploring solutions and improvements that would benefit them and others in the town. The more people we can get involved, the less time will be needed from each person interested in following-up a particular issue. Follow-up will be a joint effort.

The CCAPG is setting up a number of Follow-Up Groups for this purpose, as follows:

### **Living Well in Charlbury**

How can we help residents access help and healthcare services when they need them? What will enable us all to live as well and independently as we can in the community?

There is interest in different types of housing: Supported, Affordable, Downsizing, Self-build, Flats/bedsits. Can we learn from imaginative community-led housing projects elsewhere?

### **Keep Charlbury's Heart Beating**

How can we support and improve a vibrant town centre offering access to a range of services and attract visits by all

sections of the community as well as people from outside the town? How can we promote business activity? There may be better ways of using (sharing) the town centre space to provide a more congenial community focal point.

### **Getting Around and Street Space**

How can we ensure that we maintain and improve access to and use of transport other than the private car – to get around town and, when necessary, to get out for access to services and activities elsewhere?

There is widespread concern about the availability of parking for residents and visitors and about the management of traffic flow through and around the town. We need to find out what could be done.

### **Let's Get Together, including Learning on our Doorstep**

There are lots of ideas for new clubs, interest groups and shared activities coming from the survey. There is also some sense that there should be more opportunities to meet up with others. There is a clear demand for Charlbury to be a local centre for informal learning and opportunities to pick up, share and improve a range of skills. How can we use local talents as well as expertise from outside?

### **Katering for Kids and Kin**

Do we need more facilities/activities for young people and their families?

**The Community Action Plan Group is organizing a launch event for the Groups on Thursday, 16 March 2017 in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. Come along and hear more about the Groups' role and join a Group of your choice, if you want to have a say in how particular survey issues should be followed up.**

If you are interested in joining a Group but cannot come along on 16 March, please email:

[info@charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk](mailto:info@charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk) or phone Meryl Smith on 01608 810192.

*Meryl Smith*



## All Together in Charlbury (ATIC)

### A Good Neighbour Scheme for the town

Responses to the town survey organised by the Charlbury Neighbourhood Forum show that there is clear local interest in setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme for Charlbury.

A Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) is a voluntary group which aims to provide informal help and support to people in the community who need it by linking them up with someone who has offered some of their time to enable the Scheme to meet requests. A Scheme aims to be available to residents of all ages and circumstances.

Through the town survey some community-minded residents have already expressed a willingness to give some time to being ATIC volunteers, which is wonderful.

The kinds of help that can be available through a GNS will depend on local needs and the interests of the range of volunteers who have come forward. A key service is usually providing transport to hospital or other medical/health/care appointments but people may also want to ask for transport for another purpose - to get to the shops or hairdresser, for example, to take part in a local activity or club or to visit someone in hospital or a care home.

Some GNS also offer help with:

- getting shopping or collecting prescriptions
- household tasks (such as changing a light bulb or smoke detector battery) or gardening
- visiting or befriending
- help with pets
- letter writing or simple form-filling
- reading for people who have difficulty reading for themselves.

The scope of **All Together in Charlbury (ATIC)** (the proposed name for our Good Neighbour Scheme) will be decided by those interested locally. **The way forward and how the scheme should operate will be discussed at a public meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 March 2017 at 7.15 p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall, Fishers Lane.**

A GNS start-up grant of £500 has been obtained for the town through Volunteer LinkUp, a charity based in Witney which promotes and supports GNS. The money is being held on trust for this purpose by a local voluntary group and the money will be available to an **All Together in Charlbury (ATIC)** steering group, when one is formed. Representatives of Volunteer LinkUp will be present at the public meeting on 9 March to provide information about how **ATIC** can be run and to answer any queries.

If you are interested in finding out more about **ATIC** or would be willing to be involved as a volunteer, do come along to the meeting. If you cannot come along then (or even if you can), we would be pleased to hear from you either by email ([charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com)) or by phone to Meryl Smith (01608 810192) providing the following details:

- Your email address (if you have one) and your phone number
- What is your interest in ATIC:
- Are you willing to give some of your time to help meet requests for help?
- What kind of help you would be willing to give? – see the suggestions above.
- Do you know someone who might need some kind of help and support through the scheme (that may be you yourself or a friend or relative)?
- What kind of help do you think they would like to have?

*Meryl Smith*

## Bonnets and bloomers, braces & boots

### ***Exhibition for 2017: Allen's Drapery, Church Street***

Last year the museum was given a large tin trunk which for many years had been stored in the attic at The Old Drapery at the bottom of Church Street. The Lack family were moving out and offered it to the museum with all its contents. We had no idea what was inside but what a treasure trove it turned out to be!

Books and papers had all been flung higgledy piggledy into the chest as if in a great hurry – there were handwritten ledgers dating back to the 1880s, invoices for goods bought in, letters from customers, even metal spikes (now rusty with age) with customers bills still stacked on them. The Allen family had run their drapery business from the premises for many years and here were the records telling the story of their shop.

The ledgers consist of day to day records of who visited the shop, what they bought and how much it cost. There are many familiar Charlbury names here – Holloway, Lainchbury, Gomm, Price, Albright, - but many customers also came from the surrounding villages. Jesse Clifford bought his gloves here, Lady Churchill placed large orders including silk scarfs, woollen cuffs and gaiters, umbrellas and mufflers, and local dressmakers bought their materials and ribbons.

It must have had an excellent reputation - a review of the shop published in 1894 said: "a good class trade is done in this establishment and the goods supplied are

of the most reliable quality.... As a tailor Mr Allen is well known and all garments turned out by him are unequalled as regards style, fit and workmanship."

The shop stocked a huge range of goods which were ordered in from quality suppliers in London and elsewhere. Here are the trimmings loved by Victorian & Edwardian ladies, material for dresses and coats, boots, hats, rugs, sewing machines, and that essential undergarment for ladies – the corset. The ladies of Charlbury must have kept in good shape judging by the number and variety of corsets sold in the shop!

In the late 1800s Mr Allen also ran a funeral business and there is correspondence arranging the transport of bodies by train for burial in Charlbury, and orders for the funeral clothes which the grieving family were expected to wear.

There are also records of Clothing Clubs being run in Charlbury, Enstone and Chilson. These were to help poorer families afford clothes which were much more expensive in real terms at that time.

The exhibition this year is built around the story of Allen's Drapery. There will be lots of old photographs of Charlbury families showing what people wore at the turn of the last century, some wonderful clothes which have survived from that era, and examples of the letters and ledgers from the shop.

Do come along and get a glimpse into a vanished world where you could buy five inches of ribbon, feathers and flowers to re-trim your bonnet, work boots and overcoats, all available in the centre of Charlbury.

*Judy Dod*

## **CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL**

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Emergency Contact: Steve Andrews (01608 811212)



The Museum re-opens on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April and will be open:  
Saturdays 10—12pm, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 2.30—4.30pm

We are always looking for more volunteers to help steward when the museum is open. If you are interested in helping, please contact:  
[charlburymuseum@elmstead.plus.net](mailto:charlburymuseum@elmstead.plus.net)

There is a Stewards' Evening on Friday 24 March when there will be an opportunity to look round the new exhibition and meet fellow stewards.

### Special Event:

#### **'The Charlbury Sewing Bee' – July 1—2 2017**

A weekend of creative crafts inspired by Charlbury Museum's exhibition on Allen's Drapery. Demos and exhibits: machine-embroidery, patchwork & quilting, knitting & crochet, dress-making etc. Plus 'Vintage Corner': bric a brac & clothes. Details will be available in April, or get in touch with:  
[sue.rangeley@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.rangeley@btinternet.com)

### World War 1 book

Our forthcoming book 'Charlbury during the First World War' is nearing completion and it should be available later this year. Follow the stories of the men and women from the town who served in so many ways during the war years and gain a fascinating insight into life in Charlbury between 1914 and 1918.

## CHRONICLE ADVERTS

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



## Street Fair News

### Quiz—11 March

This popular quiz will be held on 11 March at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Including a sausage & mash supper, the cost is £10 per person. Teams of 6—so hurry and get your form from Carolyn Ashton  
([carolyn.ashton@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.ashton@gmail.com) or 07880 718536). All forms need to be back with us no later than 1 March. Vegetarian, gluten free and other dietary requirements are catered for. Prizes for first and last teams! And of course, a licensed bar!

If you would like to come and help us, at either this event or any other time, please contact Natasha Ely at  
[natashaely@outlook.com](mailto:natashaely@outlook.com) or on 07808 931871.

### Open Gardens

The Charlbury Open Gardens event, organised by the Street Fair team, will be held on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June** this year with a variety of fabulous gardens open for your delight from 2pm until 6pm. Tea and cakes plus plant sales will be available all afternoon at the Memorial Hall. We are delighted to announce that this year's has been timed to coincide with the brand new Charlbury Festival providing many more attractions for your enjoyment.

Admission to all gardens will be by programme available on the day from 1:30pm from the Corner House garden. The cost will be £5 per person with FREE entry for children under 12. All proceeds will go towards the upkeep and improvement of the Corner House and Memorial Hall community buildings. Other attractions during the afternoon will include a quiz for children and a raffle with great prizes.

More information about all our news can be found at [www.charlburystreetfair.org](http://www.charlburystreetfair.org)

## Charlbury Deli: past, present and future

Charlbury Deli & Café in Sheep Street is 25 years old and is now looking to a bright future in the town with new, expanded premises and services.

39 Sheep Street has a long history providing delicious food to the community of Charlbury. For many decades the premises was home to a bakery, latterly part of the Brown's group famed for its Banbury cakes. In the 1980s it became The Good Food Shop focusing on health food products and, in fact, the Deli's manageress Lynne Stubbles even worked there briefly.

The current business was incorporated in October 1991, thanks to the late Dr Jo Wetherall purchasing the freehold and encouraging the community to get involved. The original share issue raised £15,000 exclusively from local people, with the first board of directors taking the helm in October 1992, chaired by Mike Elliott.

Under the long-running chairmanship of Robert Caston, and the tireless work of Lynne, who took over as manageress in 1994, the business has gone from strength to strength. It has embraced numerous changes and managed to steer through difficult economic times which have sadly seen other Charlbury town centre shops come and go. Over time the range of goods moved away from health foods per se towards more 'naughtiness' as Lynne puts it, with her own skills as a baker celebrated as the town pats its tummy appreciatively.

In 2012, the shop rebranded as Charlbury Deli & Café as a more accurate reflection of its remit, and in 2015 a new team of directors took over, chaired by Richard Fairhurst, in order to secure the shop's long-term future as a mainstay of the town.

You may well have heard the rumours and spoken to the team at 2016's Street Fair stall, to the effect that the Deli is planning

to move premises to Old Bank House in Market Street.

At the time of writing the pens are almost poised to sign the lease – a larger premises will give the business the chance to offer a much wider range of delicious food and drink to enjoy. This will include an alcohol license for the sale of quality wines and spirits, much more shelving and, crucially for the centre of town, a larger café.

In 2016 the business raised more than £40,000 in a new share issue, again directly from members of the community, to support this exciting project. This will be aided by a new website in due course, as well as an expanded catering service for local businesses and functions. And there's more to come: the Deli is now in discussions about offering café facilities in the new community centre. Both of these should whet the town's appetite nicely!



*Picture caption: The queue for bread at Brown's Bakery, now the Charlbury Deli premises, in 1982 when the town was below freezing for more than a week*

**Charlbury Deli & Café, 39 Sheep Street, tel: 01608 811157**  
[www.charlburydeli.cafe](http://www.charlburydeli.cafe),  
**Twitter: @charlburydeli**


*Andrew Chapman*



# B

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## WYCHWOOD PROJECT – Spring 2017 Update

Charlbury lies within what was known as the **Royal Forest of Wychwood**, once a hunting ground for monarchs. This area, stretching from Burford east to Woodstock and north to Chipping Norton, is rich in its variety of landscapes, habitats and wildlife. As Spring arrives bumblebees will be out and about seeking nectar from spring flowers like crocuses, dog-violets or cowslips. Look out for new leaves on hedgerow hawthorn, while ash and wild cherry will soon be coming into bloom. Frogs and toads become active in our ponds, streams and rivers – look for frogspawn – while chiffchaffs are an early migrant re-joining our native birds as they begin to nest.

The **Wychwood Project** is a registered charity that works with local communities and other partners to conserve and restore this area's natural environment. The Wychwood Project's tree planting continues through the Spring. All in all we will have planted over 1,500 trees since

December in Ascott-under-Wychwood; Asthall Leigh; Charlbury; Long Hanborough; Milton-under-Wychwood; Pudlicote and Witney.

Our recent conservation work also includes managing fish stocks in the Woodstock water-meadows; coppicing trees near Charlbury; feeding overwintering farmland birds; building drystone walls and hedge-laying to improve the habitat for wildlife. This work relies on the great efforts of our volunteers.

### Why not join one of our **FREE** activities this spring?

Throughout **2017** on the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** and **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of **every month** there will be a variety of **FREE** outdoor **volunteering opportunities**. Boots, gloves and suitable clothes are all you need – we provide the tools and any training. Sessions run 9:30am – 3:00 pm, or just come along for the morning if you prefer.

