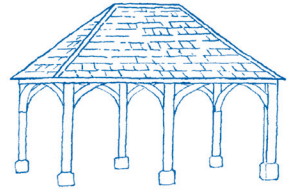


Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 27 Number 2

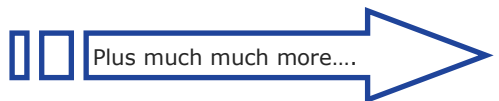
Summer 2023

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

This is our Coronation bumper edition with many photos of what was happening over the Coronation weekend.

The Big Lunch was a big success and the Big Help Out was buzzing with people interested in volunteering. Hopefully offers of help were received.

We have Open Gardens to look forward to on 11 June when nine gardens will be open to view and of course the yummy teas in the Garden Room! All proceeds go towards the Corner House & Memorial Hall.

We will then have the Beer Festival which is on 24 June which this year is celebrating its Silver Jubilee! 25 years of the Beer Festival. This will be again held on the cricket field. More details can be found on p24.

Well summer is the festival season and although unfortunately there is no Cornbury Festival this year we can revel with our very own Riverside Festival, which will be happening on 29 & 30 July and which you can read about on p.32. Wilderness is also happening on 3—6 August at Cornbury Park.

And of course it's the Wychwood Forest Fair, which is being held this year on 9 July at Foxburrow Wood near Witney.

And a plea from the Street Fair committee for someone to come forward and take over the role of Chairman amongst others.

This really is something which is close to my heart and the money raised is required to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the Corner House & Memorial Hall. Please can someone come forward and continue this great fair which has been going since 1956!

And a quick note to say that CADS are not putting on a performance this summer due to illnesses and absences, but please watch this space for more of what will happen during the Autumn from CADS.

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

Happy holidays!

Susanna Finch

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Autumn issue is 1st August 2023
Please send all articles to editor.chronicle@outlook.com**



Charlbury Museum & Heritage Centre

Recent donations: a 19th century Charlbury clock, relics from a famous bee-keeper's home, and more!

The fascinating collection within Charlbury Museum reflects the history of people and trades within the town from past eras. In early April an email made our hearts flutter with excitement as the museum was being offered a long-case clock, circa 1830 made by Street of Charlbury! This antique clock, originally a wedding gift in 1948 to the grandparents of the donor, had remained in Oxfordshire since that time.

Charlbury has important historic associations with clock and watch making: Larcum Kendal was born here in 1719, an English Heritage blue plaque marks his birthplace in Market Street; the famous 18thC Quaker clockmakers Thomas Gilkes and William Harrison worked in the town, the museum has a brass engraved clock face by Harrison. Our new arrival to the museum was made by James Street (1799 – 1836). His father Richard Street (1776 -1812) was also a Charlbury clockmaker. The longcase clock with its decorative painted dial, signed *Street Charlbury*, now stands in good company next to the cabinet of the Albright family silhouettes. The museum knows of one other clock made by Street which resides in Charlbury, but could there be another somewhere in the town?

Beyond the chimes of a longcase clock, other recent donations resonate with recollections of buzzing bees and the history of a celebrated Charlbury bee-keeper, Christopher Bartlett of Sandford Mount, The Slade. A curious collection of objects and ephemera connected with honey-making was gifted to the museum from Christopher's grandchildren in March. The items include: the bees' travelling boxes, labelled **'Bees in Transit'** and stamped with rail transit labels for their destination at Charlbury

rail station; containers for honey and beeswax; fragments of a German bomb which was dropped onto a field of bee hives behind Sandford Mount during WW2, destroying hundreds of hives; a 1920s/30s petrol pump which supplied the fuel needed for the enterprise, Mr. Bartlett was the first frame-hive commercial bee-keeper in the country (his bee-keeping in Charlbury began in the 1920s). Other items await conservation attention, such as four leather horse-shoe protectors. Amongst a folder of photographs one letter caught my attention, marked 'private', dated 24 November 1928, headed with an embossed coat of arms and 'Buckingham Palace'. A thank you note from 'The Master of the Household' to Mr. C.B. Bartlett for a can of honey sent to His Majesty George V. The museum will be displaying the Bartlett collection in the near future in memory of a man whose passion was bee-keeping and honey production.

Although only one shop exists in Church Street now, in the Victorian era it was a vibrant street of shops and private homes. The large stoneware flagon, a gift to the museum from Nick and Sarah Potter, bears the name of one of those traders: Thackwell Smith, who ran a shop from 1858 in Church Street. The museum has numerous relics from shops and a vast archive of photographs of streets in by-gone days. Sarah and Nick have also donated some photographic albums which reflect events or changes in Charlbury in more recent decades.

As donations arrive at the museum they receive the attention of cataloguing and sometimes conservation. One current project being undertaken by Judy Dod and Deborah Jackson is a mammoth task of organising and digitizing the museum's photographic archive, assisted by extra volunteers.

Please take a browse around the



Charlbury Museum & Heritage Centre

museum and see the latest donations now on display and our current showcase exhibit **'Hidden Treasures – Hidden Histories'**

*Sue Rangeley
Charlbury Museum & Heritage Centre*



House & Carriage delivering the clock to the museum





Charlbury Pre-School

Charlbury Pre-School has enjoyed a flurry of activity and community collaboration this term! Here is just a snapshot of what we have been doing and what's happening over the next few months.

Our preschool family is growing! Two of our committee team members, Emily and Melinda, welcomed the arrival of their beautiful new babies. In staffing news, we are very excited to announce Mizue Tams as a permanent member of staff and Olivia will be heading off on maternity leave at the end of June.

We had so much fun celebrating the Kings Coronation! The children had a craft and afternoon tea on 5th May where parents and children were invited to enjoy refreshments, homemade cakes and scones while making crowns and flags to celebrate the Coronation. We ran an Open Day on 13th May to showcase our lovely preschool and provide new families an opportunity to see first-hand our wonderful setting while also having fun browsing our second-hand stall, enjoying cakes and participating in craft activities.

We are very busy getting the children ready for school by continuing our monster phonics to develop skills needed once they start Primary school. We support the children by teaching them a range of fun activities, songs and stories. We are also encouraging independence in dressing, toileting and opening packets in their lunchboxes. The children are really enjoying learning these new skills and we are all very proud of how they are all developing across all areas of learning. We have also been connecting with the various schools to encourage and ease the transition from preschool to primary school which will help our children feel safe, secure and confident when they move into their new environment.

We still have spaces available for full and partial days, so if you or someone you know is looking for high quality early

years education for a 2, 3 or 4-year-old child, do get in touch!

Upcoming Events

We will have a stall selling tea, cakes and other goodies at the following events: Charlbury Beer Festival in June, Riverside Festival in July and we will be at the Street Fair in September. In October, we are very excited to be running again in the Oxford Half Marathon in support of the pre-school. A mixture of parents, committee members and local residents are kindly running and raising money for the pre-school. If you would like to take part and join us don't hesitate to get in touch! You can also support us by donating to our Just Giving page [-http://justgiving.com/campaign/cpsohm2023](http://justgiving.com/campaign/cpsohm2023)

Could you make a difference?

Charlbury Pre-School has been part of the community for over forty years, and we have been working hard to secure our future. We have rolled out new initiatives to support the needs of our local families, such as extending our operational hours and working tirelessly on fundraising activities to support our financial stability. We want to continue to support our local community and to do so we need your help. We are always looking for volunteers, committee members and social media experts, just to mention a few. Do you have an idea for a fundraising event? Maybe you could organise or help publicise one? Would you like to provide a financial donation? If you would like to get involved don't hesitate to get in touch directly or visit our website.

Thank you - we value your support!

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated their time and money to our pre-school. Thank you to our 'Friends of Charlbury' members for their much-needed donations which help us to support our projects and future



initiatives. Thank you to all those who came along to our fundraising events, such as the 'Sushi School' which was run by our wonderful Mizue Tams. To keep up to date on our future fundraising events please visit our website! As always, the biggest thanks go to the fantastic team of staff and volunteers, who have worked tirelessly throughout this term, keeping our children safe, happy and ready for the world that waits them.

For more information about the Pre-school, please check out our website – www.charlburypreschool.org.uk. For enquiries about places and/or if you would like to arrange a visit to see the setting, please get in touch at admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk or on 01608 811200.

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At the moment we are experiencing a high number of break ins to sheds and garages and vans that carry tools.

The theft of number plates and Catalytic convertors on Toyota Auris and Honda Jazz vehicles has increased a lot too.

Theft of vehicles have also increased a lot. It's usually 4x4 vehicles or sports cars such as BMW, Audi that type of high performance vehicles. We have experienced keyless car thefts whereby the thief is able to steal your car without the key. Or the offenders are breaking into properties and stealing the keys and taking the vehicles.

We are advising residents to check and look to improve security of their homes.

Alarms for out buildings.

Consider CCTV for your home which covers your vehicle.

We also advise that you keep your car keys somewhere safe, i.e. not on a hook near the door, not in a fruit bowl. For the newer vehicles keep car keys in something like an anti-theft car key signal blocker.

Anti-theft number plates screws are useful.

Wesley Smith

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Celebrating an enjoyable Charlbury Big Help Out Day event

Over 20 local organisations including ATIC had displays in the Memorial Hall on *Big Help Out* Monday afternoon, 8 May.

Reflecting King Charles' own personal commitment to public service, *The Big Help Out Day* was promoted to encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and to join in the work being done by the many local organisations in support of their communities.

The King hopes that *The Big Help Out* initiative will prompt more volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting legacy of community mutual support after the Coronation weekend.

The Charlbury event was officially opened by Marjorie Glasgow, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, in full regalia and she read a message of thanks from Charles III to everyone in local communities who had got involved in Coronation Weekend celebrations and shown support for the new King and Queen.

From the time the Big Help Out event doors opened at 2.00 p.m. the Memorial Hall was filled with a buzz of conversation between interested members of the Charlbury community coming to view what was on offer from local groups and also between neighbouring stall-holders themselves. We were told that, if you were passing, you could hear the animated chatter from Browns Lane. Hopefully this prompted more passers-by to come and join in.

The event was a good opportunity for local residents to find out more about some of the many local organisations who provide activities, services and facilities for the benefit of community members and, hopefully, then to express interest in becoming a member or a volunteer helper of a

group that had particular appeal.

It was clear that there was great benefit in having representatives of local groups available to chat to people who might have been thinking for some time that they might like to volunteer but had not quite got round to making the final commitment - and to people who were starting to think of volunteering but were not quite sure of what they wanted to do. Issuing written appeals for volunteers alone is far less successful.

The convivial atmosphere of the event - helped by access to the Garden Room full of tables of refreshments - was also a bonus.

All the stallholders who took part in the event are extremely grateful to Alison Derham (local resident and a Deputy Lieutenant) and her team for all the work they put into planning and delivering such a successful Big Help Out event. Thanks are also due to the Probus Club for sponsoring the refreshments and to the Charlbury Deli and Café for providing a hamper as the prize for a free raffle (won by a deserving stall team member).

And finally, don't forget - to ask for ATIC help with a trip to an appointment or a practical task call **01993 776277**. This will get you to the staff of Volunteer Link -Up who kindly act as our call centre and who will see if one of our local volunteers can meet your request. The phone line is now staffed from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday with a regularly-checked answerphone when staff are not available.

We are grateful to all the members of our small volunteer team for enabling us to make our contribution to Charlbury's already rich pattern of informal good-neighbourliness which goes on unseen day by day all around the town.

