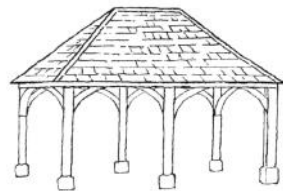


Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 22 Number 1

Spring 2018

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

Well, another packed edition of the Chronicle—in fact some articles did not make it! But they will be in the next issue.

I must make a plea on behalf of Street Fair—they really do need helpers—so if you have any spare time, please contact them to offer your help. And don't forget their Quiz, on March 17th St Patrick's Day!

There are changes to the Bring & Take, on 3rd March, so do be sure to take notice of these. See page 13.

The Charlbury Patient Participation Group has now been set up and is looking for people to take part. So if you are interested in making your views to the Surgery known, please do join.

Its interesting to find out how the Community Centre has developed over its first 100 days and the Library with it. I must say that as a volunteer for the Library,

there are many more people visiting.

The Day Centre is need of more members to come and enjoy themselves on a Wednesday. So if you are interested or know someone who would be, please see article on page 22.

Artweeks is taking place from 5-13 May, so do be sure and see over 30 artists in Charlbury.

It's great to see that the Cornbury Music Festival will be with us again this year see page 19 for details.

With hopefully Spring just around the corner, why not blow away all the Winter blues and get out into our beautiful countryside with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens see the lovely walks on page 44.

I wish you all a very happy Easter, and hope you don't eat too many eggs!

Susanna Finch

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Summer issue is 1st May 2018
Please send all articles to editor.chronicle@outlook.com**

Charlbury Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

Housing

West Oxfordshire's District Council's Local Plan, which sets out how much new housing is needed and where, has been going through a formal Examination. The outcome has been very interesting for Charlbury. The Local Plan splits the district into sub-areas. We are in the Burford-Charlbury sub area, where WODC had said 1,213 new homes would be needed between 2011 and 2031. The Local Plan also identified the site north of Jefferson's Piece for a development of 40 houses.

The Planning Inspector is content with the Local Plan overall, but disagreed with WODC's approach towards Charlbury. The Inspector believes that, since our sub-area is almost entirely within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), any future development should show overall benefits to the AONB and the communities living within it, rather than being simply to meet the West Oxfordshire housing target. The Inspector has advised against the inclusion of four sites in the Burford-Charlbury sub-area (including the land off Jefferson's Piece) within the Local Plan, but that itself does not preclude development and the developers' application (17/02376/FUL) for 48 homes remains outstanding.

This is a great opportunity for our Neighbourhood Plan to set out what Charlbury's real housing needs are. Being situated as we are within the AONB and surrounded by land of high landscape and wildlife importance, the scope for Charlbury to grow is very limited. But we do need some development if we are going to meet the needs of existing residents, both young

and old, and to keep a good mix of people of all ages living in the town to support local shops, the school and the great range of clubs and societies. Exactly what scale and mix of housing Charlbury needs is the key question we are working on in the Neighbourhood Plan.

We think the town needs smaller-size and lower-cost housing rather than the "executive homes" often proposed by developers. We would like to see homes for first-time buyers, young families and people of working age who are often priced out of Charlbury. We are interested in a shared-equity scheme for essential workers in local schools, hospitals and other vital services. We also need more housing suitable for elderly and disabled people.

This could allow older residents to downsize to more manageable properties if they wish, without leaving the town. Those who can no longer live independently due to frailty, illness or disability also need housing options. Building more one and two bedroom social-rented properties would help meet a current shortage.

We aim to have a public consultation on the Plan in the Spring, once the full document has been written and agreed by the Town Council. But in the meantime, anyone in Charlbury is welcome to share their views or to help develop parts of the Plan. Please contact us on charlburynp@gmail.com.

Heritage, green space and wildlife

We had a fantastic response to our request for volunteers to assess Charlbury's streets, open spaces and surrounding countryside to create a record of the parish's unique character and heritage. The volunteers took to the streets in October and November and produced reports of a brilliant quality. Their work will help to produce a "Character Assessment" which will be available shortly. This will help us develop any new policies that might be needed in the Neighbourhood Plan to conserve and enhance the town's

character for future generations to enjoy.

We have now moved on to assess a number of the town's green spaces to see whether they could qualify for formal protection as "Local Green Space". Any site that is designated as "Local Green Space" in the Neighbourhood Plan will have protection from future development similar to Green Belt status. Sites need to have a special value to the local community, for example because of their beauty, historic importance, recreational value, tranquility or the richness of their wildlife. A team of volunteers is working through the list of sites for assessment, which can be seen on our website, www.charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk

The consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan will be a chance for anyone to put forward views on the green spaces to be designated, and any comments are welcome to charlburynp@gmail.com

The first in a series of reports produced for the Neighbourhood Plan is now available on our website www.charlburyneighbourhoodforum.org.uk

The Charlbury Biodiversity Report shows which important species of animals and plants have been found within the parish, and also where protected habitats and wildlife sites are located. This is one of the pieces of information that will help us develop the Plan. We hope that by the time the Chronicle arrives on doormats we will also have published our Housing Needs Assessment and Character Assessment. Both will be on our website when available.

Finally, we would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time to the Character Assessment and Local Green Space work.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



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Charlbury Street Fair Needs your help!

Please do come along to our first event for this year's Street fair fundraising - the Quiz Night in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 17th March! Details and entry forms are on the charlbury.info website and charlburystreetfair.org.

Readers of the Charlbury Chronicle may know that the Street Fair is the key fundraiser for the Corner House and War Memorial Hall. Last year we provided nearly £10,000 for the upkeep of these two well-liked community assets, and this enables them to continue to provide a venue for local groups and activities.

Arrangements for this year's Charlbury Street Fair on 15th September are under way but ***we do seriously need some help.*** The Street Fair Committee is very small with only a few members who are overwhelmed by much of the procedural stuff - licences, road closure notices, risk assessments, publicity and the like, as well as organising (for example) the Prize

Draw, Dancing, Entertainment, and the Auction.

We really need new faces! Key activities would see someone (or a team?) taking on the management of the Stalls (as seen spread down both sides of Church Street on the Street Fair day - our biggest fundraiser) and to make the arrangements for Open Gardens in June.

Without Stalls there will not be a Fair, and we are thinking of 'passing' on Open Gardens this year owing to the workload we already have.

So please let us know if you are willing to help and can offer a couple of hours each month (or more!). Please don't be shy - lots of support and guidance is available to anyone who is interested and you are invited to come along to one of our Committee Meetings to meet the team (dates will appear on the charlburystreetfair.org and charlbury.info websites).

Thanks! To contact us and for up-to-date information see charlburystreetfair.org.

John Dora, Chair, CSF Committee.

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Bowls Club News

2017 proved to be a very successful year for Charlbury Bowls Club. The season started with several new playing members recruited to the club and an excellent playing surface prepared by the volunteer greenkeepers.

The Men's team gained promotion to Division Two of the Oxfordshire Bowls League under the captaincy of Dave Cooper, finishing champions with 50.5 pts, comfortably ahead on neighbours Hanborough who joined them in promotion. The team averaged 90 shots per game from the four rinks of four players.

In a year of outstanding performances. Ray Hill was on the winning rink in all but two matches but it was a truly squad effort with 20 players representing Charlbury in the league. The Men's team progressed to the quarter final of the Oxfordshire League Cup where they entertained Headington A, runaway Oxfordshire league champions with a record winning margin, undefeated all season, and the biggest points score in the league's history.

Charlbury bowled well and led at half time, but the rain came and it affected the Charlbury bowlers more than their opponents who moved ahead and won the match, eventually completing the first division league and cup double. A highly creditable performance. The mixed

team in the West Oxfordshire League was used along with friendlies to blood new players and give them experience, with many notable performances but too many careless losses to make a challenge for the title.

Club member Shane Cooper, playing last season in the league for Division One runners-up Watlington, was the Oxfordshire under-25 singles champion. He went on to represent the county at the national finals at Leamington Spa where he was knocked out in the second round. Seventeen year old Alannah Ford was a member of the winning Oxfordshire under-25s triples team. Several ladies and men competed in the various singles, pairs, triples, and fours competitions but none made the finals. The winter short-mat league is ongoing.

The new outdoor season starts in late April and on Saturday 28 April and Sunday 6 May Open Days are being held at the club in Ticknell Piece Road at 2.00pm - all ages welcome to try out bowls for free - all you need is a pair of flat-soled sports shoes or trainers. Come and try! Have a look at the new website for more information on the club at www.charburybowls.co.uk

Several community events were held, most notably the very successful Bingo nights!

Shaun Morley

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The Botany Spot

England's woods and forests are slowly expanding due to new planting initiatives as well as regeneration, but when compared with much of Europe we still have a low percentage of woodland cover. In this area

of Oxfordshire we are very fortunate to have the ancient Wychwood Forest. It is in the woods that spring is often most obviously first apparent. Before the heavy canopy of leaves reduces the light levels, the woodland floor is alive with early flowers. I have observed all of the following flowers locally and it is well worth keeping an eye open for them in wooded areas during March, April and May.

In old deciduous woods and on shady banks **Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*** is one of the earliest wild flowers. The male and female flowers are borne on separate plants (dioecious), both are inconspicuous but are still a heartening sight. Much more showy is the **Sweet Violet *Viola odorata***, with its dainty violet or white flowers and sweet scent. I know the whereabouts of several local clumps and visit them every year, kneeling down on the damp earth to catch the wonderful perfume. The moment the Sweet Violets are fading, **Ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea***, fills the shady banks with muted colour and you know you don't stand much chance of seeing too many more Sweet Violets for another year – always a slightly sad moment!

Lesser Celandine *Ficaria verna* is another common plant hereabouts and its bright yellow stars, gleaming in more shaded areas, are a cheerful reminder that the days are lengthening. There are two wild subspecies, one reproducing by seed and one, characteristic of disturbed ground, which reproduces by bulbils in the leaf axils after flowering. Many people love the pale yellow native **Primrose *Primula vulgaris***, another plant often found on the edge of woodland. It is so popular that it is grown commercially and is for sale in local garden centres about Easter time. Delicate **Wood Anemones *Anemone nemorosa*** carpet the ground and nod in the breeze, in a small copse

close to where I live. The beautiful white flowers, sometimes flushed with pink, are actually sepals rather than petals but a wonderful harbinger of spring nonetheless. Walking along a track near Charlbury in spring last year, I suddenly became aware of a strong garlicky scent, a sure sign of **Ramsons *Allium ursinum***, a wild member of the onion family. Apparently cattle can develop a compulsive liking for the plant, making their milk unfit to drink!

Some early woodland flowers do not conform to an easily recognisable floral pattern and provide a striking contrast to the more usual flowers. One such is **Lords-and-ladies *Arum maculatum*** also known as **Cuckoo Pint, Jack-in-the-pulpit** and by other common names. These usually appear to have been inspired by the pale green hood and club shaped flower, the spadix, a phallic symbol in the eyes of country folk from bygone times. Hidden by the hood near the base of the spadix are the female flowers, with the male flowers above; neither male nor female flowers have any petals or sepals and the structure allows insects to be trapped temporarily for pollination. Another interesting flower is that of the **Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides***. The flower head projects from a ruff of leaves and has about 5 rays, each one of which gives rise to a flower which has central parts lacking petals or sepals, but possessing a cluster of stamens and a 'saucer' formed of two yellow-green bracts. It is similar to the garden varieties and like them has an irritant sap.

With the appearance of the native **Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*** in Wychwood, sometime in late April or early May, one knows that summer is properly on the way.

As well as the ancient woodland we also have some local organisations full of people determined to extend and enhance our woodland with the planting of young trees. The Wychwood Project has many such schemes and The Evenlode Catchment Partnership is also encouraging landowners to plant trees alongside the river. Such endeavour is surely worthy of our support.

jo@joanna-bell.net



Charlbury's Own Cinema

ChOC News

The three films screening this spring begin in March with the multi award winning **Hidden Figures**, inspired by **Margot Lee Shetterly's** book about the female African-American mathematicians who served in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space programme. In April, our film of the month is **Victoria & Abdul** starring **Dame Judi Dench** and **Ali Fazal** and the May film is **Two Days, One Night**, starring **Marion Cotillard**, our first foreign language film in 2018.



Sunday 11th March at 7.30pm:
Hidden Figures Cert PG / 124 mins.

The incredible story of Katherine G. Johnson (**Taraji P. Henson**), Dorothy Vaughan (**Octavia Spencer**) and Mary Jackson (**Janelle Monáe**), three brilliant African-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut **John Glenn** into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race, and galvanised the world. The visionary trio crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to dream big.

"A space-race segregation drama full of star power. Hidden in the sense of historically obscured... their contributions to the space race whilst neglected and marginalised ... this trio of Nasa employees had key roles to play in getting John Glenn into orbit in the early 1960s, and safely back". - Tim Robey / Daily Telegraph



Sunday 8th April at 7.30pm:
Victoria & Abdul Cert 12 / 109 mins.

