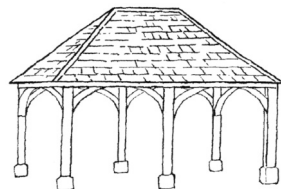


# Charlbury Chronicle



**Volume 24 Number 4**

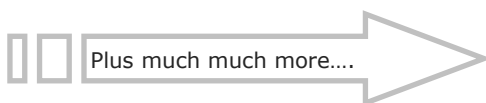
**Winter 2020**

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

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Well, we're in another lockdown, but hopefully by the time you read this we will nearly be out and looking forward to Christmas. Lets hope we can spend it with our families.

And let hope that the New Year will bring more hope, a vaccine and light at the end of the tunnel.

2020 has been an unusual year and lets hope it's not repeated in either our lives, our children's or grandchildren's lives.

Enough of Covid!

So many fundraising events were cancelled this year, and Street Fair, which we hoped would go ahead, also had to be cancelled. However, Draw tickets were sold and I think they raised about £2000 but see more on page 2.

We have to congratulate Christine Elliott, Louise & Alan Spicer (although he has subsequently passed away), Eileen Kenrick, Andy Pickard and Meryl Smith, for all receiving the Charlbury Honoured Citizens Award. Well done to you all.

Sadly, Pat Court who puzzlingly concocted all the puzzles on the Coffee Break page has decided to pass the mantle on. Thanks Pat for all your contributions, they were very much enjoyed! However ... Michele Marietta and Miles Walkden have very kindly agree to take over, and this is their first edition! Thanks to you both!]

Well, enough to say Happy Christmas to you all, and have a great New Year.

And lets hope that 2021 is a bit better!

Best wishes

*Susanna Finch*

**Please note the deadline for articles for the Spring issue is 1st February 2021  
Please send all articles to [editor.chronicle@outlook.com](mailto:editor.chronicle@outlook.com)**

## Charlbury Street Fair 2020

As you will already know, we had to postpone this year's Street Fair until 2021. This means 2020 was the first year with no Street Fair since its recent inception in 1954. This was despite the Street Fair Committee pulling out all stops to make all the arrangements for the day. We kept almost exactly to our normal planning schedule; inviting stallholders, making entertainment arrangements, selling raffle tickets, we even set up a partial bunting display on the Corner House. All in the knowledge that the presence of COVID-19 might mean that the Fair would not take place. Better to 'Plan for the Best, be Ready for the Worst' is one of my maxims. It would have been awful if we didn't do anything and found that we could have! Sadly we had to postpone things.

On the other hand, the 'Scarecrow Superhero' competition – Rachael Lunney's idea – went down really well. Prizewinners were (1<sup>st</sup>) Captain Tom – this looked amazing and life like and in real life Captain Tom was a real Superhero. In 2nd place was the 'montage' at Little Monkeys. We picked this one as they were made by children of key workers. Coming 3rd was Sally the Domestic Superhero. Sally was chosen as the Women's' Institute members, whose entry this was, had been working hard making 'Scrubs' for NHS Workers. Prize money for winners was donated back to the Street Fair – thank you!

Even better news – despite COVID-19 and its restrictions, we were able to net £2,000 which is being donated, as is normal for the proceeds of the Street Fair, for the upkeep of the Corner House and War Memorial Hall.

Looking ahead optimistically, January will see us start our planning for 2021; do please set 18<sup>th</sup> September in your diary as the Street Fair day. Please watch out for information on this on [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info) and on posters around the town. We will need help, for example with coordinating Finances and with Publicity, as these are key vacancies. Many thanks go to Carolyn Ashton who has been our treasurer for three years. If you'd like to know more, or to volunteer in any capacity, even just for a couple of hours on the Fair day, either contact me at [csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org](mailto:csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org) or come along to our January meeting.

### Thank You

A big "Thank You" goes to all who helped with our arrangements and other preparations - sponsorship, entertainment, prizes, stalls administration, risk assessments (important in any case but we had made extra effort for 2020), arranging space in front of the Community Centre, modifying signs and a whole lot more.

### 2021 again!

In 2021 we do hope to arrange – in concert with others in the town – a Quiz Night, Open Gardens, and another 'Scarecrow' competition. So do watch this space and social media. Lastly, as I mentioned above, please do have a think about joining our team and if you want to know more, please contact me, or come along to our first 2021 meeting in January – it might be a virtual meeting.

*John Dora*  
*Chair, Charlbury Street Fair Committee*  
[csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org](mailto:csfchairman@charlburystreetfair.org)



We're delighted to report that, after a little more than 20 years, Charlbury has a Girl Guides unit again!

We first started meeting in January of 2019 with just a handful of Guides and we're currently up to a nice round number of 15. In the last two years, the 1st Charlbury Unit Guides have: learned to scuba dive, pitch a tent, roll a bed roll and cook a meal outdoors; toured the Renault F1 facility in Enstone, taken a Circus Skills course; travelled to watch the women's FA cup final (Go Arsenal!); learned basic first aid; hosted a Fairtrade and organic food dinner party; learned to Zumba; organised a bake sale to raise money for the World Wildlife Foundation; **and more!**

### Short History of Guiding

The Guide Association was established in 1909, and in the 100+ years since then, Girlguiding members have:

- grown food, acted as messengers for government organisations, and worked in hospitals, factories, and soup kitchens during the First World War
- raised £50,000 to help with the war effort in the Second World War
- broken the girls' relay record (team of six Guides) in 1966 for swimming the English Channel
- participated in Remembrance Day ceremonies
- marched at Pride
- raised awareness about period poverty, women in STEM, and gender equality, and
- joined in social action and civil rights movements like Extinction Rebellion and BLM.

Guiding continues to support girls and young women via the girl-led peer education programme to talk about subjects like body confidence, healthy relationships, the representation of girls and women in media and politics, education, violence against women and girls, young people's mental health, and other issues facing young women today.

Guiding encourages girls and young women to challenge themselves, and learn to connect with other girls, whether that's in their home unit, in their district, or around the world.

### How You Can Get Involved

We are ALWAYS looking for ways for local people to get involved with our unit. If you have any time to spare, we can always use more volunteers, whether that's at our meetings or offering your skills or know-how to help our Guides attain their badges.

We have had local people deliver First Aid Training, squire us round Renault F1, teach us to juggle and ride a unicycle, and help a team of our year 7 Guides to raise £450 for the WWF.

Can you offer some time to make Guiding an even better experience for Charlbury's Guides?

### Do You Know A Girl Between 10 and 14 Who Might Want to Join Us?

We're always delighted to have new girls join us. There is so much to do and learn by being a Guide! Please get in touch with us to learn more about when, where, and how we meet!

Michele Marietta 07817 890 787  
Eric Pradel 07486 051 539



## Charlbury Beer Festival

I wrote this article bright and early on Friday 26 June. That's right ... the day before we should have been staging the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Charlbury Beer Festival.

The day before the event is usually a wondrous gathering of committee members and volunteers arriving on site early in the morning to build the marquees, stage and Aunt Sally throws, and generally make the Cricket Club site ready for action on the following day. The CBF team would have been on site since the previous Wednesday, and not until mid-Sunday afternoon would the site finally be cleared.

One of our traditional Friday highlights is the pre-Festival meal, when the committee gets together at roughly 7.30pm and sits around a number of trestle tables, hopefully al-fresco, in readiness for the following day's event. Obviously, this couldn't happen in 2020, so this year's 23-strong committee went ahead with a very 2020 alternative. We held a Zoom get-together, fuelled with Rose and Crown takeaways. Not quite the same, but at least the quality of the refreshments and bonhomie of the participants was guaranteed.

The lack of our main event put us in a reflective mood. As Charlbury is well aware, the main purpose of the Beer Festival is to raise money for charitable causes in and around our town, and also overseas. Earlier this year, CBF's Grants Administrator Tim Crisp compiled a list of all the grants awarded by the Beer Festival since we set out in 1998. I would like to take this opportunity to share some headline figures with you.

Did you know that over the past 22 years, the Beer Festival has dispensed a staggering £255,241.25 in grants? Over a quarter of a million pounds. Amazing. The prime beneficiaries have been

Charlbury Primary School (£99,000), the Thomas Gifford Trust (£26,750), Charlbury Cricket Club (£25,000), and Nine Acres Management Committee (£11,600). A total of £17,824 has also been awarded to overseas projects, all with Charlbury connections, and these have been located in Colombia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Altogether the Beer Festival has supported 51 different local organisations, with 2019/20 being our best year financially with a total of £24,856.79 distributed amongst seventeen different groups. That was certainly something for us to celebrate back on that late June evening.

Despite not being able to hold the Beer Festival in 2020, we have been amazed by the comments sent by people unknown to us, who have been regular attenders over the years. These messages were received in response to the coronavirus situation:

"About 25 families from our village in Warwickshire were booked into Cotswold View campsite for the weekend of the festival ... I am looking to re-schedule ... for 2021 and I wondered whether you know the likely date of the festival in 2021 please? I'm keen to ensure that our re-scheduled camping booking aligns with the festival."

"I am a regular CBF reveller, and wanted to know if the festival will go ahead this year? I really hope so, as this is always THE best one of our season."

It is so welcoming to hear comments like this.

I would like to conclude by looking back and noting the words of the man whose vision founded the Beer Festival, Dave Sangwine (who many of the *Chronicle's*

## Charlbury Beer Festival (contd)

readers will know). Dave observed that much of the key advice he received ahead of the first festival was provided by Tom Page, landlord at the Rose and Crown. Tom advised how much beer would be needed based on projected numbers attending, and his formula has been adhered to ever since.

It is rather fitting that our Zoom committee gathering all these years later will be “fuelled” courtesy of a loyal and valued friend. And as Dave said in the brief history of the festival which he compiled a few years ago, “Thanks to all those committee members who have come, gone, stayed and made the event what it is — the best one-day beer festival in the UK!”

To these comments, we should also add thanks to all those volunteers (or “beermakers” as we call them), musicians, food vendors, culture tent performers, Aunt Sally players, everybody who attends the event, and lastly our valued sponsors, without whom the Beer Festival would never happen.

The 1998 festival was a phenomenal success. No beer left, no food left, but a continual drizzle most of the day. What we wouldn’t have given for a repeat in 2020.

On reading this, we should all raise a glass in your honour, Dave. Cheers!

*Nick Millea*

*Chair – Charlbury Beer Festival 2020*



## Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle

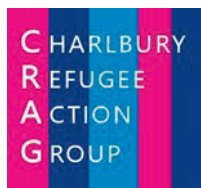
We were so close to holding our AGM in September, but the “Rule of Six” was introduced just a week before. Instead, our members voted by email on the key issues to help us move forwards. Our Autumn Programme is on hold too, and we will continue to monitor the situation and arrange events as soon as possible.

Our members will be kept informed by email and anyone else is welcome to join our mailing list, so that they too can, if they wish, join a future tasting.

We have a clear idea of how future tastings can be held, but, sadly, no idea when that may be. In the meantime, best wishes for Christmas and 2021, continue to enjoy your favourite tipple and stay safe.

For more information please contact:  
[charlburywineandbeercircle@gmail.com](mailto:charlburywineandbeercircle@gmail.com)





## **A year (and a bit) with CRAG (Charlbury Refugee Action Group)**

We are proud of what we have achieved, with your help, in these difficult times and always welcome others who wish to join us in our campaigns and fundraising.

