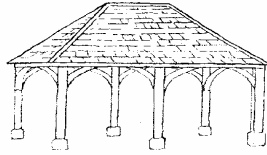


The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 13 Number 4

December 2009

As we all begin to prepare for Christmas, may we please draw readers' attention to the Charlbury late night shopping opportunities on December 3rd and 17th. A good idea would be to start your Christmas shopping here in the town, and if you can't find what you're looking for then you can go elsewhere! We must remember to support our local shops and businesses in these difficult times.

Charlbury Museum has produced a very professional DVD called Memories of Charlbury, which could well be a stocking filler for anyone with connections to the town. Fred Thornett, Walter Busby, Reg Smith and Sidney Price are a very articulate quartet, and their stories and descriptions of lots of local photographs going back to 1858 are most interesting. See the advertisement on page 12.

It is very sad news that Roger Watts of Business Focus is closing down his office in Sheep Street and in future will be working from home. Roger has been a very good friend of the *Chronicle* from the very start, and I would like to thank him for his ready help and advice with computer problems over the years. There's quite a good mix of subjects in

this issue - the environment, trains, buglers, jewellery, dancing, 60 knitted hats, war memories, the WI, a brave seven year old, and more. There should be something for everyone to enjoy.

This is the season to say thank you to all those who help the *Charlbury Chronicle* in so many ways - our regular contributors, our Advertising Man, our treasurer and auditor, advertisers and distributors and supporters. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

May we wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Lynette Murphy



Christmas Shopping Ideas

Charlbury jewellery designer Sarah Pulvertaft is happy to announce her winter workshop sale, a must for jewellery lovers and those searching for an original and beautiful Christmas gift. All are welcome to come and buy or just browse and meet the designer in her forest workshop just outside Charlbury. The sale takes place on Saturday and Sunday 5-6 December 2009 from 12 noon to 6pm.

Sarah's jewellery collections (for women and men) range from minimal silver and gold pieces, to intricate rings, brooches, earrings, cufflinks, bracelets and necklaces, some set with brightly coloured enamels or sparkling gems from tourmalines and quartz to diamonds and pearls. Buyers can choose from her latest collections, order bespoke jewellery or pick up a bargain from Sarah's end-of-line bargain box where prices start at just £10.

Sarah's jewellery is worn by celebrities including JK Rowling (for whom Sarah was commissioned to make a charm bracelet) and Deborah Meaden who has been wearing Sarah's distinctive Seed Ring throughout the latest series of BBC2's Dragon's Den.

During the party season, Sarah's cocktail rings are particularly popular. Made to order from gold or silver, they can be set with many different semi-precious stones including dark brown smoky quartz, lemony citrine, rose quartz or bright green chrysoprase. Retail prices for silver cocktail rings start at £295 and vary according to choice of stone.

**Workshop sale: Saturday - Sunday
5 and 6 December 2009 12-6pm
www.sarahpulvertaft.com
01608 810221**

**The Workshop, Ranger's Lodge,
Charlbury, Oxfordshire, OX7 3HL**

County Council scoops prestigious national rail awards

Oxfordshire County Council has scooped a top prize at the national Community Rail Awards. The annual awards are run by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships and recognise excellence in promoting best practice in community rail development across England, Scotland and Wales.

The council took the coveted top prize in the Local Transport Integration category for the Cotswold Line Railbus, and there was further success in the Best Marketing Publication category, with the Oxford Canal Line guide picking up third prize.

What is the railbus?

The Cotswold Line Railbus started as a taxibus funded by the government's rural bus challenge scheme in the late 1990's. When the council took over the funding in 2004, the buses, bus stops, timetables and leaflet were given a new image and a website was launched. A bright new leaflet was distributed across West Oxfordshire last year. Better promotion has been successful in attracting more passengers over the past five years. Railbus buses are timed to connect with trains on the North Cotswolds Line and link Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Churchill, Finstock, Kingham, Leafield and the Wychwoods with the railway stations at Charlbury and Kingham.

In making the award, the judges said they were: "Pleased to see a well thought out, integrated bus/rail service coupled with excellent marketing materials, doing what it was designed to do."

Keep your Christmas under wraps

Christmas can mean pay-day for criminals. Homes become bigger targets as people go away for the holidays and opportunist thieves are on the lookout for expensive presents. By following a few simple steps you can ensure that you and your family have an enjoyable, crime-free Christmas.

- Always secure and lock your doors and windows, even if you are just popping out or in the garden - about one in four burglaries happen simply because the householder left windows or doors unlocked.
- Close all curtains when it is dark.
- Make sure your security lights are in working order and put internal lamps on timer switches to come on when dark.
- Always use your burglar alarm - if you don't have one, consider investing in one.
- Don't store keys near the door, particularly where they can be seen and never hang a spare key inside the letter box or under the mat or beneath a flowerpot.
- Secure garages and sheds - they are often full of expensive tools that are ideal to use for breaking into the rest of the house.
- Don't leave Christmas presents under the tree in full view of burglars who may be peering through windows - keep them in a secure place until the big day.
- Don't put your empty boxes from Christmas presents (or any new purchases) out until your recycling collection day and make sure you break up the boxes and secure them together - the boxes and wrappings advertise to burglars what new gadgets and items await them inside! Security mark your property. The Safer Communities Partnership is selling Selecta DNA property marking kits for just £15 (normal retail price £49). The kit involves sweeping a paste on which contains a series of unique microdots, only visible under a UV lamp. Your marked property is registered on a national secure database and if your goods are stolen and recovered the police can check on the database for the owner. If you would like to purchase a Selecta DNA property marking kit, telephone the crime reduction adviser Bill Butcher on 01993 861638.
- Shopping for Christmas can be busy and stressful - be aware of your surroundings, watch out for pickpockets, keep bags zipped up and ensure wallets and purses are not visible. Never hang handbags on pushchairs or shopping trolleys.
- Spread your possessions around your body - keep your mobile phone separate from your purse or wallet. Don't leave your shopping on display in your car - keep it out of sight in the boot and make sure your car is secure. Park in a secure car park.

For further crime reduction advice or to find out what the Police and District Council are doing to reduce crime and disorder visit www.whosmybobby.co.uk.

Watch out - there are thieves about!

MATHS EXTRA

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Evening surgery at North Leigh by appointment



CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2009

RESULT !! This was a record year in terms of fund-raising and yet again the weather was very kind to us. A big thanks to Lady Rotherwick for opening the fair and judging the competitions.....and also taking part in the 10k run the following day. Of equal importance, the feedback we have received suggests that everyone enjoyed the weekend.

As a result, this year we are able to give the Corner House and Memorial Hall Committee approximately **£13,000**. We would like to give a big thank you to all of you who so generously gave of your time, money etc to make it such a huge success. There are too many people to thank – but you know who you are, so a BIG thank you from all the Street Fair Team.

The date for next year's Open Gardens is yet to be decided but will be during the first two weeks of June and Street Fair will be on Saturday 18th September 2010 – so don't you dare be away! The first meeting to organise next year's fair will be on Monday 8th February 2010 at 8pm in the Garden Room.

HELP!!

Three of the longest Street Fair Team members are leaving this year and we urgently need to bolster the Team for next year. It doesn't necessarily mean attending meetings; it's about getting things done and putting new ideas forward. So to all of you, who enjoyed this year's fair, please think about even giving just a few hours of your time. Please don't just read this, and say well maybe I will help – and then forget about it. Contact me **NOW!** I look forward to hearing from you all. Phone number is 01608 810861 or by email at susanna_finch@hotmail.com.

Susie Finch

Will you share your wartime memories?



Would you be interested in talking about your memories of the Second World War? The Second World War Experience Centre is carrying out a nationwide project, recording the personal experiences of people who lived through the war years, to ensure these stories are preserved for future generations. With the recent passing of the last veterans of World War One, this has brought into focus the increasing urgency to record people's memories before it is too late.

The Centre is a registered museum and charity, and more than 4000 people have been interviewed for the Centre's oral history archive. The Centre would like to record the stories of ex-servicemen and women, civilians, children, factory workers, or anyone who has first hand memories from that time. Its website can be found at <http://www.war-experience.org>.

Recent interviewees in the Oxfordshire area have included a nurse who worked in London during the Blitz, a lady who worked at Bletchley Park as a decoder, an evacuee who left London to live in a mining village in South Wales, a Prisoner of War captured at Dunkirk in 1940, a gentleman who served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Italy, and a Merchant Navy seaman who was on the Atlantic Convoys.

