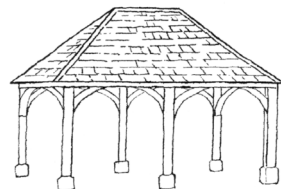


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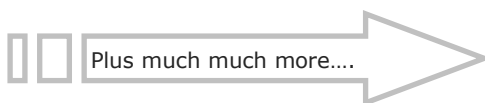
Volume 25 Number 1

Spring 2021

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

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From the Editor

As I write this we are in the middle of yet another lockdown. Here's hoping we get out of it soon! I expect by the time you read this, some of us will have had the vaccine and roll on getting back to "normal".

As you can appreciate, events happening are all on line at the moment, so we shall all be getting a dab hand at using Zoom!

If there are any of you who are feeling lonely and would like a chat, then ATIC can put you in touch with someone.

Similarly Cornerstone are able to assist with food.

During the cold weather, I have been doing more jigsaws which were given to me at Christmas! I have never done so many before and if you would like to attempt one, there are some to get from Cornerstone and the Community Centre, to while away the days. Also there are DVDs and books in

the Corner House which go towards their funds. So go in and have a look and perhaps there would be something that will take your fancy.

Its getting lighter now and soon we will be in the garden sowing seeds and putting out plants ready for Spring and Summer. Daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops are peeping out to add a bit of colour to the garden.

I'm looking forward to Easter when I, like most of you, will hopefully be able to meet up with children and grandchildren. Its last September since I saw my son and Christmas Day since I saw my daughter.

If there is anything you would like to see included in the Chronicle, then please do email me at editor.chronicle@outlook.com

I wish all of you a very happy Easter.

Susanna Finch

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Summer issue is 1st May 2021
Please send all articles to editor.chronicle@outlook.com**



Museum News

Writing this looking out of the window at the snow, it is hard to believe that when you read it spring will be on its way and we will be looking forward to Easter. In the past the coming of Easter marked an important local tradition. Every Palm Sunday those living in settlements around the Wychwood Forest could go into the forest and make liquorice water, also known as 'Spanish water'. People from Charlbury and Finstock went on Palm Sunday and those from Leafield on Easter Monday.

This tradition probably arose out of the ancient custom of visiting wells, considered sacred and thought to have healing powers, such as Ladywell at Wilcote. There are several wells on the Cornbury Estate, known by various names.

In *Charlbury of our Childhood*, Caroline Pumphrey writes that in the 1850s "any child might go there on Palm Sunday and make palm wine from liquorice and the water from Our Lady's Well."

The water of the Iron well was supposed to be medicinal and especially good for bad eyes. The Wassail spring, between it and the Dog Kennels, near Pope's Mount, was supposed to be the best water anywhere. This tradition carried on into the twentieth century and that part of the ancient forest is still open on Palm Sunday to carry on the custom. The paths that are open lead from Five Ash Bottom past Wort's Well to the Iron, or Chalybeate, Well near the Wilderness. (Chalybeate means containing iron salts or tasting of iron.)

If you look at a detailed map of the Forest, you may be able to spot wells marked and named on them.

Liquorice is native to the Mediterranean, and the Spanish variety is sweet enough to be sucked when raw. So Spanish came to refer to any liquorice that was sweet to the palate. The liquorice water

which Caroline knew was made by taking liquorice root and peppermint and mixing them with spring water. It was thought to have medicinal properties and was often decanted into small bottles of 'spring medicine' especially for children. Although not alcoholic, the mixture was pungent. It was strong enough for the young Pip in Dickens' 'Great Expectations' to try brewing some in his room, maybe hoping for a strong effect! In the 18th century a slightly different mixture using liquorice was taken to treat asthma.

Liquorice may have been introduced to Britain in the late middle ages by monks bringing it to the Pontefract area where it flourished. Pontefract cakes are still popular and of course Bassett's (established 1842) use the root in their Liquorice Allsorts.

The History of Charlbury through ... objects, photographs and memories from Charlbury Museum

Our new booklet has been selling very well but we still have copies available. 64 pages, illustrated in colour, £8 per copy.

Email info@charlburymuseum.org.uk to order or telephone 01608 810109.

Judy Dod

CHRONICLE ADVERTS

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

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A Charlbury Winter Lockdown Alphabet

(when I didn't write a book, learn a language, or master a musical instrument)

Advent windows, apps and Amazon Prime

Bubbles, books and bird song

Cake making, crosswords and cardboard packaging

Deli coffee, decluttering and digging deep

Email and exercise exploring footpaths, bridleways and hidden alleys

Flooded fields, food banks and flowers in vases

Gardening and Google Meet

Home schooling and home improvements

Ironing to pass the time, idling and Instagram

Jigsaws and juggling work, emotions, life

Knitting and knapsacks

Log fires, lockdown hair and longing for

Meeting up in twos, outside and socially distanced, masks and mud

Newspapers and news of those who are lost and for whom the world grieves

Online shopping, online meetings, online banks

Positivity (most of the time), poetry and pride in those working on the front line

Quarantine, quizzes and queuing two metres apart

Radio 4, red wine and rubbish TV

Sketchbook project pictures, sanitising and sledging in the snow

Tapestry, tea and takeaways

Uphill cycling and UPS tracking

Vaccines, videos and volunteering

Walking and walking, wishing and wellies

Xx at the end of a letter, a WhatsApp, a text

YouTube and yoga streamed at home

And, finally, what else but

Zoom

Maggie Galliers



News from Charlbury Library

At the time of writing, Charlbury Library is one of the smaller libraries that is closed to the public during lockdown. All loans have been extended until April 2021. The larger libraries are still open but for pre-booked computer use and for click and collect items only. These are...

- Abingdon
- Banbury
- Bicester
- Botley
- Cowley
- Didcot
- Headington
- Henley
- Kidlington
- Oxfordshire County
- Summertown
- Thame
- Wantage
- Witney

Search for Oxfordshire Libraries for links to all the current Library information, including how to join the library online, how to use the Click & Collect service, how to download eBooks and eAudioBooks and how to access reference sites such as Ancestry.com and newspapers/magazines. It's all free!

Our Home Library Service volunteers are continuing to visit housebound customers during Lockdown and Reading Group sets of books can still be collected at "open" branches.

During 2020, our engagement with our online library users, visitors and 'real' users, was extremely high, in common with many libraries up and down the country, even when branches were open

again in the summer: virtual rhymetimes, storytimes, podcasts and a significantly enhanced ebook offer helped to keep customers on board.

Since Lockdown 1 there have been over 2 million online visits, social media engagements, use of the library app or digital downloads (more than 200,000 eBook/eAudio downloads). Last year, there were more than 3.3 million library loans (online and print) and 2.3 million library visits!

Despite our online success, we very much hope that all our libraries will be open again soon for everyone to use. Myself and our Charlbury Library volunteers are on standby to help resume normal service as soon as it is safe to do so. We all look forward to meeting you in the Library in happier days to come!

Julie Ward
charlbury.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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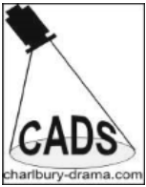
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Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Due to the Covid19 Pandemic all activity within our group has ceased; it was I suppose expected, as performances all over the country ceased and theatres closed.

As I write, on this exact weekend a year ago, we performed our Pantomime 'Treasure Island'. How could we guess that less than two months later our lives would change so drastically. One of our cast Alastair Kerr, tragically died in the spring, a real shock for us all, especially his family, to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

In the autumn we had more sad news as Ian Carrington, dearly beloved husband of Dorothy Carrington, had passed away. Ian was such a real gentleman, he will be very sadly missed. Dorothy a member of CADS for many years both acting and singing with her beautiful voice.

The pandemic has made our farewells even harder as attendance at funerals is so restricted that we were unable to attend.

Our Committee has been unable to meet regularly which I have particularly missed. I have received a few enquiries from those wishing to join, however, everything seems on hold.

On a personal note I have really missed rehearsals and especially performances, wishing that somehow we were able to undertake some public play reading online.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and friends a very Happy New Year. I believe and trust we can soon recommence our activities and continue with renewed enthusiasm.

Helen Wright



Charlbury Cricket Club

Last season, cricket in Charlbury was curtailed for several months because of the Covid epidemic, but we still managed to keep the game alive with matches from July through to September. There is obviously some uncertainty about the coming season but the Cherwell League has already drawn up a full programme of cricket starting in early May and we are preparing to be ready for the go-ahead.

The League has expanded the number of teams by absorbing clubs from the Oxfordshire Cricket Association and, by regionalising fixtures, many clubs will have shorter travelling times to play games. Charlbury has three Saturday league teams as well as a women's side in the Home Counties women's League. We are also arranging an array of midweek short-format games, friendlies and hiring out our pitches to county youth games as well as Oxfordshire's Over-60s teams. Tom Eaton, our previous club chairman, has taken on responsibility this year for our popular youth section, with games for U11, U13, U15 and U17 age groups.

The club website is being updated so that information about all our fixtures, including those for youth teams, will be listed. We are also setting up an expanded social media facility to provide continuing interest for all club members.

The club has a new vice-chairman, Alex Westbury, who also deals with Health and Safety issues, while Simon Smith has taken over the role of club treasurer. Team captains are Tom Nash, Simon Smith, Stuart Duff and Abi Florey.

It could well be that measures like social distancing because of Covid will still be in place, but our hope is that boys, girls and adult cricketers will get a full season in 2021.

David Horne, club chairman



Charlbury Scout Group

Despite all that is going on, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers have remained active throughout the Autumn and into the New Year. Another lockdown is another chance to show that our motto is 'Be Prepared' and the pandemic has proven the abilities of our wonderful leaders and young people to adapt and be prepared for a constantly changing situation.

Scout troops are perhaps best known for camping, and we won't be deterred by lockdown or a cold winter. Wintercamp (an event usually held at Scout HQ Gilwell each year) was held virtually in January, with several of our Scouts (and a parent or two) bravely camping outside in their gardens – lots of insulating layers underneath and multiple sleeping bags meant they stayed warm!

Virtual meetings have included science experiments, international cooking and fire safety (there is a link). The troop completed some navigation/geocaching activities when face-to-face Scouting was possible in the Autumn, with the last meeting before Christmas being a torchlit (and rather muddy) wide game.

Cubs were first out of the blocks with some outdoor meetings in October – the Nine Acres committee kindly permitted use of the upper field for some Athletics badge activities and a brilliant new game devised by Baloo - 'Extreme Social Distancing' - ask a Cub. The return to virtual meetings in November gave more opportunities for completing the Teamwork Challenge badge – and seeing who could produce the loudest Grand Howl!

Beavers held a couple of face-to-face meetings before Christmas – a great opportunity to play games in real space and time! The colony has joined in enthusiastically with lots of scavenger

hunts, building and creative challenges during our Zoom meetings over the last few months. In the spirit of Scouting, Buckinghamshire Beavers have invited us to join their Superhero Camp in March – we're really looking forward to gaining some more 'Nights Away' badges and trying their activities.

Since our last report, we held our AGM (online of course), including a fantastic quiz provided by Richard Owen, who co-ordinates Young Leader training for Oxfordshire.

We were delighted to welcome our new Treasurer, Ben Peters, to the Scout Group Exec (with grateful thanks to the previous Treasurer, Henda Knobel).

We are also very pleased to have a new Beaver Leader, Jo Paton, and would really like to welcome other adults to support all the sections as we hope to return to more outdoors-based activities in the future.

Oxfordshire Scouting has an excellent training and support framework for leaders and supporters, to help provide the skills and knowledge to provide Scouting for our young people.

Perhaps you have happy memories of Scouting or Guiding from your youth and want to give something back by getting involved with the group? Or maybe you have a skill that you could share with the group over an evening or two?

Please do contact me on cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk if you or your child would like to be involved with the Group.

*Cheryl Horsey
Group Scout Leader – 1st Charlbury*



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Uncultivated field margins are intended for wildlife

We are fortunate that several farmers and estates in this area are trying to make a positive contribution to conserving the environment and increasing biodiversity by leaving unploughed field margins around some of their fields. Payments are made under current environmental stewardship schemes to maintain a 4m to 6m buffer strip (field margin); these payments help to offset the money they could have made from farming the margins instead.

