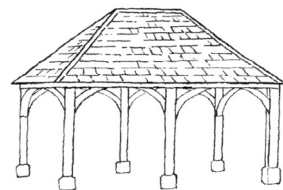


Charlbury Chronicle



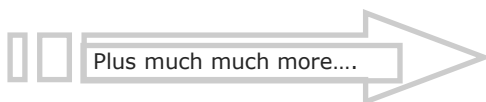
Volume 29 Number 1

Spring 2025

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

First of all I would like to thank all the many contributors who make this newsletter so varied and interesting and all the distributors who bring this to your front door.

There is to be a Street Fair Quiz Night on 15th March—see page 17. And if you would like to help out with Street Fair please see the directory at the back of the Chronicle for whom to contact. They really do need your help.

A reminder that the museum reopens on Saturday 30th March at 10.30am.

Artweeks in Charlbury is happening from 17–26 May. See advert on p18.

The Community Centre are having an Open Day on May 11th, so all go and see what is on offer—see article p. 22

There is a very interesting article on the Rose & Crown on p. 24 written by Judy Dod and gives an insight into the years before.

The Bowls Club Bingo will be held on Monday 31st March—see p.8.

And there is a special article on the Lowland Search and Rescue Organisation on p.41.

If you would like to help with the Chronicle then we need help in delivering the Chronicle to both Sturt and Hughes Close and we also need some help with the advertising. Please contact me on editor.chronicle@outlook.com to offer your services!

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

editor.chronicle@outlook.com

I hope you all have a Happy Easter—and don't eat too many eggs!

Susanna Finch

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Summer issue is 1st May 2025
Please send all articles to editor.chronicle@outlook.com**



Charlbury Museum – At the Heart of Our Community

In 2024 Charlbury Museum celebrated 75 years of community service: collecting, archiving and preserving the town's history. From its humble beginnings in 1949 in an attic room of the Corner House, then later in 1962 the museum was offered a series of outbuildings attached to the Corner House. The community came together to support this inspired expansion, so protecting Charlbury's unique heritage for subsequent generations.

One of our Trustees, who worked in Botswana, recalls the words of the founding president of that country, who studied at Balliol College, Oxford:

'a nation without a past is a lost nation, and a people without a past is a people without a soul'

Sir Seretse Khama 1970

The voluntary and transitory custodians of the museum have endeavoured over the years to preserve the soul of this small market town on the edge of the Cotswolds; telling the stories of the people, places and artefacts in our collection; creating connections for current residents and visitors with the history of our town.

A glance back at 2024 reflects the heartbeat of the museum, a valuable cultural asset in the centre of Charlbury. The exhibition 'Tradition & Tragedy' told the emotional story of the Beating the Bounds in 1924, inspiring a film produced by Alan Snelling and Rob Stepney, with music by Kath Lucas. The museum welcomed local visitors, and visiting tourists from: Australia, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Middle East, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, U.S.A., Ukraine.; on Street Fair Day a 100 visitors came to the museum! In August the museum's heritage walk was part of the Charlbury Festival. And academic research at St.

John's College, Oxford, has developed a fruitful relationship with their archive department, allowing 16th century documents to be photographed for our 2025 exhibition.

What is happening in 2025:

In January the museum commenced a new project which runs until June working with three school girls who are undertaking their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Engaging with young people is a key part of the museum's aspirations within the community.

Accreditation, an Arts Council England Museum Scheme:

the journey towards accreditation status continues, this will put Charlbury Museum on a professional footing for the future. Together with a secure long term lease, the museum will be in a strong position to apply for grant funding which will offer exciting benefits for the community. In February 2025 the museum was pleased to participate in a Conservation Training Day given by our mentor, who has been appointed to guide the museum trustees through the Accreditation process.

Exhibition 2025 will focus on the History of the Playing Close and will include a replica of a unique document held in St. John's College archives. New for 2025 is a fabulous collection of Bessie Marchant books displayed in a bookcase, donated by Andrew & Briony Lawson. The museum opens on **Saturday April 5th** at 10.30am – 12.30am.

Fundraising events: the museum has always been an active fundraiser in the town; in 2000 – 2005 the museum raised £35,000 – £40,000 with support from the Town Council, Corner House Committee, private donors and residents for the new Wagon Room, and museum room refurbishments. 2017- 18 saw the launch of the popular 'Vintage Fashion &

Accessories Sale', a museum initiative in partnership with the Users Committee of the Corner House, £4000 - £5000 was raised for the Corner House (next 'Vintage' fundraiser for museum is in August 2025)

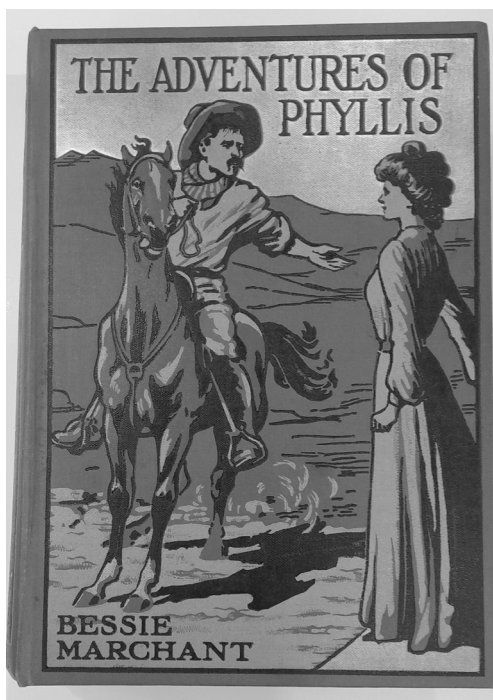
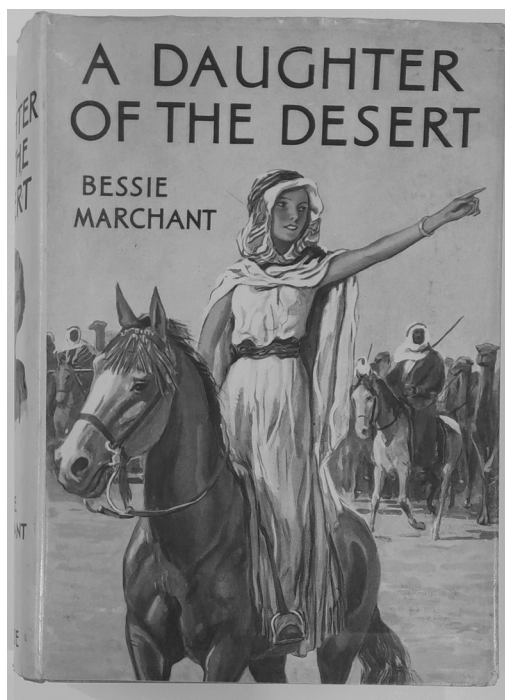
The popular 'Plant Sale' fundraiser will be held on **June 7 2025**

Instagram: one of our trustees has just launched the museum's Instagram page, watch out for images and posts in early Spring!

Would you like to get involved with the museum? If you are interested in volunteering perhaps you might like to come to our social 'Stewards Afternoon' on March 29th 2 -4 and find out more. Please email sue.rangeley@btinternet.com if you would like to join us.

Vacancy for a Trustee/Secretary. The museum Trustees are looking for a new Trustee to join our team of five, to find out more please contact: info@charlburymuseum.org.uk

Sue Rangeley
Trustees of Charlbury Museum & Heritage Centre



Two books written by Bessie Marchant (1862 -1941) who lived at Gothic House, Church Street.

From the 'Bessie Marchant Collection': a bookcase of 100 books now on display in the museum, donated by Andrew & Briony Lawson 2024.



Charlbury Probus Club

Here at Charlbury Probus Club our 2025 season has already begun. We commenced our activities with a 'New Year Curry Lunch' at Sturdy's Castle, which was enhanced when our host Arya provided an in-depth explanation of the various regions of Indian cuisine and how they differed from one another. Our first 'official' lunch of the year took place on Wednesday 5th of February when we were given a presentation on the impact on its history by the 'Ladies of Chastleton House'.

Our AGM will be held at Sturdy's Castle, Kidlington, on Wednesday the 5th of March following the regular monthly lunch, there will be no speaker on this occasion.

A week after the AGM we have our first event of the year, a coach trip to the Birmingham Symphony Hall to enjoy a classical concert. There will also be an opportunity for a little shopping and lunch at one of the many and varied restaurants in the city centre.

Later lunchtime presentations will include, on April 2nd, a talk entitled the 'Battle of Britain Bunker' V.E. Day and Beyond by Chris Leworthy who is the senior guide at the Uxbridge Battle of Britain Bunker.

We meet again in May when the subject of our lunchtime presentation will be relating to the Oxford Community Foundation from Ms Kate Parrinder who is their development officer.

New members are always welcome, and if you are not sure who we are and what we do, we are a group of local men and women who enjoy getting together once a month for a good lunch at reasonable prices and an interesting presentation on varied and diverse subjects.

If you are interested you can contact the chair, Mike White, on 07710 296814 or mike.ewhite7@gmail.com, or our secretary at simon.handley8@icloud.com

Membership is currently £25 per annum, and lunches at Sturdy's Castle are offered at £22.50 for a one course, or £27.50 for a two-course meal; tea or coffee with chocolate mints are provided to finish off the meal. There is no obligation to attend every meal.

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Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle

The Circle's year started well, with January's tasting presented by members Chris and Ant, both of whom are aficionados of Portuguese wines. From the twelve wine producing regions of Portugal, they selected six wines from just four of those regions; Alentejo, Setubal, Vinho Verde and, of course, Douro.