If you think that you may be interested in having your wartime memories recorded for posterity and inclusion in **The Second World War Experience Centre archive**, or would like further information, please contact the Centre's volunteer recorder in the Oxfordshire area:

Matthew Smaldon,
4 St Edmunds Lane,
Abingdon, OX14 5BU

Tel: 01235 526734 (please leave a message if there is no answer)
email: matthew.smaldon@gmail.com

CHARLBURY BUSINESS COMMUNITY



Late night Christmas shopping will take place on two Thursdays, **December 3rd and 17th** when the shops will be open until 8 pm. The Christmas lights will be switched on by a celebrity on December 3rd. Santa's Grotto, Face Painting and Street Entertainment will also take place on that night.

Keep Dancing!

Over the next few weeks most of us will hear Brucie declare 'Keep Dancing!' at the end of each *Strictly* programme. I would therefore like to make people in Charlbury aware of a type of dancing that they could take up without travelling too far, available every week, no previous experience needed, no absolute need for a partner, inexpensive and very friendly.

I refer to English Folk Dancing or Country Dancing. Come to Stonesfield Village Hall at 8pm on any Wednesday (except Christmas week) where for the cost of £2 including tea & biscuits you can enjoy two hours of dancing with tuition and prompt calls during the dances. Most weeks we have live music played by local enthusiasts. New arrivals can be assured of a friendly welcome and will be given every assistance to learn the basic moves so that after a few stumbling attempts they will begin to get the idea and start to enjoy the experience.

Anyone over the age of 13 is welcome, but as most of us are 'getting on a bit' the very young may feel a bit out of it. Our best hope is that we might gain a few adults that no longer need expensive baby sitters and would like an evening away from the telly.

If Wednesdays are out of the question, clubs exist in Oxfordshire that operate on every day of the week except Sunday. For details of these you can go to www.oxonfolk.co.uk or contact Ann & Brian Wooby on 01608 643892 to request a copy of Folk News.

All clubs have a caller who teaches the dance and gives the prompt calls as the dance progresses. Most clubs use a number of callers so the dances vary week on week. There are a few couple dances but the vast majority are danced in sets of 2,3, 4, 5 or more couples in square, circle or longways formations so dancers interact with one another in each set (a type of informal teamwork).

There are 100s of dances ranging from easy to more complex, lively to more gentle. Many have their own tunes and date from the 17th century to the present day. You will never get bored. I have been dancing for 55 years and still look forward to each session. You will make many new friends and if you give it a chance it will open up a new world of interest and worthwhile activity!

Give me a ring on 01608 810184 if you wish to discuss things further.

Peter Bridgman.



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Oh my God it's Christmas time
I think of things to get
But I know who can help me out
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Yes the shop is so packed out
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So Merry Christmas to everyone
We hope to see you soon
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Traditional Christmas Fare, including –

- ◆ *Over 20 different cheeses!*
- ◆ *Belgian Chocolates!*
- ◆ *Many other edible gifts*

CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE

As we go into the New Year we review the work of our Day Centre in order to maintain the numbers of our membership. To do this we have to keep a list of those who would like to join us in the future when a vacancy occurs.

For those who have come to live here more recently, and for those who know of someone they have been thinking about perhaps, who could benefit from us, we should be very pleased to hear from you.

In brief, our members are more older people, men and women, who meet every Wednesday in the Garden Room of the Memorial Hall from 10.0am to 3.00pm, including lunch.

We also need more Volunteers, both helpers and drivers. We need helpers once or twice a month for a morning or afternoon, and drivers for only an hour once or twice a month, morning or afternoon. Another cook would also lessen the load of our team!

Finally, we invite those enquiring, and all our volunteers and supporters, to an **Open House**, at the Garden Room in the Memorial Hall, from 10.30 am to mid-day on **Wednesday 2nd December 2009**. There will be a raffle and a glass of wine or sherry and mince pies, to wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

*Janet Walker
Vice Chairman
tel no 810681*

CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Since the new fire alarm system has been installed, licensed public events can now be held in the Corner House. The first floor comprising the Morris, Larcum Kendal and Oliver Watney rooms are likely to be the most popular function areas, and can accommodate at least sixty people.

The booking forms and Rules and Regulations are now available on the Charlbury website and can be found under the Community section. If you wish to use this system rather than collecting forms from the Corner House, please print them out and leave or post the completed forms there.

*Stephen Andrews (811212)
Chairman of the Committee*

CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is delivering meals to residents of Charlbury, Chadlington, Spelsbury, and Stonesfield each Tuesday at midday. We are serving both vegetarian and regular meals for £2 each and are happy to include new recipients.

We have terrific volunteers cooking and delivering meals but we can always use more help.

If you are available a few hours per month, please contact Marjorie Glasgow on 810161 or Jan Griffiths on 810440.

Hatha Yoga with Nikki Jackson

BSc, BWY, CoT, HPC
(16 years yoga teaching experience)

Classes

Wednesdays: 7 - 8.30 pm Memorial Hall
Thursdays: 9.30 - 11 am Intermediates
11.15 - 12.30 Mixed Ability

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Branch Surgery:

Heritage House, St Thomas Street, Deddington
01869 337732

www.hooknortonvets.co.uk

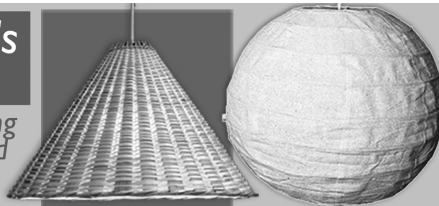
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CHARLBURY W.I.

Charlbury Women's Institute was re-formed in March this year and we are excited that it is going so well already. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the Morris Room in the Corner House at 8 pm and aim to have varied, interesting and inspiring meetings to cater for all our members' interests (visitors are of course welcome).

So far we have listened to the tales of a women travelling the world on a bicycle, an informative history of Wychwood forest, an amusing talk from a lady who takes overseas students, a thought provoking talk on Fair Trade and a fascinating talk on healing with horses. We took a break in August and resumed in September with a talk by a lady solicitor on 'making your will' and other legal issues which can affect us! In October we were supporting "Bee Awareness Week" and having a Honey Evening, with a talk from a local bee-keeper, and cakes and biscuits baked with honey. In the New Year there will be talks on travel, acupuncture, craft and whole host of other topics.

Our members so far are 17 lively women aged from 20s to 80s who are interested in anything and everything. Come and see what we are all about (there is no pressure to join).

If you would like any more information please contact

Pat Hill (Secretary) 810714

or

Clare Salter (President) 810422

or see our page on the
Charlbury Website

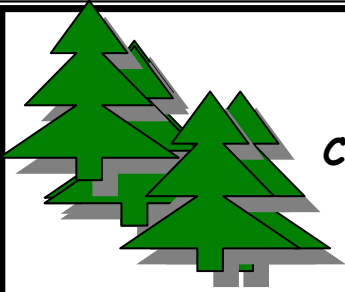
THOMAS GIFFORD'S CHARITY

The trustees continue to work with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Cottsway to find the best way forward for the proposed development on the Spendlove site – this would include a new library, adult learning and community centre plus a 14-19 skills centre and affordable housing. OCC are carrying out an updated feasibility study to ensure that the architect's present outline plans are deliverable with the available funds before committing to a full planning application and subsequent construction. The outcome of this study is expected before the end of the year and, if positive, we will be moving forward very quickly with the development scheme.

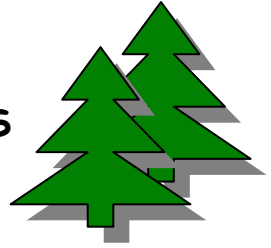
We have three new trustees – Rosalind Scott, David Oates and Chris Potts. All are already involved in Charlbury organisations and we welcome the breadth of knowledge, experience and capability that they will bring to the trustee body. We thank Alan Hanks and Steve Vaux, who have retired, for their contribution – both have said they will be supporting future fundraising activities when we are in a position to launch them.

The next Farmers Market will be held on the Playing Close on the morning of Saturday December 12th. Your support is appreciated. The trustees would also like to hear of any ideas for other events on the Playing Close which could raise income to cover the costs of Playing Close maintenance and administration of the Charity. If you have any suggestions please contact the Secretary, Helen Wright, on helen@micklemore.plus.com or 01608 811853 – or myself.

*Trevor Jones
Chairman of the Trustees*



CHARLBURY CHRISTMAS TREES



**Come and choose your own Christmas tree growing in the field. Thousands to choose from - Norway Spruce & Blues
Open every weekend in December 9.30am to 4pm at
Halcyon Honey Farm. Woodstock Road, Charlbury
tel: 01608 810260**

Turn off the A44 onto the B4437 to Charlbury - look out for the banners

MEMORIES OF CHARLBURY (DVD)

In 1977 four residents of Charlbury, Reg Smith, Sidney Price, Walter Busby and Reg Thornett, all born about the turn of the century, recorded their memories of life in the town, stimulated by a group of old photographs.