The Rural Payments Agency and Natural England state that 'A grass buffer strip may provide new habitat, protect existing landscape features, and improve water quality' - a really wonderful thing. However, there are restrictions: for example, the land must NOT be used for access (including by the public) the aim being that it should be a refuge for nature to encourage increased biodiversity, undisturbed by trampling.

Payments to the farmers can be withheld if the conditions are seen to be breached. Unfortunately, some people have chosen to ignore or even remove signs put up by farmers regarding access; such removal means that we may be unaware of restrictions and, unwittingly, be the cause

of such a breach.

Field margins are really important zones for our diminishing wildlife, including flowers, insects, small mammals and birds throughout the year, and it is important to create corridors and connections for wildlife across the landscape. The new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme will go even further to reward farmers for adopting environmentally sustainable farming practices, so in time, we hope to see even more land being managed to help the ecology and biodiversity around us. However, if we walk (with or without dogs), ride etc on these margins, we will not only adversely affect the wildlife but also adversely affect the likelihood of these margins being implemented or retained.

As a community, let's work together to support the efforts of our farmers by respecting the restrictions regarding the margins and use instead our local network of public footpaths which are all clearly marked. And to the farmers, it would be great to have even more support for wildlife, and more field margins for plants and wildlife.

Louise Spicer & Genny Early

Cornerstone at the Corner House

We will continue to be open Monday - Saturday 10am - 1pm. Please respect social distancing. We continue to give food to those who need help. We also have a Give and Take shelf where you can donate food or pick up items that you need.

You can also make a financial donation to the Cornerstone. Please get in touch if you need any support or food help at this time.

cornerstone@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

07510 772764 during opening hours.

Buying pollinator-friendly flowers and bulbs for your garden

There are lots of ways that you can make your garden friendly for wildlife. Roselle Chapman from Wild Oxfordshire shares some of her top tips here (listen Penny Post from 5 minutes 30 seconds).

https://pennypost.org.uk/2020/12/wildlife-friendly-gardening-tips/?fbclid=IwAR2Mr_n35twGCux42gX9A7TQ7DY5X2Os9ibaRbJqaOgaZ1IhguwURmp1TMO

Winter Wildlife Tips

Winter flowering shrubs such as viburnums, lonicera and mahonia provide vital nourishment for bumble bees and other pollinators. Hollow stalks like sage, dead nettle, allium, fennel (above), golden rod will be home to insect eggs and larvae during the winter so do not tidy them out of your garden. Wood piles are important habitats for beetles and other insects that are the bottom of the food chain and scrubby areas of the garden provide refuge for small mammals and amphibians who need shelter from predators (especially cats). When buying bulbs for the spring see below for the importance of using suppliers who do not treat their bulbs with pesticides which will harm pollinators along with the other insects they are designed to kill.

In general, if you maximise the biodiversity of your garden, you will have a healthy predator/prey web which means that the critters you don't want around (e.g., aphids) will be taken care of by their natural predators (e.g., parasitic wasps). If you use chemicals to kill aphids, the wasps will be killed too.

Looking ahead to the spring, your lawn doesn't need to be carpet-perfect (unless you are a bowling or golf club!).

If you leave the moss it will keep the moisture in your lawn so you don't have to water it so often and if you don't cut it so short and allow clover, daisies and

dandelions to flourish you will be providing welcome food for pollinators.

This is a tricky topic as everyone who buys flowers to feed bees and other pollinators that visit their garden will be gutted to realise that those flowers (often marketed as 'bee-friendly') will actually be a poisoned chalice if they contain pesticides. Designed to kill aphids and sap-sucking insects, pesticides are also very harmful to our precious pollinators. Recent research suggests that the distribution of bee and hoverfly species has declined by an average of 25% across Britain since 1980, particularly among specialist species (Powney et al., 2019).

Farmers do need to protect their crops from insects. But researchers like Professor David Goulson from the University of Sussex believe that less harmful chemicals will not be developed as long as growers are allowed to use pesticides like neonicotinoids in an emergency and the big pharma companies that make them, like Bayer and Syngenta, continue to take powerful legal action against the bans on neonicotinoids.

In 2018 Goulson and Friends of the Earth launched the Great British Bee Count and there was much media coverage of the issue of neonics. David also analysed the pesticide levels in plants on sale in garden centres and shops that revealed many plants being marketed as 'bee-friendly' were in fact laced with pesticides harmful to bees.

In response to media coverage, B&Q and other retailers announced that they were prohibiting their suppliers from using neonicotinoids. But other pesticides that are very harmful to pollinators are still legal. So, the problem still exists.

How to avoid bringing pesticides into your garden

Be careful who you buy from. There are plenty of organic bulb and plant suppliers to choose from. The initial investment might be a little bit more expensive, but you could save money by swapping plants with friends, propagating cuttings from plants like cranesbill geraniums and lungwort, lavender and rosemary or growing from seed. In 2018, UK bulb retailer Peter Nyssen decided to source all their spring-flowering bulbs from growers who don't use neonics so that their customer's spring flowers will be genuinely bee friendly.

Also make sure that everything has been grown in peat-free compost because peat acts as a carbon store, it's a great habitat for wildlife, it has a role in water management, and preserves things well for archaeology.

Pet flea treatment endangers water insects

It is also now being recognised that the nerve agent in pet flea treatment called fipronil exists at very harmful levels in our rivers, threatening water insects and the birds and fish higher up the food chain that depend on them.

The washing of pets was already known to flush fipronil into sewers and then rivers, while dogs swimming in rivers causes direct contamination. "It has to be the flea treatments causing the pollution," Goulson said. "Really, there's no other conceivable source."

There are many veterinary products containing fipronil and imidacloprid in the UK, many of which are sold without prescriptions. Many pets are treated monthly, whether they have fleas or not.

One of the worst cases is from Dec 2018 – Jan 2019 when half a million bees in Brazil were killed by fipronil that was used to control ants and termites on soy crops.

So please talk to your vet about limiting flea treatment of your pets.

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/>

St Mary's Charlbury

Keeping in touch

All events will be held on Zoom. To take part in any of these, contact Jo at parishoffice@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

Birds Eye View of the Bible with John Partington. Bible, Church History, Church of England, Christian Doctrine. Wednesdays 10am – 11.30am 10th February till 3rd March.

Books of the Bible

A weekly series of introductions to each of the books of the Bible, followed by discussion. 10.30am Tuesday 16th February, and then weekly.

Compline in Lent on Zoom

6pm on Wednesdays and Sundays. Wed. Feb 17th – Sun. March 28th.

Lent Discussions

A weekly Zoom session during Lent to share and discuss your reflections on the daily Lent Readings, lasting about an hour. Thursdays at 2pm from Feb 25th.

Readings and Discussions on Four British Poets with Robert Fraser. Thomas Hardy, Edward Thomas, R.S. Thomas and Dylan Thomas.

Fridays in March 2pm - 3.30pm.

Resources

A Pilgrimage through Lent. Weekly leaflets offering walking routes and reflections as we journey to Easter. Copies available in church.

Children and Young People

Sunday Club (children 4-11)

Join the Sunday Club team via Zoom for Bible stories and crafts. Sundays 10am. Contact David Nicholls on david.bn@btinternet.com

Half Term Activity bag: Signs of Hope

These will be available at the beginning of Half Term. Contact the Parish Office if you would like one.

Mothering Sunday Messy Church

Sunday 14th March 2021. This will be either in St Mary's or available in take-away form.



CHARLBURY Community Centre

Coronavirus Help

Charlbury Community Centre is still organising volunteers and staff to deliver items from local shops to people who are staying at home. If you, or someone you know, is self-isolating and needs food or other items, please contact us on 01608 811878, between 10am and 1pm. Equally, anyone who would like to volunteer to help, please call the centre or email Daniela Jenkins at info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk. Whatever help you need, just ask and we will do our best.

Keep Charlbury Active

How far can Charlbury get under its own steam? When you go out for a walk, run or cycle ride, we'd love you to measure the miles you do and add them to a total covered by the people of Charlbury and neighbouring villages. Let's see if we can get round the coast of Britain (at time of writing we were already in North Wales). The Community Centre will keep a tally of all your contributions and will let you know where we have collectively got to. To log your miles and find out more, go to: <https://www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk/keep-charlbury-active-and-clean/>, where you can also find maps of suggested walks and track our progress.

We'd love to know about your experiences taking part in the challenge, so use **#charlburychallenge** to share your photos on Instagram or Facebook and tell us what you've been up to.

Charlbury's Spring Clean

We would like your help to collect as much litter as we can by the end of lockdown. So next time you head out for a walk, don't forget your litter bags and gloves!

News from Charlbury Community Centre

Here's what we need you to do:

- Collect litter you find when out on a walk and place it in a bag
- The bags you use will need to be tied and left at the Community Centre
- If possible, please split the litter you find into recyclable and non-recyclable waste
- Please leave all litter bags next to the big bins at the Community Centre, ensuring they are tied in a knot at the top (pop the bags the other side of the fence so they're not blocking the walkway)

Litter pickers are available to borrow from the Community Centre.

Top tips to remember:

- Always wear gloves when picking up litter
- Do not collect any hazardous waste such as dog poo or sharp objects
- You are still only allowed to go out once a day for exercise, so make this part of your daily walk – do not make a special trip

Our Youth Team will be weighing the litter collected and will announce the total at the end of lockdown.

*Tanya Stevenson
Charlbury Community Centre*

Charlbury Day Centre

It has been recognised for a long time that healthy old age can be promoted by keeping active, eating a sensible diet and taking exercise.

Prior to the formation of the NHS the chronic sick and elderly were cared for by their families or in workhouses and infirmaries.

The advent of the NHS saw a dramatic change to this with the emergence of the speciality of Geriatrics, providing treatment and the discharge into the community of many of those people, who had been incarcerated and forgotten about before.

This in turn gave birth to the idea of Day Care. A concept that originated in the USA and one of the groups to benefit from this were the elderly.

The main aim of Adult Day Care is to provide quality care and enriching interactions with other participants. It enables them to enjoy activities such as arts and crafts, music, games, exercise regimes, interest discussion, and general socialisation and to form friendly relationships. The aim is also, if possible, to prevent admissions to hospital or long term care. An added benefit is that it enables the participant's carers to have a respite break.

Charlbury Day Centre can have 12 elderly pensioners, opens once a week, is run by a salaried professional manager and is dependent on about 40 volunteers, who transport, cook or assist in the day to day activities.

As always we welcome new members and new volunteers.

Bob Tait



Charlbury—Gateway to Walking the Cotswolds

There is certainly more walking going on around Charlbury in these difficult times. Walkers are Welcome which is a national organisation (there are only a 100 or so locations certified in the UK and few in the Cotswolds) to develop walks and promote best practice for walkers.

Walkers are Welcome Charlbury are now embarking on a new drive to promote the diverse walks around Charlbury for local people and we need help in particular on Social Media.

What's App groups are being set up which will enable walkers at different levels of ability and interest to communicate e.g., one under five miles and another over. This will enable accompanied walks at short notice with the better weather! All are welcome to join this group.

Similarly, we are keen to link with local groups to promote more walking events and work with local Pubs, B&B etc. All ideas are welcome!

To find out more about us and join our activities contact our secretary Paul Jackson on 01608 811370 or email pauldjackson1@outlook.com

For local walks see <https://www.charlbury.info/walking>

Tony Merry

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Charlbury Beer and Wine Circle

When you read this, it will be over 12 months since our last tasting and sadly, it is not clear yet when the next one will be.

But, we are prepared to go ahead just as soon as we are able: we know where and how but not when. Our first "Unlocked" meeting will be an event at which members will bring their own food and drink and may be outdoors if weather permits. In the meantime we have to keep drinking the wine to make sure it remains in great condition!

We email our members on a regular basis to keep them informed and anyone else is welcome to join our mailing list.

