



## HGV ban

### County Cabinet forced to reinstate plan to deal with Chippy's illegal pollution levels

A plan to 'downgrade' the A44 and force a lorry weight restriction through Chipping Norton's town centre is back in Oxfordshire's Transport plan – but only after a row and a Cabinet u-turn.

Air pollution in the Horsefair hotspot was declared illegal back in 2006. After 10 years of appraisals, options and the famous 'black box' on Topside, Oxfordshire County Council officially announced the 'plan for a ban' in their 2011 Local Transport plan.

Hopes were then dashed – first 'funding cuts' were blamed, then in April this year the County Cabinet tried to withdraw the whole idea. Chippy's County Councillor Hilary Biles objected at full Council and now Cllr Rodney Rose, the Cabinet member who runs the roads, has reinstated the plan after a 'scrutiny' review.

So it still could happen – but when and how? It will be up to local people, councillors and WODC to keep pressure on the County and work with other affected towns. Full story on this extraordinary turn of events inside.

### News in this issue

Remembrance Day

Police Commissioner candidates  
the blacksmith's craft

The Way We Were

Plus all the usual arts, sports, clubs, schools  
and letters

### Fun at the Autumn Fair



A sunny Saturday in October saw the town centre buzzing with people enjoying Transition Chipping Norton's Autumn Fair. Fancy dress winner Chace Jones (right) is pictured with other entrants and TCN's Barbara Saunders. Report and more pictures on page 7.

## Maternity unit closure shock

Chipping Norton's brand new maternity unit, opened by MP David Cameron last year, has closed for a three month 'review' after 'working practice' issues. Full report inside – including talk of disgruntled users, service concerns, Facebook stories of whistleblowing and dismissals, and a petition to reinstate midwives. Everyone wants the Unit reopened with a clean bill of health. See p3.

## Police & Crime Commissioner

On **Thursday 15 November**, Chippy will get its first chance to vote for a police and crime commissioner, who for the next four years will have the ability to hire or fire the chief constable of Thames Valley Police. It is the largest non-metropolitan force in the country, covering nearly 2.3m people in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, and spending £371m this financial year. Our commissioner will be paid £85,000 annually, to be accountable for how crime is tackled in the three counties and to make the police accountable to the people they serve.

It is a new type of election, held in late autumn when no other votes are taking place. As a result, some fear a low turnout and a freak result – including the woman who will report to the winner. 'There's always been a concern that if you have a small turnout, the potential for people with very

extreme views to be elected is greater,' Thames Valley chief constable Sara Thornton told the BBC. 'If the mandate is regarded as weak because few people have voted, it won't help them to be able to get things done.' Chippy residents can help by turning out to vote, either in person between 7am and 10pm, or by post – although the deadline for applying for a postal vote is 5pm on 31 October (contact West Oxfordshire District Council on 01993 861522 or 861525). Unlike council elections, candidates will not get leaflets delivered to every home; instead, these statements are available through <http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk/> or by calling 0800 1070708. To help you choose, we're publishing a summary of each candidate's background and views.

Links to candidates' websites and other useful information: <http://tinyurl.com/ChippyPoliceVote>

### The Candidates

#### Patience Tayo Awe (Independent)



Ms Tayo Awe is an IT post-graduate qualified in project management who has served as a charity trustee. She believes the public should take a greater role in setting local police goals, that victims of crime should have a greater voice, that politics should be kept out of policing and that IT is crucial in tackling crime. <http://www.policeelections.com/candidates/thames-valley/patience-tayo-awe>

#### Barry Cooper (UKIP)



Mr Cooper works at his family's furniture business in London. He wants a zero-tolerance approach to low-level crime and anti-social behaviour and more protection for 'the law-abiding majority', while opposing political correctness, excessive bureaucracy and cuts to police budgets. He also wants to see improved detection rates and police response times. <http://www.barry-cooper.com/>

#### John Howson (Liberal Democrat)



Mr Howson has spent 22 years as a magistrate in Oxfordshire, but his career has focused on education, first as a teacher, then as the first deputy head of Oxford Brookes University's school of education, and since 1997 running education-related businesses. He believes the force should offer better value for money, improve detection rates – rather than putting more police on the beat – and provide greater respect and more help for victims of crime. <http://www.johnhowson.com/>

#### Anthony Stansfeld (Conservative)



Mr Stansfeld, who has served in the Army and managed an aircraft company, is an executive member of West Berkshire Council and a member of Thames Valley Police, where he chairs the performance committee. He says that making household burglary a priority in urban areas has seen doubling in

detection rates and significantly fewer burglaries, and also wants to see a focus on reducing rural crime. <http://www.anthonystansfeld.org.uk/>

#### Tim Starkey (Labour)



Mr Starkey has been a barrister for 11 years, is a parish councillor in Buckinghamshire, and previously stood as a parliamentary candidate for the Lib Dems but left the party in protest at the Coalition Government's cuts. He wants to restore police officer numbers to 2010 levels, curtail private sector involvement in the force, ensure support for victims of crime and improve efficiency, such as by letting victims track the progress of their case online. <http://www.timstarkey.com/>

#### More links

Information on the issues: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-19478552>. Information on the candidates: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-19503420>

*As the News goes to press, two independent candidates, Khan Juna and Martin Young had withdrawn from the contest.*

### Chipping Norton News

## Come and help the News

Are you interested in what's going on around Town?

Why not join the volunteer *Chipping Norton News* team?

We are organised as a club and are having our AGM at 7.15 on Monday 10 December in The Chequers pub barn. Newcomers are welcome and there are drinks and crisps afterwards and a chance to meet team members.

Do come along!

We'd particularly like to see you if you want to have a go at doing interviews, writing stories or features.

More information on page 31

or call Jill on 643219.

## Maternity unit closed for review

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has suspended births at their Chipping Norton Cotswold Maternity Unit, saying 'an internal review is underway following concerns around working practices raised by staff and women using the unit'. The review would take three months. The unit will remain staffed and open during the day to provide antenatal support, breast feeding advice, babies' hearing tests and postnatal care. The brand new unit – opened in 2011, had 32 births in the



first 6 months but, according to local mothers, no births for three weeks after. The Trust are not saying what has happened, but stories, including on a Chippy Mums' Facebook page, include rumours of midwives being fired or moved, whistleblowing over management practices, and a direct affect on services available. There are no suggestions of clinical quality issues. The impact is on local mothers using both the unit and midwifery services in nearby town and village surgeries and clinics.

### Reassurances over closure

Local users also fear that pressures on staffing and money could lead to a decision to close permanently. Chippy is one of three midwifery birth units in Oxfordshire run by the OUH; Wantage unit closed in February for building works and staffing issues have delayed reopening. Jane Hervé, Head of Midwifery at the OUH Trust, will lead the review and the Trust say she 'will engage with staff, local mothers, new parents and representatives of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee' (MSLC). County Councillor Hilary Biles told the News, 'I have just spoken to Jane Hervé. I feel comfortable "at the moment" that there have been issues at the unit that need to be investigated to ensure we have an effective service. I asked the direct question to Jane, "Will this unit re open?" I have been absolutely assured it will. I think we all feared the maternity unit would be closed and never opened again given what has happened in Wantage. In fact Wantage will also reopen again on 26 November. I will be meeting Jane in the near future to discuss further.' Keith Ruddle, a News team member who also sits on the Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee said 'any changes here that affect service to patients will be of major concern to HOSC. The Chair Cllr Peter Skolar is aware of the issues and I'm sure will be asking the Trust to report to the Committee as a matter of urgency.'

### Local views wanted

Jennifer Lanham, a local Chippy mother and Chair of the Oxfordshire MSLC, confirmed all the issues raised by local mums. She told the News, 'These concerns have been reflected by a decrease in births at the unit over several months. While the unit being closed to births is unfortunate, this is temporary

and will provide the Trust with an opportunity to review all aspects of care.' Jennifer welcomed the review and confirmed



*Pictured in April 2011, Olivia Hall – the first baby born in the new unit with proud parents Hannah and Jason*

that the MSLC, which monitors services and will be actively involved to ensure the views and needs of local families are taken into account. She said, 'the Unit has enjoyed an excellent reputation by providing an exceptional service. It is one of two providers in the OUH that holds UNICEF Baby Friendly Status and has enjoyed long-term service by dedicated staff from the local community. It is the aim of the MSLC to work with the local service users and the OUH to see that the unit is restored to that same high standard of care.' Maternity users are encouraged to email their experiences, both positive and negative, and any concerns to the MSLC email [oxonmslc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxonmslc@yahoo.co.uk)

## Petition to reinstate midwives

In the latest development a public petition to David Cameron and Jane Hervé at the OUH has been started by Susannah King to, quote, 'have Alison Sangwine and Lou Westwood, two long standing and devoted community midwives, be reinstated to the Cotswold Maternity Unit. These midwives are a vital part of our community and maternity care, and we demand that they be reinstated without delay.' See [www.gopetition.com](http://www.gopetition.com) (search cotswold maternity)

## Cardboard and games galore



Everyone had a terrific time on 6 October at the Dads' Club at Chipping Norton's ACE Centre. It was Caine's Arcade Global Day (named after a young Los Angeles nine-year old who spent a summer building a DIY cardboard arcade in his Dad's garage). The idea was to unleash the creative spirit – without the usual use of high-tech computers. The Chippy lads and lasses built an amazing array of cardboard things to play with: an enormous boat, cars, pinball machine, various ball chutes and more. The News team went along and assembled the evidence alongside the enthusiastic makers. Dad's Club organiser Tym Soper was pleased with the activity and Anthony Hughes, father of Aidan and Leo who helped organise the event, said it was a great way to spend the morning and stimulate some imagination at the same time. For more on the Saturday morning club contact 644440.

## Skateboard campaign



A group of Chipping Norton youngsters are making great headway in a campaign for a skateboard park in Chipping Norton. Sam Edwards, Sam Weston and Mikey Krzyzanowski, eager to get something for Town enthusiasts, were spurred into action after (apparently) councillors told them they needed a strong

case and even a petition 'with 5000 signatures'. Here's what Sam told the News, 'Our petition is on the website [www.change.org](http://www.change.org); all you need to do to sign is put "Chipping Norton" in the search bar. It takes less than a minute! Other areas in West Oxfordshire have recently had skate parks built without the demand and have not been used to their full potential, whereas we have shown there is more than enough demand to warrant a skate park. Over 420 people have signed our petition. Three of us recently attended the Town Council recreation meeting; they were really interested and enthusiastic, but concerned with location and funding. To help solve the funding issue we would like to introduce a 'Chipping Norton Street Sports Club' so we can apply for bursaries and grants. To do this we need three key figures: a secretary, a chairman and a treasurer. If anyone is interested please email us via the petition. The sooner we get a club set up the sooner we can apply for funds. We have a couple of provisional sites but nothing confirmed yet and we have a follow up meeting with the Town Council on 31 October. Thank you to everyone who has already signed. Keep spreading the word.' See also Letters page 31.

## Town Grants awarded

Chipping Norton Town Council has awarded £10,000 in grants to local organisations for next year. The major grants (as in previous years) have gone to The Theatre (£2,500), The History Society and Museum (£2,000), and the Lido (£2,000). Other grants from £100 to £500 will go to CN Citizens Advice, CN Festival CIC, CN Green Gym, CN Music Festival, CN Rainbows, CN Relate, CN Silver Band, CN Swifts, CN Twinning Association, St John Ambulance and Volunteer Link Up (West Oxon).

## Town Hall toilets traumas

Chipping Norton Town Councillors recently told tales of Town Hall toilets closing early and at lunch time, and of caught-short punters having to use The Fox – an inconvenience for genuine customers and the landlord. The toilets are the responsibility of West Oxfordshire District Council and Cllr Eve Coles is constantly reporting problems to the powers that be. Apparently the toilets had to be closed for deep cleaning a few times after 'antisocial behaviour'. WODC also told the News, 'During very heavy rainfall, water is coming into the basement toilets through the external Town Hall building walls. We want to resolve this and are talking to Chipping Norton Town Council. The toilets are

open from 7am up to 10pm during the summer and up to 7.30pm in the winter. Recently the automated door timers developed a fault causing them to close early. This has been rectified. You may be interested to hear that the Council has recently invested in winter-proofing all toilets in West Oxfordshire to avoid problems with freezing pipes and icy, slippery floors in very cold weather. We have insulated the buildings, improved the heating and provided additional pipe lagging.' So let's hope Chippy's toilets are ready to welcome Jack Frost if he's ever caught short.

## BEM for Salford's Gilly Barnard

Congratulations to Gilly Barnard, who has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM). This award, which had been discontinued by John Major in 1993, was reinstated by David Cameron in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, Gilly Barnard was among the first recipients of this newly revived honour. One of only six nominees from Oxfordshire, Gilly received the award 'For services to the community in Salford' at an event in Abingdon in October, when she was presented with her medal by the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire on behalf of the Queen. A well known presence in Salford, Gilly moved to the village from London in 1975 and immediately became enthusiastically involved in every community activity: the church, the WI, local theatre and village fetes. She's also a familiar face at Penhurst School where she's a long-standing volunteer, and a further Chippy connection is her daughter, Isita Pickering, who owns Oats, the health food shop on the High Street. On her award, Gilly said 'I feel that Salford has given far more to me than I have given to the village.'



*Gilly – wearing her medal – on her daily church opening duty.*

## Chippy Town Hall meeting

Chipping Norton residents are all invited to an evening about the Town's new Neighbourhood Plan in the Upper Town Hall on Wednesday 7 November at 7.30pm (refreshments provided). This is being run by Planning Aid – a voluntary organisation which assists communities involved in the planning process to help shape their local areas. Planning Aid will use their expertise to help put the Neighbourhood Plan into context and explain its role in delivering the sustainable development of the Town over the next 15 years. You will also hear about progress the Neighbourhood Plan is making, including an update on the draft State of the Town Report – outlining views of people consulted in the Town to date, how this work fits into the wider Neighbourhood Plan process and the next steps. If you really care about Chippy please come along.

**Cllr Chris Butterworth**

## In business for Christmas

Here is a 'stop press' update on some of the changes to pubs, shops and services round town – more details next month;

**The Chequers in Churchill** reopens on Tuesday 6 November, following refurbishment by new owners, Sam and Georgie Pearman, who also own and run Gloucestershire Dining Pub of the Year 2012, The Wheatsheaf Inn in Northleach and the award-winning Tavern in Cheltenham.

**'Bartholomews'** ladies hairdressers opens next to Over the Top barbers in Chipping Norton's West Street on Tuesday 13 November – with Sue Bartholomew in charge and employing two hairdressers.

**Chippy Takeaway** with kebabs and more has just opened in Middle Row, with Sebastian Genovese in charge – he used run Little Sicily in New Street where Wild Thyme is now.

**Winebear** a new licensed wine shop is being opened by Richard and Katie Sharma along West Street past The Fox. Wine tasting events are planned during November and early December.

A new **Bridal Boutique** is being opened by Georgina Pimm on 10 November – in the premises on Horsefair vacated by Sassy Wedings.

## Bus crisis hits Town



In October RH Transport, who run the X8 Railbus and X9 Witney services and several school buses from the villages to Chipping Norton School, suddenly ceased operating and went into administration. With one day's warning staff were given notice (apparently, some by text!) and the services were withdrawn. Oxfordshire County Council had to step in rapidly and deal with the crisis. They immediately managed to get bus company Stagecoach to pick up the X8 and other county services affected, and were working on making it a permanent deal.

The school runs stopped immediately but luckily Friday 5 October was an inset day and Top School was closed. Urgent work over that weekend by the County saw short-term plans put in place for the 30 school runs formerly done by the now stricken company. Since Monday 8 October buses to Top School from Charlbury, Enstone, Dean, Chadlington, and Middle Barton have been run by Worth's Motor Services, Tex Cars and Tex Coaches, and Heyfordian Travel. This short-term arrangement will continue until March 2013 when a new tendering process will be held.