The first of the evening was a very enjoyable dry, fresh and light Azevedo from Vinho Verde, made from the Loureiro grape, with notes of fresh citrus.

As the first white was well received, the second was not greatly appreciated. This Douro Branco is a blend of Rabigato, Gouveio and Viosinho from the higher altitude slopes of the Cima Corgo and Douro Superior.

Most members did not recognise the promised lightly aromatic style and flavours of citrus and white fruit.

Moving on to the reds, we started with a very enjoyable Monte Velho from Alentejo, the largest of the wine producing areas.

An interesting blend of Aragones, Trincadeira, Touriga Nacional and Syrah grapes, it was full bodied with rich tastes of black fruits, herbs, mint and spices, yet with a moderate acidity.

We next tried two reds from Setubal, an area on the opposite side of the Tagus estuary, to the south of Lisbon. *200 Gallons Reserva* is a juicy, fruity red, aged in a very special cask.

Produced from the Alicante Bouschet grape that oozes rich flavours of black cherry and pepper, it has a silky texture, although some were put off by a slight fragrance and taste of tobacco.

Baia De Troia Castelao produced from the Castelao grape had a rich, smooth and

velvety black fruit taste with aromas of blackberry, raspberry and spice. All in all a wonderful creation with 14.5% abv and worth every penny of the £13.99 price.

Our last of the evening was *Baronessa De Vilar Port Finish Reserva*, a gorgeous, rich red from the 15th-generation winemaking van Zeller family, who have been crafting fine ports in Douro since 1715 - and now sumptuous dry reds, too. Using a trio of Douro grapes, aged in old port barrels, this is brimful of spicy fruit and was very well received. A wonderful wine on which to finish.

Our thanks to Chris and Ant for searching out such a wonderful selection and for presenting them so well.

By the time you read this, our February meeting will have taken place and it will surely not have disappointed our membership.

We have been fortunate to arrange a return visit by Peter Tompkins from Goedhuis Waddesdon Ltd.

When Peter last came to Charlbury, members of the Circle were rewarded with both an incredible tasting and unbelievable prices for all wines tasted that evening.

We look forward to return visits by Oli Gauntlett from Eynsham Cellars on 17 March and Marcus Thornton from Haynes, Hanson and Clarke in Stow on the Wold on 14 April.

Guests and new members are always welcome but we do ask you to notify us in advance.

Brian Murray, Secretary.
sec.charlburybeerandwine@yahoo.com

Ant Horn, Chair.
charlburybeerandwinecircle@gmail.com

Charlbury Community Workshop

Sharpen up for Spring!

**Save the date: our next sharpening session will be on
Saturday 29th March, from 9.30 to 12.30.**

**Bring your secateurs, shears, scissors and anything
else that needs sharpening.**

Cutting-edge prices – cash or card

**And don't forget – we're usually open 9.00-12.30 Tuesdays,
10.00-12.00 Wednesdays and 2.00-4.00 Thursdays.**

www.charlburycommunityworkshop.org.uk



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Monday - Friday 8.00 am - 6.45 pm
Saturday 8.00 am - 2.00 pm**

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Charlbury Garden Society

We started the year with a fascinating talk by Melinda Hilliard on the History of Garden Design and Planting. On a freezing January evening it was lovely to see so many of you braving the elements to join us.

We joined forces with the Charlbury Wildlife Society in February for a social evening and forum. We learnt about how we can all help nurture biodiversity. Gardeners can all do their bit and it is such a worthwhile initiative. We are thrilled to be part of Nature Recovery Year in Charlbury.

Looking ahead to the future we look forward to welcoming Rachel Green on 20th March. Rachel will talk to us about the pioneering work of the horticultural charity Bridewell Gardens. Many of you will have visited Bridewell to see first hand the valuable work they do.

April 12th is the date for our Spring Show this year. I always overhear people looking at the exhibits and saying that their daffodils are better - so this is your chance. Don't be shy; look at the schedule, which will appear soon and bring something along. There will be people on hand to help you and the Memorial Hall looks (and smells) magnificent, especially when combined with the wonderful Art work on display from the Art Society. There will be activities for children, including seeds to take away, a raffle and the popular People's Choice award to be voted for.

In May we will once again be holding our popular Plant and Seed Swap. If you are sowing early seeds, do sow a few extra. Although everything is free to take away cash donations are always welcome. This enables us to give donations to greening projects in Charlbury as does your membership fee.

We do hope you feel your membership gives you good value for money - not

only do you help projects around the town, like the station and the Corner House garden, you also receive discounts at local garden centres.

We pay for our speakers throughout the year and subsidise refreshments at certain events. Your membership keeps the Garden Society thriving, so if you haven't renewed your membership this year, please do.

It's easy to do at any of our events but even easier is to use the link on our website <https://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk/membership/> or contact membership@charlburygardensociety.org.uk if you have any queries.

We look forward to a successful growing year and to welcoming you to our many events.

*Alison Derham
Chairman*

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET on the Playing Close between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, 15th March

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 Bowls Club

In 2024 we celebrated our 90th Anniversary and hoped to entice more people to come and along and try the game of Bowls. We continue to strive for new members and for 2025 we are enrolling on Bowls' England's 'Bwlsig Bowls Weekend' and our date is Sunday 25th of May from midday onwards.

We hope many of you can make it. It is completely FREE with Bowls provided and a BAR is available. Come along and have a drink and try your hand at Bowls. Posters will be round the Town to remind you.

The Winter Short Mat season is fully under way and we are all enjoying this indoor Short-Mat version of the game. A different skill set but very enjoyable.

A popular event at the club is our Bingo. The Easter Bingo will be held on Monday 31st March with the doors opening at 6.00pm.

See the poster in this issue for more details and also the posters around Charlbury nearer the date.

The club hall remains available for hire and enquiries should be addressed to:

enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk

If anybody would like to try their arm at Short Mat Bowls, please contact us at the above email address or drop by on a Friday afternoon at 2.00pm when both formats are being played.

*Chris Webb
Secretary*

Charlbury Bowls Club

Ticknell Piece Rd

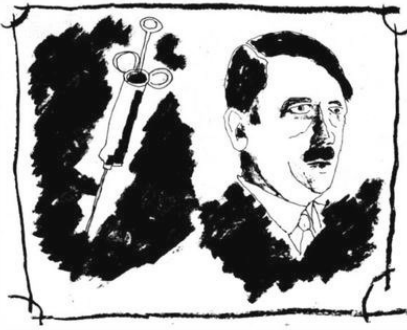
Easter

8 games &
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6 flyers—£1
per game

All ages welcome

Monday 31st March

Doors open 6.00pm, start 7.00pm, Bar



Stories tall but true

Charlbury's anti-vaxxers and a little-known Hitler portrayed on stage

Though vaccination has mostly been voluntary, in the late nineteenth it was not. And in 1897 Charlbury was an unlikely battleground between those who favoured heavy-handed implementation of the government's smallpox prevention strategy and champions of choice.

The dispute also involved social class since the "anti-vaxxers" were ordinary working men and women pitted against the local medical and legal establishment.

Those who refused to vaccinate their children were fined. Failure to pay led to the confiscation of household goods, an attempted auction on the Playing Close, and a riot which risked serious injury.

The men accused of leading the protest were charged with violent disorder and escaped prison thanks only to an open-minded judge who concluded their objections were based on conscience not conspiracy.

Premiered in the Memorial Hall in January before transferring to Oxford's Burton Taylor Theatre, *An Innocuous Prick* – directed by Tim Crisp and written by Ian Cox, who also played Harold Frumpage, journalist and narrator – told this intriguing tale well, and with gusto. It is a complicated story to convey in 45 minutes, but the play puts nuanced arguments in the mouths of believable characters.

Paddy Hitler, the companion piece in this double-bill, plays out on a far wider geopolitical stage and tells the true-life story of Adolf Hitler's nephew -- born in 1911 to an Irish woman, Bridget, and Alois, half-brother of the Führer. So Paddy is part amiably Irish, part kin to the most hated man in history. The play opens with him as an old man living comfortably on Long Island, grappling with a past "as slippery as a basket of eels".

He recalls a childhood growing up in poverty in Liverpool, then time spent in 1930s Berlin where Paddy experiences the excitement of being at history's high table, but also the sinister smell of the Gestapo who governed access to his uncle.

Moving to New York, being a close relative of Adolf brought Paddy a dubious celebrity, and recruitment by MI6 to spread distrust of Germany.

The sustained monologue, delivered with considerable humour, makes great demands of Kieran Cooke, who also wrote the play.

But this is a virtuoso performance (deftly directed by Stuart Parker), aided by the effective use of Nick Parker's sound effects and a few props, notably a mannequin representing Paddy's father – dandy, deceiver and ultimately bigamist. But does Paddy's tale too have an element of fantasy?

Rob Stepney

Charlbury's Nature Recovery Network Launch - Tea Party report.

Saturday 11th January was one of the bleakest days of the winter, but freezing fog did not deter over 100 intrepid souls from reaching the Memorial Hall to share warmth, inspiration and good conversations about how we can help nature in so many ways across our lovely town: along with copious amounts of tea and cake! Catriona Bass from Eynsham shared her experiences and insights for creating a network to share good ideas and materials across our community.

We also welcomed some neighbours from surrounding villages to help create a bigger, better and more-joined up network of people doing whatever they are passionate about to help nature thrive.

Tony and Ann Lloyd not only designed a wonderful logo for us, but ran an art and nature activity for all the children to participate in while their parents joined in the networking with other wildlife enthusiasts. The resulting beautiful bug bunting will be a feature of future events!