In the meantime, continue to enjoy your favourite tipple and stay safe. For more information please contact:
charlburywineandbeercircle@gmail.com

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The Wardens: playing the waiting game

Having had a brief respite from enforced idleness during the back end of last year, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens are once again waiting for the 'all-clear' from the Cotswold Conservation Board to restart their work looking after our local countryside. The few jobs that we were able to get on with in the second half of 2020 focused mainly on keeping footpaths from becoming overgrown, cutting back brambles and nettles, and woodland management in places such as Dean Common and Charlbury's own Centenary Wood. We also managed to fit in laying bark chippings on the permissive path from the burial ground to the bottom of Pound Hill, which has helped to make it firmer under foot.

Owned by Oxfordshire County Council, Centenary Wood is a wonderful asset for the community. A long-term management plan for it was established in 2012 that relies extensively on volunteers to do much of the month-to-month maintenance that is needed, both to keep its amenity value for us today and to make sure that it can develop in such a way that future generations can enjoy it as well. And woodland management is not just about keeping the grass trimmed along the main pathways; it involves selective thinning of some of the established trees to make room for others to grow tall and strong, and coppicing species such as hazel in order to provide a regular supply of materials for countryside activities such as hedge-laying.

You may well have seen where the Wardens have been working recently, mainly coppicing hazel and trying to keep the invasive blackthorn under control. Having cut the hazel, we build

covers over the stumps using blackthorn or other prickly wood to protect the new shoots from being nibbled by deer. And we have been building dead-hedges using the cut branches that are too big to be used for anything else, providing an alternative wildlife habitat.

We have noticed, though, that other people have been clearing invasive species such as blackthorn and cherry – which is great. Some trees have also been cut down, which is less welcome, and the Wardens would like to stress that work like that does need to tie in with the management plan for the wood. So, if you are eager to get out and help maintain Centenary Wood, please get in touch with us first. Our contact details are in the community directory at the back of the Chronicle.

Just another reminder – the Wardens' programme of guided walks through the Cotswolds countryside is still on hold for the moment, but will be back as soon as we are allowed to do so. We will be using a booking system to start with, so look out for updates on the Charlbury website.

Simon Walker

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Perhaps one of the slight advantages of being in lockdown in the coldest winter months is the opportunity it gives us to do our own small pieces of research, maybe long planned but rarely attempted, to explore virtually the museums and galleries of the U.K. and the world, to watch Opera, to read those books we've always wanted to and to borrow from friends, or buy from the Cornerstone.

But also the opportunity Zoom has given us to engage with society meetings has, I can see for many of us, been a new and very welcome distraction for long dark winter evenings.

I am tremendously heartened by the response of the ever growing membership of the Charlbury Society to join us for what has been so far this season an excellent series of talks, with more to come up until May, including Courting Elizabeth, the cult of the Virgin Queen, Oxfordshire Characters from the Civil War, the Story of the Ascott Martyrs, and The Past, Present and Future of Women's Colleges in Oxford, a repeat of the excellent talk by Alice Prochaska a year or so ago which many have told me they sadly missed. Planning for our next season is well underway.

I am indebted to Peter Bennett, our previous Chair, for his notes on the early meetings of the Society, and as many of you know, it was set up 71 years ago. I thought you would be interested to see a small selection of the extracts he has prepared.

On 25th May 1949, a meeting was held at the school to establish the Society. John Kibble, stonemason and author, was the first president, with Alfred Searle, a consulting chemist elected chairman and Mrs. Evelyn Evans, a doctor's widow, made secretary. The first lecture was held in August, with a talk on Cornbury

Park, followed by a tour of the house at the invitation of Oliver Watney.

'The Leaflet', an almost full set held in the museum, tells us that there was a talk and expedition to Cornbury House at the invitation of Oliver Watney in August 1949 and to the Ashmolean Museum in November.

The Society has been asked to be trustee of funds for the upkeep of seats and shrubs bought with raffle proceeds during Festival of Britain Week in 1951. Seats were suggested for Banbury Hill, Sturt Road, Nine Acres Lane near Hazeldene, the churchyard and the triangle on Dyers Hill, which is also to have a silver birch. Other trees to be planted at the churchyard, the Baptist Chapel garden, the cemetery, Sheep Street., Woodstock Road. near the track to Stonesfield, the orchard on Enstone Road. and the Thames Street/Nine Acres Lane junction, with two seats at the bus stop in Church Street.

In 1952 they proposed the tablet on the drinking fountain to mark the work of John Kibble. It was finally fitted in June 1954, although it states that the fountain was designed and built by Kibble. We now know this is incorrect, in that he submitted a design, but it was not accepted. He built the winning design.

At the 1955 AGM there were 26 paid-up members and £4.10.3 in the bank. The anti-litter campaign was to continue.

Mr Oliver Watney gave a talk on Cornbury, mentioning that several oaks in the park were there at the time of the Domesday Book. After the talk, there was discussion on the closure of footpaths, and a unanimous decision to protest to the County Council against the closure of the path through Cornbury Park to Finstock.

And finally, in 1954: A public debate was organised, **'Charlbury must modernise**

Charlbury Society (contd)

or perish', proposed by Mr. Meadows & Mrs Upton, opposed by Miss Prescott and Mr Robinson. There were speeches by members of the audience and the parish council. The vote was a tie at 37 each, so Dr. Delmege, the chairman, had the casting vote, for the motion.

So we have modernised and you have enthusiastically supported our Society over the past few months with membership at over 130, and a large proportion of members, together with our friends from the Wychwood LHA, joining us for our talks in the comfort and warmth of your homes. We shall continue of course, for the time being to bring you talks by Zoom .

We should love to recruit one or two more committee members with ideas and enthusiasm , so do contact me at chair.charlsoc@gmail.com especially if you are new to the Society or to Charlbury, we would really welcome your involvement.

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

Despite the restrictions The Poppy Appeal for 2020 raised a magnificent £1,374.18. We would like to thank all those who contributed at the Pop up Poppy shop on the 26 October and the two local shops throughout the designated two weeks.

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 2021 Poppy Appeal in any way is asked to contact either Pam or Ian.

The Remembrance Sunday Service was streamed via Zoom.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Charlbury Branch and Charlbury Town Council.

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.

Assistance

At the present time Branch meetings are postponed but 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 with regard to membership.

The telephone number for the Royal British Legion Contact Centre is 0800 8028080. This is a countrywide service.

Jane Parsons

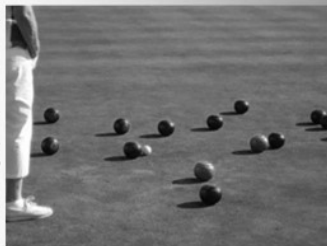
Charlbury Bowls Club

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

www.charlburybowls.co.uk

Open Day

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



bowls club? Then come along to an open day and roll up a few bowls. No obligation, but you might actually enjoy it and want to play more! Email enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk for more information

Saturday 24 April at 2.00pm; Wednesday 28 April at 2.00pm and 6.00pm; and Monday 31 May at 2.00pm

All you need to bring is yourself and a pair of flat sports-type shoes or trainers - we can lend you everything else you need.

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Charlbury Bowls Club



Exhilarating times! As our season outdoors ended in late September, we were full of hope when our indoor, short-mat bowls was able to commence in October despite a cancellation of all leagues and competitive games. We achieved 'Covid-Safe' status from our sport's governing body and could play just one mat of pairs, but our hopes of extending further were dashed when the November lockdown came, and we have not been able to play since. Therefore, all our efforts turned to preparing for summer outdoor bowls as we await a decision on our planning application for four extensions to our clubhouse. In line with our four-year development plan, we will have an exciting start to outdoor bowling on our Little Ox Brew Bowls Green. Anyone trying out bowls can come up to six times before deciding whether to join, and all anyone needs is a pair of flat-soled shoes, like trainers. We have the rest. If you need more information on any of the following contact us by e-mail at enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk, or via messenger on our Facebook page.

Disability Bowls

Bowls is a game that can be enjoyed at a social and competitive level by all, and as an inclusive club we have obtained funding to purchase an extensive range of equipment to assist people with disabilities to enjoy our sport. Whether you have physical, sensory or learning (Intellectual) disability, you are welcome to try out bowls. We have specialist bowls wheelchairs for use on the green, various devices to assist those with physical disabilities like loss of limb or trouble with bending low. Anyone who joins is fully integrated into the club and plays alongside all members in casual roll-ups, club competitions and competitive fixtures. From May we will also be holding regular sessions for people with

memory problems, including mild and moderate dementia. Contact us for more information.

Junior Bowls

Bowls is also a game that can be played by people of all ages and in May we start our own Junior Section. We have obtained funding for equipment needed to get juniors playing. We will take any age from eight years (late seven-year olds accepted) up to fifteen. Juniors will be divided into appropriate age groups, supported by trained coaches. Our weekly Junior sessions will be on Saturday mornings at 11.00am, commencing 1 May. We will also run a summer school – look out for details. Parents are welcome to stay, and even help out!

Challenge to the Ladies of Charlbury and nearby

We aim to recruit twelve new lady players over the next two years to support our experienced bowlers as we aim to enter a team in the West Oxfordshire Ladies League by 2023. All ages welcome. Contact us or simply turn up to one of our Open Days.

Social Members

Don't want to play but live locally and want to enjoy our facilities but not play bowls? You can join as a social member for just £12 a year. Come to one of our open days, or turn up whenever we have something on and you will be shown around and can decide if you want to join.

Open Days

Everyone is welcome to try out bowling for free – just turn up with your flat-soled shoes from 2.00pm on Saturday 24 April, 2.00pm and 6.00pm on Wednesday 28 April, or 2.00pm on Monday 31 May.

Shaun Morley

I Love February

by Miles Walkden

I love February, said no one, ever
It's the shortest month that goes on forever
It starts in Winter, and ends in Spring
And the best part about it? Not a bloody thing

The garden's grey, the skies are greyer
you can't go out without an extra layer
It's almost a year till Christmas Day
And summer hols are months away

The mud on the footpaths come up to your knees
The rain stings your face as it starts to freeze
February, February, you give nothing but pleasure
Said absolutely no one, absolutely ever

But look again through a different lens
In Latin, februa, it means to cleanse
So clean out your skillet, grab sugar and lemon
And send those children to Pancake heaven

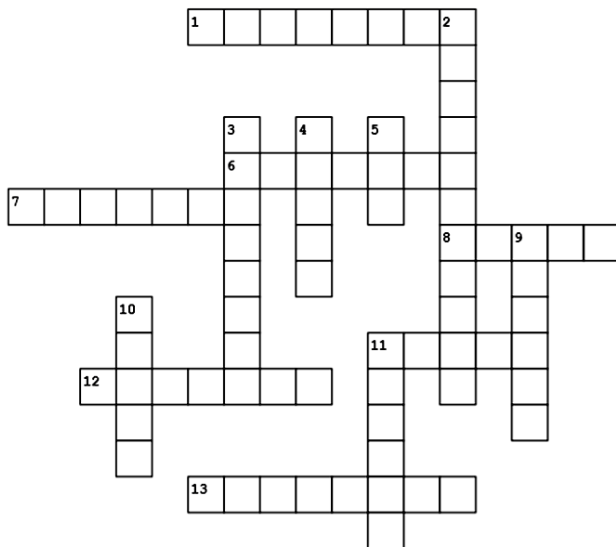
The last of the winter, the spring round the corner
The waking of flora, the stirring of fauna
see through ground the bulb leaf tops
and out on the grass, the white snow drops

So, Benedick hide your February Face
It's the shortest of months, so through it we'll race
And halfway through we'll send secret missives
and bunches of roses and Valentine kisses



Coffee break page

Compiled by Miles Walkden and Michele Marietta



Across

1. Scottish Synth-pop band, Charlbury has 5
6. Villainous word; We are not one
7. See 5, 11 & 10 Down; Twin Repetition
8. I'm not against them I'm....; Charlbury Chat
11. See 5 Down
12. Beer Maker's derriere, place (11 down)
13. What Forest?