Meryl Smith



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Charlbury celebrates the 1902 Coronation of Edward VII

Postponement

Edward VII's coronation didn't start well. Two days before the planned date of Thursday 26 June 1902, he had to have abdominal surgery, and so the event was postponed for a few months. Many of the invited foreign dignitaries went home, leaving only their ambassadors to represent them at any rearranged service. Due to Edward's strong family ties – he was related to most of the crowned heads of Europe – the Procession was to have included military contingents from European countries such as Germany and Russia but they also went home. This made the rearranged event in August a much more British and Empire one.

What to do?

The postponement created a dilemma for all the committees planning events in towns and villages throughout the country. Should they postpone their celebrations as well? What to do about all the groups they had organised to come – the brass bands for example? Would the fancy costumes survive or need remaking? What to do about all the food that had been or was being prepared – some could be kept but all the bread? And cakes? Most postponed their events. In Charlbury, the schoolchildren had a very nice tea that day, and probably ate all the cakes.

Coronation

The Coronation was rearranged for Saturday 9 August 1902, and was very carefully planned to take account of the King's convalescence. But it still had its moments. The very elderly and infirm Archbishop of Canterbury, Frederick Temple, provided 'most of the upsets in an otherwise splendid ceremony'. He knelt to pay homage to the King, but had to be helped to rise by, amongst others, the King himself. He managed to put the crown on the King's head back to front

(Did you notice Justin Welby taking great care to get King Charles III crown on the right way round?) And Edward didn't help: when his son the Prince of Wales paid homage by touching the crown and kissing his father's left cheek, the King got up out of his seat and threw his arms around his son's neck 'in an unusual display of affection' (King Charles just gently smiled at his son).

The 1902 Coronation Day in Charlbury

The day began with the 'booming of cannon' (where? how?) and a 'lively' peal of bells, followed by a communion service in St Mary's. The Chair of the Parish Council then planted a tree in commemoration of the occasion 'in a suitable spot' in the Ditchley Road (is it still there?). Then a procession began, led by dignitaries followed by schoolchildren and teachers, the Charlbury Brass Band, the Church Lads Brigade and the Fire Brigade in uniform, with the inhabitants bringing up the rear. They went to the church for a service, and then reformed to march to Cornbury Park for all the activities.

The main one—the Athletic Sports—were a great success as competitors and spectators entered into each event with 'great zeal'. There were flat races for boys, girls, men and even a 30 yard one for women over 30 years old won by Mrs Clempson. There was a 'bicycle tortoise' race (maybe the slowest rider won?), various sack races, an egg and spoon race on bicycles, a rather mysterious Mop Tournament, blindfolded wheelbarrow races and even a 'Zoological race' (but this was only with chickens). The comic costume race led to 'roars of laughter'.

It wasn't all races. There were prizes for the best decorated houses in the town, and 'the town was illuminated and decorated on a scale never attempted here before'. There was a prize for the best floral arrangement carried in the procession, which was won by Edith Gardner, and even a Baby Show, won by Mr Hudson's son.

Then came the tea. The committee had

to raise more funds as the children had eaten some of the refreshments back in June, but they managed it. The children had another tea, provided by GJ Jones, the local baker of bread and cakes. The adults sat down to eat the '20 home-cured hams' with lots of bread & butter and cake, and (a nice thought) the 'surplus' was distributed to those inhabitants who were unable to come to the public tea.

The day ended with the distribution of prizes, and votes of thanks to Mr Watney for the use of the Park and to all the committee organising such a good day. Finally Mr Watney provided a 'daylight' firework display, which was 'quite a novelty', and balloons for all the children. The balloons, 'of various grotesque shapes, animals fish etc', sailed away towards Stonesfield and Oxford –perhaps the children let go of them?

No photographs

Sadly, the museum does not appear to have any photographs of this lovely occasion. If anyone does have some in their collections, please do contact the museum. We would love to have copies made.

Barbara Allison, 8 May 2023, two days after Charles III's Coronation, with thanks to Wikipedia, and Jackson's Oxford Journal 16 August 1902.

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

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Charlbury celebrates the 1911 Coronation of George V

The Coronation

This was held on Thursday 22 June 1911, following the death of Edward VII, the new king's father. And of course it rained- nowadays, quite a Coronation tradition! The event went much better than Edward's funeral, when, amongst other things, the printed order of service was wrong, and the process of seating the guests was full of 'confusion'. At the insistence of the government of the day, 'the detailed work' for the new King's coronation 'would be done by the professional staff of the Office of Works' rather than left in the hands of the Duke of Norfolk and his friends.

The Coronation Day in Charlbury

The day began much the same as in 1902, with the 'firing of a Royal salute of twenty one guns' (where were they?) at an early hour, followed by the ringing of the Church bells. So many houses were decorated that there was 'scarcely a house without flags or crowns' and people could be seen putting the finishing touches to their own. 'Festoons' hung across the streets.

At 10am on the dot, George J Jones, dressed as an African traveller (see our photo) marshalled the procession on the Playing Close, and led the way to the Church with the vicar, the Rev JD Payne, and the secretary of the Coronation Committee H Elkington. Then came the Union Jack, the Charlbury brass band -bandmaster V Fowler- then the Fire Brigade, Parish Councillors, school children, Post Office staff, Boys Scouts, Church Lads Brigade, the local Territorials, representatives of the local friendly Societies and lastly the people of the town, all singing the National Anthem 'again and again' (see our photo of the parade down Church Street).

After the service, they returned to the Playing Close, where a telegram of 'loyalty to King George and Queen Mary' was read out and then sent to them.

Next they sat down to lunch (no details given of the food) in the newly cleaned and decorated Council Schools, before marching to Cornbury Park for all the sports (again few details are given). But the children were presented with Coronation mugs, which they used when they sat down on the grass for their tea. There were prizes for the races, and for the best baby boy and baby girl, and for the best decorated houses, for which Mr JA Bowl won 1st prize- a 'magnificent display of colour and taste' (see our photo of Bowl's grocery shop).

The Carnival

Then came the carnival in the evening. The procession was headed by the Carnival King and Queen who 'sat in state' in their lovely decorated carriage, drawn by a donkey 'magnificently caparisoned'. Then came the decorated bicycles followed by people dressed up as John Bull, Uncle Sam, Monkey Brand (an early 20th century cleaning product), a suffragette, Lifebuoy Soap, Robin Hood and many more.

The judges found it very difficult to decide on the winners so waited till after the parade. They finally awarded the first prize in the 'wheel' competition to Messrs Price & Co, 2nd to Gordon Hamson, and the 3rd to Miss Dorothy Shepherd. For their costumes, 1st prize went to Mrs B Davis, 2nd to the firm of Dyke and Co (a gloving firm), and 3rd to F Thornett, H Shepherd junior and N Widows, all dressed as Foresters.

The judges were so impressed with the quality that they gave four more people prizes as well. Then everyone processed to Banbury Hill where a bonfire was lit and fireworks were let off, 'a dazzling sight'

The next day –the Carnival again to take more photographs

Everyone was so pleased with the day's events, and especially the carnival, it was decided to repeat the carnival procession and take a group photograph. So at 6pm, all the shops shut early, allowing people to go back home and get into their costumes. There were '73 different characters represented 'and the procession ended up in the school playground, where several photos were taken. The evening finished with speeches of thanks, the National Anthem was sung, and 'a battle of confetti' aimed at some of the 'popular characters'

Photographs

Amazingly, this group photograph survives, and it is possible to pick out some of the winners mentioned in the article. Here is this photo and three others:



The start of the procession led by GJ Jones;



the procession coming down a 'festooned' Church St with two scouts carrying the Union Jack, and the brass band playing; As ever, 'Charlbury excelled itself in the way in which the old town carried out the Coronation festivities'



Lastly the highly decorated Bowls shop (now a private house called Baileys)



Mr Elkington and the vicar on the Playing Close

Barbara Allison 8 May 2023, two days after Charles III's Coronation, with thanks to Judy Dod, Charlbury Museum, Wikipedia, and the Oxfordshire Weekly News, 5 July 1911



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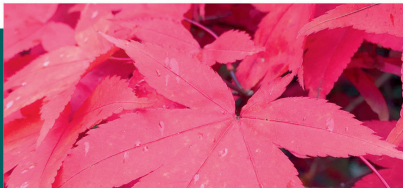


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Charlbury Garden Society

I write as spring should be in full swing but the weather hasn't given us much indication of that so far! The last few months have certainly blessed us with many days of cold and wet weather. The upside has been that the tulips have lasted much longer than they usually do, and we have appreciated so many different colours and varieties.

The Garden Society has had a busy few months. One of our most popular talks, which attracted a record audience, was Nick Johnson's talk in March about the joys (and occasional difficulties) of gardening in Charlbury. We are always keen to hear about new topics and speakers so do let us know if you have any ideas.

We enjoyed a colourful Spring Show. It was lovely to see some exhibits by new growers and we are hoping to encourage more of you to enter our Annual Show in September. We are always happy to give advice and it is a fun way of showing what you have grown over the summer.

We are especially keen to get the children involved, so do look at the schedule, which is on our website, and get planning. Perhaps some of the runner beans or sunflowers that were taken away at the Big Help Out by the little ones might find their way back to the Memorial Hall for the Annual Show.

Our Plant Swap proved as popular as ever and this has fast become an annual fixture. It is always fun to see plants you have divided or propagated being put to good use, or, if you're like me, the 1000 lettuce seeds you've germinated and can't bear to throw away!

One of the joys of the recent coronation of King Charles III was seeing the stunning flower arrangements in

Westminster Abbey. All of the materials were sourced from British flower growers and were arranged without floral foam. Many Charlbury growers and members of the Garden Society were involved in helping St Mary's Church put on a similarly wonderful display. Hilli Waller and I are hoping that we can encourage and continue this collaboration between our very talented flower arrangers and wonderful local gardeners.

We have lots of exciting gardening events coming up, including some self drive garden visits and the ever popular Charlbury Open Gardens. Please check out our website www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk for more information.

Please also let us know if you'd like to be part of our wider collaboration with St Mary's or with any other aspect of our Garden Society activities.

Alison Derham – Secretary





A future for the Street Fair?

Can you imagine September in Charlbury without the annual Saturday Street Fair? That is the community fair where local organizations exhibit, many selling local produce, and where we all enjoy musical and other performances demonstrating local talent – usually including the school choir, local Morris, and others.

It is a social gathering taking up the whole of Church Street, plus other venues, and continues a tradition in our town since at least the 1950s and probably with more ancient roots.

But events like this do not just happen without a large amount of groundwork beforehand, in addition to what you see on the day.

Like much else in our community, the success of the Street Fair depends on the hard work and commitment of a dedicated group of volunteers. It cannot happen without their effort in planning and preparation.

Yet many of our volunteers are finding they cannot do as much as they could in earlier days so now is the time for younger people, including those who have come into our community, to join

in and help make these things happen. We all enjoy the results.

John Dora has been chairman of the Street Fair committee for some years but now needs to step down. Other key volunteers are also coming to the end of their turn in running the event.

Can you step forward and help keep the show on the road?

Not only does the Street Fair provide an enjoyable summer day of activities but the event also makes a financial contribution to the costs of developing the Corner House and Memorial Hall so that the buildings can improve their contribution to the life of our town.

If you would like to offer your help with the Street Fair, please contact the chairman John Dora by emailing csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org.

Find out what your contribution could be – probably involving some work but for sure in a sharing environment that is rewarding for all who take part.

Roy Scott,

Chairman of trustees of Corner House & Memorial Hall

CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels prepares and delivers meals at lunchtime on Tuesdays to elderly and disabled people in Charlbury and Stonesfield. Meals now cost £4 delivered.

