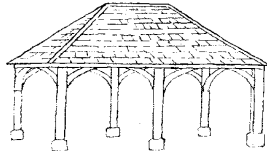


The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 17 Number 1

March 2013

There was great interest in the inspiring interview in the last issue of the *Chronicle* about Dr Mick Donegan and his work to help the disabled to have a better quality of life through computer technology. We felt it appropriate to make a small donation to SpecialEffects to support such valuable work and Mick was very touched to receive it.

Two good bits of news have just made it into this edition - firstly that the County Council has confirmed that it will make a contribution of £340,000 towards the costs of building the Charlbury Community Centre; and secondly that Chipping Norton Town Council seems to have made proposals about the Greystones project which will help to ensure its future.

Those of our readers who completed the CCCA Quiz which came out before Christmas can see the list of winners on page 39.

Readers may notice that this edition is larger than usual. There seemed to be an influx of articles and some of them are very interesting and/or unusual! Read on ...!

We are delighted that Charlbury resident Caroline Shenton has written a piece for us

about her recently published and highly acclaimed (it is in the running for various prestigious awards) book entitled *The Day Parliament Burned Down*. The author, an archivist of note, has written about how this work came about and it provides fascinating reading. **See page 9 for the very latest news about the awards**

Among other things we have some interesting and thought-provoking ideas on global warming, some reminiscences from an Old Wychwoodian - oh! and a letter about Davey The Cat. And lots more. Have a good read.

Lynette Murphy

If you are a dog walker, please be sure to read the notice on p. 10 from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Action Group

Please make a note that the deadline for copy for the June Chronicle is May 1st

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GOOD NEWS FROM THE THOMAS GIFFORD TRUST

2013 has begun well! **We are very pleased to report that the County Council has confirmed its funding of £340,000 towards the Community Centre.** The Gifford Trust and OCC will now enter into a funding arrangement to formalise this support. This means that sufficient funding, including the monies raised by the Community Centre Appeal and the cross subsidy from building adjoining flats, is now in place to fund the construction of the new hall, community space and library, albeit to a fairly basic fitting-out level. Any more funds that can be raised before the project starts on site will improve the quality of the facilities available, so further fundraising ideas will be gratefully received!

We are currently updating our project programme and business plan. These will be available in March on our website and in the Corner House. The consultant team roles are being finalised and our budget to progress the design up to planning application is being put together. It is hoped to submit the planning application in early autumn this year. By the time this issue of the Chronicle has been published and circulated, we will have had meetings with the Town Council and Chairs of the other Trusts and Management Groups of community spaces, and the date of our next public meeting will have been set, hopefully in March or early April. There will also have been further consultation with Jillian Southwell, Oxfordshire's Library Services Manager, and the Friends of Charlbury Library. Look out for details of the public meeting on the Charlbury website and on notice boards around Charlbury. As we move into this next phase of the Community Centre development, it is really good to be able to report that Kate Smith and Margie Glasgow have joined us as Trustees, bringing us back to full Trustee representation.

At our Annual Public meeting last December, we announced our intention to sell the land-locked piece of agricultural ground known as Church Slade, beyond Watery Lane. The sale is proceeding with the adjacent landowner and the funds generated will be used to contribute to the cost of progressing the development proposals for the Community Centre. The Charity Commission is aware of this decision and of our overall development proposals.

The Trust looks forward to the full support of the people of Charlbury and future users of the Community Centre now that we have reached this pivotal and exciting point in the realisation of our plans. We will continue to engage with the management committees of the other community facilities in Charlbury to ensure coordination and integration, and we will keep everyone up to date with the ongoing developments.

A very big thank you to everyone who has given support so far, in particular to the members of the Fundraising Committee who have been indefatigable in their hard work!

Ian Cox, Chair of the Thomas Gifford Trust

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

The Poppy Appeal for 2012 raised £5,071.17p in Charlbury and the surrounding area (Finstock, Fawler, Chilson, Shorthampton and Cornbury with Wychwood). We would like to thank all those who helped to raise this sum, both donors and collectors, and particularly those who gave so generously.

If you would like to help with the 2013 Poppy Appeal in any way please contact the Poppy Appeal Organiser, Mick Charlesworth, on 01993 869283 (Finstock).

The Charlbury British Legion Darts Cup for the Open Pairs was held at Ye Olde Three Horseshoes and won by Bryan Mitchell and Pete Scarrott, runners up were Ian Cox and Len Pratley.

The Annual Band Concert: The Band Concert was given by the Accidentals, another wonderful evening - make a note in your diary now for Charlbury's "gig of the year" on 8 November 2013. During the evening the following awards were announced:-

Royal British Legion Gold Badge to Major R.N.Potter; **Branch Certificates** to The Olde Three Horseshoes, Mrs Leah Fowler, Mrs Pam Rolls, Pipe Major Steve Duffy and Lady Gillian Clarke; **Poppy Appeal Collector awards** to Derek Fowler and Leah Fowler for 20 years; Lady Sue Grant, Mrs Pam Rolls, Mrs Ann Firkins, Mr Vic Merry and Charlbury Post Office for 10 years; Janet Barnett, Judy Kinchella, Sarah Darnell and Janet Fitzmaurice for 5 years.

Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday for the Charlbury Branch by Mr Charles Hurst, Thames Valley Police PCSO Wesley Smith, and for Charlbury Town Council by Cllr.Kathy Broughton. The Kohima Epitaph was read by Mr Vic Merry. The wreaths remain at the Memorial until Candlemas when they are removed and the Branch wreath is relocated to the War Memorial Hall.

Branch Website www.Charlbury.rbl.org.uk has full details of the Branch.

Branch Coffee Mornings will be held on Saturday 2 March and Saturday 20 July in the Corner House. For information please telephone 810822.

In Memory of Simon Hall: On 13 October 2012 a Memorial Tree and Plaque were planted and placed at the National Memorial Arboretum by 5 Regiment Royal Artillery in memory of Simon.

Assistance

For further information about the work of the Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter (Branch President) on 810388 or Derek Fowler (Branch Chairman) on 811706.

Charlbury Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels prepares and delivers mid-day meals to residents of Charlbury, Chadlington, and Stonesfield on Tuesdays. **Meals cost £2 delivered**

Volunteers are needed

Please phone Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 810 161 or Jan Griffiths on 01608 810 440 if you can help once each month. We are also accepting names for new recipients for our waiting list. Please phone Marjorie.

The Charlbury Beer Festival: Sweet Sixteen

This summer the Charlbury Beer Festival celebrates its sixteenth birthday, which means that it'll officially be able to ride a moped, leave school and get married. For those of us who have watched it grow, from its first tentative steps to become the pillar of the community that it is today, this will be a big moment: and to mark it, here are some of our best memories from the past decade and a half ...

'On the annual expedition to collect cider for the festival, Steve Vaux and I were awestruck by the stunning beauty of the landscape whilst crossing the bridge over the River Wye at Brockweir. It was a welcome moment of calm as we trundled through Gloucestershire and Herefordshire on a glorious summer's day in July 2011.'

'It's that moment in the middle of the afternoon when the first barrel runs out – Rob Hobill spraypaints a red "X" on the paper banner above it – and you realise that this year's festival is going to be another resounding success.'

'My father-in-law used to say "I don't know what you see in Charlbury – it's a one-horse town." But he spent his first visit to the Beer Festival with a big grin on his face, saying "This could never happen round our way" (the Medway Towns) – and every year since then he has helped out behind the bar.'

'Winding down ... The main crowd have gone away happy, and you finally have time to talk to the people who are staying on. "Where've you come from today? That's a trek! What did you think? I'm glad you had a good time!"'

'Jan and I were on holiday on India – witnessing the despair of children living on the streets in Delhi – when our guide described an orphanage, Karm Marg, that assisted them to learn a trade and life skills as well as providing immediate health, education and opportunities as part of a community. We wanted to do something, and suggested this as the first overseas project for the Beer Festival funds. This was agreed by the team, and so the building of the solar water-heating system to provide hot water for showers and the kitchen was realised. Tom Lindley visited the project in 2012 to see what you, through having a great day out at the Beer Festival, had helped to achieve.'

'My most rewarding moment came when Mick Donegan of SpecialEffect made a presentation about the impact that providing specially configured ipads would have on disabled children in Zimbabwe. He showed us a picture of a young Zimbabwean girl with cerebral palsy, unable to communicate her ideas and wishes, and demonstrated how working with special apps would allow her to express herself. We followed up with a commitment to send five SpecialEffect-configured ipads to a disabled children's charity there.'

The Sixteenth Annual Charlbury Beer Festival will take place on Saturday 29 June 2013 at Charlbury Cricket Club (just over the road from the station). Apart from the fifty or so real ales on offer, there will be a range of ciders and wines, good food, children's entertainment, the World Aunt Sally Open Singles Championship, live music throughout the day, and beautiful weather. All proceeds go to good causes (mainly in the local community), and we look forward to seeing you there. See <http://charlburybeerfestival.org> for further details about the festival and where the money goes.

Edward Fenton

CHARLBURY MUSEUM REOPENS AT EASTER

Charlbury Museum will reopen for the new season on Easter Saturday, March 30th. It will open as usual until the end of September, on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons, plus Bank Holiday afternoons and Wednesday mornings in August.

This year's special exhibition is devoted to the work of the well-known Charlbury stonemason, lay preacher and local historian John Kibble (1865 - 1951), who also built the fountain on the Playing Close. It will include examples of his carving, a collection of his masonry tools which has recently been donated to the Museum, and original copies of his books, such as *Charming Charlbury*. The Museum has been greatly helped in setting up this exhibition by Tony Cooper of Finstock, who has made a special study of Kibble's life and work.

The Museum could not operate without its corps of volunteer stewards, to whom we are very grateful. There will be an evening reception for the stewards on March 22nd in the Museum from 6 p.m., and later in the Morris Room, when there will be short talks by Tony Cooper and a local stonemason, Eddy Abbey, who will explain how the masonry tools were used.

If you would be interested in becoming a steward, please ring Janet Jeffs on 01608 810709, or come along on March 22nd.