Down

2. Rocky agricultural land; place
3. Balanced weight; flowing
4. 60 mph apparently, Brum rock band
5. Bird's Favourite, Suet Spheres (11 across)
9. Stands to..., Green Party
10. Charlbury ... U16, OMGFL League title winners
11. See 12 Across

Answers on page 27



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Rediscover Nature

Rediscover Nature —local trails and workshops

Many of us have been out walking a lot more over the last year, but it's easy to find yourself stuck in autopilot, treading the same trails again and again without really paying attention to your surroundings.

Would you like to see your local green spaces with a fresh pair of eyes, and perhaps discover some new places to explore whilst you exercise? I'm hoping Rediscover Nature can help with that!

I'm a local ecologist – keen to share my passion for the wonderful wildlife we have on our doorstep.

Starting in March, I will be setting up a series of temporary self-guided Wildlife Explorer Trails that explorers of all ages

can follow to learn some fascinating nature facts about the local wildlife found in each season.

If you are keen to delve into more detail, I will also be running a half day interactive workshop during each season (spring/summer/autumn/winter) with a different wildlife focus each time.

Booking will be available online soon – see the Rediscover Nature Facebook page for more details coming soon (facebook.com/rediscovernature1), or keep an eye for updates on the Charlbury.info website.

Katherine Holmes
rediscover.nature@outlook.com



Charlbury – A Home For Wildlife

The last year has made many of us more aware of our relationship with nature, how we share our world with other creatures, and how it is our very relationships with these other creatures that make us human.

Dog ownership has soared. Dogs have traditionally co-habited with humans in a working role. A rage for lap dogs and dogs as pets emerged with the Victorian middle classes. This has continued such that the 2020 PDSA Animal Well Being (PAW) report says that 41% of all households in the UK have a pet, with 11 million cats, 10 million dogs and 1 million rabbits.

Sometimes very early on particularly cold mornings, before light, I can hear scurrying on or in my roof, and I find it comforting that a field mouse or vole from the garden is finding a bit of warmth—as long as it doesn't bite through the electrical cables.

My house is particularly popular with several kinds of spiders, I find lady birds and lacewings in the folds of curtains. Late evenings the tawny owls arrive and might spend an hour communing in the nearby trees or on the roof – obviously keeping a look out for one of those mice. A neighbourhood cat will walk through also looking for mice.

And there are birds - I have a couple of wood pigeons, some blackbirds, different tits, robins, house sparrows or dunnocks nesting nearby and sometimes a spotted woodpecker or a goldfinch pops in. Each year beautiful emperor dragonflies emerge and cruise up and down the garden. I'm always pleased to see frogs and have put in a couple of small ponds to encourage them. Last Summer I picked up the paw prints of a hedgehog - our precious Charlbury Hedgehogs will be more active soon as the warm Spring weather arrives. Early last Summer I had a nest of bumble bees in the ground

which I worked out were the tree bumble bee, *Bombus hypnorum*. At the end of the Summer wasps nest in the roof; they are very mild and rarely survive the winter.

It would be so interesting to hear about the wild creatures that live in your house or garden. Many of these creatures, once common, are becoming rare. Someone was telling me about a very large grass snake at the bottom of their garden. We can encourage wild animals by providing appropriate habitat and food sources, by leaving what we consider untidiness – wilderness in our gardens.

When I first came to Charlbury in the 1970s there were more dilapidated buildings than there are now. Over the last 50 years, alongside the industrialisation of agriculture in the countryside there has been much renovation and building in the towns and villages.

We have filled in the nooks and crannies where creatures took refuge. While swifts, for instance, may have lived in Charlbury for decades, many of their original nesting sites in our houses will have been filled in so that now if we want them to keep revisiting us every Summer, we have to make a concerted effort to provide them with nesting sites with special holes in our buildings or nesting boxes. There are about 50 swift nesting sites around Charlbury, the majority are constructed by humans. Each year the young swifts look for potential nesting sites for the next year.

You are invited on **Thursday 11th March 19.30** to join Rachel Pearson, a volunteer with the **Oxford City Swift Project** on Zoom.

Rachel will tell us how the project is providing other nesting sites around Oxford for these spectacular and iconic birds in addition to the Oxford University Museum Swift Tower, the best recorded nesting site in the country – so that Oxford can truly be the city of swifts. Please email charlburywildlife@charlburygreenhub.org or [charlburygreenhub.org](https://www.charlburygreenhub.org) for more information.

Flora Gregory

A Days Life: Dawn Colvin and Chris Willy – WW2 Evacuees to Bermuda and the Bahamas

In November last year, Liz Woolley gave a talk to the Charlbury Society on Oxfordshire in World War II, with special emphasis on child evacuees. To the audience's delight Chris Willy, a Charlbury resident, shared his experiences as an evacuee to the Bahamas after the talk. The next day Dawn Colvin and Chris compared notes, and found they were evacuated on the same ship, although Dawn went to Bermuda. Here are some of their memories of that time.

Why were they evacuated abroad?

Chris was born in 1929. By June, 1940, he was at a boarding school, Belmont School, in Lichfield, Staffordshire. The school had moved there from Sussex, following the Government's advice for schools to move away from the south coast for fear of an imminent German invasion. At that time, his mother Peggy and stepfather Eric Malcolm were living in India, where Eric had gone to manage his family's jute factory. [Ed: Malcolm, Ogilvie & Co was founded in 1850, and incorporated in 1894. It is no longer a jute manufacturer, but has other manufacturing interests]

As with many parents, especially those living abroad, Chris' parents wanted him to be evacuated out of England and, like others, asked the school to arrange this. The headmaster, Max Burr, had several useful contacts. He knew a multi-millionaire in the Bahamas, Sir Harry Oakes, who was able to provide a house for a small school contingent, and he had a contact in the Admiralty who helped him to find a ship leaving England, the RMS Orduna. It was calling at Bermuda, the Bahamas, and South America. Chris was one of a small group from their school. There was the deputy headmaster Mr Jeffries, who was registered as not fit for active service due to being gassed in WW1, his niece, and 18 children, mostly boys but with

one or two of their sisters. They couldn't take much luggage, and Mr Jeffries' niece could only take one book –the complete music of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Dawn: her family was living in North London, and after the fall of Dunkirk in 1940, there was the threat of imminent invasion. Dawn's father was in the RAF, but, because of his age, wasn't allowed to fly in combat. He also knew he would be posted abroad imminently. So he decided that Dawn, her mother and sisters should be evacuated to Bermuda. He didn't know anyone there, but probably chose it as it was in the Sterling Zone. He would therefore be able to send money more easily for their keep than to, say, Canada. It was a very happy choice. They got a train to Liverpool and in August 1940, embarked on the RMS Orduna. The passenger list included many other children, with and without parents, together with a number of refugee European families who were going to South America to find a new life there.

The Sea voyage

Chris: They left Liverpool on the 11th August in a convoy of around 40 ships, which included several neutral ships sheltering with the others. They were accompanied by three destroyers for the first four days, but then these left to fetch another convoy.

Dawn: after the ship left, it sailed in convoy consisting of British and neutral ships, protected by three small destroyers. As I recall, we spent most of the days we were in convoy responding to instructions to assemble at life boat stations. At times, things got quite heated, and I remember an occasion when the sailors supervising us had to restrain some of the foreign men from rushing to their stations before the women and children. We had a good view up by our lifeboats, and could see the little destroyers dashing about like sheep dogs, trying to keep us all together to thwart the U boats. Our boat was kept right in the middle of the convoy.

Chris: the following day after the destroyers left, he remembers standing

at the stern of the ship and seeing a huge cloud of smoke and spray as one of the neutral ships was struck by a torpedo and sunk. Immediately all the sirens started and the convoy scattered, and within three hours there were no other ships to be seen. It was a devastating blow – later it was found that three or five ships had been sunk.

Dawn: early one morning I watched a very small elegant ship which had been sailing close beside us, suddenly seem to lift out of the water as if it was standing up, and then silently slip under the water. After this, the convoy dispersed (and it seems that three or four other ships had been lost) and the Orduna proceeded to Bermuda.

Reaching the ports

Chris: the boys were not allowed off the ship at Bermuda –perhaps Mr Jeffries thought it would be easier to keep an eye on everyone if they stayed put. They eventually reached Nassau, very relieved to be on dry land again. He remembers being met by kindly elderly ladies and escorted to Clerihew House, their new home for the next 3½ years.

Dawn: when we arrived, my mother had to find somewhere for us to live. She had met another mother in a similar situation on the liner, and they agreed to share a house. We were all sent to Bermuda High School for Girls, where very fortuitously they had the same syllabus and exams for School certificate as we had had in Britain.

Life on the islands

Chris: The Duke of Windsor had arrived in Nassau as its new Governor two weeks before they landed. He visited the school a few weeks afterwards, and they found him friendly but rather stiff. The Duke and Duchess would throw Christmas parties for all the evacuees, and all the children would approach one at a time to receive a Royal handshake and a Xmas gift –one year Chris was thrilled to be given an electric train set. The most notorious event on the island while Chris was there was the murder of Sir Harry Oakes one night in his beach house. It became international news, and the American press descended on the

island. The crime was never solved.

Dawn: Bermuda was a demi-paradise then. No cars, everyone cycled or used ferries to get to the rest of the colony. We children had the run of the place and used to go to beaches or one another's houses when not at school. We were very fortunate to spend 3½ years there, and I am still in touch with those friends who are still alive. It was a lovely childhood.

Back home

Chris: Near the end of 1943, parents were trying to get their children back to England, but there were no Allied ships available, only neutral ones going to Portugal. So started a long roundabout journey home: first by air to Miami and then train to New York to get Portuguese visas. Next a train to New Orleans which took three days and two nights as they had to keep pulling into sidings to let troop trains pass by. Then a ship to Portugal, a huge sea plane to Southern Ireland which was a neutral country, a blacked-out DC3 to RAF Northolt, and finally a bus to the BOAC building on Buckingham Palace Road. There Chris was reunited with his mother, who he hadn't seen for five years. They returned home to Earls Court.

Dawn: By June 1944, it seemed safe to return home, and so we went to New York and took a boat back from there. I can't remember what the boat was called, but this time our convoy was accompanied by an American aircraft carrier and we had an uneventful journey back to Liverpool and London –just in time for the buzz bombs and the V2s!

Dawn: a footnote: Imagine my surprise when Chris began to recount his experiences at the Charlbury Society meeting. That two 11 year olds, born within a month of each other and had had similar experiences on the boat, should end up living in Charlbury for some years without knowing of our past shared history.

Chris and Dawn shared their stories with Barbara Allison January 2021.

The SS Orduna: the liner was built in 1913-14 in Belfast by Harland and Wolff, for the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. She was mainly used on the transatlantic passenger routes, and during World War II was used for troop and evacuation transport and repatriation of prisoners of war. She could be privately chartered, and this may have been the case when Chris and Dawn travelled on her in 1940. She left Liverpool on the 11th August 1940, for Valparaiso in Chile, calling at Hamilton (Bermuda), Nassau (The Bahamas), Havana (Cuba), Cristobal and Balboa (either end of the Panama Canal), then five further ports down the Pacific side of South America until she reached Valparaiso.

It is not clear who organised Chris and Dawn's trip, but it may well have been the Children's Overseas Reception Board, or CORB. It was a government sponsored body set up to evacuate children to other Dominion (now Commonwealth) countries. Certainly some, if not all, of the children on board were organised by CORB. The cost was met by the British Government with parents' contributions assessed on a sliding scale.

The Orduna was finally decommissioned and broken up in 1950 in Dalmeir in Scotland.

Passenger lists: A search on family history websites will produce the passenger list for the Orduna's voyage in August 1940. There were 486 'souls' on board the ship, of which 171 were children. Both Dawn and Chris can be found on the passenger list. A small note of caution: check the original list, rather than rely only on the transcription made by the website. Mistakes can be made – in this case, Dawn's family were said to be travelling to Hamilton, Ontario in Canada, which the Orduna certainly did not go to. It was Hamilton, the capital of Bermuda.

[illegible]

Passenger list - Chris Willy

[illegible]

Passenger list - Dawn Colvin



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Environmental Working Group

Back in February 2020, which seems so long ago now, Charlbury Town Council held two public workshops to discuss our vision in response to the Climate Emergency being declared by the town.