The unexpected friendship in the later years of Queen Victoria's (**Dame Judi Dench**) remarkable rule. When Abdul

Karim (**Ali Fazal**), a young clerk, travels from India to participate in the Queen's Golden Jubilee, he is surprised to find favour with the Queen herself. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance with a loyalty to one another that her household and inner circle all attempt to destroy.

As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes and joyfully reclaims her humanity.

"Judi Dench's Oscar-worthy second turn as Queen Victoria is a poignant portrait of fading power and human connection". - Rotten Tomatoes



Sunday 13th May at 7.30pm:
Two Days, One Night Cert. 15 / 95 mins.

This critically acclaimed and award winning Belgian film from the **Dardennes** brothers stars **Marion Cotillard** as Sandra who has just been released from hospital only to find that she no longer has a job at the Solar Panel factory.

According to management, the only way Sandra can hope to regain her position is to convince her co-workers to sacrifice their much-needed yearly bonuses. Now, over the course of one weekend, Sandra must confront each co-worker individually in order to win a majority of their votes before time runs out. (In French, shown with subtitles).

The latest from the Dardennes brothers: "A small-town tale with a universal punch ... an intimate drama with thriller-like intensity". -Xan Brooks / The Guardian

All screenings are held in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Doors and the popular ChOC bar open 45 minutes before the scheduled performance time.

Admission: Adults £5 / U15s £3 (when applicable).

ChOC is a member of the British Film Institute's Cinema For All scheme.

Jackie Hague



The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens celebrate 50 years of looking after the Cotswolds AONB

The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was created in 1966 and a couple of years later the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens service began. The aim of the wardens then and now is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and increase understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.

There are almost 400 active Cotswold Voluntary Wardens living in or around the 790 square miles of Cotswold landscape, which covers six counties.

Over the fifty years the Wardens Service has looked after the public Rights of Way in our area, laid special matting for pushchairs and wheelchairs at the Rollright Stones, helped manage Dean Grove, looked after a Nature Reserve in Charlbury and worked with children at local schools by taking them into the local environment.

Below are some facts and figures of projects achieved across the whole AONB in the past 50 years.

- annually cleared up to 60 grassland sites & up to 50 woodland areas
- restored 33000 sq m of coppicing
- planted 6500 trees and nearly 3km of hedging
- laid 8.5km of hedging
- built or restored 8km of stone walling & 25km of fencing
- installed or repaired 1000 stiles, 1000 kissing gates & 500 other gates
- cleared 274km of footpaths and surfaced over 5km
- worked with up to 40 schools in any one year on countryside

awareness

- led 3000 guided walks

There is at least one work party somewhere in the Cotswolds going out every day to carry out some of the above activities.

To mark the 50th Anniversary there are some special projects taking place. In the Oxfordshire part of the Cotswolds you will see a new woodland being planted, close to the A361 between Burford and Chipping Norton.

Work on this is shown on the photograph below.

One focus for the anniversary is education. Primary schools are being contacted with a range of activities the wardens can offer. It is particularly important for a generation more often connected to technology than where they live, to be given the opportunity to explore the wider environment with people who have a deep understanding and connection with the countryside.

Anyone can join the wardens, a genial group, with no more qualifications needed than an enthusiasm for the Cotswolds and a willingness to roll up your sleeves and put some time into keeping the Cotswolds special.

You may love walking, in which case you could share this with other members of the public by becoming a guided walk leader. All wardens receive training and all enjoy the sense of achievement and general well-being that time spent out of doors can bring.

For more information take a look at the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or email rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



The Committee has been pleased this year to see a number of new faces at the monthly talks and presentations. As always some of the topics are of more interest to some rather than others but we are hopeful that we've been able to provide something of interest to the majority of our members and visitors.

You will recall that our first meeting of this season was about Developments in Charlbury and Tony Merry, a committee member, compiled the report below so that those who were unable to be at that meeting could read about the discussion on the night:

Summary of Charlbury Society Meeting on the Challenge of Development in Charlbury

"Following a talk by the CPRE earlier in the year which raised concerns about consideration of new developments in the area it was decided that the initial meeting of the Society for 2017-18 season could be held in a Question Time format. It was felt that this fitted well with one object of the Society namely to encourage interest in the character and appearance of the town. Accordingly representatives from the Town Council, the County and District Councils, the Cotswolds AONB, the Charlbury Conservation Advisory Committee and the Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee formed a panel at the meeting on Friday October 13th. A call for questions was circulated before the meeting and were put to the panel by the Chair Anne Lawson-Porter.

The answers and subsequent discussion were very wide ranging and highlighted the general feeling that, while most people felt there was a need for more smaller houses to be built on suitable sites, developers were getting planning permission for large houses on unsuitable sites. The representatives from the Town, District and County Council and AONB expressed their frustration that their views and advice

were often being ignored. There was agreement that if Charlbury has a Neighbourhood Plan in place it would be harder for local opinion to be ignored so this is the best way forward. An independent Housing Needs Survey for Charlbury has been commissioned and should report soon. This will form a basis of proposals for new developments in the Town over the next 15 years. There are three plans which will influence future developments.

One is the local plan being prepared by West Oxfordshire District Council and it defines the overall policy for development but does not have full details on Charlbury. This is being inspected at the moment and should be published next year.

The next is the Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan which is being prepared by a steering group for the Town Council. This cannot be at odds with the Local Plan but does give more detail and can include housing numbers for Charlbury which the local plan does not. This involves open discussion with residents during its preparation and then consultation. It is then sent to West Oxfordshire who check that it conforms to requirements and then send it to an independent examiner. Finally, after any revision, it is put to a referendum. It then carries weight in deciding planning applications

The third is a Community Led Plan. This concerns the desires of the Community on a whole range of issues such as helping neighbours. It is up to groups to decide what could be done and how it could be funded.

It was felt that this innovative exercise was a great success and many favourable comments have been received and it was obviously a useful meeting to provide information about new housing developments in Charlbury."



Charlbury Society (contd)

In other news, members of the Charlbury Society Historical Research Group have finished transcribing the first section (dating from 1524 to 1732) of Charlbury's probate documents.

A printed copy of these can now be found in the library and you are encouraged to browse through them to get a sense of Charlbury life in times past.

We are also at the planning stages of our summer outing for 2018. This will be in June with the final date yet to be finalised. We have been investigating a trip to either Croome in Worcestershire or Highclere Castle of Downton fame. The latter would be more expensive at around £40 whilst the former would be around £25. If you have any views then please let us know.

Lastly, the final three talks of the 2017-18 season are listed below and we look forward to welcoming friends old and new – and perhaps some of you would consider helping out on the committee? You can contact me on 01608 810359 for an informal chat if you might be interested.

March 9 Liz Woolley – Oxford's Base and Brickish Skirt – the development of the suburbs 1850-1914

April 13 Simon Walker – That muck called gold: Socio-economic and Cultural Aspects of the Gold Rush

May 11 AGM, followed by David Pollock – Charlbury Architecture

*Anne Lawson-Porter
Chair, Charlbury Society*

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Artwork and sculpture is everywhere – schools churches, pubs, 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



Spring is here! A time for clearing things out and starting on new activities perhaps? If you feel inspired to try new activities and make new friends then why not try Charlbury WI?

Our January meeting was called Days for Girls and several members want to run a workshop to support this work. In February we had Bruce Duncan, the "Loan Soldier" talking about his experiences in Borneo, Africa and the Middle East.

In March we have our AGM and also a funny and entertaining lady puppeteer called Angela Collins, who is well worth seeing. Please note the earlier start time of 7pm for this meeting. In April we have a visit from the Medical Detection Dogs and in May we are debating the WI resolutions and for "light relief" there will also be a Quiz devised by one of our members.

Also, on Saturday 24th March we have our coffee morning, in aid of a local charity and also Denman College, our very own WI college, so we will have plenty of cakes on offer!

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

You are welcome to come along to the WI as a visitor to have a chat and see what we do, before deciding whether to join.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Details of forthcoming events are on the Charlbury website or contact Pat Hill on 01608 810714 or Louise Cashman on 01608 676396.

Trish McCallum

We currently have 38 members who enjoy meeting together for lunch on the 1st Wednesday of each month, except January. We hold our meetings at the Witney Lakes Resort. Each meeting lasts about three hours and includes time to socialise at the bar before sitting down to a two course lunch, followed by a short presentation from an invited speaker. At our December meeting last year we enjoyed our Christmas Lunch of traditional turkey and Christmas pudding and were then treated to an insight into the recent repair and restoration of the Charlbury Church Clock by local resident and clock repairer David Mitchell. Our 2018 lunches start on Wednesday 7th of February.

Our last meeting was our Annual Dinner which was held at Witney Lakes which included a three course dinner followed by entertainment by local musician Alan Fraser and his band Mingus Tree which provided us with an hour of wonderful jazz music.

We usually have a number of outings throughout the year which last year included an afternoon matinee at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury, a concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and a day at the Severn Valley Railway. This year we are planning a visit to the Black Country Museum, Birmingham.

Membership currently costs £15 per annum plus an additional monthly cost of £15 per lunch. We always welcome new members, you can follow us on the Charlbury Community website or on our Facebook page. You can also contact Mike White the club Secretary on 07710 296814 or at mike.ewhite7@gmail.com.

Mike White



Charlbury Green Hub

Important Changes to the Bring & Take

The next Bring & Take is **Saturday 3rd March** in the Memorial Hall but this time we are having to make some important changes, so please read on.

Times for bringing things into the hall

Please bring things along between 9.30am and 10.30am (rather than 11am) and take things between 10am and 12 noon as normal.

Electrical items with plugs

Please drop off plug-in electrical items the Saturday before (24th February) to Janet Sly's house at 23 The Green between 11am and 12 noon **ONLY** (no other time please). This will enable them to be PAT-tested in advance and made available on the day – this is because there are usually too many to be PAT-tested on the day itself. Please do not bring old-style big TVs, no-one wants them and they need to be taken direct to Dix Pit for recycling.

Paint & large DIY stuff

Please do not bring paint or large/heavy DIY things like insulation offcuts, worktops, boxes of tiles, or bathroom

sinks along on the day **BUT** instead email **DIYspares@charlburygreenhub.org.uk** in advance with details of what you want to give away.

Details will then be included on our new DIYspares page on the Charlbury Green Hub website. The latest list will also be available at the Bring & Take on the notice board by the door, as well as on our stall at the quarterly Farmers Market. Please include a contact phone number for people to contact you directly for collection, together with details including sizes, number of tiles, and for paint how much is left in the tin, as well as a photo of the item or colour of the paint. Paint is very expensive and it is great to find it a new home **BUT** it is difficult to handle at the Bring & Take - we had a paint spill last time from a loose lid and have previously had problems with leaky tins. Also, we can no longer take any left over paint to Orinoco.

When you want paint, tiles, etc then have a look at our new virtual warehouse first to see if you can get something for free.

Finally, if you would like to help at the Bring & Take, then you will be very welcome. From 9.30am, we need help arranging things on the relevant tables. From midday, we need help sorting out the leftovers and taking them to charity shops in Witney. Please contact Christine Elliott (01608) 811057 if you have any questions.

Christine Elliott



All Together In Charlbury – a local helping hand

All Together In Charlbury (ATIC) provides informal help and support to people in the town who need it by linking them up with a Charlbury resident who has offered some of their time to meet requests.

Do you need help with Transport to appointments or activities/visits?

Occasional household tasks/gardening

Shopping

A form or letter or something else? Or perhaps someone to pop in for a chat?

ATIC is here to help – call 01993 776277 The friendly staff of Volunteer Link-Up in Witney, who are acting as our “call-centre”, will answer on our behalf.

To offer to help us as a volunteer, ring 07487 413892 or email: charlburyalltogether@gmail.com.

A Day's Life: Adrian Lancini, graphic designer, writer, music maker, poet, comedian ...

Lancini is an Italian surname and is quite common in the Brescia region of the country. When I first went, it freaked me out to see my name plastered all over shop fronts and gravestones! I wasn't used to that. My father was born in London, but went to Brescia with my grandmother when he was 4-years-old, as my grandfather had been interned on the Isle of Man at the outbreak of war. My dad came back when he was about 14 and settled in Leicester.

That's where I was born and I'm a lifelong Leicester City fan – when they won the Premier League in 2016, I threatened to put a banner across Park Street to celebrate but chickened out and just had a nice pint instead. I studied Graphic Design at York and then worked for 8 years as a member of Leicester University's graphic design team. When I came here, I worked for an advertising and marketing agency in Cornbury Park. Inspired by a three-day weekend at Glastonbury Festival in 2005, I decided I wanted a better work-life balance. So the agency allowed me to work a four day week, with a pay cut of course, and I found a new lease of life. I wrote a book called *Man Friday* (yet to be published) about what I got up to on Fridays – taking on an allotment by Wellington Cottages, learning new pastimes such as surfing, or sometimes just lying about in long grass trying to find faces in clouds. I found that I was happier, enjoying my job a lot more and becoming much more creative.