### You can find out more at:

[www.wychwoodproject.org/volunteer](http://www.wychwoodproject.org/volunteer)  
phone: 01865 815423; email:  
[wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

*Sharon Williams, Project Director*

<p>Goodbye Weeds</p>	 <p>'Cheerio'</p>	 <p>'See ya'</p>	<p>Prices from <b>£15</b> <small>*per quarter</small></p>
 <p>'B'Bye!'</p>	 <p>'Toodle-pip'</p>	 <p>'So long'</p>	<p>With prices from as little as £15* per quarter for providing a great service, is it any wonder that 40% of our new customers come to us through recommendation.</p>
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Well by the time you read this CADS will have appointed a new chairman to steer the society through the next three years and I wish my successor all the very best.

With my time at the helm of "Good Ship CADS",

where previously I had very little experience of treading the boards and even less knowledge of what goes on behind the scenes, you do learn fast and even three years later there is still so much more to learn but all of CADS have been a great help and someone was always just a phone call away.

I would like to think that I have kept CADS on a steady course on this three-year voyage and despite one or two little detours both myself and my trusty crew "CADS committee" have had pretty much calm waters to navigate.

So what's been happening at CADS since we last spoke? Well November had the "Merry Wives of Windsor" as our autumn production directed by John Hole and that went off very well. The audience were very kind and seemed to enjoy the production, so a big thank you to everyone who helped on this production and to all those members of the audience who came along to see it.

December saw our annual CADS Christmas do at a new venue which is taking Charlbury by storm "the Old Shed" at Banbury Hill Farm. The food and staff were fantastic and we look forward to joining them again this year.

So as to this year 2017 what's in store with CADS? Unfortunately, due to reasons beyond our control we will not be having a spring production but never fear CADS are looking forward to being part of the new Charlbury Arts festival in June, and we are working on putting on an outdoor production during that celebration, so please do keep a lookout on all the usual platforms for details at a later date.

So last but by no means least I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over the past three years whilst I have been at the helm of CADS, your help has been very much appreciated.

*CADS theatre group serves Charlbury and its many surrounding villages, and is always ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS, especially if you are interested in working back stage. Please contact the Chairman or any member to find out more. Check out our Facebook page Charlbury Drama (CADS) and our web page [www.charlbury-drama.com](http://www.charlbury-drama.com)*

*Tim Widdows Chairman—CADS*



## **CHARLBURY ANGLING CLUB 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Charlbury Angling Club was formed in 1947 and is now celebrating 70 continuous years as a local organisation.

The club will welcome new members who wish to fish for pleasure or take part in matches, or both.

The 2017/18 season starts on 16 June and you can join at Charlbury Post Office.

You may fish the River Evenlode, right bank, from Chilson to Charlbury Station, through Cornbury Park to Finstock. Our subscription also includes affiliation to the Oxford and District Angling Association and

this gives access to many venues in Oxford and the surrounding area.

Subscriptions for the 16/17 season were:

Senior	£25
Senior Citizen [65+]	£15
Junior [up to age 16]	Free

There is no charge for a Junior when obtained with a Senior subscription, although for insurance purposes a ticket is issued and their contact info taken.

The permits contain all information about where to fish, rules, and committee contact details.

*Jane Parsons*



## The Botany Spot

The very early spring flowers are now fading and as the light increases and the days get just that much warmer the later spring flowers are here to delight us.

One of my personal favourites is the **Sweet Violet** *Viola odorata* which is found in the woods and on the hedge banks in the countryside around Charlbury. It is our only scented violet. It is bluish-mauve or white and I have seen good clumps of both locally. In 2016 I recorded seeing the first ones on April 6<sup>th</sup> and although any good book on wild flowers will give you a whole host of botanical features to help in identification, the one infallible test is to kneel down and breathe in its wonderful, nostalgic perfume. There is no scent in the other violets I have observed locally, the **Common Dog Violet** *Viola riviniana* and the **Early Dog Violet** *Viola reichenbachiana*, though both have beautiful, typically violet-shaped mauve flowers.

Another interesting plant which starts flowering in April is the **Goldilocks Buttercup** *Ranunculus auricomus*. Unlike the better known varieties, the Goldilocks Buttercup has very characteristic 'scruffy' flowers, often with missing or misshapen petals and without the perfect golden bowl of the Meadow, Bulbous or Creeping Buttercup. The Goldilocks Buttercup appears to like the conditions provided by some of our local roadside verges and can be spotted in April and May.

A delicate spring flower, with a wonderful name evoking a rustic scene from times gone by, is the **Lady's Smock, Milk-maids or Cuckooflower** *Cardamine pratensis*, also coming into its own at this

time of year. Found in damp places it has lovely pink flowers. I have found many plants in this area, often in small clumps near local springs and streams – one of the most attractive members of the **Brassicaceae**, the cabbage family.

**Cowslips** *Primula veris* are easy to find in this part of Oxfordshire and make a wonderful springtime display on many grass verges. **Primroses** *Primula vulgaris* are also here in good numbers. You might try to interest young children in flower structure by looking for the difference between thrum-eyed flowers which have a short style hidden by the stamens which are attached round the rim of the corolla and pin-eyed flowers with a long style which reaches the mouth of the corolla tube, the stamens being attached lower down, so remaining out of sight. Children don't need all the botanical terms to spot the difference! A magnifying glass might assist.

In Wychwood Forest, the last of my favourite spring flowers doesn't usually open properly until very early May, though there will be national newspaper articles telling you to watch out for it during April. It is the native **Bluebell** *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. It is well known to everyone and its delightful blue, drooping flowers carpet the ground in many local woods and copses. The scent is wonderful, especially when the wind drops and the stronger May sunlight falls on the flowers, not yet shaded by the tree canopy. The brash, upstart **Spanish Bluebell** *Hyacinthoides hispanica* has a more erect head and broader leaves and may threaten our native plants by producing vigorous hybrids which could in time swamp the 'proper' native species (for a fascinating account of the different types of bluebell, see the link at the end of this article).

With the appearance of the bluebells we are well on the way to summer, with an explosion of wild flowers promised in the weeks to follow.

*jo@joanna-bell.net*

Bluebell link: [sppaccounts.bsbi.org.uk/content/hyacinthoides-non-scripta-h-hispanica-h-x-massartiana](http://sppaccounts.bsbi.org.uk/content/hyacinthoides-non-scripta-h-hispanica-h-x-massartiana)



## Charlbury Music Class

Booking is now open for the 2017 season of music appreciation classes held at The Bell Hotel in Charlbury on occasional Wednesdays under the umbrella title "Exploring Music". Subjects include Landscapes and Seascapes, the influence of jazz, and world music. The first class is on 29 March, when the subject is Shostakovich.

All classes start at 10.30am and finish at 3.30pm. Lunch is available (not included and not compulsory).

The classes have been run for many years by Dr Kate Eckersley, with a very informal style. No technical knowledge is expected of those attending, and there are no assessments. Average attendance last year was 20, and new members are welcome. A single class costs £18. There are discounts for block bookings, with all five classes for £75. For full details phone Peter Fry on 01993 359189.

*Peter Fry*

## Charlbury Bowls Club

It's nearing the end of the short mat indoor season and we are looking forward to playing out in the fresh air.

Bowls is a sport for everyone to try and I promise you, you will receive a very warm welcome here at Charlbury Bowls Club. Why not come along to our open day and have a go, or ask us about a one on one session. Our members will be happy to show you the ropes.

For further information on our open day give us a ring. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*For more details please call the club secretary,*

*Heather Hill on 01993 878828*

## RAINFALL REPORT 2016 (a Leap year)



The rainfall measured at Lees Rest between 1 January and 31 December 2016 (366 days) was 695mm/27.8 ins, so almost as dry as 2015 (692mm/27.68 ins) which was the driest year since 2011. The wettest month was November with 104mm/4.16 ins and the driest was July with 5mm/0.2 ins, the driest July in our records which started in 1982.

October was also the driest in our records with 16mm/0.64 ins whilst December with 34mm/1.36ins was the driest since 1991. Is this all to do with climate change?

Lees Rest is about a mile and a half east of Charlbury so the rainfall in the Town Centre may have been completely different!

*Nick Potter*



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[www. PatriciaFreemanSilversmith.com](http://www.PatriciaFreemanSilversmith.com)



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## Charlbury Society

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The Charlbury Society AGM will take place on May 12 and this year, as in other years, we hope to welcome new people to the Committee to bring new ideas and to share the jobs that need to be done to help keep the society vibrant and successful. The Society has eighty members currently and just six committee members with two additional ex officio and co-opted members. In May this year one committee member and one co-opted member will be standing down because their term of office has ended. The Society is in great need of some additional committee members to share the load.

We need particular help with the coordination of refreshments, publicity (including updating the web entries) and someone to take over as Chair in the near future.

The work is not onerous. The committee meets four times a year and each member usually takes on one of the jobs needing to be done e.g. Secretary to the meetings, membership, finance, publicity, refreshments, historical research group, programme planning, churning meetings and talks, setting up the room for talk evenings (8 per year), organising the summer outing and other things that arise from time to time.

The Charlbury Society committee would benefit from having people with youth on their side to complement those of us who are getting older. There is nothing against about this statement but a recognition that we need younger people to get involved.

Please, if you can give some of your time to the community in which you live, contact me, Anne Lawson-Porter on 01608 810359. I would be delighted to talk with you about the Charlbury Society and to welcome you to observe one of our meetings.

*Anne Lawson-Porter  
Chair*

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## Charlbury Day Centre

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Worries about Brexit and Donald Trump apart, our anxieties were mainly about the Centre's future funding from Oxfordshire County Council.

The Council will not be making their decision until February. However the Town Council has solved our concerns by stepping in with a grant that will ensure our ability to keep running for at least another year. The Centre is a valuable asset for Charlbury and is hugely appreciated both by our members and their carers.

As always if anyone would like to know more about us, either because they know someone who would like to join us, or because they might like to help (we would love to have another volunteer cook) do please contact either Bob Tait 01608 810150 or Carolyn Connolly 01608 819001

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## Corner House News

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We are pleased to report that we have kept our 2017 hire charges at 2016 levels. For those of you that are not familiar with the wide range of rooms that are on offer in both buildings, please contact me or the Caretaker (01608 810879) for a tour.

Following my offer of dishwasher master classes, there are new acolytes with The Knowledge. Just remember that the doors must be shut when the machines are in their 40 minute warming-up cycle and that they must be drained down after use.

When cleaning-up after hire, please check that the dust bags on the 'Henry' vacuum cleaners do not need changing; replacement bags are left out with cleaning materials in both buildings. Finally has anyone seen the Charlbury Society Teapot? It has gone AWOL.

*Stephen Andrews, Chairman  
01608 811212*





I had been aware of the resurgence of vinyl for some time, when a couple of years ago, I first heard of 'Vinyl Nights' springing up in cafés and bars around our trendier cities. Given Charlbury's vibrant music scene I started thinking why couldn't something like that work here? I spoke to Tommy at The Rose & Crown who immediately was on board and the seeds were sown.

The reasons for vinyl taking off so since around 2006 when it had almost died out are various and well documented. (As a starting point you could do worse than refer to **The Revenge of Analog: Real Things And Why They Matter**, David Sax, Public Affairs, U.S., 2016. The argument over whether vinyl sounds better than digital is a complex and largely personal matter, but so much music is experienced these days through a smartphone with cheap earbuds that playing music over a decent system was important from the outset. The music system has evolved over the months – after going through 3 sets of speakers, 4 decks and 4 amplifiers I think we are almost there! Thanks to the support of The Rose & Crown, Vinyl Solution now has all of its own dedicated equipment.

Looking at what other nights were offering, the idea of a group of people sitting around in silence listening to and then discussing a classic album didn't appeal. Neither did I imagine, some kind of knees-up finishing off with The Birdy Song! What seemed more attractive was people bringing down their own records for all to share and enjoy.

On the first night I had a vague format worked out which did include playing an entire album, but that idea lasted for but 10 minutes, when a friend whispered to me "this isn't working". So I took it off

and carried on. I played 17 tracks, and the audience played 3. Then there was the idea of having a 'Guest Host', which lasted some months. Someone would be invited to play 30-40 minutes of their own records, maybe explaining their choices in between tracks to add a little context. But as word spread and audiences picked up this became difficult to accommodate, as so many people were coming along with records of their own. Now it is usual for around 15 people to contribute records over an evening (and maybe 50 people in total attending), which ensures a constant variety and a very eclectic mix!

There is a listing of everything played and by whom which now stands at almost 500 tracks. The oldest record played may be The Banana Boat Song by Harry Belafonte (1956), and I usually have something up my sleeve weeks if not days old (it helps to have a son who runs a record label!). Surprisingly only one Beatles song has been played while the most popular artist is David Bowie, with 8 different tracks spanning 44 years. I'd like to say that all kinds of music have been played but that is not yet the case. I can't recall any Country & Western, Big Band/Swing or any number of modern urban genres being represented. Latin and Heavy Metal are also sadly lacking from the listing, although I understand that this should be rectified very soon! So you never know what to expect as it largely depends on what people choose to bring along. One thing you can expect is to have a room full of people from 18 to 70+ years old enjoying the same evening out, which must be a pretty rare thing.

If I learn that someone has a collection of records and I ask them to bring some along, a common response is "oh no, you won't like my weird stuff". Which is a great shame, as it's the 'weird stuff' which often goes down best of all. So why not dust off that 'weird stuff' residing in the loft and give it a new lease of life? Or if you'd like to have some new music but don't know where to start Vinyl Solution may be the answer!

The next Vinyl Solution is on 25th February, then on 16 April and 28 May, or check the events section on the Charlbury website.