Since then, an Environment Working Group (acting under the Town Council but including some non-councillor volunteers) has been meeting, mostly virtually, to develop these ideas into an Action Plan. You will see the banner on the Playing Close which set out the workshop's conclusions as a graphic – please have a look and let us know what you think.

We are looking at how to make our town net zero-carbon by 2040, and identifying what steps we can take to achieve this as citizens and as a town. While lockdown restrictions have had an impact, not least on our ability to talk with the town, we have been able to make progress, and have:

- started preparing a strategy for 'nature' - improving biodiversity, soil and land management practices working with our own land, and that of landowners and other nearby communities. A draft strategy has been shared with the Town Council for discussion.
- organised a successful e-bike try-out session as part of a very popular set of cycling-related events in September. We have been discussing whether electric vehicle pools can be made to work in a rural community, in discussion with a pilot in Hook Norton.
- broadened connections with the school and local groups; while Street Fair activities couldn't happen, hedgehog trails are highly visible and hedgehog corridors are starting to take shape.
- planned to help householders understand how to make their homes near zero carbon by providing templates for whole house plans by house type working with local non-profit organisation, Cosy Homes Oxfordshire, which is based here in

Charlbury. Making our homes more energy-efficient saves money as well as energy and undoubtedly the planet.

More widely, we are hoping to participate in a workshop on how to develop a climate action plan alongside WODC and other local town and parish councils.

The town council has budget for the development and implementation of our climate action planning.

If you would like to help with any planning and activities, we would be delighted to hear from you. We have groups focusing on specific areas such as energy, nature, food, transport, communications and homes.

Please contact the town clerk at charlburytc@btinternet.com

census 2021

The Census is coming on 21 March

Information from the digital-first Census will help decide how services are planned and funded in our local area.

Census outputs inform where millions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health, and on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries.

Everyone will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request.

For more information, visit [Census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk).

Wychwood Project

Local artists launch community project to encourage fresh perspectives on nature

Do you have a favourite place, plant, or walk in the Wychwood area?

Artists in residence at the Wychwood Project Nimmi Naidoo and Flora Gregory would love to hear from you.

The artists would like to invite anyone living in the Wychwood area to share photos, videos, poems or artworks reflecting the places they love in the Wychwood Forest, to form the basis of an innovative virtual artwork that explores how we see the environment around us.

Using these contributions, the artists will create an accessible webpage that celebrates our local environment, encourages us to discover new spaces, and helps us experience familiar places with fresh eyes.

The Wychwood Project will also share contributions on their Instagram channel, to inspire audiences to engage afresh with the natural world around them.

Flora and Nimmi, known as the Mappists, create participatory art events that offer people different ways of connecting with nature.

Recent events include 'Come into the Woods: Topples Wood' an opportunity for forest bathing and to connect to the

woods through audio works, and 'The Map Room: Make your Mark!' where people mark the route of their Wychwood Forest walks on a map and talk about what they love about being in the forest.

Flora and Nimmi both gained an MA in Social Sculpture at Oxford Brookes University.

Social Sculpture is an art form that employs social processes, and puts forward the idea that we are all artists in that every aspect of life can be seen as creative.

So whether it's a space with wonderful birdsong, that one tree you always admire, a view filled with memory, or just a path you walk along every evening, the Mappists would love to see, hear, or read your impressions of it.

Please send in anything you would like to contribute to

miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk

(who will share it with the Mappists), and keep an eye on the Wychwood Project's Instagram (@wychwoodproject) to learn what others love about the Wychwood area.

We hope you enjoy the project, and that it helps us all find fresh perspectives on the natural world around us, for lockdown and beyond.

Coffee Break answers
Across:
1 Chvrches; 6. Village; 7. Bicycle; 8. Forum; 11. Balls; 12. Brewers;
13, Wychwood
Down:
2. Stonesfield; 3. Evenlode; 4. Slade; 5. Fat; 9. Reason; 10. Girls; 11. Bottom

Charlbury Church Services - These activities are subject to the latest advice from the government. Check updates on the Community pages on www.charlbury.info



Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

Sundays Sorry but we do not feel able to open at the moment.

Wednesdays 7.30 pm at the church for midweek study/discussion Join us!
charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/dyershill/



St Mary's C of E Church, Church Street

St Mary's Church, Charlbury and All Saints Shorthampton

Full details of all church services are available in the Leaflet or in the Church porch

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

www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

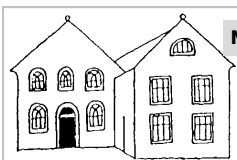


Friends' Meeting House, Market Street

Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House

Sunday mornings 10.30am

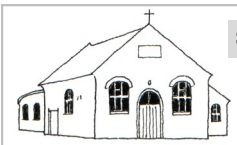
For further details contact Sue Terry (01608 811033)
 email: sueeterry@btinternet.com



Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane

Sunday services at 10.30am

Further information from Gill Grason (01608 810154)



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

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

Weekday Mass. 9.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday & Wednesday 7.00pm at St Teresa's.

Parish Priest. Fr Clive Dytor, The Old Drapery, Church Street, Charlbury. Tel: 07484 158642. Charlbury

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

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

Churches Together in Charlbury

We never imagined when we cancelled the remaining Lent lunches and three of the Lent talks in March last year that we would not be able to hold these annual events again this year, but this is the reality of living through a pandemic. Even so we have enjoyed taking part in 'Advent windows' and 'Christmas trees in the churchyard' before Christmas and over Christmas, collections were made for the Porch day centre in Oxford, with 33 boxes of food and other essentials being taken there in January.

One of the possible benefits of this period of separation from one another and the denial of our usual activities is that it can give us an opportunity to try something new. There are many ideas to explore on the internet. For people who enjoy art, the Visual Commentary on Scripture (The VCS.org) will email a free weekly exhibition of three art works to subscribers, with a commentary based on the portion of scripture they have been chosen to illustrate.

The art can range from mediaeval altar pieces to modern installations, from antique sculpture to impressionist paintings. They will take us through the Christian year with things of beauty and reflections to help us understand and appreciate them.

On the other hand, people for whom a major concern is the world around us and the protection of life on earth, might find the Operation Noah website encouraging. There is a monthly newsletter keeping us up to date with political, economic and scientific developments in relation to the climate crisis and what churches and individuals can and are doing to mitigate the damage human activity is inflicting on our planet. The website (operationnoah.org) provides a link to many other organisations and events, for example the January newsletter included information about a Climate Emergency Toolkit from Tearfund, prayers for the Climate Coalition's 'Show the Love' campaign and a fossil fuel divestment

webinar organised by the Methodist Church. Operation Noah's strap line is 'Faith motivated. Science informed. Hope inspired.'

While churches are closed for public worship, there are opportunities to explore different styles of worship on YouTube and the main television channels. Many cathedrals are broadcasting services on line but there are other possibilities from the grandeur of St Peter's in Rome to black led churches with gospel choirs or Gaelic speakers in the Hebrides singing metrical psalms.

Our own parish church has a Sunday morning service of Holy Communion on YouTube every week – look for stmaryscharlbury.co.uk to find details. Don't forget Radio 4 has a service every Sunday at 8.10am which offers a great variety of music and reflection.

There are of course many other resources for private study and prayer. A book I have found particularly valuable is Janet Morley's 'The Heart's Time', offering a poem and a reflection every day for Lent and Easter. I shall be re-reading it again this year.

*Rosalind Scott
Secretary to Churches Together in
Charlbury*

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET on the Playing Close between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, March 13th

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

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

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



Charlbury Town Council News

Contact: Roger Clarke, Town Clerk at charlburytc@btinternet.com or 01608 810608 9am to 5pm (not weekends or Bank Holidays).

Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan approved for referendum by independent examiner

The submitted draft Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan 2031 has now been independently examined and the examiner has concluded that, subject to a series of recommended modifications, the submitted plan meets all the necessary legal requirements and should proceed to referendum.

Once WODC has formally accepted the examiner's recommendations, they will arrange a referendum at which all registered electors within the parish of Charlbury will be able to vote for the adoption of the plan. If a majority of those voting agree, the plan will inform decisions on planning applications within the parish.

During the examination process, the town council provided detailed and robust responses to detailed requests for clarification from the examiner. Having given careful consideration to our arguments, the examiner was satisfied that the plan could go forward to referendum subject to some changes required to ensure that the plan meets legal requirements of conformity with national and local planning policy. Whilst some changes proposed by the examiner are disappointing, especially where they impact policies backed by strong local opinion, we still believe that the plan addresses the objectives and aspirations of the community and can play an important role in shaping the future of development in the town.

You can see the examiner's report along with the submitted plan and other information about the examination on the

WODC website (www.westoxon.gov.uk) by searching for "Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan".

Candidates needed to serve on Charlbury Town Council

Could you be part of the new council and help to shape Charlbury's future?

All twelve places on Charlbury Town Council are up for election this May (postponed from May 2020) and this could be YOUR opportunity to play a part in shaping the future of the town and community. The Town Council has a vital role to play as a focus for achieving the town's aspirations, for addressing the declared climate emergency locally and to ensure that the community's voice is heard and heeded.

It is important for the town council to represent all ages, backgrounds and opinions in the town. Also, to ensure that democracy is served and an election is held, more than 12 candidates must put themselves forward so if you care about our great community, please consider standing for election.

If you want to know more about what is involved in being a councillor, contact the Town Clerk or just have a chat with any of the current councillors. The clerk can also give you details of the nomination process which can also be found on the WODC website (www.westoxon.gov.uk). Please give it some thought - Charlbury needs YOU!

Local Elections – Thursday 6th May 2021

At the time of writing, we expect local elections in Charlbury to be held on Thursday 6th May. These will be the elections that were postponed from May 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency. At these elections Charlbury electors will be able to vote for all twelve members to

serve on Charlbury Town Council, for one District Councillor and for the Thames Valley, Police and Crime Commissioner.

Please make sure you are registered to vote and **USE YOUR VOTE!** You can register via the WODC website – go to www.westoxon.gov.uk and search for “Register to Vote”.

Town Council Precept set for 2021-22

The town council precept for 2021/22 has been set at £106,096 giving a Band D rate of £79.23 for the year. This represents a very small increase of 0.63% on the current year. The precept is collected as part of your Council Tax by WODC but the majority of your tax goes to the county and district councils and to Thames Valley Police.

As well as covering essential expenses, the town council precept enables us to make grants to local organisations and to fund local projects for the benefit of the whole community of Charlbury. This has never been so important as it is now, during the COVID-19 pandemic enabling us to support the excellent work of local groups such as Cornerstone and ATIC who are doing so much to assist the vulnerable members of our community.

The town council precept will also enable us to support local initiatives identified by the Environment Working Group (EWG) to address the declared climate emergency. You can read more about the work of the EWG in a separate article in this edition of the Chronicle

If you would like more details on the town council budget, please contact the Town Clerk.

Nominations Sought for 2021 Charlbury Honoured Citizen Awards

We are now seeking nominations for members of the community to receive an Honoured Citizen Award during 2021. An Honoured Citizen Award is a tribute to a current or former Charlbury resident who has given dedicated voluntary service within the town, probably over many years and, as a consequence, has made a

significant positive difference to the Community and to the lives of residents. Serving members and employees of the town council are not eligible for the award and may not propose or second nominations. Nomination forms and rules for the awards are available from the town clerk and nominations for the 2021 awards must be received by the clerk by 5pm on the 31st March 2021.

As reported last time, the 2020 awards were presented individually by town council chairman, Richard Fairhurst. Information about these recipients together with photographs are included elsewhere in this edition of the Chronicle.

Other Matters:

Annual Parish Meeting cancelled.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions the annual parish meeting will NOT take place this year. If the situation changes, details of the date, time and other arrangements for the meeting will be notified to the community on notice boards and websites in the usual way.

Boundary Walk cancelled. The annual parish boundary walk will NOT take place this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. We hope to re-instate the walk in 2022.

Finally, a big **THANK YOU:** Thanks to all the volunteers, organisations and businesses who continue to support our community through these difficult times;

Thanks to everyone who helped to provide some cheer around the town over the strangest of Christmas periods including: residents and businesses who put up Christmas trees and St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival and Advent Window displays.