<b>September 2019</b>	26 people kindly donated 443 hygiene items which were sent directly to Moria Refugee Camp in Greece
<b>October 2019</b>	String quartet concert raised £910
<b>November 2019</b>	Art café raised £1202 and the Rosenberg concert raised a further £987
<b>December 2019</b>	Somerville Choir Xmas concert raised £1742. The CRAG Xmas tree honoured the lives of the 39 Vietnamese people who died in the back of a lorry
<b>January 2020</b>	CRAG send an open letter to Oxfordshire MPs on the issue of child refugees, which was taken up by Anneliese Dodds.
<b>January 2020</b>	Bring & Buy sale raised £1350
<b>January 2020</b>	Beckett & Ross concert raised £1231
<b>February 2020</b>	Dorian Ford jazz concert raised £1695
<b>February 2020</b>	CRAG hosted a 'Climate Change and migration justice' talk at Charlbury Friends' Meeting House with speakers Clare Shakya and Krishnendu Mukherjee
<b>April 2020</b>	Our virtual Easter Tea Party raised £1225. These funds were sent to Greece where they were used to set up a mask making operation
<b>Personal donations, Gift Aid &amp; Talks</b>	Throughout the year we continued to receive personal donations and claimed gift aid which resulted in another £3459 and we set up a page on <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/charlburyrefugee">justgiving.com/charlburyrefugee</a> which has proved to be very successful.
<b>Our recipe books</b>	Our recipe books, including our latest with 23 wonderful recipes for delicious cakes and bakes, raised a further £1329. Contact <a href="mailto:recipes@charlburyrefugee.org.uk">recipes@charlburyrefugee.org.uk</a>
<b>August 2020</b>	Nine wonderful musicians gave their time to create our Virtual Tea Concert - see <a href="https://www.justgiving.org/campaigns/crag-concert">justgiving.org/campaigns/crag-concert</a>
<b>September 2020</b>	In September we prepared to join the Charlbury Street Fair and like so many others, our hopes were dashed.

**October 2020**

CRAG contributed to the national collection of hygiene items which were sent to Greece following the devastating fire in Moira Camp, Lesvos. We filled two cars to the rafters with much needed toiletries and nappies galore.

**October/  
November 2020**

November saw us collecting again but this time for Calais.

CRAG has raised over £17,000 in the last year - £8506 going to Greece, £8200 to Calais and £300 to Asylum Welcome in Oxford...every penny has been used to relieve the suffering of hundreds of people.

Our virtual concert and digital recipe books are still available, and we have exciting plans for some streamed concerts in the new year. You can find out more at <https://www.charlbury.info/community/crag>. Thank you Charlbury for all your support.

*The CRAG committee*



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## Corner House and Memorial Hall

As you can imagine the Corner House and Memorial Hall are having an interesting and unusual year, closed for much of the year as part of the virus prevention requirements. We took a lot of care to sanitize the buildings and make them safe but now with the latest lockdown we are faced with further restrictions on what can happen. We lost out on most of the funds that usually come from the Street Fair but we did receive substantial financial compensation as part of the government's support packages for small enterprises.

Now a new lockdown means that again most of the spaces cannot be used.

We have been delighted this year to be able to welcome the Cornerstone project into the space previously occupied by the public library and later the thrift shop successfully organized by Ron Prew. We feel that Cornerstone is a significant benefit for our community and are somewhat honoured to be able to host it. We are not sure for how long this will form part of the Corner House, and there are other possibilities floating around which might also help to revitalize the building. The coming months should help to clarify what happens to this fantastic community resource in the centre of our town.

The Corner House and Memorial Hall is operated in the care of a registered charity whose stated objective is that the premises are to be used for such recreation and leisure time occupation that will help improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of Charlbury. Whatever happens to the buildings, we are required to hold on to those principles.

The legal formula of a charity places a number of personal liabilities on the trustees, and the structure of this charity is understood not to be the ideal way to ensure a proper future for the buildings in line with the stated purposes. The trustees are advised to seek reformation into a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organization) which will be a limited company with charitable aims. It is hoped to make progress with this transformation over the coming months, the new legal format to include trustees responsible to the town at large.

*Roy Scott (chairman)  
roy@royscott.uk*

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## Charlbury Museum News

At the time of writing we are on the brink of a second national lockdown. Who knows what will have happened by the time you read this at the beginning of December? However, thinking positively, here are two things which we hope will still happen before Christmas.

**Christmas Tree Festival** If it can go ahead, the museum will again be decorating a tree for the Festival in St. Mary's which was such a success in 2019. It was wonderful last year to see so many organisations and individuals taking part.

Few things are more symbolic of Christmas than a decorated and lit-up Christmas tree. Amy Louise Gomm, in her fascinating book *Water under the Bridge*, recalls her wonder at seeing a huge Christmas tree at Cornbury Park when she was a child in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

For the children attending the estate workers party, the highlight of the evening was the lighting of the candles on the tree. She writes:

*"We watched as two resplendent gentlemen (the butler and a footman) with lighted tapers fixed to the end of long rods approached the tree. They set the candles glowing from the top down..... the glory of it lasted only as long as one of its candles. Hardly had the lighters finished at the bottom, than they had to become dousers for the guttering, tallow-spilling candles at the top....it stays in the mind over the years. A candle-lighted Christmas Tree is a beauteous thing."*\*

Modern lights do last a lot longer, though

they may not have the charm of lit candles.


**A History of Charlbury... booklet** We are well on the way to producing the booklet of postings which have appeared on the Charlbury website during lockdown and beyond.

Despite the latest restrictions, we hope they will be available later in November. They will be very reasonably priced and would make ideal stocking fillers or presents, especially for people who used to live in the town and may have moved away. We will make them available for sale in the safest way we can devise given restrictions at the time. Check the Charlbury website for details.

Keep safe, and let us all hope that 2021 bring better times for us all.

*\*We are grateful to the Gomm family for donating a copy of Amy's book to the museum.*

*Judy Dod for Charlbury Museum*



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# Charlbury CHRISTMAS TREES

We hope to be able to sell our Christmas trees this year, Covid regulations permitting, but please be prepared for changes to the way we operate.

This year 1 visit only to choose and take away sameday.

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Please check for updates at: [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info)



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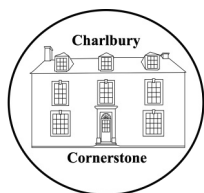
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**Contact**

**[recipes@charlburyrefugee.org.uk](mailto:recipes@charlburyrefugee.org.uk)**

**if you would like a copy**



## Free Food at The Cornerstone

What a terrific display of generosity we've seen at The Cornerstone this summer with people bringing down their spare garden produce for anyone else to take and enjoy. I hope that everyone who used to come to my Big Apple Take-Aways on the Playing Close has managed to get to The Cornerstone instead to take some of the 36 varieties of apples, together with plums, pears and quinces. The Thank You heart on the wall reveals the names of about 90 people who have provided the bounty of food since the beginning of August – heartfelt thanks to all of you. Even though we couldn't get apples from some previous locations, I did pick apples from more trees in Charlbury than ever before. My highlight of the season was finding a very old Ribston Pippin tree in Stonesfield - I've been searching for this famous parent of the Cox's Orange Pippin ever since I started picking apples in 2008 – hopefully we can continue to pick this again each year.

Now in the winter, what other food waste can we prevent? I think all of us are likely to find packets of food in our store cupboards we'd totally forgotten about and won't actually get around to using, but don't despair – someone else might well be inspired to use them, so please take them down to The Cornerstone at the Corner House. Even if they are past the printed Best Before date, this doesn't matter, this date is not for health and safety reasons but just advisory for taste and texture and the consumer needs to use their own discretion. The Best Before date is a major cause of food being wasted unnecessarily, so it is great to be able to have this opportunity in Charlbury to share out food that might otherwise be wasted – pop down and see what you can glean.

*Christine Elliott, Charlbury Green Hub*

## Local seasonal food made easy

At least we have one beneficial side effect of lockdown, we can now order farmers market produce every week for collection at the Community Centre on a Saturday afternoon, where we have a small band of volunteers organising safe collection. The website [www.styanfamilyproduce.co.uk](http://www.styanfamilyproduce.co.uk) is much improved from the early days in April and lets you order and pay online. Make your selection of freshly harvested fruit and vegetables from Evesham, trout from Bibury, eggs, cheeses, preserves, tomato and apple juices, oils and mayonnaise from Stainswick Farm, and honey from Charlbury. The Bibury trout van is on site for collecting the pre-orders but being on the way back from morning markets, Steve is also likely to have unsold produce including crumbles, quiches, and cold smoked trout which aren't available from the website.

At the peak we had about 100 orders a week but with the easing of lockdown restrictions, people getting away on holiday, and using their own garden produce, the number of orders has gradually reduced to about 35. The service will continue though because Charlbury has proved to be such a successful virtual market.

Another benefit has been that we've been able to use the percentage commission we get for organising the collection to buy boxes of fresh produce every week for distribution by the school and The Cornerstone to several local families.

So what kind of veg can you expect in season over the winter? Kales, cabbages, sprouts, onions, leeks, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, beetroot, cauliflower, plus many more! Tomatoes are available from March through to December being grown in glasshouses with the season extended using a biomass boiler.

See the event advert on [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info) for links to place an order.

*Christine Elliott, Charlbury Green Hub*

## Local firm recognised as top national law firm

The Burnside Partnership has won the prestigious title of Solicitor Law Firm of the Year 2020 at the British Wills & Probate Awards. The event was held on 22 October 2020.

The Burnside Partnership was established in Combe 5 years ago by Anna Burnside and the late Fiona Wheeler. It developed into a family affair as Anna's identical twin sister, Della and brother, Richard have since joined the firm as Partner and Practice Director respectively.

The firm also has an office in Marlow and presence in London. Of the win, Partner, Anna Burnside said: "We are delighted to have won this Award which recognises the hard work of every member staff at each of our offices.

The firm has grown from strength to strength in the last 5 years and this growth continues across each of the areas of our business - private client, tax and trusts and our bespoke property services. We are committed to continuing to focus on depth of expertise, delivered with understanding and empathy for our clients' needs.

I would like to dedicate the Award to the late Fiona Wheeler, my friend and Partner, who sadly died last year. Without Fiona's support and encouragement, The Burnside Partnership would not have established and I will always be so grateful for her invaluable contributions."

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



**Anna Burnside** PARTNER  
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com

**JACQUI BIRKS** TAX DIRECTOR  
jacqui.birks@theburnsidepartnership.com

For further information, please contact:  
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## **Charlbury Pickleball does not need any more members!**

Charlbury Pickleball has been part of Charlbury since September 2017 with the opening of Charlbury Community Centre so hopefully, most of you will know what Pickleball is. But, if not, look it up – it's a whole lot of fun and a very sociable and easy sport to learn and play as well as being challenging for the more competitive players.

2020 has certainly been a challenge for many people around the world. But many of us would come to realise how fortunate we were compared to people in many other areas around the country. During the initial lockdown earlier this year, many of us have been able to enjoy walking or cycling around our lovely countryside.

With the relaxation of restrictions in the summer, Charlbury Pickleball took the initiative of setting up an outdoor Pickleball court on one of the tennis courts on Nine Acres. Initially, the small group of enthusiastic players saw numbers slowly increase and when we were allowed to return to indoor play in the community centre, numbers increased further confident in the many safe measures implemented to ensure everyone attending was able to enjoy this fun sport in a safe environment.

By October, we had around fifty members playing Pickleball and many of them playing two or more sessions every week. In fact, the week leading up to the second national lockdown had 30 members playing Pickleball on one day – obviously at different times with no more than six players per court and everyone observing all the relevant guidelines and safety measures put in place.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will at least be looking forward to coming out of the second national lockdown and if we are lucky enough to be permitted to resume indoor sports albeit with restrictions, Charlbury Pickleball will definitely be leading the charge back into the Community Centre to resume what is probably the most played sport at the Centre if not in all of Charlbury.

So, although Charlbury Pickleball does not need any more members, there is always a warm welcome to everyone wishing to join us. So if you would like to know more about the sport or are interested in trying it or joining, please contact Vijay on 01993 891 043 or email [vijaysmobile@gmail.com](mailto:vijaysmobile@gmail.com). Come and be part of the Charlbury Pickleball Family.





## Charlbury Bowls Club - Might the Commonwealth Games come to Charlbury in 2022?

The summer 2020 was badly affected with play not allowed to begin until very late June with severe restrictions, and inter-club friendly matches permitted from August. Reduced from 16 to 9 players a side, we managed nine matches against local clubs.