*David McCutcheon*

## A Day's Life: Martin Prew

I was born and bred in Charlbury and went to the Primary School by the Playing Close and then crossed the road to the Spendlove School. The school closed in 1982 when I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> year. I did my last exam by April and didn't go back to school again, so I'm not in the last photo taken of the whole school. I liked school, and think it was a great shame for the town it closed. I think the town lost a lot of its shops after the school closed.

I love football, you could say I am obsessed with it! I have always played, my granddad played as well. A family story is that my gran first saw my granddad when he was playing on a pitch behind the Plough in Finstock. She was in service in the big house and watched him play from a window. When we were kids we would play in all weathers. I remember when it had snowed once, 8 of us got the school roller out on Wychwood Paddocks, cleared away the snow and played – in our shorts and T-shirts. If we couldn't find a game here, we would cycle over to Combe, Stonesfield or Finstock and find one there.

I played until I was 28, and then went to help with the Charlbury Town reserve team. I managed the team for a few years, and helped with the boys' team as well. Then 14 years ago, I did my Level 1 coaching as part of the McDonald's scheme to train more coaches. Then when I was 39 I did my Level 2 with Vinny Halsall [*Ed: the West Midland's co-ordinator for coaching with the FA*] It was a brilliant course and I learnt so much. I wish I had done it at 16. There were so few Level 2 coaches, I went round helping out with other local teams; I was very very busy and out 6 nights a week. I'm very lucky to have a very understanding wife.

My daughter Taomi wanted to play football, so myself and Helen Turner started a girls' team. For the first two years we only did training but they have now been playing for three seasons in the Oxford Mail Girls League. I had retired from coaching, I've done 23 years coaching, but an email in June stated that they had no coach for U7's for this coming season. So I am back on the pitch with 12 U7's on Sunday mornings, until someone

can be found to take over from me. Why do I do it? I don't like to see kids miss out on the chance of football if they are keen to do it.

We took over the old Sports and Social Club about 18 months ago, and put it back on a profitable footing, with the aim of making it family-orientated, as it was when it first started in the 1980s. So the idea behind the new Charlbury Town Football and Sports Club [CTFSC] is that it will be a CASC – a Community Amateur Sports Club which will allow us to put money made from the social side back into the football teams (youth and adult). The club house will be somewhere that the footballers and their families, supporters and the community as a whole can go and socialise. We organise various activities – an Easter Egg hunt where over 200 people came through the door, a Halloween disco every year, Father Xmas, a Boxing Day event following the U30 v O30 football match which attracts both members and non-members. At one time the Club was one of the most popular places to go in Charlbury. If we can get the building for the new club, we would dearly love to bring back the youth club, on one or two of the nights the Club isn't open.

What did I do after school? I went to agricultural college and had a job on a local farm for a while but, unfortunately, there were not that many farming jobs around at the time. So since then I've had a number of jobs mainly in the building trade. I met my wife Carole when we were both working at Oxford Instruments. Her father worked for Dragon Air in Hong Kong, and we got engaged whilst visiting her parents over there. We have been married for 24 years, and have two children Taomi 12 and Alex 10.

I have now taken up archery. How did that happen? We went to the Wychwood Forest Fair with the kids one year, and there was a Have a Go archery course – a castle with little knights in the window – put on by the Windrush Bowmen. The kids loved it, they kept wanting to going back for more, and in the end we were given goes for free as we had been so many times. I thought if they're enjoying it, I might as well have a go and was hooked. Now we belong to a local club and can spend hours shooting there. The course, called a field course, is



set out in a wooded area, with 36 3-D targets, and we have a small club house. There are clear safety rules for field archery: we all have to carry whistles, sign in when we arrive, say where we are going to start, and abide by the safety rules of the course. I have a traditional English longbow, which is a tri-laminate wooden one, 74 inches long, with a 45lb draw weight. [Ed: *Martin let me try his bow. I couldn't pull it more than an inch or two*] Some bows – called war bows – have a draw weight as high as 200lb.

You have to warm the bow up first before you use it, by gently pulling the string to bend the wood, but without letting go. When it's warmed up you can shoot. The children use Recurve bows, scaled down, with a draw weight of 19lb or so. We can spend hours on the course in the summer, often there all day with our sandwiches. Our type of archery is called Instinctive archery, where you don't use any sights, not like the archery shown at the Olympics on TV. We do miss the targets quite regularly! Some of the club members are into re-enactment, and regularly go to Tewkesbury and other Battle re-enactments. I have helped with the Have a Go archery at one of these re-enactments and had to dress as a traditional medieval archer. I'm sure when my friends find out they will take the mickey out of me.

*Martin Prew was talking to Barbara Allison*

## Wychwood Investment Club

### Investment Club has a vacancy

The newly formed Wychwood Investment Club which meets in the Wychwoods once per month on a Wednesday evening is looking for one more member to join 15 fellow share trading enthusiasts.

After an initial £500 investment members then contribute at least £50 per month which adds to a shared portfolio which is reviewed over dinner. Performance is about in line with FTAS with the most recent members being ahead of the curve.

For more information call Paul Jackson 01993 831967.



## Spring at the Charlbury Speakeasy

Here's a quick rundown of what to expect at the Speakeasy this spring.

### Friday 17th March, 8pm

The wonderful **Knights Of Mentis** return to the Speakeasy. If you didn't catch them last year, you missed a rare experience: nine musicians packed onto the stage of the Shed, filling the room with their gutsy, bluesy, rootsy music, swelling and retreating like a slow sea or the contented breathing of a tipsy giant... It was wonderful. If you did, you'd be mad to miss it again. [www.knightsofmentis.com](http://www.knightsofmentis.com)

### Friday 21st April, 8pm

Singer and multi-instrumentalist **Mick Wilson** is lead vocalist of the much-loved 70s band **10cc**. He has many other strings to his bow though and amongst them is an acoustic one-man show which will be perfect for the intimate surroundings of the Speakeasy. There'll be songs you know, including from the 10cc repertoire, and new ones you don't, and you can expect singing and musicianship of the very highest standard. [www.mickwilson.com](http://www.mickwilson.com)

### Friday 19th May, 8pm

**The Rob Terry Trio** bring their wonderfully inventive jazz back to the Speakeasy. Often starting with well-known classical pieces, they spiral away into dazzling jazz improvisations and lyrical exploration, always returning to set their audiences gently back down on familiar ground. It's lovely stuff. [robterrytrio.com](http://robterrytrio.com)

The final Speakeasy of the season will be something very different. It will be the final event in the first Charlbury Arts Festival and there'll be much more about it nearer the time but make a note in your diary: Saturday (NOT Friday) 17th June.

Although music is the backbone of every Speakeasy programme, there's always a mixture of music and spoken word – poetry, comedy, journalism -- and of course good conversation. We hope to see you there!

*Simon Fenn*



## CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB

The winter season has seen Charlbury field two teams in the Banbury indoor

league while training at Burford School has also been under way. But early Spring marks the time when we begin to prepare for the outdoor season. Ground staff will be bringing out the rollers and mowers, and setting out the nets, sightscreens and covers, with volunteers turning out for a general tidy up in a Cricket Force weekend in early April.

It is going to be a busy year, the same as 2016, with cricket action due to start mid-April when we host a touring team from Lancashire. The following weekend the club once again goes on a pre-season tour, this time to seaside Brighton. Then the OCA league begins on Saturday April 29th and, though the fixtures have not yet been finalised, our 1st team is in division one, the seconds in six and the thirds in nine. Our women's team should also start in late April.

The fixture list throughout the season will provide ample opportunity for all club members to develop and show off their skills, with boys and girls age group games, senior league and limited overs matches, as well as county youth and representative games. In addition, we have training sessions for the youth on Friday evenings, as well as senior and women's evenings. The club will also play host to the Charlbury Beer Festival in mid-summer.

Our thriving youth section, which in 2016 had a membership of around 160 boys and girls, now has a new chairman, Richard Ede, who has been a valued club coach for many seasons. We also have a new club welfare officer, Paul Butler McLees.

We are a community club and visitors and new players are always welcome. For further details, visit our Charlbury Cricket Club website.  
([www.charlburycricketclub.com](http://www.charlburycricketclub.com))

*David Horne, vice chairman*

## Charlbury Festival 10th - 18th June 2017

Charlbury Art Society is planning to launch the Charlbury Festival in June 2017. The last festival was in 2000 so another one is well overdue. The festival is part of an initiative by the Art Society to engage more, particularly younger, people in the arts and the emphasis will be on participation and involvement.

Charlbury has a wealth of creative talent and it is hoped to include as much of this as possible. We are working with existing Charlbury organisations, including the schools, CADS, ChOC and Speakeasy to create events during the festival.

There will be an extensive range of workshops for all ages and abilities. For example, on the opening Saturday we will be making huge prints using a Wallis and Steevens 1926 steamroller and glazing pots made by students at Chipping Norton School before firing their work in outdoor Raku kilns and plunging it into sawdust. There will be workshops for adults and children, ranging from creative writing, painting and pottery to flower arranging, music and drama.

There will be a comprehensive programme of entertainment including classical, jazz and cabaret evenings and lunchtime recitals, theatre, literature, poetry, cinema, singing, art lectures, storytelling, pilgrimage and heritage walks and a sculpture trail.

One highlight will be the open air performances in the amphitheatre in Helen Bessemer-Clarke's garden. These will include poetry from Freddie and Jenny Jones and Rob Stepney, drama directed by Sue Haffenden and an opportunity to see Charlbury Youth Theatre in action.

We plan to deliver a detailed programme to every household in the town as well as making them freely available for visitors. Events will be publicised on the websites and on posters and notice boards.

The festival aims to be inclusive, friendly and welcoming and we hope it will be challenging, stimulating and fun.

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

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**CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET**  
**on the Playing Close between**  
**9am and 1pm on**  
**Saturday, March 11th**

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered  
by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-  
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McCallum,  
email [marketmanager@ymail.com](mailto:marketmanager@ymail.com)  
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# Artweeks in Charlbury

**Saturday 13 - Sunday 21 May**

**12 noon til 6pm daily**



Charlbury is a prime North Oxfordshire Artweeks destination.

With over 30 artists, most within easy walking distance of each other, it represents a wide cross section of all the artists taking part in Oxfordshire.

Art and sculpture is everywhere – churches, cottages, studios, workshops and gardens.

A free trail map, available in April, provides helpful information and makes it easy to find all the artists.

Contact: Maureen Sparling 07779 779121.

**[www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)**



## **Charlbury Beer Festival Overseas Grants**

The annual one-day Beer Festival in June each year is run by volunteers for the sole purpose of raising money for good causes. Six years ago the committee decided to broaden the criteria for grants to include one overseas grant each year, for a Charlbury-linked project helping disadvantaged children in poor countries.

Our first overseas grant in 2011 was £1800 for a solar water heater for a children's home, Karm Marg in India, which was already being supported by a couple of Charlbury residents. Many will remember the solar hand and glass washing station that we put up at the Beer Festival that year to demonstrate solar water heating.

Our second grant in 2012 was for £2500 for five iPads for children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities in Zimbabwe. Special Effect, a Charlbury based charity, prepared the iPads with their bespoke communications and learning software, which were then carried to Zimbabwe by various Charlbury residents and have been put to good use by local charity Zimbabwe Parents of Disabled Children Association (ZPDCA).

In 2013 we gave a £1500 grant to Phunzira in Malawi towards the cost of fitting out a boat to bring primary health care to poor families living in remote villages on Lake Malawi. The boat began operating in 2015, and in an area with no roads this boat has been a life saver for sick patients, who previously were dying needlessly of easily treatable diseases such as malaria.

In 2014 we gave a grant of £1878 to Cecily's Fund, which was set up in

Stonesfield with the goal of enabling orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia to reach their true potential and have better futures through education. Our grant was used to buy shoes for children who otherwise would not have been able to walk long distances to school. Later that year we gave £1345 to the One Way School in Zimbabwe for much-needed books.

In 2015 we gave a grant of £1855 to YCare International to enable 20 disadvantaged young people aged 16–25 to buy sewing machines and other equipment to start their own small businesses in Colombia. YCare works with local YMCAs to create job opportunities by providing training and access to resources to give young people a second chance.

In 2016 we gave a second grant to Cecily's Fund of £1182 to buy equipment for vocational training for orphans and vulnerable children in Kitwe, Zambia. We are now reviewing applications for possible funding later in 2017.

We try to strengthen linkages between our overseas grantees and local ones, such as Charlbury Primary School. We ask all our grantees to send us photos and news of the impact that Charlbury Beer Festival funding has had, so that we can put it on our website and display it at the Beer Festival.

So while the bulk of the funds we raise at the Beer Festival goes to local charities, we hope you agree that our investment in these overseas projects is worthwhile and does a little to address the challenges faced in villages and towns less advantaged than our own.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 24 June, to help us raise funds for this year's overseas projects, as well as for other good causes closer to home ... See [charlburybeerfestival.org](http://charlburybeerfestival.org) for full details.

*Jo Elliott*



## ChOC and ChOCLIVE News

In a change to our normal 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month screening, the film in March is on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March**.

In April, we revert back to our normal 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday slot with **La Famille Bélier**, **Eric Lartigau's** heart-felt comedy/drama, and in May we look forward to seeing the feline star of **A Street Cat Named Bob**. Also In April ChOCLive welcomes to Charlbury **The Musicians of the Dreaming Spires**, the Oxfordshire based ensemble, for an evening of classical music.