Thanks to all for continuing to observe ever-changing lockdown restrictions

Keep Well – Stay Safe!

Peter Kenrick

Just before Christmas, Charlbury and the surrounding area was deluged with very heavy rainfall. The same happened just a couple of weeks ago. The rain fell on ground that was already soaked from a very wet autumn, and our drains were in some cases unable to cope, particularly at the bottom of the Slade where a couple of homes were flooded.

This could to some extent have been avoided if our drains had been cleared more regularly. But drain clearance is on a four-year cycle! This is because about five years ago the County Council had to make savage cuts to the budget, and one of the casualties was drain clearance. Even if drains are reported as blocked, they just end up on a rota, and this is what happened on The Slade, so the blocked drains could not cope.

Since then I have been in touch with the Director of Communities at the County Council to ask if we can change the cycle of drain clearance. He agrees that the current system does not work and he will be looking at a new system which means that drains that are known to be a problem are cleared more frequently. I have suggested that the best way to find out which are the problem drains is to ask local residents and councillors to identify them, so I hope that very soon we will be asked to do that.

Another concern recently has been the closure of the B4022 for work on the rail bridge at Finstock. As I write it is not clear whether the proposed full closure of the road will go ahead, or whether Network Rail will be able to find a way of keeping the road open. If it is closed completely there will be a very long diversion, and a lot of traffic will undoubtedly try to go through Fawler.

The road from Fawler to Ashford Mill is a designated cycle way and Fawler residents are very concerned that the closure will mean a lot more traffic through their village and down that lane.

Moreover, the B4022 is a gritting route and gritting lorries will not be able to get through, so allowing this to happen in February is very worrying. All road closures now have to have a permit, a system introduced by the County Council a year ago. It clearly isn't working as it should if this can be allowed to happen and I have made a complaint and asked for the system of allocating permits to be reviewed.

I wish all Charlbury residents the very best during the remainder of this lockdown, and look forward to seeing you all again very soon, now that the vaccination programme is well underway in our town!



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

If you need:

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

**Local ATIC volunteers are here to help
Call 01993 776277**

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email:
gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com

From District Councillor Andy Graham

07908 832632 andyg2439@gmail.com

As Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group at West Oxfordshire District Council, it has given me the opportunity in the pandemic to meet with other leaders to pool ideas, and put in action some of the issues that have impacted on all us during the pandemic. Meeting often at fortnightly intervals with the chief executive and members of his team have meant we have been able to put in place, often at short notice, measures to support our community.

Most recently I have successfully influenced the decision in the latest round of discretionary grants to ensure those like the self-employed and small businesses who have received no government support were included and prioritised for financial support. In Charlbury, both Liz Leffman and I were contacted by over a dozen people in this category and we were able to fast track them to the business teams at WODC to get further advice and support.

We have been ringing round large numbers of people on the vulnerable and shielded residents list to ensure they are supported and avail ourselves should further help be required.

What a great community effort by all our volunteers and voluntary groups so many to mention. It has made a great difference. Whilst residents are getting the vaccination we all need to remind ourselves that the safety of others is as important and the rules, however baffling

at times they seem, need to be complied with and no one of any age should be taking unnecessary risks.

Meanwhile the work of preserving local services has been on all our minds. Sustaining local communities is about ensuring we look after our environment. We need to be investing in other forms of transport besides our beloved cars.

Transport infrastructure like the dualling of the Cotswold Line is a must and Liz Leffman and I are fighting to make this an action needed now as well as improved bus services. Housing for future generations with more publicly rented properties will assist with more individually designed and built properties in the right locations.

I have been at the forefront of supporting the homeless too with more permanent solutions and I am pleased to report we have more emergency accommodation coming on stream in Witney to complement that in Chipping Norton as a result of pressurised campaigning at the district council.

Good luck to Charlbury Football Club, it has been a great pleasure to support you with your grant applications and other matters,

If you need to contact me ring 07908 832632 or text me and I will get back to you.

CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL

Office: 01608 810879

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

Emergency Contact:

Roy Scott (01608 810562)

The following were awarded the Honoured Citizens Award

Andy Pickard

Andy has been the leading force behind the Riverside Festival for over twenty years. This year, had it been held, would have been the twenty fifth, I believe.

He has always been keen to showcase



Andy Pickard

local bands, particularly as he is a musician himself. He was an instrumental member of the group which established the Riverside Festival initially and has grown it to its current three separate stages and a major Oxfordshire event.

The festival has evolved to include eclectic mixes of music, children's learning activities and a showcase for rural crafts.

Andy has worked hard to develop the festival and ensure that it remains a free event which makes it particularly inclusive. The event is staged with the help of many local supporters with Andy as the "driving force" undertaking the organisation, planning and publicity, indeed acting as our local impresario

Andy has also been a great supporter of the Shed Theatre introducing local youth to drama, music and singing workshops. He has always taken a "hands on" approach to all that he does, participating in set construction, sound tracks, sound effects, costume and props.

He has generously helped and encouraged anyone seeking help in raising funds, particularly with sound equipment, ideas and staging. He even makes his own equipment available for use. He has supported Street Fair, Primary School, Pre School and others in this way.

Recently he has taken on the management of the Shed enabling this important resource to remain available for arts and drama. In conclusion he has given much enjoyment, time and resources to many organisations and events and continues to do so. He should be recognised by the community.

Christine Elliott

Christine has been the initiator and never tiring lynchpin of a range of projects which help Charlbury residents and the environment, both locally and in the wider context.

The Bring and Take at the Memorial Hall is hugely popular, where possessions that are no longer required by their owner find a new user avoiding the trip to landfill or the incinerator. The Big Apple take-away where residents can collect fruit which would otherwise have rotted in someone's garden (two tonnes were distributed in 2017) has also been a great success and much appreciated. She also organises and assists with the picking of fruit where necessary. Christine also makes cider with excess apples and this is available at the Riverside and Beer Festivals.

Christine organises waste collection and sorting at both of the above festivals with positive advantages for recycling and much reduced landfill.

Christine has been instrumental in many enterprises locally starting with the Waste Action Group, now the Charlbury Green Hub and encouraged and helped with the forming of similar groups

The following were awarded the Honoured Citizens Award

nearby. Schemes which she has organised and promoted include secure paper shredding, tool sharpening, and redistribution of spare or surplus resources, eg paint and similar avoiding waste wherever possible, encouraging reuse or re purposing. Recently the apple take away has been incorporated in to the Cornerstone project which has helped many during the current Covid restrictions. This selfless dedication is worthy of recognition and this award.



Christine Elliott

Eileen Kenrick

Eileen has been an outstanding member of the Charlbury community for many years and has given a great deal of her time and expertise to the Nine Acres Management Committee, the Corner House charity and currently the Gifford Trust.

Eileen has been Treasurer of both the Corner House Committee and the Nine Acres Management Committee and has given her considerable expertise freely and abundantly in both roles achieving considerable success.

During her time in these roles both organisations prospered and developed with her guidance and determination. Eileen has been very much a "hands on" person in respect of Nine Acres to ensure its smooth running. This has involved many hours of work to ensure that all user groups benefited fully from using the facilities. Eileen has been a stalwart in terms of the building of the Sports Pavilion and has managed it in all practical aspects. This has involved liaison with contractors, sorting out broken lights and fittings, toilets and similar, even to cleaning when required.

Eileen is now very much involved in the Community Centre as a trustee and has volunteered there working in the café. Eileen is an active member of ATIC and as a volunteer regularly drives residents to appointments. She has also been involved with Street Fair, running the book stall for many years. Eileen works tirelessly for the community and thoroughly deserves the recognition which this award brings.



Eileen Kenrick

The following were awarded the Honoured Citizens Award

Louise & Alan Spicer

Louise and Alan have championed nature conservation in and around Charlbury for at least twenty years. They have achieved this by being key members of several local conservation groups and in practical terms by participating in and organising working parties, surveys and education.

Charlbury is fortunate in having three nature reserves at Blenheim Farm, Centenary Wood and Wigwell. Each of these has flourished with the dedicated service of volunteers all of whom have benefited from Louise and Alan's knowledge, enthusiasm and guidance.

Louise and Alan have been involved with many projects including wild flower planting and maintenance at the Blenheim Farm reserve, salvia counts and maintenance/ planting in Wigwell and winter bird feeding at Ditchley. In addition they have organised and participated in many working groups at all of these sites ensuring that the environment is both protected and made accessible. Louise and Alan have produced a Birds of Buildings leaflet in conjunction with Christine Elliott and separately a Parish Nature Conservation Appraisal publication taking Charlbury as a case study.

Louise and Alan were founder members of the Charlbury Town Council Nature Conservation Advisory Committee which was brought in to being when the Town Council managed Wigwell. This developed and flourished under their expert guidance and capacity for practical working, encouraging and helping others to participate and learn whilst enjoying the facility. This has continued now that the Wychwood Project manages Wigwell. Alan was a founder member of the Wychwood Project and his involvement continued until his death earlier this year. It is for this long and dedicated input to local conservation projects in all guises that the award is recommended, supported and deserved.



Louise Spicer

Meryl Smith

Meryl has, over many years, been a valuable member of the Charlbury community.

Through her employment with ORCC she was frequently able to help and advise the Memorial Hall trustees on aspects of hall management and development together with help in researching and applying for appropriate grants to further develop this important community facility.

Meryl has used her skills, expertise and tenacity to establish ATIC and Dementia Friendly Charlbury which have and continue to be a highly valuable asset in the Town, particularly at this time of Covid related restrictions.

Meryl also gave her time, knowledge and expertise when the Town Council began the process of producing a Community Led Plan which has led to the recent submission for examination of the Neighbourhood Plan. She contributed to a variety of working and focus groups in condensing information on community aspirations.

Honoured Citizens Award contd

Many residents owe her a debt of gratitude and for this reason she should be commended and recognised.



Meryl Smith

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From Robert Courts, MP

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

I know how challenging 2020 was for all of us and that, in some ways, 2021 feels all too familiar. However, though we may be in lockdown now, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

With three vaccines now approved for use in the UK, including our own local Oxford/AstraZeneca jab, we are now well on the way to vaccinating our top four priority groups in record time.

At the time of writing, over 12 million people have been vaccinated and this grows every day.

This is a hugely significant achievement which is testament to the inspirational leadership that has been shown by local NHS organisations', GPs and health coordinators. This, along with longer days, lighter evenings and the beginning of a beautiful West Oxfordshire spring is sure to lift spirits in this challenging time.

I have seen the excellent work of everyone at our local vaccination hubs for myself. The professionalism and efficiency they are showing is proving everyone's dedication to this vital cause.

I am also encouraged that so many people across West Oxon are taking up the vaccine when offered. It is this dedication and resolve which speaks to me in these challenging times and shows me that we will overcome this.

We are also once again seeing the huge outpouring of community spirit and good will that warmed us all in 2020. I would encourage everyone to check in on family, friends and neighbours, particularly those who may live alone, the vulnerable and those separated from their loved ones. Sometimes even just a phone call can do the world of good.

My team and I continue to work hard from home on your behalf and we remain accessible throughout lockdown. Please do not hesitate to get in touch at robert@robertcourts.co.uk

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All Together In Charlbury – a local helping hand

Just a reminder that ATIC is up and running subject to lockdown restrictions

Transport to essential appointments

ATIC's transport service is available as far as possible for essential appointments and we are doing our best to operate in a way which is COVID-safe for both drivers and passengers.

If you need help with a journey, please ring our usual number - 01993 776277 – and Volunteer Link-Up (our invaluable call centre) will see if we can meet your request.

We were pleased to be available to help people get to their first COVID 19 vaccinations in Carterton in January, although we were impressed by how many were helped informally by relatives, friends and neighbours.

New members of the ATIC team

In response to the expectation of demand for vaccination journeys, we

were delighted to welcome some new volunteers to the ATIC team and are grateful for their wish to help us and others in the town.