This is an on-going programme of action, so do join us for a morning coffee and catch-up at the community centre on the first Saturday of each month if you want to find out more about what is going on. Or contact us at naturerecoverycharlbury@gmail.com to get our monthly updates or to offer to support/ participate in any of the activities that different groups are planning throughout the year. Everyone is welcome to join in, whatever your age or interests, and we will be posting plenty of things on the Charlbury website to ensure that everyone is included.

Our wonderful Visual Minute-taker, Beatrice, delighted us with her extraordinary skills in capturing the afternoon's discussions and opportunities, which are shared below and will be available to view soon as a banner.

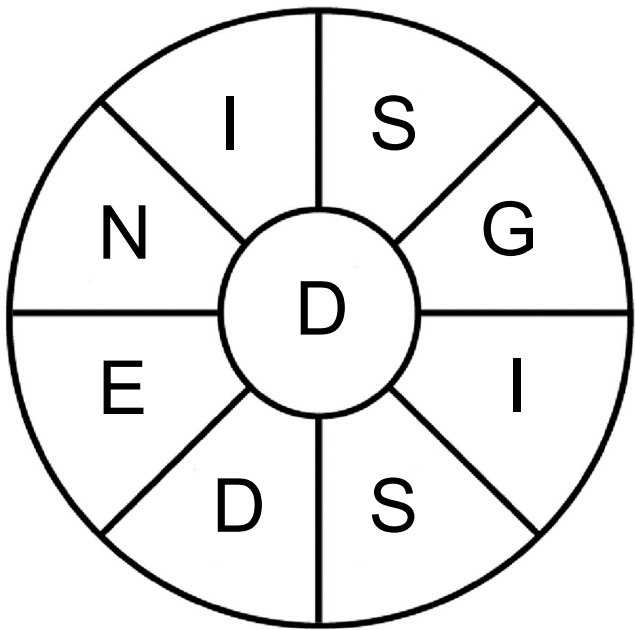




Coffee break page

Compiled by Michele Marietta

Must have at least four letters. Must use centre letter for all words.



Answers on p39



Charlbury Pre-School News

A Busy Start to the Year at Charlbury Preschool

The new term is off to a fantastic start at Charlbury Preschool, with the children enjoying lots of learning, exploring, and play!

Highlights from the Classroom

One of the children's favourite additions is the Playdough Station, where they've been adding thyme and lavender from our herb garden, as well as spices like cinnamon and cloves.

These sensory activities have sparked great conversations about scents and textures.

In maths, we've been focusing on counting, numeral recognition, and matching numbers to quantities. During Monster Phonics the children have explored environmental sounds and even made musical instruments by filling tubes with pasta—what a fun way to learn about sound!

Despite the chilly weather, the outdoor obstacle course has kept the children busy practicing balance and movement, while inside, they've been budding chefs, developing their measuring, stirring and weighing skills while making delicious waffles topped with honey and fruit.

With Chinese New Year approaching, we've been crafting colourful lanterns and are excited to make and taste homemade spring rolls soon!

A Big Thank You!

Last term was packed with exciting experiences. A big thank you to Charlbury Vets (Hook Norton Veterinary

Group) who visited in October, letting children bandage toy animals, take temperatures, dress up as vets, and explore animal X-rays.

A visit from Charlbury Fire Station brought plenty of excitement too! The children tried on helmets, unrolled hoses, explored the fire truck, and even sat in the fire engine. Thank you to both teams—the children loved every moment!

Fundraising Fun

And a big thank you to everyone who supported the Preschool Christmas Disco. The dancing, crafts, and Santa's visit were a huge success, raising essential funds for the preschool.

We rely on community fundraising to meet our running costs, stay up to date on our future events by visiting charlburypreschool.org.uk or follow us on social media.

Join the Preschool Committee

Charlbury Preschool is run by a volunteer committee, and we're always looking for new members! You don't need a child at the Preschool to join—and we'd love to hear from anyone in the community who'd like to get involved. Email us at

committee.charlburypreschool@gmail.com

We offer sessions running from 8:30 - 5pm Monday-Friday during term time. For enrolment and general inquiries, contact us at 01608 811200 or admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk

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Cotswold Line Promotion Group

With the continuing unreliability of the service, it is hard to shout out in support of GWR but it has to be said that the problems are largely not of their making.

With the finances of Great Western and Network Rail being controlled by the Department for Transport and ultimately the Treasury, there is little chance of early release of funds to enable the train operator to acquire more trains to increase capacity or for Network Rail to eliminate any of the single track sections of our line and, in so doing, reduce delays.

The recent formation by the government of the shadow Great British Railways (GBRTT) is likely to have considerable impact at some stage, as more of the train operators' franchises are brought in house.

The next, regular face to face meeting between the CLPG committee and the senior members of the GWR team will take place in Moreton in Marsh as the Spring edition of the *Charlbury Chronicle* is published. A report of the meeting will be made in the Summer edition.

With this year being the 200th anniversary of the inauguration of the Stockton and Darlington Railway and,

with that, the start of the country's modern railway network, it is fitting that nationwide commemorations will be held under the banner of *RAILWAY 200*.

Rather than arrange a carnival-like family fun day, CLPG is arranging something very different – a competitive, educational project open to secondary school and academy students in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

They will explore the use of STEM subjects by railway companies today and also look decades into the future. Great Western Railway, Network Rail and the Railway Industry Association are collaborating with us in this project.

This is hoped will open the minds of the participants to science, technology, engineering and mathematics in our railways and the considerable number and variety of highly paid jobs in the wider railway industry, both in this country and abroad. There will be some very interesting prizes too.

For more information, go to CLPG.online.

Brian Murray

bee.emm100@yahoo.com

CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Following our appeal in the last issue of the Chronicle we are pleased to announce that we have two new volunteer cooks. However we still have capacity for new recipients. At lunchtime on Tuesdays we will deliver a hot main meal and a pudding, between 12pm and 12.45pm to elderly or disabled residents in Charlbury, Chadlington and Stonesfield at a cost of £5 per meal.

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a meal, please telephone Susan Merry on 07979 840438 or email susanmerry2@gmail.com.

Corner House to close down

The Corner House is set to become warmer and more comfortable thanks to the installation of secondary glazing to all the sash windows.

There is heat loss through the aged single-glaze windows and some of them don't fit very well and are draughty.

But the glass in some windows has appealing uneven characteristics of hand made glazing. On this prominent listed building, there is reluctance to permit exchange of those windows for the uniformity of modern double or triple-glaze units.

Instead, the solution here seems to be to retain what we have and add secondary glazing inside. That idea is not without criticism because secondary glazing can be unattractive and awkward to use. Secondary glazed units often need removal in the summer months so windows can be opened. And UPVC frames? Definitely not here!

None of those negatives will apply to the Corner House because the trustees have identified a unique and extremely neat system which is hardly noticeable – and where sashes open and close without fuss just like new windows.

To achieve smooth operation, the first step is to remove each window from its frame and put it thorough comprehensive renovation. That includes, where necessary, the fitting of new sash weights and other components.

There are ten sash windows on the ground and first floors of the Corner House and every one of them is to receive this treatment.

This is a big project and will take about a month to complete. Several windows will be removed simultaneously, and the former kitchen is to be transformed into

a carpentry workshop where the significant work will take place.

The trustees are confident the results will be appreciated in better working windows, free from draughts, easy to open and close, of course insulated, and – importantly – very good-looking.

This is an expensive project costing over £30,000 which is entirely paid for by grants from Sustainable Charlbury (profits from Charlbury solar farm), plus CPRE Oxfordshire Buildings Preservation Trust. Many thanks to both of those for their generous support.

It will not be realistic to use the Corner House whilst all this disruption is going on. As well as windows missing, there will be unacceptable safety issues if public are in the building. Therefore, except for the Art Room, Corner House will close for about four weeks expected to be towards the end of March and the first weeks of April.

Cornerstone's important contribution to the life of Charlbury cannot close for such a long period. That project will temporarily relocate to the Garden Room at the Memorial Hall where it will continue with as little disruption as possible. The room will be closed from the main hall and access will be from the terrace on the left side of the hall.

Those activities which usually happen in the Garden Room will continue instead in the Green Room at the back of the hall.

Some inconvenience but a change of surroundings often inspires renewal, and the expectation is that new life to the windows will make the whole interlude very worthwhile when done

*Roy Scott
Chairman of the trustees*



Sustainable Charlbury

Reducing carbon, restoring nature

Sustainable Charlbury (also known as SusCha) has a new website! It's brighter, fresher and more friendly than the original, with graphics showing images of a Charlbury-like townscape, rolling hills, trees and solar panels in a palette of greens, yellows and orange.

The site was built by Me3, a locally-based web development company. We think they did a great job and we've been busy populating it with case studies of projects we've supported and a news section.

Over the last few years, SusCha has awarded £120,000 worth of grants to more than forty local community and environment projects. We expect a minimum annual income of around £30,000 to invest in new grants for projects that reduce carbon emissions and/or support nature recovery in coming years.

Funding comes from surpluses generated by Southill solar farm, located just outside Charlbury, which is community owned and run.

The new site aims to make it as easy as possible for local groups to file grant applications. At the same time, we've streamlined our application process to make the form more user-friendly, easy to understand and fill in. Me3 have also designed us a new logo.

Recent grant awards include:

- £31,000 to pay for secondary

glazing at The Corner House, a community facility donated to the town soon after the second world war. This is the largest single grant we've ever made and forms part of a long-term commitment to help renovate the listed, historic building.