## Will Chippy ever get an HGV Ban?



Air pollution from heavy traffic in Chipping Norton has been at illegal levels for some years. West Oxfordshire District Council has the statutory duty to 'do something' but any major action depends on the County Council, who control our main roads. This month's front page story reports on how Oxfordshire County Council has been wavering on their commitment to stop the heavy lorries rumbling through Chipping Norton, and there is still no timetable for action. Here are the facts behind the story.

**2000-2004: The case for action.** In the 2003 Town Appraisal, a survey from 1,700 Chippy residents said heavy traffic through town was one of the top three issues affecting the Town's future. A two-year-long study by Halcrow for the County recommended (in the very long term) a bypass and with interim options such as 'downgrading' the A44 or a route via the Rollright Stones.

**2005-2008: Pollution declared 'illegal'.** Dangerous pollution levels in Horsefair and the town centre forced West Oxfordshire District Council to declare it an 'Air Quality Management Area'. A programme of monitoring was started with the now familiar 'black box'. After three years, air pollution levels were declared illegal and WODC produced an 'Air Quality Action Plan' (approved October 2008). Again it set out the same major options as before. But WODC can do little about the main road routes and so it was passed to OCC for consideration and action in their next 'Transport Plan'.

**2009-2011: HGV ban is proposed.** The County Council did more 'appraisal', dismissed the bypass idea ('not feasible') and the Rollright route ('too expensive') but proposed a definite HGV ban in their 2011 Local Transport plan. It said 'a scheme to de-prime the A44 is currently being pursued' and then 'a weight limit could be imposed . . . delivering relief to the town centre of Chipping Norton from lorries, including HGV restrictions on Horsefair'. Late in 2010 head of Highways, Steve Howell, and Cabinet member, Ian Huspeth, came to Chippy Town Council to announce the good news – but then admitted that because of funding issues money was not immediately available to do it all.

**April 2012: Cabinet say 'no ban'.** Next, with little local consultation, 'revisions' were made to the Local Transport Plan withdrawing the idea of a ban. Oxfordshire's Cabinet in

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April 2012 approved the revisions. The Chipping Norton paragraph was changed to read 'traffic management options within the Town have been investigated but would not resolve the problem; an HGV ban has been pursued but further investigation has shown that this would be likely to cause air quality problems elsewhere as well as reducing accessibility for HGVs to north Oxfordshire. No schemes are currently being pursued'.

**July-October 2012: Council row and scrutiny.** Then in July, angry Chipping Norton County Councillor, Hilary Biles, challenged all this at full Council. It was referred to a Transport Scrutiny Committee in September and the News was told by Mark Kemp (the head of Highways and Transport) that the Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Rodney Rose, had agreed to reinstate the Chippy 'Plan for a ban'. We await the written minutes.

**So will it ever happen?** Sounds like good news, but what about all the problems quoted as a reason for not going ahead? And, as ever, 'no resources' can still be used as a reason for no action. Cllr Hilary Biles is pressing on, and told October's Town Council meeting she and County officers were going to meet Gloucestershire representatives to pursue the 'depriming' of the A44 (it affects Stow and other towns). Meanwhile, Chipping Norton District Councillor Rob Evans, said that the District, through their Environment Committee, should be keeping the pressure up on the County for action. We await County Highways' and Cllr Rodney Rose's comments on when things might happen.

## News goes electronic

In case our regular readers had not noticed, the *Chipping Norton News* has a blog site [www.chippynews.org](http://www.chippynews.org) and can be followed on twitter [www.twitter.com/chippynews](http://www.twitter.com/chippynews). The site has always had interesting items from the News and some follow-up. Now, following a suggestion from reader Paul Burbidge (see letters), the News team will make available a PDF version of the whole *Chipping Norton News*, especially for readers who are far and wide around the world and do not take a subscription. The editorial team decided this electronic version would be available free on the website – but will not be put there until a month after the paper version has hit the

streets. So that is both a good archive and a good read for those far and wide who want to be kept in touch.

## New tip at Greystones?



*Flytipping on the increase since Dean pit was closed?*

Discussions on the new WODC 'recycling' tip at Greystones continue. The Town Council are still demanding a rent for the 'ransom' access strip of land and want a promise from WODC of a 'landfill' skip there as well. Rumours of increased flytipping continue (it's a 50 mile round trip to Alkerton since Dean Pit closed). The New Street car park recycling bin enclosure seems to be getting household rubbish dumped there

regularly (furniture, TVs, bedding and more). Some good news for keen recyclers: a pink bin for small electrical items is to be installed in the enclosure.

## How to select a new town mayor

The way in which Chipping Norton Town Council annually chooses its candidates for the new mayor has been causing some debate – with discussions on 'procedure' being held with public excluded under the Council's 'green paper' procedure. For many years there was a 'tradition' that a small committee of previous mayors put forward a candidate for mayor. Then in recent years the (now gone) Chippy First councillors challenged this and other councillors were invited to help. Last year new Conservative councillor David Lydiat again asked why there was not a more open and democratic procedure. After some discussion the Council have agreed to continue with a 'Mayoral Selection Committee' with at least four 'mayors or ex-mayors' and two others from the remaining councillors. This will all be in action in 2013 to decide who is to be mayor next year after the conclusion of current Mayor Martin Jarratt's year's term of office.

## Co-op expansion starts soon

The project to expand Midcounties Co-op supermarket starts before Christmas with demolition of old outbuildings and work on the new two level car park in January. District Manager Bob Richens updated the Town Council in October saying, 'The Chipping Norton store will be a jewel.' The main project would take 18 months with the store open but with reduced footprint during the work. Overall space will be doubled to 16k square feet. The Town Council hoped the outline of the old burgage plots would be marked in some way in the building design. The post office, travel agency and pharmacy will all be in the new store, raising some concern about three empty High Street shops but Bob Richens suggested that they would attract new businesses that would welcome being near the new store Topside exit. Up to 40 new jobs in the Co-op are expected.

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PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW FOR  
CHRISTMAS TURKEYS AND GESE

## Successful Autumn Fair



It's becoming a trend . . . once again Transition Chipping Norton's Autumn Fair was blessed with glorious sunshine. Visitors packed the Town Hall to browse the varied array of homemade, home-grown and hand-crafted products on

display, showcasing the talent and ingenuity of our local residents. In the marketplace, chicks were cheeping, looms were weaving, children were dancing, blokes were sharing 'shed' stories, compost was . . . well, composting and pumpkins were growing bigger by the minute! So many happy faces – and some pretty scary ones, too!



Our X-Factor-style Baking and Preserve-making Competition seemed to be the highlight of the day for many of our visitors. Where else can you stuff your face with cakes, puddings, jams and chutneys for a mere 50p and then vote for your favourite – going back for seconds, just to be sure! With The Chipping Norton Folk Club providing exceptionally good music, displays by some talented dancers, and the King Stone Wassailers entertaining in their own unique way, people joined in the fun and the atmosphere was buzzing!

There was no moss growing on the ladies at the TCN Café, where a steady stream of customers kept them on their toes. Thanks to the kind support and generosity of the Country Market ladies and gents, it was the perfect place to chill and enjoy a cuppa and a bite – all served with a smile! Chippy's Town merchants very generously donated some spectacular prizes and lent their support to the Town Raffle, the Pumpkin-Growing Competition, and the Baking and Preserves Competition. And the day just wouldn't have been the same without the fantastic autumnal decorations and knitted 'rosettes' provided by the Yarnbomber!

(Found: a black jacket left behind at the Autumn Fair on Saturday 6 October. The owner should call 01993 832012).

**Barbara Saunders**

## Autumn Fair – prize winners

Congratulations to the winners of the TCN Autumn Fair competitions on Saturday 6 October:

**Baking/Preserves Competition:** Creative Ways with Pumpkin: 1st place: Karen Markes for her Gorgeous courgette cake. Runner-up: Brenda Morris for her Pumpkin, orange and sultana cake.

**An Apple a Day:** 1st place: Jennifer Lanham for her Bramley apple cake. Runner-up: Friedel Herbert for her 'Bridal veil'.

**The Store Cupboard:** 1<sup>st</sup> place: John Skinner for Grandma's sweet apple chutney. Runner-up: Brenda Morris for her Mediterranean chutney.

**Children's pumpkin competition:** The winners were: Largest pumpkin: Aaron Bennett, age 8; Best-dressed pumpkin: Hannah Box, age 7. Smallest pumpkins: Ivy Walters, age 7 (truly embryonic!) and Lily Smart, age 7 (smallest 'properly ripe' pumpkin).

## News from St Mary's Church

About 50 members of the churches of the Chipping Norton Benefice attended a 'Day Away' at the Christian conference centre at Burmington in September. It provided a relaxed opportunity to meet one another and to discuss the day's theme. On the following morning, some from the nine local



churches making up the Benefice came together at St Mary's, when the opening of Chippy Jazz and Music was celebrated. Also, with a service of infant blessing upon our Benefice Youth Worker's baby son, Tobiah, relatives and friends of Esther and Jon joined a large congregation. Finally; one of many quotations from our Visitors' Book: '30.9.2012. Ivana, Slovakia. It gave me what I had been looking for, peace, strength, understanding and hope.' Worth coming to Chippy for . . . and some of us have it in walking distance.

**Gerald Forse**

## Town's Christmas Evening

Chipping Norton's shops are organising a special Christmas shopping evening 6-8pm on Friday 7 December. Polly Jaffé from Jaffé & Neale Bookshop is helping with the event and wants everyone to come and celebrate the Town and enjoy all the good things it has to offer. She told the News, 'this year is all about the celebration of Christmas and an opportunity for the retailers and businesses to say thank you to the Town for all the support we get through the year. St Mary's School will hold their Christmas Bazaar in the Town Hall and there will

**BINGO EVENING**  
in aid of the Mayor's Charities  
**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm**  
in The Town Hall

*The Mayor's Charities this year are Highlands  
Day Centre & The Lido.*

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be live music on the steps. Most shops will be open and full of festive cheer. There will be a competition town trail, Father Christmas will be in his grotto and the Co-op arcade will be filled with stalls from local charities and town organisations. Come and enjoy a festive evening and do a bit of Christmas shopping.'

## Try your own allotment

Fancy some fresh air and healthy eating? Then now's the time to put your name down in Chipping Norton for your own allotment. The recent Autumn Fair saw a magnificent display



of home-grown produce (pictured) to entice potential new enthusiasts. The Town allotments, next to Top School along Burford Road, are run by Town Councillors as the William Fowler Allotment Trustees – and for £10 a year (£5 for over 65s) you can rent one. The traditional allotment plot was 10 rods or poles in size – 302 sq yards – dating back to an Anglo-Saxon measurement which was meant to be enough land to feed a family of four for a year in vegetables. Current plots are half that size. There are a few plots available; more often come available in the spring but it is worth getting your name down with the Town Clerk (call 641341).

## Lido winter update

The pools at The Lido in Chipping Norton may have been put to bed for the winter but essential maintenance goes on and there are a few diary dates coming up. Sadly, one of the sycamores has to go: a disease affecting the roots of the tree nearest the café may mean it is unsafe, so on Monday 5 November it will be felled. There are plans to replace it with three young ones and, to mark its passing, it will fuel a winter solstice celebration bonfire on Friday 21 December. More in the next issue but save the date for a convivial atmosphere around a good fire, enjoying mulled cider and other suitably seasonal fare. Looking ahead to next summer, for the first time next year's season tickets are to be available at this year's prices between 1 and 31 December. This is a great opportunity for the keen swimmer to get ahead, or very welcome present for a keen swimmer. It can be presented as a gift in a Lido Christmas card. 10-swim carnets at the special price of £30 for adults and £25 for children will also be available. Tickets and carnets from The Fibreworks, Jaffé and Neale and the application form can be downloaded from <http://www.chippylido.co.uk>.

## Lido Lottery

This month's results are as follows: Total tickets sold: 147; Prize fund: £220.50; 1<sup>st</sup> prize: £110.25 Maggi Creese (43); 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: £66.15 Pauline Brooks (176); 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: £44.10 Mrs T King (138).

## New Parish Hall for Enstone

West Oxfordshire District Council's Cabinet has pledged a £50,000 grant and a loan of £15,000 to help Enstone Parish Council furnish, decorate and equip their newly-built parish hall. Enstone's existing parish hall was built in the 1920s from corrugated iron sheets, but is now outdated, limited in space and facilities with no parking. The new parish hall building, on Cox's Lane, has been provided by Charles Church Developments as part of a new housing scheme of 32 homes in the village, 16 of which will be affordable. However, the Parish Council now has to meet the cost of fitting out, which on top of the Council's money will be funded through the sale of the existing Parish Hall by auction this winter. Chippy-based Beth Sinclair (pictured), Parish Clerk for Enstone, said 'This will be a fabulous new hall, purpose-built for community use for the entire Pparish. All Parish Councillors are working hard behind the scenes and are fully committed to the success of the project'.



The new hall will serve Enstone, neighbouring villages of Neat Enstone and Church Enstone and six neighbouring hamlets of Fulwell, Radford, Gaginwell, Cleveley, Lidstone and Chalford. Beth indicated that brainstorming sessions will take place with parishioners on how best to use the hall. It will provide facilities for social and educational events, including

**CHRISTMAS ART & CRAFT FAIR**  
**CHIPPING NORTON TOWN HALL**  
Friday, 30th November 10am - 5pm  
Saturday, 1st December 10am - 5pm  
Sunday, 2nd December 10am - 5pm



# LOCAL NEWS

activities such as badminton, table tennis and keep-fit classes. It will also be a venue for meetings and functions such as weddings and parties. The structure is due to be finished by spring 2013, weather permitting, and the fit-out following on for eight weeks thereafter. So a great new local facility for the community of Enstone and hopefully a well-used one at that.

## Quiz et chips à la mode

Un film, quiz et chips (not frites) et musique à la française avec un AGM! This all adds up to the activities which Chipping Norton and District Twinning Association has been getting up to recently. We enjoyed a splendid evening of 'Food with a Film' at the Blue Boar in September and then held our AGM at Highlands in October, where we looked back over a very



successful year, including the jam-packed weekend of entertaining our friends from Magny-en-Vexin in May. They were bowled over by the excursion to London (pictured). After some reminiscing, the AGM continued with a swing accompanied by 'Café Musique' which helped the lovely French cheeses and bread and wine slide down nicely. Our grey matter was challenged by a fun quiz, worthy of any Francophile. Philip Ambrose won with 41 points out of a possible 50! We will be taking part in the late-night shopping event on Friday 7 December and to round off the year our Annual Christmas lunch is at Chipping Norton Golf Club on Sunday 25 November. We have been very pleased to welcome new members this year but there is always room for more! If you are interested please contact Jo Graves on 643976.

**Jo Graves**

## Booking to see Town Clerk

As from 2 January Chipping Norton's Town Clerk will be available to the public only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In line with other councils we will operate an appointment system and each meeting slot will be for a maximum of 15 minutes – appointments can be made through The Town Clerk's secretary on 642341. This is necessary to enable the Town Clerk to cope with her ever-increasing workload.

**Cllr Mike Tysoe**

## Santa at the ACE Centre

There will be a Christmas Craft Fayre in the hall at the ACE Children's centre on 14 November from 3–6pm. Father Christmas is making a guest appearance! Hoorah, I hear you shout! Be there, don't miss out! Thank you in anticipation.

**Maggie Tew**

## Broadband awards



*Hugo Pickering of Cotswold Broadband pictured outside the Town Hall*

Cotswolds Broadband, which will be bringing open access superfast 'Fibre to the Premises' broadband to Chipping Norton and surrounding areas, were finalists in the Innovative Funding Category at the NextGen Challenge Awards, the UK's broadband network innovation awards.