Friendly Phone Call service

At the moment we are not able to offer face-to-face befriending due to the current COVID19 restrictions but are happy to provide the Friendly Phone Call Service in conjunction with Churches Together in Charlbury (CTC)

If you would like to share a friendly phone call every so often, we can pair you up with someone else in the town who is interested in the idea. Call the Friendly Phone Call Service on **07487 413892** and give your name and phone number.

If you think someone else might like to share a call, you should first get that person's permission and give the person's name and phone number and your name and phone number when calling **07487 413892**.

Meryl Smith

Email: charlburyalltogether@gmail.com



RAINFALL REPORT—2020

The rainfall measured at Lees Rest between 1 January and 31 December 2020 was 904mm/36.16 ins.

The wettest month was November with 157mm/6.28 ins and the driest was May with 7mm/0.28 ins. This was the driest May since these records began in 1982.. 2020 was a Leap Year.

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

Nick Potter



News from Charlbury Pre-School

The first half-term of the new year has been a busy time at Charlbury Pre-school, which has been so important for the children in a period where other activities are so restricted. We have enjoyed welcoming several new pre-schoolers, who are settling in well. The beautiful garden here has been well-used in all weathers, with magic rain potions, mud pies and ice sculptures being created, as well as much imaginative play taking place, and even sledging!

The children have also been enjoying activities such as playing listening and rhyming games, identifying specific sounds and letters and singing the Jolly Phonics songs, hearing new stories, thinking about the similarities between different animals, and, most of all, seeing and playing with each other.

We have been continuing to improve and look after our lovely historic setting, and now have a beautiful newly fitted and decorated cloakroom – huge thanks to Darren Bloy and the Ditchley Foundation, and to Jeni Burnell for making this project happen. The children are loving their new space-themed space!

Looking ahead, although the children have really enjoyed playing in the rain and snow, we are hoping that some warmer Spring weather will bring more opportunities to spend longer outside. We are looking forward to finding out if our resident frogs have survived the winter and whether we will get frogspawn/tadpoles in our pond. We will also be tending our vegetable garden. The garlic which we planted in the autumn is already doing well and our wormery is producing lots of lovely compost to get our plants off to a good start.

Many of the older children are already talking about moving on to school. During their time at Pre-school they have been encouraged to become independent, confident learners and they are now almost ready for the next steps in their

learning journey. The younger children are lucky to have such great role models to follow.

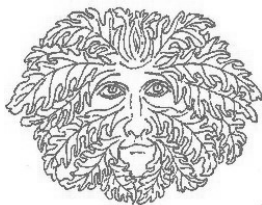
Thank you so much to all of those who contributed to our fundraising Christmas campaign challenge. We raised an amazing amount – over £1300 from 43 generous contributors. Charlbury Pre-school is a charity reliant on fundraising events to deliver quality early years education to local children, and as for many charities the opportunities for these have been restricted over the past year, so your support is even more appreciated at this time.

We are also extremely grateful to Mizue and Ben Tams, who ran a wonderful and well-attended series of online Sushi-oke demonstration events which raised an incredible £845 for Pre-school, and to Tak Tokumine of the Japan Centre who generously donated food supplies. Much of Charlbury is benefiting from the Japanese cooking skills acquired as a result!

Finally, a massive thank you again from management and the committee to all Pre-school staff and support staff, who are working incredibly hard so that pre-school continues operating at a high standard during this difficult period. The value of the commitment shown to the wellbeing of our children in their important early years, at a time when their usual lives and routines are so disrupted, cannot be overestimated.

Due to the new year lockdown, the preschool temporarily closed to new applications. This is being kept under review, and if you would like to register your interest in the meantime please get in touch at admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk or on 01608 811200.

For more information about the Pre-school, please check out our lovely new website, designed by committee member Jeni Burnell—www.charlburypreschool.org.uk.



A virus can't stop Spring!

As the gardening year gets full blown into Spring, the Garden Society is ready to offer all kinds of encouragement, especially during the pandemic.

Visit our website for details on events and for our regular newsletter. If you haven't already done so take a look at the posts from the Virtual Show, guaranteed to make you smile.

At this time, probably more than ever in our lifetime, gardening brings joy, provides therapy and enrichment to everyone who passes by, and puts food on our tables. Such was Kathy Broughton's experience:

'Two years ago I planted some little snowdrop bulbs, hoping to start a carpet of them in a rather bare patch in my garden. This bare patch looks friendly enough, and I tend it well, but it seems to reject everything I plant in it. So imagine my joy, when in this miserable winter, in this most challenging year, snowdrops suddenly appeared. Oh, the rapture and the wonder of it all! '

Some of us have been fortunate to inherit some of Peter Bridgman's plants. It is nearly a year since Peter, a passionate gardener, died of Coronavirus. Hugh Belshaw received a mature clivia which he managed to split into three separate plants. After a spell in his green house, one of them produced a magnificent orange and yellow flower spike. He is eagerly waiting to see if the other plants will also perform. Visit our website to see the photo!

We have been enjoying a series of winter talks on Zoom.

The next one, on **18 March at 7.30 pm** **there will be a talk by Emma Harris-Bass of the Kitchen Garden People at Honeydale Farm near Shipton.**

This is a Community Supported Agriculture scheme (CSA) helping to revolutionise the way food reaches customers. We hope to follow up with a visit in June. The talk is free to Garden Society members. Membership is £5 (£8 family membership) www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk for details.

Other projects we're planning are a 'gardening, growing and greening' group which is making plans to plant three areas of the town.

If you would like to get involved or to help plan future events please do get in touch .

You do not need to be a Committee member to help and we need more volunteers.

We also hope to arrange self drive / socially distanced visits to gardens in the summer including a visit to The Kitchen Garden People in June.

If you'd like to join the Garden Society and take part **and** get 10% off purchases at several local garden centres on production of your membership card (including the newly renamed Charlbury Garden Centre on the Witney Road) then visit our website:

www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk

If you'd like to get involved or offer ideas then get in touch with Alison or Angela: secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk



Health Information for All

Many people may not know that a unique enterprise is run from a small room in Charlbury's Corner House. This is Health Information for All (HIFA).

HIFA was set up by Neil Pakenham Walsh, a doctor who has worked in Latin America. In Peru he found that mothers with young children suffering serious diarrhoea might initially be reluctant to give children fluids, even though without them the child might die of dehydration. In my work for Oxfam in India and Ethiopia I also found that people with minor ailments would often seek out expensive medicines (especially antibiotics) when far cheaper alternatives were available. HIFA's aim is simple: to stop people dying due to lack of access to correct information about health.

The COVID pandemic reminds us that it is not only in poorer countries that health information is critical. Over the last year, hundreds of thousands of people round the world have died unnecessarily of COVID because they did not get correct and timely information about the virus and how it is spread.

Even here in the UK we now hear reports of people who have just received their first COVID vaccination going round saying that they are no longer infectious and can now do what they like! With an ever-increasing need to counter all the on-line misinformation about COVID and vaccinations accurate health information is more critical than ever. As Dr Tedros, Director-General of the WHO said recently: *"To fight the pandemic we need trust and solidarity and where there is mistrust, there is much less solidarity. False information is hindering the response to the pandemic so we must join forces to fight it and to promote science-based public health advice."*

Globally more and more people now have some way of accessing the internet. This enables HIFA, with a permanent staff of only one full time person (Neil), supported by a part-time administrator and numerous volunteers, to support 20,000 members in 180 countries – including publishers, librarians, health workers, researchers, and policy makers. It also enables six on-line forums for members to share their experience in four different languages. These forums enable HIFA members to work together to achieve the HIFA vision: a world where every person has access to the information they need to protect their own health and the health of others – and where every person is protected from misinformation.

At the moment HIFA is using its extensive network to host in-depth discussions both on COVID-19 itself and the devastating impact the pandemic has had on the delivery of non-COVID health services. For individual projects HIFA can sometimes access funding from WHO, universities and the British Medical Association.

It is extraordinary what HIFA has been able to achieve with such minimal paid staff - but in order for it to thrive and expand it needs more regular general funding. Please join me and a group of 15 others from Charlbury and the local area to support HIFA by becoming a regular donor. Find out more on how to set up a monthly contribution at: <https://www.hifa.org/support/donate>

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News from the Charlbury Patient Participation Group (CPPG)

COVID Vaccine:

The topic that is uppermost on everyone's minds is COVID vaccination. By the time you are reading this most of the vulnerable patients at Charlbury Medical Centre (CMC) will have been vaccinated either with the Pfizer vaccine at Carterton Surgery or with the AstraZeneca at CMC. Information about the rollout of the vaccine is available on the CMC website:

www.thecharlburymedicalcentre.nhs.uk, and on the Charlbury website charlbury.info, and e-mailed updated information to our members. Please **do not** ring the surgery for information.

Volunteers have been helping as marshals at the 'flu and COVID clinics. In addition, the Meet and Greet volunteers have been doing magnificent work at the CMC. Eighty volunteers have offered help which has enabled smooth running of the vaccination clinics and the CMC for which many thanks.

Patient Concerns: Members of the CPPG are frequently approached with concerns about various aspects of the Charlbury Medical Centre, (although almost all comments about the medical staff are unreservedly positive). These concerns are taken seriously, logged, and fed back to the CMC.

Booking appointments: Many of us have experienced the 8am rush to phone the surgery to make an appointment to speak to, or to see a GP or nurse. If the consultation **is needed** that day, then please ring **at 8am**. However, if your appointment is **not needed urgently** then please ring **after 9am**. This leaves the lines clear for people who require same day attention.

When is my GP on duty? Doctors' surgery times may change due to unforeseen circumstances, and at the time of writing due to Covid-19 vaccination clinics.

Doctor's Surgery Days, Treatment Days and Times

Dr Pippa Brookes-White: Thurs and Fri

Dr Laura Gillgan: Mon, Tues and Wed

Dr Kate McIntyre: Wed (p.m.), Thurs and Fri

Dr Nikki Jones: Mon, Tues and Wed plus Women's Health Clinic every alternate Thurs (a.m.)

Dr Mel Hurney: Mon, Tues (a.m.), Thurs (a.m.) and Fri

A time table for nurses and Health Care Assistant/Phlebotomists is also available on the website:

www.thecharlburymedicalcentre.nhs.uk under "opening times".

CPPG Newsletter: The January edition is available on line (on the Charlbury Website), and contains information on the Rural West Primary Care Network, the Falls Prevention Service and the NHS App.

Some of these issues are summarised below for those who do not have access to the internet.

Primary Care Networks (PCN).

Charlbury Medical Centre (CMC) is in the Rural West Primary Care Network, with Burford, Broadshires, Carterton Health Centre, and Bampton Surgery. This arrangement means that services can be shared among the practices and a clinical pharmacist and physiotherapist have been recruited.

The clinical pharmacist will be able to carry out medication reviews and give advice to patients about medication enabling GPs to focus on other aspects of patient care.

A physiotherapist, **Rhiannon Stidever** holds clinics every Friday and 1 in 4 Wednesdays at the CMC. Patients with muscle, joint and back pain may be able to contact her directly rather than waiting for a referral.

Advice from the Falls Prevention Service:

Patients can self- refer to this service. Clinics are held in the outpatient department of the Witney Community Hospital and provide assessment and make recommendations about medication, home adaptations etc.

Phone: 01865 903400 or Email: oxon.falls@nhs.net Monday –Friday 9:00 –5:00pm.

Further information and on-line leaflets are available at:

https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/service_description/falls-service.

If I have a fall when should I dial 999? (advice given to CPPG from a paramedic)

If you have been immobile on the floor for more than one and a half hours.

If you have hit your head and are on blood thinners.

If any of the following precede or follow a fall:

- Chest pains
- Dizziness
- Shortness of breath
- New onset limb weakness
- Stroke symptoms
- New onset confusion

If you can't remember what happened.

If you can't get up, and have no-one to help get you up, or if it hurts too much to get up, or you cannot stand due to pain.

If you have any obvious serious injury, or fracture, or neck pain.

If you know how you fell, and you feel well and none of the above applies, you can stay at home and call the surgery to discuss.

To keep up to date with information we would encourage you to join the Charlbury Patient Participation Group. patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net.