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm: The Beatles: Eight Days A Week** Cert. 12 / 1hr 55mins

In 1962 four young men - John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr - came together to form the 20th century musical phenomenon known as 'The Beatles'. The band stormed Europe in 1963 and, in 1964, they conquered America. Their ground breaking world tours changed global youth culture forever and, arguably, invented mass entertainment as we know it today.

All the while, the group were composing and recording a series of extraordinarily successful singles and albums. However, the relentless pressure of such unprecedented fame (which in 1966 became uncontrollable turmoil) led to the decision to stop touring. In the ensuing years

The Beatles were then free to focus on a series of albums that changed the face of recorded music. Master storyteller and Oscar winner, Ron Howard, explores this incredible journey in his own unique way: How did The Beatles do this? How did they cope with all the fame and pressure? How did they not only survive, but go on to revolutionise popular music? With original interviews, footage, staggering live performances, and the intimate study of character that Ron Howard is known for, he puts us right inside this extraordinary adventure, answering the question everyone always wants to know: What was it like to be there?

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**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm: "La Famille Bélier"** Cert 12 / 1hr 43mins

In the Bélier family, sixteen-year-old Paula is an indispensable interpreter for her deaf parents and brother on a daily basis, especially in the running of the family farm. At school, a music teacher discovers her gift for singing and encourages Paula to participate in a prestigious singing contest in Paris, which will secure her a place at a renowned music school. However, this decision would mean leaving her family and taking her first steps towards adulthood. **(Shown with subtitles)** *This cheery French comedy-drama works on many levels: as a rites-of-passage story, a rustic family tale, a movie about deafness, a film about singing and a study in small-town politics.* - Geoffrey McNab/*The Independent*



**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm: "Musicians of the Dreaming Spires"**

A quintet from this Oxfordshire based ensemble, Celia Redgate – flute, Christopher Redgate – oboe, Helen Pitstow – violin, David Lewis – viola, and Coral Lancaster – cello, will be performing works by a number of composers including Haydn, Mozart, Bach and Vivaldi. Full details of the programme will be posted on the **Charlbury website** and will also appear in April's edition of **The Leaflet**.



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm: "A Street Cat Named Bob"** Cert 12A / 1hr 40mins

Based on the international best selling book by James Bowen and directed by Roger Spottiswoode, the film tells the moving and life-affirming true story of the unlikely friendship between a young homeless busker (JamesBowen), played by Luke Treadaway, and the stray ginger cat named Bob who changed his life.

*The man-and-moggy partnership provides a warm backdrop to a solid, responsible and never preachy chronicle of homelessness, addiction and recovery* – Terry Staunton / *Radio Times*

All ChOC and ChOCLive events are held in the War Memorial Hall, Browns Lane, Charlbury. Our popular beer and wine bar opens 45minutes before the performance. Tickets for films, Adults £5 / U15s £3 (where applicable), are available at the door on the night. For concerts, it is advisable to buy tickets in advance from the designated retail outlets.

Charlbury WI is 8 years old in March and as well as our AGM, we'll be having a demonstration of hand-made artisan chocolates with tasting samples for all to enjoy at the meeting. Our April speaker is a former airline pilot and will be sharing what happens behind the scenes on a flight deck and the skills demanded of air crew to deal with the unexpected. We're having an introductory talk about Charlbury Museum's summer exhibition (Allen's Drapery) in May, followed by pudding tasting as we debate the Women's Institute's shortlisted campaign resolutions. Charlbury WI is attracting new members all the time but has plenty of room in our new venue in the Memorial Hall – do come along and join in!

*If you've been thinking of joining Charlbury WI, then please do come along and try one of our meetings as a visitor. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Details of forthcoming WI meetings can be found on the Charlbury website, or contact Pat Hill on 01608 810714 or Louise Cashman (President) on 01608 676995.*

### **Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club**

You may have wondered what the Charlbury Ladies Lunch club was as listed in the Community Directory.

Frances Canham and I run this group of mature ladies who meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Witney Lakes Resort in Witney.

We meet at 12pm for 12.30 for a delicious two course meal, cost presently £15, and this is followed by a talk by various speakers on various interesting topics.

The club was started over 35 years ago and is still attended by some original members.

If you are interested in knowing more please contact Frances Canham (01608 811176) or Gill Grason (01608 810154).

### **Probus in Charlbury**



Would you like to meet people in a pleasant place, have a nice lunch and listen to interesting and varied talks? If so then you should come along and have a taster (includes free lunch!).

Since our organisation is for men only we are afraid women may not come but there is a similar group for women and we do have excursions and social events where partners can also come along. We have recently reviewed the way we hold lunches. We have changed to a less formal dress code and since many jobs may now be described as 'professional' we would welcome you no matter what job you do or have done.

Although it is Charlbury Probus we do have several people from surrounding villages so if you are in one of these then you would also be welcome. We particularly welcome younger members and would welcome input into the talks that are given.

We meet informally once a month on the first Wednesday and it is a good chance to talk to others from Charlbury or the vicinity in a very pleasant informal environment. We also have very varied backgrounds and interests so you will always find something new and interesting to chat about. We always meet at Witney Lakes in a private dining room on the first Wednesday of each month at 12.00pm. We find the food is excellent and if you have not been there before would really recommend it. There is also a licensed bar for those who like a drink when chatting and a chance to win a bottle of wine in a raffle held every month. So how much does this cost? Just £15 each month.

To join just contact me or any other Probus member and we will take you as a guest. We need to book the number in advance so please get in touch before the Monday of the week of the lunch.

*Tony Merry*



## CHARLBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

The Charlbury Neighbourhood Forum held a public meeting in December to present the results of the Neighbourhood Survey. The survey had achieved a remarkably good response rate of over 40% of Charlbury residents and the public meeting was well attended and seemed to spark a good deal of interest. Some of the results were surprising and have left us with a lot to digest.

A Survey Report of the multiple choice responses was put together by an independent analyst and can be viewed on the Neighbourhood forum website: [www.charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk](http://www.charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk)

There were also a large number of free format comments, issues and ideas/initiatives that were included on the survey. These are being categorised (which needs some local knowledge) to identify common themes and bring together comments related to the same or similar topics. These will also be progressively added to the website as they are completed. Where possible we include an analysis of the topics raised and also include all the comments in full with only a very few redactions where individuals' identity or sensibility would be affected. There is a very large number of such comments and they inevitably include some data transcription errors but we think the meaning remains clear.

Following some comments about the transparency of this process we are making sure as best we can to put everything, including minutes of meetings and attendees on this website.

From a practical point of view we have reorganised the Neighbourhood Forum so that it now comprises two working group.

The first group is concentrating on Neighbourhood Plan issues related to development and land use and directed at creating a formal Neighbourhood Plan that will have statutory recognition in planning matters. The second group is concentrating on actions to address the large number of other issues raised by the Community. This is directed at creating what is called a Community Led Plan. It is, however, recognised that many things can and should be addressed before a full plan is completed and that the survey results give a very clear mandate from the community to kick off on some actions and this is now the priority.

With this in mind we have recently started an exercise to highlight the issue of parking at the junction of Nine Acres and Pound Hill where we believe the large number of comments in the survey warrant some action from the relevant authorities. We are passing the results on this topic to the Town Council and other relevant bodies and will keep people informed of progress.

As you read the survey results (or even if you don't) you may well be interested in taking part in this process. If so please contact us: [info@charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk](mailto:info@charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk)

Both groups will lodge their documents on the Neighbourhood Forum website (above) and there will be a quarterly meeting of the overall forum group to co-ordinate things. All of this of course is under the stewardship of the Town Council albeit members are a mix of Town Councillors and interested residents.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the recent death of Ben Wright. Ben had worked for and with the Neighbourhood Forum in its early days and had contributed greatly and as well as spicing up our meetings had added a good deal of professionalism to our activities. He will be greatly missed.

*Graham Terry*

### CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL

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*Please consult your doctor before beginning an exercise programme or increasing your activity.*



## Southill Community Energy

2016 was an incredible year for Southill Community Energy (SCE), and with the solar farm built here is an update on the project.

Southill Solar was commissioned in November 2016 and moved from construction to the operational phase in January, once the testing period had been approved and signed off by the bank. This means that control and access to the site as a whole has been handed back to SCE, and the ongoing operational contracts are now in place between SCE and its service providers. These include:

- Operation & Maintenance
- Asset Management
- Administrative services

To the end of January the solar farm had generated over 210,000kWh of electricity, saving over 135,000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is operating above the levels that we have modelled for, which is great news, and has partly been thanks to better-than-expected winter irradiance levels.

For security reasons access to the solar farm is tightly controlled but our intention is to hold open days so that those interested in having a closer look and learning more about the project can visit, meet the team and ask any questions. We are delighted that we have already had three organised visits to the site, two from educational establishments:

- Lycee Eugene Livet – a class of secondary school students from Brittany who were visiting Oxfordshire to learn more about renewable energy and solar PV in particular
- Oxford University Environmental Change Institute – students of the MSc in Environmental Change and Management course
- Community visit, following the orchard and tree planting morning

We would like to thank all those who turned up for the orchard and tree planting event. We had over 30 volunteers and planted 54 orchard trees and 60 indigenous species whips. These trees will provide many benefits for the solar farm. As they develop the trees will provide additional shielding for the site and nesting habitat for farmland birds. More importantly, the orchard trees should provide an excellent crop of apples of many varieties, as well as a few plums and nuts in future years.

Many thanks to our resident ecology expert Guy Parker for organising the event and to Christine Elliott for the wonderful work she's done researching the varieties and coordinating the orchard planting.

Thanks also to you professional gardeners out there who provided good tips to us all through the morning! Our next activities will be to rebuild the stone wall crossing the site and to plough the field prior to sowing the wild flower seed mix in the spring.

*Tim Crisp  
Southill Community Energy*

## Charlbury Blues Workshop

Musicians and music lovers, may we draw your attention please to a new, monthly (we hope) event, The Charlbury Blues Workshop.

It takes place in the Shed and we hope that, like the Charlbury Speakeasy, the Youth Theatre and other events, it will help support The Shed as a performance venue and an asset to the town.

The first session will be on Monday 6th March and it's advertised in the Events section of the website with times, contact

details etc.

"Whether you're a regular singer or player or whether you just fancy having a go at the blues, come and see what's happening.

"This month we'll be playing "Sweet Home Chicago" and "Rock Me Baby".

"Bring your instrument or your voice and if you feel like it you can join in with the "house band" and have a jam! It's totally informal and of course totally cool. Come and find out!"

*Simon Fenn*



# Louise Barnes

Personal Trainer

**07879 685579**

123dancercise@gmail.com



**Working to ensure that Charlbury is an All People -All Ages- Friendly Community**

Dementia Friendly Charlbury is a local group of volunteers who want Charlbury to be a friendly and welcoming place for everyone to live, especially people with memory and thinking and/or communication problems. Our vision is for residents, businesses and organisations in Charlbury to be supportive to people with memory and thinking and/or communication problems, so that people, families and carers who are affected are able to live well in our town.

We are keen to offer dementia-awareness sessions to local "customer-facing" businesses and community activity groups, which will be delivered by an Alzheimers Society Dementia Champion. If your business or group would be interested, we would be pleased to hear from you.

We also aim to be a local contact point for anyone who is worried about their memory and thinking skills, or who is worried about someone they know, and who wants to know how to get support.

We keep in close touch with *Dementia Oxfordshire*, a service managed by AgeUK Oxfordshire, Guideposts, and Young Dementia UK, which provides information, advice and signposting for people with dementia and their families. The *Dementia Oxfordshire* helpline number is 01865 410210 or they can be emailed at [info@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk).

If you have any comments or concerns to pass on to DFC – or if you would like to join us – you can contact us via Sue Smith on 01608 811007 or Meryl Smith on 01608 810192 or email us at [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com).

*Meryl Smith*

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## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CHARLBURY BRANCH

*The Poppy Appeal for 2016* raised £5,672.25 in Charlbury and the surrounding area [Finstock, Fawler, Chilson, Shorthampton and Cornbury with Wychwood]. This is an increase of £200.00 on 2015. 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 2017 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 11 November, another wonderful evening. Please note in your diary for 2017 that the concert will take place on Friday 10 November. During the evening the following awards were announced:-

Poppy Appeal collector awards to :- Sarah Potter for 20 years, Pia and Andy Sullivan for 10 years, and from Finstock Janet Schofield for 20 years, Viv Whiteman for 20 years and Ursula Symons for 10 years.

*On the afternoon of Sunday 13 November wreaths were laid at the War Memorial* in St Mary's Church. For the Charlbury Branch Mr. Peter Stevens, for Thames

Valley Police Police Cadet Alisha Bond, for Charlbury Town Council Cllr.Natasha Ely, for Charlbury W.I. Sarah Darnell and for Oxon Fire and Rescue Service Fireman Bob Cross.

The Kohima Epitaph was read by Phillipa Phelan, a former Army Officer.

The salute was taken by Colonel Bruce Duncan M.B.E., a former officer in the Royal Tank Regiment.

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

### *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. The Branch Membership Secretary is Barry Canham on 01608 811176 who will assist anyone who is still experiencing difficulty with the new membership subscription system.

The telephone number for the Royal British Legion Contact Centre is 0808 8028080. This is a countrywide service.

