

## Room at the Inn

**Maybe now's the time to promote Chippy to businesses and visitors – with a 70 bed hotel on the way. The PM, the Mayor and Experience Chipping Norton put the case.**

### **New Premier Inn**

Whitbread has announced a proposal to put a 70 bed Premier Inn on the derelict Castle View and Ambulance Station sites – sold by the County Council. In January developers revealed details to Town Councillors. Local reactions focus on traffic and parking challenges but some see a potential boost of visitors and tourists coming to the Town Centre. The Fox Inn and the Golf Club have also put in plans for hotel expansion.

### **Boost for town centre?**

Can Chippy's town centre and businesses take advantage of all this? Hotel space and expanded supermarkets are on the way, and again the News reports expected planning proposals this month for around 250 new houses. But elsewhere we report around eight town centre shops empty now or very soon and some employment sites are still empty.

### **Marketing effort needed**

How can we market the Town better to new employers and visitors? A timely Town Hall meeting organised by Experience Chipping Norton in January saw over 130 mainly local business people hear MP David Cameron and the Mayor put the case to support promoting the Town. Why not join in? More on all this inside.

### **Honouring our citizens**



*photo: Don Davidson*

Betty Hicks from the Royal British Legion receives Honorary Citizenship from Mayor Mike Tysoe – photo & story on p3. Also inside – BEM for Cllr Jo Graves in Queen's Honours.

### **In this issue:**

**Local News:** New GP surgeries – public meeting 11 February ~ Sharba housing rejected ~ Town Councillors wanted ~ Town Festival – sign up to help

**Features:** Homestart ~ Duke of Edinburgh Award diary ~ Lido 10 years on

**Plus Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools & Letters**

## The Lido – 10 years and more!

*In December's Chipping Norton News, The Lido launched its appeal to raise £500,000. After a couple of good summers and the successful Sport England grant towards the cost of relining the pools, it is understandable that some may question the need for such an appeal. Indeed, some may not even realise that The Lido is a charity. The Trustees are therefore grateful for this opportunity to put the appeal in context.*



Prior to 2003 West Oxfordshire District Council spent £27.5K each year to fund The Lido but when the Leisure Centre opened, the Council announced it would have to close. The KOPO (Keep Our Pool Open) campaign was launched, arguing that The Lido fulfilled a role the indoor pool could never replace, offering outdoor recreation, family swimming, generally a fine day out. The campaign gathered momentum and in 2004 WODC handed the pool over to KOPO.



In 2005 Chipping Norton Lido Ltd was registered as a charity run by local volunteers, with David Cameron as patron. Since then it has played an active sporting and economic role in our community and has won numerous awards, such as the OBA Charity of the Year 2007, the WODC Chairman's Outstanding Achievement Award in 2009 and the 2013 WOBA Green Business Award.

As a 'pool with a social conscience' The Lido has pioneered new activities and special sessions aimed at involving as many people as possible in active leisure, including free swimming for the over 60s, mini polo, kayaking, synchronised swimming and the UK's first ever dog swim! The pool also provides training and employment for over 25 people, and is now a registered RLSS training centre.

Having inherited an already ageing facility, the Trustees have had considerable success in attracting grant funding for capital improvements, refurbishing the plant room, showers and changing rooms; installing ground source heating and solar PV, and updating the water treatment to UV. The current work to reline the pools is another essential capital project, to which the Sport England grant is a welcome contribution. The remainder of the cost is absorbing a chunk of The Lido's modest reserves.

Despite rising costs and fair wage increases to staff, better management of those costs has reduced the annual trading deficit to its lowest level, ca. £15K. Nonetheless, that is still a considerable gap to fill without the core funding available to most public pools. Revenue funding has been limited to an annual grant from the Town Council, for which the Trustees are

hugely grateful. We are also indebted to Jeremy Clarkson for his generosity in hosting the Auction of Promises (next one on Friday 10 April!), to Ken Norman, who has organised the Auctions and several Big Chippy Quizzes, and to all those who support our lottery and events, as well as individual donors, such as the generous local benefactor of the over 60s free swim.

Aware that we cannot rely on these contributions indefinitely, and that the funding gap is not going to go away, a successful appeal would enable us to set down an endowment to provide an income to plug the annual funding deficit. Here's how you can help:

- **Donations:** either via Total Giving ([www.totalgiving.co.uk/charity/chipping-norton-lido-limited](http://www.totalgiving.co.uk/charity/chipping-norton-lido-limited)), cheque or good old fashioned cash.
- **The Lido Lottery:** download a form from [www.chippylido.co.uk](http://www.chippylido.co.uk) or pick one up from Jaffé & Neale or The Fibreworks.
- **Legacy:** consider remembering us in your will. A recommended codicil is included at [www.chippylido.co.uk/support\\_us](http://www.chippylido.co.uk/support_us).





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## Honorary Citizenship for Betty



photo: Don Davidson

*Betty pictured after the ceremony with a present from her proud family*

Family, friends and colleagues gathered at the Town Hall recently to witness and honour Betty Hicks as she was awarded Honorary Citizenship of Chipping Norton. The Mayor spoke of Betty's contribution to town life over many years since she moved here in 1947 to work as a Landgirl, her marriage to Bill Hicks, a local man, her involvement with the British Legion, the Country Market and many other Town organisations. Members of three generations spoke warmly about family life and her constant support for children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The ceremony was followed by a tea party. Previous Honorary Citizenships have been awarded to John Hannis, Bruce and Sheila Parker, John Grantham, Mike Howes and Rob Evans. Betty's 'stint' (a share of the ancient right at Chipping Norton Common) was duly signed at January's Town Council meeting.

## No houses at West End Farm

A Planning Inspector has finally decided that homes should not be built on land at West End Farm, Churchill Road. In hearing the appeal by Sharba Homes against the refusal by West Oxfordshire District Council of their application to build 60 homes on the green field site, the Inspector considered evidence from the developer's consultants, the Local Planning Authority, English Heritage and local people. The developer claimed that WODC did not have a 5-year supply of housing land and so the homes, together with proposed permissive footpaths, would be a public benefit.

The Inspector noted the level of local opposition and also that West Oxfordshire was investigating other housing sites saying, 'It is very far from certain that the appeal site would be required or that less sensitive sites would not come forward.' Primarily, though, he assessed the level of impact on the local countryside and heritage. He found that the claimed benefits would not outweigh the 'serious harm' caused to the AONB nationally important landscape, nor the harm caused to the character and appearance of the conservation area and the setting of the Grade II\* listed Bliss Mill, concluding that 'there are very strong grounds for withholding permission'. This decision upholds the designations that seek to protect the landscape and heritage of our town. Attention now turns to West Oxfordshire's proposed housing sites at Tank Farm and Walterbush Road (the latter also a site within the AONB) that have, to date, received local support.

## New surgeries: public meeting

Chipping Norton's new GP surgery and medical centre is nearly complete – with planned opening date of Monday 30 March. Both West Street and White House surgeries will formally merge from 1 April. There will be a public meeting in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 February to explain how things will work and answer questions on how patients might be affected. The News went on a tour with White House practice manager Tony Love to see the much-increased space, larger consultation rooms, clinics for other professionals and visiting consultants. Inside the front entrance is a spacious waiting area with a large central reception desk and a full pharmacy which will be fully useable by the public. There will be a large car park and better building access and lifts – much improved over existing surgeries.

The X8 bus stops right next to the new building and the S3 Oxford bus stop is on the main road nearby. Some patients and local councillors have questioned whether more bus services – including perhaps a town shuttle bus – could be provided but nothing is planned. The News also understands from Cllr Hilary Biles that there has been some good progress on agreeing a foot-path through to



the new Aldi site on the Banbury Road. Aldi themselves may be interested in any shuttle bus to service their store. Regarding the

future of the old buildings, White House surgery (with planning permission for houses) is for sale through Carter Jonas. West Street surgery has been bought by Gentian Projects with planning permission for conversion to residential and an application for two houses at the back.

## Premier Inn at Castle View

News broke in December that a Premier Inn is being proposed for the Castle View care home, Chestnuts and ambulance station sites in Spring Street. Whitbread plc bought all three and will now pursue planning permission for a 70 bedroom hotel and as many car parking spaces. Up to 30 jobs (many part time) would be involved. On 14 January the Mayor, nine councillors and the Town Clerk met Whitbread representatives who said that the Chestnuts house will be preserved and developed into flats for sale. The hotel will be L-shaped, with a two-storey gabled elevation facing Over Norton Road and a three-storey section facing the valley. Because of the slope the building will not be much higher than the existing buildings. A planning proposal is expected shortly and demolition work could start mid-year.

# LOCAL NEWS

The current CastleView entrance will be used for Chestnuts and the new hotel entrance will be at the ambulance site.



*The Shape of Things to Come? The latest Premier Inn which has just opened in Witney*

Whitbread know that parking in Chippy is an issue, and in Spring Street in particular. It was hinted that some public parking could be made available, though it would be difficult because of the sloping site.

## Views of nearby residents

The long-empty site has been vandalised but has provided valuable unofficial parking; in December Spring Street residents were given less than a week's notice to remove vehicles and security fencing was erected. The main reaction to the new plan seemed to be surprise as most residents assumed that houses and flats would be the only option once the County Council put it on the market. Nearby residents are largely happier with the idea of a hotel than 70 or more houses and flats, expecting perhaps less disruption in Spring Street from hotel guests. But they are disappointed that the consultation process held by West Oxfordshire some years ago seems to have been ignored. 'What was the point of all that if OCC were just going to sell off the site to developers anyway?' said one resident. Residents are concerned about increase in cars and delivery lorries negotiating Spring Street and Over Norton Road. The local area already has parking issues – and Oxford House was recently converted into five flats without parking. Traffic could be an issue at peak times around the double roundabout junction.

## Do we need hotel rooms?

The plan could bring more visitors and tourists to town, using pubs, shops and restaurants. Whitbread say they have extremely high bookings in their local hotels in Witney, Bicester, Stratford, Oxford, Evesham and Cheltenham and that Chippy fills a gap. Some local business owners were surprised at the choice of a Premier Inn for Chipping Norton. 'With the existing hotel rooms in the Town and the Golf Club putting up thirty rooms, I'm not sure that the Town has a need for it' said one, while another said 'Premier Inns tend to be on motorway junctions, people wanting to stay just one night, not tourists coming into town and spending money.' Keep an eye on the News for imminent plans and how to submit your views.

## Mayor's Skateboard Ball

Chipping Norton Mayor's Annual Ball in the Town Hall is on Saturday 18 April. Proceeds this year go towards a new skateboard park for the Town – most likely planned for Greystones. The Mayor suggests lots of young people might come to the Ball to help! Could it be drum and bass and a rapper? Book your tickets with the Town Clerk (642341).

## Town's 8% tax rise

Chipping Norton Town Council agreed unanimously at their December meeting to raise its share of Council Tax by another 8% for next year (2015/16) after raising the tax 37% last year. Thus in two years the 'precept' (the amount the Town Council raises from Chippy households) will rise from £137,000 to around £207,000. For each 'Band D' taxpaying household this means paying around £88 for the year. With West Oxfordshire again promising to freeze their share at less than £82, the Town Council will be taking noticeably more than the District. The County Council will continue to take the lion's share of Council Tax – which could be a 'capped' 2% rise on the £1483 they currently take from Band D payers.

Mayor Mike Tysoe said that their rise was partially because the Town Council are taking on more costs – such as paying for snow ploughs, grit and bins – that might in the past have been paid by the bigger authorities. They are also budgeting an extra £5,000 for weed spraying, £10,000 for replacing town centre railings, another £27,500 for the Town Hall restoration fund and a further £27,000 for more recreation ground equipment. The main District and County local authorities have any rises 'capped' at 2% by central Government. Any bigger rise has to be put to a local referendum. Tertiary lower level authorities (i.e. Parishes and Towns) are not restricted on putting up their taxes.

## Become a Town Councillor?

Any readers who want to join Chipping Norton Town Council has their chance on 7 May this year. The whole of the Council – all 16 council places – is up for election. Some existing councillors are expected not to stand again and others will have to fight an election if there are enough candidates. Anyone interested should contact

Mrs V Oliveri, the Town Clerk, at the Guildhall for further information; phone 642341 or [cntownclerk@btconnect.com](mailto:cntownclerk@btconnect.com). Election notices will be put on the town notice boards and the Town Council website in Spring 2015. Chipping Norton Town Council is responsible for the Town Hall, the War Memorial, the closed churchyard at St Mary's Church, the Worcester Road Cemetery, four recreation grounds in the Town, Pool Meadow, Greystones recreation grounds, litter bins and grit bins. A Town Council meeting is held every third Monday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Council Chamber, the Town Hall.