Our regular informal roll-ups continued as long as possible but were curtailed in late September once heavy rain made the green unplayable.

The impact on the club has continued with all winter short-mat bowls leagues and inter-club games cancelled until further notice. At the time of writing we are only permitted four people playing at any one time (a game of pairs) when sixteen would play in a normal league night – and we had five league teams entered this year. In addition our very popular Bingo nights scheduled for April September and December have all been cancelled.

That said, the club is financially sound and has a very positive future. Despite Covid-19, we recruited eleven new playing members in the summer. We took the time to research and prepare a development plan with 23 objectives and three extensions to the club building for which a planning application has been submitted.

We already have a quarter of the cost of the new build and as long as 2021 does not bring any new surprises our aim is to secure grant funding for the rest with build starting in early 2022.

Our adventurous plans in addition to the building expansion include the commencement of disabled wheelchair bowls, bowling with Dementia, the development of a Youth Section, hosting three tournaments from 2021 (two

outdoor, one indoor), and significantly reducing our carbon and water-use footprint all while achieving a 30% increase in membership.

And it does not end there. In August we expressed an interest to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 organising committee to be one of the flat-green bowls Pre-Games Training Camps for one of the competing nations.

Our initial assessment was positive and our prospectus as a PGTC will now be submitted to all the Commonwealth Games nations with bowls competitors (28 nations competed in 2018). Charlbury Bowls Club will be an option for teams such as Australia and Samoa, Kenya and Zambia, Jamaica and Fiji, Singapore and India, and the home nations as well as many others. If successful, a small part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games will be coming to Charlbury!

With summer 2020 and winter 2020/21 largely written off, we are already looking forward to next April when our green reopens.

*Shaun Morley*



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## "Paul's tune" – Four Notes

There was an inspiring feature during the Sunday morning BBC Radio 4 programme, "Broadcasting House" on 25 October about Paul Harvey, an 80-year-old retired music teacher who is living with dementia and who has, with the help of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, composed and performed an inspiring piece of music which started from 4 musical notes given to him by his son, who is also a musician. The programme included discussion of how important music is for empowering people living with dementia, including comments from Professor Jason Warren of the UCL Dementia Research Centre.

You can listen to the programme by going to the BBC Sounds website here: [www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000ntrb](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000ntrb). There is also a news feature about Paul Harvey here: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54684038](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54684038) and a YouTube video about Paul's tune here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JS0q6AW350M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JS0q6AW350M)

"Four Notes" has been produced as a single and at the time of writing this is topping the streaming music charts. Proceeds will be shared between the Alzheimer's Society and Music for Dementia.

### Thinking of people living with dementia and their carers during coronavirus lockdown

The **Alzheimer's Society** website has a lot of information aimed at supporting people living with dementia and their carers during the coronavirus situation: [www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/coronavirus](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/coronavirus). This includes:

- How coronavirus affects people living with dementia
- Practical advice for people staying at home, including health and activities

- What to do if a person living with dementia gets COVID symptoms or has to go into hospital
- Guidance on supporting someone with dementia living in a care home
- Frequently Asked Questions

The Society has recently published a report, "Worst hit: dementia during coronavirus", which reveals the painful experiences of families with dementia out in the community over the last six months of the coronavirus crisis and urges the Government to fix the social care system that carers are propping up at huge personal sacrifice.

The Society is promoting a series of requests for Government action to tackle the care issues revealed in their report. For details see: [www.alzheimers.org.uk/news/2020-10-05/exhausted-family-and-friends-spent-92-million-extra-hours-caring-loved-ones](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/news/2020-10-05/exhausted-family-and-friends-spent-92-million-extra-hours-caring-loved-ones)

**Dementia UK** also have a special Coronavirus section of their website: [www.dementiauk.org/get-support/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.dementiauk.org/get-support/coronavirus-covid-19/)

**Dementia Oxfordshire** have increased the support they provide by telephone but have stopped home visits. They are now providing practical advice about managing the corona virus situation as well as providing Dementia specific advice. You can call the Dementia Oxfordshire Support Line 01865 410210 Monday to Friday from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 pm. Also have a look at their website: [www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk)

**Dementia Friendly Charlbury** is a local group of volunteers whose aim is to be a local contact point for anyone who is worried about their memory and thinking skills, or who is worried about someone they know, and who wants to know how to get support. Have a look at our page in the Community section (Health and Wellbeing) of the Charlbury website: [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info). You can contact us via Meryl Smith on 01608 810192 or Sue Smith on 01608 811007 or email us at [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com)



## Charlbury Hedgehogs Hibernate

The number of hedgehogs across the country has plummeted especially in rural areas. This includes Charlbury, confirmed by a survey which started in the Spring. Hedgehogs are now on the Red List for British Mammals and are in danger of extinction in the next 20 years.

Our vulnerable population of Charlbury Hedgehogs are now getting ready for winter, but it's a risky time, and not all of them will survive.

If they managed to find enough food during the Summer and Autumn, they will have put on fat reserves to see them through hibernation, juvenile hedgehogs born late in the Summer are likely still to be feeding into November to put on enough weight.

Hibernation is a tricky thing, while hedgehogs can put themselves into a state of decreased physiological activity called torpor and reduce their body temperature and metabolic rate to save energy, it means they are immobile and vulnerable. If the temperature drops below freezing, ice crystals can form in their blood.

Even during hibernation our Charlbury Hedgehogs may wake frequently especially if it is warm and we can continue to support them by putting out food and water. They may even move nests if it gets damp or particularly cold. An ideal nest site is dry, sheltered, compact and protected from predators - under a shed or in a pile of logs.

From our survey we can see that our remaining Charlbury Hedgehogs are few and the population fragmented around town. It is possible that if we don't do something to help them, we may lose them altogether.

While our Charlbury Hedgehogs are hibernating this winter, what if we could open up Charlbury ? What if, when they wake in the Spring, they were to find Hedgehog Highways through our many

impermeable walls, wooden, chain link and chicken wire fences to help them find food and find each other ?

Will we act now to help our Charlbury Hedgehogs so that they can recover and thrive as a part of the biodiversity of our town, or will we consign them to the past, to become a distant memory ?

What shall we tell Jemima (aged 7), seen here with a natural hedgehog shelter she made in art ?

You are invited to mark any sightings of hedgehogs or signs of hedgehogs this year on our Charlbury Hedgehog map, we hope to be at the Charlbury Farmers Market in December.

We are also now mapping Charlbury Hedgehog Highways so you can add those too. Contact me below if you would like to join as a Friend of Charlbury Hedgehogs, they need all they help they can get.

*Flora Gregory*



## **A Days Life: Amanda Cooper secretary and committee member of the Charlbury Town Football and Sports Club**

*After all the hard work, the new Club is up and running. I wanted to ask Mandy how she got involved with the project.*

I first got involved with the Club when I got a job behind the bar. I was born in Chippy, lived in Charlbury until I was 3 weeks old, and then my parents moved to Finstock, where they are now. Mum was born in Finstock, and came to Charlbury when she was about 10. My grandparents lived in Hughes Close. My dad came from Swindon, and met my Mum when he was working at the quarry. I had moved to Charlbury with my kids (they were 8 & 18) about 10 years ago, and we lived in Lee Close. I now live in Finstock, in what used to be the old village shop, opposite the post box. It is very quiet compared to Charlbury though we do get a lot of walkers as we're on the route through to Cornbury.

I used to work in Finstock in the Crown, behind the bar. It was a very village pub. My Dad and my son Liam played dominoes there. *[Ed where the game was taken seriously]* The pub has closed, so now they play at the Mason's Arms at North Leigh. They play in a dominoes league, and play teams from Witney, Woodstock and Middle Barton as well as others. I go and watch them sometimes. They keep on at me to join, and learn how to peg, and how to score it. I might do one day. The Club up here has dominoes on Sunday nights.

I worked behind the bar at the old Club, then I went onto the committee, and ended up as its secretary. It's fun and I enjoy working here. It's a nice atmosphere. I meet lots of new people through it. There are eight of us on the committee, and we could always do with more. It is a lot of work. It's like a little business. Martin (*Ed: Martin Prew*) and I

run the bar, Martin does the ordering and the others deal with things like the maintenance. Getting the new club built was a lot of hard work, and everyone pitched in and helped. Some gave donations. Sam Peat did the groundworks, while others worked on the building, sometimes for nothing. We wanted to have a proper Club Official Opening day, but we can't at the moment because of Covid restrictions. We hope to put up an Honours Board of everyone who's helped us. It's our way of saying a big thank you.

I work in the Co-op part-time now. It's close and convenient and works around my daughter Bryony. She's now at Witney College for one day a week, and the rest of her learning's online. The students are divided into bubbles, and their class is just one bubble. She's studying for an Extended Diploma in Art and Design and my front room looks like an art studio at the moment! She wants to go to university next year, to do Interior Design. We are looking at Swansea and Birmingham universities now, but that could change.

I am a practical person. I make my own cards, and like making bits and pieces, and decorating my house at Halloween and Xmas and birthdays. I'm a bit of a kid really where all that's concerned! I was always with my Dad and my Grampy George. He lived in Hughes Close. He was a fireman and when the alarm went off he would run down the road to the fire station *[Ed it was at the end of Browns Lane then]*. I would stand there and cry because my Grampy had gone! My Mum says I should have been a boy! I can sort my car out if something needs doing. In my teenage years, I could take an engine to pieces and put it back together. My Grampy was a prisoner of war in Burma but never talked about his time there. I'm not sure if the Remembrance Day Parade is taking place this year, but I like to take part in his memory.

I didn't do well at school and left when I was fifteen. I got an apprenticeship with Leah Fowler *[Ed: Leah was the hairdresser in Charlbury]* but I didn't last

long. I've done various jobs. I worked at OEP (Oxford Electrical Products) soldering and assembling remotes for TVs, computers etc. It was a varied job. From there I went into retail, working at Evans, Woolworths, New Look and M&Co. Now I'm in the Co-op. It is very challenging there because of the corona virus. The most difficult time was when lockdown first started. You had to queue, there was a one-way system, no masks, no plastic screens. Customers were as confused as we were, and a few took it out on the staff. Many of us ended up in tears. Luckily none of us caught it –we all had families and didn't want to take the virus back to them. We can't challenge people who don't wear masks, it's not too bad in Charlbury and Witney as most people do wear them.

I did go to college in Witney as a mature student, and trained and qualified as a beautician. I still do a little bit, say if someone wants their eyebrows waxed. I'd like to do it properly but I haven't really got the space to do it in my home. I'm also an Avon rep as well. Skin So Soft is their good mosquito repellent, and their hand soaps are really good. Now the Club uses their hand sanitisers.

In the Club, people have to wear a mask when they come in and can take it off when they sit down, it's table service. Then I or whoever's doing the bar goes to the table and takes their order. It's table service pretty much wherever you go now. I work Monday, Wednesday and

Sunday nights, and Friday afternoon. It can get quite busy then, we open at 4 o'clock, people come in after work. Monday evenings' quiet. It depends on the weather and what football's on the telly. With the new rules and regulations, people don't really want to go out, but we're getting by. We've only been open a few weeks, and are just grateful that we haven't been closed down yet.

We were supposed to be going to Blackpool this year but we're not going now. I love it up there. We stay in a flat that we rent from a family that rented the flat to my Mum and Dad. So they have seen me grow up and now are seeing my children grow up. The shopping up there is really nice, we go to Cleveleys, walk on the beach, go to the top of the Tower which is amazing, the Illuminations, there's shows and different themed pubs –it's something I did with my parents and now I'm doing it with my kids. My daughter says it's like going home. But we decided not to go this year.

I did say we could put all the lights up in the front room and make Blackpool at home!