Eventually, after another epiphany - this time the sight of a beautiful and vivid red flower on a cliff bank in Cornwall – I decided to go freelance and set up my own business (www.adrianlancinidesigns.com). So I work from home now in Charlbury, where a lot of my clients are based. I get a lot of work by word-of-mouth,

which is very gratifying. I do design work for businesses and organisations: printed material such as logos, brochures, advertisements, leaflets, all forms of corporate identity and also design and build websites. I always get pleasure from looking through the Chronicle and spotting how many logos I've designed. I think my current record is five. I much prefer working for myself and find having that freedom really helps aid creativity.

How did I come to be in Charlbury? It was fate! When I first drove down Sheep Street one September evening, with the sun about to set over Hixet Wood it immediately felt like home. So it's proved as I have lived here now for over 15 years – I'm told by reliable sources this is the first step to being even considered a 'local'. I lived first in Sheep Street, then Wychwood Paddocks, and then the Toll House in Dyers Hill. I now live in Park Street with my partner Jo and our 3-year old son Beau, and have my studio at the top of the house.

My poetry? I knew the Charlbury poets Rob Stepney, Ed Fenton and John Lanyon from doing poetry performances and had several poems published in earlier anthologies compiled by Rob. We were all at an Open Mic night, I think called 'Out of the Woodwork', when Rob, who had been thinking of publishing more of his poems, invited us to join him. We're now called Four Wordsmen (www.fourwordsmen.com). Our first book together, *A Funny Way With Words*, was published in 2012.

I wanted to add a typographic playfulness to make the work visually engaging and also humorous. This is quite common in children's poetry, but I discovered it wasn't in adults. It was a lot of fun to design. The reaction to the book and the visual element was so good that in our next book *Words Go Out To Play* I was able to take this further. We had a book launch in December at the Rose and Crown which was a rousing success. We sent Kathy Clugston, the radio announcer and newsreader, a copy of our first book,

which contained a poem based on the Shipping Forecast called 'Fishing Forecasts'. She liked it and came and hosted one of our shows. We hope to do another show at The Shed in the spring, performing poems, music and sketches based on our second book.

Another creative impulse has been to write music and to record my songs. Under my pseudonym of Neanderthal C'Papan I recorded four albums worth of songs when I lived in the Toll House. I've not really pushed this music out there, though some of it has made its way modestly onto the internet (www.soundcloud.com/neanderthalcpapan). Similarly for my book, it would be great to have it published but it really doesn't worry me. I just enjoy doing these things.

My comedy (www.adrianlancini.com) began as a progression from performing poetry. I don't do stand-up, where you often have to riff off an audience. I prefer to hide behind a character. I enjoy taking the mundane in life, such as trying to open some cling film, or eating a sandwich and exaggerating it to make it funny, perhaps in a surreal way. I've created a show called 'Rubbish' where I play many characters including a spoof singer-songwriter, a pretentious poet called Lawrie Hurt, and a magician who thinks everyday things like lighting a joystick is magic. Plus a host Michael who speaks in a made-up language. I've performed at the Shed, the Three Horseshoes and at the Riverside and Wilderness Festivals.

I also have a 'comedy' manager Jason King, who's actually just a great friend living in London. He thinks my talent is deserving of the masses outside of Charlbury and keeps hassling me to travel 2 hours to London and take part in 5 minute Open Mic spots, but so far I've resisted. I prefer walking five minutes to Barry's backroom at the Three Horseshoes and playing there for two hours, doing what I want.

Again, I don't know if I can be bothered with all the energy involved trying to 'make it'. That said, I have decided I'm going to put a bit more effort into getting

my comedy out there this year. Watch out Fowler!

Adrian Lancini was talking to Barbara Allison

For graphic design and website work you can contact Adrian via email adrianlancini@hotmail.com or call 07816 991602.

Photo caption: Adrian performing as the poet Lawrie Hurt



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CHARLBURY Community Centre

Reflections on our first 100 days

With much help from the people of Charlbury, the long-held dream to build a community centre became a reality in September last year. Now fully operational, good progress has been made towards achieving our ambition of providing a place to connect, read, learn and play – a multi-activity public space that can serve all sectors of the community. Here is just a taster of the things that are coming up, or happening now – there is not space to tell you about everything, so please visit our website (www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk) or call in and see us. And please join us for our public meeting on February 28th at 7.30pm at the Community Centre.

The library - more books, easy access and longer hours

There's no doubt Charlbury library is thriving in its new location. If proof were needed, there are over 200 new members, with a significant rise in the number of families with small children, teenagers and people with mobility difficulties, for whom access is now easier. There's a regular flow of books being borrowed and returned – the self-service machine can still be used when the Community Centre is open, but the library is unstaffed. Transactions have more than doubled to an average of over 3,000 per month. Future plans include talks by authors and more activities for children.

TG's café – a real community space

The café area, alongside the library, is a great place for friends to meet and for people to work. It is now open longer hours, and new offerings are available in response to customer requests. It is staffed by Community Centre staff and volunteers, Charlbury Deli remains our main supplier of consumables. We would like to make people aware that there are board games and puzzles available if you want to use this space to meet and socialise in that way.



Young - and old(er)!

Pilot schemes to provide holiday activities for children during the Christmas holidays and the October and February half terms were a success and are likely to be repeated. We are trying to work out the best format for the after-school activity clubs (Monday-Thursday 4-5pm) and would welcome feedback.

Over 100 young people have attended the term-time Friday night youth club, most Fridays there are 30-40 there to socialise, play team sports in the hall, challenge each other to table tennis, pool and board games and sometimes watch movies (with popcorn and drinks) – all for £1 per person.

In prospect for the youngest members of our community are such things as structured play sessions for pre-school children, health visitor Under 5 health checks, stay and play sessions, soft play sessions, and Bump-to-One sessions for expectant mothers and their babies. Please check our website to find out when these will be starting.

Age UK is running a series of film showings in the early afternoons on the last Friday of every month. They are aimed at retired people, but are open to all and the ticket price includes cake and tea or coffee, so there will be chance to socialise. Plans are also under way with Age UK and a local coach to start Strength and Balance sessions to improve the wellbeing of Charlbury's older people. Many retired people are enjoying activities such as walking football, pickleball, badminton, table tennis and many other sports.

Sport - conventional and pioneering

The number of sports on offer in the town has almost doubled as a result of the range of opportunities the indoor facilities provide.

For Charlbury's existing football, cricket and tennis clubs, coaching and practice sessions are no longer weather - dependent. The badminton club has expanded and new volleyball, netball, pickleball and walking football clubs have started. Charlbury Community Centre is now part of the nationwide network of "All Stars Cricket", a new initiative from the England and Wales Cricket Board, aimed at providing children aged five to eight with a great first experience of cricket.

Circuit Training, and gym-based exercise sessions, called **LEANGym**, are now well-established. New for 2018 is our Community Gym, complete with optional personal training from Jason, our Wellness Manager. This is in its three - month pilot phase and we are interested to gather feedback, for example, about the opening hours (currently 9am-1pm daily). We are, of course, restricted by staff availability and other users, so we cannot open the gym for all the hours we'd like to - for this reason, it is priced at only £18 per

month. There is a limited number of spaces available, so please apply early to avoid disappointment.

Setting out the future

The centre has got off to a flying start and, as planned, the building is operating at a high level of energy efficiency. We would like to thank Southill Community Energy for its contribution towards helping make that a reality.

Much has been learnt about the needs, hopes and aspirations of different parts of the community and we have all sorts of plans for the future to try and fulfil as many of these as possible.

None of this is possible, however, without our friendly and flexible staff and our fantastic band of volunteers, who devote many hours to provide front-of-house support and behind-the-scenes practical solutions to ensure the smooth running of the operation. There are more opportunities to volunteer which we'll explain at the public meeting on February 28th.

If you haven't done so already, please visit us and see for yourself!

*Tanya Stevenson
Trustee, The Thomas Gifford Trust*



News from our PCSO

We're asking the community to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. Where possible, obtain registration plate details of suspicious vehicles. We're also asking that we keep an eye on our elderly and vulnerable residents. With the increase of door to door sellers and rogue traders, we want to ensure that they are not being ripped off. We have had a report from the Shipton under Wychwood area where an elderly female was deceived by three young males who charged her nearly £500 to remove three small branches.

The Nominate a Neighbour scheme is a good idea. The idea is that when an unexpected caller comes to the door the

Nominate A Neighbour card should be passed through the letterbox, shown at a window or through the gap in a chained door. The card directs the caller to a nominated neighbour who can check their identity.

The occupant is advised not to enter into a conversation with the caller but to just show the card. A genuine caller will not mind following the instructions.

We do have Nominate A Neighbour cards here at Chipping Norton should anyone require one.

Sign up as many people to TVP crime alerts and Twitter @tvp_westoxon.

Wes Smith, PCSO c9837, Chipping Norton

Charlbury Town Football and Sports Club is making good progress

This is to update you on the progress being made by the Charlbury Town Football and Sports Club (CTFSC) with its project to achieve a new home for its activities on the Nine Acres Recreation Ground.

Backed by a new constitution we have submitted our application to be recognised as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), which would make us eligible for favourable treatment for taxation and rate relief purposes with some similarities to charitable status.

The main criteria for registration are:

- the club must be open to the whole community
- the club's main purpose must be to provide facilities for eligible sports and to encourage people to take part in them
- the club must be organised on an amateur basis.

Our building plans have now been given planning permission by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC). We will be providing a separate self-contained annexe on the end of the current pavilion. This will include a social and refreshment area (with a bar which can be locked away when children are using the facilities), a kitchen and an outside viewing area with tables.

The new facility will enable Club members, especially the adult and junior football teams and other users of the field and their families, to meet and socialise after matches, to watch key sports events on TV together and to take part in informal sports and games, such as darts, pool and Aunt Sally. (The restoration of an Aunt Sally pitch is particularly eagerly awaited.) We will also be able to organise our traditional annual series of children's and family social events there.

Our estimated building costs are at least £180,000. We are very grateful to have received the following contributions so far towards the total, in addition to our own funds which we are working hard to build up:

WODC grant offer of £50,000

Town Council grant offer of £70,000

A number of generous individual donations, including one from The Bell as a result of a raffle.

So how will local residents be able to use our new facilities and join in our activities? Club membership will be open to anyone in the community who wants to join. There will be a reasonable membership fee including a special family rate and also some concessionary rates.

We are already most grateful for the ongoing support and practical help being received from the Town Council, the Nine Acres Management Committee, our Members and other interested local residents. We would not have been able to reach this position without them. However, we would welcome additional support.

If you would like to see us achieve our plans, you could help us in the following ways:

- A financial donation
- Help "in kind" – for example, we need someone to create a new website for us and give us other help with publicity. We have also already received some offers of practical help with the construction work.
- We would also benefit from having new members on our Management Committee – we meet monthly on a weekday evening.

For further information, please contact Mandy Cooper (07534 097715 or manda.28@outlook.com) or Martin Prew (07590 749620 or cm.prewy@btinternet.com).

Mandy Cooper



The 21st Annual Charlbury Beer Festival: All in a Good Cause

Those of you who started the year with a dry January may be interested to know that the Charlbury Beer Festival committee are looking forward to a dry June – as far as the weather is concerned, that is.

The 21st Charlbury Beer Festival will take place on Saturday 30 June at Charlbury Cricket Club, from 12 noon till late. There will be 50+ real ales on offer, as well as a wide range of other drinks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, and a varied choice of food from our hand-picked (and award-winning) food franchises. Entertainment will include live music all day, children's entertainment, the World Aunt Sally Open Singles Championships, and a programme of talks and discussions in the Culture Club tent. And as always, every penny raised will go directly to good causes both locally and in the developing world.

For more information go to charlburybeerfestival.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

CORN'BURY MUSIC FESTIVAL

It seems very strange to be doing Cornbury Music Festival again—a comeback before I had a chance to go away. I was completely shocked by the huge response after our 'fabulous finale' - I really had no idea that there was such a lot of love for the event—when you're embroiled in holding everything together you don't really get to experience it.

Anyway, I am very pleased that the event seems to be held in such esteem and I'm also very happy to be reunited with my 'festival family' doing what we all try to do best—produce our little gathering in a beautiful Cotswold Park.

We're coming back with a big line-up which at the time of writing includes UB40, festival favourites Squeeze and hopefully The Beach Boys. I also hope we'll be joined by a couple of rather hirsute cooks who like mechanised bicycles—they'll be running a little pop-up BBQ restaurant.

Yes, we'll be running our regular shuttle service from Charlbury and Yes tickets are available without the dreaded booking fees at Chipping Norton Theatre. Thank you for all the support you've given the festival in the past **and we very much look forward to welcoming you back.**

To buy tickets online and for more information about the line-up and camping options go to cornburyfestival.com. Cornbury Music Festival runs from 13-15 July at Great Tew Park

Hugh Phillimore
Cornbury Music Festival Director.

RAINFALL REPORT 2017



The rainfall measured at Lees Rest between 1 January and 31 December 2017 was 743mm/29.7 ins, so quite a bit wetter than 2015 and 2016.