Their reminiscences, together with the original photographs and some extra ones, have now been re-edited on a DVD by the Charlbury Museum. They give a unique view of life in our town in the first half of the last century.



The DVDs can be bought for £7.50 from the Charlbury Museum on the two late shopping days, December 3rd and 17th, and at other times from the Curator, Ron Prew (Tel: 810060). They can also be bought from Cotswold Frames and Evenlode Books at £7.50 (including VAT).

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

THE CHARLBURY SOCIETY

The Society's programme of talks continues;

Friday 11th December

"CHARLBURIANS TALKING"

Following the success of last year's similar event, come along and listen to some of Charlbury's older residents in conversation, reminiscing about life in our town.

Hear their recollections of people, events, lost shops, glad times, sad times and much more. Followed by pre-Christmas drinks, light refreshments and good conversation.

Friday 8th January

LIZ WOOLLEY: "CHILD LABOUR IN C18TH OXFORDSHIRE"

Schooling and work conditions have changed enormously throughout the last 250 years. Liz Woolley will tell us some surprising stories about life for young people throughout our county.

Friday 12th February

TONY GRAEME:

"A BOY FROM BURFORD SCHOOL – LUKE HOWARD AND THE NAMING OF CLOUDS"

Even if you know your Cirrus from your Nimbus, this evening you will learn much more; what do these Latin names mean and who was the person who gave these unusual names to the cloud formations we see every day. Former Met Office man and Charlbury resident, Tony Graeme will tell you all.

Visitors Welcome

Further information about the Charlbury Society from

Chairman, Brian Murray (01608 819091) or Secretary, Verity Brown (01608 811728)

Verity Brown

CHARLBURY ANGLING CLUB

Christmas Bingo on Friday December 18th at Charlbury War Memorial Hall. Eyes Down at 7.30 pm

Jane Parsons

CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB

As mentioned last time, the 2009 season proved to be a very tough one for Charlbury's three league teams. The Third XI performed best, compiling a fine late-season run of three victories in their last five games as they comfortably retained their position in Division 10 of the OCA League. In their penultimate match the Thirds racked up their highest-ever score of 327-4 as they cruised to victory against Britwell Salome. The game was notable for two outstanding batting performances from Charlbury players: 77 from Matt Smith, who reached his fifty from a mere 13 scoring shots, all of them boundaries; and a splendid maiden century from 15-year-old Tim Lowe, whose knock of 120 not out included 25 fours.

Charlbury Seconds had a topsy-turvy season. They began with two wins and briefly headed OCA Division 4. They then contrived to lose all of their matches for the next three and a half months until, with the trapdoor to Division 5 yawning open, they won a hard-fought game at Minster Lovell on the final day of the season to save themselves from relegation.

Charlbury's First XI endured a very tough campaign. Bedevilled by player unavailability, an ever-changing line-up struggled

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

for form all season and relegation to OCA Division 2 was the unfortunate outcome. Charlbury did field a very youthful side in many of the matches, and it is hoped that the experience gained by these young players will help the team to rebound next year.

Derek Collett

CHARLBURY BOWLS CLUB

The 75th Anniversary of the Club is drawing to an end. We have hosted several celebratory matches this year as well as hosting important county matches. This year Sylvia Everett has been President of the Oxfordshire Women's Bowling Association, and we have had matches to celebrate this important occasion.

Members are enjoying the indoor season, this is when we roll down the mats and play inside the Clubhouse. We have friendly matches at the club on Wednesdays throughout the winter. There are League games in the West Oxon League (in which we have two teams entered) and the occasional friendly match against local sides. There are also matches within the Club for members to join in. Indoor bowling requires a more gentle approach than the game outdoors; it is a great way to spend the winter evenings.

We are always delighted to see new faces, whatever your age come and have a try, there will be someone to show you the ropes! New members are most welcome, all ages, men, women and youngsters.

*David Homewood Secretary
01608 811321*

WEST OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE WEA

WEA apologises for the late cancellation of our Day School on 24 October. The sudden death of our tutor was a great blow all round, but we hope that some of you may be interested in the next Day School on 13 March 2010 entitled "Spin Doctoring in the Middle Ages" when our tutor Vanessa King will explore the propaganda elements in the Bayeux Tapestry and the motivation behind the 11th and 12th century Crusades. All enquiries to Dawn Colvin on 01608 810545

CHARLBURY SOCIETY WALKS

SATURDAY December 26
Charlbury Society Boxing Day walk, starts at 2pm from Spendlove Car Park. Woody Lane, Quarry Lane, Dustfield Farm, Saltway, Hundley Way - 5 miles (with a shorter option)

FRIDAY January 1
New Year's Day stroll in Cornbury Park, by kind permission of Lord Rotherwick. Starts at 2pm Spendlove Car Park for a circuit of about 3 miles

If you have an article for inclusion in this section please contact Julia Caston on 810240

GUIDED WALKS BY COTSWOLD VOLUNTARY WARDENS

Wednesday December 2 10am
Windrush Valley & Handley Plain
Start at the Maytime Inn at Asthall
3 hrs - 5 miles

Sunday January 3 10am
The Rollright Stones
Start at Manor House, Little Compton
2½ hours - 5 miles

Thursday February 11 10am
A Short Walk on a Winter Morning
Start at Ramsden near War Memorial
2.25 hours - 4.2 miles

Tuesday February 16 10am
Thor's Stone & Rochester's Tomb
Start at Spendlove Car Park, Charlbury
3½ hours - 6½ miles

Saturday February 20
Of Rogues & Revels
Start at Burford Car Park
4 hours - 5 miles

Saturday February 27 10 am
A Circuit around Chipping Norton
Start at New Street Car Park, Chipping
Norton
3 hours - 6 miles

PLEASE always remember to wear appropriate footwear - some walks may be steep and muddy in places. Dogs are not allowed, except guide dogs for the blind and hearing dogs for the deaf.

Visit

*www.cotswoldsanob.org.uk/guidedwalks
for further information.*

*Peter Woolfenden, 811296
Cotswold Voluntary Warden*



WEATHER REPORT

*John Stanley's look at
the last quarter's
weather*

Firstly, I must correct an error in the **May** figures given in the September issue. The night time temperatures ranged from 37° to 51°, not 57° to 51° as shown.

August 2009 was a disappointing month. We had no really hot weather, the maximum temperature only reaching 76° (on 8th and 18th). The lowest daytime maximum temperatures were 62° on 26th and 30th. Overall, the average worked out at 69.94° compared with the 20 year average of 71.76°. At night, minimum temperatures ranged from 47° to 62°.

Summer 2009 (June to August) was slightly below average at 70.12° - average 71.44°. This was the third consecutive year when the summer temperatures were disappointing.

Temperatures during **September 2009** remained remarkably constant throughout the month. With the exception of a 72° on 8th, every day during the month was in the range of 60° (on 17th) to 69°. The daytime average maximum was 65.13° which is slightly above that for the previous 20 years of 64.94°. At night, temperatures were in the range 43° to 60°.

October 2009 was somewhat unusual as, despite shortening hours of daylight, temperatures in the last week were slightly higher than in the first. There was a cooler period in between. The daytime maximum average was 57.65° compared with the 20 year figure of 56.68°. Temperatures ranged from 52° on 18th, 19th and 20th to 65° on 6th. At night, minimum temperatures were in the range 35° to 52°.



Have you ever thought about your older Tot learning a foreign language, but then dismissed the idea as “too much too soon”? Although the Government recommends that all 7-11 year olds should learn at least one foreign language, research has shown that the best time to start may be before the age of six when your child's neurological pathways are still busy developing at a fast pace.

There is certainly evidence supporting the benefits of young children learning a different language (basically, it boosts their brain power and helps them appreciate diversity and cultural differences), but perhaps more importantly, you may be surprised by how interested your Tot is in doing so. With our multicultural society and easier access to foreign travel, languages have become more real and intriguing for children. They are not self-conscious in experimenting with words they do not initially understand and maybe this explains the speed and ease by which they often pick up a second language. Not to mention that language learning for children these days can be fun, varied and interactive involving songs, games, rhymes and role-play. It is all about exposure to hearing and speaking the foreign language in a relaxed atmosphere, with no grammar rules in sight!