The awards evening took place in October during the NextGen12 conference at the House of

Commons Member's Dining Room. Cotswolds Broadband MD, Hugo Pickering told the News, 'This nomination is in recognition of the unique funding model we have put together to ensure that everyone in this part of West Oxfordshire can benefit from superfast broadband. A capital intensive project such as this requires innovative financing and it's good to see this usually hidden work getting recognition. It's one more reason why we say 'Fibre To The People'! The award eventually went to Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN) which is working to bring broadband to parishes to the east of Lancaster.

Our local company are conducting a survey of demand for superfast broadband in Chipping Norton. You can respond through their website [www.cotswoldsbroadband.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldsbroadband.co.uk)

## Christmas Tree Festival

After two very successful Christmas tree festivals, it is time again to get into the festive spirit. 50+ Christmas trees have already been booked by groups and organisations for the Methodist Church's festival at the church in West Street. The task is to come along and decorate them in an innovative and possibly humorous way. The opening is on Thursday 29 November at 6pm by Chipping Norton Mayor, Cllr Martin Jarratt, followed by carol singing from the Operatic Society. The whole event continues on Friday 30 November (3pm-8pm), Saturday 1 December (9.30am-8pm) and Sunday 2 December (1pm-5pm). On Saturday afternoon we will be serenaded by St Mary's School Choir. All profits will support the churches within our circuit. Tea and coffee, lunches, cakes and craft stalls will be available so it promises to be a wonderful festival and an early opportunity to get you into the festive spirit. Festival entrance is £2.50 for adults with all children free if accompanied by an adult. During the days local primary schools have been invited to come in and see the wonderful display of trees. The Festival finishes with a service of celebration on the Sunday evening at 6pm and all are welcome to join us. We look forward to seeing you all during the weekend. For more information call me on 643653.

**Maggie Hannant**

## LOCAL NEWS

### Help with Million Meal Appeal

Shoppers at Sainsbury's in Chipping Norton have been helping fight food poverty in the UK – by donating food over a special weekend in October. In a partnership with



Fareshare, the national charity tackling hunger across the UK, Sainsbury's and around 900 stores, encouraged shoppers to buy in their basket – and then donate in a large bin – cans, pasta, rice, tea and instant coffee. With the Million Meal Appeal Sainsbury's pledge to match the donations made and Fareshare will be able to deliver food for over 1.2 million meals to 720 charities and community projects it supports. Staff and local volunteers helped out over the weekend.

### New book rush at Library

This is the time of year which booksellers and librarians delight in. Thursday 11 October is the day when all the books aimed at Christmas Stockings appear on the market. Who will hit the top of the polls this year? Will it be the Man Booker prize winner Hilary Mantel's *Bring Up the Bodies* or possibly JK Rowling's first novel for adults, *The Casual Vacancy*, which has had mixed reviews, and is definitely only for adults. And in the anniversary year of James Bond, Jeffery Deaver has produced the latest 007 novel *Carte Blanche*. The Man Booker Shortlist for 2012 includes Deborah Levy's *Swimming Home*, *The Lighthouse* by Alison Moore, *Narcopolis* by Jeet Thayil, *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng and Will Self's *Umbrella*. You can borrow all of these through your local library – if they're not on the shelf immediately we can reserve them for you for just £1. Or if you wish, they can be downloaded as an e-book to your PC or I-player by logging onto <http://oxfordshire.lib.overdrive.com>

Judith Bucknall, Library Manager, Chipping Norton

### Chastleton seasonal events

Chastleton House is the Jacobean mansion run by the National Trust. **Putting the House to Bed** is on Saturday 17 November, 10-11.30am (Adults £14, children £7) and is an opportunity to see behind the scenes after the house has closed for the season. Our housekeeper will guide you around the house. Pre-booking is essential for the limited number of places. **Chastleton Village Charity Gift Fair** is on Saturday 24 November, 10am-3pm. Suggested donation: £2.50 Adult. This is not a National Trust event. **Deck the Hall!** For the first three December weekends (11am-3pm) you can escape to a bygone era. Visit this beautiful Jacobean mansion all dressed up for a traditional Victorian Christmas. Festive refreshments available (NT Members free, others £5

or £2.50 child – no pre-booking). For information call 674981 or email [georgina.halling@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:georgina.halling@nationaltrust.org.uk).

### St Mary's Friends in action

Our latest venture of the Friends of St Mary's Church was 'The Moonrakers' concert in October – a magical performance of Celtic, classical and contemporary music. The beautiful blending of voices and the wide range of instruments subtly brought out the character of each song. The audience grew steadily more enthusiastic and an encore received cheerful applause. Altogether a happy evening, for which many thanks to the group.



Our Mad Hatter's Teaparty in August raised £486. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the successful, cheerful and happy day – volunteers who set up the various pastimes, ladies who baked and served, almost non-stop, the sumptuous teas (not forgetting the stalwart who served the Pimms!), Kirsty and Giles for providing the setting and support. Most of all, our thanks to the Chippy public who, apart from contributing generously financially, appreciated fun, games and a relaxed atmosphere in one of the most beautiful gardens in Chipping Norton. Money raised will go towards the preservation of the fabric of St Mary's Church. We have been asked to do something similar next year.

Two future events are planned in the church. On Friday 14 December, will be a performance by Wychwood Chorale, starting early evening, aimed at a family audience. A Fairport

# Compass

Property Services

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## 07760351206

# LOCAL NEWS

Convention concert on 25 May, will appeal to all ages. For those who are a bit vague as to what 'The Friends' do: we aim to raise funds specifically for preserving and restoring the Church fabric. To contact us please e-mail: office@stmaryscnorton.com and mark it 'FSMC'.

**Ann Armstrong**

## Mobile photography exhibition



Hidden up a Topside alley off Chipping Norton's High Street is the home of design agency mark-making\*. On 6 October their studios were open to

the public with an interesting and unusual exhibition of mobile phone photography, designed to showcase the huge potential of the medium (pictures from phones now way outnumber those from normal cameras). The one-day exhibition had over 1,000 images from photographers all over the world. The free exhibition brought in a large number of visitors to see the results from mark-making's first Instagram competition, pictures from the mark-making team, and their new book, the A to Z of Instagram. Creative Director Steve Turner was pleased with the turnout saying, 'We formed our Instagram group, @markmakingdesign, to engage with fellow creatives – we are looking forward to meeting more photographic enthusiasts, sharing and working with them – not just online but locally'. Instagram is a free photo-sharing programme and social network that was launched in October 2010. More at <http://www.mark-making.com/instagram>.

*Photos: mark-making\**

## Ready for the snow

Cllr Mike Tysoe reports that the Town's plan for dealing with the winter is in place, with a supply of 30 tons of salt, to fill 53 bins around town and 8 tons in storage. He says this salt must



not be wasted or pilfered – Town and the County OCC have paid for it – you only need about 10-15 grams of salt to effectively treat one square metre – therefore 400 kgs of salt should go a very long way. Bins may not all be refilled during the season particularly if pilferage is suspected. Cllr Tysoe asks that, 'If you have a drive which needs salting, buy your own salt or use table salt – you don't need very much – but leave the Town's salt alone. (Last year two bins were emptied using a tractor and trailer!). The salt is for use on the TOWN'S ROADS. All bin locations and treated routes (by OCC) will be available on [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

'Equipment will also be ready for action. Blue spreaders around the Town are for the Snowmen and Snow-women. The Town's snowplough will be propelled by Guy Wall of Machinelink Ltd. Guy may also provide a small four-wheel-drive vehicle with another smaller plough. Jim Reeves, of JP Reeve Garden Machinery Specialists, is on standby with his small plough. We are very grateful to them both. We are also looking at purchasing one or two towable salt spreaders (needing a 4x4 with an ordinary hook) – any volunteer drivers please? New grit bins will be at Distons Lane, bottom of the Leys, bottom of Lords Piece Road, far end of Insall Road, in Station Road up the hill after Travis Perkins, at top of Glovers Close. Some old ones will be repositioned and split ones will be replaced.

'OCC will be taking responsibility for clearing and gritting (as a minimum): A44 and A361 main roads, Albion Street, West Street, Churchill Road, Hailey Road and Walterbush Road. For the rest of the roads it will be up to the Town ... BUT – ALL THIS TAKES 'MAN' POWER and we need more POWER – we hope that last year's Snowmen and women will turn out again but we need more volunteers – Walterbush Road has nobody at the moment and we are short in Wilcox/Insall Road areas. Any volunteers should contact the Town Clerk on 642341/ [cntownclerk@btconnect.com](mailto:cntownclerk@btconnect.com) or Mike Tysoe on 643028 / [miketysoe@uwclub.net](mailto:miketysoe@uwclub.net).'

## Plans for holiday lodges

A planning application has been submitted to site three holiday lodges on the outskirts of Chipping Norton on land north-west of the Elmsfield Industrial Estate off the Worcester Road.

### The Country House Curtain Maker



Curtains, pelmets and roman blinds  
Bedheads supplied and covered  
Window seat cushions

Advice on where you can buy beautiful fabrics at the lowest possible prices

**A FRIENDLY, EFFICIENT, LOCAL SERVICE**

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## Development at Manor House

A planning application has been submitted for four new houses in the grounds of the Manor House on West Street in



Chipping Norton. The proposal is to build two detached houses in the garden and a pair of semi-detached houses at the western end of the grounds backing onto the footpath between New Street car park and Withers Way. The houses would be accessed through the existing entrance by The Gallery on West Street and be built of reconstituted stone, render and horizontal timber cladding. The application has been submitted by Savills on behalf of Regeneration Homes Ltd, a small company based near Watlington. The Town Council expressed strong views on the proposal in September, including the impact on the setting of the listed building, the loss of its substantial grounds, the dangerous access point and the history of site flooding. However, planning officers appear to have given their support in principle, with a WODC letter describing the proposal as 'a logical complement to the existing pattern of development', albeit also raising some concerns about the possible impact on the conservation area and the setting of the Manor House. A single house in the grounds was refused permission in 1986 as 'backland development with a long and inconvenient access'.

## The Manor House – what do we know?

The Manor House is probably unknown to most people, having a discreet location, tucked away behind a high stone wall by West Street bus stop. The building dates from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, with a window dated at about 1520, although English Heritage says that the house has been much



1911 Ordnance Survey map showing the Manor House

altered, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is Grade II listed and its spacious grounds extend down to the New Street car park and contain numerous fine trees and a small watercourse fed by a spring that rises within the grounds. Despite its grandiose name, it is not clear that the property was, in fact, ever the house associated with The Manor of Chipping Norton. The name first appears to have been attributed to the property in the 1950s. It is most likely to have been a farmhouse with associated outbuildings, some of which may have been incorporated into the main house over time. The building is nevertheless of historic interest.

### Link with William Fowler

Research by Chipping Norton History Society in Chipping Norton Museum reveals that the farm was owned by Gloucester Cathedral at the time of the Enclosure in 1770. It was leased to William Fowler at the time of his death in 1858, although it was likely that he was in the process of purchasing the farm, as it was sold to his widow the following year. Ann Fowler continued to farm, employing nine men and two boys in 1861, and seven men and four boys in 1871. When Ann died in 1873, she left the farm to her two children. Her son, William Fowler Junior, had emigrated to Australia, where he had become a successful sheep farmer. Her daughter was unable to inherit land (being a woman), so the estate was split, with the house being sold to Thomas Coles, a corn dealer, and the land being sold to two other local businessmen. William Fowler bequeathed several fields to the Town and, to this day, the William Fowler Trust administers the allotments on this land.

### Recent ownership

Other notable owners of the house include Walter Epps, a wine and spirit merchant who became managing director of Hitchman's Brewery, who bought the house in 1888. Following the death of his widow in 1915, rooms in the house were used as a series of doctors' consulting rooms, the most recent of whom were Drs Harry Steel and Peter Latcham of West Street Surgery, until 1960. Land was sold for the construction of the old Post Office in 1929 and The Gallery was built in the 1980s, being used, first, as a picture framers and, until recently, by Luigi Gennari as an art gallery. The little building recently suffered fire damage and the planning application makes no reference to it. So it is not yet known what plans the new owner, whose company Capital Land Developments Ltd is described as being involved in 'the development of building projects in Chipping Norton', has for the former gallery.

Fish and Chip Quiz Night  
in the Parish Rooms.  
Saturday 1st December at 7.00pm.

Bring your own drinks.

Tickets £10 per head includes supper  
Advance tickets only.

To book a ticket and / or a table contact:  
The Church Office tel: 01608 646202 (mornings)  
e-mail: office@stmaryscnorton.com

The Plus Group, St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton

## Apple Day at Town orchard



Sunday 21 October saw a sizeable crowd of enthusiasts from the area assemble at the now flourishing Community Orchard over

the stream down the Worcester Road. It was the second chance to celebrate Apple Day there after the orchard was planted and is now maintained by the Green Gym (see p 25 for more of their activities) together with Transition



Chipping Norton. Many of the trees have borne fruit (not just apples but pears, gages and Yellow Pershore plums) in spite of the poor summer. There were delicious refreshments both savoury and sweet, children's games, a quiz and apple pressing together with the ceremony of Wassailing which involved all in singing and dancing.

The wassailing was led with vigour by the King Stone Wassailers. Traditionally in the cider-producing West of England, wassailing involves drinking (and singing) to the health of trees. Its purpose (usually in January) is to waken the cider apple trees and scare away evil spirits to ensure a good fruit harvest the next autumn. Ceremonies generally involve a wassail King and Queen leading the song and/or a processional tune being played from one orchard to the next. The wassail Queen is then lifted up into the boughs of the tree to place toast soaked in Wassail from the Clayen Cup as a gift to the tree spirits (and to show the fruits created the previous year). The assembled crowd sing and shout and bang drums and pots and pans and generally make a terrible racket until the gunsmen give a great final volley through the branches to make sure the work is done. And then off to the next orchard. Perhaps unbeknown to the general public, this ancient English tradition is still very much thriving today.

The first AGM of the Community Orchard is on Wednesday 21 November at 7.30pm in the barn at The Chequers. The Orchard belongs to the community – all are welcome. For more information ring 643691.

## Coffee morning for Shaun

A charity coffee morning and raffle is being held in Chipping Norton Town Hall on Wednesday 7 November from 9am-12noon. This is to raise funds for research at Oxford University on rare liver cancers and is being organised by the family and friends of popular local, Shaun Weller, who died aged only 22 back in May. A special football match at Chippy in August raised around £2,000 and everyone is encouraged to come and support this event.

## MP presents bike ride cheque

David Cameron visited the Tite Inn in Chadlington in September to present cheques totalling £11,000 to Bernadette Ross, Director of Nursing at Katharine House Hospice and Colin Cure, Director of Oxfordshire Association

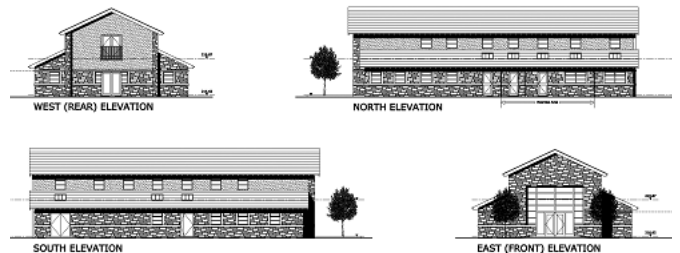


Harriett Fairbank Photography

for the Blind. The money was raised by 30 cyclists from the Tite Inn who cycled over 120 miles back to the village from Downing Street last April. The MP used to be a regular participant in this annual charity bike ride and had said that if he became Prime Minister the bike ride could start in Downing Street. This year it was called 'The Mike Ride' in memory of founder Mike Willis, former landlord of the Tite. Mike's widow Sue was in Downing Street to start the event, and his two daughters, Nicola and Genevieve took part, leading cyclists back into the village. The Prime Minister had hoped to see the riders off, but had to change his plans to visit Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma! Next year's Mike Ride in September will start at the Olympic Velodrome and finish at the Tite Inn.