We are now accepting new recipients. Please ring Susan Merry on 07979 840838 or email susanmerry2@gmail.com. **We also urgently need an additional cook to join the team on a monthly rota. If you are able to help please contact Susan in the first place.**



Coffee break page

Compiled by Miles Walkden and Michele Marietta

Royal Word Search

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other



EGBERT
AETHELWULF
AETHELBALD
AETHELBERT
AETHELRED
ALFRED THE GREAT
EDWARD THE ELDER
ATHELSTAN
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EADRED
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EDMUND IRONSIDE
CANUTE THE DANE
HAROLD HAREFOOT
HARTHACANUTE
EDWARD THE CONFESSOR
HAROLD II
WILLIAM THE CONQUERER

WILLIAM RUFUS
HENRY I
STEPHEN
HENRY II
RICHARD THE LIONHEART
JOHN
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EDWARD LONGSHANKS
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CHARLES I
CHARLES II
JAMES II
WILLIAM III
MARY II
ANNE
GEORGE I
GEORGE II
GEORGE III
GEORGE IV
WILLIAM IV
VICTORIA
EDWARD VII
GEORGE V
EDWARD VIII
GEORGE VI
ELIZABETH II
CHARLES III



Charlbury Bowls Club

Welcome to our new members since the last edition; we have held three regular open events and at least two junior Academy days sponsored by Broadsword to give a taster into the game of bowls.

Our Little Ox Brew green was opened on Sunday 16th April on schedule and with the use of nets to protect the playing surface, it bowled very well and we managed a couple of dry hours with sunshine. Many thanks to the dedicated Green team volunteers who have worked hard to ensure the green and the surrounding borders were kept in check.

The annual full membership subscription should now be paid up to date for this year, and as with last year no increase has been made, however our Affiliation fees to both Bowls Oxfordshire and Bowls England will increase next year and the treasurer has identified a potential short fall. Our aim will remain to ensure that bowls is accessible to everyone and at every level. For more information please visit our website at www.charlburybowls.co.uk.

Our summer fixture card is now issued and shows all the planned fixtures to date; this includes friendly matches with other clubs both at home and away. We also have a Men's League team (on Thursday evenings), a Ladies League team (on a Wednesday evening) and our ever popular Tuesday Triples night sponsored by Charlbury Garage on a Tuesday evening. The Club also enters a mixed triples league run by West Oxfordshire. The other days are taken with Club competitions, such as the 4321, and the Ned Comm sponsored by Hydac Ltd; also many County competitions, and our own club competitions.

All the above take place on the Ox Brew Bowls Green and can be booked or cancelled by the member at any time on our club manager system. This links to your smart phone or tablet for convenience or simply look at the notice board and write down your name. All the information about the fixtures are there.

This is backed up with a members only Facebook page, a very good way to share bowls related matters with fellow members.

All members can play and enjoy the facilities at almost any time. Beginners are most welcome. We can provide free coaching, and you can attend up to six times before making a commitment. First time members also get a year one discount to aid in the purchase of a club shirt. (needed only for Club games). We strongly recommend that unless you have bowled before you try out our selection / range of Bowls. All you need is a pair of flat type trainers.

Short mat bowls, inside the club house, will continue all through the summer months; some members prefer this game to outside Bowling.

A wide range of training and fixtures will be on offer; as I write this piece in late April an amazing 11 members of Charlbury Junior academy took part in England under 21 Open Day Trials in Solihull. The Club entered three teams in the evening Oxfordshire League and two in the afternoon League all with success. Many members have now played in county games for the OSMBBA and we have player representation from Charlbury in the Oxfordshire national premier team that got to the semi-finals but lost to Cheshire who went on to win.

Disability Bowlers can use our special adapted equipment including wheelchairs, both electric and manual powered, lifting and bowling arms, so whether you have a sensory, physical, or a learning disability we can support you, both short mat and green.

Broadsword junior academy will continue to meet on Saturday Mornings from 11am and on Tuesday afternoons at 3.15pm. All ages from 7-15 are supported by DBS vetted and trained staff and once competent can play at club level, both inside and outside. The Academy is supported by West

Charlbury Bowls Club

Oxfordshire District Council, as well as the Jim Cousins Trust.

Building extensions to the car park side of the club will be almost if not finished by the time you read this article. It will allow us to stand behind the Short Mats to play the game in accordance with national rules and also benefits our spectators.

We have fully automated and installed LED lighting in most areas. Motion sensors will switch on and off the lights; all the windows and doors have been replaced with triple glazing to the highest specification and with thanks to Sustainable Charlbury we have dramatically improved our carbon footprint and are seeing savings in our energy bills. For further information see our web page on www.charlburybowls.co.uk.

As well as bowling at the club, we are a community facility and open for hire for group and private events along with charitable activities, please email enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk for availability and terms.

Finally I would like to thank all of the sponsors for continuation of their support in assisting the Club to improve and allow opportunity for all to play bowls and enjoy the pleasant surroundings of this great club.

*Ron Smith
Secretary*

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01865 331501/
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Email:

cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com



Try bowls at Charlbury Bowls Club



All you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes like trainers and we have the rest. First six times is free!

New Members are able to play and enjoy our facilities at almost any time. Beginners welcome, free coaching, very low membership fees, plenty of matches, competitions, and social interaction.

Welcome to all. We have several Men's, Ladies', and Mixed teams with a Junior Academy. Just bowl socially, or after a few introductory sessions you will be equipped to play in friendly matches.

The very successful **Broadsword Junior Academy** meets Saturday mornings from 11.00 am and Tuesdays from 3.15pm. Ages 7 to 15, supported by DBS vetted and trained coaches.

Disability Bowls We have an extensive range of equipment to assist people with disabilities to enjoy our sport, including bowls wheel-chairs, whether you have a physical, sensory, or learning disability.

Contact us for more information or just turn up to an Open Day

enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk



www.charlburybowls.co.uk



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Probus...where everyone is welcome!

Probus continues at a pace accepting new members, particularly now that membership is open to women and men.

Probus is an active social club mainly for the semi or fully retired who enjoy meeting others. A monthly lunch and regular events are organised.

Recently there have been two outstanding presentations around the theme of investing. The first on a local initiative to forest a large area to offset carbon and the other a very successful Financial Advisor.

The first in April by Neil Nicholson (of Nicholson's Nurseries), and co-founder of the Forest Canopy Foundation. <https://forestcanopyfoundation.co.uk/>

The need to tackle climate change is urgent. Businesses committed to reducing their climate change impact can buy carbon credits to offset their emissions.

Forest Canopy Foundation—a group of 16 private companies—was set up to provide carbon offsetting based on the government-assessed Natural Capital Value of Woodlands. Woodland provides multiple benefits including flood alleviation, cleaner water run-off – less silting and reduction in roadside air pollution.

The government target for new tree planting is 7,000 hectares in England alone. So far, just 2,000 have been planted!

The Foundation is working with its first client—Morgan Sindall Group plc, the construction and regeneration group—which is paying for the creation of nine new woodlands in partnership with the Blenheim Estate. The planting in the Dorn & Glyme Valleys will create new footpaths, a forest school and reduce the

silting of the Blenheim lakes. A copy of the presentation is available from Probus including the economics explained fully.

In May we were treated to an excellent presentation given by local resident Tony Yarrow, the founder in 1992 of Wise Funds. In both adviser and fund management roles he regards trust as a vital component. Possible companies or fund managers are put to the tests of:

- Gaining an understanding of the business;
- Knowing the strengths of the management team;
- State of the balance sheet;
- Timing. There is a tendency generally to think that a high price is a signal to ignore these tests and buy at the top of the market and sell at the bottom, not a good idea!

Regulations in the industry have increased, some sensibly and some not, but these have pushed up costs of advice substantially. Money laundering checks, Professional Indemnity insurance, compensation contributions and VAT all add to the costs to the investor/client.

In June Liz Leffman Probus Club member and Leader of the Council will address "The new Oxfordshire County Council two years on".

What has been achieved so far, what is different with the Alliance, what are the plans, what are key tasks still to achieve? Open to all at £25 to include prebooked lunch visit www.charlburyprobus.uk

Paul Jackson

The next Forest Fair will be held on Sunday 9th July 2023, at Foxburrow Wood near Witney.

The Wychwood Forest Fair is a family-friendly country fair celebrating rural crafts, community and conservation in the historic Wychwood area.

Founded in 1796 as a peaceful counterpart to the Witney Feast, the historic fair became increasingly raucous and in 1853 was shut down for good. In 2000 the Wychwood Forest Trust revived the fair to highlight conservation work, crafts and community in the historic Wychwood area, and its relaxed and fun ambience is much closer to the original intentions of its founders.

With live music, amazing food, local beer, rural skills and demonstrations, conservation and nature groups, falconry, ferret racing, donkey rides, axe-throwing, lots of stalls and displays, this is a great day out for all ages!

Under 14s are FREE! And there is free parking at the Witney Rugby Club.

All proceeds from the Forest Fair go to support our work to conserve wildlife and landscapes in the historic Wychwood area.



CREATIVE PIANO LESSONS

I'm an experienced piano teacher, composer and accompanist offering piano lessons focussing on developing musicianship, creativity and most of all enjoyment!

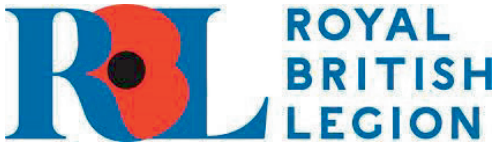
Whilst I do coach for exams (Grades 1 – 8 and GCSE and A Level performance) as I have done for many years, in an increasingly exam orientated culture I'm also pleased to offer an environment for creativity to blossom.

Whether you're contemplating piano lessons for your child or yourself (perhaps after a period of absence), feel free to get in touch

Rosemary

Rosemary.jefford@gmail.com <https://www.rosemaryjefford.co.uk>

Tel. No. 0754 208 6038



Charlbury Branch

Branch Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday July 22 2023 in the War Memorial Hall, 9.45am to 11.45am.

Branch News

At our committee meeting on 16 March Cyril Kerry stood down as Branch Chair. Our President Major Potter thanked Cyril for the enthusiasm and commitment he has shown to the Branch. The Branch is delighted that Cyril will remain as a committee member.

The Branch is very fortunate that Sqd. Ldr Gary Harrison has volunteered to take on the role of Branch Chair and Gary was formally appointed at the meeting.

Assistance

For further information about the work of the Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on 01608 810388 or Jane Parsons [Branch Secretary] on 01993 357468. The Branch Membership Secretary is Barry Canham on 01608 811176, who will assist anyone who has any membership question or who wishes to join.

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

Jane Parsons

Coronation flowers in St Mary's Church

We were so very grateful for the wonderful selection of foliage and flowers that were brought to St Mary's in time to decorate the church for the Coronation. Thanks to all who contributed with your donations, time and talents.

We wanted to celebrate King Charles's love of nature and of the British countryside, and you helped us to make the church look beautiful with a perfect mix of wild flowers and hedgerow offerings alongside garden-grown flowers and foliage.

Charlbury is blessed with many talented and generous gardeners and it was wonderful that you were willing to share your plants with us. The St Mary's display was a treat for local people to enjoy over the Coronation weekend, echoing the beautiful display in Westminster Abbey, which was drawn from flower farms across the UK and arranged in a sustainable way.

*Thank you again
Hilli Waller – St Mary's Church Flowers
Alison Derham – Charlbury Garden Society*





Street Fair

Please remember that 16th September is the Street Fair day.

Street Fair in 2022 was extremely successful with over £10,000 raised, and we are getting ready for this year. The year got off to a good start with our Quiz Night which saw over 60 attendees. We will also be supporting Charlbury Open Gardens on Sunday, 11th June where the Garden Society has arranged a great line-up of Charlbury gardens.

The charge for the Open Gardens is set at £5.00 per adult and children over 12 years' old.