*Mandy was talking to Barbara Allison October 2020, in the new Club house.*



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# Coffee break pages

Compiled by Michele Marietta & Miles Walkden

## Charlbury word search

C	R	E	S	U	O	H	R	E	N	R	O	C	L	COOP
C	M	U	V	W	G	T	N	T	G	E	G	L	I	CORNURY
O	U	C	B	H	L	C	H	H	A	R	I	U	T	GIGACLEAR
R	S	G	M	I	O	A	E	E	B	M	G	S	T	ST MARYS
N	E	R	N	T	V	N	G	B	B	U	A	O	L	CRICKET
B	U	A	C	E	E	I	B	E	S	U	C	R	E	MUSEUM
U	M	V	E	H	S	T	O	L	T	N	L	T	M	CORNER HOUSE
R	S	T	M	A	R	Y	S	L	O	M	E	L	O	LITTLE MONKEYS
Y	N	G	K	R	S	A	D	C	D	K	A	O	N	DELI
S	C	Y	A	T	O	T	A	E	C	W	R	H	K	THE BELL
M	R	E	B	N	E	B	L	I	O	G	W	R	E	THE BULL
V	H	L	B	U	B	I	R	C	O	N	E	E	Y	WHITE HART
L	E	E	P	L	A	C	E	G	P	L	L	C	S	LEE PLACE
E	B	C	N	E	T	O	A	S	E	I	Y	C	E	BACON

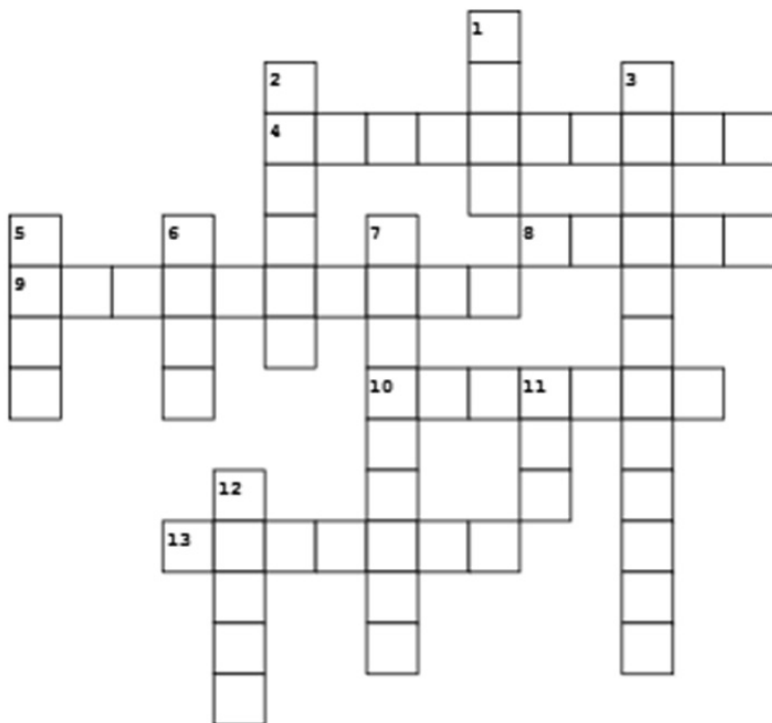


## Across

4. August event at Cornbury Park
8. Richard's online sparring place
9. Middle of the road September event
10. Friday night throw
13. Tracy's wash, cut, and style

## Down

1. Makes the best bread in town
2. Centre of town speed limit
3. June's outdoor tippling event
5. New pharmacist in town
6. The place to go for Lynne's cakes
7. House at the crossroad
11. One half of 'Brass' and 'Knuckles'
12. His Friday 13th circuits class will kill you



# CHARLBURY CROSSWORD

Answers on p 46



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Christmas**

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We continue to contact each other by Google Meet or other medium over the months of lockdown. It really is lovely to see a friendly face smiling at you on the screen!

We have been taking part in various competitions with one another over lockdown and have produced some wonderful photos, and things to make.

During the summer, we all met on the Playing Close and had a summer picnic because it was nice to meet up with those you hadn't seen for a while.

During all this time the WI Bench, which was in sad need of repair, was renovated by Andy Faulkner this year.



Here you can see the recently renovated bench, along with L-R Miriam Evans, Pat Court, Jeanne McCann and Louise Cashman and our entry for the Street Fair competition on Scarecrows!

*Susie Finch*

## Charlbury Society

The Charlbury Society Committee are delighted that so many of you have rejoined this season, and that we currently have over 20 new members. Clearly the decision to continue with our talks by Zoom during the winter season has been popular, and of course, you do not have to venture out in the cold and dark to take advantage of our excellent programme.

Zoom may have been new to a number of you, but clearly you have embraced the technology despite some misgivings, and once you are familiar with it, it is very easy to log on, and greatly helped by hints from Pete Bennion, our committee IT expert.

We are also pleased to have our topics tied in with the history of Charlbury posts by the museum committee which have been so popular during the past months, and we are delighted that they are planning a publication which should be available around the time you receive this Chronicle and in time for Christmas.

In early October we heard from Neil Clennell about the history of the Wychwood, the reasons for deforestation, the management of Foxburrow Wood and the Wigwell as nature reserves, and the Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Network. At the time of writing we are looking forward to Liz Woolley's presentation of Children's experiences in WW1, and know from her previous talks that she is a very popular speaker. And around the time you will be reading this, on 3rd December, Barbara Allison will be giving us a presentation on researching Charlbury's buildings, which we know will be of great interest to all of you. In January Clare Shakya will talk to us about Climate Ambition in the time of Covid, and in February Dr Janet Dickinson will give her postponed talk "Courting Elizabeth: The Ditchley Portrait and the Cult of the Virgin Queen" which was postponed last April. So a wonderful programme for you to look forward to.

*Nikki Rycroft, Chair, Charlbury Society*



## Notes from the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens—the countryside is there for you to enjoy

After a break of around three months, in July the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens were given the 'all-clear' to restart their work looking after the countryside around the Charlbury district. With a limited number of wardens allowed in each workparty, though, most of the jobs done since then have focused on clearing and widening major footpaths, with the aim of giving people as much access as possible to enjoy country walks here. Smaller tasks have included making sure that footpath waymarker posts are secure and the markers themselves are clearly visible, while bigger jobs like installing new kissing gates will have to wait for a bit longer.

Earlier this year, before the lockdown, the local wardens team planted a total of 450 new trees in 32 sites throughout our area, 14 of which are in Charlbury – six in Centenary Wood or nearby, three in Wigwell Nature Reserve and five in the Mill Field. This was part of a Cotswold-wide project, sponsored by The Woodland Trust, to plant new limes, oaks and beeches close to existing ash trees that will probably be killed by ash die-back disease.

As any of you who are involved with Little Wild Things will know, in August we spent some time helping them get their new site at the top of the Forest Road ready for the new term. The Cotswold Wardens don't just fix footpaths; educating people of all ages about the countryside is also an important aspect of our work, and with our usual guided walks programme still on hold for the time being, we felt that this was a win-win situation for everyone concerned.

In mid-September the Cotswolds Conservation Board, which looks after the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), announced a new name

for the area: the Cotswolds National Landscape. The Government's Landscapes Review, published in 2019, suggested that the country's National Parks and AONBs should be brought together as one family of National Landscapes; hence the change. And, just in case anyone was worried that the renowned Cotswold Lion logo would vanish, rest assured that it's still here, linking communities across the whole area.

The review's author, Julian Glover, said "The Cotswolds stand out among our most famous and beautiful landscapes, as one of the places that make England special." The Board's chief executive, Andy Parsons, added "We firmly believe that this landscape is for everyone to enjoy and explore; and we hope that this will help people understand better what we're about – looking after the landscape, and helping people connect with nature in the Cotswolds."

For information about the local Wardens and what we do, please contact Tony Merry on 811022 or [tonyherry@gmail.com](mailto:tonyherry@gmail.com).

*Simon Walker*

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## Crisis, which Crisis?

The Covid19 pandemic is rightly being treated as a crisis. But there is another crisis which is accelerating and which, without adequate and urgent action, poses a far greater threat to humanity – the climate and ecological crisis. Many of us will have seen Sir David Attenborough's recent documentaries, *Extinction* and *A Life On Our Planet*, and they have made for uncomfortable viewing.

Whilst we watched his documentaries from the comfort of our homes, the content was intended to make us feel uncomfortable—not so we turn away, but so we become more determined to do what we can to make the world a healthier, safer place. As Sir David says, 'I do truly believe we can create a better future....If we make the right decisions at this critical moment, we can safeguard our planet's ecosystems, its extraordinary biodiversity and all its inhabitants. What happens next is up to every one of us.' This means looking more carefully at the choices we make each day, and also calling on our government and other organisations to act now to avert the worst consequences of global warming and environmental destruction.

David Attenborough's films do give hope that, through our choices, change is possible. Another source of hope is the growing momentum behind a new private member's bill, the **Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill**, that is being taken through Parliament. It will be a hard fought process but it has been done before with major climate legislation. This is an alliance bill that has been written by scientists, lawyers and activists, and is sponsored by MPs from most, but not all, of the political parties in Parliament. It is gathering

support from a broad range of campaign groups, businesses, charities and individuals – including Charlbury Town Council, which has just declared its support for the bill. The bill has the potential to become the most significant move forward since the Climate Change Act 2008 and, in a nutshell, would ensure the following:

- that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C by taking into account our entire carbon footprint (including all of the emissions linked to the production and transport of goods from overseas that we consume in the UK)
- we don't depend on negative emissions technologies (NETs) to save the day as an excuse for inaction, we focus on nature as much as climate, protecting and conserving habitats in the UK and internationally on supply chains
- citizens are central to deciding how to move forward, in a Citizens' Assembly with real teeth

A report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 showed that just 0.5°C of heating could

*'...expose tens of millions more people worldwide to life-threatening heat waves, water shortages and coastal flooding. Half a degree may mean the difference between a world with coral reefs and Arctic summer sea ice and a world without them.'*

Alarmingly we are not even on track to limit the temperature increases to 2°C, and current policies will lead to 3°C by the end of the century. We are at a critical turning point, it is time to act to safeguard not only our future but the future of all of the rich diversity of life that we share the planet with, and on which we depend.

If you would like to lend your support, please write to our MP Robert Courts urging him to support the bill. You can send him a letter at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or email him at [robert@robertcourts.co.uk](mailto:robert@robertcourts.co.uk).



## Exciting Possibilities for a Wigwell Community Scheme



As reported in the October edition of the Wychwood Project's Forest Flyer, "*Plans are afoot to begin some exciting new conservation work at Wigwell, a water abstraction site-turned-nature reserve on the outskirts of Charlbury.*" The article goes on to say: *Last winter ecologists, hydrologists, conservationists and local stakeholders met to survey the site and discuss how it could be managed to increase its biodiversity, with suggestions including introducing beavers, allowing hedges to widen and diversify, harnessing the stream and springs to develop more small wetland areas, and even creating newt ponds. Excitingly, we are now at a stage where we hope to make some of these suggestions reality.*

Following the site survey, a Concept Design Note was produced setting out some options for the possible launch of a **Wigwell Community Scheme**. The note identifies opportunities to improve existing habitats and create new ones, to improve the quality of public access and provide other benefits for wildlife. Several ideas are included for harnessing the stream and springs to create new wetland habitats. Potentially this could include the introduction of beavers but even if this does not prove to be possible, the community project could include a trial installation of a "Beaver Dam Analogue" using branches and other natural materials to control flow, generating upstream wetland areas and hold water back to reduce flood peaks downstream.

Of course, for any of this to happen, it must be supported by the stakeholders including Thames Water (landowner), the Wychwood Project (environmental leaseholder), the grazier and crucially, the community of Charlbury. Funding will also be required and the Wychwood Project is exploring options for this as well.

As Chair of the Wigwell Friends and a Town Councillor, I am closely involved in discussions about these future plans to represent the community and let you all know what is planned and happening. So if you have any questions or comments for me to pass on, please let me know (you'll find my contact details at the end of this article) – or better still, join the Wigwell Friends and Get Involved!