In Charlbury, we are lucky to have Christine Chadwick running such French classes at the primary school and also at the pre-school where she has been teaching six little boys aged 3-4 for the past five weeks using the La Jolie Ronde method. She explains: “..they come to the lessons with their La Jolie Ronde French

books, play with French puppets (who only speak French of course) and sing songs with actions and dancing. They can already count to ten in French, say “bonjour” and “au revoir”, tell me and each other their name and know whether “ca va”, or “ca ne va pas”! And cutest of all, when they meet in the street they are quite happy to say “Bonjour. Je m'appelle ...”. This reflects what I have seen in other schools and with other age groups where children absolutely delight in knowing another language. Class teachers often tell me that my French pupils love to stand up and sing their French songs to the others in their class!” If you would like any more information on La Jolie Ronde's French classes, please call Christine on 07808 316 860, who would be happy to discuss setting up further French classes (either on an individual or group basis subject to interest and availability). Alternatively, Eli Vergara teaches Spanish at Charlbury Pre-school on Saturday mornings, although at present only to a group of 8-10 year olds who started with her as pre-schoolers! She too uses play, drawing and singing to introduce Spanish to 3-5 year olds and would be pleased to start up classes for this age group again if four or more parents are interested. You can contact her on 01608 811128.

Finally, on a different note, and with Christmas approaching, I thought you might be interested in another service offered by one of our Mums. Jan Kadouri and her husband are the appointed photographers for Charlbury Primary School and Pre-School and they also



specialise in contemporary style family portraits. For more information, please contact Jan and Beder Kaddouri on 01608 811520 or email jankaddouri@hotmail.com

Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Looking for a stimulating and caring environment for your child to play in? Would you like to meet other local parents and carers of preschool children and babies? Then why not give us a try! The Baby and Toddler Group meets every Monday during term time from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Memorial Hall and welcomes mums-to-be, babies and pre-school children with their parents or carers. Alongside a baby play area, there are a variety of activities to choose from which change regularly. Children especially enjoy having lots of space for physical play on the slide, tunnels and ride on toys. Sessions include a craft activity, story time with juice and a biscuit, singing with musical instruments and sometimes parachute play. Providing you with a chance to relax, have a tea or coffee and enjoy some friendly conversation! (£2.50 per family).

CHARLBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Charlbury Pre-school is a thriving, voluntary-run organisation that seeks to provide education through play for children from 2 1/2 to 5 years, and is open to every family in the community. It is led by a dedicated group of play leaders and their assistants with a maximum of 24 children per session providing a high adult to child

ratio. The sessions run during school term time only, Monday to Friday - 9am to 1pm, so children will need to bring a packed lunch. Alternatively, you can choose to pick your child up at 11.30 to cover free Voucher Sessions only. Enrolment can be from as little as one morning a week to the full five day depending on your requirements. Pre-School premises can be hired either on Saturdays from 2pm or all day Sundays or in the afternoons during the week. Please contact us for further information or to arrange a visit 01608 811200.

Charlbury Preschool will be running a **Kiddy Klobber Sale on Saturday 6th February 2010** with the dual aim of helping to make Charlbury a more sustainable Community and to raise funds for much needed improvements to the pre-school playground. Please contact Daniela Jenkins (811778) or Claire Morgan (811910) if you are able to donate any clothes, shoes, toys, scooters, bikes etc for children aged 0-11 years. Many thanks and hope to see you there!

Please send all TotBits information to Carina at ccloweth@btinternet.com 01608 810870, including ideas for any topics you would like to see covered in future TotBits.

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Life at Charlbury Primary School

Autumn is an important time for pupils in year six. This is when they go on their eagerly anticipated 5-day trip to Yenworthy, an outdoor learning centre supported by Oxfordshire County Council. The centre is based in Devon and set in six acres of beech and oak woodland, within the Exmoor National Park. It is within walking distance of beautiful open moorland, ancient woods, wild rivers, rugged and dramatic cliffs and rocky shores and the children spend a week learning new skills such as building beach huts, canoeing, surfing, and orienteering. They also learn problem-solving skills, working in teams and looking after their living space – at the end of the week there is nothing they don't know about the Hoover and how to use it!

The school thanks Mr Lester, Ms Franklin and Mr Buy for their time and effort for making this trip yet again a highly enjoyable and formative experience that pupils are likely to remember for a long time to come.

Birgit den Outer, Parent Governor

Charlbury School Association are proud to be sponsoring the following event:

Peach Boy: The Adventures of Momotaro by Richard Hurford

An Oxfordshire Theatre Company production
Saturday 16th January 2010 – Charlbury Primary School, 5pm Tickets: very affordable for the whole family! (see posters for details)

When an old washerwoman goes down to the riverbank to scrub clothes, she sees a giant peach bobbing towards her! When she takes the peach home and cuts it open out pops a baby boy with superhuman powers. So starts the incredible story of Momotaro - the Peach Boy, and his struggle to find his place in a world that no longer believes in heroes. Accompanied by Dog, Pheasant and Monkey (and his mother's miraculous dumplings) they must go on a quest to save the village from dastardly demons and marvellous monsters.

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A SATURDAY IN THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE ELLIOT, ENVIRONMENTALIST

Up about 7.30 and after ten minutes of yoga, I do the previous day's washing up while listening to the Radio 4 Today programme. Washing up just once saves on hot water and I rinse out any containers before putting them in for recycling. Then I prepare fruit for breakfast – we have about 7 different fruits each day, I freeze black currants, red currants, raspberries, gooseberries and rhubarb from the allotment and in June have fresh strawberries, which are a wonderful brief treat. We also have bananas, mangoes, and oranges from our weekly fruit and veg box from Chipping Norton Organics; these are shipped to the UK by sea rather than flown. I pick as many local apples as possible and store them for use in the winter. Last year I started Charlbury Sharecroppers and it was marvellous discovering so many delicious old varieties in the area. I take my huge bowl of fruit back to bed and read for half an hour before getting up. I generally read non-fiction and have made my environmental books available on the Charlbury Waste Action website for other people to borrow (www.cwag.org.uk). Sometimes I read novels about the past such as "Grapes of Wrath" from which we can learn so much.

The first Saturday of the month is Green Waste and Tetra Pak day so I take a big builder's bag to the Spendlove to collect Tetra Paks (milk and juice cartons). I also check that the WODC vehicle has arrived to collect the green waste. I often hear bemused comments from people going to the Co-op wondering about all these people pushing around wheelbarrows & wheelie bins of garden waste. I then do my own gardening before taking my wheelbarrow down just before the lorry leaves at noon. I jump on the Tetra Paks to squash them down to make room for more during the afternoon – I take them to Dean about 4pm. While I'm doing this, my partner Colin Critch has gone to feed yellowhammers up the Ditchley Road. He and other volunteers do this as part of Louise Spicer's Bird Aid Project to help reverse the decline in seed eating farmland birds. In some winters he's seen a couple of hundred up there.

Twice a year in March and October, Colin and I organise the Waste Action Group's Bring & Take in the Memorial Hall where people bring in unwanted things and take away anything they fancy free of charge. This has grown enormously and is a wonderful way of getting things back into circulation, it avoids things being dumped as landfill at Dean and also prevents so many brand new things being purchased. Colin does Safety testing on the electrical goods that are brought in so that people can take them away, anything that fails goes to Bannor Electrical for repair and sold for charity at their shop in Chipping Norton.

I've always been concerned about the environment and having grown up on the rural edge of Wolverhampton I had the best of both worlds. When I was about 8, the local council cut down some trees near my house to make the lane wider – this really upset me. I have wonderful memories of holidays in a Welsh farmhouse without electricity where we helped milk the cows by hand and collected the eggs. In 1970 I did a degree in Agricultural Engineering at Silsoe, now part of Cranfield. My first job was investigating methods for processing pig slurry at a research centre near Aberdeen. However, pumping pig slurry around is very smelly and it then froze in the pipes, so after a few months I found myself an inside job at Aberdeen County Council's Planning Department where I worked on environmental issues. In 1980 I did an MSc in Transport Planning at Birmingham.

ham University. This introduced me to computer programming and set me off in the direction of IT. In 1987 I moved to Charlbury, commuting back to Birmingham by train for two years until getting a job at Oxford University.

Our main meal is at lunchtime and this is inspired by whatever is ready on the allotment or whatever seasonal food is in the veg box. We don't eat meat and I tend to do one pot meals with tofu or beans - over the past year I've reduced the amount of cheese we eat. We don't have a pud and either drink water or the cider I made with last year's Sharecrop-per apples. I freeze any leftovers to make another meal. In the afternoon I'll take a walk over one of the sites around Charlbury I'm involved with. I'm Reserve Warden at Blenheim Farm Nature Reserve and I'll visit the new pond to see what's changed or see what new flowers might be out; we've sown lots of local seed and also yellow rattle to reduce the competition from the grass. We've been doing formative pruning at the Centenary Woodland for several years now and it's great to see how the selected trees are growing tall and straight - this will give future generations the option for being able to use them for timber. We will also be able to use thinnings for firewood; this woodland will be a good example of sustainable management for the benefit of both the community and wildlife. At Wigwell in the summer I'll check how the rare salvia is doing. At Nine Acres I'll see how the native shrubs we've planted are doing. If Charlbury Sharecroppers are offered any new garden space then I'll visit and try to match it up with someone who wants to start growing things.