## Snow patrols ready

Are we going to get a Chippy cold snap continuing into February and March? The Town Council now has eight volunteers trained up ready to use the snow ploughs in the event of icy weather. Mayor Mike Tysoe organised a training session before Christmas. The team includes the Mayor himself, two other town councillors and also Guy Wall who has provided the machines and the training. Mike is grateful for the 'over-60' brigade who have volunteered – but more of all ages would be welcome! Contact Mike on [miketysoe@uwclub.net](mailto:miketysoe@uwclub.net) if you want to help with this or any of the snow patrols if icy weather hits town. Grit is provided in the Town's grit bins by the County Council – and is for use on the public side roads (not for your own household paths!)

# LOCAL NEWS

Main roads should be kept clear by OCC. Everyone is encouraged to clear pavements – especially outside their own houses and shops. It's best to do it quickly as soon as the snow has fallen – and put salt down to help.

## Let's promote the Town



Does the Town need a boost? There's no shortage of housing proposals but can we attract more businesses and visitors to come to Chipping Norton? With at least five Topside shops becoming empty, this month also sees the shops Lovingly Handmade (next to West St Surgery) and Grind & Dine café closing. There are also still empty employment sites around, including the large London Road site. Promoting Chipping Norton could be a big priority – and Experience Chipping Norton organised a Town Hall meeting with the Town Council

on 23 January with local MP David Cameron there to chat to local business people and promote the cause.

An impressive turnout of over 130 representatives from the Town's businesses joined ECN and Councillors. They heard the PM say the Town had a great opportunity for tourism, a thriving Town centre, and a place for business. He urged everyone to 'put their hands in their pockets' or give time to support initiatives such as ECN. Mayor Mike Tysoe introduced the PM stressing the Town Council's priorities and the role of local action.

One key is how everyone can work together. There has been no Guild of Commerce for years, and attempts at creating a Town Partnership in the past saw continuous arguments in the Town Council on whether they should support it. Experience Chipping Norton was formed in recent years, to promote the Town, by a group of town businesses with a small stimulus from the national Mary Portas 'town centre' campaign. It will be up to ECN, the Town Council, and perhaps some key local businesses and organisations, to put time, effort, and maybe some money, into a combined effort to promote Chippy. Any nudging from our local MP to champion the cause could help. To get involved contact ECN ([www.experiencechippingnorton.com/](http://www.experiencechippingnorton.com/)) or the Mayor via the Town Clerk (642341).

## Delicacy in Middle Row




Soda delicatessen in Middle Row is changing its proprietor, name and focus. Sonya Kidney has handed the business over to Liz Hogarty and Jon Squires (pictured), who are rebranding it as 'Delicacy'. They are retaining the deli and expanding to serve speciality teas and coffees with light lunches and a daily special made

by chef Sonya, who is returning to her first love: cooking. The team are planning a new basement kitchen, in which Sonya will cook light, salad-based lunches and daily specials, that will be available to eat in or take-away. Liz says, 'We will be changing the shop front and interior to accommodate chairs and tables inside and out and we hope to entice people to sample the deli products with a freshly brewed cuppa.'

Being the sixteenth place in the town centre serving teas and coffees does not daunt the couple. Jon, the coffee guru, explains, 'We try to source our products locally and our coffee is no exception. We of Witney import green coffee beans and roast them over local oak rather than gas; the slow roasting ensuring that the coffee is lower in acidity and higher in body, giving a fuller flavour and smoother finish'. Speciality teas are supplied by Jeeves and Jericho, also of Witney, and both loose tea and ground coffee are available for sale. This revamped venture could make a positive contribution to Middle Row as a vibrant little shopping street.

## Town Hall Rummage Sale

Highlands is having a Rummage Sale with Good as New and Jumble in the Upper Town Hall on Saturday 28 February



### The Centre for Work, Rest and Play

<p><b>Group Meetings</b> Age Concern Monday Club Community Church Akanishta Kadampa Buddhist</p> <p><b>Mind &amp; Body Fitness</b> Body Conditioning: Yoga Mindfulness: Stay Supple Fitsteps: FitBeing Kick Boxing</p>	<p><b>Pre-School Fun</b> Jive Bunnies Ballet Bunnies Musical Minis</p> <p><b>Adult Learning</b> French Beginners Spanish Beginners Italian Advanced Portrait Drawing</p>
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# LOCAL NEWS

between 10 and 1. There will be clothing, bric a brac, games, toys, books, etc for sale, and refreshments will also be served. All proceeds go to Highlands Day Centre. Please come along, rummage and find yourself a bargain.

## A Hunting we won't go



Christmas holidays in Chipping Norton came and went with the traditional Boxing Day Heythrop Hunt (strictly no foxes invited). A large crowd turned out as usual outside The Fox Hotel. Everyone seemed to have a good time – including local Chipping Norton Set member (ex-member?) Charlie Brooks who was there with placards and collecting boxes enlisting support for a repeal of the hunting ban. There were probably a few anti-hunters there but most people may just have been enjoying the spectacle of horses, people and dogs of all shapes and sizes, neighing, drinking, and barking. Jeremy Clarkson apparently watched the Hunt pass from his new land at the renamed Diddly Squat Farm. The Heythrop Hunt was just one of 300 to meet, ten years after the Hunting Act was passed banning fox hunting. Hunt supporters are planning to use the issue of 'English votes for English laws' to push through a repeal of the foxhunting ban after the next election.

## Countryside Champion needed

Does anyone in Chipping Norton want to help protect our countryside? The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is looking for a new voluntary Chairperson to help co-ordinate its activities in West Oxfordshire. CPRE works to protect and promote the countryside. They need somebody who can commit a few hours a week, preferably with leadership or organisational qualifications and good people skills. The role is a great way to influence local decision-making on issues as varied as planning policy, affordable housing, litter, minerals and water. With so much development scheduled to come through in the area in the next 20 years, it is vital that someone is in place to speak up for the countryside and make sure villages have thriving communities. Phone CPRE Branch Office 01865 874780 as soon as possible for details.

One recent CPRE campaign – launched last July – is asking local people to highlight empty disused brownfield sites that could be developed in and around towns. This has been a recent hot topic in Chipping Norton. Members of the public are asked to nominate a brownfield site in their local area – for example an empty shop, disused post office, or abandoned

factory – by tweeting or emailing photos which will be added to an interactive CPRE map online. You can email [wasteofspace@cpre.org.uk](mailto:wasteofspace@cpre.org.uk). Helen Marshall, Director of CPRE Oxfordshire said, 'Chipping Norton has lots of developmental pressures, it also has a number of long-standing vacant sites, but it is imperative that these are used appropriately. We want to see more intelligent planning policies so more countryside is saved from unnecessary and damaging developments'.

## Pancake Sunday

Chipping Norton Methodist Junior Church will be welcoming the start of Lent with a Pancake Sunday on 15 February. Everyone is welcome to join them at the Methodist Church in West Street for delicious pancakes and to learn a little more about Lent. For more details contact Freda Fletcher on 643847.



## Boy hurt in road accident

Local press reported that a pedestrian, a 12 year old boy, was hurt in a collision with a car at 8.30am on 13 January at West End between The Green and Leys Approach. Police closed the road for over three hours and three ambulances attended and took the boy to the John Radcliffe Hospital suffering from head injuries. Nearby residents went to help. The News understands he was discharged the next day. One local mother told the press that there had been accidents on that stretch of road before (see Soap Box on letters page).



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## Keep a look out

The News was contacted by a concerned Chipping Norton mother about stories of suspicious van(s) having been seen apparently watching or following teenage girls in and around Chipping Norton. This followed similar reports in the past few weeks. The police had already been contacted about this but the News passed this further call information on to the Neighbourhood police. Anyone feeling they might be in danger should contact 999. Call 101 (ask for Chipping Norton police) if you have any suspicions or have any information to pass on.

## The future of Topside



Topside is a glorious facade of fine historic buildings, of which Chippy is rightly proud. But does it need a big revival, some serious commercial marketing and a new lease of life? The New Year saw two empty shops appear along Topside: Dorothy Perkins closed after 16 years amidst rumours that Costa Coffee has signed a lease; the Phone Shop also closed with the lease up for sale. With the new Co-op supermarket development coming, the Post Office, Co-op Travel and Pharmacy may also vacate Topside and move upstairs. Finally the old Cotswolds Newsagents building (No.19) remains empty after nearly three years of 'work in progress'. Finding tenants for empty shops will be a top priority for landlords and shoppers alike to keep Chippy with a diverse attractive shopping experience. One reader (see letters) wrote to the News last month complaining about the length of time shops have been empty and the time taken to renovate and re-let them.

### Topside's listed buildings

Almost every building on Topside is Grade II listed, with a continuing need for upkeep or refurbishment. The News spoke to Jeremy Catling whose family are involved in ownership of four of the shop properties (numbers 19, 20, 21 and 22). No. 19 was vacated when urgent remedial work was needed to the front of the listed building. Subsequent work has been slow, according to Jeremy, because obtaining listed building consent can be time consuming, and expensive renovations are being funded from the overall business. He was also concerned about taking any financial risks in times of uncertainty. Jeremy took one of our Newsteam round the three storey building which stretches 50 metres back up the alley known as the ropewalk, with many old storerooms and workshops. The records (see Jan Cliffe's new book on the High Street, described in an article on p11), list the first known owner as Henry Kyle a shoemaker (cordwainer) back in 1676. Much later it was occupied for 50 years up to 1958 by Hartwells and included an ironmonger and blacksmith.

### Plans for major renovation

The whole listed building from the roof downwards has had little maintenance for years and needs substantial remedial

structural work, upgrading, new staircases and entrances and refurbishment – all of which needs careful design and consent with the aim of updating and modernising while respecting the fabric of the listed building. Structural work on the front shop at No 19 is now almost complete, including a new steel frame to support the building. Jeremy explained they have recently submitted an application for listed building consent for work on the whole of Nos. 19 and 20 with a view to creating 6 new flats on upper floors and subdivision of retail units for letting or for their own expanded use. The Cotswolds Newsagents will move back to the front of No. 19 – hopefully within a year – with more space and a much wider range of goods. Once the Post Office vacates No. 20 next door, the refurbishment of that listed building can start (it has an amazing vaulted undercroft). New users will then be found for that and for the building (No. 22) where the Newsagents is currently located.

### Relief on business rates

Interestingly, business rates are not charged on empty listed commercial buildings (which on normal properties is an incentive to get them all occupied). For listed buildings this does at least provide some relief towards renovation costs, which, in the case of some of the Topside buildings can involve expensive roof, guttering, rendering and window replacements.

## Vets move 16 February



Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital is due to move to its new building in the London Road on Monday 16 February. The owners of the existing site in Albion Street are submitting a planning application to convert the old building into two flats and add four new flats and a house on the same site. Chipping Norton Town Council discussed this in January, had no major objections, but wanted to question the housing density and the sufficiency of parking.

## More bedrooms at The Fox

In January the Town Council discussed a planning application made by Hook Norton Brewery to upgrade The Fox Hotel in town. Owners Hook Norton Brewery intend to build an extension at the back, and four extra ensuite letting bedrooms in the existing cottage annex. This work had been expected for some time but the start – possibly now to be mid-year – had been delayed from the original intended dates. The Town Council welcomed the development but asked that internal work should be scrutinised to meet modern building regulations. Plans now go to West Oxfordshire for approval.

## Lawrence Team latest update

The Shipton-under-Wychwood Charity Ball took place on 13 December raising a record breaking £9,300 for The Lawrence Home Nursing Team. Our thanks go to the Fundraising Committee: Peter (Chair) and Anne Hilling, Chris and Sue Fitzpatrick, John and Mary Miskin, Charles and Pauline



*Peter Hilling, Chair of the Shipton-under-Wychwood Charity Committee, presenting a cheque to The Lawrence Home Nursing Team*

Marshall, and Ian and Mary Drainer. 'Lunch for Lawrence' Week will be launched at the Town Hall on Wednesday 4 March from midday. Come along for some warming soup, delicious desserts and a chat with friends. Alternatively fundraise for us and hold your own 'Lunch for Lawrence' and invite friends, colleagues or customers. Visit our website [www.lawrencehomenursing.org](http://www.lawrencehomenursing.org) to pick up a fact sheet including soup recipes from Emily Watkins, Chef at The Kingham Plough. Special thanks to Sainsbury's, Chipping Norton, Wild Thyme Restaurant and FWP Matthews for their generous support.