The wettest month was December with 106mm/4.24 ins including snow and the driest was May with 5mm/0.2 ins, the driest May since our records began in 1982.

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



CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB

The club has been taking full advantage of the excellent indoor facilities at Charlbury's new community centre with both our youth and senior players preparing for the 2018 season. The sessions continue until Easter when the ground should be ready to switch all activity to the outdoors. Over 30 players have been turning out for the senior sessions, the biggest turnout we have had for a long time, making maximum use of the four lanes of nets and splitting the group into differing levels of ability, loosely in line with the club's three league teams and the women's section. Enthusiasm is great and augurs well for the challenges ahead, including the new venture for our 1st and 2nd teams in the Cherwell League.

We now know that they will be in divisions 4 and 8 and the fixtures include games against clubs we have never played before, some in neighbouring counties, although there are also local "derbies" with nearby Witney Mills and Shipton-under-Wychwood. Our 3rd team remains in the Oxfordshire Cricket Association (OCA) while our women's team has games in the Midland League East Division as well as a number of T20 fixtures.

On the youth front we will be fielding U11, U13, U15 and U17 sides. These are vitally important to the continuing development of the club and indeed the game itself, all supported by dedicated coaches and volunteers. Mentioning development, we are also adding to our excellent facilities with a new set of roll-on covers for the 2nd field.

Outdoor action starts in mid-April with pre-season friendlies and the now customary player-bonding tour, this time to Leeds and Harrogate in Yorkshire, from April 27th to 29th. It all looks set for an exciting and interesting 2018.

David Horne, CCC vice chairman.



It is said to be the fastest growing sport in America ... I for one am an avid fan and want as many of you as I can entice to join the fun. "Why?" I hear you ask. Well there are many benefits to Pickleball that other sports may not quite hit the mark on. Don't just take my word for it, here are excerpts from online blogs as well as sports reporters:

- Pickleball is a fast-growing sport and it provides people with an opportunity to learn a new sport that targets a wider range of ages, athletic abilities and fitness levels. It's an easy game to learn and play – most newcomers to the game are able to play a game within minutes of being coached.
- Playing Pickleball regularly will surely help you stay fit and healthy and aid in strengthening your body against the effects of aging and against sickness.
- It's not only a form of exercise for the body but also for the mind. Pickleball can be a game of tactics where you need to stay alert all the time and keep planning your next move very fast. You also have to learn how to strategise in order to outsmart your opponent on the court.
- Pickleball has many health benefits as well, such as increased mood and overall mental health, you burn calories, and fewer injuries occur due to the low-impact nature of the game. Pickleball specifically works on balance and agility.

Health benefits aside, Pickleball is just plain fun! It lifts your mood and many of my members not only look forward to their next session but have also joined more than one session a week.

At the time of writing this editorial, I run three sessions a week at the Charlbury Community Centre – Mondays 10-11am, Thursdays 10am – 12pm and Fridays 8-10pm. All the sessions are well attended but new players are always welcome. There are also plans afoot to add further sessions in Charlbury and in Witney. If you would like any further information or just want to jump on the bandwagon, please contact Vijay on 01993 891 043 or email vijaysmobile@gmail.com



Charlbury Tennis Club

Charlbury has a well established tennis club that caters for both those who want to play competitive league tennis and those who want to play socially.

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

We welcome everyone of all ages and abilities and have the cheapest membership fees of any tennis club in the local area. For an annual fee of just £160 for a family (up to 2 adults and 2 children up to the age of 19 years) and £75 for an adult single you can:

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

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

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

To find out more about Charlbury Tennis Club go to www.charlbury.info/community, phone Mark Jarman on 01608 811692 or email: charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk.



Charlbury Beer and Wine Circle

Our monthly meetings continue with increased membership. The

variety of meetings is clearly enjoyed by Circle members and in the past months has included a beer tasting (with wine/soft drink options), a wine tasting from an invited guest presenter and a whist evening.

As ever, these were all very friendly gatherings.

The future meetings will include:

- A tasting led by a professional wine and champagne expert
- Safari supper
- Steam Train trip
- Annual Dinner
- Barbeque
- Summer Gathering
- And an outing yet to be finalised

Meetings are usually on the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Garden Room, Memorial Hall.

If any of the above tempts you for a pleasant social evening, then see below to ask for a copy of the 2018 programme.

John Moore, Secretary (01608 810700)

IS THIS CURTAINS FOR THE DAY CENTRE?

Twenty one years ago on 14th May 1997 Charlbury Day Centre was officially opened to provide a place, where twelve local pensioners could meet on a regular basis for friendship, entertainment and a good home cooked lunch.

The idea was conceived by local people and backed by Social Services to fill a need for support for some of the older more isolated pensioners in the town. The premises in the War Memorial Hall was improved to make a comfortable day room, a manager was employed to run the Centre, and volunteers were recruited to support the manager.

The Centre has been a great success and has proved invaluable to so many members and their relatives. We have received generous help both financial and practical from the community and of course from Oxfordshire County Council. However the Council will be unable to continue their grant and we thought this would be our main worry.

Not so, our membership has dropped dramatically in the last year due to the members increasing age and health problems and the need for day care locally seems to have fallen away. We are not getting new people wanting to join us, despite our efforts to publicise the Centre. Sadly, if this really valuable facility is not used, the Centre would have great difficulty continuing in its present form. Time is running out, so please, if you know of anyone, who might benefit from the companionship and fun of a regular day out, do please contact me, **Bob Tait on 01608 810150 or Carolyn Connolly 01608 819001**

However, on a more positive note, we will be rearranging the "Open Morning" that we had to cancel before Christmas, because of the bad weather, to Wednesday 28th March. Do hope you can join us then, find out what happens at the Centre and share coffee and cake with our members and volunteers.

A reminder of what this is and what it does: the Working Party currently has 80+ members who are townspeople who care about the town environment and who recognise that, as it stands, neither the County nor the District Councils have the money to keep this town in the state that we would want it to be. In our second year of operation it looks as though we are sustainable as a community group and we should continue.

Thus far we have concentrated on autumn and winter group activities – gathering the huge leaf fall around The Playing Close and on the top end of Hixet Wood in November and December. WODC have supported our self-help efforts by providing bulk bags and then lifting off the full bags to go to their community compost pits.

Members are now suggesting that we might extend our work through the spring and summer by doing footpath and bridleway cut-backs in May and June on the network immediately surrounding the town.

This seems an excellent way of giving our residents more enjoyment of the local landscape – nettles and brambles and drooping blackthorn can be a real deterrent to family walks.

You may not have noticed that our town website manager has given us a dedicated 'chat room' on the main Forum page (top left: "Working Party"). This has not been used to full effect this year but has the potential to become a real information exchange on how to maintain/improve our environment.

If you are not a Working Party member but would like to get involved please send me an email to

philmorgan717@hotmail.com and I will put you on our mailing list.

Phil Morgan



OLIO – The Food Sharing Revolution

Anybody else watch Hugh's War on Waste on BBC2 shown in 2016? Astonishingly, he found that we throw away a quarter of the food we buy each week. I wonder if anything has changed two years on? The date on packaged food is partly to blame, making people uncomfortable about eating food which is still perfectly edible and leading people to throw food away even earlier just to be on the safe side. If any of this sounds familiar to you then maybe you'd like to register with OLIO on your mobile phone and then instead of chucking the food in the bin you could take a photo and post it to the OLIO app so someone else living in Charlbury could take it off your hands.

OLIO was launched in London in 2015 and is now available across the UK, but it works best within a close community like Charlbury with everyone within walking distance. You wouldn't want to drive miles just to pick up a tub of olives, but you might be happy to just pop round the corner.

Even if you don't throw fresh food away, I bet there's food in your cupboards that's been there ages and which you're unlikely to eat – if you were, then you'd have eaten it already! I know, because I have stuff just like this. Rather than leave it there even longer, you could just take a photo and post it to the OLIO app. This is actually the best way to start to get things moving. If everyone reading this now registered with OLIO and posted something today, then wow, we'll have started something that could work out really well.

OLIO is available as a **free app for phones and tablets**, you can post items, see what's available, and set your notifications to be within 2km or 5km to restrict what emails you receive. You can also see items available on the OLIO

website but at the moment you can only post things via the app - posting to the website is promised soon.

- Food in your fridge you're not going to eat? Post it on OLIO.
- Having a cupboard clear-out? OLIO is your answer
- OLIO is great after a party or community event when you find yourself with left-over food.
- Going away on holiday, with no time to do a big cook and freeze it for when you get home? OLIO is a great way to clear your fridge quickly.
- Use OLIO to help distribute gluts of home grown food from your garden.
- Hens laying too many eggs for you to cope with? Share them with OLIO.
- Making ferments? OLIO is a great way to share your spare kefir grains, kombucha mothers, or sourdough starter.

If you love food, hate waste, smile at a bargain, or care about your community and the environment, OLIO is for you. Sharing, especially food sharing, goes way, way back, yet it's something of a lost practice. Whether adding or requesting, OLIO encourages you to be bold and experiment!

Visit www.olioex.com to download the app, find out more, and join the Food Sharing Revolution TODAY!

Visit the Charlbury Green Hub stall at the Farmers' Market on 10th March to talk to me about food waste and share your OLIO experience, or phone me on 01608-811057.

*Christine Elliott
Charlbury Green Hub*



TIME FOR SOME SHELF-PROMOTION...

New fresh meat range from Densham's Butchers in Witney, including Oxfordshire lamb & beef, free-range chicken and fresh sausages • Cornbury Park venison • Egg-citing Easter range of chocolates • and of course, lest we forget, the fabulous coffee...

Old Bank House, Market Street, Charlbury
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Wychwayz Border Morris

We are a mixed group of Morris dancers in the Border Morris Tradition. This is a traditional form of dancing that originated in places on the English / Welsh Border but which died out in the early 20th Century. There are few records of the dances performed or of the music they used but most modern Border sides base themselves on the few accounts and pictures that remained. It is distinct from the Cotswold Morris tradition in a number of ways in the costumes, dance movements, music and exuberance of the dances.

It seems possible that the tradition is derived from a form of Morris known as Bedlam Morris.

This was generally thought of as a more boisterous form of the dance in comparison to Cotswold Morris. There are many disparaging remarks about Bedlam Morris but from descriptions it has many characteristics of the appearance and dances of Wychwayz Morris.

Wychwayz was set up in 1999 and we may be distinguished in the following ways

- We have rag costumes often homemade and many sides have different colours for each dancer
- We always dance with sticks which are generally stouter than in Cotswold Morris
- We wear hats which are usually highly decorated and individual. Pheasant feathers are often used
- The dancing tends to be less formal with lots of clashing of sticks (sometimes pretty hard)

- The dancing is often accompanied by hoots and other loud sounds from the dancers
- Unlike Cotswold Morris the appearance is of a group of individuals with little in the way of a common theme or costume

Generally, we dance to have fun and there is a great social atmosphere with our mixed group. However, we do need more dancers and more musicians. No previous experience is required and we will show you the dances. They are not particularly complicated and most people pick them up quickly. We practice every Tuesday in the Shed from 8 to 9 pm and this is generally followed by a session in the Rose and Crown. If you want to know more, then just come along and see us or get in touch.

The music is essential to our dancing and we are looking for new musicians so that we can perform at dance outs during the year which include the Oxford Folk Festival, Cornbury and Wilderness festivals, the Wychwood Forest Fair, Charlbury Street Fair, Halloween at Wychwood Brewery and Boxing day at the Bell. Traditionally we have melodeons for the main musical accompaniment but we also need drummers and any other instruments, we often have a flute playing when we dance out.

So if you want to have some fun, meet new people and entertain others then come along and see what we do and hopefully join the side.

Contact email
wychwayzborder@gmail.com, Phone
01608 811022

Tony Merry



Gardeners' Question Time

Outside it may have been a wet and dreary January evening but, in the aptly named Garden Room of the Memorial Hall, the welcome was warm as thirty one visitors and members of The Garden Society settled down with hot drinks to put their questions to the panel of experts. Chaired by Geoff Holmberg, our well-known garden 'sages', Society President Peter Bridgman and Vice-Chairman John Moore, were joined for the first time by local garden designer Michelle Heather and her dog.

It was no surprise that many questions had been e-mailed. However, the address of the first questioner, 'Naivasha Prison Kenya', was met with much amusement and gasps of disbelief. The Garden Society is thriving, but could our fame have extended so far? Geoff explained that our erstwhile chairman, Nick Johnson, was currently visiting the prison but was quick to add, 'Not as an inmate!' Nick's email about leek moth in his Charlbury garden was the first of many questions, ranging from pruning clematis and how to grow potatoes in containers (an excellent use for redundant W.O.D.C. black recycling bins provided you drill holes in the bottom), to where to begin designing a new garden.

Newcomers to Charlbury may be interested in suggestions for plants that thrive here. Recommendations included: clematis, delphiniums, penstemons, geums and lily of the valley.