- £2,000 for a 'whole building plan' identifying ways of improving energy efficiency at Charlbury Primary School.
- £1,400 for insulating the ceiling, frost heaters and other energy efficiency improvements at Charlbury Scout Hut. This brings our total funding for the scouts to £3,400 and has already led to a £500 a year saving in the hut's electricity bill.

SusCha paid half the cost of staging the successful launch event /tea party for the town council's Charlbury Year of Nature Recovery on 11th January, which drew a large crowd to the Memorial Hall to discuss ways of increasing biodiversity and supporting local nature.

For more information about grants and other support for community projects around Charlbury, please visit our new website at <https://sustainablecharlbury.com> or email us at grants@sustainablecharlbury.org.

Mark Gregory



**Sustainable
Charlbury**
Reducing carbon,
restoring nature

[Who we are](#) [What we do](#) [Apply for a grant](#) [News and views](#)

Supporting environmental projects in Charlbury and the surrounding area

Sustainable Charlbury provides grants for projects that reduce carbon emissions and help restore nature. These are funded from revenues generated by the Southill Community Energy solar farm, bringing real benefits to Charlbury and the local community in West Oxfordshire.

[Find out more](#)



SAVE THE DATE QUIZ 15th MARCH !

The ever- popular quiz will be on Saturday 15th March at 7pm in the Memorial Hall. Teams of up to six people. Get the date in your diary now and look for more details on Charlbury Info and social media.

We will also be running Open Gardens again this year. More details soon.

This year's Street Fair will be on 20th September with Egg Throwing the previous evening as usual.

As you know, all these events raise funds for our Memorial Hall and Corner House.

If you think you could help us to organise the Street Fair and the other events we put on, please get in touch by emailing 'csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org'. The more help we have, the better the events will be so please, have a think to see if this is something you could offer. A few hours a month is all it takes and it is great fun!

Liz Partington

Artweeks in Charlbury

Saturday 17 - Sunday 26 May

(including the Bank Holiday on 26th)



Artweeks is an arts festival which takes place annually during May all over Oxfordshire. Charlbury is a prime North Oxfordshire Artweeks destination.

With over 20 artists exhibiting each year, most within easy walking distance of each other, it represents a wide cross section of all the artists taking part in Oxfordshire.

Many varied genres of art can be found in churches, cottages, studios, workshops and gardens.

A trail map will be available in April, providing helpful information and making it easy to find all the artists.

Contact: Maureen Sparling 07779 779121
www.artweeks.org



Charlbury Arts Save the dates!

Noye's Fludde Performances 2025 Saturday, April 5th 3pm and 7pm, Sunday April 6th 3pm

Today the sun is shining after weeks of rain, there are flooded, muddy fields and big puddles everywhere. Hopefully we are in for a dry spell, otherwise we could be flooded.....

In April 2025 we really will have a flood!

There will be three productions of Noye's Fludde in St Mary's Church, Charlbury and preparations are starting now!

Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde is a community opera, first performed in 1958 at the Aldeburgh Festival.

It was written for mainly amateur performers, particularly children, in local settings such as churches and halls and is based on a Chester Miracle Play.

The Chester Miracle Plays were written in the 14th century by ordinary people for performance by craftsmen, tradesmen and their families.

The story of Noah and the flood, the third play in the Chester cycle, was originally performed by the Drawers of Dee (the water carriers). The last recorded performance in Chester was in 1575 until the mystery plays were revived in the 1950s.

The Charlbury production will be delivered by The Oxford Concert Party, started more than 30 years ago by Arne Richards and Isabel Knowland who are well known in Charlbury for their music making. Noye's Fludde is a final celebratory project after many community concerts and workshops making music accessible to all.

The production will be conducted by Ben Goodall, Musical Director of the Chipping Norton Choral Society and other adult

and youth choirs and directed by Pat Winslow. Pat has worked for twelve years in theatre and is a writer and storyteller. The overall aim is for local youngsters to have great fun providing an amazing spectacle for the enjoyment of all.

The performances will be preceded by the Oxford Concert Party playing a short selection of their repertoire - music from Ireland, Scotland, France, Eastern Europe plus tangos from Argentina.

Save the dates in your diary!

The chorus of fifty animals will be local children, Noye and his wife will be adult singers and teenagers will play Noye's sons, their wives and Mrs Noye's Gossips.

A string orchestra, recorder players, bugles and handbells plus eight professional musicians will provide the music and Charlbury Arts are delighted to be involved with the costume design and making, props and scenery.

We are planning simple costumes with amazing head decorations!

If you or a young person you know would like to be involved, either playing an instrument or singing in the animal chorus, please contact

isabel@oxfordconcertparty.org

Watch the Charlbury Website for further details of other ways to be involved and for how to book your tickets!

Joanna Shakir for Charlbury Arts.

charlburyarts@gmail.com



CRAG

On the last Saturday of January, nearly 250 people packed the Memorial Hall for this year's CRAG Gala Concert and were royally entertained by The King's Singers. Renowned for their unrivalled technique, musicianship and versatility, this six-strong 'a capella' group ran through a varied selection of songs from their extensive repertoire in a programme entitled 'Close Harmony'. It included traditional folk songs, Rossini's Overture to the Barber of Seville as well as hits by Gershwin, The Beach Boys and the Beatles.

Many of the innovative arrangements were by former Charlbury resident and King's Singer Bob Chilcott, who also attended the concert.

Huge thanks to our local sponsors and everyone who participated and volunteered to make this an extraordinary community event. As a result of everyone's generosity the concert raised over £8,000! This was preceded by a sell-out performance from Roderick Williams and Susie Allan in December which raised another £4,000. And, despite the arctic temperatures, we raised further funds from our annual January Bring and Buy.

Which all means we've recently been able to make substantial donations to Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) as well as our seven partner charities: Safe Passage, Refugee Community Kitchen, Care4Calais, Asylum Welcome, Collective Aid, The Hope Project and Refugee Resource.

There are two more Sunday tea concerts coming up in this season's programme,

CRAG News

Firstly, on Sunday March 9th at 3pm the distinguished concert pianist Margaret Fingerhut will be returning to Charlbury to perform for the third time for CRAG. Her programme this time will explore solo piano music from Ukraine – her father's homeland. Then on Sunday April 27th at 3pm, we are delighted to welcome back Alison Bury and Maggie Cole who will be performing Bach sonatas for violin and harpsichord.

Advance booking for all CRAG concerts is strongly recommended. Tickets can be bought from "Number Five, Market Street" or from www.charlburyrefugee.org.uk - ticket prices include complimentary refreshments. All proceeds go to refugee relief.

In the meantime, we are collecting again for the charity Care4Calais. In particular they need small and medium men's coats, jumpers, jogging bottoms or jeans. Also tents, sleeping bags and blankets. Please note: women's and children's clothes/toys are not needed.

If you can help please bring your items to White Hart, Market St, OX7 3PH by Sunday 2nd March. Come under the archway at the side of the house and through the courtyard gateway on the right. There is a garden table in the courtyard where items and bags can be left or, if it's raining, please ring the doorbell.

Find out more about CRAG and sign up to our newsletter by visiting our website at:

www.charlburyrefugee.org.uk/collections/



News from the Charlbury Patient Participation Group.

Men's Group

The CPPG has discussed the idea of forming a Men's Group which would focus on men's health issues. Alan Jenkins who is on the Steering Group of the CPPG is taking this idea forward. A preliminary meeting has taken place at the Charlbury Football Club and another meeting is being planned and will be advertised on the Charlbury info. Website. If you would like further information or are interested in attending please send a message to Alan at mensgroupcmc@gmail.com.

Repeat Prescriptions

By the time this edition of The Chronicle has been circulated, the changes whereby patients are no longer able to telephone CMC for repeat prescriptions will have been in force for more than a month. CPPG has posted information on the Charlbury website, but please contact us via the e-mail at the bottom of the page if this is causing you difficulties.

Surveys:

CMC Survey: A survey was handed out to patients at the last vaccination clinic and was also available at reception. 107 responses were received and the overall satisfaction with the services provided were high with 55 ticking 'excellent' and 46 ticking 'good', 5 'fair' and 1 'poor'.

Meanwhile the **NHS GP Patient Survey** was sent out to random patients in January. For further information regarding this survey and to see how CMC is performing visit www.gp-patient.co.uk or phone Ipsos on Freephone 0800 819 135.

In addition the public is being encouraged to have their say in the future and long-term planning of the NHS by completing the following survey: https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/projects/start-here_

Finally, Healthwatch is conducting a survey into people's experiences of accessing and using emergency care:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UECservices/>

That is probably enough surveys to keep us going for the time-being!

Minor Injuries Units

For minor injuries it is best to contact 111 who will advise on the most appropriate facility to attend. There are minor injuries units (MIUs) at Moreton in the Marsh and Witney. It is worth noting that MIUs are not able to X-ray hips, pelvises, backs, spines, faces, or ribs. Out of hours service (after 7:00pm and at weekends) is also available at MIUs but patients **must** ring 111 to make an appointment.

Blister Pack Recycling

Some pharmacies (Boots, Superdrug) offer this service. CPPG are looking into providing a local collection service to reduce waste from these products and possibly raise money for charity.

Breast Screening

The Breast Screening mobile unit will be at CMC for a few months. Women patients automatically eligible for screening (ie. those between the ages of 50 and their 71st birthday) will be contacted by letter by the Breast Screening Service. Women patients of 71 and over who want to request a screening appointment should phone 01865 235621

Good news from Horton Hospital

The Horton Hospital has been named the best hospital for dealing with hip fractures for the 12th Year running! <https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/news/article.aspx?id=2150&returnurl=/default.aspx&pi=0>

Please consider joining the CPPG for up-to-date information about Charlbury Medical Centre. e-mail charlburypatientgroup@gmail.com.