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New booklet from the Alzheimer's Society offers advice on memory problems

The Society says: "Everybody forgets things from time to time. But if you are noticing problems with your memory, or the memory of someone close to you, it's important to speak to a GP. Our new booklet is designed to help you understand more about memory loss, dementia, and the next steps to take."

You can download a free copy or order one to come by post from the Society's website: www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/publications-and-factsheets/worried-about-your-memory

Ideas for enjoyable and engaging activities for someone living with dementia

The Alzheimer's Society have also produced a new free guide: "The activities handbook: Supporting someone with dementia to stay active and involved" The guide provides information about a range of types of activities along with details of where to go for further advice or support. It has been written with input from carers, as well as health and social care professionals with specialist knowledge and experience.

The Society says: "When you're supporting or spending time with a person with dementia, you may wonder what might help them to live well. Activities can provide ways for someone to carry on being the person they are however their dementia affects them."

You can download a free copy or order one to come by post from the Society's website: <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/publications-factsheets/activities-handbook-dementia-carers>

Free Carer ID letter

Action for Carers Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council have produced a free Carer ID letter available across Oxfordshire to enable unpaid

family carers to be recognised as a carer in the community and when dealing with healthcare professionals. For more information on how to apply for the Carers I.D Letter please call Carers Oxfordshire's Carersline: 01235 424715 or email carersreferrals@carersoxfordshire.org.uk

Online support group for carers of someone living with dementia

Care2Share is an online group organised by Dementia Oxfordshire that meets on Zoom supporting the carers of those diagnosed with dementia. The group aims to ensure carers feel supported and are able to discuss difficult issues in a safe space with others who understand. The aim of the group is to bring carers together to discuss situations from daily life and to get support from Dementia Oxfordshire as well as each other. A variety of topics are discussed and sometimes guest speakers attend to offer specialist advice. The group is small and meets fortnightly at a variety of times to suit those interested.

Contact Taqwa Galpin to find out more by calling 07584 148509 or emailing taqwagalpin@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk

Don't forget the Dementia Oxfordshire Support Line 01865 410210 Monday to Friday from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 pm and the information on their website: www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk

Support for Carers from Talking Space Plus

TalkingSpace Plus (TSP) is a free NHS service for adults of all ages who are registered with an Oxfordshire GP. If you are caring for someone with a diagnosed dementia and feeling anxious or low, you can refer yourself or discuss with your GP if you would prefer.

Sessions are offered on the phone or online, on a one to one basis or in group setting. They have been shown to help reduce feelings of stress and/or low mood and help you to consider possible coping strategies. You can find more information on the Oxford Health website: www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/talkingspaceplus/ or telephone Talking Space Plus: 01865 901222.

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Dealing with your own affairs and getting them in order can appear daunting. We're here to make life easier. Do pick up the phone or email us and we would be happy to have a free, no-obligation initial chat with you. We can meet on video call or in person when safe to do so.



Anna BURNSIDE PARTNER
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com

Jacquie BIRRELL TAX DIRECTOR
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The following is a short piece on another shutdown long ago!

In the mid-1960's I lived in Arusha in Northern Tanzania—which, despite being the administrative centre of the then East African Federation, was a very small town on the main road between Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

The whole area was put in quarantine for suspected dreaded Bubonic Plague and totally cut off from the rest of the world for ten days or so—no traffic of any sort through the town, no railway trains, no mail nor any deliveries in or out, and the little airport shut down.

We had to count up every member of our staff's families as well as our own, and stand daily outside the only pharmacy in Arusha alongside a heaving, sweating, smelly mass of Maasai, Indians, other Africans, a sprinkling of Europeans and dogs, goats and chickens to pick up our allowance of one tablet each per household member per day--goodness knows what it was, Aspirin perhaps.

The pharmacy would open its doors to let in ten people at a time. As you can imagine, there was much jostling and cursing, but nothing remotely approaching bad temper or violence, and no pickpockets.

My husband was away in Nairobi for the whole period as, of course, he couldn't get back, and the phone service was as bad as it is now, and possibly even worse.

Luckily, we were used to powdered milk so the lack of any fresh milk wasn't too big a problem. But such excitement, and we hadn't even heard of social distancing! Nevertheless, I don't recall anyone ever going down with the Black Death.

Lee Belcher

During this time of the pandemic we have been striving to meet together on Zoom. We usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month.

We have been holding various events, meetings, walks etc. The following gives a feel of what we are doing and if you would like to join us, please contact Jackie Hague or Miriam Evans at charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk to get the meeting code.

The following are some dates to put in your diaries:

Wednesday 17 March at 7.30pm Annual General Meeting and an activity to be arranged. Wednesday 21 April at 7.30pm Tony the Compere - 'Henry VIII'. *Tony the Compere takes on the guise of Henry and leads us through his reign in the 16th century using acting, historical facts and comedy.* We're sure to be 'royally' entertained. Wednesday 19 May Resolutions and Craft Session.

Coffee Morning: Saturday 17 April

WI Book Club—Zoom meetings until we can return to The Rose and Crown or find another venue. Dates: 22nd March, 3rd May

Elevenes—via Zoom. Weekly on Tuesday mornings at 11am. Get a cuppa, relax and join other members for informal chats.

Saturday Coffee Mornings via Zoom: First and third Saturday in the month from 10.30—12.30pm. Drop in when you can, sit down with your morning coffee or tea and enjoy an hour or two catching up with other members. Bring along your knitting, crochet, sugar work, etc. and 'show and tell' what you're working on.

The WI Subscription runs from April 2021 to March 2022. Annual membership of the WI is £44 and is due in April 2021.

CRAG continues to raise funds for refugees

As lockdown remains, Charlbury Refugee Action Group (CRAG) continues to find alternative ways to fundraise. CRAG members and supporters have raised over £4,600 so far in response to our Christmas and New Year appeal.

We have sent £2,500 to Safe Passage to help children join family members in the UK, and we're on course to send at least £1,500 to Choose Love/ Help Refugees, which goes to wherever the need is greatest, in France and Greece. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us.

Meanwhile, if you are running out of books to read in lockdown, we now have around 1,400 second-hand books, many in very good condition, available to buy from our CRAG bookshop - mostly priced at 50p or £1. Our catalogue includes a wide selection of fiction, non-fiction, children's and Young Adult books. You'll also find some beautifully illustrated and produced hardbacks published by The Folio Society at bargain prices.

Please email capricornclive@aol.com to obtain the catalogue including ordering and payment details. Books can be collected from central Charlbury by arrangement in a Covid-secure way. By buying your books from the CRAG bookshop, not only will you be helping to support refugees (all proceeds go directly to CRAG), you will also be recycling books and shopping locally!

For those of you who enjoy baking and are looking to expand your repertoire during lockdown, now might be the perfect time to try some new recipes from our booklet 'Cracking Cakes and Brilliant Bakes'. Available as a PDF, it features 23 recipes for the mouth-

watering teatime treats enjoyed by so many at our concerts, cafés, and tea parties. All the recipes have been tried and tested, are fun to make and eat, and of course they all taste delicious! There's a whole range of recipes for cakes, cookies, tea breads and loaves, including an eighteenth-century fruitcake, honey almond cake, ginger snaps, and mini mocha cakes. Please email recipes@charlburyrefugee.org.uk to request your copy—we suggest a £5 minimum donation which can either be paid online via JustGiving or by bank transfer.

Donations of clothing, blankets etc were most gratefully received in November and December, and all were passed on. For those who missed our deadlines then, please do hang on to your donations if you can, until we are able to coordinate a further delivery, at a time when Covid restrictions may allow.

Finally, the best way to support CRAG is to create a monthly standing order: a regular donation ensures that we can always send money to the charities working in areas of greatest need, which will vary from month to month.

Our bank details are:

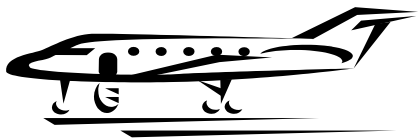
Charlbury Refugee Action Group

Sort code: 08-92-99

Account no: 65789036.

Please email treasurer@charlburyrefugee.org.uk

to let us know if you set up a regular payment—thank you.

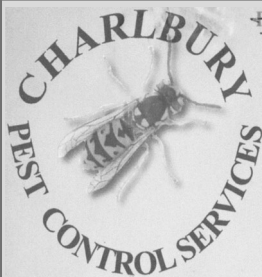


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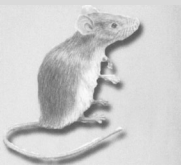
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Please note that it is the responsibility of each organisation listed in the Community Directory to notify any changes to the Editor

Artweeks - Wendy Clifford (01608 810006)

All Together In Charlbury (ATIC)

To request help (01993 776277). To contact management committee (07487 413892)

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

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Helen Wight, Secretary
charlbury.drama@gmail.com

www.charlbury-drama.com

Charlbury Art Society (CAS) Sec: Kati

Eidenbenz (01608 810911)

secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk

Charlbury Beer Festival - Nick Millea

nick.millea@btinternet.com

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—Daniela Jenkins
 (01608 811878)

Charlbury Community Speedwatch —
charlburysw@gmail.com

Charlbury Cricket Club - David Horne Chairman
dw3horne@gmail.com

www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

Charlbury Day Centre - Bob Tait (01608 810150)

Charlbury & District Probus Club Mike White

(07710 296814) mike.ewhite7@gmail.com

Charlbury Green Hub - Christine Elliott

(01608 811057) www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk

Charlbury Garden Society

chairman@charlburygardensociety.org.uk

Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club—Gill Grason

(01608 810154) and Frances Canham (01608

811176)

Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (01608 811007)

peter@charlburymorris.org

www.charlburymorris.org

Charlbury Museum - Curator—

curator@charlburymuseum.org.uk

Charlbury Music Class - Peter Fry (01993

359189)

Charlbury Open Gardens - Catherine Goyder

csfgardens@charlburystreetfair.org

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 -Head (01608 810354)

office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

www.charlbury.oxon.digitalbrain.com

Charlbury School Association -

office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

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

Charlbury Society - Chairman, Nikki Rycroft
n.rycroft@doctors.org.uk

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) jollicat@btinternet.com

Charlbury Women's Institute - President -

Miriam Evans (01608 430807)

charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

ChOC Cinema - Jackie Hague (01608

810713)

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 - Simon

Walker (01608 811414) simon.iets@btinternet.com

Dementia Friendly Charlbury— Meryl Smith

(01608 810192) charlburydf@gmail.com

Friends Meeting House: Sue Terry (01608

811033) email: sueeterry@btinternet.com)

Holiday Club

parishoffice@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

Macmillan Cancer Care - Liz & Bob Tait (01608

810150)

Methodist Chapel - Sue Tokumine (01608

810366) suetok@hotmail.com

Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health

Support) (01608 645296)

Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (01608

810635) admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com

www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com

St Marys C of E Church Rev Sally Welch

(01608 810230)

St Teresa's RC Church Fr Clive Dytor (07484

158642)

Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (01608

811212)

The Bell Inn (01608 810278)

The Bull Inn (01608 810689)

Thomas Gifford Trust- Chris Potts (01608

811878) chris.potts@blakemorgan.co.uk

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



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

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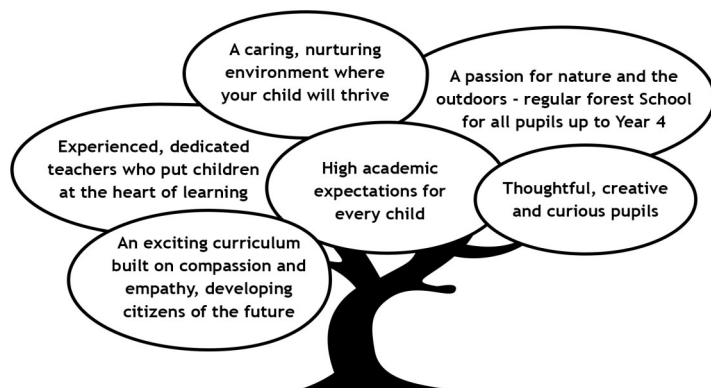
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