At 4pm, it's time to collect the Tetra Paks from the Spendlove and take them to Dean. I also take the batteries that Louise has collected from the boxes at the Corner House, Post Office and Primary School. We have special permission to transport waste in our car and in the two years we've been doing this we've collected about 8,000 batteries and 9,000 Tetra Paks - I think people in Charlbury are brilliant. Then I pop in for tea and a cake with my Mum, Joyce Bagley.

Having always been concerned about the natural world and the importance of habitat conservation I became involved with Blenheim Farm Nature Reserve as soon as I arrived in Charlbury. However I became more aware of the implications for the world of our throw away society and how the world's precious resources are being wasted and exploited and so I became involved with the Waste Action Group about 5 years ago. More recently I realised the further implications for climate change and the urgency to turn things around so over the past year, as vice chair of CAWAG, I have been been working more closely with Sustainable Charlbury.

Colin and I have been trying to reduce the impact of our lives on the environment. We have one car between us and have to plan and negotiate how we use it – the last bus back from Oxford at midnight is very useful. Our last flight to Australia to see my sister was in 2003 and we said goodbye to being “eclipse junkies” in 2006 after visiting our 3rd eclipse in Turkey. However, we can still travel to Europe (and beyond) by train and joined the Morris dancers in Munich this summer having had a rather enjoyable train journey with a day in Paris and then an overnight sleeper. We buy as much fresh food as possible without packaging and what with composting as much as possible, we haven't put our wheelie bin out for landfill since November 2006. We do have a small collection of items we can't recycle which we use for demonstration purposes. I like to choose clothes produced ethically from natural fibres, particularly organic cotton, and use second hand as

much as possible – the two Frock Swaps we held this year were great and I'd like to say thank you to whoever took along the denim jacket, linen skirt and suede bag which are now my favourites. This year we installed a wood burning stove and had the wooden floor insulated with sheep's wool and this has enabled us to turn the central heating thermostat down to 16 degrees. Why heat the whole house in the morning when it only takes a few minutes to get dressed? I am monitoring our carbon footprint on the web (www.thecarbonaccount.com) and keep a record of gas and electricity consumption and car usage. At the moment it is 3.7 tonnes and I have signed up to the 10:10 campaign (www.1010uk.org) to pledge to bring it down by at least a further 10% in 2010.

In the late winter afternoon I'll light the wood stove, draw the thick curtains, and play the piano. I'll also update information on the web sites often adding links to external news stories I've heard about on the radio. Then we'll have a light meal, maybe something on toast - we buy Oxford Local Bread from Wheatley near Oxford. This bread is made from over 20 different mediaeval wheat varieties salvaged from old thatched roofs and grown over 8 years to get to a commercial quantity. It is particularly nice toasted and I get a delivery once a week for myself and other people. We'll eat while watching something on TV we've recorded previously. There have been some great programmes lately about food and agriculture. I am uncomfortable being a tourist and so I am an avid virtual armchair traveller – Kevin McCloud's Grand Tour was marvellous – why spoil the world travelling around it when we have the technology to give us experiences like that?

I'll think about going to bed about 11.30, have a mug of hot organic milk, put the empty milk bottles on the doorstep and head off to bed to read for a few minutes until I start to nod off.

Christine Elliott was interviewed by Diana Potten

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Another great film season at ChOC (Charlbury's Own Cinema)

We've got some great films planned to lighten these dark winter nights... It's a great opportunity to get out one Sunday evening a month, meet up with friends, and maybe have a glass of excellent wine at Monty and Louise's wine bar. Look what's coming (and check our posters, The Leaflet or the town website: programmes are always subject to change).

Sunday 13th December: *Looking for Eric* (2009, Cert 15, 116 mins)

This Ken Loach film features soccer star Eric Cantona playing himself as the imaginary friend of a depressed postman who finds himself priced off the terraces by the soaring price of tickets. There are replays of great Cantona goals, and a wonderful score to accompany them. But this is Ken Loach at his best, and the film also has much to say about soccer's role in society, gun crime among the kids, and lots besides. Very funny, moving, disturbing, thought-provoking but very entertaining and feel-good too. Perfect for before Christmas.

Sunday 10th January: *The Boat That Rocked* (2009, Cert 15, 135 mins), directed by Richard Curtis and starring Bill Nighy and Kenneth Branagh (our very own Michael Hadley is in it too). Set on a pirate radio ship in the 1960s, it revives memories of Radio Caroline and the legendary rock music of the time. The Telegraph said: "It's a film, energetic and often funny, about newness, passion, innovation. It's a praise-song to artistic and social revolution." Come along if only for the soundtrack!

Sunday 14 February: *Bright Star* (2009, Cert PG, 108mins)

Romance and romantic love for Valentine's Day. This new film from Jane Campion was given 5 stars by the Telegraph, who said: "Director Jane Campion has a knack for portraying female characters so intimately that she seems to get beneath their skin.... An exquisite piece of film-making about the doomed romance between the poet John Keats and his neighbour Fanny Brawne." The Guardian loved it too: "Campion brings to this story an unfashionable, unapologetic reverence for romance and romantic love, and she responds to Keats's life and work with intelligence and grace ... This film looks unselfconsciously beautiful ... Poets, like musicians, need silence above all, and much of the film is played out in a deeply quiet calm."

All films start at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury. The bar is open from 6.45. Tickets are £4.50 from News & Things, Evenlode Books and Cotswold Frames or on the door. Carnets of ten tickets cost £40.00. Up to the minute information on our film schedule is available on the 'Events' and 'Community' pages of www.charlbury.info. We also publish a monthly newsletter which can be picked up from Charlbury library, or emailed directly to you if you contact Jon at jon@evenlodebooks.co.uk

We can show advertisements before our films, and are always willing to work with local businesses who may wish to advertise on the screen, or sponsor one or more of our films. Do get in touch (details below) if you would like to be associated with ChOC in this way.

If you'd like to help ChOC, contact Margaret Godel (811321) or Ed Fenton (811196). Or drop in on one of our meetings: phone for details. We'd like to hear from you.

Jon Carpenter



REPORT ON CHARLBURY CEMETERY 2009

by Louise Spicer

The severe weather last winter kept everything in check for weeks with flowers very reluctant to emerge into the ice and snow. The first brave snowdrop appeared by mid-January with the occasional primrose. Ivy on the walls provided a feast of berries for starving winter blackbirds and thrushes. By late January carpets of snowdrops covered the slopes on the south side of the cemetery. The meadow saxifrage was very reluctant to appear until mid February - a good two months later than last year. Primroses were also very late, but made up for lost time with a wonderful display in the spring although they had to compete with lengthening grass stems. A welcome addition to the floral display is a small colony of cowslips which is getting established near the south kissing-gate in the original extension

The saxifrage flowered on time in mid-May but was severely cut back either by the extreme cold during the winter or competing vegetation in the form of three-cornered leek and other perennial weeds. Only 150 flowering stems were counted in total - a massive drop from the peak numbers of 600 in 2006. The possibility of changing the management is being discussed.

By early June the display of summer flowers was at its peak. Ox-eye daisies seem to have moved to graves on the north side of the cemetery accompanied by the tiny geraniums and aquilegias.

Some areas on the south side of the cemetery were left unmown to provide a source of feeding for birds and slow worms, which live in suitable places. The large amounts of rain during the summer caused the grass to grow rapidly and was difficult to keep under control due to the frequency of cutting needed. Consequently the ox-eye daisies in the grassland were overwhelmed by vegetation. As in previous years the cemetery proved attractive to birds particularly swallows and house martins and as always our resident birds such as blackbird and robin find plenty of food in the grassland. Thank you again to the Town Council and Roger Clarke for his support and to Darren Clark for his excellent management.

Louise Spicer
1st October 2009

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CHARLBURY BRANCH

BUGLERS' 60 YEARS

Brothers Bob Porrill and Frank Sullivan have blown Last Post and Reveille on Remembrance Sunday in St. Mary's Church, Charlbury for 60 years between them. Originally from London, the family moved to Charlbury at the beginning of the Second World War and has remained ever since.

The brothers both learnt to play the bugle in the Army. Bob, aged 83, was in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry from 1945 – 1948 and served in Palestine, whilst Frank, aged 73, was in the Somerset Light Infantry in Malaya.