Charles Tyzack

Plant Sale June 1st

A plant sale in support of the Charlbury Museum will be held at 10am in the Museum Garden. This is an advance notice to all gardeners to raise plants for the sale.

Vegetable seedlings, bedding plants, shrubs and perennials are all welcome. It is not too early to plan ahead!

Ann Betts

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Report on the Burns Night Supper on Jan 25

Scots (and others) all over the world celebrate Burns Night, and this year Charlbury also took part. On 25th January, the birthday of Burns, eighty people gathered together in the Memorial Hall to celebrate. There was food, a bar and entertainment - what more could you ask! The evening was hosted by the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal Committee and Master of Ceremonies was Ian Cox. Ian, in his first guise, Rabbi Burns, started the evening off by telling the story of Burns from his birth in 1759 in Alloway in Ayrshire to his death in 1796 in Dumfries. Once everyone was seated the haggis was piped in by Philip Powell from Oxford and carried by John Dora, who then made a wonderful address. The address was in Auld Scots, but a translation was given for those who may have had difficulty in understanding what was said.

When the meal was finished tables were pushed to the sides and the dancing began. The caller, Peter Bridgeman, said at the end of the evening that he had never had such a good response from people wishing to dance. Everyone got up on the floor, and at times it was a little crowded, but this did not stop the fun and laughter, and a good time was had by all.

The aim of the evening was to raise money for the Community Centre Appeal and the response far exceeded our expectations. Grateful thanks must go to all those who worked so hard on the evening - we could not have done it without them. We raised over £1,000 towards the Appeal. (It is hoped that there will be another Burns Supper next year. Tickets will be limited, so if you see posters up at the end of the year advertising the event please get your tickets as it may sell out quickly, judging by the response we received this year!)

Jessie Horn

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

NEXT EVENT FOR THE APPEAL

**On St Patrick's Eve (March 16th) we are having another of our successful
and very enjoyable
Screen Test Quizzes (this time with an Irish twist!)**

Watch out for details

We're back! **CHARLBURY DEBATING SOCIETY**

All good art should serve a social purpose"

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THE DAY PARLIAMENT BURNED DOWN

Author and Charlbury resident Caroline Shenton tells the story behind her recently published and highly-acclaimed book



In the early evening of 16 October 1834, to the horror of bystanders, a huge ball of flame exploded through the roof of the House of Lords, creating a blaze so enormous that it could be seen by the King and Queen at Windsor, and from stagecoaches on top of the South Downs. In front of hundreds of thousands of witnesses the great conflagration destroyed Parliament's glorious old buildings and their contents. No one who witnessed the disaster would ever forget it. The fire of 1834 was incredibly shocking at the time - yet today this national catastrophe is a largely forgotten disaster, not least because Barry and Pugin's monumental new Palace of Westminster has obliterated all memory of its ancient predecessor.





When I began work at the Parliamentary Archives in 1999, I found myself constantly having to tell readers in the searchroom that certain records were lost in the fire. I became increasingly curious about it. But I couldn't find out very much – mention of the disaster was usually confined to a paragraph or two in books about the great neo-gothic building which now rises up beside the Thames and is famous the world over. Then I became frustrated. Surely it must have had a massive impact on contemporaries? What did people think at the time? What was the old Palace like? Why did the fire spread so quickly? What was lost and what was saved? Who was killed? And why had no-one written in detail about it? I found the report of the official inquiry on the cause of the fire. Then I looked at some newspaper accounts. One thing led to another, and eventually some nine years later I found I had gradually gathered enough material together – testament to a growing obsession - to write that book myself. It took me another two years to complete it in my spare time. I found an agent. He found me a publisher. And last summer *The Day Parliament Burned Down* finally hit the shelves, followed by some super reviews and shortlisting in the Political Book Awards (see below) and for the Longman/History Today prize.

The Day Parliament Burned Down describes the course of the fire, and the spectacular buildings and collections which were lost. Dickens, Turner, Carlyle and many other famous figures were there, including the celebrity fire-dog, Chance. The book covers details of the slums of Westminster and the frenzied expansion of the West End; the plight of the London Irish; child labour, sinecures and corruption in high places; fire-fighting techniques and floating engines; the Great Reform Act and the new Poor Law; Captain Swing and arson at York Minster; the parlous state of public buildings in the Georgian period; and above all the symbolism which many contemporaries saw in the spectacular fall of a national icon. I'm delighted that people are having as much fun reading it as I had writing it.

The Day Parliament Burned Down (ISBN 978-0-19-964670-8), published by OUP, is available from Jon Carpenter at Evenlode Books and all good bookshops, and Kindle.

As the Chronicle goes to the printer it has just been announced that this book has been named **Political Book of the Year** - 'microhistory at its best' said a judge

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Calling all dog-lovers and walkers to help

reduce the amount of dog mess spreading (literally!) in Charlbury. Dog fouling is on the increase in our town. It is probably down to a handful of careless dog walkers, but it makes life unpleasant for all. Charlbury is a very dog-friendly town, and will remain so as long as dog walkers (and that includes myself) adhere to **three basic rules**:

- 1. No dogs on the Playing Close;**
- 2. All dogs must be kept on a lead on the Nine Acres Recreation Ground;**
- 3. - Clear up after your dog anywhere in town and on all surrounding footpaths**

Thank you. Valou Pakenham-Walsh
Charlbury Town Councillor
Chair of the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Action Group

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Charlbury Green Hub

The Charlbury Area Waste Action Group has changed its name to the Charlbury Green Hub. All of CAWAG's activities will continue - the next Bring & Take will be on Saturday 2nd March - and we'll continue to redistribute apples in the autumn and make cider for the Beer Festival. We'll also continue to organise things like secure paper shredding, tool sharpening, bike repairs and collecting things like bras, spectacles, CDs, and cassette tapes for reuse or recycling - bring them along to the Bring & Takes or to our stall at the Farmers Market.

We aim to be a hub to help local people and groups find their way around environmental issues, to share their experiences and to spread Charlbury's good ideas to other communities in Oxfordshire. Our new website www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk will be a good starting point for you to find out more about our local countryside, about food, energy and travel, and about their wider implications for our planet's limited resources and climate change. We're listing equipment that can be shared by other groups or individuals in the town so that we can work together better as a sharing community, quite apart from this, sharing things helps save money and resources. Also, our calendar of events will keep you in touch with interesting events happening outside Charlbury.

CAWAG started in 1997 and was one of the first members of the Oxfordshire Community Action Group network which originally concentrated on waste issues. But times and issues move on, and now we are one of about 50 community groups in the Oxfordshire network all taking action on climate change, including waste reduction, carbon reduction, sustainable transport, and food, energy and water issues, to live a more sustainable and less resource dependent life in our local communities.

Jane Sly (Chair), Christine Elliott (Vice-Chair)

Walkers Are Welcome in Charlbury (WAWC)

Charlbury is making a bid to become a **Walkers are Welcome** town joining 92 towns and villages already in the scheme (see <http://walkersarewelcome.org.uk/>) . This is a national scheme to promote walking and to encourage walkers to visit an area. It helps strengthen a town's reputation as a place for visitors to come to enjoy the outdoors, bringing useful benefits to the local economy. It also helps to ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained in good condition, benefiting local people as well as visitors and can contribute to local tourism plans and regeneration strategies.

The **Walkers are Welcome** idea and brand is collectively managed by the communities themselves who are participating – grassroots democracy in action. It is run by a committee drawn from volunteers which develops and manages the scheme in the town. In order for Charlbury to get this status there are a number of conditions which have to be met.

Firstly it has to have support from the Town Council. This was not a problem for us as five members of the Town Council are in the group promoting the scheme. We now have associate status. However, to get full membership, it is also necessary to get support from the community and we need the names, addresses and signatures of a substantial proportion of Charlbury residents. We are therefore conducting a survey in Charlbury. This can be completed on line at the Charlbury web site (<http://www.charlbury.info>), or there are forms available for you to sign in the pubs, the Co-op, the library and at the Post Office.

We are asking for your support to get **Walkers are Welcome** status for Charlbury and to join a growing number of communities across Britain.

If any of you would also like to volunteer for the committee then you would be very welcome – the more support the better.

For more information please contact Tony Merry (anthony.merry@manchester.ac.uk)
or Richard Fairhurst (richard@systemeD.net)

Oxfordshire ME Group for Action (OMEGA)

OMEGA is the support group for people with ME or CFS, and their Carers, family and friends. Members give each other friendship and support, exchange information about treatments, and learn from each other about the management of this long-term illness. Other work carried out by OMEGA includes evaluating local and national evidence, carrying out research in Oxfordshire, training NHS staff and campaigning. For accounts of patients' experience, OMEGA has also recently published a poetry book *Poetry from the Bed – Life with ME/CFS* to raise awareness of the reality of living with this devastating condition. <http://www.oxnet.org.uk/omega/poetry-book>



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT, No. 66

By Councillor Jim Holah

In the last edition I mentioned that there are opportunities arising from the Localism Act and I am pleased to say that we have been considering how best to begin a debate in Charlbury about a Community Led Plan. This is one of the options for us all to consider what we want Charlbury to look and feel like in the next ten to fifteen years. At present there is a small group of Town Councillors thinking about how we can start the debate and we have agreed financial support in next year's budget. (See Page 23 in this edition of the Chronicle.) Don't forget, if there are any issues you want to find out about, you can come to the Town Council meetings to hear the discussions, all meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions, please see how to contact us at the end of the report.

Christmas Trees: thanks to all residents and businesses who put up Christmas trees in the town, this made a real difference and brought brightness to our streets in December. Special thanks to Geoff Burroughs for donating the tree for the Corner House,

Snow & Ice: The winter weather hit us very hard in January and the Town Councillors available spent some time clearing footpaths and spreading salt. Thanks to those residents who also took time to spread salt and shovel snow to help.

Pot holes: The roads have been suffering as a result of all this bad weather, and if you find potholes, please report them to O.C.C. Highways on **0845 310 1111**.

The Town Council Reception: took place in the Corner House on the 13th February

The Annual Parish Meeting: will be held at 8pm on Friday 5th April in the War Memorial Hall. Please come along and find out what your Council has been up to for the past year and ask questions about any aspect of the town. As well as Town Councillors, the District and County Councillors will also be in attendance.