Deborah Hofman

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN DAY on Sunday May 11th!

Everyone at Charlbury Community Centre is excited to welcome you to our upcoming Open Day! ***What is the Community Centre? What can you find there?***

It's many, many things! It's ...



A warm space to relax, pick up a book and have a cup of tea, 7 days a week



A welcoming place to start a gentle exercise class or programme where you don't need to look like a body builder or wear Lycra!



A buzzing and social place to try a new activity like pickleball or basketball or line dancing with others from the community – where no previous experience is needed



A family-friendly place to bring the children where they can run around, borrow books, and play games for free or join in toddler gym or singing classes



A dedicated workshop to pursue interests in crafts, wood or metal work all while meeting and getting to know others with similar interests



A convenient place to stop in for a delicious home-baked sausage roll or slice of cake or a takeaway coffee that doesn't cost the earth!



A safe place and active hub for teens to create their own clubs and pursue their own interests



An amazing Sports Hall to play table tennis or badminton on a casual, and non-competitive basis, without having to commit



A dynamic place that sometimes offers talks on History of Art and sometimes offers half-term craft or sports activities – and welcomes your ideas for more activities or events!



A local place where you can access the Internet with free Wi-Fi and print documents



An enthusiastic fitness instructor who encourages families to exercise together at the weekend and challenges more serious fitness fans to wicked work-outs in the evenings!

On Open Day ...

- **join a free Circuits class** led by our Fitness instructor Jason (or just watch!)
- **try out the exercise machines** with access to our pop-up gym
- **sample our home-baked cakes, scones, and sausage rolls** with a cold drink, cup of tea or a cappuccino
- **explore the community workshop** and the **library**
- **let the kids run around the Sports Hall, and play in the soft play area – all free**
- **find out more about our Youth programme**
- **meet some of our fitness class instructors** and find out more about them
- **join in a pick-up game of badminton, table tennis, or basketball** – again no cost!

Our staff and volunteers will be present to provide information and answer any questions about how you and your family can get involved. For more info about the day, contact Catherine at reception@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk.

If you have any questions about cost of activities or access to classes, please get in touch with Anna at info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk. We really want everyone to be able to use this amazing community place.

So wander down, come in and discover all that Charlbury Community Centre has to offer! We look forward to seeing you there.



CHARLBURY
Community Centre

The Rose & Crown, Charlbury

At a time when many pubs are closing around the country, Charlbury is lucky to have no less than four thriving public houses. Occupying a prominent site on the corner of Church and Market Streets, the Rose & Crown has always played a central role in the life of the town. In her *History of Charlbury* Lois Hey says that the first written record of the pub is in the deeds of the local Barclays Bank in 1688. So it has been at the heart of our community for over 330 years.

Little is known of the early years of the pub. From the mid-16th century, every keeper of an alehouse or inn was required to enter into a bond (or recognizance) usually to the value of £10, binding him to keep an orderly house upon forfeit of the money. The bond was in effect a licence. From 1753 full registers of these licensed victuallers had to be kept and these are a great resource for discovering who ran the local alehouses and inns. The first recorded licence holder of the Rose & Crown was Nicholas Wrenford who ran the pub from 1753-56. His will survives, showing that he also owned the White Hart: it seems he was a man of substance. Jackson's Oxford Journal, also founded in 1753, was a popular place for businesses to advertise and is another rich source of local information on the local pubs.

The Rose & Crown premises once occupied a larger plot than it does now, stretching further along the north side of Church Street. It offered accommodation for travellers, stables for their horses and carriages for hire. Pubs were not only places to buy liquor and share a drink with your neighbours: being the largest public buildings in the town, they were used for many public events. These could range from sales of horses to inquests into sudden deaths, to auctions of furniture and other household goods.

The Rose & Crown was a convenient place to hold meetings: in 1892 farmers came together there to discuss how to increase their stock now the railway had expanded offering them new markets. It often

provided food and drink for big gatherings. In 1872 a troop of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry put on an exhibition of drill in Cornbury Park after which they retired to the Rose & Crown for a good dinner provided by landlord Percival Kench. The Heyford Hunt were active in the area and in 1883 held their annual dinner for gamekeepers and earth-stoppers there in what sounds like a very jolly affair. 50 people sat down to the meal which was followed by toasts and lusty singing. The pub also organised the catering at outside events such as the cricket match between the Forest Club and a Chipping Norton side in June 1856 where they provided food for the obligatory cricket tea.

And who would have thought that you could see a dentist at the Rosie! Mr Lukyn, 'Dentist to Oxford University', toured the area in the 1830s holding surgeries in various towns including Charlbury. You'll see from his advert (below) that in 1833 he was offering dental appointments at The [Rose &] Crown on 3rd August and 2nd September from 4 o'clock. You might well have needed a stiff drink after that visit.

It also provided the venue for more sombre events such as inquests into sudden deaths. In 1855 there was an inquest into the death of the infant child of James Farmer the hairdresser, and a harrowing case from 1880 tells of a young child who drank from a kettle of boiling water leading to his death the same day. And in 1898 a long inquest was held there after the apparent suicide of the wife of George Forest who was the landlord of the pub at Oxford House (Glovers Arms) in Market Street.

Pubs changed hands frequently and publicans often moved from one Charlbury pub to another. In 1783 John Clary, publican at The Royal Oak, left and took over at the Rose & Crown. Thomas Buscott bought the Rose & Crown from him in 1794 and 'laid in an Assortment of the best Wines and excellent Liquors'. It seems he did not plan to run it himself as

The Rose & Crown, Charlbury

by May the next year it was up for sale or let, having 'undergone a thorough Repair'. Publicans then brewed their own beer and the pub is advertised as being 'worth the attention of a Person who understands Brewing, there being every Convenience erected for that Purpose'. Women could hold licences too: in 1797 Mary Weston took on the Rose & Crown's licence when her husband John died and she ran the pub for three years.

Towards the end of the 19th century big breweries often stepped in to run previously free houses and this happened to the Rose & Crown who were taken over by Clinch & Co of Witney. In September 1905 a fire broke out in the premises of a watchmaker in Church Street on land belonging to and adjacent to the pub. Clinch & Co took the opportunity to demolish the old pub and rebuild on the same site with a smaller footprint.

A purpose-built Post Office (now No5 Market Street) was added into the space between the pub and Lukers shop (now the Deli).

The pub today carries on its long tradition of providing a friendly venue where the community meets. It holds an annual

beer festival, groups meet there for pleasure and for business and it takes an active part in events such as the Charlbury Festival. Here friendships are forged, creative projects are hatched, music is made and games played. Those who run it take an active interest in the welfare of their regulars and many people have reason to thank them for their care and concern. A big thank you to Nikki and her staff for carrying on the pub's centuries-old tradition as the lively hub of our community.

Quotes are from the Oxford Journal, available online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Many thanks to Douglas Rudlin for his booklet *The Life and times of the Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Charlbury, Oxfordshire* which contains an enormous amount of information about the many Charlbury pubs that traded here over the centuries.

Purchase a copy from Charlbury Museum or order online at www.lulu.com (search by Douglas Rudlin).

Judy Dod

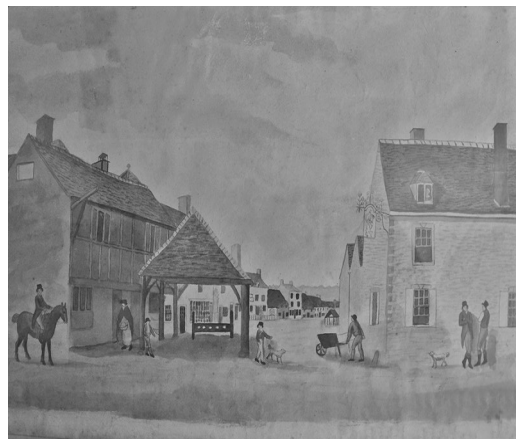
MR. LUKYN,
(Matriculated by the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford).
DENTIST TO THE UNIVERSITY,
COWLEY HOUSE, close to MAGDALEN BRIDGE,
OXFORD.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH, upon LUKYN'S ANATOMICAL PLATES, invented and worn by him, possess a power of mastication and beauty of adaption that exceeds belief. Diseased and forbidding cases restored to health and symmetry. Fixed fees. Skilful and honourable practice.

Appointments for August and September.
The first Monday in August and September, and following days, the place, day, and hour, the same in each month.
First Monday in August (5th), and September 2d.—
Red Lion, Banbury, 10 o'clock; White Hart, Chipping-Norton, 2 o'clock; Crown, Charlbury, 4 o'clock.
Thursday (5th August), and Thursday (2nd September).

Advert, Jackson's Oxford Journal 3 August 1833

Courtesy of British Newspaper Archive
www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk



Painting of Church Street c 1808 with Rose & Crown on right from Charlbury Museum, artist unknown

Charlbury Church Services



Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

Sundays 10.30am. Weekly worship with Communion usually on the first Sunday of each month

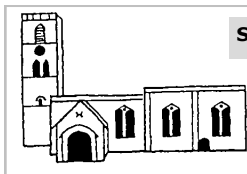
Join our **live-streamed services: see our church website on charlbury.info**

Tuesdays at 7.30pm Bible Study/ discussion in person or on zoom

Friday March 7th and April 11th Join us at 7pm for our next **Film Nights.** Free events

Maundy Thursday, 17th April 7.30pm. Service of Prayer and Healing

Our garden. A place to sit quietly and enjoy at any time.