## New Vet Hospital gets go ahead

Proposals for a new veterinary hospital on part of the Banbury Road allotments finally got the go ahead at Uplands



Planning Committee on 1 October. Bigger premises are needed because the type of animal treated by Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital has changed over the years, with 75% now being domestic and only 20% being farm or equine. The approved scheme will enable the practice to expand the service it provides, increasing the number of consulting rooms from two to four, separating waiting areas for dogs and cats, expanding nurse training facilities and providing accommodation for school-leaver trainees. The existing cramped site on Albion Street has poor access and parking, problems which the new site will also solve.

The new location is on part of the Banbury Road allotments, which are privately managed, and form part of the Over Norton Park Estate owned by vet Peter Kettlewell's family. Displaced allotment holders have already been offered

# LOCAL NEWS

alternative plots. A similar application earlier this year was refused permission as having 'an alien and incongruous appearance'. But only two weeks after submission of revised proposals, Planning Officers were able to report to Uplands Planning Committee that the reduced scale at first floor made the scheme acceptable and to recommend approval subject to no objections being received. At their meeting on 26 September Town Councillors commented that they preferred the original proposal, recommended that the access road be moved to protect a chestnut tree and asked for a pedestrian access to the allotments to be included.

Janine Whitehead, speaking on behalf of the practice, told the News that they had been working closely with the planners to overcome their concerns. 'Everyone has been very supportive of our proposals and now we intend to press on with it as quickly as possible.' Janice says optimistically that the practice hopes to be in the new building by Christmas next year.

## Police and crime update

Reports from Chipping Norton Neighbourhood PC Phil Marstin and local press.

**Dramatic shoplifting arrest:** In September a local 41-year



old man was arrested following shoplifting at the Co-op supermarket. His escape route took him straight into the path of PCSO Cheryl Harrison who was holding a Have Your Say meeting outside Nash's Bakery. With help from the public PCSO Harrison restrained the man until police officers arrived. The man was later charged with theft. Police would like to thank those

members of the public that acted in a very courageous manner to assist.

**Chippy Mop update:** The annual Mop fair passed off with only one notable incident of disorder dealt with by members of the Special Constabulary and the Neighbourhood Team who had changed their shifts to cover the event.

**Cannabis convictions:** John Simms and Beverley Digwood, both of Fox Close, were given community orders and charged costs by Magistrates after admitting producing four cannabis plants.

**Expensive jewellery theft:** A daylight burglary at a Great Rollright High Street property on 24 September between 10.50am and 4pm saw diamond, sapphire and gold rings and a locket stolen. Anyone with any information should call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or dial 101.

**New Hate Crime line:** National charity Stop Hate UK started a new 24/7 support service in Oxfordshire in October. Victims and witnesses can use phone, text, post or online to report issues or incidents to the charity – particularly if victims do not feel they can contact police direct. Hate issues are usually about hostility, prejudice, disability, race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. More at [www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org) or call 0800 1381625.

## Hospice's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary



*Chippy volunteers (back row) Margaret Smith, Michelle Mitchell, June Jarratt, Anne Buckingham, (front row) Prudence Chard, Gary French, Catherine Purton pictured at Helen House*

Volunteers from the Helen & Douglas House shop in Chipping Norton were invited to spend a day at the children's and young adult's hospice in East Oxford in September, and have lunch with Founder, Sister Frances, to celebrate the charity's 30th anniversary. After a warm welcome, the volunteers were shown around Helen House and the beautiful hospice grounds, experiencing the amazing work that Helen & Douglas House offers to families and guests and seeing the difference they make by giving their time to volunteer in their local shop and raise valuable funds for the hospice. In Chipping Norton the local team organised a lovely coffee morning in the Town Hall, with delicious homemade cakes, various stalls and a local quiz/photo game on 'How well do you know Chippy?'. Angie Gaydon, shop manager, said 'We are very grateful to everyone who supported this event and helped raise the fantastic sum of £195'. Local band, Blackmax and the Pirates, are organising a Music and Art event at the Town Hall on Saturday 24 November, 6pm to midnight. Tickets are £5 and can be reserved by calling 07506 459700. Several other local bands are performing at what promises to be a great night out.

Helen House was founded as the world's first hospice house for children by Sister Frances Dominica, then an Anglican nun who was Mother Superior of All Saints Sisters of The Poor. It opened in 1982 and looks after children from birth to the age of 16. Sister Frances later founded Douglas House which opened in 2004, the world's first specialist hospice for young adults aged from 16 to 35. The two houses are in the same grounds in East Oxford – a calm oasis just off the Cowley Road. They are not part of the NHS and get very little statutory funding. The vast majority of the £5 million needed to run them every year comes from voluntary donations.

### ART GROUP

**Would you be interested in being a member of a new Drawing & Painting Art Group in Chipping Norton?**

Evening or morning. It will be an informal group, sharing arty skills & information, with coffee & chat. Come & make new friends with a common interest.

All ages welcome.

Contact Jan on 01608 730268

# REMEMBRANCE DAY

## Remembrance Services



The Annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service is on Sunday 11 November. Those attending the Service at St Mary's Church should be seated by 10.40 for arrival of Mayor Martin Jarratt and guests at 10.45. After the service the parade will proceed to the Town Hall, where the Mayor will take the salute. On Saturday 10 November The Royal British Legion will hold a two minute silence at 11am at the War Memorial at the bottom of the London Road. Participants should assemble by 10.50am.

## High Flight

*This poem was read at the ceremony organised by The Royal British Legion to commemorate the recent 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the air crash marked by the plaque in Church Street.*

Oh I have slipped the surly bonds of earth and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;

Sunward I've climb'd, and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things you have not dreamed of – wheel and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence.

Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long delirious, burning blue I topped the windswept heights with easy grace where never lark, or even eagle flew.

And, while with silent, lifting mind I trod the high untrespassed sanctity of space, put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillespie Magee Jr

## Operation Appreciation

Local Chipping Norton resident Jo-Anne Box has a brother Andrew (pictured here) serving in Afghanistan, and knows at least another ten serving soldiers from around Chippy. She wants the local Oxfordshire community to band together to donate 200+ Christmas parcels for British troops on the frontline. Jo-Anne is working in partnership with Support Our Soldiers Charity. Local schools are decorating boxes and making Christmas cards to go inside. Some suggested items: seasonal goodies, santa hats, savouries, cakes, biscuits, chocolate, toiletries (no aerosols), socks and undies, puzzles, games, pens, notebooks and more. To take part or pass on the name of someone who would like to receive a parcel please contact [oxford@supportoursoldiers.co.uk](mailto:oxford@supportoursoldiers.co.uk). There are collection points for donations or parcels at Beales and the Co-op.



## SOS Coffee Morning

A coffee morning at the Fox Hotel 10am-noon on Remembrance Saturday 10 November will raise money for Support Our Soldiers Charity to help frontline servicemen and women and their families.

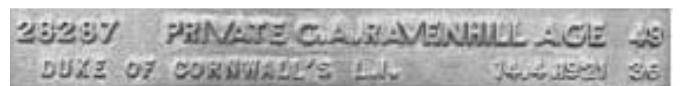
## A Chippy war hero?

An interesting recent article in the *Oxford Mail* mentioned George Ravenhill, a Chippy war hero who received the Victoria Cross. The Victoria Cross Trust – a year-old charity founded and run by Yorkshireman Gary Stapleton – is arguing that he should be on the Chipping Norton War Memorial as this is where he was living at the time when he signed up. But was this hero all that he seemed, and what, if any, was his connection with our town? Ravenhill served in the Boer War, and it was suggested he died as a result of his injuries in World War One. However, it seems that not only does another place have a far stronger claim on George, but that he is already commemorated on a war memorial.



George Albert Ravenhill was born on 21 February 1872 in Nechells, an inner city area of Birmingham. He was the son of Gloucestershire-born Thomas Ravenhill, a spade tree maker or wood turner, and his wife Mary, and was part of a very large, poor family, the fourth of twelve children. George originally trained as a carpenter, but, after initially joining the 4th Battalion Royal Warwick Regiment, he enlisted with the Royal Scots Fusiliers (now the Royal Highland) two months after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, on 18 May 1889, whilst still living in Birmingham. During the Boer War, George served at the Battle of Colenso, and received his VC in 1899, for leaving his sheltered position on several occasions under heavy fire, to assist officers and drivers in trying to withdraw a number of guns when their crews became casualties. George's Victoria Cross was forfeited in 1908 after a conviction for stealing iron. Unemployed, and with a reputation for mixing with bad characters, he was gaoled for a month. However, the award was reinstated in 1920.

In 1911, George Ravenhill was listed as an inmate of the Aston Union Workhouse in Birmingham, possibly there because his criminal conviction and war experience affected his ability to earn a sufficient wage. Having married in 1898, three of George's four young children were sent to Canada to be fostered. Ravenhill was living in Rock Hill in Chippy when he re-enlisted in 1914, aged 42, and his youngest children were born there in 1915 and 1916. That same year, he was discharged on medical grounds. By 1919, he had returned to Aston, dying of a heart attack on 14 April 1921, aged just 49 – leaving (according to the *Birmingham Gazette*) his wife and children near destitute.



Although Ravenhill lived in Chipping Norton for a few years, his hometown was undoubtedly Birmingham. And he has not been forgotten by it; his name is on the War Memorial in Witton Road Cemetery, where he is buried (pictured above). Given this and his far stronger links to Birmingham, it seems unclear why George Ravenhill should have his name on a memorial so far away from the place he would have really called home. The Chippy British Legion has a more detailed biography at [www.chippingnortonbritishlegion.com](http://www.chippingnortonbritishlegion.com)

Nell Darby

## How to train a blacksmith

*In September, Chippy News reporter Nell Darby took part in a blacksmithing course run by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, part of their rural skills programme. Here's her account of her time getting rather burnt and smoky...*

It's early on a Saturday morning, there is the smell of smoke in the air at the Old Prison in Northleach.

A muscly, tattooed, shaven-headed man is pouring coal onto two small furnaces outside, then winding a handle at the back of each, which sends fan blades spinning and causes flames and smoke to pour into the air.

This is Richard Williams, 40, an agricultural blacksmith based at Cherington, near Tetbury. He runs a successful blacksmithing and woodworking business with his brother, having taken over from his brother, but also spends what little spare time he has illustrating traditional blacksmithing skills at local fairs.

Today, he is running a blacksmithing course for the Cotswold Conservation Board, and I am taking part. The course is just one in a range of skills taught under the Cotswold Rural Skills banner. The Conservation Board hopes that by taking part, local people might be encouraged to train in skills such as blacksmithing, drystone walking or hedgelaying thus helping to keep the traditional skills of our area alive.

The blacksmith was once one of the most important jobs in a town. In Chippy in 1911, there were still several, including 28-year-old Frank Grafton at Rock Hill, Henry Hirons, 34, on Burford Road, and 51-year-old Fred Canning up the road at Southcombe. Others were based on Albion Street and Worcester Road. Some were more fortunate in work than others, though. The 1911 census also records an inmate of the Chipping Norton Workhouse, a pauper named Phillip Moss, aged 61, who described himself as a former blacksmith.

Although Richard looks somewhat intimidating, clad in his blacksmith's overall, he is a fantastic trainer – infinitely patient (he needs it with my lack of ability), with a great sense of humour and a keen interest in family and local history. There are just two of us on the course – myself and Marvin, who is in his 60s and has travelled over from Stroud. We each have our own furnace and anvil, and virtually personal tuition from Richard.

He starts by explaining to us how the furnaces work, and the importance of keeping the temperature constant. We are then shown where to place the steel we're going to be working with in the correct part of the fire, and for how long. We are also shown the various parts of the anvil, and how the 'beak' of it – the pointed section at the front – is used to bend the steel and iron into curves and circles.



*Top: Richard Williams primes a furnace  
Above: practising on rods of steel on the anvil  
Right: finally after toil and sweat if not tears, the finished object – a magnificent wall hook*

We practise on rods of steel, creating first a little squiggle that becomes a hook; and then a full circular hook, before creating a 'penny end' – beating the top of the rod until it becomes a flat circle. It is hard work; bent over a hot fire with temperatures up to 1100 degrees, my hair sings and I feel that my face is almost tanning, despite wearing safety goggles. The hand that is turning the fan is soon blistered, and I managed to burn myself on the furnace despite wearing thick gloves. You get a real idea of how hard a job this was for our rural ancestors, and why they were such an important part of our town life, creating not only horseshoes (today more the work of farriers) but everyday tools and implements.

Eventually, we are able to combine the different elements of what we have learned, and produce a wall-hook; a simple item, but one that has taken a whole day of bending over a steaming hot fire, and brute strength in hammering a rod of steel to get it to form the shape we want. After a day of blacksmithing, I have a great respect for our ancestors, who had to do this demanding, yet rewarding, work every day.

To find out more about local rural skills courses, which include dry stone walling and green



woodworking, contact Cotswold Rural Skills by phone on 01451 862000, by email at [info@cotswoldsconb.org.uk](mailto:info@cotswoldsconb.org.uk), or see the website at [www.cotswoldruralskills.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldruralskills.org.uk).

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## The Theatre Chipping Norton

**Cinderella in Panto:** This month sees the start of Panto season by the team who brought us *Dick Whittington*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Ali Baba* and this year *Cinderella* written by Ben Crocker. The story is classic romantic rags to riches, but being set in Venice gives it even more charm with the



city itself as one of the main characters. This year returns to what is often thought to be more traditional casting, so look out for who is playing Prince Charming. Two actors from previous Chippy Pantos are back: Matt Pinches (above), who was in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Shaun Hennessy (left), a memorable King Rat in *Dick Whittington* and Mum Baba in *Ali Baba*. Matt told the *News*, 'Playing Chippie the

French Poodle in *Beauty and the Beast* two years ago was one of my happiest jobs and so when I was asked to play Buttons in *Cinderella* I was absolutely thrilled. It's such a privilege to do a job like this and John, Harriet, Amy and everyone at The Theatre are so welcoming that it's like going back to one big family. Can't wait to get started!' While Shaun concurred, 'I'm happy and flattered to make a third trip to the most respected panto in the land and to offer up my second Chippy dame (well, ugly sister!). I can't wait to give the faithful Chippy audience a few hours of genuine fun.' Panto is 20 November-6 January; book online at [www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com) or Box Office 642350 for all Theatre events.

**Cinema: *On The Road*,** Jack Kerouac's 1951 novel has at last been released as a film – another road movie directed by Walter Salles who also directed *The Motorcycle Diaries*. An iconic beat generation book, it will be interesting to see how it translates into film. 7.30pm Sunday 25 November and 10.45am Monday 26<sup>th</sup> at Cinema Bambino club.

**Beethoven – The Man Revealed:** John Suchet, well-known journalist and Classic FM presenter is a leading authority on Ludwig van Beethoven, and is here to promote this, his sixth book on the composer. It is extensively researched and of interest to anyone who loves the music. There will be a book-signing afterwards. 7pm Friday 30 November.

**Art in The Gallery:** Oxfordshire artist Dirk Pretorius's exhibition of oil paintings is of landscapes from around the British Isles and Europe, including some of local interest. His work contrasts peaceful, subdued scenes with those using bright bold colours all influenced by a cross-section of 20<sup>th</sup> century artists. Tues 20 November - Tues 11 December.

## Chipping Norton Requiems

The Chipping Norton Choral Society and the Cotswold Baroque Players, conducted by Bernard West, will be performing **Mozart's Requiem** and **Haydn's Requiem** in

**C Minor** on Saturday 8 December at St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton at 7.30 pm. Tickets from Cotswolds Newsagents, Jaffé & Neale or from [tickets@cncs.org.uk](mailto:tickets@cncs.org.uk).