February sees the launch of the LHNT Restaurant Scheme commencing with The Fox Hotel in the Market Place. Please ring John on 642658 to book a table. Verity Fifer has joined LHNT as Fundraising and Events Co-ordinator. Visit our website for a full list of events and fundraising activities planned in 2015, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @LHNTeam. If you wish to help by holding a fundraising event or to assist in any other way please contact [verity@lawrencehomenursing.org](mailto:verity@lawrencehomenursing.org) or telephone 684475.

**Verity Fifer**

## 'The Fuss' at the Town Hall!

Holy Trinity School PTA are hosting popular local band, 'The Fuss' for a special one-night-only fundraising event 8-midnight on Friday 6 February, at Chipping Norton Town Hall. Fresh from their pre-New Year gig at The Chequers, The Fuss will be bringing us their own take on classic and contemporary soul, funk and disco grooves. So shake off those winter blues, dust off your party shoes and join us for a fun and funky night of live entertainment. We're expecting it to be a really popular event so hurry and get your tickets while you can – available from Jaffé & Neale or Holy Trinity Primary School. Tickets are £7 in advance or £8 on the door, including a welcome drink. All proceeds will go towards new technology for the classrooms as well as funding special children's away days and school trips. We would like to give special thanks to our sponsors who are supporting the evening: CETA Insurance, Sainsbury's and Topiarus Horticulture, and to Jaffé & Neale.

**Samantha Jackman**

## Old Hospital still for sale



Almost a year after Chipping Norton's War Memorial Hospital was put up for sale for the second time it is still empty and looking quite forlorn. Developers St Charles Homes secured planning permission for 14 homes on the site, including the conversion of the main hospital building, then put it on the market. Agents John Shepherd were inviting informal bids by the end of February 2014 and reported a healthy number of inquiries from housing developers, care homes, retirement home providers and even hotels. However, none of these progressed to a purchase. The agents were instructed before Christmas by St Charles Homes to take the site off the market but will be launching it afresh in February. 'The financial market is still volatile for securing development finance at the moment,' the agent told the News, 'but we are hoping to attract fresh interest with the re-launch'. He agreed that if a housing developer was unable to make a scheme viable soon, this could become more difficult once WODC's

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# LOCAL NEWS

Local Plan seeks a higher level of affordable housing on small sites like this. But, he added, it would be for each developer to argue their viability case with WODC for a waiver of this affordable housing requirement. The site was last for sale for £2 million (nearly £143,000 per home); Rightmove calculates the average house price in Chippy in 2014 was £249,500.

## Organisations on show



*The Chippy News Team – just one of many – at Organisations Day*

On 24 January many of Chipping Norton's Clubs and Societies showed off their wares at a Organisations Day hosted by the Town Council in the Town Hall. Around 30 local groups – from sports to Museum and Rotary to the Chipping Norton News itself – were there. Members of the public were able to find out what's going on, what to join and had the chance to chat to enthusiasts of all sorts. There is clearly no shortage of things to get involved in. The News produces a Guide to Local Contacts which contains most local groups – available from the Guildhall One Stop Shop or via [www.chippynews.org](http://www.chippynews.org).

## Chippy Town Festival 21 June

Following last year's wonderful day in Chipping Norton Town Centre we can look forward to a Town Festival again on Sunday 21 June providing a great day out for everyone. There will be a full day of entertainment, trade stalls, charity stalls and games, the Rotary Car Show, fairground rides and face painting for the younger 'festival goers', plenty of food outlets and information on local services and organisations. The organising team are looking for volunteers to assist Rotary Club Chipping Norton with the preparation of the site and events on the day between 9am and 8pm. To ensure another great programme of entertainment any local musicians or performers are invited to get in contact with details and availability. Local traders and charities make up 40-plus stalls to provide interesting shopping and activities all around the town centre. The whole day was successful last year raising money for local charities who are invited to apply for a donation from this year's profits. The team would also be grateful for sponsorship or a contribution for advertising in this year's programme.

If you think you would like to take part, sponsor the Festival, have a stall, help on the day, apply for a donation or need more information please contact as follows:

- Performers: Kevin 641784
- Stalls: Joyce and Arthur 643611
- Programme Sponsorship: Mike 676639
- Car Day: Dave 07889 606221
- C/N Rotary: Martin 642723
- Or email [chippingnortonfestival2014@gmail.com](mailto:chippingnortonfestival2014@gmail.com)

**Joyce Taylor**

## Last year for Emma's Trust



Emma's Trust would like to thank everyone who came and supported their A Very Hollywood Christmas

concert which was held at Chipping Norton School on Sunday 7 December. Two packed houses sang along to songs



from shows and movies and everyone jumped to their feet for the finale! The event raised over £3,000 which will be split between Macmillan Cancer Support and Emma's Trust.

As announced in the November edition of the News, Emma's Trust is coming to an end this year. The Trust will be celebrating everything they have achieved with a Festival in September and are currently looking for people to help organise the event. If you would like to get involved in planning the Festival then please email the Trust at [info@emmastrust.com](mailto:info@emmastrust.com) for more information.

**Ian Nolan**

## County cuts and ACE Centre

Fears of cuts to children's services – and a knock-on impact for Chipping Norton's ACE centre – could be on the agenda again. Last year Oxfordshire County Council announced £64m of cuts over the next four years. One year on, OCC has said it needs to cut another £20m. Around £3m of these further cuts could be from children and families, including early intervention centres. Chipping Norton District Councillor Laetisia Carter raised this issue at the December Town Council meeting, and warned that the Town might need to be ready to resist any threats to the local services. Last year a local campaign was organised.

Chipping Norton's County Councillor Hilary Biles, at the January Town Council meeting said that children's services were indeed being looked at again – and she was closely involved. She also said that many people acknowledge that 'savings can be made' to the £387,000 budget the County gives to Chippy's centre. She added, however, that 'I doubt that the ACE Centre would be compromised' and she would fight hard for it. The County say they have not made any decisions on any of this but the budget will have to be agreed in February. Cllr Biles suggested that 'no new campaign should start until we know what was happening'.

The same week as the cuts announcement, Oxfordshire County Councillors voted to give themselves a 19% increase in their basic allowances. Not all agreed – 38 voted for, 20 against and there were three abstentions. Council leader Ian Hudspeth voted in favour, and pointed out to the press that an independent panel had made the recommendations for the

## LOCAL NEWS

rise. He also pointed out that they needed to attract more and younger county councillors, and newcomers often had to give up days of paid work.

### 25 years of hairdressing



*Sue & Richard Bartholomew pictured with their team – celebrating 25 years in the business.*

18 December was a special day for staff and customers at Bartholomew's hair salon in West Street as it marked 25 years in the business. There was a celebratory drink, no doubt with a toast to the next 25 years. Well done all!

### Should we adopt a Squadron?

A proposal to award the 'Freedom of Chipping Norton' to 2614 RAF Reserve Squadron based at Brize Norton was discussed at January's Town Council Meeting and was rejected. The idea was put forward in December by Mayor Mike Tysoe. The proposal was based partly on their sending significant numbers of representatives to the Remembrance Day parades in the Town in 2013 and 2014. At the latest meeting Cllr David Heyes explained the research he had done. The award of 'Freedom of the Town' would be setting a precedent. Traditionally around the country it seems that criteria for granting this honour include 'historic ties' with a 'long and dedicated service'. For this reason the honour is most commonly awarded by garrison towns where units are based. He suggested that there were other Town organisations, but not military, that might better fit this description. The Squadron was also relatively new, was really an infantry fighting unit, and it was unusual in today's forces in that it did not include women. Cllr Jo Graves agreed that the association has only been very recent. The Mayor and Council agreed to 'put the idea in the pending file'.

### More tourists for Chippy?

With the prospect of a 70-room Premier Inn in Chippy along Spring Street, it's interesting to hear that tourism is growing in West Oxfordshire as a whole. Apparently tourism 'spending' was just over £273.8m in 2013, an increase of 2.1% on the previous year – not earth shattering but holding up against competition such as cheap flights to other destinations. Chippy may not do as well as Burford and Woodstock who benefit from their long-established neighbouring attractions such as the Wildlife Park and Blenheim. But with more people perhaps using Chippy as a base for visiting local Cotswolds

hotspots, maybe it's time again for us to have a proper tourist information centre to publicise Chippy's own attractions?

Around 30% of tourist money in 2013 in our District was spent on accommodation and it's worth asking the question of how well Chippy caters for this trade now. Premier Inn clearly thinks there is a gap in the market and this may benefit everyone. Food and drink accounts for over 20% of spending and with Chippy's varied restaurants, pubs and takeaways one would hope that we have felt the benefit of this. They certainly seem to be busier than a few years ago, much of this no doubt due to the upturn in the UK economy, but let's hope that this trend continues, supported by tourism growth. Finally, it's worth noting that around 3,500 people work in tourism in West Oxfordshire, an increase on the previous year and equivalent to around 12.5% of the total workforce. So if you are working in this vibrant service industry it's good to know that you are not only a significant part of the local economy but that things are looking up and by the sounds of it in Chippy there's plenty of potential for more investment!

### PM opens Enstone Hall

In November local MP David Cameron opened Enstone's impressive new £500,000 Parish Hall. Pictured with Parish Councillor Rob McGrigor together with a plaque marking the event, Mr Cameron told the News, 'This is the result of a great



fundraising effort and it's a fabulous community facility', and he went on to praise West Oxfordshire District Council for their support. He also sent out a plea to local people to really make use of it, and to that end it is open for bookings through Mrs Susanne Hamilton on 677156. Mr Cameron in his speech commented on the impressive height of the ceiling in the main hall, designed to be regulation height for badminton, and the whole building is a real tribute to the design team and builders – it replaces a corrugated iron building built in 1922 which was no longer fit for purpose. The hall was built with help from a Section 106 planning gain agreement as part of the Paddocks housing development off Cox's Lane.

### Art at Care Home

Andrea Bates, who has exhibited in London and regional galleries, was a guest in January at the Henry Cornish Care Centre. She worked with some of the residents who were creating their own art and talked them through her experiences, explaining why she chooses certain themes and what they mean to her.

### Waste & recycling reminders

Did you get confused over which bins were collected when over Christmas? Chippy householders can sign up for weekly reminders about waste and recycling collections to help them put out the right bins, by registering at: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/beintheknow](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/beintheknow). Call 01993 861000 or see [www.westoxon.gov.uk/waste](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/waste) for more information.

## Should've gone to ... Scrivens

The Scrivens Opticians & Hearing Care store in Chipping Norton's High Street has beaten 36 other branches to become, for the first time, its Midlands Branch of the Year. The



*Scrivens' chairman Nicholas Georgevic with Julie Dyer, Chipping Norton branch manager, Theresa Richards, regional manager, and Mark Georgevic, Scrivens legal director pictured at the awards ceremony.*

annual award is 'recognition of its first-class customer care, general positive attitude and expertise'. Branch Manager Julie Dyer, who has been with the store for 28 years, said, 'We are a busy little branch which is very much part of the community'. Commenting on the award, Scrivens' Chairman Nicholas Georgevic, said, 'Our Chipping Norton branch is a worthy winner'. Scrivens, a family-run business, began in 1938 and now has 170 stores nationwide. For more information, visit [www.scrivensopticians.com](http://www.scrivensopticians.com).

## Councils all over the place

In the race to save money our local authorities seem to be looking in all directions at once, based on the latest announcements. First, West Oxfordshire District announced a new programme, funded by £2.9m of new money, to share more jobs and services with three other districts to the west: Cheltenham, Cotswold District and Forest of Dean. The project will include joint working on IT infrastructure, waste and regulatory services. Secondly, in a totally separate deal, Oxfordshire County Council are looking north-east to create a new body regionally with Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. This will possibly look at transport, business support and housing strategy. One argument is that this 'sub-regional' group might be logical for some joint 'strategic thinking'.

But wait! In January, Oxfordshire County Council also floated a new report (which they commissioned from Consultants Ernst and Young), which looks again at options for creating combined 'Unitary' authorities. The lead idea would 'merge' our four rural and Oxford City districts into a single more powerful Oxfordshire County Council. OCC Leader Ian Huspeth pointed to £33m in possible savings. At January's Town Council meeting our County Councillor Hilary Biles spoke strongly in support of this idea. She also pointed out that a combined authority might need only 100 councillors instead of over 300. She also said that for the Chipping Norton and surrounding area the Councillor's job might be done by one 'unitary' County person – eliminating the need

for all the local district councillors. She did also suggest she would be up for being elected to the job!