Do take advantage of this rare opportunity to visit these lovely gardens as part of your Sunday afternoon post prandial perambulation. Teas and a lot of delicious home-made cakes will be available throughout the afternoon. We also have our local Morris dancing groups providing entertainment at 2pm so do come along and enjoy.

Street Fair is obviously our big event and our Committee are getting busy making arrangements for the day, should you know of an organisation or body that would like to sponsor events, or offer prizes for our Silent Auction, please do get in touch.

We will be using the same format which has proved successful in recent years with a mix of stalls, food and entertainment both in Church Street and at other venues around the centre of Charlbury.

The Sea Shanties will be making a welcome return for the third year and we will, of course, have the usual Fancy Dress Competition and Grand Draw too.

If you want to help with either event on the day - and the day after in the case of the Fair (there's a bit of packing and clearing up to do on Sunday morning) do please get in touch with either Steve Jones, our Secretary or John Dora our Chair.

You can contact us and read up-to-date information via the usual social media websites. We would really like to hear from anyone willing to take over from John who is standing down as Chair after a tenure of seven years and seven fairs.

See you all there!

Prof. John Dora

Chair, Charlbury Street Fair Committee

csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org

CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL

Office: 01608 810879

Office hours: Mon 9.30am - 11.30am; Wed & Sat: 9am to 12 noon

Emergency Contact:

Roy Scott (01608 810562)



Charlbury Beer Festival's Silver Jubilee!

We are delighted to announce the 25th Charlbury Beer Festival, a day of fun, festivity and fundraising for all the family.

This year's Charlbury Beer Festival is taking place on Saturday 24 June at Charlbury Cricket Club, Oxfordshire from 12 noon to 9pm. Who would have thought that possible back in 1998, when a bunch of primary school dads brought a few barrels into Charlbury's Memorial Hall and created what has become one of the country's largest independent one-day beer festivals?

We will be aiming to attract around 3,000 visitors, at the same time raising money for community projects, both in the Charlbury area and overseas. After our last festival we celebrated taking our total funds raised for good causes to over £275,000. If you live in Charlbury it's almost certain that you or members of your immediate family have benefitted from some of this money. In this time we have supported cricket, bowls, tennis, and football clubs, the primary school, pre-school, the Thomas Gifford Trust to name but a few.

Last year we raised £17,000 which was distributed in grants to 13 organisations including Charlbury's Baby and Toddler Group, Community Centre, Cricket Club, Exhibition Foundation, Pre-School, Primary School, railway station garden, Walking Football Club, and Youth Football Club, a children's outdoor activities group, an owl rescue charity, and Wychwood Forest Trust, as well as an overseas project supporting children and young women in Afghanistan.

In our silver jubilee year we'd love to celebrate this by raising £25k to further help local organisations in what are difficult financial times.

So how do we do it? Well, it's very much down to all those people who have come to enjoy a day out in the sunshine and help quaff some of the finest ales available. But we couldn't do this without the generous sponsors who have financed the beers and the entertainment tents, and the volunteers who make it all happen. This is not just our committee, but the army of people who give up some of their time to help out on the day.

The day will involve 60 real ales and a variety of craft beers – we've upped the order this time after selling out early last year - plus a range of ciders and perries, wine, gin, and Pimm's; a great selection of food; live music throughout; the Culture Tent with its varied programme of performances and talks; children's entertainment, plus top-notch sport with the 11th World Aunt Sally Singles Championships – can Rob Bradford retain his crown? Charlbury Cricket Club provides a glorious setting, just across the road from Charlbury Station.

There are excellent all-day bus and train services to and from Charlbury to Oxford, Chipping Norton, Reading, Witney, Worcester and London (hopefully), so you don't even need to drive if you want to have a drink. And for those that have to, we'll be showcasing a local non-alcoholic beer this year so you don't feel left out!

So how can you get involved? You might

Charlbury Beer Festival



The Corner House is
for the town

consider offering a couple of hours of your time on the day to help sell drinks, sell tokens or help elsewhere across the event. All we ask is that you commit to give us two hours, then the rest of the day is yours to enjoy at the festival. If you could help, contact Mick at volunteering@charlburybeerfestival.org and we'll welcome you to the team.

We are also very grateful to our sponsors, many of whom have been involved for over ten years. We're always on the look out for new sponsors, so if you're a new or established local business or an individual wishing to commemorate an event or anniversary and wish to support your local community, then our sponsorship options, ranging from individual barrels of beer to sponsorship of the whole event, and many things in between, could be just what you're looking for! Just £120 will get your name on a barrel, your logo and name in the programme and on the website, and (more importantly) free entry to the event. Visit the sponsorship page on our website.

Matt Bullock

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email:
adverts.chronicle@outlook.com

The Corner House Garden has become a delightful town centre space to be enjoyed by everyone. We are now calling this "the People's Garden" simply because we want it to be enjoyed by all. You are welcome to just walk in through the open gate in the Browns Lane wall, or walk up the drive and wander in.

The long border behind the wall was installed and maintained by the Garden Society and will look ever better as we move towards summer. There are further garden areas surrounding the terrace on the side of the Memorial Hall: just follow the signs to the Garden and Green rooms. Tables and chairs are provided so you can stay a while if you wish.

The Corner House and the Memorial Hall exist to promote the wellbeing of the town, and host all kind of things for community benefit.

The trustees have agreed on a step-by-step strategy to help bring the Corner House up to more modern standards. The plans include more spacious lobby areas (which will include better toilet facilities), and easier access to the upstairs. These works are overdue and necessary so the building can continue to promote the common good of the town. The annual Street Fair is an important contributor towards development costs but additional financial support is necessary if these improvements are to happen. The trustees therefore especially look for donors in the town, and also elsewhere, to come forward with their support.

Roy Scott, chairman of the trustees



Museum Plant Sale

Saturday 3 June

10 am - 12 noon

Corner House Garden

Donations of plants welcome

Please bring to the Garden on

Friday 2nd 6 - 6.30pm

or on the morning of the sale

Perennials, bedding, herbs





Charlbury Arts



Did you make it to the Charlbury Arts Spring Exhibition held with the Garden Society Spring Show in the Memorial Hall?

On Saturday, 1st April there was a lovely collection of spring blooms on the central tables with the walls and stage showing 73 works by 28 members of Charlbury Arts. Briony Lawson exhibited a collection of sculptures in the Green Room where she was joined by Kateryna Olieshk with her display of photographs from Ukraine. We had many positive comments and quite a few sales.

Visitors also had an opportunity to visit the ArtRoom in the Larcum Kendall Room of The Corner House to see a printing workshop being led by Tony Lloyd. The ArtRoom is spacious, light and airy and has a large etching press available for members to use. Among Charlbury's vibrant art scene there are several printmakers and opportunities to learn printing techniques. Here are a few details if you would like to join them. We'll visit other local artists in future articles!

Tony Lloyd is a sculptor and printmaker with a studio at Royal Oak Press on Church Street who loves the challenge of making work in response to locations, he likes to encourage people to engage with his work and he exhibits widely in Oxfordshire, also opening his studio for Artweeks. Details of his work and workshops can be found on his website, anthonylloyd.co.uk

Jody O'Reilly is also a local printmaker producing beautiful lino cut prints. You can read more about Jody and her work at Meet the Maker: Jody O'Reilly, on blog.handprinted.co.uk. She is part of the

team producing steam roller prints with Charlbury Primary School at past Charlbury Arts Festivals. Local artists also collaborated to produce a huge Charlbury themed steam roller print which can be seen on the walls of the ArtRoom. Pop in next time the ArtRoom is open for a look!

David Crosby now lives in Charlbury. He developed his printmaking practice through his membership of Ochre Print studio in Guilford where he was Artist in Residence in 2019. Art Society Members recently enjoyed a fascinating talk given by David about Artificial Intelligence and Art, a real eye opener about the way that artworks are now being developed using a vast digital database.

Our monthly meetings recently have included a live demonstration of watercolour painting and a talk about photography. Future meetings will include a film from Exhibitions on Screen.

The Autumn Exhibition of works by members of Charlbury Arts will be on 6-8th October 2023 with the theme of 'Myths and Legends', at Wilcote Studios. This vibrant local venue is well worth a visit. See you there!

Join Charlbury Arts to meet other people interested in the Arts and for our monthly newsletter detailing opportunities to become involved. If you or your group are interested in using the ArtRoom for art activities, music making, poetry or reading groups or in learning to use the etching press, please contact us at charlburyarts@gmail.com.

Joanna Shakir for Charlbury Arts
joanna@shakir.org.uk
07889 545408



Charlbury as it was during the Coronation May 2023

Charlbury was busy during the Coronation weekend with The Big Lunch, held on Nine Acres during the Sunday afternoon with music playing and lots of food, courtesy of the Bull. Here are some photos to look back on.





Photos courtesy of Edmund Blok Photography



Riverside Festival Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 July

Riverside Festival is back this year, sunnier than ever, for two days of local music and arts and general family festival fun on the Millfield. We're so proud to (still!) be Oxfordshire's biggest and best FREE festival. Saturday from 2pm to 10pm and Sunday 12 noon to 8pm.

The music

This year we're showcasing around 50 bands on our three music stages - rock, indie, folk and blues. 2023 is shaping up nicely as a mix of smash-hit nostalgia and brand new talent.

We're welcoming festival favourites the Mighty Redox, Tiger Mendoza and Beard of Destiny, indie folk darling Dolly Mavies and punk rock party starters Self Help. Legendary Oxford band The Daisies will play a special one-off reunion gig.

From further afield, cyberbilly inventor Sonny E returns after last year's brilliant set; also this year are Brighton's Blue Spectre and Toronto's alt-rock sensation Blackout Orchestra. And there's lots of formidable female talent - female fronted -bands Electric Shepherd and Healthy Junkies, London-based songstress Erica (who was keyboardist and singer in Skunk Anansie) and Charlbury locals Xita.

The festival fun

High jinks, fun and frolics, with something for the whole family to do.

- **Children's tent** - lots of crafts and fun activities to keep the little Riversiders busy - get your facepaint on and glitter up!
- **Busker's Stage** - spot the next big

musical star, or step up and show us what you've got.

- **Greenfields** - craft demos and have-a-go sessions, from stone masonry to blacksmithing.
- **Food and feasting** - something for everyone, championing the best local food businesses.
- **Pints in the sunshine** - from our two bars, beautifully stocked up by Hook Norton brewery.
- **Our fabulous gin bar** - for all you discerning gin lovers.
- **Riverside shopping** - all our lovely traders open for business.

The volunteers

Riverside famously runs on generosity, goodwill, gaffer tape and 100% volunteer power. Everyone, from the bands to the bar staff, donates their time, energy and expertise. We want to say a massive, massive thank you to all you lovely people who show up and chip in. If you've not been involved in Riverside before, and have a couple of hours free now and then - please do give us a shout. We'd love to have you along.

admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com

A few more thanks

As ever, we thank the Town Council for funding us. Thanks to Hook Norton Brewery for being such brilliant partners. Thanks also to Windrush Radio and Sonox for partnering with us and sponsorship.

See you on the Millfield - we can't wait!

The Riverside Crew



Riverside 2022





Charlbury Patient Participation Group

Save a Life: CPR and Defibrillator training.

Thank you to Russell and the First Responders who came to Charlbury in March to train 33 people in giving life-saving CPR and when and how to use a defibrillator. We hope to be able to offer more training opportunities in the summer.

News from Charlbury Medical Centre (CMC)

Staff Changes

Dr Khan who was a very popular locum GP here has left the Practice. CPPG sent him good wishes and a note of appreciation.

Dr Brookes-White has returned from her sabbatical. She will no longer have a patient list and will not be providing a specialist dermatology service. Patients with dermatological conditions needing further intervention will be referred to the Dermatology Department at the Churchill. She will be continuing to work in research and mentoring junior GPs.