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*

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

## Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan

An important objective in producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Charlbury is to secure a greater control over the type, mix and location of housing in the town to meet identified local housing needs. Identification of potential development sites (for which housing mix and other expectations can be clearly indicated) and local green spaces provide important aids to achieving this objective.

Engaging in preliminary consultation with landowners is a necessary step in the Neighbourhood Plan process. It does not imply that any particular site considered will be found suitable or be allocated for development nor even if it is, that its development would necessarily proceed. Any actual proposals would still be subject to the usual planning application procedure.

How much land will be needed to meet local development needs is not yet certain but potential sites for it will need to meet normal planning criteria. Our consultation will be an open exercise, with landowners forewarned that any information given to us may be made public. Meetings will generally follow a similar agenda and will be minuted. Similarly, sites to be considered for protection as 'Local Green Space' will be assessed against the government's published criteria and landowners consulted before such sites are named in the draft Plan. We will also be considering the infrastructure that would be required to support any new development and will be consulting on that with the relevant authorities.

Following this preliminary consultation, a draft Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared which will be available to everyone to comment on, including any proposed site allocations or designation as Local Green Space. Copies of all minutes of meetings and draft proposals will be on the Neighbourhood Forum web site ([www.charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk](http://www.charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk)).

Only after that stage (and possible revision as a result of it) is the Plan submitted to the District Council who in particular will consider its consistency with their own (district wide) Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan would then go to an independent examination run by the District Council and if accepted, it will be put to a referendum of all residents. If passed, then it becomes a set of policies against which all planning applications must be considered.

*Tony Merry*



**Word Cloud from Survey**  
**What people like most about Charlbury**

## The Friends of Charlbury Library

Very good wishes for 2017 to all Library volunteers and Library users. May this be a good reading year for us all!

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers and if you would like to find out more please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Rosalind Scott, in the first instance, via email or phone, [rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk) 01608 810562. It is necessary to complete training provided by OCC's Library Service before taking on volunteering duties.

## A reminder of the library's opening times:

Mondays 9.30-12.00pm and 2.00-5.00pm  
Wednesdays 2.00-5.00pm and 5.30-7.00pm  
Fridays 9.30-12.00pm and 2.00-5.00pm  
Saturdays 9.30-12.00pm

It is exciting to see the new Community Centre taking shape on the Spendlove site and to know that the library's new accommodation will be created within it. Many thanks to the Gifford Trustees and the Community Centre Appeal Committee members who continue to work hard to bring this about.

*Jill Judson, Friends of Charlbury Library*



## Report from the Thomas Gifford Trust

As you will have seen, the construction of Charlbury Community Centre is coming on apace. Work is on schedule and Beard should have finished the main building by the end of June. This leaves two months to do the external works and kit out the building before our proposed grand opening in early September 2017.

### Presentation Evening

On Thursday March 23rd we will be holding another public meeting to update people on the progress of the Community Centre and to answer any questions you may have. We feel it is important to keep this dialogue open and to discuss again how the centre will best serve the needs of the Community. So please come along and air your views or ask your questions. The meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall from 7.30pm.

Finally, we have recently found the picture below, of the old secondary school on the Spendlove site, which was demolished in 1997. Many of you may remember it well.



*Marjorie Glasgow, Chair, Thomas Gifford Trust  
mglasgow@theridggroup.com*

### CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

#### Still Going 'STRONG'

For over fifty years Charlbury based "Meals on Wheels" has been delivering a hot meal and a pudding to recipients living in Charlbury, Chadlington and Stonesfield. Originally supported by the Women's Royal Volunteer Service, "Meals on Wheels" is now run by a group of dedicated volunteers preparing and delivering a freshly cooked hot meal and a pudding every Tuesday lunchtime to a host of grateful customers.

Does the possibility of a hot meal delivered to you every Tuesday, perhaps freeing you or a home carer from preparing lunch, appeal to you?

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in receiving a freshly prepared meal every Tuesday lunch time please contact either Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 819253 or Jan Griffiths on 01608 810440. The cost of each meal is £3.00.

Our team will look forward to seeing you every Tuesday with your meal and a quick hello.



**Charlbury Refugee Action Group** has raised a lot of money since we last reported here, all of which has gone to help refugees and asylum seekers in dire straits across Europe and the Middle East, especially in France and Greece.

The Art Café we held in St Mary's in November raised £800. Together with several individual donations, we were then able to send £1200 to the Help Refugees 'Choose Love' Christmas appeal focused on camps in bleak conditions in northern Greece.

### **Tea concerts**

We made 'Choose Love' the focus of our fundraising over Christmas and the new year. In December we held the first of our Sunday 'tea concerts'. Richard Boothby, professor of viola da gamba at the Royal College of Music, played to an audience of nearly eighty who enjoyed a delightful recital followed by tea and cakes!

We had a second tea concert in January, when local musician Jane Downer (baroque oboe) and Warwick Cole (harpsichord) performed to over 120 people. Word had got round that these are excellent occasions, and the two recitals together raised a further £2000 for Help Refugees. The musicians very generously donate their time and talent, and these were just the first in a series of Sunday afternoon tea concerts devised by CRAG's chair, Val Parker. They are extremely popular and are proving an asset to Charlbury's social and cultural life.

Refugees have also benefited from an amazing £1012 from the Bring and Buy which Gene and Fran organised in the new year. (And thank you to the Quakers for letting us use the Meeting House.)

As of the end of January we have raised a total of £7562 in Charlbury for this appeal, in under three months, including gift aid. You can see the progress at [www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/crag](http://www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/crag)

At our next concert, come and hear some local talent on Sunday April 2 at 3pm in the Memorial Hall when Charlbury-born singer/songwriter Jenny Larsen will be presenting some of her most recent compositions.

Jenny will be joined by Camille Robineau, Jennie Grierson, Maria Jurd, Suzanna Starling and Kath Lucas and instrumentalists Adrian Hunter and Nick Parker. Tickets are £10 and include tea and cake (under 15s £5).

### **Woolly Hugs**

Meraud Ferguson Hand is doing a brilliant job getting Charlbury knitters behind a nationwide initiative happily called 'Woolly Hugs'. Here's how they describe it: "We can get woolly warmth to families in refugee camps in Kurdistan and in Syria. There are 1.8 million refugees trapped there, most have fled civil wars and ISIS in Syria and Iraq. We are also developing links to get resources to children and families elsewhere and on their arrival in the UK.

"We can use 12 inch or 6 inch squares, knit or crochet. Use any good quality acrylic DK, for example Stylecraft special DK. Any colour, any style.

"We'd also love to receive whole blankets, hats and gloves/mittens for any age, baby sized through to adult, the same for jumpers, cardigans, scarves/shawls. For these items, any yarn is fine, from 100% wool to acrylic. But we understand that's a big ask!

"Together we can make a difference. Sadly we cannot accept items other than home made woolly ones at the moment."

There are collection boxes in St Mary's and in the Corner House bookshop. For further information, please phone Meraud on 01608 810151 or email [meraudfh@gmail.com](mailto:meraudfh@gmail.com). This appeal was only launched in January and already the response is wonderful.

### **More information**

Refugees throughout Europe, the Middle East and beyond are grateful for what Charlbury people are doing. You will find up-to-date refugee news at [www.facebook.com/charlburyrefugee](http://www.facebook.com/charlburyrefugee) and <https://medium.com/@AreYouSyrious>. All our events and news are on the Charlbury website. You can contact CRAG on [charlburyrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyrefugee@gmail.com) or 01608 811378. And you can get our newsletters by signing up at <http://eepurl.com/bCX1bz> Thank you!

*Jon Carpenter (Secretary)*



# Peace@thePub

## Seven years of silence

Peace@thePub will be 7 years old in May this year. Some of us must have sat in The Bell in silence for over 75 hours! It is great to come across people – as we do all the time – who have never come to one of our gatherings, but who are aware of them and supportive of what we do.

Most communities like to think that they are special, if not unique – that's one of the things that contributes to a sense of belonging. Charlbury could so easily be an unremarkable small town in middle England, but it isn't. Perhaps partly because of the railway and because of Oxfam's origins just down the road in Oxford, it has a high proportion of people who are very aware, in depth, of national and global issues, and who are working for a more humane, just and sustainable social order.

Each month at Peace@thePub we focus on one particular topic. A scan of our concerns over the last 7 years shows that we have learned more about, and from time to time become involved in, issues as diverse as healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa, human

rights in Saudi Arabia, what goes on in Campsfield House, Tibet, climate change and refugees, global trade deals, nuclear power, South Sudan, Haiti, employment in the Philippines, homelessness in the UK, Palestinian olive oil, Bhopal, end of life care, fracking and fossil fuels, and many more.

What is remarkable about Charlbury is that there are local, personal links with almost all the above causes. Some Charlbury residents are employed by large or small charities in these fields: some run their own enterprises or businesses to promote social and individual wellbeing: others volunteer in innumerable ways, often giving unsparingly of their time. It is rewarding at Peace@thePub when we focus on a cause that is particularly special to someone, and identify for a little while with those they are supporting. Among other things it reminds us again of the value of our freedoms and opportunities, and at the same time that we all share together a very small world.

Please do get in touch if you'd like us to focus on a cause that is dear to you.  
01608 819121 or  
[duncan49@fastmail.co.uk](mailto:duncan49@fastmail.co.uk).

*Duncan Forbes*



**FOODBANK**

Charlbury has been contributing to the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank since it started in 2011. It has three distribution centres in Chipping Norton, Woodstock and Kidlington and this covers people suffering hardship in Charlbury.

The collection points in our town are located just inside each of the town's five churches where you will find a large plastic container near the entrance. Donations of non-perishable staple foods are always welcome. Items needed are tins of fruit, custard, rice pudding, vegetables, soup, meat and fish. Also packets of instant

mash, long-life milk and fruit juice, cereals (not porridge oats), pasta, sauces, coffee and small packets of sugar. Volunteers make regular deliveries to the distribution centre's warehouse. The Oxford Food Bank also collects fresh food from the supermarkets in Oxford and makes weekly deliveries to the North Oxfordshire Foodbank.

Other ways in which you can help are by donating money or by using a Foodbank Nectar card when shopping.

If you know of anyone suffering hardship, please direct them to the social services, Citizens Advice, children's agencies or a church minister who will assist them to obtain the necessary voucher to access this service.

*Joan Belshaw*

# Charlbury Church Services



Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)  
[charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com)  
Sunday services at 10.30 am  
**Maundy Thursday** service 7.30pm  
House group: Thursdays at 8 pm  
Craft: Tuesdays 2-30 – 4.30 pm  
See website / phone for details  
[www.charlburybaptistchurch.org.uk/](http://www.charlburybaptistchurch.org.uk/)



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.

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 Paula Dunleavy (01608  
646056)



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 Masses: 9am at St Kenelm's, Church Enstone,  
11am at St Teresa's  
Daily Mass: 9.30am at St Teresa's  
Rev Aldo Tapparo, tel: 01608 810576 or see  
[www.communitate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury](http://www.communitate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury)

## Churches Together in Charlbury

Lent is a time when Christians try to simplify their life and make time for study and reflection. To assist this process, Churches Together in Charlbury offers a series of talks over five weeks to stimulate thinking and discussion. This year we will be exploring how churches and individual Christians can learn about and help to protect the natural environment. Climate change, species loss, soil erosion, air pollution – these are all potential disasters which threaten life on earth. People of faith have a responsibility to care for the world we live in and this is what we will be seeking to understand in our Lent series in 2017. The series is called 'Only One Earth' and will take place on Tuesday evenings from 7 March to 4 April at 8 pm in St Mary's Parish Church. Everyone is welcome. Admission is free but donations will be welcome to cover expenses.

A further opportunity to learn and to reflect on the world we live in takes place on Friday 3 March when a service will be held for the Women's World Day of Prayer at 11 am in the Baptist Church. This year the service has been prepared by women in the Philippines and will give us an insight into their lives, the way they celebrate and the challenges they face. The Methodist Church is leading the

service. Again everyone is welcome, men as well as women.

But Lent isn't all quiet reflection. On Fridays from 3 March to 7 April people from the five churches in Charlbury will be busy preparing delicious soups for lunch. A meal of soup, bread and cheese will be offered in one of the churches each Friday between 12 and 2 pm. There is no fixed charge but donations are requested which will be given to support Christian Aid's work with refugees in the Middle East and other troubled areas of the world.

Lent finishes on Good Friday which this year is on 14 April. Good Friday is a public holiday but it is also a holy day when we remember that Jesus faced the worst the world could do to him and died a painful death. There will be an open air service, to remember his suffering and the way he prayed for forgiveness for those who treated him so cruelly, starting on the Playing Close at 10 am and moving round the town centre to finish at the Parish Church. Jesus showed compassion – which literally means to 'suffer with or alongside' – and we will be remembering people suffering in the world today and seeking ways to show compassion towards them.

*Rosalind Scott  
Secretary to Churches Together in  
Charlbury*

### Look out for...

**the Alpha course:** the course that tries to answer questions about Christianity. The course runs for 10 weeks (every Thursday evening) and has a short talk that takes place after a good evening meal. This is followed by a discussion where you can take part or just sit and listen to other people's views. It is the best way of trying to understand what Christianity is about and how different people understand it.

There will be plenty of publicity around giving more details about times and venue. *It is free* (no charge even for the meal) although we do ask that you let us know if you are coming along the first week just for catering purposes. It starts after Easter (possibly April 20<sup>th</sup>?) and each session will start promptly at 7pm and finish at 9pm.