Chipping Norton's District Councillor Geoff Saul pointed out that the four rural District Councils are strongly against this idea; they issued an immediate press release to that effect disputing the case put forward. The current government are also strongly against any more unitary authorities.

## Charity Quiz and Chilli

Former Top school pupils Charlie and Kate Murphy are training hard to run the London Marathon this April. They are organising a fun-packed event in February to raise funds for their chosen charities – the National Deaf Children's Society (Charlie) and Helen & Douglas House (Kate). They are planning what they promise will be the Quiz of the Year, complete with Chilli supper, at Chipping Norton Rugby Club – 7.30pm on Saturday 21 February. The success or failure of the event depends entirely on the number of people, so put the date in your diary and turn up, come wind, rain or fire! RSVP if possible to give Charlie and Kate an idea of numbers or just pitch up. Tickets (£12pp inc dinner and professional quiz) can be reserved in advance by emailing [murphywendy@hotmail.com](mailto:murphywendy@hotmail.com). See you on the 21<sup>st</sup>!

**Wendy Murphy**

## High Street uncovered

How old are the buildings on Chipping Norton's High Street and what activities have they housed over the centuries? To find out, Chipping Norton Historical Research Group



*Part of Jan Cliffe's 'inspiring' architectural drawing*

painstakingly transcribed old wills and inventories and local historian, Janice Cliffe undertook original research into ancient leases. She then pulled these together to itemise the owners/occupiers and uses of all High Street buildings since the mid 17th century. Her illustrated book, *Chipping Norton High Street* gives us a fascinating insight.

Just as a taster, all the following pubs were once in what we now call Top Side: The Red Lion Inn; The Talbot Inn; The Temperance Hotel; The Black Boy; The Bell Inn/New George Inn; The Bear and Ragged Staff; The Catherine Wheel; The Blue Anchor Inn. Do you know where? Which bank was originally built as a medical hall, later occupied by a surgeon? And which premises were occupied by rope-makers from 1841 until the Second World War?

*Chipping Norton High Street* by Janice Cliffe is published by and in aid of Chipping Norton Museum of Local History. It is available, while stocks last, from the History Society ([paulinewatkins58@icloud.com](mailto:paulinewatkins58@icloud.com)), Jaffé & Neale and, when it re-opens in April, the Museum itself. All proceeds go to the Museum. The book will be appreciated by anyone with an interest in Chippy's history. The beautiful architectural drawings of the famous High Street elevation will inspire us all to look above fascia level when shopping in future.

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## Town Council website

Chipping Norton Town Council has now launched their own website [www.chippingnortontowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.chippingnortontowncouncil.co.uk). Contact details for Councillors are given, plus information on committees, meetings, Town Hall room rentals, Neighbourhood Plan and more. Full papers for forthcoming Town Council meetings should now be available a week before the meeting – to include agenda, draft minutes, and sub-committee meeting papers. Hopefully this will encourage the public and representatives of other bodies to attend when topics of interest are due to be discussed.

## Winter appeal

### Surviving Winter



Do you need your Winter Fuel Payment ... or could it help someone else in Chipping Norton who is

worse off than you? Why not donate it! Local charity Oxfordshire Community Foundation is suggesting you might give to their Surviving Winter Appeal, which uses the



funds to help elderly and vulnerable people around Oxfordshire who are struggling to cope. Now in its fifth year, the current appeal has so far raised nearly £8,000 to support local charities and community groups working directly with those who need help the most. In the past, grants from the appeal funds have been made to groups that befriend elderly people, help them overcome fuel poverty, and assist them in practical matters such as keeping warm and well fed through the cold winter months. In 2013 there were 18,200 excess winter deaths across the UK, with 340 winter-related deaths in Oxfordshire alone. To donate, visit [www.justgiving.com/SurvivingWinter2014-15](http://www.justgiving.com/SurvivingWinter2014-15), or call 01865 798666 to arrange a postal donation. To apply for grants see [www.oxfordshire.org](http://www.oxfordshire.org).

## Phone Co-op backs 'green'

The locally based Phone Co-op has announced that it is using its yearly profits through its Social & Economic Development Fund to invest in initiatives 'to make our planet greener'. In its latest round of investments, £20,000 has gone to Abingdon Hydro, a not-for-profit company set up by local residents to generate hydro-electric power from the Thames at Abingdon Weir; and a similar amount to initiatives such as the Drumlin Wind Energy Co-op, the Community Power Co-op in Cornwall, and the Low Carbon Hub in Oxfordshire. Since the Phone Co-op was founded 14 years ago, it has used over £300,000 of profits to support other co-ops and social enterprises trying to get started and in need of financial assistance. Much of this investment goes into renewable energy but funds also contribute to local communities such as for pubs and football clubs. The Phone Co-op is an

independent consumer co-operative based in Manchester, Chipping Norton and London. It is the only telecoms provider in the UK that is owned and run by its customers.

## More awards for Care team



*Leisl & Dawn with their awards*

For the second time in two months, Chipping Norton-based Care Compassion and Conversation Ltd have been given awards. On this occasion it was the Banbury Women in Business group who presented Liesl Guy and Dawn Pratley, who had previously worked at Penhurst, with the Ed Frost and Daughters' Customer Care Award and also the Bloxham Mill New Business Award.

## Internet classes at Highlands

Age Concern in Chipping Norton are running more classes on how to use the internet up at Highlands centre in the Burford Road. They include:

- 4 March – Skyping
- 11 March – Emails
- 18 March – Buying and selling on the Internet
- 25 March – Photos and images

The cost is £20 for each two-hour session. Telephone 643320 to book.

## Labour Councillors' Surgeries

Chipping Norton District Labour Councillors Geoff Saul, Eve Coles and Laetisia Carter will be holding drop-in advice sessions regularly from 5.30 to 7pm on the first Thursday of every month at the ground floor meeting room of Bradley Saul Solicitors at 2 Market Street (next door to Trev Beadle's butcher's shop). The next dates are Thursday 5 February and Thursday 5 March; or you can contact Geoff Saul at [geoff.saul@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.saul@westoxon.gov.uk) if you have concerns over housing, planning, recycling and refuse collection, parking, anti-social behaviour or any other local issues.

**Geoff Saul**

## UKIP Public Meeting

UKIP are inviting all local residents to an Open Public Meeting in the Lower Town Hall in Chipping Norton on the evening of Wednesday 25 February. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30 start. Speakers will include Simon Strutt, the UKIP Candidate for the Constituency; Dickie Bird, the UKIP Candidate for Banbury; and James Stanley, your UKIP Candidate for the Town Council and West Oxon District Council elections, all to be held on 7 May. We hope that we will also have another nationally-known UKIP speaker, subject to their availability. The meeting is open to all; this is your opportunity to ask the UKIP candidates their views and tell them yours. Numbers are limited by the space available; to be certain of a seat, please contact [UKIP.ChippingNorton@Gmail.com](mailto:UKIP.ChippingNorton@Gmail.com) or call 07770 163897 to reserve your place.

**James Stanley**

## Ramblers celebrate 40 years!

Forty years ago fifteen people met in St Mary's School for the 'Inaugural meeting of Chipping Norton Rambler's Club'. Mr D Roche took the chair: no first names in those formal days of 1974! And he was succeeded by Mr M E Cockburn. Diana Rose was elected Honorary Secretary and she is still walking



*The current Rambling Club enjoying a break on a walk last summer*

with us -- resigning as Chairman only last month. The Club's aims were to 'enjoy existing rights of way' and 'with the farmers' and landowners' close co-operation to clear existing obstructions'.

Nowadays paths are better marked and maintained, thanks to the introduction of legal obligations on the part of landowners, so path clearance is not usually necessary now. But we continue to walk on the first Sunday of the month, enjoying good company and lovely countryside. We meet in the New Street car park at 1.30pm (2pm in the summer), get

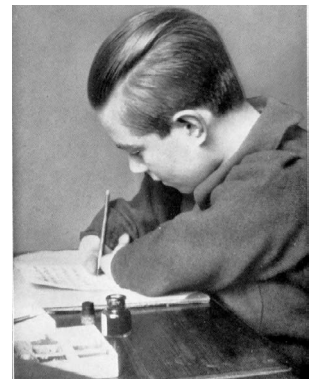
into 2 or 3 cars and make for the start of the walk, which we take in turns to lead. We walk at a leisurely pace for a couple of hours and new members are very welcome. Enquiries to Heather Leonard (643691 or rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk) or to me (643269 or jennyharrington@btinternet.com)

**Jenny Harrington**

## Preserving the Penhurst name

The major development at the old Penhurst School site down New Street is progressing – with demolition of the more modern buildings at the back finished by 31 January. This is all to make way for a new care home as well as houses, cottages and flats for older people. The timescale for building is unclear but a show house for the new sheltered housing may be ready later in the spring. Nearby residents are watching carefully to see that trees are protected and that an agreement on daytime working hours only is kept to (8-6 on weekdays, 8-1 on Saturdays). Infringements have been reported. The height of the new care home also has to be limited to an agreed level.

Chipping Norton Town Council has also told the site developers that the names 'Penhurst' and 'Monks Dene' should be preserved. The Council objected to a proposal by the developers to name the new road Buchanan Gardens and use Buchanan House for Monks Dene. Councillors suggested that Buchanan be used for the new care home. Artist John Buchanan (1908–1953), a famous 'old boy' of Penhurst, was born without hands. He was placed in care after his parents were unable to cope with his disability and later gained an international reputation for his work. The home's chapel contained a memorial to Buchanan.



*John Buchanan pictured at work*

DAY & BOARDING | BOYS and GIRLS | AGES 3-18



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## Neighbourhood Plan update

Chipping Norton's Neighbourhood Plan is near its final stages – but with more work to do. It was updated before Christmas after local comments (these will be summarised on the Town Council website). The Plan was then given a 'health check' by an independent planning expert. The general sentiment of the Plan's policies were approved but the check identified a number of policies that require further work, specifically to ensure they are more closely aligned with WODC's emerging Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy proposals. The Steering Group will work closely with planning officers at WODC to ensure this is the case. Unfortunately, resource constraints at WODC mean this work will not happen until April. Then it goes formally to WODC for a six-week consultation, then to an examiner, then, if successful, to a referendum in Chipping Norton. The Steering Group anticipate this will be sometime in early autumn this year.

## Donate your blood

Blood donation sessions will take place in Chipping Norton's Glyme Hall on Wednesday 11 February. You can book an appointment at [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk). Sessions will be from 1.15pm-3.30 pm and from 4.15pm-7pm.

## Books for winter evenings

New Year and those cold winter nights – what better way to indulge yourself than to get stuck into a good book. Come and visit Chipping Norton Library to see what great new books we've got for you to borrow from your local library. During February the Library Service is running a Book Drive in conjunction with the National Literacy Trust when folk can donate their unwanted books, which may be used in libraries or to help support literacy projects at home and abroad. Just bring them to any library during the month. The weekly Rhymetime sessions for under 5s are back up and running on Monday mornings at 10.30 (not during half term) and is great fun for all. Why not give it a try?

Judith Bucknall, Library Manager

## Car Club spreads to Chippy



Do you want to share a car and save carbon? Hooky Car Club has been offering the use of cars to its members for the last few years. They are used typically for a few hours at a time, and are useful to people who need a car occasionally, but not enough to justify the cost of owning. The Car Club takes care of all insurance, fuel and servicing. It has recently decided to extend this operation to Chippy and so, now, with the support of the Midcounties Co-operative, has a car stationed at the supermarket car park in Chippy. If you would like to use it or want more information, email [carclub@hn-lc.org.uk](mailto:carclub@hn-lc.org.uk) or contact David Newton on 0753 534 5885.

## Logs for Labour

Would you like to get free firewood in exchange for a couple of hours' work? The 'Logs for Labour' scheme provides these opportunities, some of them quite close to Chippy. The next local opportunity is at Daeda's Wood, near Deddington on Sunday 22 February from 10am to 1pm. You will just need to bring a hand saw, and a hard hat if you have one. Full details of this session and others can be found at [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk) or [www.facebook.com/oxonwood](http://www.facebook.com/oxonwood).

## Screen by the Green

Churchill & Sarsden Village Hall on Saturday 14 February are showing the film *A Most Wanted Man* cert 15. A gripping, twisted spy tale from John Le Carré's novel, set and filmed in Hamburg with Philip Seymour Hoffman in one of his last appearances. This is a must see, not only for all fans of the genre and Le Carré addicts, but for all who enjoy a crafted quality film. All films start at 7.30pm: £4.50 pay on the door. For information and to book ring Jackie 659903 or email: [screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com](mailto:screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com).