Perhaps the most unusual question asked was how to renovate flower beds and a lawn that had been trampled by cows -- thankfully a problem that not many of us had experienced!

No one could fail to be impressed by the knowledge of the panellists, though they were not always unanimous in their views. There was good-humoured debate about the merits of mixing vegetables

and ornamental plants. Michelle is a keen advocate of this technique and recommended a visit to Barnsley House Hotel in Gloucestershire to see an outstanding example in the garden created by the late Rosemary Verey. Peter and John were less enthusiastic pointing out that harvesting veg such as beetroot leaves an unsightly gap in the border. But it was acknowledged that companion planting is a well-established tradition in cottage gardening. For example, marigolds are grown to deter whitefly from tomatoes, and Sweet Williams are grown alongside vegetables to encourage pollinators.

As a new member, I thoroughly recommend coming along to one of our forthcoming events. Whether you are an experienced gardener, or a beginner like me, there is likely to be something of interest in the programme for 2018 (see www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk). Check regularly as additional events are added throughout the year.

Among events we look forward to is Ian Gourlay's illustrated talk (15th March; 8.00pm, Memorial Hall) on **social and therapeutic horticulture** at Bridewell Organic Gardens, Wilcote.

The Society's **Spring Show** will be held on Saturday 24th March in the Memorial Hall. As well as daffodils, there are classes for other spring flowers such as tulips, hyacinths and hellebores. The Garden Society Show will again be held in conjunction with the Charlbury Art Society.

On Saturday 12th May we have the **Plant Sale** at the Memorial Hall, with 9.30am start.

And there is a guided tour on Tuesday 22nd May of the garden at Eastleach House (admission £9), half an hour's drive by car share from Charlbury. The garden covers 14 acres and has four ponds, steep steps and slopes (see Eastleachhouse.com). The tour takes 1.30 to 2 hours. Enquiries and bookings to Angela Gwatkin: treasurer@charlburygardensociety.org or phone 01608 811378

Maureen Nash



Pre-School News

Winter came early this year with a heavy snowfall in early December. At Charlbury Pre-School we built a big snowman in the back yard, much to the delight of our children.

What's new

This term will see some big changes. Jenny Gerring will be leaving Charlbury Pre-School after 15 years as a member of staff. During that time she has played an important part in creating the safe, caring setting we know and love. Jenny will be missed by her co-workers, the parents and all the children here. Following on, we're happy to announce the appointment of Katy Hopkins. Katy comes with a wealth of experience as a nanny, childminder and mother. Welcome Katy!

We are in the process of re-vamping our equipment and storage, moving away from using plastic and towards more natural materials, aided by recent grant money. As part of this project, we commissioned the grandfather of one of our children to make some open shelving. Many thanks to Roman's grampy! Toys displayed on open shelves are not only more accessible but also much more visually appealing. We are already seeing much more imaginative play as different types of resources are used together.

Thanks

Charlbury Pre-School is a charity and relies on the generosity of individuals and organisations in the community, many of whom have selflessly given their time and money to assist us in fundraising activities. So we'd like to give thanks to the **Co-op**, which gave the pre-school a £250 grant. This helped us to run our stall at the Farmers Market throughout the year. Special thanks also to **Janet and Geoff Burroughs** at the Christmas Tree Farm for supporting us as a charity over the Christmas period. We'd also like to thank the talented musicians who performed in the fundraising gig last

December. Finally, a big thanks to the whole community for supporting our successful fundraising in 2017.

Upcoming events

Fundraising efforts continue with a number of exciting events planned this spring term. Following the success of his last talk, **Will Ord** has kindly agreed to speak at another evening event in early April. This time his talk will explore the communication skills parents can use at home to facilitate creative thinking, discussion and learning in their primary and pre-school children. Ticket sales will go on sale in March. Look out for posters around town, and ads in Charlbury Pre-School and Primary School book bags.

Again based on last year's success, we are running a **pop-up shop** selling children's clothes, toys, equipment and furniture. Thanks to the generosity of Simon Himmens-Warwick, our pop-up shop will open for a few days in May at The Curiosities Company (www.thecuriosities.co.uk), 39 Sheep Street – the old deli premises, now a hot-desking centre.

Last but not least, in December we put on a very successful **fundraising gig** at the Shed. Andy Pickard, Dave Anderson, The Great Western Tears and headlining act The August List all gave their time for what amounted to a brilliant evening of music and fun. It will be a hard act to follow, but we are planning one or two more gigs this spring/summer.

For **Artweeks** this May, the pre-school is holding an exhibition of our young artists' work, accompanied by delicious homemade cakes, tea and drinks. Held at the pre-school's premises in the Old Grammar School on the weekend of **5-6 May**; the exhibition will double as an Open day for the Pre-school. Parents looking for a stimulating and nurturing setting for their children are warmly invited to take a look around, meet our staff and take away a prospectus.

We currently have 36 children attending but space for more, so do get in touch and have a look around and find out more about what we do: (01608) 811 200 or email

admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk

News from Charlbury Primary School

In this edition, we would like to focus on Music in school and to tell you about a special annual event in which the school is involved. Jennie Grierson, our music co-ordinator, is this issue's guest reporter.

"If you can walk you can dance, if you can talk you can sing." This proverb from Zimbabwe embraces something we believe at Charlbury School: that all children can sing. We provide pupils at school with ample opportunity to find their voice, to experiment and learn how to pitch match and explore rhythm. They should also enjoy singing so we try to make it as fun and accessible as possible. As part of our music programme at the school all children attend weekly singing assemblies where they learn a wide variety of songs ranging from pop music (both past and present) to traditional British folk songs and music from all around the world.

Throughout the autumn term the children learn specific songs in preparation for the Young Voices concert, which for many children is one of the highlights of their time at primary school. Young Voices is an organisation that exists solely to promote a love of music, or, to quote their website: "inspiring children to discover their love for music." Every year they put together the largest school concerts in the world in the biggest arenas in the country, and we get to be part of it!

We encourage all of our older pupils to participate, from Years 4-6. On the 9th January 75 pupils travelled by coach up to Birmingham's Genting Arena to join over 5,000 other children who had all spent the past term learning the same amazing songs.

We were guided by a professional conductor, accompanied by a band of professional musicians and a professional dance group also taught us a few interesting moves to some of the songs. We spent the afternoon rehearsing in the arena and then put on a thrilling concert to a packed audience. The lights were incredible and all the children had tiny torches that they waved in time with the music whenever the lights went low, adding to the electric atmosphere.

This year's repertoire included a traditional Kenyan greeting song, The Call from Tales of Narnia, a medley of cartoon theme tunes including Inspector Gadget, Dangermouse and Pink Panther, a Stevie Wonder medley, a medley of last year's pop tunes as well as several beautiful songs written especially for this year's concert.

A lot of work goes into making it possible for the children to participate in this concert every year, however, we believe it is entirely worth it, as it provides the children with memories and music they will never forget. To quote Beverley Knight, who is a huge supporter of Young Voices: "These kids will be retelling the story of this day for the rest of their lives."

Catherine Ball

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.



Museum News

Last year's exhibition on Henry Allen's shop to go to Woodstock Museum!

The Oxfordshire Museum liked our drapery exhibition so much that they asked if they could put it on this spring in Woodstock. We are thrilled that **'Bonnets, bloomers, bowlers and braces...'** will open in The Brewhouse, The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock on April 28th and be on show until May 27th.

And this year something completely different

Poachers and pilferers, gamekeepers and glovers.....

A walk on the wild side

The ancient forest of Wychwood has gone through many guises and changing fortunes over its long history. Recorded in the Domesday Book, it was variously a Royal hunting forest, supplying the king with deer, wood, timber and charcoal; a source of timber for the navy; home to abundant wildlife which local poachers found irresistible; provider of employment but also refuge of highwaymen and robbers. It also picked up stories of murders and ghosts along the way, and was the scene of riotous partying in Victorian times during the Forest Fair.

Come and explore this rich past with us through old maps and stories, photos and oral history. Learn about the invaluable work of the Wychwood Project in working to restore and conserve the rich habitats and diversity of the forest encouraging the local wildlife and wildflowers to return, and helping all of us to enjoy and appreciate what is left of this historic landscape.

We are planning various local events to tie-in with the exhibition:

Early summer : Tony Graeme will lead a walk through the forest, pointing out places of interest and looking at the

birds, animals and flowers of the area

An evening of writing and poetry based around the forest, its history and people

A local craft event highlighting skills such as willow weaving and basket making

Keep an eye on the Charlbury website for details nearer the time.

The Museum reopens on **Easter Saturday, 31st March**, with a new exhibition exploring the work of the Wychwood Project and the links between the forest and Charlbury.

Opening hours: Saturdays 10.30am – 12.30 pm; Sundays and Bank Holidays 2.30 – 4.30 pm; also Fridays in August between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm

Stewards needed

Could you spare an occasional Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon to help the museum? We rely on volunteers to welcome visitors and help them explore the huge number of objects and records we have available. We are enormously grateful to those who are willing to give their time to do this and would welcome new stewards who would like to join us. It is not onerous, you are always on duty with someone else, and can be very informative and sociable.

Please contact Janet Jeffs on 01608 810709 or email charlburymuseum@elmstead.plus.com

A **Stewards Evening** will be held on **Friday 16th March**. The Museum will be open from 6.30pm, followed at 7pm by a glass of wine and get-together in the Morris Room. There will be a short presentation about this year's exhibition followed by a quiz to help you find your way round the museum. You may be surprised to learn about some of the resources lurking on the shelves!

2 June—Museum coffee morning and the ever popular **Plant Sale** in the Museum garden. A chance to snap up some unusual plants at bargain prices.

Do come along and support us.



Coffee break page

Answers are on page 48

Dingbats

ccrreeaamm	ever ever Thursday ever ever	e r e r KIDS q i u
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10.	11.	12.

The following films have all won Oscars. The vowels have been removed from their titles – can you identify the films. The number in brackets indicates the number of words in the title.

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|------|
| 1. | GNWTHHWND (4) | 1939 |
| 2. | RBCC (1) | 1940 |
| 3. | NMRCNNPRS (4) | 1951 |
| 4. | LWRNCFRB (3) | 1962 |
| 5. | NFLWVRTHCCKSNST (6) | 1975 |
| 6. | TRMSFNDRMNT (3) | 1983 |
| 7. | TFFRC (3) | 1985 |
| 8. | DNCSWTHWLVS (3) | 1990 |
| 9. | FRRSTGMP (2) | 1994 |
| 10. | SLMDGMLLR (2) | 2008 |
| 11. | THKNGSSPCH (3) | 2010 |
| 12. | SPTLGHT (1) | 2015 |

Compiled by Pat Court

What's On in Charlbury

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

February

28—Thomas Gifford Public Meeting, 7.30pm, Community Centre

March

2—Women's World Day of Prayer. 11am, Friends Meeting House
2—Lent Lunch, 12-2pm, Methodist Church
3—Bring & Take, 9.30am, Memorial Hall
6—Yack & Yarn, 7.30pm, The Bell Inn
6—Churches Together in Charlbury, 8pm, St Mary's
9—Lent Lunch, 12-2pm, Friends Meeting House
9—Charlbury Society Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
10—Farmers Market, 9.00am, Playing Close
11—Messy Church for Mothering Sunday. 9am St Mary's
11—ChOC, *Hidden Figures*, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
13—"Modern Prophets", 8pm, St Mary's
14—Art Society, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
15—Garden Society talk, 8pm, Memorial Hall
16—Lent Lunch, 12-2pm, St Mary's
16—Museum Stewards Evening, 6.30pm, Morris Room, Corner House
17—Street Fair Quiz Night, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
20—"Modern Prophets", 8pm, St Mary's
21—WI AGM, 7.30pm, "A puppets tale", Memorial Hall
23—Lent Lunch, 12-2pm, Methodist Church
24—WI Coffee Morning, 9.30am, Corner House
24—Garden Society Spring Show, Memorial Hall
25—CRAG Tea Concerts, 3pm, Memorial Hall
25—Choral Evensong, 6pm, St Mary's
26—Easter Bingo, 6.30pm for 7.30pm, Bowls Club
26-28—Compline, 8pm, St Mary's
28—Day Centre Open Morning, Garden Room
29—Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, 7.30pm, St Mary's
30—"Walking the way of the cross", starting at the Fountain at 10am and visiting each of the five Charlbury Churches, finishing at St Mary's at 11am
30—Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament, 9am, St Mary's
30—Good Friday—Journey to Easter Messy Church, 10am, St Mary's
30—Good Friday Reflection, 2pm, St Mary's
31—Museum Opens

April

1—Easter Day Holy Communion, 8am, St Mary's
1—Easter Day Holy Communion, 9am, Shorthampton
1—Easter Day Parish Communion, 10.30am, St Mary's
3—Yack & Yarn, 7.30pm, The Bell Inn
6—Annual Parish Meeting, 8pm, Memorial Hall
7—Town Council Surgery, 10-12pm, Corner House
8—ChOC, *Victoria & Abdul*, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
11—Art Society, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
13—Charlbury Society Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
18—WI Meeting, Medical Detection Dogs, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
21—Baptist Church Coffee Morning and Cake Sale, 9.30am, Corner House
22—Taize, 6pm, St Mary's
27—Age UK film showing of *La La Land*, 1pm, Community Centre
28—Bowls Club Open Day, 2pm