Bob (*left in the photograph*) became The Royal British Legion Charlbury Branch Bugler from when he left the Army until 1978 after which his brother Frank took over the role from 1979 and is still going strong. They have each been awarded a Royal British Legion Branch Certificate. A spelling mistake on Bob's Certificate thanked him for his service as 'Branch Burglar'. Joking, he says he gave all the proceeds to the Poppy Appeal!

The Charlbury Chronicle is grateful to John Harrison for letting us use this photograph



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Oxfordshire Craft Guild's Christmas Selling Exhibition returns to The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

The Oxfordshire Craft Guild will again be holding its Christmas selling exhibition in the Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock. The exhibition features many of the county's leading contemporary craft designers and makers. The range of craft in the exhibition continues to expand as new makers are admitted to the Guild, so there is something for everyone. The show, which takes place in the museum's Garden Gallery and Brewhouse, opened 21 November and runs through to Sunday, 3 January. The exhibition is a great place to buy something special to give at Christmas—something crafted by hand with a flair and design that one doesn't find in many shops. There are pieces to suit every taste and every pocket. The artists taking part in this show are amongst the best craft makers in the county.

Admission to the exhibition is free. Refreshments are available in the museum coffee shop, and the public are also able to enjoy the museum's other attractions and its lovely garden and collection of outdoor sculpture. Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday 10:00-5:00; Sundays 2:00-5:00. (Special opening after Christmas, Monday, 28 December) The museum will be closed from 24-27 December and on 1 January.

The list of who is exhibiting this year is not yet complete as we go to press, but there is always quite a bit of pottery ranging from small bowls and mugs up to larger almost sculptural pieces. There is also a wide choice of jewellery from quite inexpensive earrings to very special pieces in silver and precious stones. Several textile artists will be exhibiting, some who show scarves and clothing items, others doing pieces which are like paintings in textile, and one who makes absolutely beautiful clothes for babies. There will be at least one woodturner, a marquetry artist, a stone carver, and two people who work in glass.

CHARLBURY COMMUNITY PROJECTS - DO YOU NEED HELP?

Charlbury Community Projects invites applications from local groups and organisations for grants from the profits of the 2009 Charlbury Beer Festival.

Please download an application form from the Charlbury Beer Festival website <http://www.charlburybeerfestival.org/> and submit by 31 December 2009 to Tim Crisp, CBF Grants Secretary, Tinel House, Priory Lane, (off Park Street), Charlbury OX7 3PT.

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET 2009

Charlbury Farmers' Market will be held on the Playing Close, Charlbury, by kind permission of Thomas Gifford's Charity, between 9am and 1pm on Saturday, 12th December.

Charlbury Farmers' Market has proved successful in bringing shoppers into Charlbury, as well as being a popular local event with residents who appreciate meeting the producers with fresh local produce.

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd. The Market is organised by Nick Potter, Roger Watts and Geoff Burroughs. The contact address is: Studio One, Sheep Street, Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3RR. Tel. 01608 811559 Fax 01608 811554. Email rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

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Update

We were pleased to be able to run a stall again at this year's Charlbury Street Fair. There have been some major changes in our organisation since last year, including the adoption of our new name **Oxfordshire Advocacy** which is simpler to say and more accurately reflects our work. We have also become a company limited by guarantee which provides an essential safeguard to the trustees by limiting their financial liability to £1. Additionally we have consolidated and developed our statutory work providing advocates for people without capacity in certain circumstances (Independent Mental Capacity Advocates - IMCA) and for people who have been placed under a section under the Mental Health Act (Independent Mental Health Advocates IMHA) again in certain defined situations. However our core business is still the provision of advocacy, mainly by trained volunteers, for people who need support to have their views and choices heard and taken into account and their rights safeguarded.

We need volunteers to become advocates or to be trustees - and we need funds!

If anyone is interested please look at our website – www.oadg.org.uk or contact us by email at oadg@oadg.ork.uk or by phone 01865 741200. We would love to hear from you !

Gill Howe

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

South Central Ambulance Service are now recruiting for Community First Responders. Posters are being placed around the villages, if anyone needs more information, please ring 0800 587 0207 or email cfr@scas.nhs.uk or visit www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk

You could also ring the Finstock co-ordinator on 01993 868710 or email carol846@btinternet.com, where Carol Hughes would be happy to answer any questions you may have about becoming a Community First Responder, a rewarding and worthwhile way of serving your community.

On the 27/09/09 at approx 8.30am, Olli aged 7 from Finstock, was faced with a very frightening situation, when his mum collapsed and was unconscious due to a seizure. Olli was very brave and dialled 999 to alert the Ambulance Service. It must have been a very scary wait for the Responders and the Ambulance, but with the help of Ambulance Control, Olli kept his cool and although he couldn't open the door when they arrived, managed to open a window for the Paramedic to climb in. After a short spell in hospital, Olli's Mum is now back home, thinking about what might have been had Olli not been such a young hero, and only just 7 years old. Well done Olli from all the Responders team! South Central Ambulance have also acknowledged this brave act by awarding Olli with a certificate and a few "goodies", his picture in the papers and on TV, for all his friends to see.

*Carol Hughes, Coordinator
Community First Responders*

Letter to the Editor

Business Focus is Moving

I am sorry that I have to inform you that I shall be closing my office in Charlbury on 30th November 2009 after 16 years.

The reasons for this are two fold; firstly I have had a large expense with my main copier having been out of action for the last two weeks; secondly, the majority of my work now comes in via the internet and therefore I do not require an office.

I shall be continuing my business from Lancut House, Lyneham Road, Milton-u-Wychwood OX7 6LW. I will be operating a **collect and deliver** (minimum charges apply) service for all customers and especially those in Charlbury who do not wish to use the internet or who want to discuss their needs face to face.

From the 1st December 2009 I can be contacted on 0784 328 7091 or by fax 01993 830948 or email roger@bfocus.co.uk.

I would like to thank everyone for their friendship and custom over the past years. I will miss my regular contact with my many and varied customers, and our various attempts at putting the world to rights!

Yours sincerely,
Roger Watts

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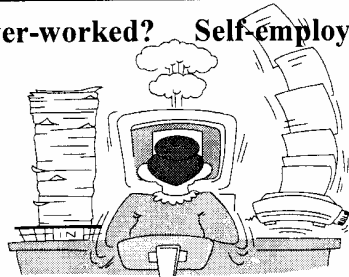
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Email: rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

GTLS CHARITY SUCCESS

If you were around in Charlbury on the evening of Saturday 3rd October, you may have noticed a surprising amount of superheroes, nursery rhyme characters, film stars and, if you were especially lucky, you will also caught a glimpse of tabloid favourite, Amy Winehouse.

The reason for the intrusion of all these characters was the first annual Good Times Lovin and Sweetness Fancy Dress Party. The event had been organised by the GTLS Macmillan Fundraising Group and was a huge success.

Held at the Bell Hotel, the event was attended by approximately seventy people all of whom had made a huge effort in trying to impress the judges with a range of costumes including a human fishing fly, Little Red Riding Hood with accompanying Wolf and, Captain America. All in attendance were entertained by band Man Make Fire, and True Discos, the combination of which kept the dance floor moving all evening.

The awards for 1st place was taken by Nathan Oliver for his Joker costume. Chris Jeffs took the second place award with a rather striking Amy Winehouse outfit and, Andy Pickard took the 3rd place award for his Goblin costume.

The event raised around £700 for Macmillan Cancer Group and this could not have possible without the support of local businesses and individuals. The GTLS Macmillan Fundraising Group would like to thank the Bell Hotel, truediscos.co.uk, Man Make Fire, David Clifford and Andy Pickard, all of whom donated their time and services to make the event a real success.

The GTLS Macmillan Fundraising Group is hoping to hold a winter BBQ at the

beginning of 2010 with entertainment for young and old to clear out any winter blues which so often set in after the Christmas holidays. Advertising regarding the event will hopefully be out by December so pleased keep your eyes peeled. Until we see you again, Good Times Lovin and Sweetness to you all.

Josh Crockford

Estimated yearly savings from energy saving improvements	£s
Loft insulation when none	150
Cavity wall insulation	115
Thermostat turned down 1°C *	55
Loft insulation top up to 270mm	45
A/A+ fridge freezer	36
Hot water tank jacket	35
Appliances taken off standby	33
Tumble drying stopped in summer	15
A/A+ dishwasher	12
Clothes washed at 30°C	10
Energy saving bulb	2.5
Source: Energy Saving Trust, October 2009 * Older persons should keep their sitting room at 21°C	

Church Services

Baptist Chapel, Dyer's Hill



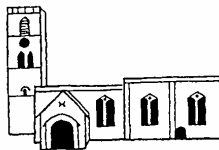
Sunday December 20: 10.30 am Service; 4pm Baptists join Methodists for tea and carols

Christmas Day: Service at 10am (note time change)

Sunday December 27th: Service at 10.30am

Church Secretary: Pippa Nash (811797)

St Mary's C of E Church



Full details of all services in Church porch
or see *The Leaflet*

The Rev'd Judy French, The Vicarage, Church Lane,
tel: 810286

www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

Friends' Meeting House, Market Street



Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House
at 11am on Christmas Day

For further details contact Angela Kyte (01993 880368)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



Sunday December 20th: No morning Service; Carol Service
at 6pm. Everyone welcome.