## Train a live-in puppy



Does anyone in Chipping Norton want to help train a puppy? Dogs for the Disabled is looking for volunteers to invite young pups into their home and turn them into well-behaved potential assistance dogs. You'll be supported by the charity's puppy co-ordinators during regular puppy classes at its Banbury centre. You'll also be

asked to socialise the puppy in public places like supermarkets and schools and on public transport, to prepare them for their working life. This training period takes over a year, then your dog will leave to start formal training with Dogs for the Disabled. After that time, the dog you knew as a pup will become a fully-qualified assistance dog for a disabled adult or child. Some will progress to become autism assistance dogs helping children with autism. To have a puppy in your home, you'd need a fully-fenced, secure garden and any children in the household should be over two years old. There should be a maximum of two existing pet dogs. Food and vet costs for the puppies are paid by Dogs for the Disabled. Potential volunteers are asked to email [liz.stone@dogsforthedisabled.org](mailto:liz.stone@dogsforthedisabled.org). For more information visit the website [www.dogsforthedisabled.org](http://www.dogsforthedisabled.org).

## Can you read this?

### はい私たちは読むことができます

Imagine how confusing it would be if you couldn't read the signs and labels that surround us every day, or read books, magazines, emails, birthday cards. Yet one in 20 adults hasn't learnt to read, usually because they missed out in childhood. Often they go to great lengths to hide their difficulties, suffering alone with their embarrassment. But help is available. 'Read Easy' is an organisation that teaches adults to read, confidentially, one-to-one and at their own pace. Read Easy is looking for adults who would like to meet a reading coach and perhaps start to learn. If you know someone who would benefit, you can put them in touch with Sue Brereton on 0844 493 0686 or email [suebrereton@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:suebrereton@readeasy.org.uk). Read Easy also wants to hear from anyone who would like to train as a reading coach or has a quiet office where coaching sessions could take place.

## Local food network starting up

A new local food group, aptly called 'Cultivate', has recently started up to distribute food produced in the Oxford area, to be made available both in Oxford and in the towns and villages near the city. Food orders can be made on-line each week, and the produce is sent out to local distribution centres, called PODs. Customers can pick up their orders from there. Currently the nearest POD is in Charlbury, run by the Charlbury Green Hub, using a member's private house. This is up and running now, and you can place orders at <http://shop.cultivateoxford.org/>. No doubt if the volume of orders builds up, somewhere larger will be required. Transition Chipping Norton would like to set up a POD in Chippy. The main obstacle is finding a site. If anyone who has



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premises (possibly a private house to start with) that is fairly central in Chippy, please contact Richard Averill on 643635.

## Katharine House update



**Care for a Cuppa:** 1-8 March, an invitation to organise a coffee morning or afternoon tea for Katharine House. Fundraising packs are available. Ask for donations on the day, or hold a raffle or sweepstake. Following the success of last year's Care for a

Cuppa fundraisers, which raised £14,000, Katharine House Hospice would love to hear from supporters who would like to take part again. Last year, supporters held their Care for a Cuppa events at home, at work, at school and in local village halls and it was a huge success. **Black Dyke Brass Band concert:** 7.30pm Saturday 28 March at St Mary's Church, Horsefair, Banbury. Doors open at 7pm, tickets are £20 each. Book early to avoid disappointment. **Festival of Open Gardens 2015:** Looking for anyone who would like to open their garden to raise money for Katharine House this summer. Programme of gardens to be published in late March. **Katharine House Hospice Lottery:** There are a variety of Lottery Gift Memberships, ideal for a birthday present, for £1 a week. For information on any of these items, contact fundraising on 01295 812161 or see [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk).

## Toby's Indian cycle ride



Toby Dowling, who went to St Mary's and Chipping Norton School and is now at Sheffield University, is raising money for charity by cycling across India in August. Toby told the News he is

supporting Childreach International, which works on child poverty and healthcare in places such as India, Bangladesh, Morocco, Nepal, Tanzania and the UK. During the 510km ride between New Delhi and Taj Mahal.

Toby will visit and help at some of the charity's projects along the way. Toby said, 'I have to raise £2,750 for the charity and would be grateful to anyone who is prepared to offer a donation. This can be done online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/tobydowling>, or by texting UNLOCK152544 to 70007 (to donate £3) or a cheque payable to Childreach International sent to 14 Rock Hill, Chipping Norton OX7 5BA. I would like to thank everyone who has donated already and thank anyone in advance for their donation. Looking forward to my adventure'.

## Sibyl O'Donnell

The News Team was saddened to hear of the death of Sibyl Denise O'Donnell the mother of former Mayor and Atlantic rower, Jan Meek. Mrs O'Donnell died on 18 January.

## Joan Bowen 1922–2014

Long-time Chipping Norton resident Joan Bowen passed away peacefully in her Dorset nursing home on 29 December. Joan first trained as a dressmaker, then joined the WAAF during the war where she met first husband Norman Keen who was in the Mosquito ground crew. They married in



1942 and eventually moved to Distons Lane around 1956. Joan helped with Young Wives and Young Mothers, bringing up her family and inviting children from Penhurst round for tea. She later trained as a shorthand typist, working at Major & Major Garage, then as Primary School secretary, then with Pearl Assurance. She helped at Cotshill Hospital, was a collector for the Mission to Lepers and played the organ at Cornwell Church. After Norman died she had 25 years of happy life married again to Andrew Bowen. Joan hosted the missionary prayer group and provided the scrabble group with a base. Later, after Andrew's death, she moved to Abbeyfield home in Chadlington and finally to Dorset to be near son Peter. A service to celebrate her life was held on 13 January at St Mary's Church with many friends and family, followed by a reception at the Blue Boar. Her son Peter described her, even after a hard early life, as 'a loving, caring person who listened to what God wanted her to do. She was always helping others'. Peter's contact is [peter.keenhearing@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.keenhearing@btinternet.com).

## Bartholomew's Hair



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## Honours for Jo Graves

**Councillor Jo Graves was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in The Queen's New Year's Honours' List. Having lived here since 1981, her contributions include being a Town Councillor for more than 20 years, with three as Mayor, being a Foundation Governor at St Mary's Primary School where she taught for 20 or so years, being Chair of the Twinning Association, chair of the League of Friends for Chippy Hospital, a Trustee of Home Start, a lead member of St Mary's Church and co-ordinator for The Children's Society. Linda Rand of the News Team went to speak to Jo:**

Linda Rand: *Congratulations, Jo! You have been quoted in the local press as being humbled by this award; surely you must have been thrilled too?*

Jo Graves: Yes, of course, totally thrilled and honoured and very touched. You know, you go through life just doing what you do; you don't think about it. You don't expect people to notice and when you find out they do notice it gives you a lovely warm feeling. But I think that's just symptomatic of this community. Everyone pulls together.

LR: *You are incredibly busy; what drives you?*

JG: Faith drives me. I have a very strong faith. I grew up in a small rural community and my Mum was a fantastic role model. And so was an inspirational lady who taught me aged 10 or 11 that you can really make a difference by being helpful and caring. I try to have a positive outlook on life. But part of it also is just wanting to get things done.

LR: *In twenty years of being elected an Independent Town Councillor, you have consistently received a high number of votes; would you ever consider a higher level council such as WODC or OCC?*

JG: No, I don't think so. I think you can make a more of a difference to your immediate community at the local level. At District and County, you have to tow the party line and can cease to be an individual. I believe it's better to build community from the bottom up, not have top down stuff imposed on you. Chippy has always been a town that just sorts itself out and that sits comfortably with me.

LR: *What do you think are the main issues facing the Town over the next 20 years?*

JG: It's a great place Chippy; it's got no side to it. Everyone pulls together. We know the Town has to grow, we accept that, but slow growth is best. The 'in-blowers' are good for a community and help keep it vibrant and tend to contribute a lot. But the old Chippy families are the foundation of the Town and we need to ensure they are not priced out. We need more housing that people can afford including social housing. We need to support our town centre and we need employment. And we need to ensure that we don't exceed the critical mass that ensures people think about Chippy as one place. It's for this reason that the Town Council has resisted the introduction of wards, because they could be divisive. I think as long as you can walk from one end of the Town to the other comfortably, then it remains one place, which is important to the spirit of the community.

LR: *What do you consider to be your main achievements?*

JG: Raising my two daughters to be independent. The family is the most important thing in life.

LR: *Much of your work has been associated with children and families. What advice would you give young parents today?*



JG: The priority is the child. Early years to age 5 are so important. Young parents are bombarded with pressure to buy this and that. But a child doesn't need 'things'. A child needs love and quality time to play with its parents. Try to learn to go without non-essentials so you can be at home with them. I believe Mums should be paid to stay at home to raise their children. Young women are under so much pressure to prove themselves these days and it is often the high achievers who find it most difficult to cope with a young baby because they can suffer a loss of

status and for the first time are doing a job for which they have had no training. At Home Start we say, 'Don't be afraid to ask for advice'.

LR: *And what's next?*

JG: I like the quote, 'You don't stop doing things because you get old; you get old because you stop doing things'. I'm a great believer in that and I have no intention of stopping doing things for a while yet.

*And we hope you don't either Jo! Keep up the good work!*

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## Home-Start Banbury & Chipping Norton

***This month The News features Home-Start - a voluntary home-visiting scheme in which volunteers offer tailor-made, one-to-one support, friendship and practical help to families with at least one child under five. Senior Organiser Jane Skelton explains more:***



The volunteers, usually parents themselves, are recruited, trained and supported by three paid Organisers employed by the scheme (Jane, Diane & Angela) and visit the family that they are linked with, on a weekly basis. Families need support for many reasons: perhaps they are struggling to cope with post natal illness, a child's disability, family breakdown or bereavement or maybe they feel isolated and unable to connect with their local community. Whatever the reason, Home-Start provides non-judgmental practical and emotional support and helps build the family's confidence and ability to cope.



success in countless cases. That was the situation with my third family, where Mum's frank discussions with me helped with her own decision-making. I have just said goodbye to family number four. This time it was a multiple birth where Mum also had a little 2 yr-old daughter. Lots of cuddles, lots of tantrums and loads of fun, but perhaps giving Mum some important 1:1 time with the 2 yr-old was the most valuable contribution. These four

The majority of our referrals come via Health Visitors or other professionals but families can refer themselves and ask for help directly. On receipt of the referral, and provided we have resources available, the family will be allocated to an Organiser who will meet with them as soon as practically possible. At this Initial Visit we will discuss specific needs of the family and how best Home-Start can support them to achieve their desired outcomes. Then a volunteer will be selected/identified and linked to the family. The support is monitored throughout by the Organiser and formal reviews take place with the family every three months.



*Homestart Banbury & Chipping Norton Trustees pictured with Rob Parkinson the CEO of Homestart UK at their last AGM*

### Working as a volunteer

*Chipping Norton resident Gay Holden told The News about her volunteering experience:*

In the three years since becoming a local volunteer with Home-Start I have supported four families with very different needs. In at the deep end, I was assigned to a family where Mum had mental health problems, Dad had left and the children were being neglected. With lots of encouragement and practical help over several months, Mum's mood gradually lifted, Dad returned and I was confidently moved to my next family where my lasting legacy was teaching Mum to cook simple, cheap and nourishing meals for her children. Isolation from friends or family can be very hard for young mothers, and having a neutral, friendly, non-judgmental Home-Start confidante to rely on to visit once a week has proved a great

assignments called upon many different strands of my training which, together with one's own innate skills makes such

volunteering so rewarding, to say nothing of the little faces at the window shouting 'She's coming! She's coming!'

### Commitment from Trustees

*Jo Graves has been a voluntary Trustee of Home-Start Banbury and Chipping Norton for the past 12 years. She talked about this key role.*

Year on year, I have been impressed at the effectiveness of our scheme in enabling families to become empowered – gaining in

confidence and able to move forward from the crisis that put them in touch with Home-Start in the first place. As a Trustee, I am part of a committed board of people – all volunteers – who give up their time and skills to ensure the good governance of the scheme by overseeing the management of the staff and volunteers. One major role is to secure funding for the scheme – as a Charity we are independent of the statutory sector – but are always grateful for donations received, to help us carry out our essential support for the families in Banbury and Chipping Norton. I am continuously amazed at the generosity of individuals, businesses and organisations who contribute funds. Whilst being a Trustee, I have enjoyed the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of the Charity sector through the excellent training which Home-Start UK offers to the Trustees of the independent schemes. There is much fulfilment in this role, but none so uplifting as when we hear of successful engagement with families, who have moved on from their time of crisis.