Dr Gillgan is on maternity leave. A locum GP supplying maternity cover will be in post from mid-May. CMC is fortunate to have recruited replacement GPs especially in the current climate where there is a national shortage of GPs.

Ben Haydon –Johnston, Advanced Paramedic, is proving a valuable asset to patients and staff at CMC. He triages 8:00am calls and since he can deal with many of these the waiting time to see a GP has been significantly reduced. He is a registered prescriber so can deal with repeat prescriptions. Where appropriate he will also have face to face consultations with patients. He is therefore freeing up GP appointment time.

Sacha King, Mental Health Nurse, appointed by the Rural West Primary Care Network works for one day a week, (Thursday) at CMC. Patients can self-refer by telephoning CMC reception.

Management

Sally Long who has been in post for a long time in Reception is now deputy practice manager and is responsible for day –to day management of the Practice. Comments and complaints can be made via the website or directly to her.

Other items

Non –attendance Patients failing to keep their appointments remains a problem especially in respiratory clinics. It is important to keep these appointments for patients' well being. Missed appointments also cost the Practice money.

Text messages to remind patients of their appointments have not yet been re-instituted. CPPG have suggested that they would be helpful in reducing missed appointments, although we are aware that not everyone has a mobile phone.

Getting an Appointment. All telephone calls requesting a consultation are passed to Ben for assessment. Following his assessment, reception call the patient back offering them an appointment with the appropriate clinician. A common complaint has been that patients who ring at 8am wanting a same day appointment are frequently told they are way down the queue and when they finally speak to a receptionist they are told that all the appointments for that day have been taken and they are asked to ring back the next day with no assurance that the same thing will not happen again. Thanks to Ben, this is now a rare occurrence. However, patients are advised not to ring at 8am unless they need urgent care that day, but to wait until later in the day when the telephone lines are less busy.

It is still not possible to get an appointment via the CMC website.



Charlbury Patient Participation Group

Prescription charges.

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced a 30p (3.21%) rise in prescription charges from April 1st 2023. This increases the prescription charge for a single item to £9.65.

The cost of prescription pre-payment certificates (PPCs) will also be increased: a three month PPC increases by £1 to £31.25; a twelve month PPC increases by £3.50 to £111.60. This can be paid for in 12 monthly instalments a Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) PPC will cost £19.30.

How much could I save?

If you need:

- 2 items each month – you can save £120.00 with a 12-month PPC
- 3 items each month – you can save £235.80 with a 12-month PPC
- 4 items each month – you can save £351.60 with a 12-month PPC

For more information, see <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/save-money-with-a-prescription-prepayment-certificate-ppc/>

Please contact the Patient Participation Group at patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net if you have any comments or queries about the CMC, or better still join the CPPG which will ensure you receive minutes of meetings and up to date information.

Sue Smith



Charlbury Beer and Wine Circle

Our meetings through the Spring period have been a mixture of socialising and education. March saw a visit to the Memorial Hall by Melina Cucchiara of Moreton-in-Marsh Wine Merchants, who brought us an interesting selection of wines from around the world, amongst which was a surprisingly good Pinot Grigio from Slovenia, packing a 13.5% punch. Additionally, and to show support to Ukraine, Melina brought us an unusual white wine from that country.

Members were interested to learn of Melina's recently-opened wine bar in Moreton and during the week following the tasting, several made the short journey west to buy some of the wines tasted and to enjoy tapas in her bar. With the wine bar and shop located on Moreton's High Street, just a five minute walk from the railway station, that sounds like a nice destination.

April's meeting was unstructured and the informal occasion gave members the opportunity to discuss the merits (or otherwise) of the various wines brought to the meeting and shared around the room, and to chat and 'put the world to rights'.

An additional chance to gather and enjoy good wine was afforded by the Coronation Big Lunch on Nine Acres. Red, white and blue bunting decorated our gazebo, whilst red, white and rose wines filled our glasses.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our May meeting, when Eynsham Cellars will be making their first visit to us in Charlbury. New members and guests are always welcome and if you would like to join us, please email sec.charlburybeerandwine@yahoo.com or charlburybeerandwinecircle@gmail.com

Brian Murray

Charlbury School is Flourishing, but it Needs Your Help!

Charlbury School continues its progress, now emerging after a challenging few years as a flourishing body of creative, curious, and caring pupils and staff. As the Local Governing Body, we wish to use this message to spread that news to the wider Charlbury community. We do so to celebrate the successes and strengths of the school, and also in the hope that we might encourage some of the very many talented, thoughtful, and socially-committed local residents to become more involved with us. The school would greatly benefit from contributions of all sorts from those with expertise or resources to offer. We are particularly hoping to recruit some more governors to join our team.

For those of you who have not kept up with developments at Charlbury School over the past few years, we are happy to report that we have taken some very big, positive, strides. Consequently, the leadership team and governors are extremely proud of what the school offers to its pupils (and families), and of what they are achieving.

In governance terms, the most consequential change has been the switch, at the end of 2020, from Oxfordshire County Council to River Learning Trust (RLT) as the body with ultimate responsibility for the school. We, as local governors, work together with RLT to oversee the school, and we are happy to say that the Trust is very supportive, providing extremely helpful resources to us and the leadership team, alike. On that latter note, the most obvious and important changes have been the arrival of Charlie Barwell as headteacher in September 2022, swiftly followed by the appointment of Ben Trevail as Assistant Headteacher. Both are very experienced leaders and, together, they have swept through the school with a commitment and expertise that has helped energise everyone.

One area that has seen a new energy is in the approach to pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). As our new SEND Coordinator, Jackie Davids has been working tirelessly to expand the scope of provision and support for those in the school that need it. This is an area of real focus for us all as we strive to ensure that Charlbury School is an inclusive environment for all families who would like to be a part of it.

Another notable area of sustained activity this year has been the development of a new curriculum for the whole school. Subject-lead teachers have planned and coordinated innovative and thought-provoking educational pathways that pupils now follow from Reception all the way up to Year 6.

Building on this, Charlbury School has also broken the traditional primary school mould by using its trained, passionate, and experienced subject leads to teach in their specialist areas across the year groups. So, children up and down the school are having History, Geography, Music, Computing, Science, PE and French taught by an expert! Not only do our pupils get knowledgeable and aspirational teaching, but every teacher knows every child in the school. Excellence in a subject is celebrated and fostered.

One area of expertise that the school is lucky to continue to have is in Music. The Charlbury School Choir, under the guidance of Jennie Grierson and Jenny Larsen, seems to be ever-more popular amongst our pupils. And their programme of concerts at various local events - from the Street Fair to the Beer Festival to Citizen Science Day - continues to be a delightful way in which the school reaches out to the wider community.

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St Mary's services

Ignite contemporary worship

service: Sunday 11th June, Sunday 9th July 6pm in St Mary's Church. Join us at 5.45pm for refreshments

Choral Evensong: Sunday 18th June 6pm in St Mary's Church

Messy Church for families: Sunday

2nd July 3pm in St Mary's Church.

Booking required – email

parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk

Churches Together in Charlbury

Holiday Club: Tuesday 1st August – Friday 4th August 10am – 12.30pm in St Mary's Church. Email

parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk for booking forms. Open to primary school aged children. Optional sports afternoons available.

Charlbury Church Services



Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

Sundays 10.30am.

Communion on the first Sunday of each month

Tuesdays at 7.30pm Join us on zoom for midweek study/discussion

Our Garden. A place to sit quietly at any time.

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

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

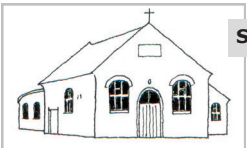
You are very welcome to join us



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

This year our country has a new king and soon Charlbury will have a new vicar. We need new experiences. Visiting new places, meeting new people, learning a new game, cooking a new recipe, reading a new book can all be life affirming. We may not always like what we find but being challenged by new ideas or practising a new skill helps us to develop our own creative instincts. We are very fortunate if we live in a place where the environment is benign, the necessities of life are available and people respect one another, so that we can afford to experiment and try out new ideas.

We know that much of the world is not like this. East Africa has been suffering from extended periods of drought followed by violent storms and floods. In Lent the Charlbury churches offered soup, bread and cheese lunches once a week and raised £1052 for Christian Aid's work in Ethiopia and Kenya, helping over 300,000 people by repairing wells, building dams to hold rainfall when it comes, trucking water to drought-affected communities and providing fodder and medicine to keep valuable livestock alive.

In May our fundraising in Christian Aid Week focussed on women in Malawi who have been helped by Christian Aid to grow a new drought resistant crop, 'pigeon peas'. The women work as a cooperative, baking pea flour into bread and selling some of it while ensuring the whole community, especially the children, have enough to eat.

Churches Together in Charlbury is not only concerned about poverty in other parts of the world. We recognise that there are many people in our society who are struggling with social, mental and emotional stress caused by poor housing and homelessness, low wages or lack of employment, poverty and prejudice. In Lent we invited speakers from the Porch in Oxford, the Branch in Chipping Norton, Asylum Welcome and the Big Issue Foundation and heard about the problems of people in Oxfordshire and the imaginative and generous ways in which these problems are being tackled.

Charlbury's Cornerstone also provides vital support for people weighed down by the cost of living crisis. We were able to make donations to all the organisations taking part in the Lent talks. More important, we learnt about the needs of our community, the courage and determination of people working to change life for the better and how we can support them. The theme of the talks was 'How to be a good neighbour'.

Being a good neighbour is not a new idea. It is one of the oldest teachings in the Jewish and Christian Bible and has parallels in the teachings of other faiths. Today we must work out new ways of being neighbourly in response to changing situations, for the good of the people around us and the well-being of our community, our families and ourselves.

*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



Formed in 2008 by David Crown, The Wychwood Chorale has grown from a fledgling community choir to a dynamic group of approximately fifty singers.

Since 2013, under the direction of Bernard West, the choir has performed concerts in many local churches, raising thousands of pounds for numerous charities and the performance venues.

With an eclectic repertoire, from Handel to The Beatles and from Coldplay to John Rutter, choir members have fully embraced and enjoyed the well-recognised health benefits of singing.

Rehearsing every Tuesday evening during term time from 7.30pm until 9pm in St Nicholas' Church, Chadlington, members enjoy being part of a very friendly, like-minded group.

There is no audition required to join and members range from those who have never sung in a choir before to more experienced singers.

"I hadn't sung with others since my school days, so when given the opportunity to join The Wychwood Chorale I was initially hesitant. Even after just the first rehearsal I felt very welcome and started to feel an uplifting emotional buzz each week. Fourteen years later, I am still reaping the benefits every week of rehearsing and performing with a fantastic group of people and Tuesday evenings have become an important positive part of my life."

2023 is the 15th anniversary of The Wychwood Chorale and we would like to invite new singers to join us. A free taster session at one of our rehearsals, without any commitment, may further tempt the undecided.

For further information please contact Emma on 01608 659737, who will be delighted to tell you more and answer any questions you may have.

Visit our website at wychwoodchorale.org.uk where you can find further information, details of previous concerts, repertoire details, photographs and recordings (both audio and visual). We can also be found on Facebook and YouTube.

Our 15th anniversary concert is on **Saturday 8th July 2023 at 7.30pm in St Nicholas' Church, Chadlington**

featuring various pieces of choral music, new and old, on the theme of 'Roses'.

Admission is **FREE** – audience donations will be split between our nominated charity, **Bridewell Gardens**, a mental health recovery service offering adults the opportunity to do therapeutic work in the gardens, and the church.

In keeping with our tradition, we invite you to share some refreshments (drinks and nibbles) after the concert, provided free of charge by the members of the choir.

We look forward to welcoming you and your friends and family.