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

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)

You are very welcome to join us



Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane

Sunday services at 10.30am

Further information from Gill Grason (01608 810154)



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

Wednesday Mass: 9.15 am (followed by Adoration/ Benediction) except in Lent when Stations of the Cross)

Friday Mass: 9.15 am

Sunday: 9.15 am Parish Mass.

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

Churches Together in Charlbury

Churches Together in Charlbury has been arranging a series of public talks in Lent since 2010. In the first series, on the theme 'Art and Faith', the Rt Rev Richard Harries, former bishop of Oxford, was one of the speakers. He introduced us to the work of a Christian artist, Roger Wagner, who depicts scenes from the life of Christ in modern settings. This year we are delighted that Roger himself will be talking about his dramatic paintings in our Lent series 'Images of Jesus in art and poetry'.

In this series we will focus on the person of Jesus, using pictures and poetic imagery to enhance and expand our understanding of his life, ministry and message. Art and poetry can speak to us in ways that no amount of preaching and teaching ever could. Talks will take place on Tuesday evenings from 11 March to 8 April at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Parish Church.

Everyone is welcome. Admission is free but donations will be welcome to cover expenses and to support Christian Aid's work in the Middle East.

Another opportunity to reflect on the Christian faith from a new perspective takes place on Friday 7 March at 11am when a service will be held for the World Day of Prayer in St Mary's. This year the service has been prepared by women in the Cook Islands and will give us an insight into their lives, the way they celebrate and the challenges they face. Again everyone is welcome.

But Lent isn't all quiet reflection. On Fridays from 14 March to 4 April people

from the five churches in Charlbury will be busy preparing delicious soups for lunch. A meal of soup, bread and cheese will be offered in one of the churches each Friday between 12 and 1.30 pm. Come and meet friends and get to know new people. There is no fixed charge but donations are requested which will be given to support Christian Aid's work in the Middle East and other troubled areas of the world.

Lent finishes on Good Friday which this year is on 18 April. Good Friday is a public holiday but it is also a holy day when we remember that Jesus faced the worst the world could do to him and died a painful death. We will be 'Walking the Way of the Cross', stopping at each of the five local churches where there will be a reading and hymn to remember his suffering and the way he prayed for forgiveness for those who treated him so cruelly. We will be starting by the fountain on the Playing Close at 10 am, walking round the town centre and finishing at the Methodist Church for refreshments. Jesus showed compassion – which literally means to 'suffer with or alongside' – and we will also be remembering people suffering in the world today and seeking ways to show compassion towards them.

All these events will be listed on Charlbury.info and publicised in the local churches. They are open to everyone – please come and join in.

Rosalind Scott

*Secretary to Churches Together in
Charlbury*

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

Font Cafe

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

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

St Mary's & All Saints' Shorthampton Easter Services

Community Breakfast 9am

2nd March, 6th April, 4th May

Choral Evensong 6pm

6th April, 1st June

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion 12.15pm 5th March,
Shorthampton

Holy Communion 6pm 5th March, St
Mary's

Easter: 14th—20th April

Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday

16th 6pm Holy week compline

Maundy Thursday 17th 7pm Holy

Communion with foot washing

Good Friday 18th 10am Holy

Communion, 12.15pm Litany and

Meditation Shorthampton, 2pm Hour at
the Cross

Good Friday: Walking the Way of the
Cross; 10am Playing Close and finishes
at Methodist Church

Easter Day 8am St Marys, 10am St

Marys, 11.15am All Saints

Shorthampton

St Georges Day Service 6pm with
beer blessing, 23rd April.

Ignite (contemporary worship) 6pm

9th March, 13th April, 11th May

Children at St Mary's

Sunday Club – during the 10am
service each week

Messy Church

Friday 18th April 10am Good Friday



- Scarification
- Hollow Tining
- Lawn Aeration
- Over Seeding
- Top-Dressing
- Removal Weeds
- Moss Control

NO CONTRACT

Contact Steve

01865 331501/
07894 983801

Email:

cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com



**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**

Next steps after a dementia diagnosis

Dementia Oxfordshire is a service commissioned to provide information, advice and support to people living with dementia and their carers from the point of receiving a dementia diagnosis.

They have a team of Dementia Advisers who are there to provide ongoing personalised support and information on an area basis around the County. Our local Adviser is Julia Burgess, who can be contacted on 07827 235451 or by email at julia@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk.

Dementia Oxfordshire also operate a dementia support line staffed by Dementia Advisers. This is available 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday on 01865 410 210 to provide advice and guidance on dementia to everyone, including relatives, carers, and health care professionals.

Dementia Oxfordshire's website, www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk has a section "Next steps after a diagnosis" which includes a useful Post-Diagnosis Dementia Checklist. This covers all the key financial, care and planning-for-the-future issues, which people living with dementia and their carers need to deal with.

Dementia Oxfordshire's website is a useful resource, which provides information on dementia and support services available and also events including dementia information sessions.

There are information sessions for informal carers and for people who have recently received a dementia diagnosis. Dementia awareness sessions can also be delivered to local organisations and businesses.

There are online sharing sessions for people living with dementia. The sessions aim to give people the

opportunity to meet others sharing the same journey, to learn positively about dementia and to swap practical tips and advice about living well and retaining independence. The sessions take place online on the 4th Wednesday of each month, from 1pm-2pm. For more information and to register for a session, contact Dementia Oxfordshire at education@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk

There are also sharing sessions for carers who have access to Zoom – Care2Share. These sessions are facilitated by Dementia Advisers and are aimed at providing an opportunity for carers to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences with those in a similar position.

To find out more, contact Katie Smok by phoning 07827235441 or sending an email to:

katiesmok@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk.

How to approach supporting someone with dementia or memory problems who does not feel that they need help

The Alzheimers Society has some suggestions on their website: www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/how-offer-help-someone-dementia-who-doesnt-want-it.

Dementia Friendly Charlbury (DFC) is a group of volunteers who want Charlbury to be a friendly and welcoming place for everyone to live, especially people with memory and thinking problems.

If you have any comments or concerns to pass on to DFC, you can contact us on 01608 810192 or email us at charlburydf@gmail.com.

Meryl Smith

Charlbury Society

We have three further talks, all in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 to draw our season to a close.

On the 6 th March, Alison Butler will explore the history of our churches in Charlbury through the prism of baptism. On the 3 rd April Simon Randall will talk to us about the Civil War in the Cotswolds and show us some interesting finds in his possession.

Our brief AGM this year will be held on Thursday 24 th April, followed by an update on the nature recovery network by Neil Clennell of the Wychwood Forest Trust who have been involved with the project you will all have heard about, and so enthusiastically supported in January.

We are saddened that no one has yet come forward to take over from me as Chair, especially since our events have been so well supported recently. There is still time to offer to take on this role , but if we are not able to recruit, the Society will be put on hold for the time being.

As a reminder, what is involved is described again below.

The role includes chairing each meeting, with a brief introduction to the speaker, being responsible for 4-5 committee meetings a year, with some administrative work to support the AGM, and, with others , drawing up and organising the programme of eight talks a year, as well as planning an annual outing and social events. In all this I am very well supported by a committee secretary , finance and membership secretaries, a Zoom host, and others who contribute to the running and publicity of the lecture series , and social events.

If you feel you would be interested in taking on this role, possibly shadowing me during the season, please do contact me, either at a talk, or by email to chair.charlsoc@gmail.com

Nikki Rycroft
www.charlburysociety.org.uk

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Charlbury WI News

We are now meeting in the Primary School again at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month.

We're not just Jam & Jerusalem; come & see what we get up to!

- Lifelong Friendship & Support
- All Ages & Abilities
- Education, Hands-on-Activities
- Talks on Fascinating Subjects
- Community Involvement
- Interest Groups
- Outings, Walks & Meals Out
- Share Experiences & Have Fun

We have many new talks arranged, namely Dave & Jo Murphy coming along to talk to us about "Dressing the Past" to give us some idea of re-enactment!

In May we will have someone from the RSPB to give us a talk on the various birds and their habitat.

Come as a visitor to see what it's like. We look forward to welcoming you! For more information, contact: Heather Hill on charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



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Charlbury Library phone number has changed to 01865 815129.

Spring is on it's way! We've got lots of books on gardening, cookery, craft, wellness for your mind and body, local history and everything else that you might have promised yourself you'd get around to in the new year! Come and have a browse of our non-fiction section and see if you can find some inspiration for 2025!

We do our best to regularly refresh our stock, particularly with our adult and junior fiction titles, and you should find that the newest titles are forward-facing on the shelves, "New to Us" pod, or on the children's trolley. The adult crime section is always popular and historical fiction issues well too.

Something new to Charlbury Library are our Adult Graphic Novels, currently situated alongside the Large Print section. Oxfordshire Libraries have bought lots of new stock for all our libraries as this type of fiction is proving very popular amongst adults.

We have only a small selection in Charlbury but there is a much larger catalogue of graphic novels to choose from across the library network and books can be reserved from other libraries for a £1.30 reservation fee.

Joining the library is free and just takes a couple of minutes to complete a registration form in branch or online. Once you have your card it can be used in any of the 44 libraries that we are lucky enough to have in Oxfordshire. With a library card you can also access all of our digital platforms such as ebooks, music, newspapers and magazines, family history research, and many other educational and recreational options.

The library couldn't manage with our many volunteers who help out approximately once a month for a 2½ hour session to shelve books, assist customers and generally keep things tidy

and running smoothly. If you are thinking of volunteering and would like more information, please contact the Library Manager in the first instance.

There will be a free Spring Stories & Craft session during the Easter holidays on Wednesday 9th April which will be aimed at 4-8 year olds. Look out for the posters in the library and on the charlbury.info website for more information nearer the time.