**For more details contact: Rev. Jean Andrews 07980 534874**

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# Coffee break page

Answers are on page 50

## ***Rearrange the initial letters of the answers to give three Spring flowers***

1. What is the capital of the US state of Florida?
2. What is the name of the three-headed dog that guards the gates of Hades?
3. If you were born on St Valentine's Day, under which star would you be?
4. What is the name of a large ape with orange/red hair?
5. Which is the only country to be represented in the NATO phonetic alphabet?
6. What is the currency of Japan?
7. Across which river does the Hoover Dam span?
8. What is the name of a lively dance of Bohemian origin?
9. Which is the most northerly capital city in the world?
10. What is the name of a market town in Staffordshire with a racecourse?
11. What name is given to the number on the top of a fraction?
12. What is the Latin name for Odysseus?
13. Which river flows through the centre of Dublin?
14. In heraldic terms, what is the colour black called?
15. What was an early form of Egyptian paper?
16. Against which disease did Edward Jenner develop a vaccine?

## ***Other Spring questions***

1. What date does Spring start if you are a meteorologist?
2. How many hours of daylight are there on the first day of Spring (vernal equinox)?
3. Since records began, when was on the warmest Spring registering 9.2°C on average?
4. Why can your sense of smell be more acute in the Spring?
5. Spring is the start of the pollen season—true or false?
6. Around the world, Easter Sunday is always celebrated in April—true or false?
7. How many Easter eggs were part of the world's largest Easter egg hunt—250,000, 10,000 or 510,000?
8. What was the name of the 2011 animated movie about a young rabbit who does not want to become the Easter Bunny?
9. On what day is Easter Sunday held every year?
10. Where does Easter get its name from?
11. "The spring has sprung, the grass is rizz. I wonder where them birdies is?" Which famous English children's character made this remark?
12. Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote the score for which Easter based musical?
13. In which children's Disney film does the classical music piece "Rite of Spring" appear?
14. The players of which sport are described as "egg chasers"?
15. There is a legend that on the first day of spring, you can balance what?
16. Hyacinthoides is the scientific name for what protected spring flowering plant?
17. What does spring symbolise?
18. For Australians, in what month does spring begin?

Compiled by Pat Court

# What's On in Charlbury

I have been asked to include a list of "What's On" in Charlbury in the forthcoming three months. It surprised me how much there was! 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.

## February

25—Vinyl Solution, 8pm, Rose & Crown

## March

2—Garden Society, 8pm, Garden Room  
3—Women's World Day of Prayer, 11am, Baptist Church  
3—Lent Lunch, 12-2pm, St Mary's. Donations to Christian Aid  
4—Bring and Take, 9.30am, Memorial Hall  
5—ChOC film screening, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
6—Charlbury Blues Workshop, 8.30pm, The Shed, Nine Acres Lane p.25  
7—Yack & Yarn, 7.30pm, The Bell  
7—Lent Series, "Only one Earth", 8pm, St Mary's  
7—Charlbury Blues Workshop, The Shed  
8—CAS talk by Jill Colchester, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
9—ATIC meeting, 7.15pm, Methodist Hall p.3  
11—Farmers Market, from 9am, The Playing Close  
11—WI Coffee Morning, 9.30-11.30am, Corner House  
11—Street Fair Quiz, 7pm for 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
14—Lent Series "Only one Earth—Sustainable Living", 8pm, St Mary's  
15—WI Chocolate Demonstration & AGM, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
16—Community Action Plan Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall p.2  
17—Lent Lunch, 12-2pm, Baptist Church. Donations to Christian Aid  
17—Speakeasy, 8pm, The Shed, Nine Acres Lane p.15  
21—Lent Series, "Only one Earth—Justice & Climate Change", 8pm, St Mary's  
23—CCC Presentation Evening, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
24—Lent Lunch, 12-2pm, Friends Mtg House, hosted by St Teresa's  
24—Museum Stewards Evening  
25—vOx Chamber Choir singing Victoria Requiem, 7.30pm, St Mary's ([www.vox-choir-oxford.co.uk](http://www.vox-choir-oxford.co.uk))  
28—Lent Series, "Only one Earth—Pope Francis", 8pm, St Mary's  
29—Town Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Corner House  
31—Lent Lunch, 12-2pm, Friends Meeting House  
31—Annual Parish Meeting, 8pm, Memorial Hall

## April

1—Charlbury Museum opens  
1—Town Council Surgery, 10-12pm, Corner House  
2—CRAG Concert, 3pm, Memorial Hall  
4—Lent Series, "Only one Earth—Eco Churches", 8pm, St Mary's  
4—Yack & Yarn, 7.30pm, The Bell  
6—Charlbury Youth Theatre production, Memorial Hall  
8—Garden Society Spring Show, 10am, Memorial Hall  
8-9—Art Society Annual Spring Exhibition, 10-5pm, Memorial Hall  
9—ChOC "La Famille Bélair", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
10—Charlbury Bowls Club Easter Bingo, 7.30pm, Bowls Club  
12—CAS Talk, "Trees in Art", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
14—Good Friday Walk of Witness, start 10am from Memorial Fountain  
16—Vinyl Solution, 8pm, Rose & Crown  
19—WI "A Captain at Work", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
21—Speakeasy, 8pm, The Shed, Nine Acres Lane  
23—St George's Day Parade, St Mary's  
26—Town Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Corner House  
29—ChOCLive—"Musicians of the Dreaming Spires", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

Contd/...

## May

2—Yack & Yarn, 7.30pm, The Bell  
4—Garden Society talk, 8pm, Methodist Hall  
10—Charlbury Green Hub, secure paper shredding, 6.30-7.00pm, One Village, Burford Rd  
10—Art Society talk, 8pm, Memorial Hall  
12—Charlbury Society AGM, Memorial Hall  
13—Garden Society Plant Sale, Memorial Hall  
13—Bowls Club coffee morning, 10-12pm, Corner House  
14—ChOC "A street cat named Bob", 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
17—WI meeting, Charlbury Museum talk, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall  
19—Speakeasy, 8pm, The Shed, Nine Acres Lane  
21—Annual Parish Boundary Walk, 10am, by old oak tree, Forest Road  
24—Town Council meeting, 7.30pm, Corner House  
28—Vinyl Solution, 8pm, Rose & Crown

## Weekly events

### Monday

9.30am—Toddlers Group, Memorial Hall  
1.30-3pm—Tennis Club

### Tuesday

6pm—Bowls Club  
8pm—Wychwayz Border Morris, Scout Hut

### Wednesday

7.45pm—Bell Ringing, St Mary's

### Thursday

10-12pm—Font Café, St Mary's  
7-9pm—Tennis Club

### Friday

9.30am—Exercise for 50+, Memorial Hall  
10-11.30am—Corner House Coffee

### Morning

7pm—Choir Practice—St Mary's

### Sunday

See Sunday Church Services  
2-5pm—Tennis Club

## SPRING IN YOUR GARDEN

Some timely suggestions and reminders

### Pruning/cutting back

Prune late flowering shrubs such as buddleia, summer flowering clematis, bush roses, hardy fuchsias, shrubby salvias, penstemons etc. Cut them well back to stop them becoming leggy and to encourage strong new shoots.

Early flowering shrubs such as forsythia, viburnum, flowering currants, early flowering clematis, etc should be pruned as soon as they finish flowering. Aim to keep them within bounds and remove old shoots completely once they become fully established. If it has not already been done, prune all new growth on wisteria to 2 buds as soon as possible! Some summer shrubs such as kolkwitzia, philadelphus and deutzia can become congested with too many basal shoots. Try to remove up to 1/3 of these as low down as possible.

### Perennials

Consider giving some tall growing perennials the "Chelsea Chop" such as

phlox, Michaelmas daisies, rudbeckia etc. Around the last week of May, cut shoots back by about one third to delay flowering and stop plants getting too tall. Do not cut lupins or delphiniums in this way but remember to stake them before they start to fall over. If you can get them, there is nothing better than well branched hazel or young elm shoots for this. Apply a mulch of compost or leaf mould around, but not on top, of plants in borders. Water well beforehand if the soil is at all dry. Also remember, if water is needed, make sure it gets to the roots, not just wafted over the foliage!

### Seed Raising

Why not try to raise some of your own plants from seed? It might save you some money and is very rewarding when successful. Buy a good seedling mix and don't try to start too early. April is usually early enough for most summer flowering plants. Keep seedlings shaded on hot sunny days. Grow on in multi trays, harden off and plant out when safe from late frosts.

Good luck!

*Peter Bridgman*

## THE CHARLBURY HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

### WALCOT (part 2)

In the last issue we explained that John Hacker, who died in 1548, was the tenant of Walcot. His landlords were the Catesby family of Ashby St Ledgers in Northamptonshire. In 1496 the property was owned by George Catesby, the son of William Catesby, one of Richard III's councillors. After George's death in 1505 the property passed to his son Sir Richard Catesby and then in 1553 to Sir Richard's son William. William was the father of Robert a member of the Gunpowder Plot. In about 1575 William sold Walcot to Richard Fitzhugh, whose family came from Bedfordshire. At that time the manor Walcot with Shorthampton comprised about 1060 acres of land, meadow and pasture plus six houses and six cottages and six tofts (the site of a former dwelling).

Richard Fitzhugh took occupation and in 1585 his daughter Elizabeth was baptised at St Mary's Charlbury. His two older sons Thomas and Roger attended Magdalen Hall, Oxford in 1588. Despite Richard's daughter having been baptised at St Mary's, he and his wife were fined for not attending divine service, and Lord Salisbury noted him as a Recusant (a

Roman Catholic) at liberty. But Richard Fitzhugh was buried at Charlbury in April 1602, and in his will dated 17<sup>th</sup> April, he left his wife all his goods and asked his son Thomas to pay her forty marks (about £53) a year and the cost of a man and maiden. He left his daughter, Elizabeth Fewer £100, and his son, Roger, £30 a year.

Thomas succeeded his father at Walcot. He married Elizabeth Sheldon, the widow of Sir John Sheldon of Norfolk and the daughter of Lord Cromwell, a descendant of Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's chancellor. He died in 1613 but there is no record of his burial in Charlbury. In his will he envisaged that his lands at Walcot would be sold partly to pay his debts. He left to his sister, now married to Sir John Townsend, his nag known as the Spectacles, to his wife his coach and horses and to his mother a gold ring costing twenty shillings, and all the furniture in her and her maid's chambers. Following his death, Walcot was sold and by 1616 it had been acquired by Robert Jenkinson a wealthy City Of London merchant.

*Geoffrey Castle*

*The Group thanks the Charlbury Town Council and the Charlbury Beer Festival for their generous support for our work.*



### Garden Society bursts into life again this spring

On Thursday 2nd March at 8.00pm in the Garden Room of the Memorial Hall, the Garden Society hosts a Panel of Experts who will try to answer your questions on any aspect of gardening or garden design. Please feel free to bring questions on the night or submit them in advance, in writing, to Nick Johnson, Wormwood Cottage, Playing Close, Charlbury. Admission free to members; non-members £2.00. Tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards.

On Saturday 8th April in the Memorial Hall the Garden Society will again be holding its Spring Show, in conjunction with the Charlbury Art Society. Many classes for daffodils and other spring flowers.

Schedules will be available for a couple of weeks before the Show at the Pharmacy, in the lobby of the Corner House, at the Railway Station and (hopefully) also at the Post Office.

Mrs Davies will talk on Hanging Baskets on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, in the upstairs room of the Methodist Church. And on the 13<sup>th</sup> May we have the Plant Sale at the Memorial Hall.

*Rob Stepney*



## Charlbury Community Centre Appeal Report

The Charlbury Community Centre Appeal was established in 2004 with the aim of raising £250,000 towards the building and fit out costs of the Community Centre. Through a lot of hard work and determination from a small but dedicated group of people (mostly before my time here!) we have almost achieved that target. We have raised around £229,000 and it would be lovely to reach our aim before the building is completed, which at the moment is on target for September 2017. However, £21,000 in six months may be a bit ambitious! We'll do what we can.

To this end we have already had two fund raising events this year (Burns Night and Pop-Up Supper). We are busy planning more events such as:

- Cocktail party and auction on 5th May
- Pimm's Stall at the Charlbury Beer Festival on 24th June
- Vintage clothing sale at Wilderness Festival in August

### Buy-A-Brick

This scheme is still up and running and as of January 2017 has made an amazing £9,500. It was launched in June 2015 and we have over 250 names so far to put on our list in the lobby. Please don't forget to buy your "brick", as once the list is printed in the summer, it will be too late to add any more. Therefore, I have included the application form for Buy-a-Brick once again in this issue of the Chronicle. In the next issue (in June) we hope to publish a list of the names of people who have bought bricks. This is so that everyone who has bought a brick can check that their name appears on the list, is spelt correctly and is as they want it to look. So

please check this carefully in June's Chronicle.

If your company or organisation might consider making a donation, there are still a few items that could be sponsored in the fit out. This includes things like the cafe furniture and kitchen fit out, the computer system, a digital display board and various sports equipment. Please let us know as soon as you can.

We are very grateful for the support and enthusiasm the town has shown us over the years and recently, of course, in voting to approve the Town Council's grant to pay for external works. It has been a mammoth task for both the CCCA and the Thomas Gifford Trust to raise this money and we are delighted and excited that the finish line is in sight. Soon, our fundraising attentions can be turned to enhancing the building and how it is used to serve the community.