## Chippy Jazz and Music Day

**A musical stroll round town:** Many visitors will have good memories from CN Rotary's popular September charity event, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year. Here are some of mine:

The weather was dry and not too cold to enjoy all the various outdoor performances. Outside the Bookshop were our very popular CN Allstars and later around the nearby tree I listened to Dickie White's Jazz Allstars Walking Jazz



Band, and then in the packed garden of the Red Lion and in the nearby street, many stood to hear gypsy-style jazz by Fiddle Bop. Inside the pubs, hotels and

cafes there was lots to choose from. Another member of the *News* team sat in the Chequers to enjoy the Spats Langham Trio while I had a hot drink in the Mill Coffee Shop enjoying the trio from the Grand Union Syncopators, playing four-string bango, trumpet, saxophone and clarinet. Sadly I had to miss the afternoon Youth Jazz Band Concert but Simon Hamilton of the Rotary Club reports, 'There were three 40-minute sets each had its own particular and very professional sound. The two big bands provided a slick routine and a very appropriate uniform: dark suits, black shirts and trilbies for the Reading Big Band (winners of CN Music Festival Youth Jazz Band Challenge), and DJ and Black Tie for the home-grown CNS Allstars. Cokethorpe School Jazz were dressed casually matching their music which gave more of a nightclub atmosphere. The Town Hall was pretty full and many left the concert, blown away by the professionalism and power of these young musicians.'

**Evening at the Town Hall:** The evening performance by Tony Jacobs and Company was just the right mixture of music for the first Chippy Jazz and Music event, being a celebration of the best of the songwriters of the 20's to the 40's including jazz, big band sounds, and ballads. Tony himself was entertaining and a marvellous trumpet player. His Company were all individually excellent with solos to show off their skills. Included were Sue Greenway, from Middle Barton, guest singer Louise Cookman, who sings with BBC Big Band, pianist Jim Barry and guest Spats Langham already a success with his Trio at the Chequers. The music was very diverse; the show included Alexander's Rag Time Band, Singing in the Rain with the audience participating, an excellent banjo solo by Spats and duets by Tony and Louise. Sue played a clarinet solo from

# THE ARTS

the Queen's Suite by Duke Ellington called Single Petal of the Rose, as their contribution to the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. I thought the acoustics were excellent as I could hear every word from the stage; altogether a great finale to Chippy Jazz and Music Day!

Kaye Freeman

## Around and about

**Eccentric Patron of the Arts:** The Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society November lecture by Sandra Pollard, a Fine Arts expert, is on a most remarkable woman, Lady Ottoline Morrell. She was a passionate and eccentric patroness of the arts who entertained lavishly at her beautiful Jacobean house, Garsington, near Oxford. Her many friends included Augustus John, Henry Lamb, Roger Fry, Stanley Spencer, DH Lawrence and Bertrand Russell. The venue is Bradwell Village Hall, Burford. Wednesday 14 November, start 11am, coffee and tea from 10.15. Non-members welcome (suggested donation £8).



**Tapestry:** *Weaving the Century at Dovecot Studios 1912-2012* This exhibition at Compton Verney organised by the weavers of Dovecot Studios Edinburgh brings together well-known artists creating hand-woven tapestries and rugs. Included is diverse work designed by Sir Peter Blake, David Hockney, and Graham Sutherland. The hand-weaving technique has been handed down through the century of the Studios' existence and the present weavers have inherited the secrets of this remarkable trade. Compton Verney 11-5 Tuesdays-Sundays until 16 December [www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk) or tel 01926 645500 for details.

**Christmas at the Bodleian:** As part of the Christmas celebrations, Oxford's Bodleian Library is putting on public display a selection of broadsheet ballads printed between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. They were cheap illustrated song sheets conveying all aspects of life; news, comedy, political arguments and moral advice. Sold everywhere; on street corners, at fairs and posted on walls of ale houses, they were sung, read and viewed by all. Only a few have survived, so this is a rare opportunity to see them. 17 November-21 December – details: [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

**Art in Broadwell:** Under the auspices of the North Cotswold Arts Association respected Cotswold Artist David Birch will be giving a watercolour demonstration on Wednesday 14 November in Broadwell Village Hall from 2-4pm. £5 including tea. Contact Sandi on 01451 822550 for details.

## Music in Burford

**Lenthall Concert:** Michael Bochmann (violin) and Deniz Gelenbe (piano) perform a definitive programme of music by Dvorak, Mozart and Beethoven. Tickets at the door (£12) or in advance (£10) Wednesday, 28 Nov 7.30pm Burford School, Cheltenham Road, Burford. Further details of the 2012-13 concert season and tickets from [www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk](http://www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk) or 01993 824949

**Burford Singers Concert:** The programme includes works by Haydn, Elgar & Jonathan Willcocks. Soloists Ruth Jenkins soprano, Claire Bradshaw mezzo, Ben Thapa tenor and

Duncan Ross bass perform with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra conducted by Brian Kay. 7.30pm Sunday 25 November at St John's Parish Church, Burford. Tickets £5, in advance, for the Public Rehearsal at 2.30pm on the Sunday afternoon (Evening ticket holders attend free). Tickets, all reserved, priced at £17.50, £15 & £10. For further details, see [www.burford-singers.org.uk](http://www.burford-singers.org.uk). Tickets for both concerts from The Madhatter Bookshop, 122 High St Burford, tel 01993 822539.

## Festive Woodstock & Blenheim

**Oxfordshire Craft Guild Exhibition:** A further date for your diary to view and perhaps purchase individual pieces of locally made jewellery and craft for Christmas: the Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas Exhibition returns to the Oxfordshire Museum for the festive season. Featuring many of the county's leading craft designers and makers this selling exhibition will display jewellery, pottery and other treasures. Free entry, opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm 17 November-3 January.

**Living Crafts for Christmas:** 16-18 November, celebrating the best of British produce, this festive show of around 100 exhibitors is in Blenheim Palace's courtyards. Quality crafts include jewellery, ceramics, clothing, works of art and festive food including homemade chocolates, flavoured cheddars, seasonal pies and chutneys. Beat the Christmas crowds and pick up some beautiful and distinctive presents. For information or bookings call 0845 2305176.

**Handel's Messiah at Blenheim:** Since 2006 The Blenheim



Singers have performed highlights from Handel's *Messiah* at Blenheim Palace at Christmas. This year's concert will be on 2 December when they will be joined by the

critically acclaimed International Baroque Players in a charity performance for Cancer Research UK. Guests can enjoy traditional mince pies and mulled wine, and the performance of *Messiah* in the elegant Orangery will include Part I, and excerpts from Parts II and III. A short introduction will be given by a scientist working on cancer research, and there is a silent auction of luxury goods during the interval for Cancer Research UK. Doors open 6pm Tickets: £40, 01865 244806.

## Wychwood Chorale Christmas Concert

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*St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton*

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*Refreshments available*

# SPORTS NEWS

## Cricket

*Graham Beacham writes:* Sadly the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI lost their last game. Winning would have won the league, so they finished fourth with no promotion. They had a good season, but as before, missed out in the pressure games. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI seem to thrive on the big games and have a League presentation dinner in November when they pick up their winners' trophies.

*Sam Evans reports:* The Club's Aunt Sally team ended up finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 2, and runners up in the Handicap cup. Top League Doll Scorers were Tony Smith and Nathan Wallington with 80 each. Best average was Adam Wallington with 2.14 and Most Blobs was Sam Cottle with 10 for the season. Also a special mention for Trev Evans who scored a massive 103 dolls in all competitions throughout the season. Pictured above is the team (Mervin Case, Sam Evans, Nathan Wallington, Mark Jarvis, Michael Tompkins, Ian Widdows, Tony Smith) collecting our runners up trophies on finals night.



## Aunt Sally

Latest League Table Town Teams.

Division One ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> - Football Club, 5<sup>th</sup> - Fox A.

Division Two ~ 1<sup>st</sup> - Red Lion A, 6<sup>th</sup> - Cricket Club

Division Three ~ 5<sup>th</sup> - Red Lion B, 6<sup>th</sup> - Fox B

## Golf Club News

**Junior Team triumph:** Chippy Junior's have regained the Oxfordshire Junior Golf League (North Division) Title having come second last year. This is Chippy Juniors' fourth win in five years.



L to R Will Preece, Camilla Hancock, Harriet Hancock, Imogen Vessey, Richard Whiston & George Kay



**Club Junior Champions:** Will Preece, pictured left with Club Captain Alistair James, won the 36 Hole Junior Championship, with George Kay second and Richard Whiston third. Will is also the Junior Handicap Champion just in front of Laura Howlet, while Harriet Hancock (pictured right with the Club Captain) finished third with the best first round nett score which secured her the Chipping Norton Trophy.



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# SPORTS NEWS

## Academy success: A well supported 5-hole Texas Scramble



involving four Junior Academy/Beginners teams was won by Assistant Pro, Danny Phillips's Team: Jack Moses, Tom Bishop, Ben Southall and Tom Dukes with 20 Points. A lively Prize Presentation in a packed clubhouse afterwards was enjoyed by all the Competitors and their Mums and Dads.

Marius Harte

## Invitation Dart League

With summer finals on 20 October, what a wonderful season it has been. Final league results are as follows:

Division 1 Singles & Doubles League ~ Football Club B  
Division 2 Singles & Doubles League ~ Football Club A  
Division 1 Ladies' Highest Check In ~ Lyn Tompkins 95  
Division 2 Ladies' Highest Check In ~ Nicola Clarke 122  
Division 1 Men's Highest Check In ~ I Beasley, F Moreton, S Carpenter, T Herbert, J Massey 160.  
Division 2 Men's Highest Check In ~ S Green, A Turner 132  
Div 1 Ladies' Check Out ~ Lyn Tompkins 93  
Div 2 Ladies' Check Out ~ Nicola Clarke 89  
Div 1 Men's Check Out ~ Kevin Smiyh 156  
Div 2 Men's Check Out ~ Matt Pridmore 144  
Div 1 Ladies' Most Wins ~ Irene Richardson 3  
Div 2 Ladies' Most Wins ~ Nicola And Annie Clarke 6  
Div 1 Men's Most Wins ~ Garry Ware, Simon Carpenter, Fred Moreton, Nick Earley 9  
Div 2 Men's Most Wins ~ Danny Lewis, Lewis Clifton, Aiden Pratley 9 Most 180s Simon Carpenter 3, 180s Les Marlow, Phil Brown, Richard Ainsley, Craig Harris, Mick Hume, Nick Earley, Pete Smith, Carl Pollard, Matt Joynes, Kevin Smith, Sam Wilkes, Tony Smith, Kiren McCaffery.

Finals night promises some great matches. Gill and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Lyn Tompkins

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## Mini Rugby

What a fantastic start to the new rugby season down at Greystones, home of Chipping Norton RUFC. We may have had an appalling summer but the sun has been shining on the 200 young players who have been having fun on Sunday mornings.



This great community club caters for all ages of boys and girls either aiming to be the next Jonny Wilkinson or just looking to enjoy the best team sport in the world. From 5-

year-old tag rugby to 11-year-old contact, the players are preparing for the first match of the season against Gosford All Blacks. This is our first chance to see what great work the fantastic coaches have done in getting our players ready. This season the club has attracted lots of new players and we are always very keen to welcome more children. Call me on 07900 665 360 if you'd like to find out more.

Huw Jenkins

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Sports Awards

The Town Council has agreed to run the Awards again with the Awards Evening in the Town Hall on 21 February 2013. A sub-committee of the Recreation Committee is to organise the event. One plan is to increase the number of nominations received, by looking at the schools and club contacts lists. However at the end of the day it is up to parents, coaches, schools and clubs to nominate their sportspeople! There will be four awards this year:

Young Sportsperson Under 11  
Young Sportsperson 11-17 year olds  
Sportsperson 18 and over.  
Team Award.

Nomination details in next month's News.

Graham Beacham

## Sport in brief

**Rugby:** The 1<sup>st</sup> XV had a very good 55-0 win against Bicester and sit fourth in the league after 3 games. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV are fifth in their league after 3 games.

**Football:** The 1<sup>st</sup> XI sit top of the Witney Premier Division after 5 games. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI are sixth in Division Three.

**Youth Football:** The U12 Swifts have won 2, drawn 1 and lost 1 game in their league.

The U15 Swifts have won 1 and drawn 1 game in the league. Chad Whites U11 side have drawn 1 and lost 2 games in their league.

**Horse Racing:** Charlie Longsdon the trainer at Hull Farm, recently held another very popular open day at his stables, attracting 350 visitors. He would like to increase his winnings up to the £500,000 mark for the season and be one of the top ten trainers from the 75 horses he has for this campaign. This is his fourth year at Hull Farm, his seventh as a trainer.

Graham Beacham

# CLUB NEWS

## Chipping Norton Rotary

**Fantastic Fireworks Display 4<sup>th</sup> November:** at Kings Stone Farm (OX7 5QB) near the Rollright Stones. Gates open at 6.30 for 7pm. Featuring a superb 20 minute display laid by an established professional firm, this fireworks display is hopefully the first of many. Parking available plus hot food, soup and soft drinks available for sale. Unfortunately, no private fireworks or alcohol are allowed on the site which will be stewarded. Tickets in advance from Jaffé & Neale, adults: £4, u-16s: £2, on the gate £5 & £3 and family tickets £15 (2 adults + 2 u16s).

**Chippy Jazz 15<sup>th</sup> year success:** For all those who came into town on 30 September, we hope you had a fantastic day. The town was humming to great free gigs including



The Old Mill Coffee Shop with the Grand Union Syncopators, the Methodist Church with Folk Gospel and Blues



Unplugged with Rev Steve Weston and our perennial favourites Dickie White's Jazz Allstars Walking Band in the Lower Market Place. Meanwhile some great music could be heard in the Town Hall from the youth bands of Reading School, Cokethorpe School and our own Allstars. The day was topped off by a superb Evening Concert from Tony Jacobs and Company with their guest star Tom 'Spats' Langham in the Town Hall. Overall, Chipping Norton was firmly on the music map, and unfortunately you will now have to wait until next September to get your next 'fix'!

Of course, the Rotary Club organised this great event not only to bring some great music to the Town and to put Chipping Norton on the map, but also to raise funds for good causes. This year's are Thames Valley Air Ambulance, Riding For The Disabled and St Mungo's with each receiving over £1,100. See also report and more photos on Arts page 17.

Simon Hamilton

## A life amongst the trees

The new season of the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association commenced in October with a return visit of Graham Soden from Middleton Cheney. His talk, 'A journey through Scotland', was illustrated with wonderful photography of wild life and places throughout Scotland, where he had worked at one time as a warden in a nature reserve. His visit was much appreciated.

The November meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> will commence at 7.15 with the AGM and will be followed at 7.30 with a visit by Martin Jarratt speaking on 'My life amongst the Trees'. New members and visitors always welcome. More details from the secretary Eileen Forse on 643275.

## History Society's brewing mystery

An appreciative, and suspiciously well-informed, audience listened intently to Martin Way talking about 'The Mystery of Brewing'. Martin's extensive knowledge related principally to the Wychwood Brewery, with which he had been connected. He shared his knowledge of the variety of hops, and of the best water to use; and we were given the chance to taste the different textures and flavours of the malt grain. Martin had slides of the East End hop pickers, tally sticks, archives, and a wonderful array of the tools used in the highly skilled, and rare, trade of the cooper. It was an evening not to be missed.

Our next talk on Monday 12 November in the Methodist Hall will be given by Carol Anderson. We look forward to seeing members and newcomers at 7.30pm to hear her tell us all about the steel workers of Woodstock.