Annual meeting of the Town Council: will be held on Wednesday 22 May at 7.30pm in the Corner House and is open to the public as are all other meetings. This meeting sees the election of the Chairman and the various Committees and nominations to other organisations in the town.

Town Council precept: this is the Town Council's budget for 2013/14 and will be £79,640.00. This is less than the current budget of £84,292.00 and gives a Band D Council tax rate of £64.14, down from the present of £64.44. The reason that the Council Tax has only dropped by 30p whilst the budget has been reduced by £4,652.00 is that the process by which Band D is calculated, the Council Tax Divisor, has been changed by the Government. About half the precept is unavoidable as it covers the essential running costs of the town. This includes grass cutting, hedge, tree and walling repair, care of the cemetery, play equipment maintenance, insurances, grants and administrative costs. Repayment of loans relating to the cemetery extension and funds towards the resurfacing of the hard surface play area are also included. If you want to know more about the planned expenditure, please contact the Town Clerk.

Councillor surgeries for 2013: The dates have been set for this year as follows; 6

April, 1 June, 3 August, 5 October, 7 December, between 10 & noon. There are always two Councillors available to you and for the moment the venue is the Corner House. In the last issue I asked whether there were any other venues that might be more convenient but there have been no suggestions so far.

County Council elections are on Thursday 2 May: with a seat available for the new Charlbury & Wychwood Division. The present Charlbury Division seat is held by Cllr. Neil Owen (Con), who has made it clear that he will not be contesting the new Division. The Polling Station is at The Memorial Hall, between 7am to 10pm.

Annual Parish Boundary Walk: takes place on Rogation Sunday 5 May, the walk leader this year is Harriet Baldwin. The walk starts at 10 am at the old oak tree on Forest Road (B4437 to Burford). Break for lunch at Model Farm, Ditchley, by kind permission of Rob & Maxine Hobill. Volunteers (please contact the Town Clerk) are needed for stewarding and chauffeuring to support this walk on Bank Holiday week-end over land not normally open to the public.

The Station car park: is now fully operational including the new set of steps proposed by the Town Council that make it easier to use the new facilities at the station.

West Oxfordshire Local Plan: The Town Council has made comments on the draft document and you can obtain a copy from the Clerk or through the W.O.D.C website.

Police & Crime Commissioner consultation: the Town Council has commented on the draft strategy and again, you can obtain a copy from the Town Clerk.

Affordable Housing in Little Lees: this site being built and managed by SOHA will hopefully be available for occupation by May 2013. There are 15 homes and to qualify you must meet the following criteria to be on the WODC housing waiting list: be resident in Charlbury for at least 12 months or have lived here previously for at least three years, be currently employed in the Parish for more than 12 months or have close family living in Charlbury for at least three years.

To contact the Town Council email the Town Clerk at
charlburytc@btinternet.com
or telephone 810608 9am-5pm (**NOT weekends or Bank Holidays**). Further information can be found at
www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk

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THE COMPUTER COACH

There are now several million people over 55 who would like access to computers and the Internet but do not know how to go about it. (Source: Age UK).

I am lucky; I have been interested in computers since they first appeared. I would stay up all night taking them apart and putting them back together just to see how they worked.

Quite apart from computers and smartphones which we call "hardware" there has been an explosion of "software" which has created a global village: e.g. Skype and Facebook.

Using Skype you can now call your relatives anywhere in the world at no or little cost. You can shop online so that you do not have to use the car, even if you do not want to have goods delivered you can search the market for the item you want and then go to the store that sells it. E-mail is a very effective and quick way of communicating.

I find it sad that a large section of our community is deprived because they do not know how to use computers. I have made it a personal mission to help those people because it brings them freedom and choice. That is why I call myself "The Computer Coach". I do not tell people what to do, but find out their specific needs and guide them.

We are in a technological revolution and "silver surfers" need just a bit of help to get to grips with it. The rewards are better communication, budget saving, and freedom to do what you want when you want. I think that's worth having, don't you?

*Hannen Beith (07588 482 842)
("The Computer Coach")*



CHARLBURY SCOUTS AND GUIDES

invite everyone to our
May Day Fair
Monday 6th May 2013
2 - 4pm
at Charlbury Memorial Hall

BBQ - stalls - cakes & teas -
raffle

CHARLBURY SCOUT GROUP

Did you know that Scouting in Charlbury celebrates its 80th birthday this year? We have places for boys and girls in our three sections.

Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) enjoy games, crafts, singing, visits and good turns, along with plenty of outdoor activities such as camping and hiking.

Cubs (8-10½ years) have a wide range of activities designed to be interesting and challenging, plus camps and County competitions.

Scouts (10½–14 years) can try even more adventurous outdoor activities, whilst learning various skills, such as map reading, camp cooking and first aid in preparation for camp.

For more details, please contact Marcus Goodwin, Group Scout Leader on 01608 676207 or email

akelagoodwin@btinternet.com

Spring into Spring with ChOC

ChOClive has two events lined up for Spring 2013: On Saturday 23 March at 8pm we welcome the Oxfordshire based string quartet, Serenata. Members share a wealth of experience and huge talent. The programme for the evening has two very distinct halves. To tempt the (music) taste buds we start with pieces by Bach, Mozart, Elgar, Massenet, Piazzolla and Anne Dudley. After the interval on this, the first weekend of spring, the programme continues with 'Spring' from Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons' and then moves on to our main item, Dvorak's String Quartet in F major, the 'American'. *Tickets £10, students and U16s £8, from Evenlode Books and Charlbury Post Office.*

In association with Good Night Out, our event on Saturday 27 April at 8pm is The Buffalo Gals. Led by champion fiddler Kate Lissauer, they are fast becoming the country's favourite old-time country string band. Their authentic sound, driven by fiddle, banjo, percussive step dance, and soaring harmonies, conveys the spirit, excitement and passion of American roots music in an irresistible show. "A feast of fiddle and banjo-led tunes and songs in the high lonesome sound of the South Appalachian Mountains ... they mix ballads, blues and spirituals with soaring harmonies and dazzling displays of percussive step-dancing" The Word "The first time I listened to Buffalo Gals I was hugely excited! The joint was jumpin'! ... highly recommended." Sue Roberts, Artservice (Leicester) and Worcester Arts Council *Tickets £8, U16s £6, go on sale during March at Charlbury Post Office and Evenlode Books.*

The ChOC film programme for the next three months is as follows. All films are held in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm, doors and bar open at 6.45. *Tickets are £5 on the door (under-15s £3 where permitted) and seating is unreserved.*

Sunday March 10: "Beasts of the Southern Wild" (Cert 12A, 1hr 30mins) In a forgotten, isolated but defiant bayou community, a six-year-old girl exists on the brink of orphanhood. A vividly poetic and maybe even therapeutic response to Hurricane Katrina, part film, part hallucination and sprinting with energy. 'On all fronts, it's simply unmissable.' Daily Telegraph

Sunday April 14: "Sarah's Key" (Cert 12, 1hr 50mins) Kristin Scott Thomas plays an American journalist writing an article about the notorious Vel d'Hiv round up of Jews in Paris in 1942. She stumbles upon a terrible family secret which will link her forever to the destiny of a young Jewish girl, Sarah. 'Scott Thomas is tremendous ... the emotional detail of her performance is never less than gripping.' Time Out

Sunday May 12: "Quartet" (Cert 12, 2hrs) A celebration of retirement and old age by a group of classical singers who find themselves together in a nursing home, faced with the task of mounting a gala concert. The outstanding cast is led by Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Michael Gambon et al. 'A film of flesh-and-blood characters, flushed with humor and tenderness.' Rolling Stone

Would you like to show a film?: Would you like to join the team of ChOC volunteers? In particular, we are looking for people to join the projection team. No specific experience as a film projectionist is required but if you are confident in using technical equipment such as DVD players, then we'd love to hear from you. We are also often asked to assist other local organisations in screening films or slide shows but our current small team is unable to commit to extra screenings. Please contact Steve on 01608 810713 if you'd like to chat about the role.

ChOC's programme is subject to change: check www.chocfilms.info and our posters for the latest information.

Jon Carpenter
01608 819117 (shop) 811378 (home)
mobile 07531 516640

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

CHARLBURY ART SOCIETY will be holding its annual Spring Exhibition on Saturday 6th April upstairs in the Morris Room at the Corner House from 9.30am to 5pm. The Society welcomes anyone with an interest in art - whether practical or purely academic. We have a series of talks throughout the year on a variety of arts-related subjects, sometimes with demonstrations of techniques; various workshops from time to time; outdoor painting in summer and a couple of coach trips to galleries each year.

At the moment the subscription is still at the amazingly low sum of £10 (reduced to £5 on 5th April for the remaining five months) which includes all eight talks and various discounts on materials, coach fares and workshops too.

Contact Membership Secretary, Roy Coates on 810116, or look on www.charlburyarts.co.uk

Charlbury Garden Society Spring Show and Plant Sale:

The Society's Spring Show this year is on Saturday 6th April in the Memorial Hall and being held in conjunction with the town's Art Society (see above). Staging for the show is from 9.30 to 11am, and the public is admitted from 12 to 4pm. In addition to daffodils, there are classes for other spring bulbs and plants. Children can enter a pot of spring bulbs, a posy of spring flowers, and an "egg head" planted with grass seed or cress. Schedules containing an entry form will be available in advance from the station, pharmacy, library and post office and can also be found via the website. You do not have to be a member of the Society to exhibit but members benefit from a discount when buying goods at local garden centres. On 14th March at 8pm there will be a Gardeners' Question Time; and the annual plant sale is on Saturday 11th May from 9.30am. Both events in the Memorial Hall. This

year, all the Society's evening events will be in the Garden Room, which has easier access.

Rob Stepney

CHARLBURY BOWLS CLUB

Many people having seen bowls competitions on TV, or maybe having stopped to watch a game in progress in their local park, have at some time thought 'I wouldn't mind giving that a try.' Well, the reasons and excuses why they haven't are probably far too numerous to list here, I will just try to give you an insight into giving the game a try. Probably the number one reason you haven't tried bowls yet is that it is considered by those not involved in the game to be a sport for the older generation. Well, I would love to say the youngsters are coming, but, they are already here, the under 25 scene is flourishing both at County, National and International level. The next reason is that people decide they wouldn't be any good at the game. This really is a terrible excuse as no one is any good when they first start, let's face it the d**m balls don't even roll in a straight line for heaven's sake! Having already watched the game do you really think you are going to be playing against Alex Marshall or David Gourlay the first time you go on the green.