Julie Ward

Library Manager

01865 815129

charlbury.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

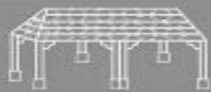
Primary School Chair of Governors

After a lovely, well deserved break for Christmas and the New Year, children and staff have returned with renewed vigour and energy ready for this very busy term ahead.

We welcome two new Parent Governors joining the Governing Board, Dave Heywood (SEND Governor) and Dave Oates (Communications and Promotions Governor). Due to busy schedules, Chase and Michelle Allmark have stepped down from their Governor positions for the meantime - we thank them both for their valuable help and support.

Our next LGB meeting for Governors is on Thurs 13th Feb. Should you wish to contact me anytime, my email is kharrison@charlburyschool.org.

Kim Harrison, Chair of Governors.



Charlbury

Primary School

School Year Off to a Flying Start.

The school year is flying by, and we're thrilled with the excellent start we've had at Charlbury School. It's been a real pleasure getting to know our wonderful children and their families, and the sense of community within the school enables incredible positivity. As a new headteacher I couldn't be more grateful for the support from families, staff, community members and of course the wonderful children.

Our pupils have shown fantastic enthusiasm for their learning in the classroom, demonstrating diligence and a real thirst for knowledge. Our school council have been particularly proactive by planning and running our school Christmas Market, fundraising for playground equipment to enhance playtimes. Beyond the classroom walls, we've seen some impressive performances in recent sporting competitions with Chipping Norton Partnership Schools, including hockey, swimming, cross country, and tag rugby.

Our vibrant after-school clubs, ranging from choir and art to cookery, judo and yoga, are proving incredibly popular, offering a diverse range of enriching experiences. We're also delighted to offer tuition in over seven specialist musical instruments, fostering a rich musical culture within the school. The musicality at Charlbury continues to be a huge strength with excellent performances at our school carol concert.

As a school we continue to promote outdoor learning and are very grateful for the incredible support from Little Wild Things. Their partnership is enabling our youngest learners to benefit from specialist learning experiences both off-site and within our own school grounds. Their contribution to enhancing our learning environment is invaluable. We will ask for volunteers to help develop spaces at our school in the next few months.

Our dedicated staff continues to work tirelessly to provide a nurturing and stimulating environment for all our

pupils, and the strong partnership between school and home is a key strength. Looking ahead, we have a number of exciting events and activities planned for the remainder of the year and beyond. We are confident that with the continued support of our fantastic community, we will continue to build on this positive start and achieve even greater things.

*Kate Robertson -
Headteacher*



Year 6 Residential

November 2024





Charlbury Town Council News

Contact: Lisa Wilkinson, Town Clerk at
charlburytownclerk@gmail.com or 07311 259412.
c/o Corner House, Market Street, Charlbury, OX7 3PN.
www.charlbury-tc.gov.uk

Charlbury Town Council Update: Recent Work and Community Highlights

As we step into 2025, Charlbury Town Council is continuing its efforts to support our community, preserve our environment, and enhance the town's facilities. Here's a roundup of some key activities and decisions that have been taken recently:

Improving Our Local Environment

The recently launched **Year of Nature Recovery** initiative, started with a well-attended event in January. Please see the article specifically on the Tea Party for more information on the day, including the visual minutes, kindly funded by Sustainable Charlbury. Residents are already forming networks to share ideas and take part in projects. If you'd like to get involved, visit the Nature Recovery page on the council's website for updates. We're kicking off monthly coffee catchups at the Community Centre on the **first Saturday of every month at 11am**. It's just an hour to chat about ideas, share progress, and swap stories about nature (and maybe your Big Garden Birdwatch sightings). Mark your calendars



The council has also approved an exciting new river restoration project for the Mill Field. This initiative aims to improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and restore the river's natural flow dynamics—all while making it more enjoyable for canoeists and walkers. Stay tuned as the project develops!

Progress on Parking and Transport

Parking in Charlbury remains a hot topic. The council has worked closely with Oxfordshire County Council on the recent parking scheme consultation. Alongside this, the council is advocating for adjustments to the Spendlove car park to increase capacity. Efforts are also being made to ensure that any parking changes align with the Neighbourhood Plan and support local businesses.

Enhancing Community Amenities

The Nine Acres Recreation Ground has seen several updates recently, including the installation of a new swing and repairs to the tractor steering wheel at the playground. The council also gave the green light for resurfacing the rear tennis courts, with fundraising now underway to bring this project to life.

Meanwhile, the Five Ways bus shelter will stay in place following feedback from residents who value it. The council is committed to maintaining and cleaning the shelter for ongoing use.





Charlbury Town Council News

Supporting Local Initiatives

The **Charlbury Community Works!** program is growing, with residents signing up to help clear snow, leaves, and weeds from public areas. A new leaflet and website sign-up form have been launched to encourage even more participation.

The council has also supported the development of new **Interpretation Boards**, part of the "Walkers Are Welcome" initiative funded by Cotswold National Landscapes, to celebrate the town's natural beauty and promote walking routes. These will be installed soon.

Looking Ahead

In line with the Neighbourhood Plan, the council is reviewing its policy on dark

skies to maintain Charlbury tranquillity and beauty at night. Work is also underway to revise the Infrastructure Development Plan, focusing on transport, community facilities, and nature.

We're proud of the community's engagement in these projects and welcome your input. Whether you'd like to join a working party, share your feedback, or participate in local initiatives, your voice matters!

For more details on council decisions, upcoming events, or to get involved, visit the Charlbury Town Council website or contact us directly.

Lisa Wilkinson

Town Clerk



CHARLBURY COMMUNITY WORKS!

CAN YOU HELP US HELP YOU?

we need your help with seasonal activity:

- clearing leaves and snow, sprinkling salt,
- clearing soil and weeds on pavement edges and
- cutting back your hedges where they overhang paths or pavement

We would love you to organise sessions with your neighbours or come along to one of the Council organised sessions.

To find out when these are, visit: charlbury-tc.gov.uk/events/

If you would like to be kept up-to-date with what is happening, please sign up here: charlbury-tc.gov.uk/charlburycommunityworks!

SEND IN PHOTOS OF BEFORE & AFTER IF YOU DO A SESSION WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS



RAINFALL REPORT—2024

The rainfall measured in central Charlbury between 1 January and 31 December 2024, a leap year, was 942mm/37.68ins, much drier than 2020.

The driest month was June with 23mm (0.92ins) and the wettest was September with 178mm (7.12ins), making it the wettest month since our records began in 1982.

Nick Potter

The Blavatnik School in Oxford was the venue on January 31st for the Oxfordshire and the Midlands Rail Conference, where we launched a new brochure for the North Cotswold Line, outlining the business case for dualling the line and improving the signalling at the Worcestershire end. The case is supported by GWR and I am hoping that following on from Rachel Reeves' announcement of plans for the Oxford to Cambridge "silicone valley" the case for our line will be given serious consideration, as so many people travel into Oxford and beyond for work.

The new parking arrangements in Charlbury will be coming in shortly, and I am aware that this will add to pressure on the parking at the station. I have been in discussion with GWR about extending the parking there and they have looked at the possibility of a second storey on the main car park, but have rejected this as too expensive – it was estimated to cost around £4 million.

An alternative which was to utilise some of the space at the cricket club was being considered by the Town Council but as that land floods easily that idea has also been rejected. I will continue to look with the Town Council and GWR at options for extending parking at the station.

Devolution and local government reorganisation have been the subject of a

lot of discussion recently. A meeting was held on January 31st (yes, the same day as the rail conference so I was dashing between them!) between leaders in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, at which Swindon was also present.

Buckinghamshire was invited but did not attend. The conclusion of the meeting was that we should progress with a plan for an Oxfordshire/Berkshire mayoral combined authority which would reach the governments stipulated minimum population of 1.5 million.

The government is also requiring all two-tier local authorities like Oxfordshire to become unitary authorities within this parliament. We have written to government asking to be on the fast track for this as we believe that to delay would only add to the uncertainty that the staff of our councils will undoubtedly feel.

This means that soon West Oxfordshire District Council will cease to exist quite soon and be absorbed into an Oxfordshire unitary authority. The things that WODC is responsible for, such as bin collections and planning, will come under that new authority, but it is likely that we will follow the model of other unitaries and ensure that planning, for example, is undertaken by a local subcommittee.

Liz Leffman

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The ATIC contribution for this edition of the Chronicle comes from the view point of both a user of the services provided and one of the volunteer drivers.

A volunteer's view

"I have been an ATIC volunteer driver since the scheme started, prompted by needs which became apparent from responses to the Charlbury Town Survey in 2016.

We are lucky to have Volunteer Link Up, VLU, who operate from the Methodist Centre in Witney and who act as a call centre to match requests for assistance with those people available to help. VLU have long experience of running their own Good Neighbour Scheme service in Witney and areas of West Oxfordshire not otherwise covered by a local service like ATIC's in Charlbury. The staff manning the VLU office are a delight to work with.

As a volunteer you make yourself available at times that suit you, so as not to disrupt other commitments you may have or regular social engagements. Charlbury has about 7 or 8 volunteer drivers. I may be called upon to help someone perhaps once or twice a week, or maybe nothing for 3 weeks - very variable. VLU are quite clear, when they phone with a request, that there is no obligation to say Yes, unless you want to.

Other ATIC volunteers are available as befrienders, where someone would like a regular visit and a chat or other activity, such as a walk, with arrangements made to suit both parties.