Christmas Day: United service with Baptists at Baptist
Church (see above)

Sunday December 27th: No morning Service

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



Sunday December 13: Carols at St Teresa's at 3.30pm
Thursday December 24: Mass at St Teresa's 8pm (*in place of Midnight Mass*)
Friday December 25th: Mass at 11am St Teresa's & 9am at St Kenelm's,
Enstone

Rev Canon David Evans Ph.L, 5 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR
tel: 810576 or see www.communicate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY have several shared activities, including the Bible Study Fellowship.

For further information contact Rosalind Scott - rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk or ring 810562

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

**Thank you, Thank you,
Thank you!**

By the time you read this Operation Christmas Child will be well and truly wrapped up and your Christmas shoeboxes will be stacked up in lorries and on their way to destinations across Eastern Europe and parts of Africa.

Thank you to all those of you who had the time and energy to fill a box with Christmas gifts. Thank you too to all those busy people who gave money or contributed items for others to fill yet more boxes. Some of you have been working overtime with your knitting needles to produce many hats (60 in one case), scarves and blankets and jumpers. These bulkier items are distributed alongside the shoeboxes to those in most need.

If you missed the deadline this year, it's not too late to give a donation. If you have spare wool to donate, we can pass it on to the knitters. Pieces of fabric can be made into quilts, pencil cases and shoebags etc ready for next year.

Your generosity will bring much joy to needy children who have so little.

Joan Belshaw (810130)

Charlbury Shoebox Co-ordinator.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY

In Lent 2010 Churches Together in Charlbury are arranging a series of illustrated talks on the general theme of 'Art and Faith', to be held on Thursday evenings in St Mary's Church.

We are in negotiation with some well known visitors and some local speakers, each of whom will be exploring a different aspect of art and its connections with Christian faith. The first talk will be on 25 February and the last on 25 March. More details will be published in the Leaflet and other places in January, with information about how you can take part.

Churches Together are also joining with Sustainable Charlbury and other organisations to take part in 'The Wave' in London on Saturday 5 December. This is a day of peaceful action on climate change, starting with a service at Central Hall Westminster at 11 am, a march from Grosvenor Square to the Thames from 1 pm, with the aim of encircling the Houses of Parliament at 3 pm. A party will be going from Charlbury. More information from www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave.

*Rosalind Scott, Secretary
Churches Together in Charlbury*

The Coffee Morning for Macmillan Nurses

on FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH
at Brice House, Thames Street
organised by
Liz & Bob Tait
raised **£954**

Many thanks to all who supported
this good cause

TRAIN UPDATE

An extra train service is due to commence on Monday 14th December. This will leave Charlbury at 0952 (Mondays to Fridays) and call at Oxford (arriving 1005). It will then form the existing 1007 stopping service to London Paddington. If it has run on time, there will be a connection into a fast train to London at Didcot Parkway (arr. 1024, dep 1029) with an arrival at Paddington at 1114. The following departure from Charlbury is at 1008 and runs through to London Paddington arriving at 1129. Both trains will be formed by 3-car Turbo stock.

Many people have expressed concern about the reappearance of Turbo trains on the Cotswold Line. First Great Western originally intended that all services, except those which call at the Oxfordshire Halts, should be formed by stock capable of 125mph running between London and Didcot and we originally had a mixture of High Speed Trains (HSTs) on the peak services and 5-car Adelantes on the remainder. Then, First Great Western decided to obtain a few extra HSTs and let its 14 Adelantes go to other operators. As a result of this, it was found to be uneconomic to operate 450 seat HSTs on the Cotswold Line on services to which 250 seat Adelantes were more suited. The solution was to reinstate the Turbo units which have a similar seating capacity, but are much less comfortable, on many off peak services. Unfortunately, it appears that this situation will prevail for a few years, yet.

*John Stanley
Cotswold Line Promotion Group*

2 Degrees, Runaway Climate Change and how to stay positive...

'Runaway climate change' describes the alarming possibility that a relatively small warming of the earth might upset the normal checks and balances that keep the climate in equilibrium. As the atmosphere heats up, more greenhouse gases are released from the soil and seas, which leads to further heating. Plants and trees that take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere start to die back, creating a vicious circle as the climate gets hotter and hotter.

The "tipping point" is the global temperature rise that will trigger runaway climate change. The tipping point in most scientists' view is a 2°C rise above pre-industrial levels. Beyond that, as unwelcome changes in the earth's reaction to extra warmth continue, the earth's atmosphere will become so different that most of life would be threatened.

Doomsday scenarios aren't always the best things to motivate us to act. Instead we feel powerless, helpless or simply deny that there's a problem. On the other hand we are in a unique position, for we can act to make a huge difference to our and our children's future in a way that future generations may not be able to. Over the next decade we can make the necessary changes to our lives, and we can put pressure on our governments to take the decisions that are needed; and thereby maintain control of our climate.

The Copenhagen conference from 6 to 18 December will agree a global climate treaty. It's the only opportunity to get binding commitments from both rich and poor nations to reduce concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

If you want to make your voice heard join us in London on 5th December for The Wave, Britain's biggest ever demonstration calling for action on climate change. We will be leaving Charlbury on the 10.08 train – let us know if you want to join us and we can organise discounted travel. Email: info@sustainablecharlbury.org

Kath Cochrane

Report from County Councillor Neil Owen

The Home Zone at Sturt Close has been visited by Oxfordshire County Council with a view to replacing the trees that died after the initial planting five years ago. A Home Zone is a Dutch idea, funded by European money and administered by Oxfordshire County Council. It was designed to improve and enhance the area with the aim of raising social awareness and pride. There are two Home Zones in Oxfordshire – one in Charlbury and one in Abingdon and I am pleased that OCC have been alerted to their responsibility in Charlbury.

The Community Service people came to Charlbury on the Sunday after the marvelous Street Fair and did a good job picking up litter and weeding, especially round the monument outside the Co-Op. And talking of the Co-op they, to their credit, responded to the wishes of Charlbury residents and scalded down the new Co-Op signs. So all in all, continuing progress on local matters.

County-wide issues include the controversial proposal for two massive incinerators in the open countryside at Ardley and Sutton Courtney. Also, at the present time, the budget-making process is rearing its ugly head!

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone the very best for Christmas and look forward to working for you in the future.

Councillor Neil Owen,
Robinswood, Frog Lane, M-u-W OX7 6JZ.
01993 8308751
anita.owen@tiscali.co.uk

Green Waste Collections

First Saturday every month
 10am-12noon
 Spendlove Car Park

Bring Tetra Paks along too
 for separate collection

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group



3rd January
 7th February
 7th March
 4th April
 2nd May
 6th June
 4th July
 1st August
 5th September
 3rd October
 7th November
 5th December

www.cwag.org.uk



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT No. 53

By Councillor Nicolette Lethbridge

The Council would like to congratulate the Street Fair Committee on another very successful year when not only did it give a large number of people a very enjoyable time but it raised over £15,000 for the Corner House and the War Memorial Hall. Well Done! Councillor Helen Bessemer-Clark judged the Street Fair floats and parade on behalf of the Council. All three were excellent so it was a difficult job.

The Council has spent a lot of time recently considering the appearance of the town. The weeds on the pavements and edges of the roads are now so bad that removing them will in many cases cause damage to the kerb stones and the Council continues to press the District and County Councils to effectively address this issue. The matter is made worse by their grass cutters not removing the grass clippings and these together with the leaves collecting in the gulleys provide excellent compost for the weeds to grow. The litter problem is the responsibility of those who drop it, but the Council is considering having more Litter Clearing Days like the one organised so successfully by Councillor Gareth Miller earlier this year, and also using offenders doing Community Service.

The new extension to the Cemetery is the responsibility of the Town Council and it is arranging for it to be landscaped and for the grass to be cut more often. The Public Meeting to discuss the County Council's proposal to turn off street lights for a longer period each night was attended by 55 people including Councillors, and the Town Council will consider the points raised at that meeting and in letters to the Council when putting forward its views to the County Council.