To let everyone in Charlbury know what is going on, I will continue publishing these regular articles in the Charlbury Chronicle and I have also set up a Wigwell Friends page on the [charlbury.info](http://charlbury.info) website (under Community>Environment). I am also working with Miranda Davies of the Wychwood Project to include Wigwell information in the Forest Update publication and in the regular Forest Flyer circulars. Very soon, a new oak notice board, provided by Thames Water, will also appear close to the Nine Acres Lane entrance gate and visible to pedestrians walking along Nine Acres Lane. We will use this to post the latest news about the Wigwell site.

In the new year we are also hoping to make some improvements to the permissive path through the site subject to final confirmation of funding from Thames Water. This work will include the construction of steps and boardwalk to make the path safer in muddy conditions and also to protect some wetland habitats along the narrow stretch towards the Enstone Road at the eastern end of the site. These improvements are also important as this path forms part of the newly established popular circular walk between Charlbury and the Old Shed café at Banbury Hill, developed as part of the Cotswold Gateway Project. After the initial COVID-19 lockdown earlier in the year, we have been able to resume working parties on the site,

socially distanced and subject to number restrictions to continue routine maintenance work. Work included "thistle bashing" including a very successful scything session supervised by our local scything expert, Christine Elliott (thank you Christine) and ragwort control as well as management of the rare "near threatened" Meadow Clary (*salvia pratensis*). Some further changes to the management and care of the Meadow Clary have been discussed and we hope to introduce these in 2021. Regrettably, we have now been forced to suspend these work parties again during the second lockdown but we hope to restart them early in the new year when, with a bit of luck, we will be able to start work on the footpath improvements and prepare to make a start on the Wigwell Community Scheme.

If you want to know more about Wigwell and/or to get involved in the new community scheme, please get in touch by emailing the Wigwell Friends at [wigwell.friends@gmail.com](mailto:wigwell.friends@gmail.com). Or you can contact me (Peter Kenrick) directly at [peter.kenrick48@gmail.com](mailto:peter.kenrick48@gmail.com) or call me on 01608 811021.

I would also like to say a big THANK YOU to the Wychwood Project for all the magnificent environmental work they do at Wigwell and elsewhere in the Wychwood Project Area. If you are not already members of the Wychwood Project, why not? Please do consider joining them and supporting their great work. You can find out more at their website at [www.wychwoodproject.org](http://www.wychwoodproject.org) or you can contact Miranda, their Communications and Events Officer at [miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk](mailto:miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk).

Finally, always remember when visiting ecologically important sites like Wigwell, **"Please take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints!"** Also, in these days of COVID-19 **"Please observe social distancing, respect others and Stay Safe!"**

Wishing you all a **HAPPY CHRISTMAS and an UNLOCKED NEW YEAR!**

Peter Kenrick  
Chair of the Wigwell Friends

## PROBUS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



The Probud Club of Charlbury and District is a very active group of men, most of whom are retired, who have had a variety of careers. Before Covid we were meeting once a month for a very sociable lunch with an interesting speaker and going on many interesting excursions and events throughout the year.

Probud has of course adapted with the times and we are now starting to meet online via ZOOM for what we are calling 'coffee breaks'. These provide a great opportunity for people to keep in touch and to share experiences but are also a chance for prospective new members to "pop in" and see who and what we are with no obligation to join. If this would be of interest to you then you would be very welcome to join in, just call Mike White on 01608 811725 or email [mike.ewhite7@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ewhite7@gmail.com) for an invitation.

We are also setting up a regular newsletter circulated to all members to enable us to share news and views. In the future we are planning to bring the monthly speaker event back on the first Wednesday of the month with speakers giving a virtual presentation to members. So do get in touch and find out about a great team!

Tony Merry

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Graham Jowett on 01608 810666 or  
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[gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com](mailto:gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com)

**Charlbury Church Services** - These activities are subject to the latest advice from the government. Check updates on the Community pages on [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info)



**Charlbury Baptist Church, Dyer's Hill**

Contact: Secretary (01608 810107)

**Sundays** Sorry but we do not feel able to open at present

**Thursdays** 7.30 pm on Zoom for midweek study/discussion

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

[www.facebook.com/dyershill/](http://www.facebook.com/dyershill/)



**St Mary's C of E Church, Church Street**

St Mary's Church, Charlbury and All Saints Shorthampton

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

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

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



**Friends' Meeting House, Market Street**

Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House

Sunday mornings 10.30am

For further details contact Sue Terry (01608 811033)

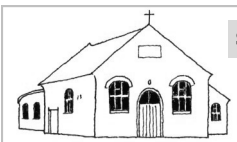
email: [sueeterry@btinternet.com](mailto:sueeterry@btinternet.com))



**Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane**

Sunday services at 10.30am

Further information from Gill Grason (01608 810154)



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

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

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

Parish Priest. Fr Tony Joyce, Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton (01608 642703). Charlbury Catholic Parish Council joint chairs: . Clare Carswell and Mike Flanagan ([chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com](mailto:chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com))

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

## Churches Together in Charlbury

At the AGM in November 2019, Rachel Gallagher, then Chair, opened her report with the words: "Once again this has been an interesting, full and active year for CTC." She continued by referring to: "regular committee meetings" at which we prayed together and "plotted and planned our events". Little did we know what 2020 would bring.

It looked as though we were going to have such a good year. The talk by artist Nicholas Mynheer that followed the AGM was excellent and promised so well for many other events already planned.

Some events did take place before Covid 19 led to a complete lock down. In December, CTC took part in the Christmas Tree Festival organised by St Mary's and organised the Reverse Advent Calendar, collecting food and other useful items for The Porch day centre in Oxford. In January we held a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, based on the story of St Paul's shipwreck on the island of Malta, with a collection for Asylum Welcome, and in March we held the World Day of Prayer service prepared by women in Zimbabwe.

Lent talks began in March 2020. Dr Bethany Sollereder, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Science and Religion, gave an engaging talk under the heading 'Animal suffering and evolution', followed by Prof Alister McGrath, a speaker already well known and respected in Charlbury, on 'Science and faith: conflicting or enriching?'.

Both of these talks were well attended and the theme of the series, 'How Science expands theology', appeared to be of particular interest. It was a real sadness that the three remaining speakers, who had promised to be excellent, had to be cancelled.

This year only three out of six Lent Lunches took place. The virus had already begun to cause anxiety but the first two lunches were lovely occasions,

although perhaps not attended by as many people as usual. By the time of the third Lent Lunch, it had become obvious that it would have to be the last. The lunches were generously supported and £588 was sent to Christian Aid.

We were planning to have a 'Home made and home grown' stall at the Street Fair in September but when the Fair had to be cancelled, arrangements were made for the jams, cakes and other donations to be sold in the Corner House by the newly formed Cornerstone project.

We were able to join in the Street Fair scarecrow competition by the creation of a cheerful 'refuse operative', which was displayed with a recycling bin at the entrance to the Baptist Church.

So much has had to be cancelled or has not been possible this year, which has been unsettling and sad in many ways. Yet speaking personally, the importance of CTC and of the respect that we have for each other has seemed to grow and not diminished and it seems more important than ever that CTC and other community organisations should flourish in these difficult times.

I have been grateful and moved by the ways in which successful projects have been initiated and carried out within the churches and in our community where so much love and warmth exist. I would like to thank all the representatives of our five churches for their support in the past year.

*Louise Littledale*  
*Chair of Churches Together in Charlbury*





## News from the Charlbury Patient Participation Group (CPPG)

Strange times! We are becoming used to new ways of contacting our medical practice and getting health advice, or are we?

Most consultations with GPs at the Charlbury Medical Centre (CMC) are now by phone and although some patients find this an efficient way of consulting their doctor, there are others who miss the face- to face contact. It would appear that this is also true for GPs, many of whom miss seeing their patients. However, there is little that can be done about this in the current climate, but a survey of opinions may be of interest when life returns to normal. However, it is important to know that the CMC is following national guidance on remote consultations to avoid any potentially infected patients coming in. If an infected patient were to attend the surgery they would have to close down completely for two weeks. Face to face appointments are always offered when necessary.

Members of the CPPG Steering Group have been approached over the last few months by patients who are concerned about the difficulty of getting an appointment with their doctor or nurse, and unhappy at having to wait in increasingly unpleasant weather outside the surgery. These concerns have been discussed at our meetings and fed back to CMC with the following outcomes:

We are having discussions with Reception and hope that as a result advice can be given to patients about:

- The best time to ring for an appointment.
- How to obtain a 'soon 'appointment, that is within a week rather than an urgent same day appointment or an appointment several weeks in the future.
- How to e-mail a designated doctor with a photograph (eg of a rash or wound) .

- It is hoped that these queries will have been resolved by the time you read this. Please go to the News item on the Charlbury Forum for up to date information.

We are all agreed that it is not acceptable for patients to stand for any length of time outside the surgery doors with no protection from the weather. Nurses and receptionists are not always available to open the surgery door immediately and some patients have reported long waits. We suggested a volunteer 'Meet & Greet' service to take the pressure off staff and allow patients quick access to the surgery during busy times, and this is now up and running.

In addition, the CPPG has contacted The Beer Festival which has agreed to provide a marquee for shelter outside the surgery doors for a minimal charge.

### Other activities:

Volunteers have assisted at the over 65 flu jab clinics ensuring that they run smoothly and quickly, cutting down waiting time for patients. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who have so willingly helped at these clinics and providing 'Meet & Greet' service at the CMC. The CMC may well be asking for further help when the next batch of vaccine is available.

**Newsletter** The PPG continues to publish quarterly newsletters. The Autumn Newsletter focussed on immunisations. All News letters are available on the Charlbury Forum. (go to Community, click on Well Being, then on Charlbury Patient Participation Group ).

Anyone who would like to write a review of CMC they can do so anonymously at [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk) . Go to: Find and review a service, and type in Charlbury Medical Centre.

If you would like, contact the CPPG e-mail: [Patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net](mailto:Patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net)



## Charlbury Pre-School News Winter 2020

Since September, we have fully reopened and the staff have been working hard, adapting to all of the changing Covid safety measures. Despite the challenges the staff have been doing a brilliant job, supporting the children and ensuring they have a wonderful experience at Charlbury Pre-School. Everybody has commented on how well the children have adapted to the new routines and increased hand-washing.

As the weather gets colder, we are still trying to play outside, in our fantastic playground, as much as possible. The children have been arriving in their wellies and raincoats and have enjoyed splashing in puddles as well as collecting, crunching the autumn leaves, supporting their physical development.

We've also collected the acorns and conkers and used them for collage and for maths activities such as counting and weighing.

Every child participated in making our spooky Halloween window displays by decorating a pumpkin picture, printing with apples to make ghosts, printing a starry sky or drawing monsters.

The pre-schoolers have been cooking with home grown vegetables and practicing listening skills by exploring rhythm and rhyme.

We are looking forward to all of the Christmas craft activities and the Christmas buzz that intensifies the closer we get! Although it will take a different format in 2020, we are making plans for a Covid-safe Christmas party at the end of term.

Jill Petersen is our new treasurer and Jeni Burnell has taken over as secretary.

Emily Dytor also joined the committee team – Welcome to them!

The committee want to say thank you to Darren Bloy and David Loft, ably assisted by Jill Petersen and Jeni Burnell for re-decorating the entrance hall and doing lots of other maintenance jobs. This marks the start of a much bigger project to redecorate the whole building and develop the office and lean-to area into a more welcoming space. This year's fundraising efforts will be directed towards this project.

Although our social fundraising events are currently on hold, we are now signed up with Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising. In both cases, just search for 'Charlbury Pre-School' in the list of good causes and a percentage of each sale will come to us. We have also set up an Amazon Wishlist.

We have some places available now. These do get booked up so if you are interested in securing a place or finding out more about us, do get in touch [admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@charlburypreschool.org.uk) 01608 811200. There is also lots of information on our website [www.charlburypreschool.org.uk](http://www.charlburypreschool.org.uk)

*Jackie Daish*

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To place an advert please ring Graham Jowett on 01608 810666 or email: [gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com](mailto:gjowettchronicle@btinternet.com)



## Charlbury Garden Society

The pandemic has made a huge difference to how we operate as a local society but not entirely in a bad way. We have been creative in our thinking and are finding new ways to engage with you.