As a driver I find it very rewarding to assist taking a client for a hospital or clinic appointment, or an essential shopping trip. Usually it is because there is no family or friend available to help and having a friendly travelling companion takes some stress out of the situation for the client. We are also lucky,

as registered drivers, to have some parking privileges at the major hospitals. This means that I can drop patients off at the main entrance and subsequently find a parking place at leisure (at the Oxford NHS hospitals there are some special spaces reserved for us). There are also some occasions when I need to accompany the client to the actual department, which means that, for a short time, I can park directly outside the entrance.

Parking at the major hospitals is quite a headache for most people as spaces are so limited. It often causes anxiety about making the appointment on time. I would advise people driving themselves to hospital appointments to make use of the special hospital bus service which runs from the Water Eaton Park and Ride just south of Kidlington. This service has drop off and pick up points at the JR, the Churchill and the Nuffield hospitals. Leave plenty of time; it eases the journey and you are not stuck in traffic fretting.

One further point: I find it helpful to check that patients have appointment confirmations with them before we set off, either paper or digitally. The administration system at the hospitals has sometimes let people down."

A client's view

"I have used the ATIC service many times over the last few years for hospital appointments and physiotherapist appointments in Oxford, Banbury and Chipping Norton.

I have found the service excellent from speaking to the call-centre for booking help and the brilliant team of volunteers who drive you. It is lovely to have someone to chat to on the journey who is local. Thank you all so much"

Help from ATIC and for ATIC

And finally, don't forget – to ask for ATIC



help with transport to an appointment, with a practical task or someone to come to have a chat from time to time call **01993 776277**. The phone line is staffed from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday with a regularly-checked answerphone when VLU staff are not available.

We are happy to be contacted for transport to non-medical appointments, such as a visit to the hairdresser or to a local activity group, subject to our availability

We will always welcome new volunteers to help us provide our service. If you would like to find out more, please contact ATIC on our organisational mobile number - 07487 413892 - or email: charlburyalltogether@gmail.com.

Meryl Smith



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Coffee break page answers

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1/1

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3/3

7-Letter Words

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6-Letter Words

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11/11

4-Letter Words

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Do you know that this Organisation exists?

Are you responsible for a vulnerable person who is liable to wander off and you lose track of them? If you do have such a responsibility, I suggest you would benefit from knowing what **LRO** could do for you.

This is my experience. I was caring for my wife who had dementia. We were going for our daily walk; distracted for a couple of minutes and Trish was gone. I walked all our usual footpaths for several hours and could find no sign.

Eventually in desperation I called 999 and was immediately put through to the missing person's department; details were taken over the phone and an alert put out. My concern was that Trish had taken to one of the many Charlbury footpaths way out of sight of a passing policeman and at a time of the year when not many other walkers were about; could she have fallen, could she have wandered off track, could she have.....?

Little did I know the resources that my 999 call would bring into action. Within less than an hour a policeman was sitting with me in our flat taking more information and constantly on his radio.

I did wonder who he was talking to. I have since learned, from a talk given to Probus by David Woodgate of the **Oxfordshire Lowland Search and Rescue Organisation** that 999 missing person calls are automatically linked to **LRO**, a charitable public service. There are 70 operational **LRO** volunteers across the county who form search teams, backed up by 40 non-operational volunteers. These volunteers are

professionally trained to national standards and operate 24/7 365 days a year. They have at their disposal, sniffer dogs, drones including heat seeking drones in case someone has fallen out of sight, under water search facilities, fully digitised mapping—all the technology available to us in this-day-and-age. Had I known this I would have called 999 much earlier and saved myself hours of anguish.

I do not know what **LRO** resources were called into play but within an hour or so of my 999 call and 5 hours after 'disappearing' Trish was brought home in a patrol car by two policemen having been found on the A44 by Judds Garage. She had walked there but by what route I will never know.

I was duly admonished for sending police to pick her up while I sat at home watching TV!! A walk down to the Rose & Crown and half a pint later brought things back to normal!!

A follow up call from the 999 missing-person's department introduced me to "**The Herbert Protocol**", 'a form that carers, family or friends of a vulnerable person can fill in'. The form provides a list of information to help police (and the **LRO**) should your loved one go missing. The form includes questions on the persons appearance, information including medication, normal haunts and other details which may expedite a search.

If I had known of **LRO** I could have saved myself hours of anguish.

You can contact them at
www.lowlandrescueoxforshire.org.uk

Steve Cavell



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CHARLBURY BRANCH

The Poppy Appeal for 2024 raised £6,211.02 We would like to thank our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Kim Harrison and all those who collected and contributed.

Annual Band Concert 8 November 2024

A lovely evening where we were entertained by Jubilee Brass, conducted by Cliff Sadlor. Thanks to Kim Harrison our Poppy Appeal Organiser for arranging the assistance of the young people from the RAF Cadets.

Poppy Appeal collector awards were due to Jo Bell for 10 years, Chris Harris for 16 years, Barry Canham for 20 years and Jane Parsons for 50 years.

Remembrance Sunday 10 November

The parade led by Major R.N. Potter and Piper Steve Duffy marched to St Marys Church.

The Standard was carried by Doug Oldrey with Barry Canham and Gary Osborne as escorts.

The Service was taken by the Rev.Fergus Butler-Gallie

Wreaths were laid in the Memorial Chapel by Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Marjorie Glasgow B.E.M. , Cllr. Sqr. Leader Gary Harrison for Charlbury Town Council; for Charlbury WI Heather Hill; for Retired Oxon Fire and Rescue Andy Pickard; by Inspector Chris Ball for Thames Valley Police; Caspar Morris for Oxon Fire and Rescue and for the Branch Mrs Julie Mackenzie.

The Kohima Epitaph was delivered by Jane Parsons M.B;E. The salute was taken by Lord Lieutenant Mrs Marjorie Glasgow B.E.M.

Coffee Mornings

Branch Coffee mornings will be held on Saturday 15 February 2025 and Saturday 19 July 2025 in Charlbury War Memorial Hall For information please telephone 01993 357468

Branch Centenary 13 January 2026

Our Branch is 100 years old on 13 January 2026. We will be planning event[s] to celebrate. Further information at a later date.

Branch Meetings

The Branch Committee continues to meet regularly , on the 3rd Thursday of each month with the exception of August and December. Meetings start at 3.00pm at The Corner House.

A full list of dates plus any notification of change to committee dates is displayed in our noticeboard outside Charlbury Town Barbers.

Assistance

For further information about the work of the Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on:-

810388 or Sqr Leader Gary Harrison [Branch Chairman and Branch Membership Secretary] on 07826898499 or Jane Parsons [Branch Secretary] on 01993 357468.

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

Jane Parsons

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We stride into a new year full of hope for some good walking weather. In other words, dry underfoot and some sunshine.

When you join a walk organised by the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens you know the walk has been checked and any problems along the route will have been resolved. You will also meet like minded people who enjoy being out in the fresh air, we are all aware of how beneficial walking can be for both mind and body.

Our walks vary in length, location and difficulty, making it easy for you to select something suitable. Below are some of the walks we will be doing over the next couple of months.

New walks are continually being added to the website www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk

The website will also update you on changes made to current walks

Wednesday 12th February 10.30am

A Two Café Walk

Easy: 3.5 miles 2 hours

Start: Rise and Flour, Groves Yard, Milton under Wychwood OX7 6JW

A circular walk starting and ending at a café with a café stop halfway round the loop.

Thursday 13th February 10.00am

Hiya Hidcote

Moderate: 10 miles 5.5 hours

Start: Ebrington Village Car Park GL55 6NH

An always lovely area to walk, with lots to see.

Thursday 27th February 10.00am

Blenheim for Free

Easy: 5.5 miles 3.5 hours

Start: Combe Gate, East End, Combe OX29 8ND

A circular route on Public Rights of Way around the World Heritage Site

Wednesday 5th March 10.00am

Cotswold Warden Walks

Blockley and the Beautiful Hinchwick Valley

Moderate: 10 miles 5.5 hours

Start: Blockley Café and Village Shop, Bell Lane, Blockley GL56 9BB

A circular walk in a delightful little known part of the Cotswolds

Thursday 13th March 10.00am

A Walk through History - Dinosaurs to WW2 and Back

Moderate: 10 miles 5 hours

Start: Stonesfield Village Hall OX29 8HA

A circular walk through history with fabulous views

Thursday 20th March 10.00am

Weston Park Way

Moderate: 5.5 miles 3 hours

Start: Cherington Village Hall CV36 5HG

With mostly grassy fields, a gated road, and a hill with terrific views this will be a super walk. Please wear stout footwear and bring refreshments.

Friday 28th March 10.00am

Women. Toil and Trouble

Moderate: 6.5 miles 3.5 hours

Start: Ascott under Wychwood Village Shop OX7 6FY

A circular walk from the village with far reaching views. Please park considerately on the village streets.

Monday 21st April 10.00am

Ancient Woodland, a Holy Well and Hopefully Bluebells

Easy: 4 miles 2 hours

Start: Ramsden, please park thoughtfully on the road near the Royal Oak OX7 3AU

A circular walk with lots of interest including a stunning display of bluebells [hopefully]

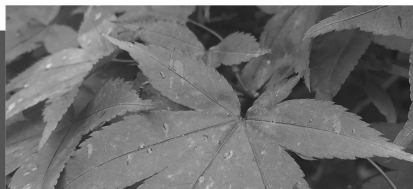
Rosemary Wilson

COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER

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- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report - some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.



CONTACT LORRAINE:

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CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Artweeks - Maureen Sparling (07779 779121)

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)

Sue Haffenden, Secretary 01608 676642
charlbury.drama@gmail.com

www.charlbury-drama.com

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