"It's worth noting that these Wychwood Chorale concerts really are easy to enjoy! It's always genuinely fun. I want you to know that when I say they're good, that is not me speaking from some musicologist place: "Oh the obscure 13th century Eastern European work was such a treat." No. They REALLY are fun. And that's without the food and drink, which is always tops."

Nikki Rycroft



Charlbury Scout Group

Congratulations to Thomas, who attended the County Award Ceremony in mid-May, to receive his Chief Scouts Award (Bronze) the highest award for Beaver Scouts.

The Spring term has seen all sections preparing for a busy outdoor term, with navigating skills to the fore and three of our Scouts taking part in the North Leigh 18-mile hike. We were also delighted to welcome two new members to our leadership team for Beavers and Cubs.

We've also been fundraising with a successful Easter Trail at Centenary Wood and activities/refreshments at the Earth Day (Citizen Science) event at Wigwell.

Our next activity for Scouts will be an Expedition Challenge, followed by Aqua

Camp (fingers crossed for drier conditions on land this year), then all sections are attending the West Oxfordshire District Camp, which only happens every four years – very exciting.

We do have spaces in our Scout Troop (10-14 years) and on the waiting list for the Beaver Colony (6-8 years) – and we value adult help in all aspects of Scouting.

Thanks are due to our fantastic leaders (adults and young people), our committee and fundraisers and to all the parents for supporting us as we celebrate our 90th year – more details in the next edition.

*Cheryl Horsey
Group Scout Leader*

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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

The Big Lunch

The Coronation weekend was action-packed in Charlbury. The Big Lunch took place on Nine Acres in a welcome window of daylong sunshine.

The recreation ground was packed with picnic rugs and gazebos, with people listening to Paper Taxi, The Jesters, Mingus Tree and the Vodka Shots, as well as a special performance from CADs. Delicious (free) food was served up by the Bull, helped out by Probus.

Charlbury Town Football Club organised



ball games and the local fire engine was squirting water onto the kids (mostly).

Thanks to everyone who took part, helped out and attended the Big Lunch.

The atmosphere was amazing!



Charlbury Town Council News

The Big Help Out

The second Coronation event was the Big Help Out on the Bank Holiday Monday. The Memorial Hall thronged with hundreds of potential volunteers, looking for a group that matched their interests amongst the 22 local organisations that came along. Children's activities kept the younger generations entertained whilst their parents signed up to volunteer.

Thanks to Probus for funding the afternoon tea and a huge thanks to Alison Derham and the Oxfordshire Lieutenancy who co-ordinated the event. We've never seen such a well-organised kitchen! Thanks also to the National Lottery for funding both events.



Open Homes and Home Comforts

Making our homes energy - and carbon-efficient is challenging. It can be hard to know where to start. That's why the Bowls Club and four householders in Charlbury opened their homes for visitors to learn about the wide range of measures that they had all adopted - from (heat-reflecting) triple-glazing to individual radiator thermostats - and from energy efficiency guidance software to solar panels with a home battery. A fifth home shared plans for refurbishing the home to make it low energy and low carbon. Around 40 people attended the exhibition and toured the homes.



The Town Council organised the Open Homes event as part of a wider project called Home Comforts. The project is funded by the Evenlode Foundation. The energy efficiency improvements at the Bowls Club are being funded by Sustainable Charlbury with the community benefit funds from Southill Solar.

The **Home Comforts** project is collaborating with local company Cosy Homes to produce a series of 'whole house' plans for ten typical Charlbury home types. These ten typical 'whole house' plans will be unveiled on 10th June - the first day of Great Big Green Week - in the Memorial Hall. Watch out for further information about the exhibition and presentations with Q&A sessions to follow.

Charlbury Car Club

In 2022, the Town Council asked the town what it thought of the idea of a car club. The response was enthusiastic, with 143 people saying they were definitely or maybe interested.

You can see the Car Club Survey Results (2022) at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/journeys-team/>.

Charlbury Market



The Town Council is looking forward to taking on the running of the Charlbury (food) Market, following a

successful five-week trial last Autumn. We intend to be a weekly market on Saturday mornings (9.30am to midday), starting 20th May. It will be located next to the Community Centre and will have 6 -8 stalls offering a range of fresh local produce - fruit and veg, bread and cakes, eggs, flowers, and in due course, we hope, fish, meat and cheese.

We're always looking for volunteers to help out, either on the morning, or behind the scenes - co-ordinating, planning and Instagramming (@charlburymarket).

Thank you to those who have joined the market team so far (at the Big Help Out on 8th May, and an event at Chloe's on Market Street in April). But we need more! If you'd like to join the team, or to find out more, contact the clerk (details above).

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There are two ways car clubs work. There are traditional cars clubs like ZipCar or Commonwheels, which provide their own cars – Charlbury is too small for these schemes to be viable. There are also what is known as peer-to-peer systems, where people borrow and lend private cars via a service provider's website or app. There is no risk to lenders – insurance and vetting of renters is all taken care of by the service provider. You can read more about how peer-to-peer systems work for lenders and borrowers on the Town Council's website.

The Town Council has decided to promote any peer-to-peer provider that sets up in the town. Currently, HiyaCar is the only such provider, with a small car for rent on Hixet Wood.



Citroën C1- available on HiyaCar from Hixet Wood

We are encouraging all car owners in the town to consider adding their car, perhaps a spare car, to the HiyaCar system. We believe that a peer-to-peer car club could transform the way Charlburians drive, freeing up kerbside parking and freeing up cash in car owners' and renters' wallets. For peer-to-peer car sharing to work, we need to see a range of cars (big, small, older, newer, et cetera) being offered on car club websites and this means **YOU!** could make a bit of extra cash by renting out your car when you don't need it. It's easy and it's risk-free – see <https://www.hiyacar.co.uk/list-your-car-for-more-information>.

Traffic news

Oxfordshire County Council has agreed the implementation of a 20mph speed limit throughout Charlbury, the extension of the 30mph speed limit on Spelsbury Road and the installation of a zebra crossing on The Slade. There was significant support for all these measures from Charlbury residents who submitted their views.



Grass cutting

We have agreed with Ubico and West Oxfordshire District Council a mowing programme for the grassed areas in Ticknell Piece, to ensure that the grass is not left uncut like last year. The clerk has ensured that the workers and the manager at Ubico understand the plan.

The Town Council supports Cottsway's 'No Mow May' initiative. Cottsway is a local social housing provider and is responsible for mowing about half of the town's grassed areas.

Great Big Green Week

The Town Council is putting on a range of events for residents during Great Big Green Week (a national scheme) 10th–18th June. Here is our programme of events for 10th, 11th and 17th June:



Saturday 10th June

Home Comforts project: all day, Memorial Hall

Launch of the Home Comforts project to encourage people to make their homes cool in summer and warm in winter. Exhibition all day in the Memorial Hall, presentations with Q&A in the morning and the afternoon.

Sunday 11th June

Water & Wigwell walk: 2pm, meet Spendlove car park (Co-Op)

This short walk is guided by the local branch of Walkers are Welcome. The

Charlbury Town Council News

walk will pass by the river Evenlode and through Wigwell Nature Reserve with a chance to stop at a local cafe.

Saturday 17th June

Charlbury Market: 9.30am – 12.30pm, Charlbury Community Centre

Saturday 17th June

E-bike try out and car club demonstration 10.30am – 12.30pm, the Playing Close

- Come and try out the Town Council's e-bike.
- Get inside a Hiyacar car and get an idea of how the system works.

Saturday 17th June

Bike servicing and repairs: 10am – 3pm, Charlbury Community Workshop
Bring along your troublesome bicycles for fixing and servicing to the NEW Charlbury Community Workshop (next to the Community Centre).

Citizen Science Saturday

On Earth Day (22nd April), over 200 local residents of all ages took part in an enjoyable and informative Citizen Science Saturday event at the Scout Hut and on Wigwell, engaging with nature and learning how to help improve our natural environment and ecosystems through citizen science initiatives. Young and old alike had a go at water quality and invertebrate monitoring in the Wigwell stream as well as trying their hands at dam building to regulate water flow and create wetland habitats. Informative talks and 'walk and talk' sessions covered varied topics including river pollution, nature and habitat restoration, plant identification, reptile and butterfly monitoring. There was also a craft tent offering opportunities to create items such as bird feeders woven from willow.

The event was actively supported by the Town Council's Land and Nature Group, but special thanks are due to the

Evenlode Catchment Partnership for their funding and to the 'Everyone's Evenlode' team at Cotswold National Landscape (the AONB) for their support and tireless hard work to put the event together. Thanks as well to everyone who helped on the day including the Charlbury Primary School Choir, Charlbury Scouts and Guides, the Wychwood Forest Trust and many more.

Witney Radio covered the event for their weekly show 'Science on the Radio' and episode 3, entitled 'Citizen Science in Charlbury' was dedicated to the event. You can still listen to this at <http://www.witneyradio.co.uk/science/>.

Call for volunteers!

The Land and Nature Working Group is keen to recruit volunteers to help with the emerging Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) for Charlbury and the surrounding parishes of Finstock, Fawler and (hopefully) Cornbury. The NRP will identify important wildlife areas to ensure that they are protected and, where necessary, restored. The plan will also identify opportunities for enhancing wildlife across the four parishes.

We need a dedicated group of committed volunteers to help with surveying, both habitats and species. We have a number of projects already underway but which would benefit from your help – in particular: validating the habitat map, butterfly surveys at Southill Solar, and hedgerow surveys. Training for each of these will be provided. If you are interested in becoming involved in any of these surveys or have expertise in wildlife recording and would like to set up a new survey, please email clerk@charlbury-tc.gov.uk.

Annual Town Meeting

Over 120 residents came along to this year's Annual Town Meeting at the end of April. The meeting heard from the Town Council on their work over the past year,

Charlbury Town Council News

as well as talks by FarmEd, Sustainable Charlbury and the Beer Festival.

Under the theme 'Go Local', the Bull Inn, Chloe, The Old Shed, Charlbury Deli and Halcyon Honey all provided delicious snacks, and we also put on a spread of cheese and wine. Honoured Citizen Awards were presented to Colin Critch, John Fitzgerald and Teresa Duester for their many years of voluntary work in Charlbury.

Informative displays from the meeting, covering all of the Council's work over the past 12 months, will be on display again at this year's Street Fair. Watch out for next year's Annual Town Meeting on 15th March 2024 now a must-see Charlbury fixture!



Teresa Duester receiving her award from Peter Kenrick

From District Councillor Andy Graham

07908 832632 andyg2439@gmail.com

A big thank you to all those residents in Charlbury and the huge majority you gave me to carry on for the third time in representing you.

Now the election is over I am back at work working with my colleagues in other parties to reform the administration and the continuation of the preparation for the Local Plan and will be contacting you soon regarding the consultation that will enable your views to be taken into account.

Details will be out soon in June/July and I look forward to your engagement so we can together produce a joined up plan that puts sustainable communities at its heart.

There are many challenges ahead but with a positive and creative approach we can create real progress that will make a difference, not only for today but also and most importantly for the generations to come.

Charlbury is a great place and we need to look after the people who live in it and surrounding areas.

Andy Graham



Cby sk8rs

There was a buzz at Charlbury skatepark at the end of April when 17 young residents learned to ollie, pancake flip and ride the half pipe with coach

Tom from Tictac Skateschool.

The workshops were organised and partly funded by the Town Council. We had great feedback so we are hoping to start a regular Sunday meet to get more people using this great facility.

Cllr James Styring

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From County & District Councillor Liz Leffman

01608 810153, 07741 073088 liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The County Council is now into a new financial year, and we are looking forward to implementing some new policies such as our new verge policy which aims to encourage bio-diversity on our roadsides without impeding visibility. Instead of cutting all of the verges several times each summer, we will leave the verges to grow between March and September and then again between October and February. 10-20% of the verge will be left as an uncut refuge for insects and spiders. We will leave cuttings in place as homes to wildlife. However, we will be cutting splays at junctions, to maintain safety.