Sergeant Mark Smith from The Thames Valley Police attended the Council meeting on 21st September and Councillors again expressed their concerns about the lack of police presence in the town to counteract vandalism. The police are short staffed and consider that crime in Charlbury is not a serious problem so the Council would urge everyone to report all incidents to the police (telephone 0845 8505505) AND to get a case number so that their complaint is registered.

Although the deadline for getting your name on the list for affordable housing has now passed, anyone who missed it is invited to contact Tom McCulloch at the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council on 01865 883 488 to register their interest without delay.

Councillor Willem Hackmann has been re-elected as a Councillor Trustee to Thomas Gifford's Charity, the other two being Councillors Ian Cox and Liz Reason. Councillor Willem Hackmann is also taking over as the Council's Representative to the Charlbury Primary School Governing Body replacing Mrs Amanda Epps whom the Council have thanked for all her hard work and enthusiasm.

Councillor Nicolette Lethbridge had the honour of laying the Council's wreath at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday.

The Permissive Footpaths on Wigwell Nature Reserve and Nine Acres Recreation Ground will be closed on 6th January 2010. This is a legal requirement. Residents with gates opening on to Oxpens Allotments and Nine Acres Recreation Ground are reminded that this does not create a Right of Way.

Readers are reminded that the Town Clerk, Roger Clarke, can be contacted at charlburytc@btintemet.com or by telephoning him on 01608 810608 during normal office hours.

Finally, the Council would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Report from District Councillor Glena Chadwick **tel 810555 *chadwick@glena.plus.com***

The last month or so seems to have gone as the Scots would say 'like a cried fair', in other words a blur ! It's the time when all the committees really get going again after the summer and so many people seem to have their AGM's.

For the last two years I've been the WODC representative on the Oxfordshire Museums' Council. This is a very interesting body which includes all the large and grand museums, like the Ashmolean and the Pitt Rivers but also small, independent ones like our own. Each meeting is hosted by a different museum and gives one to the chance to see any that one hasn't visited. Last week we went to Pendon Museum in Long Wittenham, which has a fascinating collection of railway models and a huge model of the Vale of the White Horse. It is good to see other small Oxfordshire museums of which our's in Charlbury is such a great example.

There is some disquiet about how the new waste contract, to come in next year, will actually work in practice. People have expressed certain worries to me and I am trying to get WODC to give me some answers. I would like them to provide recyclable plastic bags for kitchen caddies so that yukky food waste (which is not going on one's own compost heap) can be put into the food container

Continued over the page

without causing so much mess. Another question was 'what about houses with no side entries' ? I have been assured that they will be supplied with receptacles that are not wheeled.

Recently I attended the ceremonies at the opening of Marriot's Close. It seems to have been done sympathetically and will greatly improve shopping and entertainment in Witney and the whole surrounding area. Of course, it raises the question of Witney traffic problems getting even worse. Those of us who only go into Witney at off-peak hours can perhaps feel a little detached about these issues but they are very real for many people. It would be interesting to know how far this affects Charlbury residents and if they have views on the Cogges Link/Shores Green controversy.

Report from District Counsellor Mike Breakell

01993 868201 *michael.breakell@westoxon.gov.uk* or *mjbreakell@aol.com*

The best news in the District , at least in a recession, must be the opening of Marriotts Walk in Witney on schedule on October 30th by David Cameron. As he remarked at the opening ceremony, it is a great achievement to see a thriving market town with yet another quality town centre development. Remember 20 years ago the Woolgate was an award winning design and it still works well today with an attractive pedestrian thoroughfare and a car park amid the trees. And now we have a Debenhams and a Marks & Spencer, as well as a multi-screen cinema and attractive restaurants, too. Let us hope the shoppers will continue to come and spend. Remember though that the carefully designed and free multi-storey car park does have a three hour limit, and traffic flows can be difficult, so the hourly bus service from Charlbury, which is free for the over sixties, is a great advantage. More youngsters are also discovering the Friday and Saturday evening bus services to and from Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Witney, and Oxford. Mind you, shopping locally in Charlbury can be advantageous too, and the District will always endeavour to maintain its rural services.

This is envisioned in the Local Development Framework that is now under discussion, This sees Witney growing by 3000 homes, Carterton by 1500, and Chipping Norton by 800 over the coming years. There will be some growth in Charlbury and in the bigger villages too, but on a much smaller scale and after more local consultation and community involvement. The aim is to secure up to 40% of housing as affordable and provide more housing for elderly people in the District. More school provision will almost certainly be needed too. And then there is the question of how to provide more jobs and at the same time protect the historic and scenic environment of this wonderful area at a time of climatic change when we all have to be concerned to create a more sustainable Charlbury. However most of these decisions are far off, and there is an election on the horizon which could also bring about some changes too.

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

Arts Week - Di Gold (810256)

Baptist Chapel - Pippa Nash (811797)

pamash_home@yahoo.co.uk

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Deirdre Kincaid 01993 810918

Charlbury Arts Society (CAS) (810116)

Charlbury Beer Festival - Rob Stepney (810180)

walcot2@freenetname.co.uk

www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Charlbury Bowls Club - David Homewood -

811321 david.homewood5@btinternet.com

Charlbury Business Community - Joan

Belshaw (810130) hughandjoan@uwclub.net

819117 - chamber@charlbury.info

Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (810130)

hughandjoan@uwclub.net

Charlbury Chess Club - Bob Douglas (811083)

Charlbury Chronicle - Lynette Murphy (810549)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Community Centre Appeal

Lynette Murphy (810549)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Cricket Club - Glen (810971)

karen@mccallum10@wanadoo.co.uk

www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

Charlbury Day Centre - Roger Farrow (819108)

Charlbury Evergreen Club - K Taylor (811441)

Charlbury Fairtraders - Cara Williams (811284)

michaelcara1965@yahoo.co.uk

Charlbury and District Garden Society

Nick Johnson (810507)

Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (811007)

peter@charlburymorris.org -

www.charlburymorris.org

Charlbury Museum - Ron Prew (810060)

Charlbury Open Gardens - Vic Allison

vic.allison@btinternet.com

Charlbury Pre-School Jan Stubberfield (811200)

Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter (810388)

Charlbury School - Jane Holt, Head (810354)

office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

www.charlbury.oxon/digitalbrain.com

Charlbury School Association - Karen Potts

info@csaauktionofpromises.com

www.csaauktionofpromises.com

Charlbury Scouts & Guides - Fiona Snell

(810565) fiona@snellfamily.me.uk

Charlbury Society - Brian Murray (819091)

Charlbury Street Fair - Susie Finch (810861)

susanna_finch@hotmail.com

Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Curthoys (810488)

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - Helen

Turner 810330 - artists@harrisonturner.co.uk

CHOC Cinema - Hilda Reed (810423)

choc@charlbury.info

Churches Together - Rosalind Scott,

(810562) rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk

The Bell Hotel (810278)

Cornbury Music Festival - Hugh Phillimore

(0207 229 2219) mail@cornburyfestival.com

www.cornburyfestival.com

Cotswolds Guided Walks

Peter Woolfenden (811296)

Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps)

Ann/David Morton - (676302)

Friends Meeting House: Angela Kyte (01993 880368)

Holiday Club - Sue Holiday (810694)

Little Fishes Under 5's Group - Kate (811579)

Macmillan Cancer Care - Liz & Bob Tait (810150)

Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health Support)

01608 645296

Methodist Chapel - Gil Grason (810154)

The Probus Club of Charlbury Michael Marsh

(810029) mike@mikemarshmd.plus.com

Riverside Festival - Andy Pickard (810635)

admin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com

www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com

Shed Theatre - Teresa Laughton (811000)

St Marys C of E Church Rev Judy French (810286)

St Theresa RC Church

Very Rev Canon David Evans (810576)

Street Stage (touring youth fusion company)

Anneke Hay (811269)

Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (811640)

Thomas Gifford's Charity - Trevor Jones (810644)

trevor.jones@ophiopogon.com

WEA West Oxfordshire (Arts) - Dawn Colvin - (810545)

www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst

Wychwayz Border Morris - Judi Parker (810517)



CHARLBURY'S POLICE OFFICER

**Our Police Community
Support Officer
is C9837 Wesley Smith**
who works out
of the Charlbury Police Office
at the
Spendlove Centre.

This office is open for
general enquiries, lost property and
the production of documents etc,
Mondays 12 noon - 3pm
and Fridays 9am - 12 noon.

To contact your PCSO
call 0845 8 505 505

If anyone is interested in helping to run
the Spendlove Centre Police Office
please get in touch with Rosie White,
Volunteers Coordinator, Thames Valley
Police, 01993 814065 or email her
rosie.white@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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wishing to receive *The Charlbury
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