*For more information or if you are interested in volunteering please contact 01295 266358 or visit [www.home-startbanbury.org.uk](http://www.home-startbanbury.org.uk)*

# THE ARTS

## Remembering World War I



One of the many ceramic poppies made at Whichford Pottery for the Tower of London WWI Centenary exhibition last year

Shaking hands across no man's land, singing carols in English and German, teams from the opposing forces playing football on Christmas Eve: 1914 may have seemed at the time to herald an early conclusion to the Great War, but alas that was not to be. The following poem, the winner from over 200 entries in the senior section captures the reality of trench warfare.

### The Fallen

By Lizzie Alarcon-Clark 9ES, Chipping Norton School

The crippling weight of sight  
Scorched into the mind's eye;  
Burning, always burning.  
Blood: nauseating, cloying,  
Now dry and congealing,  
Foul stench swarms around them.  
Grotesque, translucent limbs  
Carelessly strewn – littered,  
Discarded in the filth.  
These are the youth that lie,  
The hope, that clutch each other  
In the rubble, debris and waste.  
They are the rubble, the debris,  
The waste  
Of a battle cruel and unjust.  
They are sinking into memory,  
Dissipating into the earth,  
Foundations for blind repetition.

## Museums in Woodstock

Two local museums recall the years of both World Wars with the following exhibitions and talk.

### Oxfordshire Remembers 1914-18

5 August 2014 – 31 August 2015

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in the grounds of the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock has received a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £80,000. 'Oxfordshire Remembers 1914-18' are exciting and engaging exhibitions and outreach programmes, combining SOFO's previously unseen military heritage collections with a unique series of community projects and events.

### Keeping up Appearances: Fashion through Two World Wars

13 January – 12 April

This exhibition at the Oxfordshire Museum explores how the changing role of women impacted on the style, fabric and cut of their clothing. A variety of vintage items will take you back in time from the boom and bust of the '50s, through make do and mend in the '40s, and the Hollywood glamour of the '30s to the freedom of the flappers of the '20s. Free admission

### Fashion in the First World War

Revealing details of what people wore whether uniform, or through the enforced culture of 'make do and mend' or haute couture. Author Nina Edwards's talk explores how war influences the way people see themselves and the way they

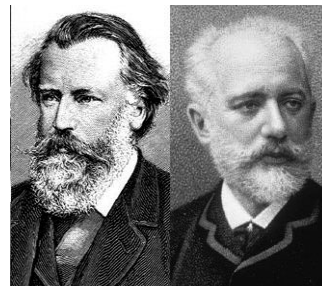
dress. 3pm Saturday, 14 February, tickets £7 available from the Oxfordshire Museum on 01993 814106

## Other Events

### Burford Singers Spring Concert

Celebrated composer of choral music and former King's Singer, Bob Chilcott, will be conducting his own *Requiem*, Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* and the Spring section of Haydn's *The Seasons*. The Singers are performing with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra led by Kate Bailey. 28 March 7.30pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Burford. Tickets £10 - £20. Public rehearsal at 2.30pm. Tickets £5 (£6 on the door) Booking opens 10 February. For booking details see website [www.burfordingers.org.uk](http://www.burfordingers.org.uk)

### Exploring Music



Informal music appreciation classes on occasional Wednesdays with Dr Kate Eckersley. The first session will compare the very different styles of composers Brahms and Tchaikovsky, who were close contemporaries. 25 March, 10.30am-3.20pm, The Bell Hotel, Charlbury

The music of Bohemia follows on 22 April with three further classes later in the year. No technical knowledge is expected and there are no assessments. New members welcome. £22 for each class, and discounts for block bookings. Contact Peter Fry: 01993 359189

### The Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society'

February's lecture is *The Painted Church: Seeing and Understanding Medieval Wall Paintings*. The speaker is Roger Rosewell.

11 February, 11am at Bradwell Village Hall, Burford. Tea/coffee from 10.15. Non-members are welcome, no need to book. For more details see website [www.cotswolddfas.org.uk](http://www.cotswolddfas.org.uk).

## The Theatre

### Films

With awards season in full swing, our focus turns to films at The Theatre this month. If you love film, you'll enjoy The Theatre's annual **Film Lover's Festival**, Tuesday 10 February.

An evening devoted to some of the best short films of the year, including Judi Dench (pictured) and Tom Hiddleston in the highly amusing *Friend Request Pending*.



Also showing this month is the Bafta-nominated *Paddington* (10.30am Saturday 14 February), a beautifully-filmed and very entertaining family film. It stars Hugh Bonneville and Julie Walters, among many other favourites. Catch Eddie Redmayne's Oscar-nominated performance as Stephen Hawking in the moving *The Theory of Everything*,

# THE ARTS

Saturday 14 and Tuesday 17 February.

Check The Theatre's programme for other films in February and throughout the year, [www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com), or phone the box office on 01608 642350 for further details.

## Term time courses for young people

The Youth Theatre has around 200 members aged 7–18 years. It develops young people's performance skills, creativity



and imagination, increases their self-confidence and gives them the chance to perform on The Theatre's stage. Ten sessions £60.

**The Youth Musical Theatre:** For 7+ years. These weekly sessions concentrate on singing and dancing, offering young people a taste of musical theatre and a chance to work as a member of an ensemble. It helps them to develop performance techniques whilst promoting confidence, commitment, communication and collaborative skills. They also have the chance to perform on The Theatre's stage. Ten sessions £70

Please contact the Box Office 642350 for further information.

## Town Festivals

### The Chipping Norton Music Festival

has been promoting music in this part of the Cotswolds since 1904. The Festival involves a mixture of participatory classes and professional concerts culminating in a grand concert of highlights, with trophies awarded for outstanding performances. This year's 103<sup>rd</sup> Festival runs from 6-21 March. Performances include:

Friday 6 March *The Youth Jazz Band Challenge* in association with the Rotary Club of Chipping Norton kick off the Festival. 6pm at Chipping Norton School. Tickets £2.50

Sunday 8 March *Eva Maria Doroskowska (piano) with Vivien Munday (soprano)* A nature-themed programme including works by Quilter, Tchaikovsky, Chopin and Strauss. 7.30pm at the Town Hall. Tickets £10/ £5 students & u16s

Sunday 15 March The jazz duo *Jacqui Dankworth & Charlie Wood* 7.45pm at The Town Hall. Tickets £16

Saturday 21 March *Festival Concert Highlights* from the Festival. 7.30pm at The Town Hall. Tickets £5 and free to Friends of the Festival

Tickets on sale at Jaffé & Neale, or by emailing [tickets@cnmf.org.uk](mailto:tickets@cnmf.org.uk) More details on the website [www.cnmf.org.uk](http://www.cnmf.org.uk)

Next month's News will feature information about other Music Festival events, including singing classes, choirs, and speech and drama.



## Literary Festival

The full line-up has been announced for the ChipLitFest 2015, 23-26 April, taking place at venues throughout the Town.

Over 70 authors will be taking part, including Sheila Hancock talking about her debut novel *Miss Carter's War*; Polly Toynbee on her latest political analysis *Cameron's Coup: How the Tories took Britain to the Brink*, and comedienne Helen Lederer with her new novel *Losing it*. The children's programme at the Festival is



extensive and inclusive, with storytelling, performance, author talks and workshops, including two film animation sessions and a workshop with Phoenix Comics illustrator Neill Cameron. For writers who want to practise their craft or reinvigorate their writing, there is a new one-day creative writing course, plus the popular established hour-long sessions on various aspects of creative writing.

The Box Office has already opened and some events sell out fast, so it's worth booking as soon as you can. Visit the website ([chiplitfest.com](http://chiplitfest.com)) or phone the Box Office on 01608 642350. More details to follow in next month's edition.

### Literary festival organiser turns novelist



In April, festival organiser Clare Mackintosh will not only be instrumental behind the scenes but will also be launching the paperback edition of her very own debut novel. *I Let You Go* is a psychological thriller which weaves together the narratives of two characters: Jenna, trying to start a new life away from the past that haunts her and Detective Ray Stevens who is determined to seek justice. Clare used to be a police officer but since leaving has turned to full-time writing instead.

She said, 'It took me a year to write *I Let You Go*, and then a friend offered to show the manuscript to a literary agent she knew. I had a fortnight of nail-biting wait until the phone rang and then it was all very exciting!' The novel found a home with publishers Little, Brown Book Group whose authors also include JK Rowling.

On this year's Festival she says, 'I have directed ChipLitFest since the beginning, and to be appearing at this year's Festival as an author – as well as Festival Director – is a very strange feeling indeed. I am enormously proud of the Festival, and it's a great honour to take part in it.'

In the meantime Clare is hard at work on her second novel, which comes out in November.

## DofE Diary: Embarking on a journey

**Over the next few months the Chipping Norton News will be following students at Chipping Norton School as they embark on their Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) journey. Our feature author Connor Vellinga, himself a Top School Year 11 student and working with the Chippy News for his own DofE award, will take a look at the activity sections the students complete as well as follow their expedition journeys as they trek and canoe to complete their award.**

### What is DofE?

The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) was a scheme set up by the Duke of Edinburgh to 'develop skills for life and work' to help young people 'reach their full potential whatever the circumstances'. To complete the award the participants must complete three sections of activities which must be done over a certain period of time— a skills activity such as learning bicycle maintenance at the local bike shop, a physical activity such as a sport and a volunteering section such as working at the local charity shop. Having completed this a hard and battering expedition is waiting for the participant which will involve many challenges such as camping and trekking. There are three DofE levels, bronze, silver and gold, each increasing in difficulty. DofE students have to complete a practice expedition before the final expedition to help them get used to the conditions they will be facing. The bronze DofE students will also complete a training day in April to learn how to put up a tent, read a compass/map and use a cooker.

This year a staggering 63 Chipping Norton School students have decided to participate in the bronze award and a further 23 students in the silver award. A small number of 7 students will be battling for the gold award this year. I asked two silver students about why they wanted to do their DofE award, Thomas Pearce said 'I wanted to do DofE award because it helped to develop important skills that I could otherwise not learn in school' and James Matthews another



*Students and staff enjoying last year's Bronze DofE expedition*

silver DofE student said 'It gave me the opportunity to learn new skills and give something back to the community'.

For the bronze award, students will need to complete three months of each of their activity sections. For the silver and gold awards, these periods increase to 6 and 12 months respectively for two of the activities. After the students have completed their activity sections, the bronze students will face a two-day and one night trek in the

Cotswolds, the silver participants will battle a three-day and two-night hike in the Forest of Dean and in the Gower and the gold students will face the tough canoeing conditions on the rivers Wye and the Severn.

*Catch us next month as we interview several DofE students about their activity sections.*

Connor Vellinga

## Jaffé & Neale

BOOKSHOP & CAFÉ

### February Events

4pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Chris Riddell author/illustrator.**

6pm prompt Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Matt Parker stand up mathematician.**

Tickets available now.

Middle Row, Chipping Norton

01608 641033 info@jaffeandneale.co.uk

### What's Happening@

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#### LIVE HIGHLIGHTS:

Thurs 5 Feb, 7.45pm **WILD NIGHT: ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME**  
(Reserve your seats then pay afterwards what you think it deserved!)

Fri 6 Feb, 7.45pm	FRESH DIXIE PROJECT £14, £12
Wed 11 Feb, 7.45pm	THE BARBER OF SEVILLE £14, £12
Fri 13 Feb, 7.45pm	STEPHEN K. AMOS £18
Thurs 19 Feb, 7.45pm	GROUNDLED £14, £12
Fri 20 Feb, 7.45pm	LUCY PORTER: ME TIME £15

27th Feb - 11th March

The Theatre Chipping Norton presents  
**MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD** £15, £13, £8.50 Schools.  
A breathtakingly intimate new staging in a transformed, in-the-round auditorium.

#### FILM:

Tickets £8, £6 under 16's

Tues 3 Feb, 7.30pm	THE HOMESMAN (15)
Wed 4 Feb, 7.30pm	THIRD PERSON (15)
Sun 8 & Thur 12 Feb, 7.30pm	UNBROKEN (15)
Tues 10 Feb, 7.30pm	A FILM LOVER'S FESTIVAL £12
Thurs 12 Feb, 10.45am	CINEMA BAMBINO
Sat 14 Feb, 10.30am	PADDINGTON (PG)
Sat 14 & Tues 17 Feb, 7.30pm	THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING (12A)

#### RELAXED FILM:

Mon 16 Mar, 11am **OKLAHOMA!** £5, carers free.

For info on Gallery Exhibitions & Take Part Activities please visit the website

BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 [www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com)



## Badminton



As Chipping Norton Badminton Club enters the New Year, many of the Club's teams are well placed to move up a division. After seven games, the Men's A side is second in Banbury Men's Division Two. The Mixed side is fourth in Banbury Mixed Division Two, with a game in hand.