Liz Whitaker 646922

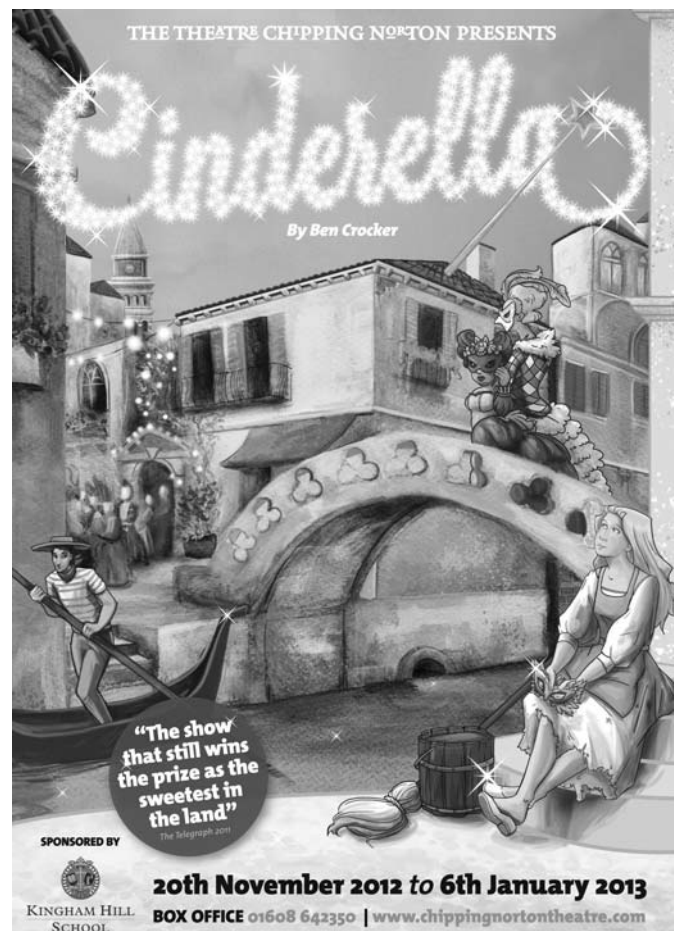
## Theatricals and history with the WI

As a follow-up to his recent talk, The Theatre's Head of Marketing, Stephen Birch, led members of Chipping Norton Women's Institute on a backstage tour on 26 September – an enlightening visit which was much enjoyed by all.

Karen Wiseman entertained us with a fascinating account of Winston Churchill's connection with Blenheim Palace at our October meeting. Using archive material, Karen gave an insight into Churchill's early years as a soldier and politician and his lifelong affection for Blenheim.

On 14 November we will have a knitting workshop led by Fibreworks which should be fun! Visitors and new members are welcome to join us in the Lower Town Hall at 2.15pm.

Prudence Chard 642903



# CLUB NEWS

## Legion visit Brize Norton

On Wednesday 26 September 18 Royal British Legion branch



members, wives and friends visited RAF Brize Norton on a visit arranged by Mike Howes. We were greeted by Flight Lieutenant Eliot Finimore of 101 Squadron who kindly acted as our guide. We took lunch in the officer's mess, a new experience for many of us, and were well fed and watered by a very attentive staff. After lunch we were taken to 101 Squadron, who fly the Vickers VC 10 and Tri-star in the air-to-air re-fuelling role. Eliot gave us an interesting talk on the history of RAF Brize Norton, now home to 10,000 personnel, and 101 Squadron and a good insight into their operations past and present. We would like to thank him and all at RAF Brize Norton for a most enjoyable visit.

If you would like to be involved in events such as this, new members are very welcome. Please contact Mike Dixon on 643755 or e-mail [dixon.lmichael@sky.com](mailto:dixon.lmichael@sky.com)

The British Legion Branch and Club will hold its Annual General Meeting on 20 November at 7.30pm at the Crown and Cushion Hotel. Please note the date.

Steve Kingsford

## Autumn skies, astronomers' delight

Whilst some people dread the clocks going back, Chippy astronomers welcome the chance to carry out any observing in more sociable hours despite the cold and damp. A few busy evenings this month, as we look forward to take astronomy to South Newington (17<sup>th</sup>), Wootton Primary School (20<sup>th</sup>), Bidford on Avon school (21<sup>st</sup>) and Long Compton Primary (22<sup>nd</sup>). The telescope building project with Chipping Norton School gathers momentum and involves constructing five high-performance reflecting telescopes on Dobsonian mounts in time for Stargazing LIVE in January when we hope to repeat last year's successful town centre observing event to take full advantage of a handy conjunction of the Moon and the mighty gas giant, Jupiter.

November also sees the winter constellations come into view and the prospects of studying in detail the many nebulae, star fields, galaxies and star clusters that adorn our night skies. The Moon and Jupiter, meteors and man-made satellites will ensure that observers will never run short of spectacular targets. Our next indoor meeting is on Monday 19 November in The Fox, 7.30 for 8 pm with a talk by CNAAG secretary & legal eagle, Geoffrey Cotterill – everyone welcome. CNAAG exists for anyone with an interest in space, stars & the Universe, no experience, equipment or specialist knowledge required – all we need is your interest, the Universe will do the rest. Visit [www.cnaag.com](http://www.cnaag.com) for details of our activities.

Robin Smitten

## Full house at Folk Club

'Is Chipping Norton Folk Club always that full?' This question, asked at Banbury's annual Folk Festival last month, was from a first-time visitor to October's meeting of Chippy Folk Club at The Blue Boar. The theme was Americana and the contributions, from new and established people alike, were stunning. It was packed – and there was only just enough time to fit in all the performers. Thanks so much to Stephen and Sarah Wilkes and her Blue Boar staff. Sarah now has two swivelling stools with foot-rails for guitarists (guitar players hate chairs with arms) which are proving very successful – once the guitar players have sussed out how to get on and stay on them. What next?! November's meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> will have the theme 'Anything Goes'.

Sing, play, recite or just listen. Only £1 on the door. Visit [www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk](http://www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk) for details of the Club.

Pen Greenwood 642296

## Railway Club make do with diesel

Many members joined the CLPG's annual train trip on 15 September, from Kingham Station for York/Scarborough. The weather was glorious, and we all had a great day.

Our old friend Mike Clemens did not disappoint at our October meeting. His unique archive of 50s/60s rail, filmed by his father Jim is now digitised and shown by PowerPoint. There were cheers from the sixty and more club members on seeing our local line again and especially Chipping Norton Station, with a train emerging from 'the tunnel' and stopping at Platform 1.

Our autumnal visit to the Churnet Valley Railway in Staffordshire on 7 October, for their 'Farewell to Summer' event, saw into another warm, sunny day. An excellent display of Classic Cars (memories!) together with their annual Folk Festival enhanced the visit; not to mention the train rides. Sadly, no steam! Their only engine had broken down that morning so we had to make do with a diesel engine! They did manage to get it in steam again by the end of the day; the 'engineering volunteers' working hard at it in the autumn sunshine, with much of it dismantled as we travelled passed them (in our diesel-pulled carriages). The day ended with a pleasurable pub stop at the 'Joseph Arch' in Barford.

The speaker on 6 November will be Ian Pope, with 'Railways of the Forest of Dean'. If you like trains and good company, then come and join us. New members and visitors are welcome, with free tea/coffee and biscuits in the interval.

Estelle Brain 641586

## Conservative lunch club

Our October speaker was held up in London so instead we had a lively discussion on various aspects of the recent Party Conference. If you would like to join in political debates or take a more active interest in branch activities, please contact me.

On Thursday 8 November we welcome Guy Wall a Director of Machine Link Ltd to talk on The Challenge of Exporting Today – where success could get the UK to get back on track, so come along and hear and learn about what is involved. Let me know if you would like to come to The Blue Boar and enjoy a friendly chat over lunch and a coffee at £10. Please contact me ([mikehowes36@gmail.com](mailto:mikehowes36@gmail.com) or 642423) so I can adjust the catering arrangements.

Mike Howes

# CLUB NEWS

## West Oxfordshire Women's Institute – a year on

This month sees the first anniversary of a new club in the Town. The News is always interested to hear success stories from groups and organisations within our community.

What enters your head when you think about the Women's Institute? Jam and Jerusalem? Cake-making and Flower-arranging? Gossip and tea-drinking? Well, there's a bit of that, but the Women's Institute is changing fast and new WIs are springing up across the country. This time last year the inaugural meeting of a new WI was held at St Mary's Parish Rooms, and West Oxfordshire WI (WOWI) was born. Now with 35 members from Chipping Norton and the surrounding villages, WOWI meets at 7.30pm on the third Monday of the month at St Mary's Parish Rooms, and welcomes guests.

WOWI is a lively, sociable group and meetings are busy and bustling. The WI was formed nearly one hundred years ago, to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to learn new skills. These aims remain at the heart of all Women's Institutes and this is reflected in WOWI's speaker programme, which this year has included wine-tasting, car maintenance, life-drawing, singing and jewellery-making.

Claire Storry lives in Charlbury and is President of WOWI. 'We have a brilliantly varied programme,' she says. 'The highlight of this year, for me, was introducing my sister, Beth Storry, as a speaker. Beth won a Bronze medal at the Olympics and I'm immensely proud of her. We opened the meeting up to men and children, as well as our members, and it was wonderful to see so many children hanging on Beth's every word.'

Joining the Women's Institute costs £31.50 per year, which includes 11 monthly meetings, a subscription to WI Life (a monthly magazine), and access to a wide range of courses and talks across the country. West Oxfordshire WI meets at 7.30pm on the third Monday of the month, at St Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Street, Chipping Norton. For more information contact Clare Mackintosh (Vice-President) on 646830 or visit [www.westoxfordshirewi.co.uk](http://www.westoxfordshirewi.co.uk)

WOWI member Anna Mavin is 40 and lives in Chipping Norton. She admits that she had always felt the WI wasn't for her. 'I turned up at the first meeting of WOWI as a favour to a friend,' she says, 'but by the end of the evening I'd signed up.

It was such an eclectic group of interesting women, and the programme is so inclusive – there's something for everyone.' Katy Barrow, from Middle Barton, agrees. 'I've always been interested in the WI but I wanted to meet people of a similar age, and I couldn't find a WI which catered for my interests,' she explains. 'I have to confess that it was the 'bring a bottle' aspect of WOWI which first attracted me! I come with my mum, who's 58, and it's lovely to have found something we can both enjoy.'

Next on the agenda for West Oxfordshire WI is Christmas wreath-making on Monday 19 November.

Bring armfuls of ivy, some red-berried holly and whatever scraps of ribbon you've got lying around, and create something amazing for your front door. There will be a small charge for additional materials. 'It'll be another great evening,' says Katy. 'I thoroughly enjoyed the flower-arranging we did, and I'm already eyeing up hedges I can raid for my Christmas greenery!'

West Oxfordshire WI has taken Chippy by storm, with new members joining every month. There's always a glass of wine or a cup of tea for new faces, so don't be shy – maybe WOWI's just what you were looking for?

Clare Mackintosh



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# CLUB NEWS

## Single File gets new blood

Single File is a social group based in Chippy for single people – mainly professionals – between 50 and 70. It was established



by Daphne Lever three years ago and she has now handed over most of her functions to Simon Bartlett who has recently moved to Chippy and Jen Green who lives in Bloxham. It is for anyone on their own – single, divorced, separated etc, and is not a dating agency, just a group of people who enjoy going out together. We have a full programme – walks, pub meals, theatre, films, and much more.

Membership has recently boomed so we must be meeting a need! Twenty of us enjoyed a celebratory meal at the Chequers in Churchill to thank Daphne for all her work. And we continue to hold a fortnightly pub evening at which new people can meet us. The next are on Friday 9 and 23 November. If you are interested, call Daphne, still acting as our contact point for initial enquiries, on 01295 788474.

Jenny Harrington

## MS Branch needs more volunteers

The West Oxfordshire branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society need a new Treasurer and Support Volunteers. Volunteering is a rewarding way of helping local people affected by MS to live better lives. The Society provides training and you will be welcomed into this active and friendly branch. If you would like to help then please do contact me, (645988/ ptr.branson@gmail.com), for more information or to discuss how you could become involved. Visit our website [www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire](http://www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire) or facebook: westoxfordshire ms society for more details.

Peter Branson

## ATC's varied activities

Chipping Norton Air Cadets have recently undertaken a variety of activities. In September Cadet Aaron Lamb won Gold and Silver medals in the annual inter-squadron swimming event. Cadets also enjoyed a drill competition, super snooker, flight of fancy and map making in the Wing Activities Day at the end of the month. Thanks to all for the £266.75 raised for the Wing Appeal. The squadron is running a joint squadron exercise at RAF Little Rissington, where our cadets will team up with cadets from other local Squadrons .

Air Cadets is open to young people aged 13-17 with an interest in aviation and adventure. We meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, at the Squadron HQ, Burford Road. We plan a taster session on 10 January. Please email [136@aircadets.org](mailto:136@aircadets.org) if you would like to attend. Details of our activities can be found on our website: [www.136ATC.com](http://www.136ATC.com)

Richard Hogan

## Kingham and Daylesford Rotary

**Chippy Theatre breaking new ground:** The club recently had an excellent overview of the current status and future of The Theatre Chipping Norton by Director John Terry. Following the cutback of grants, fund-raising for survival is important and audience support is essential. We can be proud to have this jewel in our midst – if you haven't yet been you've missed a treat!

**Scotland ... made by Sir Walter Scott?** Why does the Queen holiday at Balmoral and why are shortbread tins decorated in tartan? Eric Anderson, a trustee of Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's quirky baronial house in the Scottish borders, believes modern perceptions of Scotland all go back to the poems and novels of the author of Waverley. Sir Eric, a former headmaster of Eton, will explain all! The public are welcome, 6pm for 6.30 on Wednesday 14 November. Please call Mike Clark 01451 830 684 – stay for dinner at £12.50 if you wish.

**You can help End Polio ... please!** 170 million under-fives in India will be given the life-saving polio vaccination on 4 November, thanks to Rotary's End Polio Campaign. India is now just off the endemic list but now needs to have three years with no new cases. During that time Rotary will keep immunising every child to spare them from a life of crippling disability and pain. This is part of Rotary's End Polio Now campaign begun in the 1980s with the number of endemic countries dropping from 125 to 3.

Local Rotarians are marking World Polio Day, 24 October, through awareness campaigns including presentations to local schools. Each child will be asked to



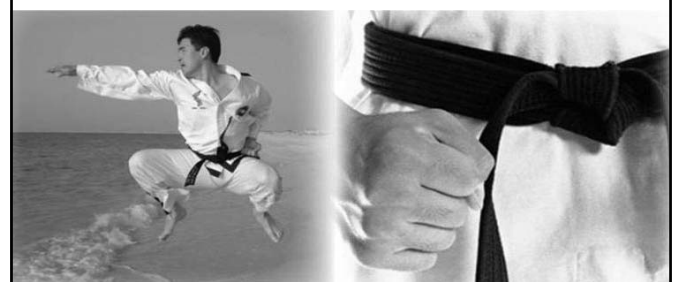
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# CLUB NEWS

come with five 20 pence coins to pay for vaccinations for five children. If you would like to make a donation or learn more about Rotary go to <http://www.ribi.org/get-involved/make-a-donation>.

For further information about our activities call Martin Dare 07733 306856 or Graham More 01451 810 413.

## Lions let their manes down

We shall be in the Co-operative store selling Trolley Dash tickets at the end of November and beginning of December to pay for local senior citizens to see the Panto at Chipping Norton Theatre. We will be drawing the winning tickets on 14 December with the Dash itself on the 15<sup>th</sup> together with the second prize of a Basket Dash and other prizes.

To complete a busy autumn we are letting our manes down at a Reindeer Race Night at 7.30pm on Saturday 1 December at the Crown & Cushion. Based on our horse race formula we are having Reindeers racing instead. Local companies can sponsor races and receive free tickets – details from Lion President Robert Caswell on 646003 or Graham Raven on 645134. All are welcome; tickets £3 from any Lion.

All this shows how busy Lions are in helping the community and in having fun. To find out more please contact our President or talk to any of the Lions at one of our events. We meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month at The Chequers at 8pm.

PS A letter from Santa next month.