*Tanya Stevenson, CCCA Chair*  
01608 810216  
[billandtanya@outlook.com](mailto:billandtanya@outlook.com)



### FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE CORNER HOUSE

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

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

Come and meet your friends!

### PLEASE NOTE:

Distribution of the *Charlbury Chronicle* each year will be during the last week of February, May, August and November.

If you receive more than one copy, please notify the distribution coordinators, Brian and Shelagh, on 01608 819091

If you know of someone who does NOT receive a copy, let Brian and Shelagh know and the necessary arrangements will be made for future deliveries.





# Buy-a-Brick scheme

## £25 per name

Name(s) Please print clearly and exactly as you want them to appear on the list of supporters, which will be in the lobby of the Community Centre (you are not buying an actual brick!):

.....

.....

*(You can list your family members individually for £25 each or put a family name, such as "The Jones Family" for one payment of £25. Obviously, if you want to donate more, that is fine too)*

Contact telephone number:..... email:.....

Amount enclosed (cheques payable to *Charlbury Community Centre Appeal*)      £.....

Or you can use Make-a-Donation at <https://make-a-donation.org/campaign/charlbury-community-centre-appeal>

If you pay income tax, please fill in below, so we can reclaim your tax:

## Gift Aid declaration

### *Charlbury Community Centre Appeal*

Please treat the enclosed gift of £ .....as a Gift Aid donation.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year.

Title..... Initial(s).....Surname .....

Home address .....Postcode .....

Date .....Signature.....

Please return this form to Ed Fenton, Orchard Piece, Crawborough, Charlbury OX7 3TX  
([ef@daybooks.com](mailto:ef@daybooks.com) - feel free to email this form to Ed).



## Charlbury Town Council report

### Parish Poll and community buildings loan

On Thursday 8th December, a Parish Poll was held in the Memorial Hall to gauge the Charlbury community's view on whether the Town Council should take out a loan to fund two projects: the new Community Centre on the Spendlove Site, being built by the Thomas Gifford Trust and a new multi-function community building for the Football & Sports Club. Loan repayments would be funded by a rise in the parish precept, the part of the council tax that is levied by the Town Council. The results were:

- For a grant of £130,000 for the Thomas Gifford Trust (Community Centre): yes 332 (67%), no 164 (33%)
- For a grant of £70,000 for the Football & Sports Club: yes 378 (74%), no 134 (26%)

At 518 voters (21.52%) the turnout was slightly higher than recent Parish Polls in Chipping Norton and Woodstock.

With this result in mind, the Town Council felt able to proceed with an application to the Department for Communities and Local Government for loan approval. We are currently awaiting their response. If they give the go-ahead, the parish precept is expected to rise by £9.84 per year for a Band D property (£6.40 for the Community Centre, £3.44 for the Football & Sports Club). Details will be posted on [charlbury.info](http://charlbury.info) and the Charlbury Town Council website as soon as they are known, and included in the next Chronicle report.

Thank you to all who took part in the public meeting to discuss the proposal or has otherwise been involved. We greatly look forward to the success of the two projects.

### Councillor vacancy

Gordon Clemson has decided to step down as a Town Councillor, causing a vacancy on Charlbury Town Council. If the vacancy is contested, there will be an election on Thursday 9th March in the Memorial Hall, which will be publicised via the usual posters and on the web. Many thanks to Gordon for his contributions to the council.

The next full elections to Charlbury Town Council will be in 2020 – it's never too early to think about standing!

### 20mph limit

The Town Council has been working on a proposal for a 20mph limit in Charlbury which we have now submitted to Oxfordshire County Council, the highway authority. We are hopeful that OCC will be able to bring this forward and that it will result in a real improvement to pedestrian safety in the town.

### West Oxfordshire Local Plan

West Oxfordshire District Council has been consulting on its planned revisions to the Local Plan, which sets the planning framework for the area. Charlbury Town Council submitted a detailed response which argues for supporting the commercial role of Charlbury and other small town centres; for the preservation of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; for recognition of Charlbury's role as a tourist centre for walkers and other visitors; for better bus and train services, including full redoubling of the Cotswold Line to Oxford and commuter buses to Witney and for affordable housing. If you would like to see a copy of the full response, please contact the Town Clerk.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall on March 31st 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, 21st 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 always welcome volunteers for stewarding and chauffeuring on the day – if you would like to help, please contact the Town Clerk.

## In brief

- Bus users may have noticed increased competition between Oxford and Woodstock in recent weeks. Stagecoach have warned that this may affect the viability of the S3 service from Charlbury to Oxford. Please do continue to support this vital link – it's free if you have a concessionary pass, but the bus company still receives money when you use it!
- 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.
- The Town Council has set up a small working group to look at ways in which the council's work can be more accessible and transparent to Charlbury people. If you have any suggestions, you can contact the group via the Town Council chairman, Peter Kenrick ([peter.kenrick48@gmail.com](mailto:peter.kenrick48@gmail.com)).
- As the growing season returns, please take the time to check your boundaries and cut back overhanging branches and excessive growth so that the pavements are kept clear for pedestrians.

## 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 29th March, 26th April, and 24th May, with Planning two days before (8pm unless there is a speaker). The May meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 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 1st April (no joke) and 3rd June.

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 Councillor Rodney Rose

07919 298277 [rodney.rose@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rodney.rose@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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We are now moving at a real pace towards the County Council Elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May, but the workload seems to be increasing by the second. I mentioned the Budget in the last Chronicle edition and this should now have been decided on 14<sup>th</sup> February. An increase of 4.99%, with 3% going into elderly care, will be the order of the day.

The Unitary Debate is still with us, and is gaining more and more support across the County, to the point where a submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is getting closer, with more and more partners in Health and Local Government accepting the proposition – the Secretary of State being the decision maker.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue is once again being threatened with take-over by the Police and Crime Commissioner. As a vital part of the County Council, for which I am portfolio holder, which goes way beyond just putting out fires, its value to elderly care, road and cycle safety, Trading Standards, Emergency Planning, flood prevention and recovery, etc, etc is beyond value. I do hope we will all fight to keep it exactly where it is, and under local accountability.

Lastly, on a local issue, parking at our stations is getting tighter and tighter. To park for a later train than the 07.31am is a risky bet. I am working with GWR to hopefully improve parking at both Charlbury and Hanborough, for there is nothing worse than not getting a parking space, missing a train and being left with no real alternative to get to London or other meetings.

*Rodney Rose*

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**From District Councillor Liz Leffman**

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

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As promised, an update on progress at Enstone Airport. I have been told by officers that the site for a potential recycling centre has now been identified and the property department is in discussion with the site owners. The next stage will be for officers to do a feasibility study. I am in regular touch with officers and will update people whenever there is further news.

The new waste contract will be starting this year and, from April, collections of garden waste will no longer be free. To have your garden waste collected, you will need to sign up for the service. The cost is £30 a year, and you can sign up on the West Oxfordshire District Council website, [www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/bins-recycling/garden-waste-recycling/](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/bins-recycling/garden-waste-recycling/). The main changes to our recycling collections will be starting in October.

I have recently been in touch with the Chipping Norton Hospital Action Group, and a meeting has been set up for district councillors in the wards close to Chipping Norton to meet with the Action Group to look at what can be done to keep the hospital open.

The nurses at the hospital are no longer employed by the NHS, and there is great concern that this may eventually lead to beds being closed. With the downgrade to maternity services at the Horton Hospital in Banbury, this could leave local people in a very vulnerable situation.

We are lucky to be equidistant between Witney and Chipping Norton and at the moment there is no likelihood that Witney hospital could be closed, but there is a shortage of intermediate beds across the county and if Chipping Norton were to close, that shortage would be exacerbated.

*Liz Leffman*

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**From District Councillor Andy Graham**

07908 832632 [andyg2439@gmail.com](mailto:andyg2439@gmail.com)

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Charlbury Youth Theatre continues at The Shed on Mondays and two groups are flourishing : The 8-10 year olds (5.15-6.15) and the 11-15 year olds (6.16-7.30 pm).

The Youth Theatre help children and young people develop their confidence and self esteem using creativity workshops, play readings and production in achieving their maximum potential as individuals. You don't have to feel you are not an actor to join but if you want to meet new people and find a new interest contact professional actors and directors Andy or Geoff 01608 659462.

They will be presenting their latest production at The Memorial Hall on April 6th.

The Youth Theatre is looking for people who would like to support and help to run the Youth Theatre from September and a local committee based in Charlbury is needed to help fundraise and create governance in order to sustain it in the town for this and future generations. Please contact us if you can help; all ages considered.

We are grateful for the support of Charlbury Town Council who have offered a grant of £1000 towards the activities and other applications are awaiting decisions.

Also please respond to the Consultation on Oxfordshire's Health & Care Services.

To find out more go to <https://consult.oxfordshirecccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/BigconsultationPhase1/consultationHome>

I will be going to a meeting in February and will report findings in the next issue but do go along if you can.

*Andy Graham*

## COMMUNITY SELF-HELP FOR THE STREET ENVIRONMENT



1<sup>st</sup> Charlbury  
Scout Group

Last year Peter Kenrick launched a community initiative which aimed to get people together to do work on pavements, pathways, foliage and kerb cleaning around the town.

Last year's leaflet appeal set up an email group which has since become known as the **"Working Party"** and now has a membership of over 80 people. So far the volunteers have filled 30 builders' bulk bags which the WODC men have collected and taken to compost.

Nevertheless, joining a group is not the main point. The **main point** is to try to get all the able-bodied residents of Charlbury to go outside for an hour or two and do some clearing and cleaning. Practically this means looking after 'your own patch'.

Most people know that the County and District Councils cannot now afford to give us the level of environmental maintenance that we were used to in past years. The verge mowing has reduced from five times per year to once per year. We all probably have to adjust to the basic fact that most Council Tax money will go towards children's services and community care for the elderly. Therefore, if we want to be proud of our town environment, we will have to do a lot more self-help work.

For those of you who use the Charlbury website, please notice that, thanks to our 'webmaster', there is a 'Working Party' button at top left of the Forum page. It would be good to see more people posting here with ideas and suggestions.

Whether you are a member of the "Working Party" or not; cutting back overhanging shrubbery or tree branches, clearing leaves from the gulleys and drains, hoeing off the grass and weed growth from the kerbs, cleaning road signs, etc, is something that most of us can do to help make us more proud of this lovely place.

*Phil Morgan*

Scout Hut Located at Nine Acres Lane  
OX7 3RE.

Scouting provides fun, challenge and adventure to young people.

Charlbury has three active sections for Boys and Girls.

**Beavers** from: 6 – 8 years old

**Cub Scouts** : 8 – 10.5 years old.

**Scouts:** 10.5 to 14. (*more options after this age*).

All three sections have **Leaders** that are fully supported by the Scout Leadership and training programme.

We have vacancies in all sections at the time of writing and free taster sessions if your young person wants to join the biggest "world wide movement" at a local level.

For Beavers it may be the first time away from the comfort of their own bed. (teddy bears also).

For Cub Scouts, it may be the first night under Canvas. (teddy bears optional).

Scouts are taught how to plan, budget and arrange camps. (teddy becomes a mascot).

Leaders and **occasional helpers** have just the same fun and comradeship and are backed up with all the essential training and life changing skills, you really have to be part of it, to appreciate the experience.

Notwithstanding the above, the unit is also in need of supporters on the **Executive Committee**; perhaps you have a few hours a year to spare in support of the leaders, by fundraising, or supporting the administration etc.

If you would like any further information on any of the above **positions**, please contact the Group Scout leader.

*Ron Smith (Rocket)*  
01608 811362

## NEWS FROM CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The return to school after the long Christmas break was greeted with excitement by our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Both classes participated in our annual History off the Page role playing day on the first Friday back.

This year, the school hall was transformed into an Egyptian marketplace for the morning and the children all came to school dressed as ancient Egyptians. In the morning, the children took part in a wide range of arts and crafts activities, from making oil lamps and Canopic jars, to painting frescos and soap carving. All the children were given roles to play, representing various people from ancient Egyptian society; a few got to be secret police working for the queen, who were investigating treachery amongst their classmates!

In the afternoon, small groups created and rehearsed their own performance: a mime, a play or a dance. To end the day, the children had an Egyptian-themed banquet and then performed to the queen, pharaoh and their royal entourage. The type of interactive learning that a day like this provides is incredibly useful as it engages children that might not otherwise enjoy history. All the children learnt a lot from the day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Assemblies in January were filled with the exuberant sounds of Year 4, 5 & 6 pupils practising for their annual trip to the Genting Arena, NEC in Birmingham where they participate in the amazing Young Voices concert.

The evening sees over six thousand primary school children singing together, led by a professional conductor and supported by professional entertainers. It is a unique and thrilling experience for the pupils, and a very impressive (if loud!) show for the parents.

A very special assembly, with yet more amazing singing (in Chinese!) was held to celebrate Chinese New Year on the 27<sup>th</sup> January. All pupils heard about how the holiday is marked in China and different year groups got involved by making related art and crafts, including some beautiful Mandarin writing. The children were all invited to come to school dressed in traditional Chinese dress, or something red, the traditional colour of good luck and celebration.

Children in Foundation Stage and Year 1 were further fortunate enough to learn about another cultural holiday, the Festival of Diwali, when parent Sachin Gupta recently came in to give a very inspiring talk about how the festival is celebrated.