The Club plays social nights on Wednesday evenings (7.20pm – 10pm), and welcomes new members, with the first night being absolutely free. We have four courts available at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. So if you have not picked up a racquet in a while, start the New Year with a swish and come along to a session.

For more information contact David Judge on 07958 519366 or email: david.judge2@virginmedia.com

Adam Symons

## 4 Shires Swimming Club

November and December were very busy months for 4 Shires who attended galas in Oxford, Luton, and Aylesbury as well as preparing for the County Championships to be held in January and February. The good results achieved at all of these galas demonstrated how well the club progressed over 2014.

In December the winners of our Club Championships were announced: Rebecca Hoadley and Tag Curwen received their awards at the Christmas party. The names of the new Club Captains were also revealed at this event, congratulations to Aaron Lamb and Megan Stockford. Swimmers of the month were Holly Anthony in November and Charlotte Oliver in December. Both had demonstrated hard work and good attitude and made significant progress. The Club also said a fond farewell to Bill and Barbara Legge in December. The couple had been coaching at the Club since it was formed 10 years ago and they will be missed.

Louise Berry

## Football

**Old Boys:** Sad news on two fronts. Firstly, very sadly our player Steve Hatt collapsed in the dressing room at half-time back in October and didn't recover. He was 54 and also played in a Chippy band. Then we played a match at Chinnor in early December losing out 4-2 having beaten them 5-3 at home previously. Gary Williams and Ian Blythe from the spot scored for the Magpies. Finally, the clubhouse closed at Walterbush Road on 4 January until the new one is completed for next season, but no doubt we will find another suitable watering hole for a drink after matches in the meantime. John Daly

**Chadlington Whites U13s:** For our final League game of 2014 and our first home game of the season, The Whites faced a return fixture against the Witney-based Tower Hill. Straight from kick-off it was an entertaining match, with both sides eager to get the ball to the wings and create attacking play. Determined play from Chad resulted in the final 4-0

score reflecting a well-deserved victory. Well done team. Many thanks to the excellent referee, Mike for running the line, Oscar for the orange slices and all our hearty supporters. Seymour Mincer & Drew Duncan

## Cricket Club

The Oxfordshire Cricket Association has awarded our very own Danny Molyneux the 2014 U19 Bowling Award. Danny who is 16 years old won the award based on his bowling figures for the season. Potentially he has the opportunity to retain this award for another three seasons! His 2014 stats are as follows: 15 matches, 112.5 overs, 25 maidens, 347 runs, 29 wickets, Av 11.96, Best 6-17, Strike: 3.5, Economy 3.09.



As we are now well into the New Year, preparations move towards the cricket season. The indoor league is nearing completion and Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club find themselves mid table, having won 50% of matches. After the Club's AGM in early December the club officers for 2015 have been announced:

President: TBC

Chairman: Simon Smith [simon.smith@theaccessgroup.com](mailto:simon.smith@theaccessgroup.com)

Secretary: Dave Wood [david.wood@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.wood@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Treasurer: Martin Elliott [martin.elliott0200@gmail.com](mailto:martin.elliott0200@gmail.com)

1st XI Capt: Ian Widdows [ianwiddows@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianwiddows@hotmail.co.uk)



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# SPORTS NEWS

1st XI Vice-Capt: Sam Evans snave\_mas@hotmail.com  
2nd XI Capt: Sam Townsend programmed\_to\_receive@hotmail.com  
2nd XI Vice-Capt: Michael Tompkins  
Sunday XI Capt: Sam King sam.kingrollright@yahoo.co.uk  
Youth Co-Ordinator: TBC  
Club House Manager: Pete Townsend 01608 643580  
Groundsmen: Mick Widdows, Michael Tompkins  
Please visit the club website at [www.cndcc.co.uk](http://www.cndcc.co.uk) for the latest news and articles.

## Tae Kwon-Do

We recognize that each New Year people want to start things fresh. Losing weight, getting fit or a new hobby. But at the same time with the weather being cold and wet, the thought that Christmas has passed and January is always financially the worst month of the year to have to start paying for things, we never actually get around to starting these activities. So to kick start your new year, Combined Self Defence is giving new students a Free training pass up to April 2015.

Combined Self Defence teaches Tae Kwon-Do in separate classes for children from the age of 4 – 11 and an adults & teens class in Carterton, Stow On The Wold, Chipping Norton and Fairford. They also teach an Adult Self Defence class in Carterton and Fairford. If you would like to book your free training pass please go to [www.martialartsvoucher.co.uk](http://www.martialartsvoucher.co.uk) or call Lee on 07977 560086

Lee Chapman

## District sports awards and grants

Nominations are being taken for the 2015 West Oxfordshire Sports Awards including: Sports Coach of the Year, Sports Club of the Year and Unsung Hero Awards, run by WODC to recognise the contribution and commitment of individuals and achievement of clubs. Talented local athletes can also apply for a GLL Sport Foundation grant to help with costs such as training. Applicants need to participate at county level or above and grants range from £100 to £1,250. As well as funding, award winners will receive free access to the District's Council-owned leisure facilities. Details of how to make a nomination for an award or apply for a grant at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/leisure) or by calling 01993 861080. The deadline is Friday 20 February.

## Riding



*Leah pictured with her prize on the podium*

Leah Notman, a 9-year-old Holy Trinity pupil from Kingham, qualified for the National Schools Grassroots Midlands & West Finals back in September. She attended the finals held at Bromyard in Herefordshire on Sunday 23 November where she won both her classes from a strong 50 competitor class, crowning her the Midlands & West Regional Champion for National Schools.

## Bowls Club

Chipping Norton Bowls Club held its AGM on 8 January. President Tony Backer-Holst welcomed attendees and thanked them for their interest. He reported on a very successful year with the Club recruiting 30 new members, maintaining its reputation for being very friendly and entertaining visiting teams from other counties on behalf of Oxfordshire County with good reports being received. The Club's new website was a great success. He concluded by thanking all the Club officers who had worked so hard during the year. Following reports from Committee Chairman, the President was re-elected for another year as were the Secretary Roberta Jarvie, Treasurer Val Harris, Deputy Treasurer Freddy Brookes and Bar Committee Chairman Bill Jarvie.

John Bowlst

## Sporty deals at Leisure Centre

Do you know any 14-25 year olds in Chipping Norton who want support in getting more active? Chippy's Leisure Centre operators are offering some special 6 week Sportivate memberships – thanks to a project funded by Sport England. The 'Gym, Pool and Group Exercise Classes' Membership cost £20 and entitles you to eight visits to the gym, pool and group exercise classes within a six week period. After eight visits, you will be entitled to a discounted membership at student rate. The 'Pool only' Membership cost £12.00 and entitles you to ten swims at any time during a six week period. After all ten swims you get two free swims and qualify for a monthly discounted swim membership with no joining fee. Any additional visits within the six week period will be priced at £2.00 per activity. Find out more at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre or contact Rod Noble [roderick.noble@gll.org](mailto:roderick.noble@gll.org)

## Squash

Top scoring players in the leagues for December: League 1 Henrique Williams, League 2 Alan Parrett, League 3 Dan Stafford, League 4 Duncan Sedgwick, League 5 Graham Thomas, League 6 Laurence Berman, League 7 Adam Bentley, League 8 Matthew Blacker. For more information about Squash at the Leisure Centre or to book a court call 644412.



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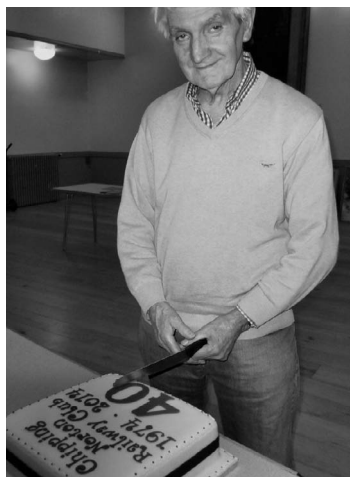
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# CLUB NEWS

## Railway Club steams on



On 2 December, the final meeting of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, we welcomed local Railway Auctioneer Mike Soden, who brought along to share with us some prized items from his GWR collection. This festive meeting was a great success and a fitting end to our 2014 celebrations. It was an informal event and members enjoyed a piece of our special GWR cake

(pictured being cut by Club Chairman Alan Brain) , together with a glass or two of wine. Also, in the interval, Mike kindly auctioned donated Railway paintings, which brought in a goodly figure for Club funds; plus the revenue from our Christmas raffle, also very successful.

The 2015 season will begin with the AGM on Tuesday, 3 February and, later, member Graham Thornton will entertain us with his slides, many of which were taken on previous outings. We look forward to the new programme, beginning on 3 March with a new speaker, Frank Banfield, who will be showing archive Railway Cine Films. In May and September 2015 we will have our usual two visits, one of which will be to a new venue so, travel with us and 'Keep Steaming!'

Estelle Brain 641586

## CNAAG reaches its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

CN Amateur Astronomy Group saw 2014 out in style, with a spirited and well-received astronomical review by our Christmas speaker and CNAAG fan Prof Chris Lintott of Oxford University, co presenter of the Sky At Night. Our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year begins in style by intense observations of Comet C/2014 Q2 Lovejoy as it drifts through the starfields between Orion and the Seven Sisters, set to return in 8000 years. No guest speaker in February, as we have our AGM on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> in the Methodist Hall, but we look forward to our next speaker, the definitive astronomical historian Dr Allan Chapman on 16 March. January also saw us take astronomy to Charlbury, Sibford and Wooten primary schools. This month we visit Chipping Norton Scouts and School, plus Mickleton Primary. Our plans are in place for a very busy time in March with several events in support of BBC Stargazing Live, including live observation of the solar eclipse from the town centre on 20 March. CNAAG is a thriving astronomical society, which exists for everyone with an interest in the stars and universe – if you are looking for a fascinating interest, please get in touch or come along to any of our meetings, you will be made most welcome. Visit [www.cnaag.com](http://www.cnaag.com) for details of CNAAG activities.

Robin Smitten 07527 224411

## Chadlington Flower Club

Following our successful and enjoyable Open Demonstration in November we were able to give a donation to two local charities: Highlands and Towards Independence. We had a lovely evening at The Mill in Kingham for our Christmas meal, which was enjoyed by all. February's meeting will be a

demonstration by Emma Remington on the 26<sup>th</sup> in Chadlington Memorial Hall. New members always welcome  
Elaine Parsons

## CN WI celebrate Valentine's Day

Members of Chipping Norton Women's Institute enjoyed a sociable Christmas party in December and now look forward to the centenary celebrations of the WI movement. From small beginnings in 1915 the WI has evolved into a thriving organisation throughout England and Wales. To mark this momentous occasion many events are planned at local, county and national level, and we certainly hope to take part in some of them during the year. 2015 began well for our own WI, with a convivial lunch at the Crown & Cushion in January, and continues at our next meeting on 11 February with a presentation of Valentine-themed poetry by Margaret and Christopher Bond. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us in the Lower Town Hall at 2.15pm.

Prudence Chard 642903

## CN Rotary roundup

**Chippy Jazz & Music** It was our pleasure to present the main proceeds of this event to the ACE Centre and Banbury & Chipping Norton Homestart, each receiving £1000. The Homestart representative Jo Graves gave a stirring talk about the activities of the charity and pointed out that the donation would provide the equivalent of full support for one family in difficulty.



*Jo Graves receiving the Homestart donation from Rotarian Simon Hamilton*

**Rotary Youth Speaks** For the 14<sup>th</sup> year the local heat of the national Competition was organised by Chipping Norton and Banbury Cherwell Rotary Clubs. It was held on 26 November in the Chipping Norton School Hall. For the third year a Chipping Norton School team won a hard-fought Senior Competition against excellent teams from Bloxham, Warriner and Tudor Hall Schools. The Chippy team – Liam Case, Abigail Hollis and Archie Powell – chose a most interesting and informative subject: 'Women and inequality in Science' Warriner School won the Intermediate Competition with their humorous and thought-provoking subject: 'The Shower Timer – A Girl's Best Friend'. The winning cups were presented by Mike Drew, the Chairman of the Adjudicating Panel. The other judges were Town Councillors Jo Graves and Chris Butterworth.

**Well Done Jo Graves** Hearty congratulations to Cllr Jo Graves for her well deserved New Year's Honour of the British Empire Medal (BEM). Jo has been an indefatigable power for good in the Town, and the Club has enjoyed working with her over the years.