The County Council Cabinet has also recently approved a new highways management plan. This plan aligns highways policy with new transport and environment policies and sets out the rules for work on the highways, including increased fees and fines for utilities. It also aims to reduce inappropriate use of minor roads by HGVs. The Council has also started the process of reviewing the highways maintenance contract which is up for renewal in 2024/5.

With regard to highways maintenance, I am very aware of the poor state of our roads. The potholes this year have been absolutely atrocious, and the subject of much comment. The very hot period last summer, followed by heavy frost earlier this year and torrential rain in the past 6 weeks has led to more than usual potholes opening up, and they can't be filled if they are full of rain. Government gives Oxfordshire £15 million a year to manage our roads – we need £45 million just to stand still. We have allocated £15 million from council tax but that still leaves a shortfall of one third of what we need. Earlier this year the government

announced a £200 million fund to “tackle potholes”. That amounts to just £3.7 million for Oxfordshire. Since the weather has improved, many potholes have now been filled and the rest will follow. Please report any potholes, or other road defects, on Fix My Street, or send me an email at liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

I am particularly conscious of the state of the road leading from Fiveways to Park Street. I am meeting with one of OCC's officers just after I write this, and I hope that this will lead to that section of road being resurfaced very shortly. I will let people know more when it is scheduled.

Regarding our train service, I am in regular touch with GWR and Network Rail and I have been assured that the work on the Nuneham Viaduct is happening to schedule and the line should be re-opening on June 10th. However, there will be further disruption at the beginning of August as Network Rail is closing Oxford Station for 9 days to work on the new rail tracks running through the station. Unfortunately this closure coincides with Wilderness but the Town Council and I have been having meetings with GWR to ensure that the replacement bus service runs smoothly and that buses do not come through the centre of the town.

I am very pleased to say that I will have a new Councillor Priority Fund for the new financial year, which allows me to make small donations to local organisations. Previously, I have helped to buy the town ebike with my fund, and I have also supported the Cornerstone. If there is something that you think I can help with, please do let me know.

Liz Leffman



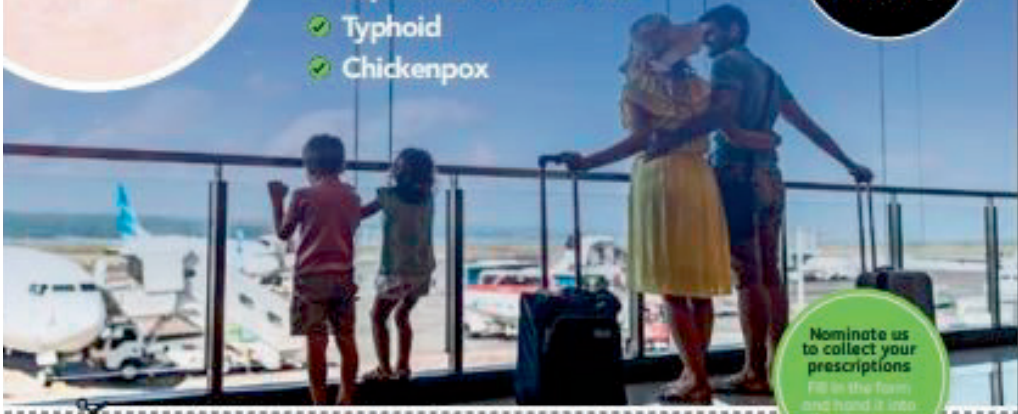
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The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens: Keeping our woodlands in good shape

The Cotswold Wardens are pleased to be able to offer you once again a guided walks programme after all the disruption from Covid. The full details are on our website (www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk), and since new walks are added from time to time, it's a good idea to check there every so often.

Over the next couple of months, our walks programme will be:

Wednesday 7th June:

Glyme Valley and Heythrop

Starts at 10:00am at Enstone, and you will need a packed lunch for this nine-mile walk.

Wednesday 14th June:

Brilliant Beaver Dams and Magnificent Meadow Clary

Starts at 10:00am from Banbury Hill Farm, an easy five miles.

Wednesday 21st June:

Minster – its more than a ruin!

Starts at 10:00am at Wash Meadow car park in Minster Lovell, this is a moderate six-mile walk.

Wednesday 5th July:

Adlestrop

Starts at 10.00am from Adlestrop Village Hall (GL56 0YR), an 8.5-mile figure-of-eight walk taking in Adlestrop and nearby villages.

Friday 7th July:

Edge Hill and the Civil War battlefield

Starts at 10:00am at the Upton House [NT] car park, this is a moderate five-mile walk. *Please note that you will have to book for this walk.*

Friday 21st July:

The Dark Satanic Blanket Mills Walk

Starts at 10:00am from the Blanket Hall café in Witney, this is a six-mile, 3½-hour walk.

Please wear appropriate footwear for a walk in the countryside where the ground will be uneven and possibly muddy. It is advisable to carry water, especially if it is going to be a hot day. Occasionally we have to cancel a walk, in which case a message will appear beside the walk details on the website. And don't forget – our walks are sociable as well as providing exercise!

In the mean time, the Wardens' work parties at this time of year are concentrating on making sure that the footpaths and bridleways around Charlbury are as passable as possible. Nettles and brambles can quickly start to encroach onto paths if they are not trimmed back, and you may have noticed that we have already tackled part of the Saltway to keep the path open. Other tasks for the next couple of months include installing some new footpath marker posts, and helping to get the Foxburrow Wood site ready for this year's Wychwood Forest Fair on 9th July.

For more information about the Wardens, what we do and how to get involved, our contact details are in the Directory at the end of the Chronicle.

Rosemary Wilson and Simon Walker

Reflexology in Charlbury

Lucy Robertson MAR

Tel: 07983 673480

lucyroberson@hotmail.co.uk

www.lucyrobersonreflexology.com

Foxmead, Hundley Way, Charlbury OX7 3QU



Charlbury Green Hub

Give Bees a Chance

In March my neighbour's huge goat willow tree was alive with the intense buzzing of bees – these were queen bumblebees attracted by the nectar-rich catkins emerging after the pussy willow buds. Bumblebees in spring are always big because they're all queens having survived the winter in individual cold dry holes – they'll each search-out another hole in the ground to lay eggs fertilised the previous autumn to produce about 400 female workers.

Only a few of the 24 UK bumblebee species are commonly seen around Charlbury, so they're easily identified: the similar white-tailed or buff-tailed (as seen on King Charles' Coronation invitation), red-tailed, early, garden, common carder and tree.

Having evolved around the Himalayas they spread northwards, so are cold climate creatures flying from February to November.

Able to maintain a high body temperature using powerful flight muscles, they don't need sunshine to fly and are busy from dawn to dusk - this makes them ideal pollinators.

Workers busily collect pollen and nectar, some species have longer tongues so visit tube-shaped flowers. Fast moving wings create a static charge so their furry bodies end up covered in pollen easily spread to other flowers.

They use their middle legs to comb the pollen onto specialised back legs - flattened and shiny, surrounded by a

basket of hairs to hold the pollen. Returning to the nest they drop the pollen ball into a pollen pot before flying off for more.

Towards the end of summer, each queen lays unfertilised eggs to produce males and new queens created by extra feeding.

The males have a lazy life, feeding on nectar they hang around to mate with new queens from other nests. Males can be easily observed and their hairy back legs without pollen baskets are easily distinguished from workers.

Bumblebees forage over about a kilometre and need to be able to fly in all directions to find suitable nectar and pollen-rich flowers – a natural tapestry of abundant wild flowers where they can flit between flowers is perfect.

Recreated meadows like the King's at Highgrove are also essential if we're going to redress the almost total loss of wildflower meadows since the 1930s.

Even the humble dandelion is immensely important, the flat open flower contains 100 florets providing pollen and nectar for a wide range of insects.

Plantlife's "No Mow May" aims to rediscover the flowers hidden away, for you (and the bees) to love for the rest of the summer.

Christine Elliott

Charlbury Green Hub

Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire calls for more volunteers to help in cost-of-living crisis

Citizens Advice needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people during the cost-of-living crisis.

Our volunteers give and gain a great deal. They love the fact that they are helping their community and meet so many different people.

It also gives them experience in the charity sector, a sense of purpose and some move into paid roles. You'll receive lots of support from our supervisors and fellow volunteers too.

We are looking for volunteers from all backgrounds and of all ages across Oxfordshire who can give their time to help people struggling with energy prices, rising household bills, debt and housing issues.

You need to have a desire to help, an ability to engage with people and use a computer.

Last year the charity saw unprecedented demand, supporting 8,823 people in West Oxfordshire. It can only do this work thanks to its 41 volunteers.

No experience is necessary, as full training will be provided.

Andrew, a volunteer at Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire said:

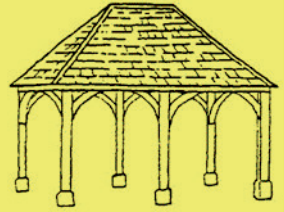
"When I left work, I didn't want to just retire. Volunteering on the national telephone Adviceline means I get to talk to people, I hear their concerns, and I help them to identify and explore the different options available to them. It's really rewarding.

Each call is different, and it's great to know that I'm continuing to help people navigate through life's challenges."



To find out more, visit:

www.citizensadvicewestoxon.org or get in touch with training@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk



We need your help!

The Charlbury Chronicle is run by volunteers and many of those have been involved for many years.

Our team comprises Editor, Proof readers, Advertising, Treasurer, Distribution and our army of deliverers.

We now need new members for the team to take on these roles, most urgently in distribution, advertising and finance.

Please contact Graham Jowett or other members of the team and help keep the Charlbury Chronicle dropping through everyone's doors each quarter.

A few hours each quarter could make a huge difference!

Contact: gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com

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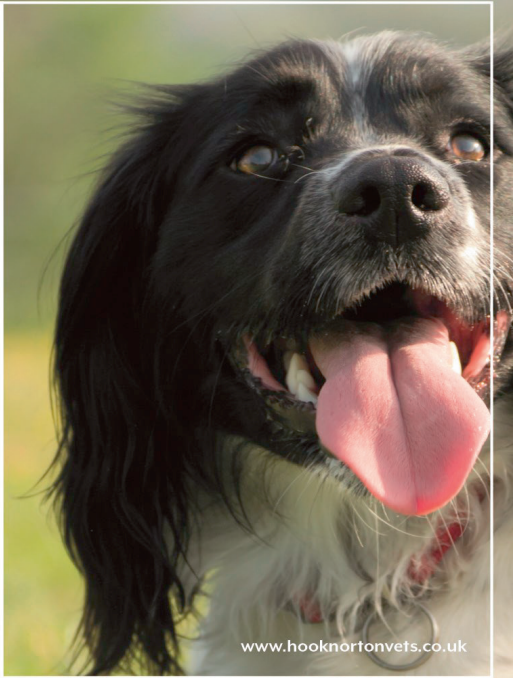
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- Meaty Dog Treats: Pure Meat Coins, Paté, Biltong, Liver, Pure Meat Sticks (various flavours)...
- Fishy Dog Treats: Sprats, Sprat Bites, Fish Skins, Fish Jerky, Paté, Fish Sticks...
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CHARLBURY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

The CRAG 22/23 programme of Sunday tea concerts, which closed in March with some wonderful Baroque music, raised over £8,000 in total. We were incredibly lucky to have so many world class classical musicians come to Charlbury to perform for free. Thank you to everyone who came to the concerts. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did!