When you finally decide to give the game a try, pop in and see us. We welcome potential new members, so believe me, we will be overjoyed to hear from you. One of our members will show you the basics of the game and ensure your delivery of the bowls is correct, yes the object of the game is complicated (get as many bowls as you can, as close to the little white ball at the other end of the green as you can - that's it). When you are ready to try a competitive game there are many friendly games arranged against other local Clubs. In these games you will find many like yourself

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

who have only recently joined the sport, so no one will expect you to perform like a superstar, they will just expect you to enjoy the game, after all that's what the game is all about, enjoying yourself. Yes, you will sometimes come up against stiff opposition after all County, National and International players also play Club games, but often what you can learn from these players is invaluable in improving your own game. Well, once you have got this far the sky's the limit, so I don't have to write anymore! Hope to see you at the Open Day, on Saturday, April 20th at 2.30pm.

For more details please call Heather Hill on 01608 810229.

CHARLBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The WI continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Morris Room at the Corner House. Our Meetings start at 7.30pm and our Speakers for the next three months are – Rev Alan Burroughs on 'My Time in Broadmoor' in March; George Hedges on 'A Policeman's lot is a Happy One' in April; and Carole Bankes is speaking in May on the Blue Cross Charity.

Our subscription is £33 per year, which will cover 11 meetings at £3 per meeting, and we charge £4 for visitors each time they attend. We are holding a Coffee Morning on March 9 at the Corner House and this time we are raising funds for the WI. Our previous Coffee Morning held in December raised £200 for the Community Centre Appeal and we have also made a donation to the Church during the year for their fund for work to the Church after the fire. This year we are hoping to arrange an evening visit to somewhere of interest (watch the notice boards) and also maybe a theatre trip. We have distributed the programme around Charlbury but if anyone would like more

information about our WI please either contact me on 810998 or our President on 810714.

New Members would be most welcome.

Gill Pratt, Secretary

The Charlbury Society

Now that we are more than half-way through our talks programme for this season, it is only fair to say that the Society's members have been treated to a series of excellent presentations from speakers who are acknowledged experts in their particular fields. Graham Hutchings and Nick Millea – both of whom live here in Charlbury – both attracted strong interest from members and guests alike in their talks on China and maps respectively. Not quite 'standing-room-only' in the Memorial Hall, but not far from it. After February's talk with a focus on the stone barns that are such an architectural feature of the Cotswolds, the Society's programme heads south to the Falklands in March before returning closer to home, at OUP's archives in April. Again, these should prove to be fascinating presentations, given by people who really know what they are talking about. Having secured some funding, the Historical Research Group project is now under way, with the first classes in interpreting 'Secretary Hand' – the writing style used on old documents such as wills – now in progress. Organised by Geoffrey Castle and Barbara Allison, this project has the potential to greatly improve our understanding of what life was like in Charlbury centuries ago. (see report on page 30) Lastly, it was really nice to have the Christmas tree back in its usual place in the Musuem garden in December, with power for the lights kindly supplied by the barber shop next door. Thanks are due to everyone who was involved in getting it there again. *Simon Walker, Chairman*

SNOW AND ALL THAT

I was born in Oxford and have lived a large part of my life in Oxfordshire, but since we moved to Charlbury seven winters ago there has been more snow than I ever remember in this part of the world. That has been a source of huge excitement for the grandsons, and we have enjoyed it too, for a time. But it has also, of course, been a rather counter-intuitive phenomenon in the context of the great debate about global warming.

I am not a sceptic about global warming, but equally I am not an activist or all fired up about it. The reason is quite simple. It is just that I do not know or understand enough about it. This is not for want of trying. Like many others, I have read various official and scientific reports about it, and I have listened to and read what experts and politicians and professional communicators - and friends and neighbours - have to say. But at the end of all that I find that I am unable to make up my mind. I am not confused. It is just that the outcome of all that debate seems to be inconclusive.

I do not mean that the basic scientific principles are inconclusive. It seems pretty clear that if you increase the proportion of carbon dioxide or certain other gases in the atmosphere, then, other things being equal, the earth's surface and atmospheric temperature will increase. But it is not the basic scientific principles which are the problem. The problem, or at least part of it, lies with those four weasel words, "other things being equal". Other things never are equal. As well as the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, many other things are changing. For example, how about global darkening. The effect of the massive increase in the amount of carbon dioxide pumped out by the huge number of new coal-fired power stations in China and other parts of Asia is offset, at least in part, by the sooty particles which are also emitted and which absorb a great deal of the sun's radiation, and so counteract the global warming effect.

Or so we are told by very respectable scientists. And that too is part of the problem. The scientific community is not putting out a unified message about global warming, either about the likelihood of changes to the global temperature, taking all the various different impacts into account, or about the likely effects of any such changes in temperature. And attempts, both by some members of the scientific community and by certain official organisations, to engineer a more unified message have just undermined the credibility of the messengers.

Thankfully the debate has become more open and more nuanced over the last few years. But the result has been that we can now see that the effects of global warming, to whatever extent it occurs, are likely to fall very unevenly on different countries and different peoples of the world, and that in some cases they may even be positive rather than negative. This is both a good and a bad thing.

It is a bad thing because it will make common action by countries across the globe more difficult to procure, with the result that the strong will continue to thrive and the weak will be in danger of going to the wall. If the United States or the United Kingdom come to the conclusion that Hurricane Sandy or rising sea levels are the result of global warming, then the Americans will make their skyscrapers and sea-barriers more hurricane-proof and we will build a bigger Thames barrage: we can afford to. But the Seychelle islanders or a

large part of the population of Bangladesh who are threatened with having their countries literally submerged beneath the waves are unlikely either to have or to receive the resources to help them hold back the tides.

But this more nuanced view on the effects of global warming is also a good thing, because it enables different countries to adopt policies which can be worked out locally or regionally, which are more tailored both to local resources and to likely local needs, and therefore are much more likely to be carried out. Global warming is not like the ozone-hole threat. Co-ordinating global action to meet that threat was not impossibly difficult, even in a much less co-operative world, because there was a clear and imminent danger to the whole global community, there was a simple technological solution, and the solution was not that expensive. None of those factors apply in the case of global warming, and so the prospect or need for global action is quite different.

So as an interested and concerned citizen, luckily I can now mainly limit my concern about global warming to making judgements about the policies of our own government, without having to worry so much about the global response. And I have just three simple thoughts.

First, it is a good thing to try to move to a low-carbon economy in the long run, because that satisfies natural feelings of prudence and against wastefulness. It is also an opportunity to engage a large number of people in new forms of employment. But secondly, the move to low carbon is hugely expensive and is bound to take a long time. So the priority of policies to promote low carbon use must be weighed against the priority of other expensive policies, such as improving the educational system and long-term care for an ageing population. Expenditure on low carbon does not automatically trump expenditure on other needs.

And thirdly, the benefits and burdens of low carbon policies fall very unevenly on different people and communities. Much more should be done to even these out. To take just one example, why should the benefit of building wind factories or solar arrays accrue just or mainly to the landowner, and the burden or disbenefit fall especially on the local community, as well as the community at large in the form of higher energy bills? We decided decades ago in this country that there is a social, community dimension to building on your land, and so you need planning permission to do so. In my view, where that building gives rise to a cost or disbenefit to the community, permission should only be granted on the basis that the community which suffers the burden receives the increase in value arising from the development and which otherwise would go to the landowner. If you want to erect wind turbines on your land, you should pay a tax equal, or nearly equal, to the increase in income and land value you would get from doing so.

Mark Hofman



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Developing a Community Led Plan

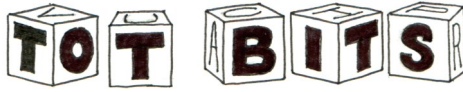
As mentioned in the Town Council report elsewhere in the Chronicle, the Town Council has been considering how to respond to the principle provided by the Localism Act 2012, that communities should have opportunities to influence the future of the places where they live. There are two options, one being the Community Led Plan, with the other a Neighbourhood Plan. With a Neighbourhood Plan, the focus is on how to shape new development in the town, establishing general planning policies for the development and use of land in the area. This has to be agreed through a local referendum after a full consultation with all residents. With a Community Led Plan (CLP), the intention is for the community to develop a sound understanding of local aspiration and need, again through a broad consultation process. The CLP can focus on the social, economic, environmental and cultural life of the town, support applications for funds and be used to work closely with the District & County Councils to deliver against.

At its January meeting the Town Council considered a proposal to start a consultation with the residents of Charlbury on the proposal to develop a Town Plan, based on the model of a Community Led Plan. Before we can start, we propose to set up a CLP Advisory Group that will be the team that drives forward the CLP consultation process, sets up events, and arranges consultation and feedback to understand the aspirations and ideas of the town. The CLP Advisory Group will agree a set of Terms of Reference with the Town Council to ensure that there is proper

planning and clear outcomes for the plan. Our first request is for anyone interested in being a part of the CLP Advisory Group to contact the Town Clerk on charlburytc@btinternet.com or telephone 01608 810608, to indicate their interest. Once we have a team together we will start the process of planning events in the town that will give the widest feedback from all parts of the town, providing regular feedback to all interested parties and eventually arriving at a final report and plan for the future of Charlbury.

We are sure that this proposal will bring together a creative and hard-working team that will deliver a fresh plan for Charlbury and if you want any further background go to www.oxonrcc.org.uk for information from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to see the national 9 step CLP process. You can also go to www.clp-se.org.uk to see examples of other local towns and parishes that have taken this opportunity to shape the future of their communities.

The group of Town Councillors consists of Richard Fairhurst, Jim Holah, Liz Reason, Russell Robson, Valou Pakenham-Walsh.