May

- 1—Yack & Yarn, 7.30pm, The Bell Inn
- 5-13—ARTWEEKS
- 6—Boundary Walk; begins 10am at old oak tree on Forest Road
- 6—Bowls Club Open Day, 2pm
- 9—Art Society, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 11—Charlbury Society, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 12—Garden Society Plant Sale, 9.30am, Memorial Hall
- 13—United Service for Christian Aid Week, 9.45am, St Mary's
- 13—ChOC *Two Days, One Nights*, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 16—WI Meeting, Resolutions debate & Quiz, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 18—Brize Singers in Concert, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 20—Messy Church, 9am, St Mary's
- 22—Garden Society visit to Eastleach House

Weekly events

Monday

- 9.30am—Toddlers Group, Memorial Hall
- 1.30-3pm—Tennis Club
- 7-8.30pm—Scouts, Scout Hut

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 9-10am—LeanGym, Community Centre
- 3-4pm—Walking Football, Community Centre
- 7.45pm—Bell Ringing, St Mary's

Thursday

- 10-12pm—Font Café, St Mary's
- 5-6.15—Beavers, Scout Hut
- 6.30-8pm—Cubs, Scout Hut
- 6.30-7.30pm—Circuit Training, Community Centre
- 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
- 7-9.30—Youth Club, Community Centre
- 2-5pm—Tennis Club

Sunday

- 10-11am, Circuit Training, Community Centre



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www.hooknortonvets.co.uk

CHARLBURY

T: 01608 811250

Appointments:

- 8.00am - 9.30am (Mon - Fri)
- 4.30pm - 6.30pm (Mon - Fri)
- 10.30am - 11.30am (Sat)

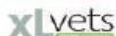
Opening Times

- 8.00am - 6.30pm (Mon - Fri), 10.00am - 12.00pm (Sat)



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Small Animal T: 01608 730501 (option 2)

Branch Surgery, Deddington

T: 01869 337732



Would You Like Closer Contact with Your Local Medical Practice?

The Charlbury Patient Participation Group is now up and running and would like to hear from anyone who would like to be involved.

The Patient Group aims to:

- Advise the Practice on the quality and responsiveness of the services and on patient satisfaction.
- Carry out surveys on the experiences of those who use the Practice.
- Facilitate communication between Practice staff and patients.
- Work with other patient groups in West Oxfordshire to improve healthcare in our area.

In addition Patient Groups can promote health by;

- Organising presentations and courses on important health needs.
- Raising awareness of key public health messages.

The Charlbury Medical Centre values input from patients and their carers, to ensure that services offered meet the needs of the patients. The Practice welcomes this initiative which would enable us to work more closely together. This is an opportunity for you to become involved with your G.P. surgery and keep up to date with any changes that may occur.

The Patient Group works mainly via e-mail, so you would not have to attend meetings and feedback can be easily relayed to you via your phone or lap top. By providing your e-mail details we will be able to contact you about patient surveys and any other information regarding health (e.g. immunisation programmes) and changes which might affect patient care.

To join or for further information e-mail: patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net, drop a note with your name, address and telephone number into the box in the Practice waiting room, or complete one of the forms in the Practice waiting room.

The information you supply us will be used lawfully, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, which sets out rules to make sure that this information is handled properly.



CADS News

At the end of November CADS presented their pantomime, 'Robin of Wychwood'. There were good houses for all four performances and the response from the audience was very encouraging. It's always heartening to be stopped in the street for a few weeks afterwards by people who have enjoyed the show. Rumour has it that due to age it might have been the last performance of Emma, our canine diva, which is very sad but fear not - there may be a replacement waiting in the wings! CADS Christmas party was at The Old Shed for the second year and was a

great evening; the staff worked hard to make it a very festive occasion - so much so that a date has already been booked for this year!

Our Spring production, planned for late April, is about to get under way. It is 'Lark Rise' so we are keeping the local theme; a fascinating presentation of Oxfordshire village life at the end of the nineteenth century. Come along and get involved.

CADS theatre group serves Charlbury and its many surrounding villages, and is always actively seeking new members, especially if you are interested in working backstage. Please contact the Secretary or any member to find out more or email: charlbury.drama@gmail.com Check out our web page: www.charlbury-drama.com.

CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

The Big 5 – 0

Fifty is a significant number for Charlbury Meals on Wheels. For more than 50 years, area residents have both given and received meals through our local organisation. Many of the 50-member volunteer workforce have gone on to become recipients of the lunch boxes which are delivered at around noon each Tuesday.

If you're unfamiliar with our local Meals on Wheels program, recipients pay £3.00 each week and receive a freshly cooked main course, vegetables, and pudding prepared in the Memorial Hall kitchen by a team of talented cooks and helpers on Tuesday mornings.

Meals are delivered by three pairs of volunteers who set off from the Memorial Hall each Tuesday at 11.45am to deliver to Charlbury, Spelsbury, Chadlington, Fawler and Stonesfield. Usually, the deliverers have a brief visit with the

recipients – a mutually rewarding time which strengthens community ties.

Fifty is significant for another reason: for fifty years the Griffiths family has been involved in Charlbury Meals on Wheels. Diana Griffiths, now 101 years old, managed deliveries for over 40 years, and Jan and Howard Griffiths helped organise the operation for the past 10 years. With great reluctance, Jan and Howard have had to step down at the end of 2017. We owe them and Diana a huge amount of gratitude for all of their years of service.

We hope to deliver our lunch box meals for the next fifty years and are always looking for more volunteers. If you'd like to help by either volunteering in the kitchen or on deliveries, please contact Marjorie Glasgow at mglasgow@theridgegroup.com.

If you'd like to receive a meal or receive more information about meals, please contact Susan Merry at susanmerry2@gmail.com or phone 01608 811022.

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Charlbury Church Services



Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

Sunday services at 10.30 am. Fourth of each month with Methodists in Fishers Lane.

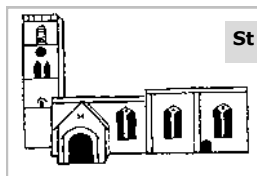
Thursdays at 8pm. House group. See noticeboard for venues.

See website / phone for details

charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com

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

NB. We are back in our premises after completion of the roof repair



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



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 Mass. 9.15am every Sunday at St Teresa's.
9.00am on second Sunday of each month at St Kenelm's Enstone.

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

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

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

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

Churches together in Charlbury

Hands up if you know where Suriname is! You can be forgiven if you don't know as it's a country we hear very little about, but for those of us who had to look up its geographical location, it lies in the north-eastern part of South America.

The reason for mentioning Suriname is that this year it is the focus for the "Women's World Day of Prayer" Service. and if you are unfamiliar with this service, or think it is only for women - let me explain.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is a woman-led worldwide ecumenical movement, the largest and the first to be established. It's a long story from its origins in the 19th century when Christian women in USA and Canada initiated a variety of co-operative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and abroad, to today when over 100 countries and islands participate, with the service being translated into over 1000 languages. Each year a different country is responsible for writing the service. Over the past few years women from Chile, the Bahamas and Egypt have provided the service and Slovenia, Zimbabwe and Vanuatu will provide services from their own unique perspective and cultures in the next few years. From the freewill offerings made at these services, grants are allocated to many different projects, around the world and here at home.

One of the joys of the services is that each is so different, vibrant, creative, and challenging. However, because the word "Women" is in the title, some men feel excluded and that the service is not for them. That is not so. The services are written by women, but are a gift to the whole church, and in some countries it is one of the few opportunities that women have to make their voices heard. Many places have already dropped or never used the word "Women" in their title including Scotland and Ireland and The National Committee is now asking its members if they feel now is the time to do the same for the rest of our country. I wonder what you think?

The World Day of Prayer is always on the first Friday in March, and each year a different church in the town organises the service. This year it's the turn of The Friends to host us in The Friends Meeting House on Friday 2nd March at 11.00am.

The first of the services begin as the sun rises over Samoa, continuing as it makes its way around the earth, ending some 36 hours later as the sun sets over American Samoa. Throughout that time continuous prayer and worship is offered. A truly remarkable, moving and humbling service which is worthy of a much higher profile and participation. So do come and join us on 2nd March.

May I also remind you of the Lent Lunches taking place on Fridays from 16th Feb - 23rd March, each of the Churches taking responsibility for one or more. There are posters advertising where and when, with further information in the "Leaflet".

Each year the Churches Together Committee organise a series of Lent Talks and this year the theme is "Visions for a Better Tomorrow" and feature talks and other presentations on a number of Modern Prophets. Cecily Saunders, Pauline Webb, Jean Vanier, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Peter Benenson. Again there are posters and leaflets giving further information. The first talk is on Tuesday Feb 20 at 8.00pm in St. Mary's Church and is about the life and work of Cecily Saunders, founder of the hospice movement.

Stella Bristow

Chair - Churches Together in Charlbury

Please see What's On for details of talks, lent lunches etc.

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Charlbury Town Council report

Housing development

Whenever new developments are proposed in Charlbury, the Town Council asks West Oxfordshire District Council (the planning authority) to require some form of community benefit from the development. The new development at the Grange, Woodstock Road, is a case in point. We were pleased that WODC listened to our call for a significant contribution to affordable housing provision, and the developers will be asked to contribute £120,000 towards this. We will continue to lobby for this funding to be spent in Charlbury rather than elsewhere in the district.

We were also pleased that our suggestion for an access onto Woody Lane was taken up, making it easier for residents of these new houses to walk into Charlbury town centre or to the school. Unfortunately, WODC did not support our request for a pavement to be provided along Woodstock Road as the first step towards better pedestrian provision on this busy road. We are continuing to discuss with WODC how developers can be required to make the fullest possible contribution to Charlbury facilities via the Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy mechanisms.

Separately, the Inspector's review of the WODC Local Plan has concluded that the draft plan did not give enough weight to the special characteristics of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in which Charlbury is situated. Our understanding is that this will see the proposed development at Jefferson's Piece withdrawn from the Local Plan list of sites. This does not imply that the development will necessarily be cancelled, but the developers may need to rethink the density and mix of houses to have a chance of obtaining planning permission.

Precept

The town council precept, part of your Council Tax, has been set at £97,730 for 2018/19, giving a Band D rate of £75.03. This is an decrease of 2.88% on last year's rate. The largest part of Council Tax goes to Oxfordshire County Council, which this year is proposing a 5.99% rise to pay for

social care – equivalent to £80 for a Band D home.

Mill Field management plan

The Mill Field is one of Charlbury's crown jewels and is owned and managed by the Town Council. It is an important recreational facility for the town and a significant wildlife habitat. The Town Council has recently reviewed its management, supported by surveys from the BBOWT (Wildlife Trusts) small mammals group and the Wychwood Flora group of the Wychwood Project, and comments from local conservationists and residents. The full management plan is now available for consultation. You can find a link to it from the Charlbury Town Council page on the Charlbury website (go to www.charlbury.info and search for 'Town Council'). Recommendations cover the frequency of grass cutting, an uncut strip along the riverbank, bank repairs, and river access. We would be pleased to hear your comments.

Traffic and speeding

We are continuing to work on the proposed 20mph speed limit for Charlbury town centre although staff changes at Oxfordshire County Council have slowed progress. The latest advice is that it could be implemented in early 2019 if consultation results are positive. We are also working with OCC on a series of small alterations to parking restrictions, adding new double yellow lines where parking has proved a problem (particularly the bottom of Nine Acres Lane) and removing lines where the need is no longer there. Again, any proposals will be put to public consultation.

Separately, OCC hopes to repaint a number of parking and other road markings this year where the existing markings have faded away.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall on April 6th 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, 6th May, led by Tony Merry. 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. There will be a break for lunch at Model Farm, Ditchley, for which we are very grateful to Rob & Maxine Hobill. We need volunteers for stewarding and chauffeuring on the day – if you can help, please contact the Town Clerk.

In brief

- Thank you to all the town centre residents and businesses for illuminated Christmas trees; to Geoff Burroughs for donating the tree for the Corner House; and to the team of volunteers led by Liz Walton and Anna Fairhurst who organise this beautiful display every year.
- We are pleased to see the continuing progress on the Neighbourhood Plan (see article elsewhere in this issue of the *Charlbury Chronicle*). The process will include public consultation on the plan later this year.
- Please take a few moments to check your boundaries and cut back overhanging branches and excessive growth so that the pavements are kept clear for pedestrians.

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 28th March, 25th April, and 23rd May, with Planning & Correspondence two days before (8pm unless there is a speaker). The May meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Council (not to be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting), at which the Chair and Vice-Chair are elected and nominations to committees made. The next open 'surgeries' will be in the Corner House from 10am–12pm on Saturday 7th April and 2nd June.