Liz Nason

## NOOG – ‘red in tooth and claw’!

The North Oxon Organic Gardeners’ October meeting, startling to some, focused on food to be gleaned from the wild, including various forms of road kill! Our speaker, retired Oxford zoologist Dr Henry Bennet-Clark, a keen forager, provided detailed instruction on how to transform a variety of roadside carcasses into delicious meals – Ray Mears couldn’t have done better! Our next meeting, on Wednesday 7 November at 7.30pm in the Timberyard Room at Little Tew, is back on more familiar territory when Barbara Saunders of Nicholson’s Nurseries invites us to ‘Grow fabulous apples: anyone can!’ Do join us. For further information about North Oxfordshire Organic Gardeners please phone 683624.

Lindsay Johnstone



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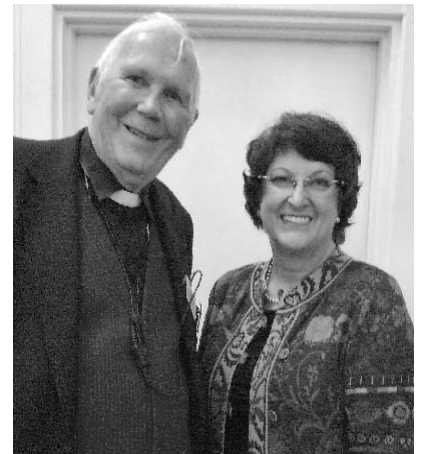
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## MEP condemns ‘modern-day slave trade’

Everyone was invited to this eye-opening talk organised by Amnesty International Chipping Norton Group at the Town Hall on 11 October. We heard our South-East England MEP Catherine Bearder speak passionately against human trafficking. This evil trade, she said, ‘is happening where you live.’ We were pleased so many people came to listen and ask questions. Bearder



*Catherine Bearder MEP with Chippy AI member Robin Howard who instigated her visit to the group*

said that Britain is the biggest market in the EU trafficking of girls and children for the sex trade. She claims she has seen human trafficking across all areas of her constituency. A sex worker can earn her trafficker £100,000 pa. Others are put to work begging, shop-lifting and robbing ATMs. She spoke of Cambodian boys working on cannabis farms and African and Chinese children sold as domestic workers. She called on everyone to look out for signs of trafficking, from children street-begging to signs of physical abuse. It needs the whole community to act. If you see something suspicious, call Crimestoppers on 0800 55511.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 8 November at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall. New members are always welcome; please contact Priscilla 01451 830459 for details.

Kaye Freeman

## Ramblers’ hurried change of plan

A dozen Chipping Norton Ramblers gathered at Bledington on a lovely sunny afternoon (7 October) for a walk planned to cross to Kingham then to Oddington and the Old Chapel. However very heavy rain in the week before meant that the meadows between Bledington and the railway were impassable to all but Wellie wearers. A hurried change of plan saw us heading off along Bledington brook to the Mill. A spectacular rush of water roaring through the sluice and under the road kept us intrigued for a while. Then we turned right through Foscotte and right again across the fields.

Wonderful views up to Icomb, Idbury and Westcote meant the low sun showed up the old ridged fields on the slope. The footpath turned through Bledington churchyard and down to the green and our parked cars and so home.

We meet on the first Sunday of the month at 1.30 in the New Street car park – call 641222 to find out more.

Molly Gatling

## Plea for Stroke Club help

We would welcome help with running the Stroke Club and ideally would like someone who could take over from us. Every help and assistance would be given. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Highlands from 2-4pm. We are a small group offering help with re-integration of

# CLUB NEWS

people into the community after they have had a stroke. As they improve, they in turn can help fellow members with useful information and friendship. Activities include talks, quizzes, games outings, visits to our theatre, and lunch dates. We can help with advice on seeing help and obtaining suitable aids. In addition we always have a tea and time for discussions among our members. Please contact Bruce & Sheila Parker on 642822 if you'd like to know more.

## Conservative wine & cheese

On Thursday 27 September Chipping Norton & District Branch of West Oxfordshire Conservative Association hosted a Cheese and Wine Tasting in the Town Hall. Churchill-based artisan cheese maker Roger Crudge provided seven superb cheeses from his range which were accompanied by excellent English wines from Brightwell Vineyard, Wallingford. Roger gave a running commentary on his cheeses as well as a number of amusing anecdotes. He also made some cheese from scratch over the course of the evening. Carol Nielsen co-proprietor of Brightwell Vineyard gave an overview of seven of her wines and an insight into the challenge of wine making in an English climate! The event's success was revealed by how many attendees purchased both wines and cheeses. Our thanks to them and to Roger and Carol for such a fascinating evening.

Our next event is an 'Evening with Philip Mould', the fine art historian on *Antiques Roadshow*, and *Fake or Fortune* on Friday 2 November at the Crown & Cushion. Tickets £12.50 inc buffet from Cicely Maunder (643680) or Richard Anning (641151). Visit [www.chippytories.org](http://www.chippytories.org) for future events.

Richard Anning

## Green Gym clears up Pool Meadow



This month we have worked in Over Norton and Pool Meadow. The land behind the village hall in Over Norton is now beginning to look more like a play area. It has been flattened and some of the new

growth has succumbed to weed-killer. But in places the brambles and coarse weeds have grown up again so we had another blitz on them – which resulted in yet another bonfire. In Pool Meadow we had another session clearing the stream of debris, dragging no fewer than five tyres out of the water, and of course the inevitable plastic bags and bottles. So we hope the water will be able to run more freely in the winter and will be less likely to flood the path. We also cut back brambles from a path in the area nearer the road - though it was so overgrown and slippery under foot that one of our number (pictured) ended up on her back in a bramble patch!

But we have less hazardous jobs too, so if you are interested in doing your bit for the environment, keeping fit in the fresh air in good company, do join us on a Wednesday or Thursday morning. There are tasks for all ages and abilities, there's no joining fee and lifts may be available. Phone me on 643269 or email [jennyharrington@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyharrington@btinternet.com).

Jenny Harrington

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## Chipping Norton School

**What a great start:** The term started off with over 280



students in Years 7-13 signing up for a range of the school's Extra Time Clubs, which include squash, dance, computer Xplorers, football for girls and boys, LAMDA Drama club, Athena

Theatre Company, Trampolining, Badminton and our very popular Hockey. The coaches, tutors and teachers who run these clubs are committed and professional with students signing up term after term and improving their skills, meeting other students and having fun.

**Football Tournament:** 170 Pupils from our Partnership



Schools turned up on a dull but warm afternoon to take part in the U11 Boys & Girls football tournament. The matches took place on the school field and the competition was fierce. Great Tew won the Small Schools Mixed tournament; Hook Norton won the Big Schools Boys Tournament and Charlbury School won the Big Schools Girls Tournament.

This activity is co-ordinated by Mrs Phillips as part of the Community Learning Programme, ably supported by Year 12 Community Sports Leaders who referee, officiate and completely organise the festival with help from the PE Department. Well done to everyone who took part.

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**Olympic medallist inspires:** Juliet Gardner (Year 11) reports: The PE Gifted and Talented students were lucky enough to meet GB's attacking superstar and Olympic bronze



medal hockey player, Alex Danson. She came into school and ran a hockey master class for year 9 students. She shared her skills and motivation which will hopefully benefit them, to

go on and win their next tournament! Alex then gave a talk about her Olympic experience and shared her story of success with all the PE Gifted and Talented students. She was a real inspiration and it was an honour to meet her. We wish her luck in the upcoming world championships.

**Sports Awards 2012:** On 19 September Chipping Norton School hosted its fourth Sports Awards and were delighted to



be joined by Darren Dawidiuk and Dan Robson; first team players with Gloucester Rugby. Nominations were given for three categories; Sports Person of the Year, Dedication to Sport and Sports Team of the Year.

The evening was a huge success and raised £530 through a raffle and sale of light refreshments. The money will go towards the 2014 sports tour to South Africa which many of our nominees are attending. The PE Department would like to say a big thank you to those who donated prizes for the raffle (Jaffé & Neale, Beales, Gloucester Rugby Club, Bath Racecourse and Chipping Norton Leisure Centre).



## *Christmas Shopping Fayre*

Holy Trinity School

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 6.30-9.30pm**

£3 entrance fee

*Mince Pies & Mulled Wine ~ Raffle ~ Shop till you drop: Jewellery, chocolates, home wares,*

*home-made produce & toys*  
*Children welcome ~ free DVD*

*All proceeds to Holy Trinity PTA. The School is a registered charity no 1145091*

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Holy Trinity Primary

**Welcome to our new Foundation Stage:** We are delighted to welcome our new children to Holy Trinity (see photo). We hope you will all be happy at Holy Trinity. You have made a great start.



**MacMillan Coffee Morning:** Thank you to our parents and children for their contributions of delicious cakes. Their generosity enabled us to donate £93.30 to Macmillan Coffee Morning Cancer Support. The School Council enjoyed organising this event. Well done to them all.

**Freshers' Disco:** We held our annual PTA Family Disco on Friday. It was a fun evening with a barbecue, face painting and dancing. This was a great opportunity for new parents and children to enjoy a fund-raising event.

**Harvest:** Our Harvest Festival was held on 19 October with a harvest competition in which the children created animals from vegetables. All competition entry fees were sent to CAFOD.

**Christmas Shopping Evening:** Friday 23 November 6.30-9.30pm is the PTA Christmas Shopping Evening. Handmade crafts and gifts will be available to purchase ready for Christmas. Children are welcome too.

## St Mary's Primary

**Open Morning:** Our Open Morning on 28 September allowed members of the public and existing parents to see the school in action and the facilities on offer. Visitors were impressed by the exciting provision on display. The school provides free, whole class, instrumental lessons from Year 5 and this was exhibited at the open morning. Visitors also saw a taster session for the Forest School provision and children performing from our Singing Club. If any parents with young children missed our open morning and would like to witness what the school has to offer, they should contact the school office.

**School Prayer Space:** *Fiona Rossington (Diocesan Governor) reports:* From 8-12 October, a classroom was turned into an interactive Prayer Space, providing staff, parents and pupils with the opportunity to reflect on their lives and the wider world from a spiritual perspective in a calm environment. All pupils visited the room and were invited to return at lunchtime should they wish to. The space was divided into four zones where different aspects of prayer were

considered, and an area where the children were invited to think about street children in the third world. In each of the four zones there was a volunteer from one of the various churches in the Chipping Norton area to help the children if needed. Parents were invited to visit the space after school. For more information, please go to: [www.prayerspacesinschools.com](http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com)



**Fruit Bar:** Kitchen supervisor, Vicky Steffens, assisted by Yr 6 children, has started a Fruit Bar for all KS2 children. The children have the opportunity to buy fruit, smoothies, milkshakes, water melon and pineapple wedges, and is proving very popular.

**Dog needed:** Do you own a child-friendly dog that would enjoy listening to a story? We are looking for an owner to bring a dog to our school for a weekly session to encourage our reluctant readers to enjoy stories. If you think you can help please get in touch....Woof Woof!

**Shoebox Appeal:** Once again we are pleased to be supporting the Shoebox appeal and we will be asking our children to try and match last year's 210 boxes. If you are able to support us we are the 'drop off' collection point for Chipping Norton. All boxes should be delivered to the school by 9 November. For more information on what to put in the boxes, where they are sent and leaflets to include in them, please contact St Mary's School on 642673 or Martin Hannant on 643653.

**Year 3/4 Warwick Castle trip:** Years 3 & 4 had a smashing time and many favourite memories to bring back to the



classroom. Liam thought the firing of the trebuchet was amazing because, 'the rock travelled so fast I could hardly follow it with my eyes'. Unusually, Bruce enjoyed visiting the gaol best because he liked the dark! Reaching the top of Guy Tower was a highlight for many, Luke could see so far into the distance he thought he could see his own house. We all had a fantastic time and look forward to using our new knowledge over the next few weeks.

# SCHOOL NEWS

**Who Visited Year 1/2 last week?** On 1 October the Yr1/2



children arrived to find a big mess in their classroom. There were up-turned tables and chairs and foot-prints leading from the classrooms up the stairs going towards the hall. During literacy the children discussed who they thought

had visited their classrooms with ideas such as dragon, monster, snow bear or kangaroo! The next day the children were visited by Zog the dragon who admitted that it was he who had left the classroom in a mess. The children were very excited to see Zog and have spent their literacy lessons trying to help him get better at things. They made him wings to help him fly, and dragon cakes to give him energy. The children are hoping that Zog will return to taste his cakes.

## Great Rollright Primary

**New faces & fundraising:** The children have settled brilliantly into school, with the younger ones finding their feet and making friends quickly.

Fundraising has been a major theme of our activities over the past few weeks: the School Council managed to raise a tre-



*Four fundraising dads pictured at the top of Ben Nevis with a banner with messages of support from Great Rollright pupils*

mendous £150 at their Macmillan coffee morning and on 8 October we held our annual Soup Supper in aid of the Tearfund Project at St Andrews, this year supporting families in Uganda. Finally, we have been busy collecting all the sponsorship from the Great Rollright Three Peaks Challenge. Four of our dads tackled the UK's three highest mountains in just 24 hours, raising well over £2,000 for the school. We are all very proud of them and hope they're not too sore!

**Our Harvest Service:** was entirely planned and produced by children in year 5 and 6. It was a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for what we have, and to understand more about the problems of hunger elsewhere in the world. We are grateful to Esther, Chipping Norton's Benefice youth worker, for a lively talk involving skittles and extra long spoons!

**Band practice:** As well as planning the Harvest Service, the children in Year 5 and 6 are also very busy practising the brass instruments they are learning this year! The peace of many households has been broken by renditions of *Hot Cross Buns* as the children get to grips with slide positions for their trombones or pressing down the correct valves for the cornets and baritones!

## Kingham Primary

**Isle of Wight residential:** At the end of September, Year 5 went to the Isle of Wight for their three-day residential trip. Their topic this term is Dinosaurs so this was an ideal place to go and comb the beach for fossils. They visited Alum Bay to see the coloured sands and whilst there went on a boat ride out to the Needles. They also called in at Compton Bay to try to find dinosaur footprints and casts. All children all behaved beautifully and were a credit to the school.

**Harvest:** On 2 October, we were welcomed to St Andrew's church in the village for our Harvest service which was taken by Rev David Salter. The children had been learning a few cheery Harvest hymns to sing during the service and a collection of money was raised for the 'Send-a-Cow' charity appeal for those less fortunate in Africa.

**Children's Book Week:** In the first week of October, we celebrated Children's Book Week with lots of fun activities around the school encouraging the children to enjoy reading. Many children went to other classes and shared a favourite children's book they had brought in from home.

Year 5 made giant book covers that have been plastered over the doors around the school, some examples of the books they chose are; *Horrible Histories*, *Running Wild*, *Fix-it Duck* and *The Spooks Mistake*.

During the week we started our own sponsored read to help us raise some money to buy new books for our class libraries. We are all now busily reading as many books as we can before the end of October.

**Football Tournament:** Finally, our Year 6 children (aided by a couple of Year 5 girls!) did us proud at the local partnership



of schools' football tournament organised by Chipping Norton School and their brilliant sports leaders. We had a fantastic time and we really enjoyed taking part in the event!

## Windrush School

**English Speaking:** Already well into a busy term, Forms 2 through to 6 are starting to prepare for their English Speaking Board examinations. We are always very proud of the outstanding grades the children achieve each year and looking forward to some of the unusual subjects they choose to present!

**Out & about:** Our Foundation Unit had a wonderful time visiting the Cotswold Farm Park. The sun shone all day, giving the children an opportunity to feed the goats and see all the

# SCHOOL NEWS

rare breeds at the farm. Our older pupils are looking forward to many exciting trips to enhance their class room topics. Form 3 will be visiting the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford expanding their Egyptian knowledge, whilst Forms 4, 5 and 6 are all set to visit Chipping Norton Theatre to see *Pocket Henry V*, telling the heroic tale of one of England's greatest warriors. To support their history topic on Old Toys, Form 1 will visit the Banbury Museum. The highlight of all our trips is a visit to Science Oxford, where the children will attend workshops and exhibitions, and be challenged to carry out their own experiments.