Baby and Toddler Group

Winter-time at the baby and toddler group means a surfeit of coats, rainmacs, scarves, mittens, hats and wellies by the front door, but once you're past that it's business as usual for the little ones of Charlbury and around. We had a wonderful Christmas party complete with a toddler's first bouncy castle experience, which was literally a bouncy castle, just a bit smaller. Then we all sat down for a Christmas picnic. It was nice to see some of the older children coming back for a visit, plus a number of dads made it, which contributed to making it a very happy occasion. The Toddler Group has a wide selection of toys and activities for the children each week: there's a slide, a tent and tunnels, rocking horses, a kitchen, garages and cars, a train set, ride-on cars and tricycles, dollies and pushchairs, walkers, puzzles, books, a dressing-up box and a comfy baby corner with lots of baby-toys. We always have story-time, a couple of books and drinks and biscuits, and try to mix in some singing and the big parachute. The arts and crafts table is popular; we have things like stencils, collage, mosaics, paints and glitter, and my personal favourite so far, cottonwool to stick on cut-out sheep.

Recently, we've welcomed some very new babies to the group, younger siblings accompanying their big brothers or sisters. I started going along to the group with my little boy when he was 16 months old and he seemed very little, now he's 2 ½ and is one of those "bigger children" I used to see on the tricycles, looking very grown-up! If you are a parent/carer of a pre-schooler and would like to come along, you are very welcome. Sessions run from 9.30-11.30am every Monday during term-time in the Memorial Hall, and cost £2.50 per family.

Charlbury Pre-School

Charlbury Pre-School, open to all families in our community, continues to thrive and is currently rated "good with outstanding features" by Ofsted. It takes children from 2½ to 5 years and is open Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 1.00pm, and to 3.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during term time. Children explore a range of activities each day based on the six areas of learning outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. If children opt to stay for lunch, they bring a packed lunch and eat alongside staff in small groups. Alternatively, children may be collected before lunch at 12 noon. Each session costs £3.10 per hour, and government vouchers for the over 3's are accepted. Thanks to a grant from the Charlbury Beer Festival Committee, the pre-school has a new cooker and kitchen equipment to extend the cooking activities available to the children. The mini-chefs have been cooking up a storm, with some delicious aromas emanating from the kitchen. The pre-school relies on fundraising and grants to keep fees low, pay for equipment, buildings maintenance, trips and so on. The next fundraising event will be at the Spring Farmer's Market on 9th March, on The Playing Close. Any baked donations to sell on the pre-school stand are always gratefully received. The pre-school is available for hire when not in use, for example for children's birthday parties, at a cost of £35 per 4 hours. For further information or to arrange a visit, telephone 01608 811200.

The Font Café

The Font Café at St. Mary's Church, Charlbury, is open to all every Thursday from 9.30-11.30am, selling delicious home-made cakes, teas and coffees, and drinks



and biscuits for children. There is a carpeted area with toys which makes a pleasant place for carers and tots to have a drink, chat and play. There is also a Traidcraft stall selling fair trade produce. <http://www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk/>

Boogie Beat

Boogie Beat Oxfordshire is run by Amy Stammers and could be coming to Charlbury soon, dependent on interest. Boogie Beat preschool music and movement classes are energetic and fun, and through

music and dance encourage children to develop confidence, coordination and social skills. Amy is proposing a class on Tuesdays in Charlbury Memorial Hall, 12.30-1.15pm.

BoogieBeat
music & movement



However, if another time would work better, she will accommodate this if demand is sufficient. Please contact Amy on 01865 883514 or 07841 514031, or at amy@boogiebeat.co.uk to register your interest. For more information, see <http://www.boogiebeat.co.uk>.

If you need to get in touch with Rebecca, please telephone her on 819102

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2013 Calendar of Events

Thanks to everyone that came along to Street Fair and the various other events last year, because as a result we were able to donate some £11,000 to the Corner House & Memorial Hall.

This year's calendar has now been mapped out, so here are some diary dates:-

Sunday 2nd June – Jazz Lunch & Open Gardens

2nd June will be the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation and the ever popular jazz lunch returns and may be themed to reflect the fact. If anyone would like their garden to be considered for inclusion this year, please email csgardens@charburystreetfair.org

Friday 20th September - Annual Egg Throwing Competition

Outside the Rose & Crown as usual!

Saturday 21st September - Street Fair Day itself

Stalls, Sideshows, Entertainment, Dancing, Tombola, Grand Draw, Auction, Music and Fun.....

Sunday 22nd September - Fun Runs & Walk

The annual 10k & 5k Fun Runs and Walk through Glorious Cornbury Park.

Friday 1st November – Street Fair Quiz Night

Please note this change of date, as we have moved from our traditional spot in March, so as not to clash with the Screen Test Quiz being run on Sat 16th March in aid of the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal.

Don't forget – we are always looking for some fresh faces to help us put on all of these popular events. No special skills or knowledge required, just enthusiasm and desire to make things happen. Just email info@charburystreetfair.org

John Munro

CONCERT BY THE BURFORD SINGERS

Celebrate the 60th anniversary of the 1953 Coronation at the Concert on Sunday 24th March at 7.30 pm at St John the Baptist Parish Church, Burford. The Burford Singers with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra conducted by Brian Kay and with five distinguished soloists, sing music by Dyson, Parry, Purcell and Mozart.

Tickets available from 01993 822539 or the Mad Hatter Bookshop in Burford, from £10 to £17.50. More details available on www.burford-singers.org.uk

NEWS FROM CORNBURY *from the Cornbury Park team*

We were delighted to welcome so many local residents to walk in the Deer Park at Cornbury on New Year's Day. It proved to be the sunniest day of the festive season, so we had a great turnout.

On Sunday 24th March we see the return of 'Pooches in the Park', a sponsored dog walk in aid of Helen & Douglas House. In March last year Helen & Douglas House held its first ever sponsored dog walk at Cornbury and it was a glorious success. Starting at 9am, it costs £7 to register your dog.

For more information contact phanbury@helenanddouglas.org.uk or call 01865 799150.

Then on Saturday 20th April we are hosting a sponsored walk in aid of ROSY (Respite nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters). The walk which can be 15 or just over 30 miles starts and finishes at Cornbury Park and takes in both Ditchley and Blenheim – 7am start. See www.rosy.org.uk for further details.

Follow us on Twitter @CornburyPark and at Facebook.com/CornburyPark, or get in touch by emailing us at: estate@cpark.co.uk, phoning on 01608 811 276, or signing up for alerts at www.cornburypark.co.uk

The second Chipping Norton Literary Festival takes place 18 - 21 April

, with more than 50 talks, discussion panels and workshops from authors you know and love. Among the many authors involved in this year's festival are Richard Dawkins, Lionel Shriver, Jack Straw, Graeme Garden, Fern Britton, Tracy Chevalier, Rachel Joyce, Peter James and Val McDermid.

Talks will take place in several venues across Chipping Norton, including the Theatre, the Crown & Cushion Hotel, the Blue Boar and Jaffe & Neale bookshop and cafe. A range of free children's events has been planned in the Methodist Church, supporting the extensive schools programme which puts a well-known author into every single school in the Chipping Norton Schools Partnership, at no cost to the schools.

If you're an aspiring writer you'll be well catered for, with a series of 'how to' sessions covering subjects such as writing for television, creating 'real' characters, building your story and writing historical fiction.

Soak up the atmosphere in our literary cafe, follow the live twitter screens and bring books for our free book swap, or get a book signed by your favourite author. Immerse yourself in words for the region's biggest festival.

Full programme details are available on www.chiplitfest.com. Tickets are available now from The Theatre, Chipping Norton, on 01608 642350.

Helen Granger
Venue Coordinator
[hel-
en.chiplitfest@gmail.com](mailto:hel-en.chiplitfest@gmail.com)
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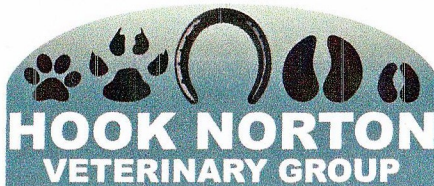
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NEWS FROM CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

in the run-up to Christmas families at the school were treated to several excellent, entertaining, and exuberant seasonal productions, including end-of-terms plays, breakdancing displays, and Tina's Dancers' 'Polar Express'. As always, a huge number of children of all age groups participated in this dance performance, which this year even included dancing roller-skaters and 'hot chocolate' waiters on scooters! Thank you very much to everyone who was involved in making all these productions so enjoyable for children and adults alike.

Amongst all this joy, there was sadness too though as we all felt the loss of our long-serving School Secretary, Shirley Steele, who very sadly died last Autumn just a few years ahead of her retirement. She always very much enjoyed Christmas festivities at school, so her absence at this time was particularly poignant. Parents generously donated over £500 to a medical research charity in her memory, and also towards a memorial bench, which will be placed in the school grounds. Many of you may remember Shirley from your days at the school, and she will be much missed. The school is very grateful to Alex Westbury for stepping in at very short notice to take over the running of the School Office, and warmly welcome Alex as a new member of staff.

You may have noticed children walking to school carrying a variety of musical instrument bags in all shapes and sizes. This is because we are now in the second term of the Oxfordshire County Music Service Scheme for 8-9 year old children in Year 4. Since last September, every child in the year group has been given an instrument (mostly noisy ones such as trombones and cornets!) to practise at home for a weekly music lesson. We are

also very lucky to have parent governor, Jennifer Browner, who volunteers to teach recorder to all the Year 3 pupils every week.

The New Year saw the launch of an updated version of the school website, which now has a fresh new design, additional content areas and more photos of life in school. The website has been built with state of the art technology to create the best viewing experience on any size of screen including mobile phones. The school would like to thank parent David Green for dedicating so much of his skills, time, and energy to this project. Please do take a look at the website which is at <http://www.charlbury.oxon.sch.uk/> - it's a very good place to keep up-to-date with what's happening at school.

Finally, we are always striving to expand the horizons of the children by providing education that stretches beyond core curriculum subjects. If you have a special skill, talent or experience that would be of interest to children at the school, would you be willing to join our Knowledge Well project? If so, please contact the school on 01608 819354 or via the website.