We are becoming more inclusive - we want to involve more members and invite greater participation in conceptualising, planning and bringing to fruition projects and events.

The more people get involved, the more we will be able to do. We hope to engender a stronger feeling of working together for the greater good, for our own good, particularly during these challenging times.

We have a beautiful, new 'shop front' now that we have our own website: [www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk](http://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk), we also have a regular monthly newsletter and we post our events on the town website, in the Chronicle and The Leaflet.

A good reason for visiting our website is to enjoy the results of our virtual Annual Show. There were many amazing entries and a lot of photos to download and after much deliberation, the show is now ready to view!

Good news for existing members, in recognition of the fact that we have been unable to deliver a full programme in 2020, we will offer free 2021 membership.

Optional donations are welcomed to support our new initiatives and how to do this will be sent with your 2021 membership card. It will also be found on our website.

If you'd like to join then email [membership@charlburygardensociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@charlburygardensociety.org.uk) or visit our website: [www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk](http://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk)

Our monthly evening talks begin in

January. Usually held in the Memorial Hall, they will now be held on Zoom. We may have a pandemic to limit our movements but, over the winter months, we can meet up without even going outside.

Our first talk on 21 January, **A Walk Through the Past**, will be given by Antonia Keaney, researcher at Blenheim Palace. Antonia will look at how the **gardens of Blenheim Palace and Park** have developed over the last 300 years. Our next evening event on 18 February is still in the planning so check out our website for news nearer the time. In March Emma Harris-Bass from **The Kitchen Garden People** will tell us about their **market garden project** near Chadlington. We hope to follow up with a visit in June.

In 2021 we hope we can arrange more self-drive visits to open gardens. There'll be scope for another plant & seed bring and take - the last one on the Playing Close was a great success and donations raised £140 for the Memorial Hall and Corner House.

Then there's Charlbury Open Gardens 2021! Watch out for news on that too.

We have a nascent 'gardening, growing and greening' group to develop and enrich public spaces in Charlbury. Planning has already begun and its members have listed three areas to develop. We need more volunteers to help, to dig and plant together - a healthy, social, socially distanced gardening activity to enjoy with others.

We would like to involve more families with children so we welcome your ideas and involvement for family friendly projects from pre-school to teen years. How can we work together with other Charlbury groups? We already share the



Spring Show (if it can happen in 2021) with the Art Society. You may offer additional ideas.

We are working towards a more flexible and responsive approach with sub-groups for specific projects (not necessarily committee members), We definitely need more help with organising events and shows.

Perhaps two or more of you would like to start a 'growing activities for children group' or else something to interest teenagers?

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

If you'd like to get involved or offer ideas then get in touch with Alison or Angela:

[secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk)

[www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk](http://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk)



## CHARLBURY TOWN FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB

The Football and Sports Club is open and welcoming members. If you have not visited us yet, please do come along and have a look. We are obviously not operating at full capacity at the moment because of the Covid regulations but the clubhouse has the space to accommodate lots of groups with safe spacing.

We are sorry that we cannot, at the moment, host the range of events or bookings that we had hoped for but, with luck, we will be able to do more things in 2021.

At the moment our opening hours are:  
Monday to Thursday - 7pm till 10pm,  
Friday - 4pm till 10pm, Saturday - 3pm till 10pm and Sunday - 12 noon till 10pm.

Because we are a Club, not a Pub, our licensing rules are different. We benefit from being registered with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC). This means that our customers should also be members. Please visit the clubhouse and judge for yourself. Membership forms are on the bar.

Fees are: Adult -£15, Family -£25,  
Under16 -£5, Over 60 -£5

The benefits of membership are these: a family-friendly space, live sports on the big screen and the cheapest drinks in Charlbury. We serve San Miguel and Carlsberg lagers, Guinness, Tetleys bitter and Magners cider on tap.

**We are waiting to welcome you**

## CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL

Office: 01608 810879

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

Emergency Contact:

Roy Scott (01608 810562)



## Help feed our farmland birds

Ever seen a yellow hammer or a flock of linnets? These glorious farmland birds are disappearing so our charity and its many volunteers provide supplementary feed from November to May to reduce their decline.

Some 'red-listed' species are familiar 'farmland' birds such as house sparrow and skylarks, but many people are unaware of the challenges they face. Even species such as chaffinches started to decline in 2012. So, it's never been more important to act now and do all we can to conserve these precious specialist birds.



Brendan Colm O'Brien

*Yellow Hammer at Hill Barn Farm, Stonesfield*

Remember Bird Aid? We've now relaunched as Farmland Bird Aid Network, an independent charity. Our hope is to help see thriving populations of farmland birds in our countryside, able to support themselves naturally.

In addition to feeding wheat, millet and rape seed daily, we recommend:

- Boosting seed food by providing uncut areas, a wide mix of crops, stubbles or seed-rich wild bird cover crops.
- Creating thick, thorny nesting cover in hedges or by retaining areas of scrub, gorse or brambles
- Cutting hedgerows on rotation every three to five years.

We now have over 20 sites across West Oxfordshire – many near Charlbury. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help us feed once a week or fortnightly. You could help at Southill Solar Farm or Kingswood Break – both beautiful sites, a short cycle or drive from Charlbury.

To find out more about our charity, visit [farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org](http://farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org). If you can help with feeding or surveying, please get in touch with [info@farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org](mailto:info@farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org)  
Thank you

*Judy Anders*

### **CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET** **on the Playing Close between** **9am and 1pm on** **Saturday, December 12th**

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

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

Email: [burroughs871@btinternet.com](mailto:burroughs871@btinternet.com)  
tel: 07969 208518, 01608 810260

Following a well-earned Summer break, Charlbury Primary School reopened its doors for the new academic year on 3rd September 2020. It was a minor miracle that we were able to welcome our children back as planned, due to a serious flood in the school building at the end of August. Scheduled repair work on the flat roof section of the school building did not

go as planned, and despite the work due to be only external, heavy rainfall came through the roof and ceilings causing damage to the interior areas. A swift response from staff and River Learning Trust meant that the roof was made watertight, and interior ceilings and lighting were replaced within a week. An enormous "Thank you" to the members of staff, in particular our cleaners, who worked tirelessly and late into the evening on the 2nd September to ensure the school was Covid clean for the children to return the next day!

Many of our pupils had not been at school since March 2020 due to the lockdown, and despite the ongoing pandemic, we are very pleased to report an average attendance of 98% since September. Pupils have embraced the new academic year with eagerness, and have adapted to being in "bubbles" brilliantly. The return of a Breakfast and Afterschool Club, now taking place in the school hall to ensure bubbles are maintained, was welcomed by our working parents. Hot school meals also returned in October, much to everyone's delight, with mealtimes staggered to ensure bubbles are maintained. We are extremely grateful to Claire and Jane who work in our kitchen, and have always been willing to go the extra mile for the children.

A number of events sadly had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, but the school has worked hard to ensure fresh ideas for learning. On 3rd November, Roots for Food visited and ran three cooking sessions with different bubbles,

where pupils prepared and cooked Teriyaki Chicken. The event was enjoyed by everyone, particularly the tasting sessions at the end!

We hope to welcome back the Bikeability course for our Year 6 pupils in November, and have a tree planting session on the school field planned for 1st December in partnership with The Wychwood Project. Both these events will be taking place outside and will be fully Covid compliant. Arrangements are in the pipeline with a very willing and able community group for an upcoming talk on hedgehogs, and some Christmas craft sessions.

Thank you to those members of the community who continue to be involved and active with the school, especially their efforts to improve our outside areas.

Our Year 4 and 6 pupils were very disappointed when their planned residential was cancelled due to lockdown, as this is always a highlight of the year for them. Both residential have successfully been rescheduled for March 2021, and we are very hopeful that they will go ahead.

Finally, Mr Lewis worked extremely hard over the Summer to create a new website for the school – please do have a look: [www.charlburyschool.org](http://www.charlburyschool.org). Together with Ms Grierson, Mr Lewis also created a virtual tour, so that prospective parents and children can still have a look around Charlbury Primary School while we are closed to visitors.

Please do visit our new website and have a look at the virtual tour that is available on the home page. We are also very grateful to all our Governors who have continued their important work throughout lockdown, via virtual meetings and socially distanced visits when necessary.

*Catriona Pitt*

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## News from Charlbury Community Centre

At the time of writing the Community Centre was slowly getting more activities back up and running, albeit with reduced numbers and fewer studio classes. The youth football teams are back in the hall for winter training sessions, but adults are not allowed to play. Cricket net training is back. There are lots of racket sports going on in the hall, but only in groups of six and there is more demand for the café tables than we can accommodate, because we have to limit the numbers so drastically. There are small after school and holiday craft sessions running and toddler gym has re-started. Our gym has also re-opened. I'm very much hoping that this has not all changed again by the time you read this. On the assumption that it has not changed, below is a timetable of our regular sessions if you would like to join in and stay fit this winter. Do check our website though for the latest position:  
[www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk)

### **Circuit Training Classes:**

Zoom Circuit Training classes cost £7 per household – see our website for details of how to join and pay.

**LeanGym** – Wednesdays 9-10am (via Zoom)

**Super Circuits** – Thursdays 7.15-8.15pm (in the sports hall)

**Sunday Circuits** – Sundays 10-11am (via Zoom)

### **Line Dancing Classes (in the sports hall):**

**Line Dancing for regulars** – Tuesdays 12-1pm, £5 /£3 for over 65s

**Line Dancing Class** – Fridays 2-3pm £5 /£3 for over 65s

### **Pilates and Barre Fit:**

**MAT Pilates** – Thursdays 1.30-2.30pm. Contact Michele: 07817 890787, [michele@charlburypilates.com](mailto:michele@charlburypilates.com), website: [www.charlburypilates.com](http://www.charlburypilates.com)

**Barre Fit** – Tuesdays 7-8pm. Contact Michele as above.

### **For Kids and Babies:**

**Football Training** – Mondays, 4-5pm Girls U8 (years 2&3) and mixed U6 (year 1) alternating weeks, £3 per child. Contact Phil: [paheath@btinternet.com](mailto:paheath@btinternet.com). (U8 girls 12<sup>th</sup> Oct)

**Toddler Gym** – Wednesdays 11.15am-12noon. A structured session in the sports hall for 2½ – 5 year olds, accompanied by a parent/carers, aimed at developing physical and social skills, building confidence and having fun. £3 per child £5 for two.

**Maker's Club** – Wednesdays 3.30-5pm. An after-school craft session for primary school children. Please book and pay in advance by ringing the centre. Numbers are very limited. Price £5.

On our website you can also find a link to a Strength and Balance session, run at the Community Centre by Louise Barnes through Age UK. You can watch and follow this session for some gentle exercise until she can resume the classes.

It has been so nice to see so many people, suitably socially distanced of course, back at the Community Centre and we hope you all stay safe and well. Don't forget that, thanks to our brilliant staff and volunteers, help with shopping is still available, as there will still be people who need to self-isolate for whatever reason. Please continue to ring 01608 811878 if you need help.

*Tanya Stevenson*  
*Charlbury Community Centre*



## ATIC's voluntary transport service

As national lockdown was then easing, in August the ATIC

Management Group took the decision to resume ATIC's transport service as far as possible in a way which is safe for both drivers and passengers. We are needing to operate on a more limited basis, as our team of drivers is small and we will want to restrict the number of journeys each driver makes each week/month.

We will therefore have to ask anyone who is thinking of asking ATIC for help with a journey to first explore all other suitable sources of transport available, including asking a hospital department or their GP surgery whether NHS transport can be provided, if the journey is being made to an appointment arranged by them. ATIC will endeavour to help with information about what is available – do contact us.