And our Foundation Stage pupils also spent an interesting morning out of the classroom visiting Charlbury dental surgery where local dentist, Doctor Jessica Maguire, showed them around. They even got to sit in the dentist's chair! She then visited school and talked to the children about the importance of caring for their teeth.

It is truly wonderful that so many in our community come to inspire the children by sharing their experiences. It is always worth mentioning The Knowledge Well project, which strives to strengthen our school-community relationships and broaden children's understanding of their world.

Individuals come to meet the children to talk about or demonstrate their work, or share information about different cultures and languages.

We would love to hear from any of you that could spare an hour or two to help enrich the pupils' learning. Please contact the school (01608 810354) or visit the school website ([www.charlbury.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.charlbury.oxon.sch.uk)) for more information.



## Charlbury Pre School - what is our history?

As we enter the official 40<sup>th</sup> year since Charlbury Pre School first registered with the Charities Commission we are looking into our history in more detail. With the help of Charlbury Museum we have found out a lot about the building which, it turns out, is 180 years old this year - so we have two milestones to celebrate. We have not had as much luck with finding out about the history of the pre school but anecdotally know it is older than 40 years and started in a room above the White Hart Pub. Can anyone help us with the following: What year did play group start and when did it move to the Grammar School? We are also trying to build a picture of the people involved as well as the building. Did you ever work or volunteer on the committee or did you attend? If yes, it would be great to know which years. If you can help answer any of these questions and have any more information please email me. My email is [lizwoz@hotmail.com](mailto:lizwoz@hotmail.com).

We will be celebrating our birthday(s) on July 15<sup>th</sup> so please do put the date in your diaries. More details to follow (it will likely be in the afternoon, involve cream teas, strawberries, Pimms and all things that make a perfect summer celebration).

Places are filling up fast this term so please do contact us to arrange a visit on 01608 811200.

*Liz Gupta—chairman*

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## Salt Box Music

Salt Box Music, the Oxfordshire children's music brand, responded to requests from Charlbury parents by opening a class at the Memorial Hall in Charlbury in November of last year. The class, led by talented music teacher, Theresa Crawford, is aimed at children from birth to four years old and has been extremely popular.

Theresa said, "Our new Charlbury class has now been running for almost three months and has been a fantastic success. It is so great to see what a lovely community feel Charlbury has and how existing friends along with new friends are meeting up at the class!"



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- Install a visual burglar alarm
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- Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property
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- Secure bikes at home by locking them to an immovable object inside a locked shed or garage
- Keep ladders and tools stored away; don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home
- Ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property
- Ensure rear fencing is in good repair
- Improve natural surveillance at the front of your property i.e. trim high hedges
- Mark your property with postcode and house number and register your property.
- Consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- Remove valuables from view of ground floor windows
- Store any high value items (i.e. jewellery, passports) in a properly secured safe or bank vault

*Wes Smith, PCSO c9837, Chipping Norton*

## Southill Solar Orchard

*“Lord Derby, Lord Stradbroke, Lord Lambourne and Lady Henniker, may I introduce noble cooks Edward VII, Lane’s Prince Albert, Annie Elizabeth, Tom Putt; and reunite you with heritage eaters Lord Hindlip, King of the Pippins, William Crump, Bess Pool, and Winston, and those golden cider makers Harry Masters Jersey and Frederick, who will be joining us in Charlbury in a few years time from the electrifying new local orchard at Southill Solar.”*

You’ll see the new trees – a double row parallel to the roadside hedge between Fawler Mill and the Fawler turn. I’ve chosen favourites like Holstein, Ribston Pippin, Tydeman’s Late Orange, Kidd’s Orange Red, and d’Arcy Spice that we’d like more of, as well as 24 varieties I’ve not found locally but would love us to have; also 11 cider apples, bittersweets and bittersharp, to introduce tannins into the palate of our local Sharecroppers Gold cider available at local festivals. I’ve

chosen apples renown for flavour and storage—some lasting until May; famous ones like Pitmaston Pineapple, and ancient ones from before 1600 like Catshead and Court Pendu Plat. Most apples in the orchard will ripen in October to November but relish the prospect of Tydeman’s Early Worcester a lovely apple ready in late August.

The cider apples near the Fawler turn, on M25 rootstocks, will become large standards but the rest, on MM106 rootstocks, will be pruned as half standards for good quality picked fruit. Below the cider apples come the plums, Victoria and Belle de Louvain (the lovely large red plum I used to pick from a Chadlington tree that died last year) and three greengages. Then come the dessert and culinary apples in flowering order - early blossom higher up to avoid the frost and later blossoms nearer the Mill. Let’s hope there’ll be enough pollinating insects to discover and pollinate this lovely new orchard.

*Christine Elliott*

[www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk/food/sharecroppers.html](http://www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk/food/sharecroppers.html)





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## **Walking with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens**

The following walks are a reasonable distance from our villages. Some are on the doorstep whilst others involve some travelling. 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.

All walks are led by the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens and as such are not "just a ramble in the countryside". The themed walks are a way of understanding and appreciating our Cotswold landscape.

A full list of walks for the Autumn/Winter 2016/17 can be found on the website [www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk](http://www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk) or in a copy of the Cotswold Lion, available in various locations.

### **Thursday 9th March 10am From Neolith to Nouveau Riche**

An easy walk of 6 miles lasting 3 hours.

*The start point is on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire county border and we also go into Gloucestershire. The walk passes the quirky village of Cornwell and through part of the Daylesford Estate. The return route goes close to Adelstrop and passes several working quarries.*

Meeting place: Greedy Goose pub on A44

### **Tuesday 14th March 10am Stones and Ditches**

A moderate walk of 8 miles, lasting 4 hours. *Stonesfield was formerly the source of Cotswold Stone roofing tiles which were mined around the village. Ditchley Park is a fine country house set in a wooded estate which is now used for high level conferences but was formerly owned by Sir Henry Lee a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I. The Iron Age monument, Grim's Ditch, at Model Farm on the Ditchley Park Estate survives well as a visible earthwork along most of its length.*

Meeting Place: Spendlove Centre, Charlbury

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 6:00pm Blenheim Estate: of Kings, Queens and Heroes**

An easy walk of 4 miles lasting 2 hours  
*This short walk on public rights of way around the Blenheim Estate looks for traces of its historic past. From Henry II and his mistress to Princess Elizabeth 1st, the Dukes of Marlborough and more recently Sir Winston Churchill.*

Meeting Place: Hensington Road car park in Woodstock

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 10:00am Swalcliffe, Epwell and the MacMillan Way**

10 miles, 5 hours

*This circular walk through North Oxfordshire takes in the attractive ironstone villages of Swalcliffe and Epwell. It follows part of the MacMillan Way to Traitors Ford, where maybe a traitor was hung following the battle of nearby Edgehill. Please bring a packed lunch.*

Meeting Place: St Peter & Paul's Church Swalcliffe

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 10:00am Bluebells in Foxholes**

6 miles

*Starting from Shipton under Wychwood the walk passes by Bruern Abbey reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where the bluebells should be in flower. We return by woodland and field paths. Lunch options in village at the end of the walk.*

Meeting Place: New Beaconsfield Hall Shipton under Wychwood

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 10:00am Hiking Through History – life in Roman Oxfordshire 1**

A 5 hour walk of 11.5 miles

*Discover the Roman influences on this part of the Cotswolds, including a Roman villa and a Roman road. Please bring a packed lunch.*

Meeting Place: Stonesfield Parish Church

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 10:00am Family Walk – The Milk Story**

2.5 miles 4 hours

*This family walk and tractor and trailer ride links two farms; one is where young cattle graze and the other where the cows are milked - by a robot! Some car sharing - see website. Please bring a picnic.*

Meeting Place: at College Farm, Salford

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[editor.chronicle@outlook.com](mailto:editor.chronicle@outlook.com) or by  
telephone on 07879 693733.

### Quiz answers

*Flower Quiz*  
1. Tallahassee; 2. Cerberus; 3. Aquarius;  
4. Orang-utan; 5. India; 6. Yen; 7. Colorado;  
8. Polka; 9. Reykjavik; 10. Uttoxeter;  
11. Numerator; 12. Ulysses; 13. Liffey;  
14. Sable; 15. Papyrus; 16. Smallopox  
Flowers are Tulip, Pansy and Crocus.  
*Spring Quiz*  
1. March 1st; 2. 12 hours; 3. 2011  
4. Moisture in the air; 5. January; 6. False;  
7. 510,000; 8. Hop; 9. First Sunday after the  
first full moon of Spring; 10. Eostre, the Anglo  
Goddess of Spring; 11. Winnie the Pooh;  
12. Jesus Christ Superstar; 13. Fantasia;  
14. Rugby; 15. An egg on a table; 16. Blue-  
bell; 17. Rebirth; 18. September

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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](mailto:charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com)

**Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)**

Tim Widdows [charlbury.drama@gmail.com](mailto:charlbury.drama@gmail.com)

[www.charlbury-drama.com](http://www.charlbury-drama.com)

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

Eidenbenz (01608 810911)

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

**Charlbury Beer Festival** - Jim Holah

[jimholah50@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jimholah50@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.charlburybeerfestival.org](http://www.charlburybeerfestival.org)

**Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle** - John Moore

(01608 810700)

**Charlbury Bowls Club** - Secretary, Heather Hill -

(01993 878828)

**Charlbury Bridge Club**— Secretary Monica

Wilkinson (01608 810560)

**Charlbury Canoe Club** - Hugh Belshaw

(01608 810130) [hughandjoan@uwclub.net](mailto:hughandjoan@uwclub.net)

**Charlbury Chronicle** - Susie Finch (01608

810861) [editor.chronicle@outlook.com](mailto:editor.chronicle@outlook.com)

**Charlbury Community Centre Appeal**—Tanya

Stevenson [billandtanya@outlook.com](mailto:billandtanya@outlook.com)

**Charlbury Cricket Club** - David Horne Vice

Chairman [dw3horne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dw3horne@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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

**Charlbury Evergreen Club** - Ken Taylor (01608

811441)

**Charlbury Green Hub** - Christine Elliott

(01608 811057) [www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk](http://www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk)

**Charlbury Fairtraders** - Cara Williams (01608

811284) [cara@michaelcara1965.plus.com](mailto:cara@michaelcara1965.plus.com)

**Charlbury and District Garden Society**

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**Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club**—Gill Grason

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811176)

**Charlbury Morris** - Peter Smith (01608 811007)

[peter@charlburymorris.org](mailto:peter@charlburymorris.org)

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**Charlbury Museum** - Celia Faulkner (01608

810656)

**Charlbury Open Gardens** - Eileen Kenrick

(01608 811021)

[csggardens@charlburystreetfair.org](mailto:csggardens@charlburystreetfair.org)

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

359189)

**Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club**

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**Charlbury Pre-School**—Liz Gupta

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(01608 810388)

**Charlbury School** - Jane Holt, Head (01608

810354) [office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk)

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**Charlbury School Association** - Tara Midgen

[office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk)

**Charlbury Scouts & Guides** - Ron Smith

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**Charlbury Society** - Secretary Susan Merry  
(01608 811022)

**Charlbury Street Fair** - Chairman—John Dora

(01608 811328) [jmdora@btinternet.com](mailto:jmdora@btinternet.com)

**Charlbury Tennis Club** - Mark Jarman

(01608 811692) [charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk)

**Charlbury Town Council**—Roger Clarke, clerk

(01608 810608) [charlburytc@btinternet.com](mailto:charlburytc@btinternet.com)

**Charlbury Town Football** - Keith Claridge

(01608 810201 or 07870 426707)

**Charlbury Town Youth Football Club** - James

Ball (01608 810270) [jollicat@btinternet.com](mailto:jollicat@btinternet.com)

**Charlbury Women's Institute** - President -

Louise Cashman (01608 676995)

**ChOC Cinema** - Richard Cocks (01608

810032)

**Corner House and Memorial Hall** - Office

(01608 810879)

**Churches Together** - Rosalind Scott, (01608

810562) [rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk)

**Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens** - Harriet

Baldwin (07779 157410 or 01608 811718)

[akanidi90@gmail.com](mailto:akanidi90@gmail.com)

**Dementia Friendly Charlbury**— Meryl Smith

(01608 810192) [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com)

**Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps)**

Ann/David Morton - (01608 676302)

**Friends Meeting House:** Angela Kyte (01993

880368)

**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

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**The Probus Club of Charlbury** Steve Cavell

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**Riverside Festival** - Andy Pickard (01608

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**St Marys C of E Church** Rev Sally Welch

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**St Teresa's RC Church** Fr Aldo Tapparo

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**Sustainable Charlbury** - Liz Reason (01608

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(01608 810161)

**United Nations Association (West**

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811338)

**Wilderness Festival**—

[www.wildernessfestival.com](http://www.wildernessfestival.com)

**Wychway Border Morris** - Teresa Duester

(01608 810934)

**[www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info)** - Richard Fairhurst



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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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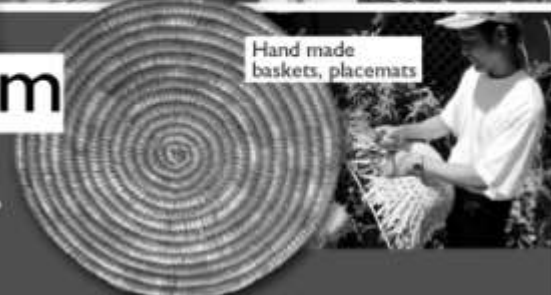
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