*Vicky Buser, Parent Governor,
Charlbury Primary School*

Need manuals, handouts, leaflets, flyers, all types of photo-copying - colour or black and white - email originals to rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

**F^{business}
Focus**

tel/fax 01993 830948
Email: rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

Email: rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

2013 room hire charges are now in place and reflected in the booking forms which are available for collection from the Corner House hallway next to the diary. The week's bookings are also visible on the town website under 'Events'. They are refreshed each Monday morning. The webpage also hosts booking forms that can be printed off.

*Stephen Andrews
01608 811212*

CHARLBURY DELI & CAFÉ *formerly the Good Food Shop*

**COFFEES, LIGHT
BREAKFASTS, LUNCHESES,
& AFTERNOON TEAS**

Fresh bread, fantastic olives, garlic,
Assorted meats & pates
Large selection of cheeses
Locally sourced Ham
Homemade Quiches
Scones & Cakes
Pastries

**Sheep Street, Charlbury
tel: 01608 811157**

The next event for Charlbury Garden Society is a Gardeners' Quiz to be held on Thursday 14th February in The Olde Three Horseshoes pub in Charlbury, 7.30pm for 8pm.

Teams of maximum four people.
£2 entry which includes nibbles. All are welcome, members and non-members, but some horticultural knowledge might be helpful!

Space is limited, so it will be first come first served if the event proves popular.
Hope you are able to join in!

*Geoff Clifford
Secretary*

CHARLBURY SOCIETY'S HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

The Charlbury Society have had a very good response from those interested in joining the recently formed Historical Research Group. The Group is starting classes in reading old handwriting which is now over-subscribed. When these classes finish at Easter it is hoped that a start will be made to transcribe the early Charlbury probate documents. With thanks to the Beer Festival and ChOC whose grants have enabled the Group to proceed with this project.

*Geoffrey Castle & Barbara Allison
Joint coordinators*

See also Clubs/Groups/Societies on p 19

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Margaret Merry reminisces about Charlbury in her lifetime

I was born in 1932 in a cottage called The Kennels in Wychwood Forest, on the estate belonging to the Watney family. I went to the school on Grammar School Hill (now the pre-school) when I was five years old, and at the age of seven went to the school on the Playing Close. When the evacuees came to Charlbury in the war the classrooms were no longer big enough, so the Parish Room by the Old Vicarage, and the Methodist Chapel room were used as additional classrooms. I went down to Fishers Lane for classes. At eleven years old I passed the scholarship and went to Chipping Norton Grammar School, leaving home at 7.30 am to catch the big red double-decker bus to school, and returned home at 5pm.

My best friend, Daphne Cole, lived down by the railway station in the Gas House. Her father ran the gasworks as Charlbury had its own gas supply in those days. People used to go down to the works and buy coke. There were two huge gasometers to store it in, and the coal came in by the railway.

After I left school I worked at the Lingerie Factory in Park Street, by the cinema and YMCA. The cinema owned by Mr Jeffs ran two different feature films each week — he showed 'Gone With The Wind' before the Oxford Cinema! Whist used to be played in the YMCA. I met Vic at Old Time Dancing classes in the school on the Playing Close, then we went to the dances run by Mr Jeffs in the top room of the Corner House. When the Memorial Hall was built we went to the modern dances there. When we married in 1952 Vic and I came to live at the Playing Close. Until a tennis court was built in Nineacres there were no public tennis courts so we were allowed to play one night a week on private courts. The Royal British Legion held flower shows down at the Priory, and as well as the show tent there were tea and beer tents, various stalls and games for everyone to enjoy. I remember one Flower Show was held up at Lee Place - I won a tea set which I still have! When the Street Fair started in 1955 our daughter was fifteen months old, so we dressed her up as Little Miss Muffet complete with stool, bowl & spoon and large black spider on a stick! There was quite a lot of rivalry between families to see who could win each year.

There used to be 27 shops in Charlbury in those days selling everything - ironmongers, butchers, grocers, chemist, two banks, haberdashery, loose seeds, china toys and much more - sadly, only a few shops now remain. Charlbury has grown with big estates, and the old school on the Playing Close made way for a housing development; the gasworks is a nursery school and an industry unit. I have lived on the Playing Close for 60 years and have no wish to move away - I'm still a Wychwoodian!

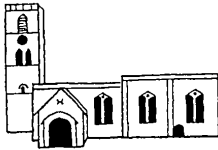
Church Services in Charlbury

Charlbury Baptist Church



Sunday Services at 10.30 a.m. 10 March/14 April/12 May - Cafe style service. 24 March/28 April/26 May at Methodist Church
Church Contact: Helen Wright, Community Link (07702 087802)
Email: charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com
Children's Activities: RAD Club Fridays 4-5.30 (8-11yr olds)
For further information please ring Helen Wright (07702 087802)
See Charlbury website for current activities

St Mary's C of E Church

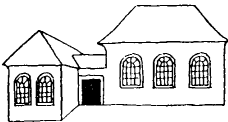


Full details of all services in Church porch
or see *The Leaflet*

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

For further details contact Angela Kyte (01993 880368)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



Sunday services at 10.30am
First Monday in every month: Our monthly
'Tea & Talk' meetings are now from 11-1pm, and are
followed by a light lunch
10.30 - 12.00 At Home (tea, coffee and talk)
Further information from Gill Grason (810154)

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



Sunday - Mass at 9am at St Kenelm's, Church Enstone and
Mass at 11am at St Teresa's, Charlbury
Daily Mass at 9.30am at St Teresa's

Fr Aldo Tapparo, 5 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR (810576)
or see www.communigate.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

Churches Together in Charlbury

There are five church buildings in Charlbury, which may seem a lot for a relatively small place. Each of them has a history and a reason for being here. The oldest, St Mary's, dates back to the 12th century although there was probably a church on the site from the 7th century. The newest, the Baptist Church, was built in Victorian times but is already 150 years old.

Each church was built primarily for worship but now wherever possible church premises are offered for community uses as well. From singing and WEA classes in the Friends Meeting House, Tai Chi and oil painting in the Methodist Church Hall, to the Font café in St Mary's, churches are used for many social occasions and to complement other community facilities in the town. Among other activities our churches act as collection points for donations of tinned food and dry groceries for Asylum Welcome in Oxford and the North Oxfordshire Food Bank.

Churches Together in Charlbury enables members of the five churches to join together in a variety of activities. During Lent there will be bread, cheese and soup lunches on Fridays, in aid of Christian Aid's overseas development work, in the churches that have suitable facilities for making a simple meal. On Tuesday evenings St Mary's will be hosting a series of talks by distinguished speakers on the five Christian traditions represented in the town. And on 1 March there will be a special service in the Friends Meeting House, prepared by women in France for the Women's World Day of Prayer, on the theme 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. All these events are open to everyone.

Churches are part of our way of life. They are places where tradition is respected but the need for change, as situations change, is also understood. They aim to link our community with the wider world and with a vision of a world where needs are met and everyone is valued. Churches are here to be used.

Rosalind Scott , Secretary rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk

CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE

Our funding from the County Council seems to be secure until September of this year. However this only covers our basic running costs so we are more than grateful for any financial support we get from elsewhere. We have had an excellent autumn, culminating in a very enjoyable outing, sponsored by the Charlbury Beer Festival. Also for the first time we had a highly successful and much appreciated visit to the Oxford Playhouse Pantomime. This was enabled by a most generous donation. We are currently able to accept new members, so if anybody would like to join us, or pop in for coffee on a Wednesday, they would be most welcome. Please contact me if you would like to come, or know of anybody who could be part of our Club .

Bob Tait (810150)

POLICE NEWS

Police are still investigating the fatal accident that happened on The Slade on 22/12/12 if anyone has any further information then please contact police ASAP.

Nuisance and malicious calls and messages

- Anyone can receive a nuisance phone call as offenders may dial any telephone number at random.
- If you're unsure who is calling you, don't give your name or your number when you answer a call. Just say 'hello?'. A genuine caller is very likely to begin the conversation and identify themselves.
- After the call, press 1471 on your phone keypad to find out the caller's number. If necessary, callers can still be traced even if they have used the '141 number withheld' facility. Ask your phone service provider for details.
- Don't leave messages on your answering machine/voicemail saying that you are out, on holiday or away. Instead, say that you are unable to take the call at the moment.
- If you're a single female, don't put 'Miss' in the phone book. If you are a woman, do not give details of your sex or marital status in the phone book. Use your initials instead of your first name.
- Consider going ex-directory or changing your phone number. Make sure that your children know not to give out any personal details over the telephone.

To contact your PCSO
call 0845 8 505 505

Artweeks in Charlbury

Saturday 18 - Monday 27 May

12 noon til 6pm daily



Enjoy an amazing array of locally-produced original art exhibited across the towns and villages of Oxfordshire and start on your doorstep by visiting artists' open studios right here in Charlbury giving you a sample of the vibrant works that are available to view and buy. This year there will be 24 artists in Charlbury with a group of 12 exhibiting their work in the beautiful setting of St Mary's Church.

Refreshments will be available.



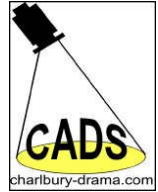
There will be a Charlbury trailmap of the open exhibitions available in April. Further details: Maureen Sparing 01608 810025.

www.artweeks.org

On Thursday evening, January 17th, at the Friends Meeting House in Charlbury, and in spite of dire weather forecasts, more than 40 people turned up to hear Sir Terence English, one time President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and also of the British Medical Association, speak on the Physician Assisted Dying Bill, which will be put before Parliament later this year. There was a lively discussion afterwards, and it is hoped, with the aid of members of CHOC, that we will be able to show, probably in the middle of a week, one or two films which have a relevance to this subject.

Helen Bessemer Clark, David Ouvry, Liz Reason

CHARLBURY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY



A new year and new plans afoot!

CADS are enjoying a well deserved rest after the success of their November pantomime **DICK WHITTINGTON** and the **Christmas Dinner Dance**.

But we haven't long to rest on our laurels as a new production is under way.

SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL by R. B. Sheridan is CADS Spring Production and will be directed by Sue Haffenden. Auditions were held in January and all parts cast. We are still assembling the back stage team. Group rehearsals proper begin on 5 March and in the meantime actors have been meeting with the director for individual sessions to get into their parts. The accent will be on good acting, lighting and costumes with a minimalist set. **School for Scandal** is an 18th Century classic period comedy, which a critic notably said was "such a superbly crafted laugh machine, and so timeless in delivering delectable comeuppance to a viper's nest of idle-rich gossipmongers, that you'd practically have to club it to death to stifle its amazing pleasures". A 2001 production prompted praise for being "just the classy antidote one needs in a celebrity-crazed world where the invasion of privacy is out of control, but the art of gossip is nonexistent."

PERFORMANCES will be held in The Memorial Hall, Charlbury May 23-24-25.

Up coming events:

AGM - Tuesday 12 February - Methodist Church Hall, Fishers Lane 7.45 pm

COFFEE MORNING - Saturday 27 April - Corner House, Charlbury 10-12.30

Madeleine Wheare - Chairman

Email: charlbury.drama@gmail.com

Website: <http://charlbury-drama.com/>



Charlbury Drama (CADS)

Tel: 01608 810092

CADS is an adult theatre group serving Charlbury and its many surrounding villages. Always ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS. Please contact the Chairman or any member to find out more. Check out our facebook page and the town website for up to the minute news.

Report from District Councillor Hywel Davies (Con) (01993 868004) (mobile: 07917 055120)

hywel.davies@westoxon.gov.uk or hywel.davies@btinternet.com

2013 – a new year of opportunity?

I am writing this in the very last days of January. It is to be an appropriate time for looking forward to the opportunities that will come rather than a nostalgic look backwards.

I am more optimistic today than I was 12 months ago. There are some signs of a slowly improving world economic position led by genuine green shoots from the USA. Although the Euro crisis has abated somewhat, there are still dark clouds lowering over the Continent. At home, there are some positive signs in dropping unemployment levels and some very strong growth from a proportion of businesses, particularly those that offer good products allied to first rate customer service. The Stock market has risen to its highest point since the economic crisis began in 2008. My impression of our District is of busy high streets, very low levels of unemployment and deprivation. The threatened flooding has been mostly averted by decent investment in flood alleviation measures since the serious problems of 2007. Although we have had a lot of snow, my feeling is that it was better dealt with this year than last.

WODC are planning to freeze council tax for the third time running whilst maintaining the scale and quality of the services provided. All the grants that the Council makes to outside bodies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau have been sustained at last year's levels.

Finally, Greystones, the proposed new recycling site for our area: Progress is being held up as a result of Chipping Norton Town Council making excessive

financial demands for the purchase of two very tiny strips of land they own at the entrance to the site from the A361. This land is required to widen the entrance for road safety reasons. WODC is in serious negotiations to reach an agreement that is fair to tax payers and the Chippy Town Council. A compromise needs to be reached so that WODC can provide a much needed service for all the people in the north of the District. During the public consultation, over 97% of us voted in favour of Greystones..

Sometimes, we need to remember that we live in the broader community of West Oxfordshire and put aside narrow parochial self-interest.

So, 2013 is a year of opportunity - let's grasp it!

Hywel Davies
District Councillor

Stop Press about Greystones

I have been informed that further discussions between WODC and Chipping Norton TC have agreed a proposal, which will now be considered through each Council's normal decision making processes. This sounds as if we are on our way to achieving a brand new recycling unit in our area. Jolly good news!

Hywel Davies

**Report from District Councillor
(LibDem) Liz Leffman, 01608 810153 /
07741 073 088**

.From the postings on the Charlbury web-site Forum, it is clear that people are concerned about the impact the closure of Dean Pit has had on the cleanliness of the town, especially the recycling area at the Spendlove. This area is often more than full – people have been leaving all kinds of items there which they would most likely have taken to Dean Pit previously. We ought by now to have been well on the way to having Greystones open but alas, this has not happened. This time the delay is due to negotiations between the District Council and Chipping Norton Town Council. Chipping Norton owns a strip of land which is needed to widen the access road into the Greystones site, to make it safer. This has effectively become a “ransom strip”, meaning that Chippy Town Council have put a completely unrealistic valuation on this land, and asked WODC for a sum in rent that would render the whole site too expensive. Negotiations are still underway but it is somewhat surprising that this should still be a matter for discussion given that the public consultation took place back in the summer, and planning permission was granted in November. Hopefully this will be resolved shortly and the site will go ahead.

Meanwhile some good news! West Oxfordshire is one of the few councils that has not had its grant from government cut this year, and has in fact seen a small increase. Before this was announced, the council had planned cuts in grants to a number of local organisations including Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council and the Citizens Advice Bureau. These may now be reversed. Both of these bodies depend for their existence on grants from local government and provide much-needed services to local residents, so this is very much to be welcomed.

Recently all councillors have been asked for their comments on the West Oxfordshire Local Plan, a long term plan for the area which outlines the number and location of new homes in the district, as well as plans for the sustainability, heritage and economic growth of our communities. Most development will be centred on Witney and Carterton. Any development in Charlbury and the surrounding area will be small scale and largely focused on the provision of affordable housing.

Liz Leffman

Charlbury Music Classes

These classes under the heading "**Exploring Music**" resume on Wednesday 27 March with a programme devoted to Ceremonial Music through the ages. This will be followed on 22 May with a day on Russian music, celebrating in particular the 100th anniversary of the first performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

Classes are held at The Bell Hotel on occasional Wednesdays from 10.30 to 3.20, with a lunch break. Lunch is available at The Bell, but this is not compulsory.

The classes are run by Kate Eckersley, a professional tutor, but are not stuffy or formal. No technical knowledge is required .

For full details phone Peter Fry on 01993 359189.

BANBURY WEA COURSES / EVENTS

History/Art/ Calligraphy - The History of Celtic Knotwork - A practical drawing Course

This Calligraphy Art Day school focuses on Celtic Knot work. We will explore the history of knotwork; the styles and the hidden meanings within knot work. The drawing workshop will examine how to draw knotwork and techniques will be demonstrated, so that you are able to make your own beautiful pieces of Celtic knotwork. The course is suitable for a range of abilities. There will be opportunity to draw your own design. The course will appeal to a wide range of people; anyone interested in Celtic History /art, people who would like to learn this art form.

Tutor: Jo Murphy Place: Hanwell Fields Community Centre, Rotary Way, Banbury, OX16 1ER

Date: Saturday 2nd March 2013, 10am to 4pm Fee: £ 24.

Antiques & Collectables Day School

The day school will cover an overview of antiques. We will look at style Recognition from the 1750s to 1930s and 20s.

During the day we will look at furniture from C1750 to 1920s and 30s; construction and Dating.

We will also explore ceramics, the various makes, dates and definitions. During the course we will look at the top 40 of collectable items.

Course Tutor: Peter Edwards Timetable: Date: Sat 16th March 2013 Time: 10am to 4pm

Location: Hanwell Fields Community Centre Fee: £ 24

Family History Course in More Depth

You will be shown how to use a variety of sources of information to trace your ancestry or genealogy. These range from home and family sources and names to Civil and Parish records, censuses, wills and probate. The course looks more closely on these sources of records. The course builds upon the Introduction course that has already run in 2012. Philip Morris is a retired teacher. He has lectured for the WEA for over twenty years, teaching a variety of courses, including several family history courses.

Tutor: Philip Morris Date and Time: Thursday 23rd May 2013, 10.15 -12.15pm for 5 weeks.

Location: The Mill Arts centre, Spiceball, Banbury Course fee £39.50

Spring Herb Walk in Bodicote

A talk by local practicing medical herbalist will discuss hedgerow herbs, flowers and 'weeds' and their medicinal properties. There will be an opportunity to make simple remedies and a walk to discover and identify healing plants.

Rhiannon has been a practising medical herbalist in the area for over 20 years and worked in agriculture science for several years. A founder member of the Ethnomedica (Remembered Remedies) domestic medicine archiving project based at RBG Kew, she is a Fellow of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists.

Course Tutor: Rhiannon Evans Timetable: Sat 15th June 2013 10am to 1pm (Approx. end time)

Location: Church House, Bodicote Fee: £14 £4 material charge per student

Enrolment now open for all these courses. Ring Jenny Gough on 01295 690326 for more details or email jennyanngough@yahoo.co.uk Please ring now to book place, we need final numbers 2 weeks before the start dates so please do not leave it to the last minute to enrol



Dear Davy
 Your many friends will have been glad to hear that you are enjoying 'the good life' in your new home, described so appreciatively in your newsletter published in the December *Chronicle*. Clearly you have chosen your new owners well!

It's possible though that your arrival has caused trepidation among some of the creatures already inhabiting your new patch – those birds, mice and frogs that you have noticed in the garden. As I'm sure that you and your new owners would prefer there to be no bad blood, there are some helpful strategies (recommended by wildlife broadcaster Chris Packham) that you could agree to adopt, perhaps even setting a new trend among the cat community of Charlbury:

- 1 Ask your owners to keep you inside at night** (which is drier and warmer anyway!) – this will reduce the risk of you killing or injuring other animals by 50%.
- 2 Wear an electronic bleeper** when you go out in the daytime – this will reduce the risk of your killing a bird by 45%.

Perhaps you do these things already. If not, in these simple ways you can co-exist more peaceably with the wild creatures that share your living space and mainly have to fend for themselves. After all, when there's smoked salmon, turkey and roast beef to choose from, not to mention those warm fires and soft beds, life is pretty good already.

All best wishes
 Brigid Avison

(Brigid Avison is the published author of many books for children . - Ed)

CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2012 RESULTS

The Prize Winners were as follows: -
 FIRST PRIZE : Derek Collett of Charlbury
 SECOND PRIZE : Dr. Paul Kerslake of Harlington
 THIRD PRIZE : Ed Fenton of Charlbury

LUCKY NUMBER PRIZES :
 Heather Starling of Bicester (173)
 Christine Elliott of Charlbury (117)
 Christopher and Ann Betts of Charlbury (216)

The organisers would like to thank everyone who took part and, particularly, those who helped in the preparation and distribution of the Quizzes and those who contributed the Prizes.