So, if you need help with a journey, please ring our usual number - 01993 776277 – and Volunteer Link-Up (our invaluable call centre) will see if we can meet your request. We can only do our best under the circumstances.

### Highlighting external sources of help during the COVID19 crisis

We thought it might be useful to draw attention to information available from West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. Both Councils have special Coronavirus pages on their websites: [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) and [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) giving details of information and support available from a range of agencies.

### WODC have a Community Support Helpline 01993 861077 for

vulnerable residents needing assistance (available 9.00 to 5.00 on weekdays) – or you can email [community.support@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:community.support@westoxon.gov.uk).

**Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire now have limited opportunities for face-to-face advice at their Witney Advice Centre.** If you are in urgent need of face-to-face advice, you can book an appointment by emailing: [info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk](mailto:info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk) or calling their Adviceline on 0300 330 9049. The national Citizens Advice website is also a way of obtaining information and advice: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>. If you have a new Universal Credit claim or are in the process of making a claim, have a look at their website: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/help-to-claim/> or call Help to Claim on **0800 144 8444**.

**Community Food Support** – the WODC Coronavirus page about Support for Residents has a link to a leaflet giving details of sources of help with accessing food which includes reference to the Cornerstone Project.

### NHS Healthy Start Vouchers

**If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have children under the age of 4 and you are in receipt of benefits**, you could qualify to receive free vouchers every week to spend on basic foods such as milk, fruit & vegetables, pulses, infant formula & vitamins. **You also qualify if you are under 18 and pregnant, even if you don't get any benefits or tax credits.** Details can be found on this website: <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers>

**If you or someone you know is worried about their mental health**, MIND have an information Line on **01865 247788**. They also have a 24/7 mental health helpline for Adults **01865 904997** / Children & Youth **01865 904998**

### **Employment and benefits support**

The Government have a website giving details of **employment and benefits support** available for people affected by coronavirus or its effect on the economy:

[www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/employment-and-benefits-support/](http://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/employment-and-benefits-support/) This aims to provide information about support for people who are already claiming benefits, need to claim benefits or are at risk of losing their job as a result of coronavirus.

**Money Advice Service** – coronavirus support. The Money Advice Service website has information on the following: Support with income and life at home, Debt, Redundancy, Housing costs, Borrowing, Bereavements, Insurance, Pensions and scams  
<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/hub/coronavirus-money-guidance>

There is also a **local guide to coronavirus scams** on the WODC website (Support for Residents) – “COVID19 – advice to stop fraud”

**Age UK Oxfordshire** have a telephone service for older people who need support if they are self-isolating. Call

01865 411 288 and leave your name and number. They also provide a range of information and advice for older people including ideas for keeping active  
<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/>

### Support for businesses

Details of government support available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19> West Oxfordshire District Council also produce a regular Business Matters newsletter with news of developments and support during the coronavirus crisis - to get on the mailing list you can email [business@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:business@westoxon.gov.uk)

If you have difficulty in accessing information online and we can help by printing off information for you, please call us on our usual number 01993 776277 or email: [charlburyalltogether@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyalltogether@gmail.com)

Meryl Smith



**Hook Norton  
Veterinary Group**

**Charlbury Sugery**  
T: 01608 811250  
**Hook Norton Hospital**  
T: 01608 730085

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T: 01608 695305

**Deddington Sugery**  
T: 01869 337732

**[www.hooknortonvets.co.uk](http://www.hooknortonvets.co.uk)  
24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE**



## Charlbury Town Council News

### COVID-19 update

At the time of writing, the government has just announced a new 4-week countrywide lockdown, which should be well underway by the time you read this. While we fully appreciate the difficulties this will be causing for so many of you, we must urge you all to follow the new rules. It is important for us all to behave responsibly to protect ourselves and each other, and to avoid the NHS becoming overwhelmed. Thank you.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of volunteers, small businesses and others here in Charlbury, comprehensive support for vulnerable members of the community and others affected by the emergency is readily available with much of it being provided through the **Charlbury Community Centre**, by **ATIC (All Together in Charlbury)** and also now by the excellent new **Cornerstone Project** at the Corner House, co-ordinated by St Mary's Church. For details contact the Community Centre on **01608 811878** or at [info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:info@charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk); the Cornerstone Project on 07510772764 or at [cornerstone@stmaryschurch.co.uk](mailto:cornerstone@stmaryschurch.co.uk); or see the Charlbury website ([www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info)). We also urge you all to support your local shops and businesses here in Charlbury.

**THANK YOU** to everyone involved in providing these important services. **THANKS** also to **YOU** for observing the ever-changing rules and considering others. Keep vigilant and Stay Safe!

### Town Council Update

▪ **Full Council meetings.** Full council meetings are being held by video/telephone link. You are welcome to attend these virtual meetings as observers, but you will be muted throughout. We are also pleased to offer Charlbury residents the opportunity to address the council at any of these virtual meetings for up to 5 minutes by

prior arrangement with the town clerk. If you wish to attend, either to speak or as an observer, please inform the clerk at least a day in advance so that instructions can be sent to you.

▪ **Other meetings.** Most other council meetings are currently cancelled but where it is deemed necessary for any committee, working group or other group of councillors to meet, this is also done by video/telephone link. This includes the finance meetings required for the council to set the budget and precept for the next financial year 2021-22.

▪ **Planning Committee.** Planning applications relating to Charlbury are being dealt with electronically to enable the council to submit consultee comments to WODC in a timely manner. If you have any comments relating to a planning application that you would like members of the town council to consider, please contact the town clerk as below at the earliest opportunity.

▪ **Surgeries.** Councillor surgeries remain suspended until further notice but if you have any matters that you wish to bring to councillors' attention, please contact the town clerk in the usual way as below.

▪ **Urgent Council Business.** The emergency committee comprising the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Town Clerk remains in place to carry out urgent business as required in consultation with other councillors by email or telephone.

**Contacting the Town Council.** If you have any matters for consideration by the council at any time please contact the Town Clerk via [charlburytc@btinternet.com](mailto:charlburytc@btinternet.com) or telephone 01608 810608 9am to 5pm (not weekends or Bank Holidays).

## **Town Council Elections – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Charlbury needs YOU!**

Elections will be held for all 12 seats on Charlbury Town Council on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021** (postponed from May 2020). This could be your opportunity to make a difference for Charlbury and to bring some fresh ideas to help the community to tackle the many and varied challenges we are all facing in these uncertain times, not least those relating to the climate emergency. It is important for the council to represent all ages, backgrounds and opinions in the town so please give some thought to standing. If you want to know more any of the current councillors will be happy to explain what is involved. Full details of the nomination process will be available in the new year.

## **Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan 2031**

As reported last time, the revised draft plan has now been submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC). WODC is now responsible for taking the plan through the remaining stages to its adoption as a “made” plan and the town council cannot now promote or make any further changes to the plan.

A 6-week period of public consultation on the submitted plan (known as Regulation 16 consultation) has been completed and we expect that **independent examination** of the plan will have started during November 2020.

If the plan passes examination (possibly with some further changes required by the examiner), a **referendum** of all electors within the parish of Charlbury will be held seeking approval for the plan to be adopted as a “made” plan so that its policies must be taken into account by WODC when considering all planning applications within the parish of Charlbury. The referendum cannot take place until May 2021 at the earliest according to government instructions relating to the Coronavirus Act 2020.

## **Charlbury Honoured Citizens Awards**

The Town Council is delighted to announce that Charlbury Honoured Citizen Awards for 2020 have been

conferred on local residents Christine Elliott, Louise and Alan Spicer, Eileen Kenrick, Andy Pickard and Meryl Smith in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the community of Charlbury as volunteers over many years. Under normal circumstances these awards would have been presented at an open event celebrating the vital role that volunteering plays in the life of our community. Regrettably, due to COVID-19 restrictions this is not possible although, ironically, the very circumstances of the pandemic have served to accentuate the importance of volunteering that these awards are designed to recognise.

In the absence of an open celebratory event, the awards have been presented individually by Richard Fairhurst, Chairman of the Town Council, and a further illustrated article will be published in the Spring 2021 edition of the Charlbury Chronicle profiling the contributions that each awardee has made to the community of Charlbury. We also look forward to being able to hold a belated celebration event at some future time when circumstances allow – watch this space!.

On an unhappier note, it was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Alan Spicer, a joint recipient of one of the 2020 awards soon after the confirmation of the awards by the Town Council, and before the presentations could be made. The joint award certificate has been presented to Alan’s wife Louise and our thoughts are very much with her and her family as they come to terms with their loss.

In the new year we will be seeking nominations for 2021 awards. Nomination forms and other details are available from the town clerk.

## **Environment Working Group**

Throughout the year, the Town Council’s Environment Working Group has been working hard to identify initiatives that can be taken locally to address the challenges of climate change, the loss of biodiversity and other environmental problems such as water pollution. The

group, which was set up in response to the council's declaration of a climate emergency, will be bringing proposals for action to the town council in the near future. You can find out more about the activities and plans of the group in a separate article within this edition of the Charlbury Chronicle.

### **Town Council Support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE Bill)**

At the virtual council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Town Council passed a resolution to support the private members CEE Bill which has wide cross-party support. The wording of the resolution was:

*Charlbury Town Council supports the objectives of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE Bill) and will:*

*Ask Robert Courts, MP for Witney and West Oxfordshire to support the bill;*

*Add Charlbury Town Council to the list of organisations, groups and businesses who support the bill; and*

*Join the CEE Bill Alliance.*

### **Other Matters:**

**Remembrance Sunday.** Cllr Nick Potter laid the Council's wreath at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Priority Post Box.** The post box located in Ticknell Piece Road has been confirmed by Royal Mail as a Priority Postbox for the purposes of posting COVID-19 test kits. The final collection from this box on weekdays is scheduled for 4pm. The town clerk argued robustly for the new postbox in Market Street to be designated as a priority box in view of its more appropriate location and the wider posting slot but regrettably these considerations were not heeded.

**Permissive Paths** through Nine Acres Recreation Ground will be closed all day on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021** in accordance with recommended practice to ensure that the access retains its permissive status. Similar closures of permissive paths through Wigwell and between Hundley Way and Widdows

Wood will occur on the same day by order of the Wychwood Project and HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust respectively. Residents with gates opening onto to Oxpens Allotments, Nine Acres Recreation Ground and Wigwell are also reminded that these DO NOT create a Right of Way.

### **Overhanging Branches. Encroaching hedges Etc.**

A final reminder this year to please check whether any hedges, branches or other vegetation around your home may be encroaching on pavements, roads or footpaths, obscuring road signs or causing a safety hazard by impeding visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and/or motorists. If so, please trim back the offending items. If you can't do this yourself, perhaps a neighbour could help!

### **Fallen Leaves, Snow and Ice.**

At this time of year, fallen leaves can become slippery and cause a hazard, particularly to elderly and frail people. The Town Proud volunteer group is endeavouring to get out to clear the leaves when it can but we also ask all of you to clear leaves from around your home if these could cause a danger to others. As winter approaches, ice and snow are also a possibility creating another potential hazard. Again, if this occurs, the Town Proud volunteers will attempt to keep the main footways safe but please look after your own "patch" and look out for vulnerable neighbours.

If you are able to help the Town Proud volunteers, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch with the town clerk who will put you in touch with the volunteer group.