**Harvest Festival** was celebrated in style by the whole school, parents, family and friends at Holy Trinity Church, Ascott under Wychwood. The children told and sang the harvest story of Johnny Appleseed, with Rev. Andrew Thayer energetically getting the congregation going with his version of Johnny Appleseed! The school would like to thank, all the children and parents who contributed to the fantastic harvest sale and raffle. In total the school has raised £210 which we are donating to the upkeep of our beautiful local church.

**What's new?** We have lots of new Extended Day activities, with subjects such as indoor hockey, horse whispering and history in the making to name a few. These clubs are very popular with the staff and children, and we hope to run these later in the year.

## Chadlington Playgroup



*Playgroup Chair, Julian Horsey, writes:* Our theme for this term is 'people who help us', we have already had visits from Bill who drives our local library van who read us a lovely story and Su a real 'Lollipop Lady' who spoke to

us about safety when crossing roads. Having already celebrated Rosh Hashanah in September, we will be celebrating our local Harvest this month along with a seasonal expedition to collect blackberries from the hedgerows.

We are very proud to say that our latest Ofsted Inspection taken early this term rated us as good in all areas. Please visit the Ofsted website and type in Chadlington Playgroup to read the full report.

We will be running various social events through the forthcoming year as a way for parents and guardians and members of the community to meet up in a relaxed atmosphere for a drink, a game of bowls, an evening of pampering etc. Our first event will be a Gifts and Glamour Evening on Saturday 24 November from 7.30 to 10.30pm at Chadlington Playgroup, The Bowls Club OX7 3LY. Tickets £5 from Café de La Poste or Chadlington Quality Foods. Please join us for a glass of wine, some pampering and a chance to get early presents for Christmas!



## Chadlington Primary

**Pixies and Elves trip:** The Pixies and Elves had a wonderful day out at Farmer Gow's. They had a lovely play on the hay bales and the tractors and also thoroughly enjoyed meeting and feeding the animals. The whole trip was filmed by the teachers which linked into the term's topic of Behind the Scenes.

**Wizards and Dragons trip:** The Wizards and Dragons were very lucky to visit the Warner Bros Studios in London this term to look at the making of the Harry Potter films. The classes took part in a workshop and found out about set construction, props, costumes, hair/makeup and special effects. They knocked on the door of No 4 Privet Drive, went down Diagonal Alley and saw Hagrid's motorcycle to name but a few highlights.

**Whole term topic – Behind The Scenes:** The Pixies have been following up their trip to Farmer Gow's by looking at the story of Farmer Duck and making their own puppets to tell the story. The Elves have been studying a short piece of film called Sam Sam about a Super hero. The Wizards are learning how to develop some of the skills they saw illustrated in the Warner Bros Studios Tour and have set up their own Little Acorns Film Company. The children are producing their own films and they have applied for their various jobs and roles to the Executive Producer – Mrs Hornibrook the Headmistress. The Dragons are busy sewing hand and finger puppets with which to act out the scripts they have written based around the story of an Alien called Bicho by Enrique Gato. They have enjoyed creating various alternative endings and also producing their own music for the scenes.

**ICT provision update:** The children are now lucky enough to be using 20 Apple iPads throughout the school thanks to the wonderful fundraising from the FOCS. The ultimate aim is for every child to eventually have their own Ipad! The school is holding a special ICT evening in November for pupils and parents. The new VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) which is now being implemented throughout every class in the school will also be demonstrated.

**Friends of Chadlington School:** The autumn term has already seen some busy and successful fundraising at the school. If you would like to receive emails about any of the upcoming Friend's Events and Activities please send your name and address to [friendsofchadlingtonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofchadlingtonschool@gmail.com) or you can follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FriendsofChadlingtonSchool](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofChadlingtonSchool)

**Football Tournament:** Fifteen children from the Wizards and Dragons represented the school recently at the Chipping Norton Partnership Football Tournament. The children really battled hard and were very pleased to come third in the small school's section.

**Harvest Festival:** The children learnt some lovely new Harvest Songs for our Harvest Festival celebration in late October at St Nicholas' Church in Chadlington which was followed this year by the school's first ever Harvest Supper in the School Hall organised by the Friends of Chadlington School.

# LETTERS

## Town Christmas Tree time

Yes it's that time of the year again when I need volunteers to help put the lights on the Town's Christmas trees. In order to make the Town look lovely at Christmas we do need volunteers to help with the lights, if we can't manage to do this, then the trees won't go up, so your help is very much needed. We meet at the Town Hall on Sunday 2 December at 9am. I also need help to get the trees out to the Town Council's contractors, who erect the trees, on Monday 3 December, again meeting at 9am. We also have to take the lights off of the trees when they come down on Sunday 6 January, this time we meet at 9.30am. It helps if you let me know you are coming, ring 643458. Many thanks.



Pat Lake

## Catering for a world-wide readership

I have an overseas friend, ex-Chippy Grammar School in the 1950s, who likes to keep in touch with Chippy.

If ever there is anything relevant in a particular issue of *Chippy News* I'll send a copy to her. The last one I sent cost nearly £4 in postage + an A4 envelope. I have also laboriously scanned an issue into my laptop and emailed it, but it's not so easy for her to read that way.

Is there any possibility that an electronic copy of *Chippy News* could be produced, for emailing around the world? I presume that you already have it in some sort of electronic form for the printers, so it shouldn't be too difficult to have, say, a subscription list for emailing it instead of posting it, a service which you already offer to those who can't get to a regular distribution outlet. What do you think?

Paul Burbidge

*Past editions of the News will be available online - see article p6.*

## Impressive youths

I was impressed and pleased that some younger residents came to the recent Recreation Committee meeting to give a presentation to Councillors on the possibility of a skatepark in the town. The three young men had put a lot of hard work and research into creating a petition to support their cause. They came across well and were certainly a credit to young people in Chipping Norton. Whether you are for or against the idea of skate facilities for younger people in the Town, it is still very refreshing to see them engage with the council through 'public participation'. This communication is very positive and needs to be encouraged. I would like to see more of the public come to Council and Committee meetings to put their requests, views and concerns across to the Town Council.

Cllr David Lydiat

## Fayre thanks

The organisers of the Craft and Wellbeing Fayre, held in the Town Hall on Saturday 22 September, would like to thank everyone who supported the event. Especial thanks go to the following businesses for contributing to our Tombola: MG Motors, Hook Norton Brewery, Gill & Co, The Blue Boar, Whistlers, R & R reflexology.

We managed to raise a massive £272 for the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. This would not have been possible without the help and support of our community.

Craft and Well-being Team

*The Chipping Norton News Team welcomes letters but reminds writers that name and address must be supplied and that the opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the Team.*

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

## Chipping Norton News Club

Tel: 01608 643219

Email: [chippymail@aol.com](mailto:chippymail@aol.com)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/chippynews](http://www.twitter.com/chippynews)

Blog: [www.chippynews.org](http://www.chippynews.org)

**Editorial Team for this edition:** Nell Darby, Clare Davison, Roger Sinclair, Keith Ruddle, Jill Thorley,

**Section contacts:** Arts - Kaye Freeman (642757), Business - Chris Hogan (646395), Sports - Graham Beacham (810047), Schools - Clare Davison (642373)

**Contributors:** Graham Beacham, Frances Buckel, Judy Buckingham, Peter Burns, Chris Carpenter, Nell Darby, Clare Davison, Kaye Freeman, Chris Hogan, Amanda Horlor, Alison Huitt, Lindsay Johnstone, Kate Leimer, S A Mathieson, David Megson, Sylvia Michaelides, Gail Savage, Roger Sinclair, Linda Rand, Keith Ruddle, Deborah Webb & others where stated.

**Production & proof-reading:** Jill Thorley (643219), Nell Darby, Judy Buckingham, Lindsay Johnstone, Valerie Newey & Deborah Webb

**Distribution:** Jill & David Megson (645382), Judy Buckingham, Rolie Clarke, Chris Carpenter, Judy Donegan, Kaye Freeman, Sylvia Michaelides

**Advertising & Club Treasurer:** Terry Kitchin (645502)

**Printers:** The Printing House (644409)

The editorial team welcomes articles and letters (names supplied please), but reserves the right to edit or cut depending on space available. While taking every care to check accuracy we cannot take responsibility for errors which might occur. Opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team. The News does not endorse or accept liability for any products or services provided by advertisers. The News is published monthly (except January and August) by the Chipping Norton News Club which is voluntary and non profit-making.

## December deadline: Friday 16 Nov

Final copy should be sent to Chipping Norton News, c/o Hill Lawn House, 22 New Street, Chipping Norton, OX7 5LJ tel/fax 643219. Items should preferably be typed, on disk or sent via email to [chippymail@aol.com](mailto:chippymail@aol.com)

### Sales Outlets and Subscriptions

You can buy the Chipping Norton News at the following outlets: Bartholomews The Chequers Co-op Foodstore CN Post Office Gill & Co Guildhall One Stop Shop The Fox Hotel Harpers Highlands Day Centre Jaffé & Neale Lady Beautiful Leisure Centre Londis (Hailey Rd) Old Mill Bistro Movable Feast New St Dental Surgery Porcupine Sainsbury's Spar at Pace Robert John West St Surgery West Street News White House Surgery Café de la Post Chadlington If you are unable to get to any of the outlets you can have the News posted to you. Send a cheque for £18 annual subscription, made payable to The Chipping Norton News to Rolie Clarke 63 New Street, Chipping Norton OX7 5LL.

### Advertising and Sponsorship

The Chipping Norton News, with a circulation of over 1800, welcomes financial support from local businesses. For information about advertising (from £25 for an eighth of a page) please contact Terry Kitchin (645502).

*The Chipping Norton News is printed on FSC approved paper*

# THE WAY WE WERE

A brief history of shops and businesses in Chipping Norton, from 1836 through to the 1920s by Estelle Brain.

## Turn of the Century – The Noughties

Farewell to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and welcome to Edwardian Chippy. Off with the old Victorian values, at last we have a new King promising change.

The Town continues to prosper and new, but now familiar, names appear on the High Street. The billheads take on a new look, away with the fussy Victorian lettering, Art Nouveau is now the style aiming to attract custom from those who can afford it.

H G Goddard appears in 1900, High Class Baker and Confectioner, supplying 'all kinds of cake' with Wedding and Birthday Cakes made to order. Also in 1900, is tailor George Bull, of 13 Church Street, competition for C W Hannis, a Tailor and Breeches Maker. Mr Hannis supplies Bliss, West of England and Scottish tweeds, plus serges of all kinds. The gentlemen of Chipping Norton and their good ladies are well catered for! Ladies fashion is changing, becoming less rigid, with softer lines and Mrs Peachey is a high class dressmaker in New Street. The ladies are still well corseted; ready-mades available at Webb's Department Store or the Co-operative Society, while the well-heeled had theirs made to measure. In 1908 Manchester

House, now occupied by Howard Jones, is a Draper, Outfitter, Costumier and Milliner, dressing the fashionable ladies of the town.

As might be expected, the local printer and stationer, W C Hayes, already well established in the Market Place, makes changes to his billhead. He now uses a more modern typography, very smart indeed; also the office for the Oxfordshire Weekly News and agents for the Oxford Times and the Oxford Journal Illustrated. Surprisingly they are also agents for the 'White Star', 'Royal', 'Cunard', 'Union Castle' and other Steamship Lines. Perhaps the wealthy of the area travelling on the Mauretania (Cunard) or even the Titanic (White Star)

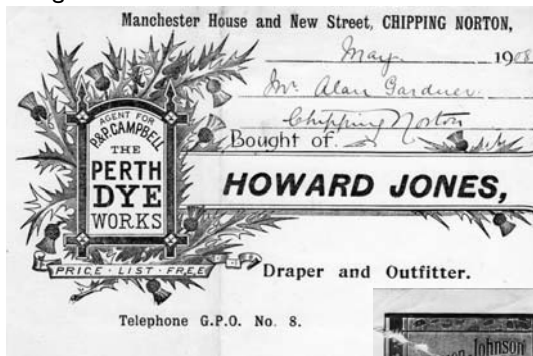
purchased their tickets here in Chippy?

We must mention the Packer family. The earliest 1901 billhead is for J Packer of Horse Fair, a Grocer, Tea Dealer and Provision Factor and an agent for Johnson & Johnson pure tea 'in packets'. 'These teas are of the utmost purity and

capable of being easily digested'. By 1906 Thomas Packer & son are Boot and Shoe Stores at 11 West Street.

Hartwell's are in the High Street in 1908, originally Ironmongers and Agricultural Engineers, by 1910 branching out as Motor and Cycle Agents, 'any make supplied'.

Next time, meet Frank Packer and Harry Brice, well-known Chippy characters.



## DIARY

### November (News out Monday 29 October)

- 4<sup>th</sup> **Rambling Club** 1.30pm New St Car Park see p25
- Rotary Firework Display** Kings Stone Farm 6.30 - see p21
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Chippy News Team Meeting** 7.30 Chequers details 643219
- Spelsbury Whist Drive** every fortnight details 810918
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall: Forest of Dean railways
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Charity Coffee Morning** to remember Shaun Weller 9-noon Town Hall - see p 13
- U3A** 2pm Methodist Hall George & Frances Yiend - An Afternoon with Dylan Thomas
- Neighbourhood Plan Meeting** 7.30 Town Hall see p4
- North Oxon Organic Gardeners** 7.30 Little Tew see p25
- 8-10 **Norts' Wizard of Oz** 8pm Methodist Church - tickets from Coca in West Street
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Amnesty International** 7.30 Lower Town Hall see p25
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Single File** 8pm see p24
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Sunshine Cat Rescue Christmas Fayre** Town Hall
- SOS Coffee Morning** 10am-noon The Fox
- Cemetery Clear-up Day** 10am details 642341
- Two Minutes Silence** 11am War Memorial see p15
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Remembrance Day Service & Parade** details p15
- 12<sup>th</sup> **History Society** 7.30pm Methodist Hall see p21
- Folk Club** 8pm The Blue Boar - Anything Goes
- 14<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30-11.30 Overseas Missions
- CN Women's Institute** 2.15pm Lwr Town Hall see p21

- 14<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Craft Fayre** 3-6pm The ACE Centre see p9
- Wychwood Chorale Concert** 6.30 St Mary's Church
- 15<sup>th</sup> **Police & Crime Commissioner Election** - see p2
- 16<sup>th</sup> **Mayor's Charity Bingo** 7pm Town Hall
- CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE**
- 17<sup>th</sup> **CN Farmers Market** 8.30-1.30
- 18<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Craft Fair** 11am-3pm Tew Centre, Great Tew - all welcome - call 07941 424670 to reserve a stall
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Astronomy Group** 7.30pm The Fox see p22
- West Oxon WI** 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p23
- 20<sup>th</sup> **RBL AGM** 7.30pm Crown & Cushion see p22
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Horticultural Association** 7.15pm Methodist Hall see p21
- 22-24 **Dick Whittington** Charlbury Am Dram Soc details 676642
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **Chadlington Flower Club** 7.30 Town Hall Rosemarie Tree - demonstration 'Here it comes again'. £8 Refreshments etc
- 23<sup>rd</sup> **Holy Trinity Christmas Shopping Fayre** 6.30-9.30pm
- Single File** 8pm see p24
- 24<sup>th</sup> **N Cots Soc of Recorder Players** details 641037
- 30<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Christmas Tree Festival** runs till Sunday 2 Dec - details p9

### December (News out Monday 3 December)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Fish & Chip Quiz Night** 7pm Parish Rooms see p12
- Lions' Reindeer Race Night** 7.30 Crown & Cushion see p25
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Chippy Xmas trees go up** 9am Town Hall see p31
- Rambling Club + AGM** details 641222