The Quiz raised £591 for the Community Centre Appeal

Chipping Norton Music Festival 8th – 23rd March 2013

Youth Jazz Band Challenge presented in association with Chipping Norton Rotary Club. This event has been our Festival opThis is a traditional Festival providing a platform for people of all ages, regardless of any disability, to perform in front of an audience and an adjudicator. These adjudicators are trained for their role and have a high level of expertise in their chosen field. Audiences for the classes are most welcome and can be an enlightening experience for those who come. The Festival lasts two weeks starting on **Friday 8th March**. This event has been our Festival opener for a few years now and never disappoints. Come and enjoy the vibrancy and sheer enjoyment these young people give.

Tickets: £2.50 available on the door or in advance from Jaffé & Neale 01608 641033.

This event will be held at Chipping Norton School

Final Report from County Councillor Neil Owen

This is the last report I shall write for the Charlbury Chronicle. As of May 2nd 2013 I shall, with sadness, no longer be your County Councillor. I am standing down in favour of Councillor Rodney Rose who will contest the new division of Charlbury & Wychwood. These changes are as a result of the Boundries Commision Review and will become the new political chequer-board of the County.

Councillor Rose is at present Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways. If elected, he will be a powerful and vigorous champion for the interests of Charlbury.

Since my last report, OCC have continued to grapple with the County budget and, by the time you read this, we should all know where we stand. At the time of writing (29th January), the Highways Department are endeavouring to cope with everything the weather can throw at us and I think they are doing a good job.

In conclusion, it has been a privilege to serve Charlbury for the last four years. I have been personally involved in many different issues - most prominently helping to keep open the Library and keeping a sharp eye on the monies held by OCC for the proposed Spendlove Centre, making sure they are not whisked away and spent elsewhere.

I would like to thank all the people I have known for their kindness and support and especially the Chairman of the Town Council, Mr Nick Potter, and the brilliant Town Clerk, Mr Roger Clarke.

With best wishes
Neil Owen
County Councillor (01993 8308751)

The Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society will hold its AGM and March lecture on Wednesday, March 13. 2013. Steven Desmond will discuss "The Odd Couple: the Gardens of Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll". Steven Desmond is an independent landscape consultant specialising in the conservation and management of historic parks and gardens.

Our lecture on April 10, 2012, is on "Venice and her Music". Janet Canetty-Clarke will discuss the music which has always played an important role in Venetian life. And on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, Valerie Woodgate will lecture on "A Personal Heaven: the paintings of Stanley Spencer." This lecture will examine the eccentric and visionary world of one of the most creative and imaginative British painters of the 20th century.

Lectures are held at the Bradwell Village Hall, Burford OX18 4XF, and begin at 11.00am with coffee and tea available from 10.15. (The AGM on March 13th begins at 10.30.) Non-members are very welcome (suggested donation £8).

See our website www.cotswolddfas.org for more information.

NHS 111 - The new number for the future of non – emergency health services is now here in Oxfordshire

What is this about?

A new three- digit number 111 that will make it easier for patients to access local NHS healthcare services is now live in Oxfordshire. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls from landlines and mobiles will be free. The new service is part of a national programme to make it easier for the public to access urgent health services. NHS 111 will get you through to a team of fully trained call advisers, who are supported by experienced nurses. They will ask you questions to assess your symptoms, and give you the healthcare advice you need or direct you to the right local service. The NHS 111 team will, where possible, book you an appointment or transfer you directly to the people you need to speak to. If they think you need an ambulance, they will send one immediately – just as if you had originally dialled 999. The 111 service is currently not available in border areas with phone numbers starting 0118, 01793, 01280 and 01844.

When do I use it?

You should call NHS 111 if:

- You need medical help fast, but it is not a 999 emergency
- You think you need to go to accident and emergency or another NHS urgent care service
- You do not know who to call for medical help or you do not have a GP to call
- You require health information or reassurance about what to do next

For less urgent health needs, you should still contact your GP in the usual way. For more information please visit the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk/111. If you have any questions about the introduction of the 111 service in Oxfordshire please email: NHS.111@oxnet.nhs.uk

WODC EMERGENCY NUMBER

It's not new but it is a reminder that there is a number to allow residents to complain to WODC about issues they may have, such as floods, noisy animals/neighbours/ pubs/ Festivals etc, and other environmental issues, . The idea is that complaints are then on an official record to enable more informed judgements to be taken when licences come up for renewal/review or action needs to be taken (i.e. provides evidence). There is a WODC contact number to enable residents to make complaints direct to the appropriate authority (**NOT** to the Charlbury Town Clerk).

The Emergency Out of Hours telephone number is 0845 3039706 The website <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/noise.cfm> gives lots of further information.

FROM OUR CHRONICLE WEATHERMAN, JOHN STANLEY

November 2012 was yet another below average month – the eighth in a row! The highest daytime temperature was 55° on 13th and the lowest 38° on 30th. The daytime average for the month was 46.77°, compared with the average for the previous 23 years of 48.90°. At night temperatures were in the range 49° on 13th/14th down to 28° on 29th/30th. There was an air frost on 5 nights.

Autumn 2012 was predictably colder than usual. The average for September to November was 54.55°. The 23 year average is 56.88°.

The first 13 days of **December 2012** were particularly cold, averaging 38.62°, with the temperature not rising above freezing on 12th and 13th – 12th was the coldest at 30°. Then there was a dramatic rise as we entered a warmer and wet spell of weather. The remaining 18 days averaged 46.56°, with the highest temperature of 52° on 22nd. Overall, the month came out just marginally above the 43.11° average at 43.23°. At night, temperatures ranged from 47° on 28th/29th, down to 21° on 11th/12th. There was an air frost on 11 nights, all of them within the first 14 nights of the month.

As suggested in the December issue, 2012 did turn out to be one of the coldest years on record. With 9 out of the 12 months recording lower than usual figures, the average temperature for the year was 55.79°, which is well below the 23 year average of 57.51°. Only two years were lower – 1996 (55.53°) and 2010 (55.22°), **January 2013** was an up, down and up again month. The first eight days produced well above average temperatures, with 50° being reached on 5th and 8th. Then we entered a very cold spell which lasted until 26th. During this period, we had four days when the temperature did not rise above freezing, the coldest being 29° on 16th and 18th. Then it became warmer again with a high of 53° on 29th. Overall, the month was below the 24 year average of 43.84° at 40.77°. Only 1997, 2009 and 2010 were colder than this. At night, minimum temperatures were in the range 44° (on 5 nights) down to 23° on 15th/16th and 20th/21st. An air frost was recorded on 16 nights during the month.

Climate Week 2013:

Climate Week is being promoted as Britain's biggest climate change campaign and will take place from 4-10 March 2013. It will showcase the many positive steps being taken to combat climate change in the hope that this will inspire many more.

During Climate Week people and organisations will run events and activities that focus attention on the challenges of climate change, highlight the practical solutions and create chances to share ideas and inspire action. It is hoped that thousands of organisations will take part, from government, business, local councils, the media, trade unions, public services, community groups, NGOs, the arts, sport, education, and faith. The aim is to show what can be achieved, share ideas and encourage thousands more to act during the rest of the year.

If you are interested in finding out more about Climate Week and how your community or a particular local organisation could get involved, visit their website:

www.climateweek.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

Arts Week - Di Gold (810256)
Baptist Church - Helen Wright (07702 087802)
charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com
Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)
Madeleine Wheare 810092 www.charlbury-drama.com
charlbury.drama@gmail.com
Charlbury Art Society (CAS) (810116)
Charlbury Beer Festival - Liz Donnelly (810056)
liz.donnelly@yahoo.com www.charlburybeerfestival.org
Charlbury Bowls Club - Secretary, Heather Hill - 810229
Charlbury Bridge Club - Monica Wilkinson (810560)
Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (810130)
hughandjoan@uwclub.net
Charlbury Chess Club - Bob Douglas (811083)
Charlbury Chronicle - Lynette Murphy (810688)
lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com
Charlbury Community Centre Appeal - Anna Cherry (810692)
Charlbury Cricket Club - Colin Olliffe (01993 704108 or 07909 9788863) colin.olliffe@gmail.com
www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk
Charlbury Day Centre - Bob Tait (810150)
Charlbury Evergreen Club - Ken Taylor (811441)
Charlbury Fairtraders - Cara Williams (811284)
michaelcara1965@yahoo.co.uk
Charlbury and District Garden Society Geoff Clifford (811006)
Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (811007)
peter@charlburymorris.org - www.charlburymorris.org
Charlbury Museum - Jennifer Bartlett (810312)
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 - Sarah Brooks - office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk
Charlbury Scouts & Guides - Charlbury Scout Group - Marcus Goodwin 01608 676207
Charlbury Brownie Guider - Fay Kempson 01993 779350
Charlbury Society - Simon Walker, (811414)
Charlbury Street Fair - John Munro
info@charlburystreetfair.org
Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Jarman (811692)
charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk
Charlbury Town FC - Keith Claridge 810201 or 07870426707
Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - Lynn Gorton 01993 869248 carlyynn@uwclub.net
Charlbury Green Hub (formerly CAWAG)
Christine Elliott (811057)
www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk

Charlbury Women's Institute - Secretary Gill Pratt (810998)
CHOC Cinema: www.chocfilms.info
secretary@chocfilms.info
Churches Together - Rosalind Scott, (810562) rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk
The Bell Hotel (810278) -
Cotswolds Guided Walks - Kevin Myhill, Walks Leader (737490) **Four-shires LETS Group (skills swaps)**
Ann/David Morton - (676302)
Friends Meeting House: Paula Dunleavy (646056)
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 (810934)
St Marys C of E Church Rev Judy French (810286)
St Theresa RC Church Rev Aldo Tapparo (810576)
Street Stage (touring youth fusion company) Anneke Hay (811269)
Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (811212)
Thomas Gifford's Charity - Liz Reason (811212)
www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst
United Nations Association (West Oxfordshire) - malcolm.cottages.entadsl.com tel: 07778 450515
Wychwayz Border Morris - Teresa Laughton (810934)
Wilderness Festival: www.wildernessfestival.com

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET

Playing Close, Charlbury on
Saturday March 9th 2013
from 9am to 1pm



**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.
9am – 12 noon on the 1st Saturday of
each month

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

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