Finally, the Town Council wishes you all a **Happy, Healthy, Peaceful & Safe Christmas.** We all look forward to a better New Year in 2021 and one in which Charlbury emerges stronger - strengthened by the heightened commitment to community that has helped us all to get through these challenging times.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS – STAY SAFE AND WELL!**

## From County & District Councillor Liz Leffman

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

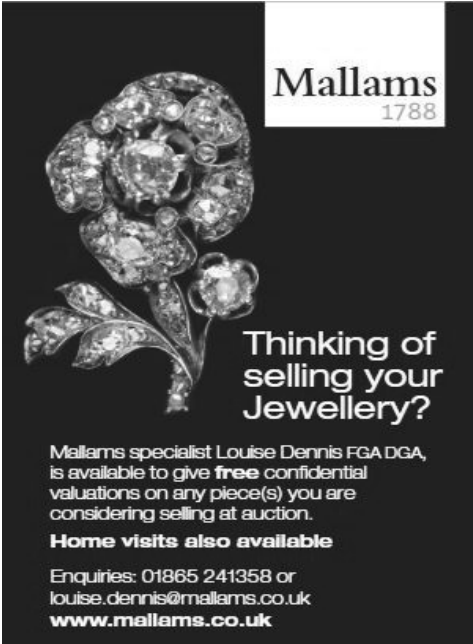
The County Council is living with the legacy of the first Covid lockdown and has had to make savings of £15 million in the past couple of months, because only part of the money spent on the Covid crisis, such as purchasing PPE for care homes and schools, has been repaid by the Government. So while at the beginning of this financial year I was confident that we would for once in a long time have money available to repair our roads and manage drainage, we now find that there is no more money available and only those things that have already been scheduled will be done until the new financial year begins in April. Of course, if a huge pothole opens up in a crucial place, then it will be filled. If you do have an emergency of this kind to report, please get in touch and I will ensure that action is taken as soon as possible.

Although we are lucky to be living in a part of the county which is relatively Covid free, there have been some recent outbreaks in Witney, and the numbers are rising across the area. There is evidence that most of the spread comes from households meeting together. This is why the Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire recently recommended to council leaders that we should be seeking to move to Tier 2, to prevent further spread of the virus locally. Tier 2 means that households can no longer meet indoors unless they are part of a support "bubble", and pubs and restaurants would have to close at 10pm. All other businesses would remain open, and people could meet up outside their homes. However, although the Director was supported by the leaders of every council in the county, the four Conservative MPs in Oxfordshire refused to support this and appealed directly to Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State, to keep Oxfordshire in Tier 1. Having worked closely with the Director of Public Health over the past few months, I know that he can be trusted to make good decisions, and it was therefore very disappointing and discouraging to see

him overruled by Westminster.

We all need to do what we can to protect older and vulnerable residents, and people in Charlbury have done, and will continue to do, a wonderful job looking out for their neighbours. I have been inspired by the community spirit that has manifested itself in the support that people have given to each other over the past few months. I was very pleased to be able to support the Cornerstone initiative at the Corner House with a grant from my Councillor Priority Fund. I have also been able to use this fund to support families around the district with tools for home learning, including some laptops.

As Christmas is just around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas. I hope that we will all be able to see family and friends during the festive season, and that the New Year will bring about a change for the better.



**Mallams**  
1788

**Thinking of selling your Jewellery?**

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



# Averose Pharmacy

I took over the Co-op Pharmacy in Charlbury in July this year. I was previously Superintendent Pharmacist of Berinsfield Pharmacy in Berinsfield, Oxfordshire for seven years. I have been qualified as a Pharmacist for over 17 years. Averose Pharmacy is an independent Pharmacy and not affiliated with any other group. We aim to offer a caring, efficient and reliable service to all our patients in Charlbury and the surrounding villages.

*Asim Hanif – Owner*

## Services

- Text alerts when your medication is ready for collection
- Free home delivery service for residents of Charlbury and surrounding villages
- Safe disposal of unwanted medication
- Medicine use reviews
- New medicine service
- Health advice on medicines and minor ailments
- Medicine aids for complicated medication regimes

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Sat            9am – 1pm

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**web: [www.thepcbuddy.co.uk](http://www.thepcbuddy.co.uk)**

## Charlbury Day Centre

The good news is that our members are Covid free, but they have not escaped the impact of the virus and the Centre has remained closed since March. They have been impressively positive despite being unable to get out much, socialise and let alone meet each other.

We have to rely on telephone conversations to keep in touch .However we do see them, when we deliver a cooked lunch once a week. I was hoping to say that there was another piece of good news, now that our manager has finished being on furlough.

However this has changed in the last few hours, as I write this, and she is to remain on furlough –at least for another month. I am afraid that Christmas will not be the same for any of us this year, but we must remain optimistic and healthy and do all we can to help them in their isolation.

*Bob Tait*

### PRIORITY POST BOX

Please note that there is a Priority Post Box at the top of Ticknell Piece Road. This is the only one in the town.



If you are sending back tests for Covid these are the ones to use. The last posting time is 4.00pm

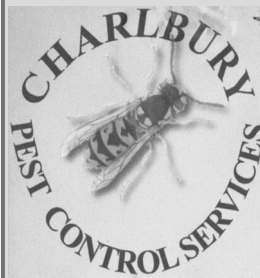


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 6.30. Thurs. 9-1 2-5.30 Fri. 9-1 2-5.30.  
 Sat. 7-1

Banbury Museum & Gallery

## PORTRAYALS

Paintings and Drawings from the Arts Council Collection including  
**David Hockney, Lucian Freud and Paula Rego**

21 November 2020 – 7 March 2021

This exhibition was made possible with a grant from  
 the Weston-Lock Programme with Art Fund.

Art Fund



Coventry Women's  
 Collection



### Coffee Break answers

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**Down:** 1. Deep; 2. Twenty; 3. Beer  
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 Tim; 12. Jason

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For more information contact Gabriele at  
[gabrielekern31@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielekern31@gmail.com)

# CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

**Artweeks** - Wendy Clifford (01608 810006)

**All Together In Charlbury (ATIC)**

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

**Baptist Church** - Kay Colyer (01608 810107)  
[charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com)

**Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)**

Helen Wight, Secretary  
[charlbury.drama@gmail.com](mailto:charlbury.drama@gmail.com)

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

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

Eidenbenz (01608 810911)

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

**Charlbury Beer Festival** - Nick Millea

[nick.millea@btinternet.com](mailto:nick.millea@btinternet.com)

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

**Charlbury Beer & Wine Circle** - John Moore  
(01608 810700)

**Charlbury Bowls Club** - Shaun Morley  
[enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk) (01993 868134)

**Charlbury Bridge Club**— Secretary Monica  
Wilkinson (01608 810560)

**Charlbury Canoe Club** - Hugh Belshaw  
(01608 810130) [hughandjoan@uwclub.net](mailto:hughandjoan@uwclub.net)

**Charlbury Chronicle** - Susie Finch (01608  
810861) [editor.chronicle@outlook.com](mailto:editor.chronicle@outlook.com)

**Charlbury Community Centre**—Daniela Jenkins  
(01608 811878)

**Charlbury Community Speedwatch** —  
[charlburysw@gmail.com](mailto:charlburysw@gmail.com)

**Charlbury Cricket Club** - David Horne Vice  
Chairman [dw3horne@gmail.com](mailto:dw3horne@gmail.com)

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

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

**Charlbury & District Probud Club** Mike White  
(07710 296814) [mike.ewhite7@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ewhite7@gmail.com)

**Charlbury Green Hub** - Christine Elliott  
(01608 811057) [www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk](http://www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk)

**Charlbury Garden Society**  
[chairman@charlburygardensociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@charlburygardensociety.org.uk)

**Charlbury Ladies Luncheon Club**—Gill Grason  
(01608 810154) and Frances Canham (01608  
811176)

**Charlbury Morris** - Peter Smith (01608 811007)  
[peter@charlburymorris.org](mailto:peter@charlburymorris.org)

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

**Charlbury Museum** - Curator—

[curator@charlburymuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@charlburymuseum.org.uk)

**Charlbury Music Class** - Peter Fry (01993  
359189)

**Charlbury Open Gardens** - Catherine Goyder  
[csggardens@charlburystreetfair.org](mailto:csggardens@charlburystreetfair.org)

**Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club**  
(Ray & Margaret) (01993 831345)

**Charlbury Pre-School**—Laura Barwood  
[laurambarwood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laurambarwood@hotmail.co.uk) (01608 811200)

**Charlbury Royal British Legion** - Nick Potter  
(01608 810388)

**Charlbury School** -Head (01608 810354)

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

[www.charlbury.oxon.digitalbrain.com](http://www.charlbury.oxon.digitalbrain.com)

**Charlbury School Association** -

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

**Charlbury Scout Group** - Cheryl Hornsby -  
[cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@redstonecomputers.co.uk)

**Charlbury Society** - Chairman, Nikki Rycroft  
[n.rycroft@doctors.org.uk](mailto:n.rycroft@doctors.org.uk)

**Charlbury Street Fair** - Chairman—John Dora  
(01608 811328) [jmdora@btinternet.com](mailto:jmdora@btinternet.com)

**Charlbury Tennis Club** - Mark Jarman (01608  
811692) [charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk)

**Charlbury Town Council**—Roger Clarke, clerk  
(01608 810608) [charlburytc@btinternet.com](mailto:charlburytc@btinternet.com)

**Charlbury Town Football** - Keith Claridge  
(01608 810201 or 07870 426707)

**Charlbury Town Youth Football Club** - James  
Ball (01608 810270) [jolliecat@btinternet.com](mailto:jolliecat@btinternet.com)

**Charlbury Women's Institute** - President -  
Miriam Evans (01608 430807)

[charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:charlburywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

**Charlbury Youth Theatre**—Andy Graham  
[andyg2439@gmail.com](mailto:andyg2439@gmail.com) (01608 659462)

**ChOC Cinema** - Jackie Hague (01608  
810713)

**Corner House Community Bookshop**—Neil  
Pakenham-Walsh (01608 811899)

**Corner House and Memorial Hall** -Office (01608  
810879)

**Churches Together** - Rosalind Scott, (01608  
810562) [rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk)

**Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens** - Harriet  
Baldwin (07779 157410 or 01608 811718)

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

**Dementia Friendly Charlbury**— Meryl Smith  
(01608 810192) [charlburydf@gmail.com](mailto:charlburydf@gmail.com)

**Friends Meeting House:** Sue Terry (01608  
811033 email: [sueeterry@btinternet.com](mailto:sueeterry@btinternet.com))

**Holiday Club**

[parishoffice@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk](mailto:parishoffice@stmaryscharlbury.co.uk)

**Macmillan Cancer Care** - Liz & Bob Tait (01608  
810150)

**Methodist Chapel** - Sue Tokumine (01608  
810366) [suetok@hotmail.com](mailto:suetok@hotmail.com)

**Mind in Chipping Norton** (Mental Health  
Support) (01608 645296)

**Riverside Festival** - Andy Pickard (01608  
810635) [admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com](mailto:admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com)

[www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com](http://www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com)

**St Marys C of E Church** Rev Sally Welch  
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**Sustainable Charlbury** - Liz Reason (01608  
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**The Bell Inn** (01608 810278)

**The Bull Inn** (01608 810689)

**Thomas Gifford Trust**- Chris Potts (01608  
811878) [chris.potts@blakemorgan.co.uk](mailto:chris.potts@blakemorgan.co.uk)

**United Nations Association (West  
Oxfordshire)** – Neil Pakenham-Walsh (01608  
811338)

**Wilderness Festival**—[www.wildernessfestival.com](http://www.wildernessfestival.com)

**Wychwayz Border Morris** - Teresa Duester  
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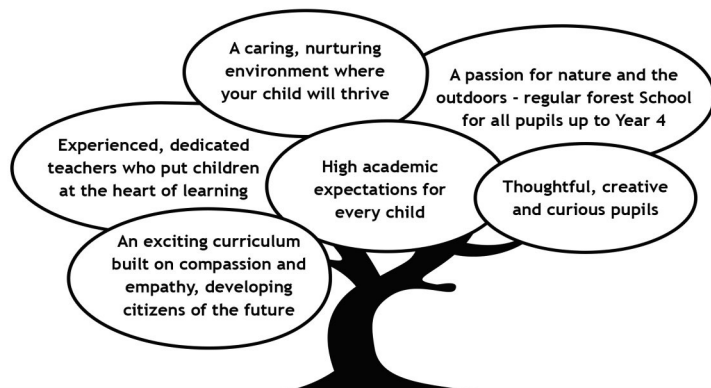
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