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

Richard Fairhurst

From Robert Courts, MP

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

I was pleased to host my first "Ask the GWR" event in the Memorial Hall in February. Many of you made clear your concerns about the current state of rail services in your correspondence to me over the Christmas period. Being a regular commuter from Hanborough, I am fully aware of how much we rely on our rail service providers, and how important it is that these services run to time.

I therefore decided that local residents should have the opportunity to speak to GWR and Network Rail directly, to raise these concerns and learn more about future plans to improve rail services on the North Cotswold Line. If you were able to attend, I do hope you found this evening informative and helpful. I hope to host similar "Ask the..." events in the future – so watch this space!

Furthermore, as you may know, the Government has opened a consultation on future services across the Great Western network, particularly with regard to how services can be improved and what we want to see GWR prioritise.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to raise any issue with me, or simply to make me aware of your views. You can email me at robert@robertcourts.co.uk, or if you do see me out and about, do stop me for a chat.



From County & District Councillor Liz Jeffman

01608 810153 liz.leffman@westoxon.gov.uk

Some months ago, I wrote here about a new not-for-profit company which has been set up to bring buses back into West Oxfordshire, called West Oxfordshire Community Transport. At the time, I approached the District Council for a grant to pay for the start-up costs, which they agreed to. The first project was to replace a bus service in Witney. This has been very successful, and the next project has been to replace the bus service in the Wychwood villages, which was lost when subsidies were cut eighteen months ago.

I am delighted to announce that the new bus service started on February 12th, and that I was able to assist once again, this time as the County Councillor. The County has a pot of money called the Communities Fund which is administered by councillors, who can choose which projects to allocate money to in their area. My choice was to support this bus service, which will make a big difference to many people in my ward, especially older people no longer able to drive, and young people who do not have their own transport.

The Lib Dem group on the Council is committed to improving public transport and recently proposed a motion to look at new ways of funding bus services across the county. This was accepted and we are now putting together a working party to take this forward, of which I will be one of the members.

At a recent meeting of the County Council Performance Scrutiny Committee, it was noted that recycling rates across the county are in decline. This is very disappointing and I have been asked to work with officers to look into the reasons why this is happening. It is too early to say whether the new system we have in West Oxfordshire is contributing to the decline, though I know that many Charlbury residents are very concerned that we can no longer recycle fly-away plastic and there has

recently been a lot of publicity about the fact that mixed packaging, for example boxes with plastic windows, are not recyclable. Other districts have different rules about what can be put into recycling bins and I will be looking into whether we can improve recycling rates by creating more uniformity across the county. Another issue is the longstanding one of whether we need recycling centres in more parts of the county – Dean Pit closed long ago but we still miss it.

I recently read about a new use for plastic waste which is to turn it into road surfacing material. It would kill two birds with one stone if we could find a way to use our waste plastic to resurface the county's roads!

From District Councillor Andy Graham

07908 832632 andyg2439@gmail.com

The LGBTIQ plus support group has met at The Shed in Charlbury already last year and it returns to The Shed on Monday 7th May at 7.30pm. A great chance to meet people of all ages from 16 onwards. It's a transient group and sometimes people come just to get advice or share experiences and to plan social events. If you want to find out more about earlier events in Woodstock, (March) and Chipping Norton (April) go to the Facebook page: LGBTIQ West Oxfordshire. This is a voluntary group and we need to raise £1000 a year to continue meeting. If you can help, please let me know.

Charlbury Youth Theatre meets at The Shed, a venue used for many arts events and activities, on Mondays during term time. You are welcome to join. We are currently working on the theme of carnival working with professional actors, directors, puppeteers and dancers and preparing some outdoor performances in May and June. Young people up to 16 years of age develop skills and friendships as well as confidence in expressing themselves in a creative way. Support The Shed and the young people of the town! For more

details, contact me.

Over 9 million people of all ages and backgrounds suffer from the effects of loneliness. Whilst some people choose to engage in activities provided by the various groups in the town, many do not. Some by choice, for others it is more than that - living alone or unsure and lacking in confidence to make or find friends can become an ever decreasing circle, compounding isolation.

Over the next few months, I will be doing some research to find out the extent and the needs of people in the town who feel that having company would make their lives more interesting and enriching. If you want to help me with this research, please contact me.

I have, now that I am not on the planning committee, been able to spend more time with planning applications. If you need help, advice or support, again, please feel free to contact me. I will do my best.



Corner House News

The Corner House Shop continues to thrive and is open on Fridays and Saturday mornings for you to browse and contribute funds for the Corner House.

We are in need of a new Secretary, as Rebecca is standing down. If you are interested in doing this worthwhile job, please contact Rebecca Gilmore at rebeccagilmore@btinternet.com.

And the Brize Singers will be in Concert at the Memorial Hall on Friday 18th May at 7.30pm.

We are delighted to welcome back to Charlbury this popular singing group, accompanied by Bernard West on the piano, performing a fundraising concert in aid of the Corner House. Tickets priced at £6 will go on sale from the beginning of May. Further details will be included in the May edition of The Leaflet.



Clarimore Beautique's first anniversary

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us in our first year, it has been an incredible year and it would not have been possible without your support. The salon is still growing and this next year we look forward to introducing more treatments and hope to bring a new member to the team.

For those yet to discover us please visit our website for a full list of treatments or find us on Sheep Street for a brochure. We stock Guinot professional skin care, Opi nail polishes, beautiful gifts and we also provide gift vouchers.

You can keep up to date with our news, new additions and offers on our website and social media pages.

www.clarimorebeautique.co.uk

Facebook and Instagram
@ClarimoreBeautique

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET on the Playing Close between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, March 10th

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd. and organised by Lee McCallum,
email marketmanager@ymail.com
tel: 07779 400421

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CRAG News

Charlbury Refugee Action Group held a record-breaking concert in January when Margaret Fingerhut, a world-famous pianist, gave her time and talent in a barnstorming performance for the refugee cause. The audience was a CRAG record of 152.

All our performers and musicians give their time, for which we are very grateful indeed. The total raised at this concert was about £1600 which has gone to the charity Help Refugees. Our online fundraiser is at mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/charlburyrefugee if you wish to add a donation yourself.

To complete the tally at the end of January: our autumn and January concerts, the Art Café, Churches Together, the Quakers and personal donations raised £6705 in all. As we go to press, we don't yet know the proceeds from the February Kismet folk concert and the Bring and Buy.

And where does it all go? Since September we have given £3200 to Help Refugees (much of whose work is with grassroots NGOs in Greece), £2500 to the Refugee Community Kitchen (providing clothing and hot meals for growing numbers - mostly kids - still

sleeping rough around Calais and in Paris) and £771 to Lighthouse Relief who provide welfare services for refugees landing from boats on the Greek island of Lesbos.

Moreover, as a result of our appeals, especially our 'Keep a Place at Your Table' Christmas campaign, individuals have donated a further astonishing £2510 (plus gift aid) on CRAG's fundraising pages, where the money goes direct to the charities we support and not through our books.

And what's next? On Sunday 25 March we are honoured to welcome the internationally renowned viola da gamba players Asako Morikawa and Richard Boothby. The latter will be making a return visit to Charlbury after his extremely popular recital for CRAG in 2017. This will be a rare opportunity to hear some rarely heard gems of the French viola da gamba repertoire, introduced by the soloists. Full details are on the Charlbury website.

And in April, Gene Teo Cooke will prepare a Southeast Asian Taster Evening in the Memorial Hall, a sampling of Malaysian/Singaporean, Thai and Chinese food, with an introduction to cooking from that part of the world. Date to be confirmed.

Contact us at charlburyrefugee@gmail.com, check our website at www.charlbury.info/community/88, or follow us on Facebook.



CLASSICAL MUSIC APPRECIATION

The popular Charlbury series of classical music appreciation classes (Exploring Music) resumes on Wednesday 4 April with a day on "Stepping Stones - from Classical to Romantic".

The class is given by our professional tutor, Dr Kate Eckersley, with musical examples. We are at The Bell, Church Street, from 10.10 to 3.30pm. Lunch is available. The day class fee is £16, but there are big discounts if you book for all or some of the four future classes at intervals to October. For full details phone Peter Fry on 01993 359189.

Chinese Lessons

Fascinated by the Chinese language? Learn how the characters are formed and how to say and write them. Also how to say a few things in Chinese (Mandarin) using pinyin. Lessons for one or two persons on an hourly basis. £25 for individuals and £20 for two together.

Please call Gene (Teo Cooke) on 01608 811233 or email gteocooke@gmail.com



Scouting is a growing movement, with a 24% increase in youth numbers in Oxfordshire in the last five years.

Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are amazing! We'd love to give them even more opportunities to learn new skills.

Could you share your enthusiasm and expertise with us?

- Fire lighting- could you help with practical outdoor activities like backwoods cooking?
- Hiking – how about sharing your knowledge of the countryside and assisting in organising a hike one evening?

■ Sport – are there any particular sports you are really passionate about?

■ Bike maintenance – help with this vital skill - then help run a bike ride the following week.

These are just a few ideas of ways that you could pass on your skills, with timescales to suit you. Come and have a chat with us to find out how you could support Charlbury Scouts .

Contact Cheryl Horsey

Group Scout Leader on

cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk

Charlbury Speed Watch

Charlbury Speed Watch is operated by a group of volunteers in support of Thames Valley Police (TVP) and with the approval and support of Charlbury Town Council. The project is part of a national Police sponsored scheme that acts as a deterrent and also collects details of speeding motorists, using recording equipment approved by the police and purchased by the Town Council. Our aim is to improve safety on our roads for all users, by drawing to the attention of Charlbury and the wider driving community that excessive speed is anti-social, unwelcome and will not be tolerated.

Once recorded, TVP add the data to the database and follow up by writing to speeding motorists asking them to respect speed limits and to drive within them. Should the same vehicle appear regularly then TVP will consider taking further action. The data also potentially provides statistical information to the Town Council and Neighbourhood Plan Group to support future planning of roads and traffic management.

The group has been operating since September 2017, carrying out 13 recording sessions in the three months to December. During the sessions 1242 vehicles have been recorded exceeding the 30-mph limit. Analysis of the data collected electronically shows that almost 32% of all vehicles recorded (Total 3926) are speeding through Charlbury. This shows that we need to continue with the monitoring & recording of speeding drivers.

We spent some time at the December Farmers Market explaining what we do and received a lot of support for the activities, as well as suggestions of where best to set the sessions. We will be following up on these suggestions over the coming months.

If you would like to join us or tell us of a road where there is excessive speeding, please contact us at *charlburyspeedwatch@gmail.com*.





Walking with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

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

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 2018 can be found on the website at:

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Sunday 4th March 10.00am

History of Hornton and Surrounding Area

A strenuous walk of 11.5 miles lasting 5 hours

A walk exploring the history of this area famous for its ironstone. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Shutford Parish Church

Thursday 22nd March 10:00am

Exploring the Evenlode Valley

A moderate walk of 6.5 miles lasting 3.5 hours

Along the Evenlode Valley following the Oxfordshire Way to Chilson. Returning along the ridge via Shorthampton and Walcot.

Start: Spendlove Centre Car Park, Charlbury

Saturday 21st April 10:00am

Three Churches and a River

A moderate walk of 6.5 miles lasting 3.5 miles

Shorthampton church with its wall paintings, Spelsbury church with its memorials and St Mary's Charlbury with its staircase are the focus of this lovely walk in the Evenlode Valley.

A good reasonably priced lunch can be had afterwards at The Bell.

Start: The Bell Inn, Charlbury

Saturday 28th April 10:00am

The Glyme Valley in Springtime

A moderate walk of 10.5 miles lasting 5 hours

A walk along the beautiful Glyme valley to see the spring flowers and follow the River Glyme through Old Chalford and Lidstone.

Start: New Street Car Park, Chipping Norton

Sunday 29th April 10:00am

History of Leafield and Surrounding Area

A strenuous walk of 10 miles lasting 4 hours

A walk exploring the history of this area high in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Leafield, tidily near the Green

Tuesday 8th May 10:00am

Bluebells in Foxholes

An easy walk of 6 miles lasting 3 hours

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

Lunch options in Shipton at the end of the walk.

Saturday 12th May 10:00am

Stones and Ditches

A moderate walk of 8 miles lasting 4 hours

A walk along the Oxfordshire Way to Stonesfield, then Shakespeare's Way past Ditchley Park. A good reasonably priced lunch can be had afterwards at The Bell.

Start: The Bell Inn, Charlbury

Thursday 24th May 10:00am

Mitford Country

An easy walk of 5 miles

What could be lovelier than this walk along the Windrush valley and beyond?

Start: The Maytime, Asthall

Chipping Norton Theatre Relaxed Screening

There will be a Relaxed Screening of "Singin' in the Rain" at Chipping Norton Theatre on Monday, 26 March at 10.30 a.m. Relaxed Screenings are open to everyone but are particularly suitable for people living with dementia and their carers and for those with learning disabilities. Tickets are £5 and carers go free.