Since all the concert expenses are covered by a generous grant from The Evenlode Foundation, we were able to give every single penny of the ticket sales directly to charities providing refugee relief. We are very conscious of the need to use the money raised through the generosity of people like yourselves to help refugees as effectively as possible, so we support organisations which have a proven track record of providing effective aid to refugees.

So far this year, we have given money to the following charities:

- Asylum Welcome - for their outreach work supporting refugees stranded in hotels across Oxfordshire;
- Collective Aid - for purchasing 160 pairs of winter boots for refugee men sleeping rough in the Subotica region of Serbia around the Hungarian Croatian and Romanian border;
- Refugee Community Kitchen in Calais, who provide thousands of nourishing meals a day for displaced people, and
- Safe Passage, a charity which supports safe routes and helps child refugees reunite with their families.

We have also recently supported projects to help Ukrainian refugee women in Poland with language learning, and to build a pizza oven for baking bread in the refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos.

Look out for more details about our next speaker event which will be held on Friday 30th June at 6.30pm at the Friends' Meeting House on Market Street. Our speaker will be talking about her experiences as a volunteer medic in the Subotica region of northern Serbia close to the Hungarian border. Many refugees are currently located along this border.

And if you missed the concerts, don't worry! We have another very exciting season of Sunday tea concerts being planned for the coming winter, so it is worth saving some dates now!

The season will open on October 8th with the return of pianist Dorian Ford and his jazz trio. The wonderful lute player Matthew Wadsworth will perform a solo recital on November 5th and on December 3rd we will have another of our very popular Advent concerts by the Somerville College Choir.

Maggie Cole and friends are returning in early 2024, and in March the season will close on March 16th with a concert by the viola consort Fretwork. The concerts are held in the Memorial Hall at 3pm. The music lasts approximately one hour and is always followed by complimentary tea and CRAG's legendary homemade cake. Details of how to obtain season tickets will be announced later in the year.

Vicky Buser

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The season 2022-23 started with our enjoyable social event on August Bank Holiday Monday in the lovely Corner House garden. We were encouraged to see so many members joining us and signing up for the season, and my thanks go to the committee and members who helped prepare, serve and clear up afterwards.

This is an event we shall definitely repeat in the coming year, and have organised something similar just before the 2023 AGM, with, weather permitting, a demonstration of Morris dancing just outside the Memorial Hall.

Members of your committee have been closely involved with the future of the Museum, attending regular meetings during the year.

I reported at the last AGM that the Committee had agreed in principle that the Museum should be hived off to become a separate charity in its own right, with the Museum collections being transferred into its ownership. For various reasons this is not a straightforward process ,but good progress has been made over the year, with a new charitable incorporated association being set up and registered as a charity, and Trustees appointed. Once the Committee is in a position to transfer the Museum's assets we shall do so and report back to the membership. At that point we shall need to ask it to make some changes to the Society's rules to reflect the fact that the Society will no longer be responsible for the Museum.

At your request, we held our October meeting in the Hall, with Geoff Walton's photographic journey through Charlbury, bringing back memories for those who have lived here a long time, as have the Waltons , and regretting the demise of retail and business premises.

In November Ash Smith, from the organisation Windrush Against Sewage Pollution, gave us a detailed but extremely worrying talk on the state of our rivers, and many of you will have heard him on Radio 4 and seen him on TV as he lobbies the environment agency and DEFRA.

We were delighted to welcome back Liz Woolley to take us on a tour of Victorian and Edwardian Oxford, focusing on the town rather than the University and demonstrating that as agriculture waned and people moved into the city, recreation in all its forms kept idleness at bay, and football, skating, swimming and open spaces flourished, as did the theatre and early cinema, while the main enemy was the pub, causing poverty, crime, gambling and social disorder.

Our talk in early January got off to a rather slow start with the speaker experiencing IT issues, so sadly it was rather rushed, however it was a great topic and he presented masses of interesting photos.

In February Deborah Hayter , the landscape historian , gave us a talk on Common Right, Private Property, how Enclosure shaped Oxfordshire Landscape. We learnt about the significant reduction of people to work on the land in the fourteenth century because of the Black Death, and following that the land shifted from arable to pasture.

Alice Millea , Assistant Keeper of the University Archives at the Bodleian, was our speaker in March, and she referred to stories from her recent book. The Archive was established in 1634, with records spanning eight centuries. From these records, Alice aimed to look at the impact of the University on Oxford as a city, to widen access to higher education for those excluded from it, and to examine personal stories. Some of these were

fascinating, for instance, she described a document that had been in the custody of the University ever since 1213; it is tiny, flattened and now in a special case, and is the closest thing to a foundation charter.

Unfortunately, our April talk had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the unavailability of the speaker, and at the time of writing this report, we are looking forward to welcoming you to the AGM at the Memorial Hall with refreshments and a demonstration and talk on Morris dancing by Tony Merry.

We hope you may have visited our stall on Coronation Bank Holiday Monday...the Big HelpOut event...as well as visiting the Museum that afternoon. I, together with Chris our Secretary, have been working on the programme for next season but it would be wonderful to have one or two more committee members to join us and spread the load, and in particular, give us ideas on what topics you would like to hear in the future. We hope to have more 'in person' talks although we wish to continue with Zoom in the winter months. We very much hope you have enjoyed our past season and look forward to signing you up as members at the end of the summer.

Nikki Rycroft, Chair, Charlbury Society



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St Mary's Churchyard reptile survey

Did you know how significant our churchyards are, often forming secluded habitats to some of our wildlife? Surveys of these special places have helped protect sites from damage, assisted in habitat management plans, and crucially fed into a larger picture of British wildlife, in which reptiles are generally under-recorded.

Encouraged by Neil Clennell (Wychwood Forest Trust), who gave us a talk in St Mary's churchyard in May 2022, and with permission from the Church gratefully received, we set off between June and October 2022 to do a survey of reptiles. We began by laying down ten sheets of carpet felt and corrugated iron in selected spots. These were to be left to 'settle', allowing any creatures around to take advantage of the warmth created. We recorded the weather conditions on the day, and then carefully lifted each of the ten to see who had made a home there.

What did we hope to find? Almost a third of our native reptiles are now endangered. But there have been sightings of grass snakes in Charlbury, and slow worms. St Mary's churchyard has areas that are relatively undisturbed, despite it being in the centre of town and with a certain footfall.

About 15 adults took part, and children from the Primary School (Year 5). We recorded a maximum daily record (at the height of the breeding season) of 34 slow worms. Slow worms are not in fact snakes, but legless lizards, often to be found in compost heaps and mature gardens and are gardeners' friends because they eat slow moving prey like slugs. They are also food for hedgehogs.

What came out of the survey? An increase in knowledge and an underlining of the significance of some of our more secluded areas of habitat. Sewing the seeds of curiosity in children's minds cannot be underestimated.

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Useful information resources when you or a family member have been diagnosed with dementia

“The Dementia Guide” – Living Well after your Diagnosis

This Alzheimer’s Society publication aims to give a general overview of a range of topics including help with understanding more about dementia and the treatments, support and services that are available. It also includes information about how someone can live as well as possible with dementia and make plans for the future.

The first edition of the guide was produced with support and funding from the Department of Health. The third edition, published in 2021, is now available, having been reviewed by people with dementia, carers and experts in dementia.

You can see more about the Guide on the Alzheimer’s Society website: <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/publications-factsheets/the-dementia-guide>. Here you can download a copy or order a free copy by post.

On this page of the website you can also watch a video version of the Guide or order the following other versions: Audio, Braille, Other language version.

If you do not have access to the Internet or are not confident online, you can call the Society’s Customer Care team on 0330 333 0804 or email: enquiries@alzheimers.org.uk.

“What you really want to know about life with dementia”

This new book by Karen Harrison Denning, Hilda Hayo and Christine Reddall (Jessica Kingsley Publishers) published in December 2022 (£13.99) ISBN: 9781787756953

aims to give a family-led vision of what carers of people living with dementia need and want to know. It combines

real stories from families with expert responses and advice for specific issues and concerns. The information it provides is based on real stories and real questions brought to the Dementia UK Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline, peer support groups and clinical networks. The Book aims to give someone and their family/carer the tools to live better, when dementia enters their life.

In the April/May edition of the Alzheimer’s Society’s magazine, “Dementia Together” the Society invites readers to read this book and give feedback.

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.

We aim to include regular articles in the Charlbury Chronicle providing links to sources of up-to-date information and news of dementia-friendly activities available locally. DFC has over the years developed a profile within the town and this enables us to perform a useful role in being a point of first contact for people who are struggling to deal with the effects of dementia in their household and need to find out how to get more support.

We have built up a small email group of carers in Charlbury and a number of surrounding communities, with whom we keep in touch and send occasional news and information updates. If you have any comments or concerns to pass on to DFC or would like to receive information about dementia, you can contact us on 01608 810192 or email us at charlburydf@gmail.com.

Meryl Smith

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

Artweeks - Maureen Sparling (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)

Helen Wright, Secretary

charlbury.drama@gmail.com

www.charlbury-drama.com

Charlbury Art Society (CAS) Joanna Shakir

secretary@charlburyarts.co.uk

Charlbury Beer Festival - Michael Peake

info@charlburybeerfestival.org

www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle - Brian Murray

(01608 819091)

Charlbury Bowls Club - Ron Smith

secretary@charlburybowls.co.uk (07979 980321)

Charlbury Bridge Club— Secretary Monica

Wilkinson (01608 810560)

Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw

(01608 810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net

Charlbury Chronicle - Susie Finch (07879

693733) editor.chronicle@outlook.com

Charlbury Community Centre—Daniela Jenkins

(01608 811878)

Charlbury Community Speedwatch —

charlburycsw@gmail.com

Charlbury Cricket Club - David Horne Vice

Chairman dw3horne@gmail.com

www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

Charlbury Day Centre - Tanya Stevenson (07871

795748)

Charlbury & District Probus Club Tony Merry

tonyherry@gmail.com

Charlbury Green Hub - Christine Elliott

(01608 811057) www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk

Charlbury Garden Society

secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk

www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk

Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club—Gill Grason

(01608 810154)

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

csggardens@charlburystreetfair.org

Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club

(Ray & Margaret) (01993 831345)

Charlbury Pre-School—Emily Dytor

emilydytor@gmail.com (01608 811200)

Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter

(01608 810388)

Charlbury School -Head (01608 810354)

office@charlburyschool.org

Charlbury School Association -

charlburySA@outlook.com

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—Lisa Wilkinson, clerk

(07311 259412) charlburytownclerk@gmail.com

Charlbury Town Football - Keith Claridge

(01608 810201 or 07870 426707)

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - James

Ball (01608 810270) jolliecat@btinternet.com

Charlbury Town Walking Football

—John Munroe charlburytownwf@gmail.com

(07388 010496) www.charlburytownfsc.co.uk/walking-football

Charlbury Wildlife Society

charlburywildlifesociety@gmail.com

Charlbury Women's Institute - President -

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Corner House and Memorial Hall -Office (01608

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Churches Together - Rosalind Scott, (01608

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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: sueterry@btinternet.com)

Holiday Club

parishoffice@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

Methodist Chapel - Sue Tokumine (01608

810366) suetok@hotmail.com

Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health

Support) (01608 645296)

Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (01608

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St Marys C of E Church vacant (01608

810230)

St Teresa's RC Church Fr Clive Dytor (07484

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Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (01608

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The Bell Inn (01608 810278)

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Thomas Gifford Trust- Chris Potts (01608

811878) chris.potts@blakemorgan.co.uk

United Nations Association (West

Oxfordshire) - Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608

811338)

Walkers are Welcome Paul Jackson 01608

811370 pauldjackson1@outlook.com

Wychwayz Border Morris - Teresa Duester

(01608 810934)

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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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