To contact The Theatre for more information phone 01608 642350. Familiarisation visits can be arranged prior to the event (Contact the Front of House Manager 01608 649121 or frontofhouse@chippingnortontheatre.com to make arrangements.)

Free nuisance call blockers for people living with dementia

The National Trading Standards Scam Team has secured Government funding to provide free call blocking technology ("trueCall Secure" units) to protect those in the most vulnerable circumstances from nuisance and scam calls. Free call blockers will be available to any person living with dementia who is currently receiving scam or nuisance calls.

If someone is eligible for a free call blocker, it will be installed and set up by a qualified engineer who will show them how to manage the unit's settings. Once they receive a unit, it will become theirs to keep and the NTS Scams Team will not ask for it to be returned at any point. There is no cost to the user for the unit; however, it is recommended that the "caller display" service is activated on the user's phone line for the unit to perform at its best.

One month after installation the user will be contacted by a member of the NTS Scams Team and asked to complete a short survey to assess how effective the unit has been at blocking nuisance calls and how they feel about nuisance calls

since receiving the unit. The NTS Scams Team will contact them again three months after installation to carry out another survey.

There are only a limited number of units available and they will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Go to the Friends Against Scams website - www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk (click on Callblocker) - to complete a survey to check if you or someone you know is eligible.

If you are interested in the idea of a callblocker but are not eligible for this scheme, you can find out more about the trueCall Secure product on the following website: www.truecall.co.uk.

Dementia Friendly Charlbury

Dementia Friendly Charlbury (DFC) 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. We 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.

Have a look at our page in the Community section (Charity and World) of the Charlbury website: www.charlbury.info.

We also want to hear from people living with dementia and/or their friends, family or other carers, if they have ideas as to how we can help to make Charlbury a good supportive place to live.

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

Mallams
1788

Throughout March Mallams jewellery specialist, Louise Dennis FGA DGA, is available to give free, confidential valuations on any piece of jewellery you are considering selling at auction.

Enquiries:
01865 241 358
louise.dennis@mallams.co.uk
www.mallams.co.uk



A pair of Art Deco diamond earrings by Cartier
Sold for £72,000 hammer price in November 2017

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION—CHARLBURY BRANCH

The Poppy Appeal for 2017 raised £5,225 in Charlbury and the surrounding area [Finstock, Fowler, Chilson, Shorthampton and Cornbury with Wychwood]. We would like to thank all those who collected and contributed.

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

Anyone who would like to help the 2018 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 your diary for 2018 when the concert will take place on Friday 9 November. During the evening the following awards were announced:-

Poppy Appeal collector awards to :-
Derek and Leah Fowler each for 25 years,

Lady Sue Grant , Jane Fitzmaurice and
Major Nick Potter each for 15 years

Judy Kinchella and Sarah Darnell each for
10 years and Yvonne Beaumont, Ted
Davis and Jenny Chambers each for 5
years.

*On the afternoon of Sunday 13
November wreaths were laid at the War
Memorial* which is in the Memorial Chapel
inside St Mary's Church. For the
Charlbury Branch Jane Parsons, for
Thames Valley Police Inspector Steve
Hookham, for Charlbury Town Council
Cllr. Ron Prew, for Charlbury WI Louise
Cashman and for Oxon Fire and Rescue
Dave Evans.

The Kohima Epitaph was read by Glen
Chapman.

The salute was taken by John Harwood
DL.

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

Branch Coffee Morning

Will be held on Saturday 21 July 2018 in
the Corner House. For information please
telephone 01608 810822.

Trip to the National Army Museum

The Branch is hoping to organise a trip to
this Museum in early summer.

Expressions of interest please to Jane
Parsons [01608 810822] by 1 May 2018.

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

Report January 2018

After five years work, the Group has completed the transcription of all the Charlbury probate documents from 1525 to 1857, for just over 700 residents of the town and outlying villages. Members of the Group are now completing the final editing, and we are also starting to investigate how we can make these transcripts available on the internet. In the meantime, paper copies for the period 1525-1732 are available for consultation in Charlbury library.

However we have found further wills which were not proved through the church courts. These were identified when the family of the late Don Stuart of Collins House, Park Street, donated the deeds of the property to Charlbury Museum. It was decided to transcribe these, and we found amongst them the will of Richard Gardiner dated 1844, which did not appear to have been proved.

Up to about 1925 much of the freehold land in Charlbury was held by the Lord of the Manor, St John's College Oxford, and let by them on Copyhold tenancies. The transfer of Copyhold land had to be approved by the Lord of the Manor through the Manor Court and each transaction was recorded in the Court Rolls or Court Books. These documents are held in the Oxford History Centre and those in English, from 1732, are in over

12 volumes, each containing about 600 pages. This would be a huge task to transcribe, but they do give a good view of the ownership of land during this period.

Where the property had been transferred by a will this document was copied into the Court Roll. We have been able to identify some 30 further Charlbury wills which had not been proved and up to now have not been included in any published list of wills. We are now transcribing these.

The documents do help us to identify more precisely the properties mentioned in the wills. For example in Edward Claydon's will of 1854 he left to his widow 'All those two tenements one in my own occupation and in the other in the occupation of Jane Burdon which I purchased of John Penson' The property is described in the Court Rolls as a small Barn which Edward Claydon 'converted into two tenements', and identified as being on the 'south side of Pools Lane between the Plain Close and Fishers Lane'.

Barbara Allison and Geoffrey Castle

We thank those organisations who have provided us with financial support including Charlbury Town Council, the Beer Festival and ChOC. Without this support we would not have been able to undertake this project

Coffee Break answers

Dingbats: 1. Double Cream; 2. For ever and a day; 3. Children in Need; 4. Peace be with you; 5. Cake Mix; 6. The game is up; 7. Man Overboard; 8. Flat Iron; 9. In the middle of nowhere; 10. Maiden Over; 11. One foot in the grave; 12. Puss in Boots.
Films: 1. Gone With the Wind; 2. Rebecca; 3. An American in Paris; 4. Lawrence of Arabia; 5. One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest; 6. Terms of Endearment; 7. Out of Africa; 8. Dances with Wolves; 9. Forrest Gump; 10. Slumdog Millionaire; 11. The King's Speech; 12. Spotlight

Tim Duester

Garden and Property Maintenance

Mobile: 07771 880828

Home: 01608 810934

timduester28@btinternet.com

All work considered

Free Estimates

"No job too small"



News from Charlbury Library

The library has now been open since the beginning of September 2017. Our initial IT issues have been fixed and I'm feeling a lot more settled in the new library now! We've been lucky, as a "new" library, to have lots of new stock allocated to us and our Adult and Junior Fiction shelves in particular, are full to capacity. Our statistics show that footfall for the period Sept-Dec 2017 had increased by approximately one third compared to the same period in 2016. However, this does not take into account the customers visiting the library when there are no staff or volunteers around to "count" them, so the actual percentage increase could be much higher.

We've also had approximately 180 new customers join the library during Sept-Dec 2017, which is fantastic! However, there's always room for more! Joining the library is free and just takes a couple of minutes, either in person at the library, or online at <https://libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk>.

We are just about to start a Digital Helper session once a month in the library for those looking to gain more confidence with their IT skills. The

February session is fully booked and the date for March is yet to be confirmed, but it's bound to be popular, so if you're interested, let me or one of the volunteers know ASAP. We also hope to be holding a number of book-related events throughout this year, so watch this space!

In line with many other libraries, we hope to be offering a regular RhymeTime session for pre-school children and their carers during term time. This would involve a short session of simple nursery rhymes and stories with assorted instruments and props and will ideally need volunteers to run it. I would be organising, setting up and supporting the RhymeTime session and any volunteers would need to be trained, so if you feel this is something you would like to get involved with, please let the library know.

Finally, the library is regularly staffed with our bank of dedicated and hard-working volunteers, many of whom offer their time for one session per month, sometimes two. If you would like to find out more about volunteering in Charlbury Library, again, please pop in or phone the number below.

Julie Ward
Manager, Charlbury Library
01608 811104

charlbury.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Friends of Charlbury Library

A very Happy (if belated) New Year to all our library users and volunteers!

We are settling into our new space and enjoying the light and colour it provides. If you haven't yet ventured into Charlbury's library, do come along and see what we offer.

We have the services of a Library Manager, Julie Ward, for part of each week and Library Volunteers give their time during other days. The library can also be accessed whenever the Community Centre is open which we hope is making it really convenient for all users.

With this welcome flexibility comes an important request. Please use the library thoughtfully and leave it as you would hope to find it.

In particular we would be very grateful if parents of small children did not allow them to handle books with sticky fingers or to scatter books across the floor. We really want using our library to be a pleasure for everyone.

Many thanks for your consideration. We look forward to seeing you in the library soon.

*Jill Judson
Friends of Charlbury Library*

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CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Artweeks - Maureen Sparling (01608 810025)
Baptist Church - Kay Colyer (01608 810107)
charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com
Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)
 Tim Widdows *charlbury.drama@gmail.com*
www.charlbury-drama.com
Charlbury Art Society (CAS) Sec: Kati Eidenbenz (01608 810911)
secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk
Charlbury Beer Festival - Jim Holah
jimholah50@yahoo.co.uk
www.charlburybeerfestival.org
Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle - John Moore (01608 810700)
Charlbury Bowls Club - Shaun Morley
enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk (01993 868134)
Charlbury Bridge Club - Secretary Monica Wilkinson (01608 810560)
Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (01608 810130) *hughandjoan@uwclub.net*
Charlbury Chronicle - Susie Finch (01608 810861) *editor.chronicle@outlook.com*
Charlbury Community Centre—Jenny Chambers (01608 811878)
Charlbury Community Centre Appeal—Tanya Stevenson *billandanya@outlook.com*
Charlbury Cricket Club - David Horne Vice
 Chairman *dw3horne@gmail.com*
www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk
Charlbury Day Centre - Bob Tait (01608 810150)
Charlbury & District Probud Club Mike White (07710 296814) *mike.ewhite7@gmail.com*
Charlbury Evergreen Club - Ken Taylor (01608 811441)
Charlbury Green Hub - Christine Elliott (01608 811057) *www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk*
Charlbury Fairtraders - Cara Williams (01608 811284) *cara@michaelcara1965.plus.com*
Charlbury Garden Society
 Chairman@charlburygardensociety.org.uk
Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club—Gill Grason (01608 810154) and Frances Canham (01608 811176)
Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (01608 811007)
peter@charlburymorris.org
www.charlburymorris.org
Charlbury Museum - Celia Faulkner (01608 810656)
Charlbury Open Gardens - Eileen Kenrick (01608 811021)
csfgardens@charlburystreetfair.org
Charlbury Music Class - Peter Fry (01993 359189)
Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club
 (Ray & Margaret) (01993 831345)
Charlbury Pre-School—Laura Barwood
laurambarwood@hotmail.co.uk (01608 811200)
Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter (01608 810388)
Charlbury School - Jane Holt, Head (01608 810354) *office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk*
www.charlbury.oxon/digitalbrain.com
Charlbury School Association - Tara Midgen
office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

Charlbury Scout Group - Cheryl Hornsby - *cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk*
Charlbury Society - Secretary Susan Merry (01608 811022)
Charlbury Street Fair - Chairman—John Dora (01608 811328) *jmdora@btinternet.com*
Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Jarman (01608 811692) *charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk*
Charlbury Town Council—Roger Clarke, clerk (01608 810608) *charlburytc@btinternet.com*
Charlbury Town Football - Keith Claridge (01608 810201 or 07870 426707)
Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - James Ball (01608 810270) *jolliecat@btinternet.com*
Charlbury Women's Institute - President - Louise Cashman (01608 676995)
Charlbury Youth Theatre—Andy Graham *andyg2439@gmail.com* (01608 659462)
ChOC Cinema - Richard Cocks (01608 810032)
Corner House Community Bookshop—Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608 811899)
Corner House and Memorial Hall - Office (01608 810879)
Churches Together - Rosalind Scott, (01608 810562) *rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk*
Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens - Harriet Baldwin (07779 157410 or 01608 811718) *akanidi90@gmail.com*
Dementia Friendly Charlbury—Meryl Smith (01608 810192) *charlburydf@gmail.com*
Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps)
 Ann/David Morton - (01608 676302)
Friends Meeting House: 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 Support) (01608 645296)
Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (01608 810635) *admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com*
www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com
Silent Sitting—Bill McMullen (01608 811430) *billmcmullen@phonecoop.coop*
St Marys C of E Church Rev Sally Welch (01608 810230)
St Teresa's RC Church Fr Tony Joyce (01608 642703)
Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (01608 811212)
The Bell Hotel (01608 810278)
The Bull Inn (01608 810689)
Thomas Gifford Trust- Margie Glasgow (01608 819253)
United Nations Association (West Oxfordshire) - Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608 811338)
Wilderness Festival—
www.wildernessfestival.com
Wychwayz Border Morris - Teresa Duester (01608 810934)
www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst



Charlbury's Police Community Support Officer

C9837 Wesley Smith

To speak to us about any concerns you may have:

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