**The annual Rotary Race Night** is on Friday 20 February at the New Beaconsfield Hall in Shipton-under-Wychwood. Just £15 will secure a fun evening with thrilling horse races

# CLUB NEWS

and a delicious two-course meal, although you will need extra money to bet on the gee-gees. Being a Rotary-run event, you know all the money raised will be going to good charitable causes. Book seats via [www.chippingnortonrotary.org.uk](http://www.chippingnortonrotary.org.uk) or by phoning Graham on 07801 606237.

## Amnesty International campaigning

In December the Chipping Norton Group commemorated Human Rights Day and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN



Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) by gathering at our Amnестree on the Common, an oak tree planted by us exactly two years ago.

On this special day we spoke of fundamental human rights, and reminded ourselves of some current examples of abuses to these rights. We outlined the UN Convention against Torture and recent Amnesty successes, including some people featured in the Write for Rights Campaign, who have now been released. The importance of being members of Amnesty International was emphasised by the words of Anthropologist Margaret Mead 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.'

Our 2015 Write for Rights Campaign evening in January was well-supported with over 140 cards of support and good wishes written to various Prisoners of Conscience or their families. New members welcome: call Priscilla Peace for details on 01451 830459.

Kaye Freeman

## Folk Club's many floor spots

A festive celebration of music took place in December at the Blue Boar. Over sixty people came to celebrate Christmas with songs and good cheer.

Many different types of music were provided. Rachel, with a voice that could melt butter, opened with *Sweet Chiming Bells*, Colin sang *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, Lefty gave us a lovely, growling rendition of *I'm Gonna Close My Eyes* and Dave Oakley sang *Fairytale of New York*. Patrick and Mandy sang an original tune to the Walt Whitman poem, *Captain, My Captain*, Dulcimer Dave provided us with a medley of Christmas Carols and Doc cleverly rearranged the words of *The Parting Glass*. And there was so much more!

The January session was an altogether more intimate event with 26 attendees but only fifteen of those wanting to do a floor spot – which meant that nearly everybody performed three times. As well as solo spots, there were some wonderful duo performances from Beth and Ash and from Nigel and Tony. There was even a trio performance from Claire, Jenny and Peter! The big highlight was the appearance

of Peter and Pen, who ran the club for many years before chugging off to travel on a canal boat. We hope they will steer the boat this way again before too long! The evening finished memorably with the fantastically talented Jane Gridley singing Tom Paxton's *Last Thing On My Mind*.

Please do come and join us, either to perform or just to listen. Everybody is made very welcome! It happens on the second Monday of each month and starts at 7.30pm. Admission is just £1.50p. Visit our website <http://chippingnortonfolk.org.uk> for more details.

David Early & Hilary Caldicot

## Bridge Club play their cards right

Chipping Norton Bridge Club enters 2015 in good order, with its membership standing at 70. Meeting at the Bowls Club just south of the Town, it holds two sessions a week throughout the year, as well as an annual dinner.

Players of rubber bridge who are curious to try duplicate – where you may win despite having the bad cards – are welcome to come and sample the informal Thursday afternoons. Scene of the action is a comfortable club room which looks out over the bowling green. On Tuesday evenings the atmosphere is more competitive while remaining generally friendly. Simultaneous pairs, half a dozen times each year, allow you to compare your performance with an expert's view of what should have happened. Every week there are EBU points to be won, and the club has its own silverware. Last year's trophy winners were Bob Axbey and Richard Dixon in the Bailey Cup, Gretta and Peter Houghton, with Pat and Peter Perry, in the team's competition, the Edwards Shield.

For enquiries about bridge lessons, from beginners upwards, please telephone Mrs Ina Merriman, 01608 810375. Other enquiries to Rupert Timpson at [timpson686@btinternet.com](mailto:timpson686@btinternet.com).

## U3A go courting through the ages

We finished off 2014 with an interesting and very amusing farewell talk by our long time member Ronald Speirs. And now it is on to 2015. 58 of our members came to our Annual Lunch on 13 January at the Wychwood Golf Club, a friendly and cheerful occasion. There's more to come in the coming

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# CLUB NEWS

year. On 4 February our monthly meeting will be on Love and Courting through the Ages and on 4 March there will be a talk by Richard Thorpe on Lloyd George. These meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month in the Methodist Church Hall at 2pm. For further information about U3A please contact Peter Nuttall (01608 238 671).

Barbara Walters

## Help from Chipping Norton Lions

We wish everyone a Healthy, Happy New Year. Thanks go to all who supported or came to our Reindeer Race evening. We made a total of £2,360 and on the late night shopping evening £92.61. Most of this has been spent on 11 Christmas hampers for needy locals. We must give our sincere thanks to Adam Quinton and his staff at the Chipping Norton Co-op Store for their help and making up the hampers for us. We also sent a donation to the Ebola Fund and helped a local couple after a fire. We must not go on without first sending an apology from Santa, who could not make his visit on 13 December because some of his helpers were ill, but he sends his best wishes for 2015.

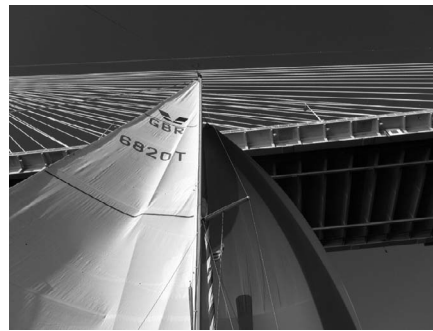
At last the fourth Defibrillator should be installed in the Kiosk in Hailey Road by the end of the month. We have our Easter Eggs on order so please look out for them.

Future event: Prize Bingo on 27 March in the Town Hall. Doors open 7pm. Eyes Down 7.30pm. Bar and free entry.

We have inducted three new members which will help us enormously and hopefully have another three people making up their minds about joining us. To find out more about what we do please contact Graham Raven on 645134.

Liz Nason

## Chay Blyth to visit Yacht Club



Chipping Norton Yacht Club Christmas get-together was held at The Cotswold Club, which looked festive dressed overall (nice nautical expression, eh?) with bunting and flags. They greeted us with a

glass of Prosecco and laid on a special buffet. We ran a continuous slide/video show of members' recent photos and videos, provoking, as had been hoped, questions and comments and re-awakening memories of a season on, around, or thinking about, the water. The bespoke crackers contained nautically-themed gifts of which the miniatures of rum were particularly popular with us tars, although one has to confess that the hats suited us no better than is usual. There was a not-too-serious quiz questionnaire on each table, which got a few arguments going. The winning table won a box of chocolates; another prize, a bottle Prosecco, went to team Spencer and Levermore for best photo (see above), taken in the Corinth Canal. It was a relaxed and most enjoyable evening.

At our February meeting our guest speaker will be Chay Blyth – one of the most illustrious sailors of our generation. Book early for this event as we expect it to be one of our most popular. Visit [cnyc.co.uk](http://cnyc.co.uk) for details and to book.

Roger Backhaus

## Scouting News

**Explorers:** The four Chippy explorers who are going to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan this year continue to raise funds and gave an introduction to the country at a meeting before Christmas. We celebrated the festive season with a party but also by helping decorate and dismantle the town Christmas trees and we greatly enjoyed the bacon butties in the Chequers afterwards. The committee has good plans for the New Year including a murder mystery evening, a night hike and various camps. There is also another of the very popular weekly climbing courses.

**Scouts:** At the end of last term, another scout achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award. We lost some of our older, more experienced Scouts to the local Explorer Scout unit, but they are already replaced by youngsters moving up from Cubs.

The Scouts are starting the New Year as they mean to go on, with a group of them attending the District Scout Winter Camp at the end of January – here's hoping for good weather!!! They will also be doing the Winter Challenge at the start of February – an 18 mile hike along the Ridgeway, taking in some beautiful scenery along the way.

**Cubs:** The Cubs are doing the Promise Challenge badge this term; part of this is finding out about someone who has done their best and then reporting back to the rest of the pack. So far, we have heard about a variety of people such as: Bear Grylls, Andy Murray, Churchill and The Queen. At our next meeting we look forward to meeting someone who has done their best: Jo Graves, who was recently awarded the British Empire Medal for all her work for the Chipping Norton area.

Many of the Cubs and their parents are taking part in the Winter Challenge hike while others are participating in the

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County swimming gala, both of which are challenging, yet fun, events.

**Beavers:** Beavers started the term with a visit from two Explorer Scouts who have been selected to attend the international Jamboree which is being held in Japan this year. Three new Beavers were also welcomed. We have three Beavers moving up to Cubs, all of whom have achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze award.

For more details of scouting opportunities locally call Ian Bushrod 07831 127120.

## Green Gym goes to Banbury



Banbury Community Action Group is planting an orchard on part of Browning Road Park so we have helped to lay out the grid for planting. And those of you who pass the triangle near Travis Perkins will have seen that we are progressing well with planting trees on our own patch too. This will be a mixed woodland which will be available for everyone to enjoy but the long-term intention is that many of the trees will be managed so that they can provide a sustainable source of fuel for wood-burners.

We have also planted boysenberries in the Community Orchard and replaced four fruit trees that have unfortunately died and continued to lay the hedge which divides the allotments from the William Fowler Wood. And last – but not least! – we have had our annual turn-out of our store, refurbished our hard-working tools, and then repaired to the Old Mill Café for a Christmas lunch!

If you would like to get fit while caring for the local environment, do join us on Wednesday mornings. There are jobs for all ages and abilities, there's no joining fee and lifts may be available. Visit our website: [www.chippygreengym.org](http://www.chippygreengym.org), phone me on 01608 643269 or email [jennyharrington@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyharrington@btinternet.com). Everyone is welcome!

Jenny Harrington

## The gardening year starts at NOOG

'Soil, Seeds & Plant Supports' will be the topic under discussion at our first meeting of the year, on Wednesday 4 February. With input from local professional gardeners Roger Naumann – who will chair our discussion – and Tracy Lean, who will demonstrate making plant supports using dogwood and hazel, there should be lots of good tips for getting the

garden off to a good start. Also an opportunity to swap seeds. On Wednesday 4 March, retired biologist Martin Woolner (who revealed to us the vigorous life in the soil last year) will be back to open up the world of 'British Oak Trees & their Wildlife'.

Both meetings will be in St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, at 7.30pm (£1: members, £3: non-members) and visitors are welcome. Enquiries about N Oxon Organic Gardeners: 01295 780710 or email [tracylean@gmail.com](mailto:tracylean@gmail.com)

## WOWI does dogs and hats

Happy New Year to everyone. West Oxfordshire WI really enjoyed a very good evening in December, dressed in our glitz and glamour, having a lovely meal at Whistlers. They looked after us very well. Thank you to all the staff.

January we have two ladies coming to talk to us about 'Hearing Dogs'. A report on that in the next issue. We're excited about February's meeting, as Louise Pocock is coming to talk to us about her work as a Bespoke Milliner. She will bring lots of hats and will talk us through how they are made and then we get to try them on. Lots of photo opportunities there so wait for *Chippy News* to come out with those!!!! Even better, why don't you come and join us and try some on yourself and receive advice on the best hat to suit your face etc. The third Monday of the month, St Mary's Parish Rooms, 7.30pm. Always a friendly welcome, tea, coffee and wine.

The Marmalade season is upon us with Seville oranges in the shops. One of our members is going to Denman College, the Educational Centre for the WI, for a course run by Sarah Randell who is Sainsbury's Food Director. Sarah has just written a book *Marmalade, A Bittersweet Cookbook*, which is

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# CLUB NEWS

not just about how to make Marmalade but how to use it in recipes. More of that in next month's News!

Hilary Dix 646228

## Awards for Air Cadets

CN Air Cadets held their first awards evening at the Crown & Cushion in December. The Commanding Officer gave a slide show of activities and events over the year. Parents were generally amazed to see the things their children got up to, and cadets vied for the most embarrassing photo. After refreshments, the awards, including two Commandant awards, were presented. The cadets had a more informal Christmas party later in December, with their own 'paper plate' awards.

Christmas is the longest break in the cadet calendar, and things are now back in full swing with activities such as climbing, fieldcraft, drill and media skills.

We welcomed a new volunteer staff member before Christmas. Fiona has already made inroads in the admin tasks, freeing up others to spend more time with cadets. We still need volunteer staff who are up for outdoor activities in all weather, can spare Tuesday and/or Thursday evenings and occasional weekends for camps and trips. No knowledge of the military is needed and full training will be given for this non-uniform role, but an interest in youth services is essential. Female volunteers are particularly welcome as we have a large number of female cadets.

Air Cadets meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening 7-9.30pm in Chipping Norton in the hut on the Burford Road between the fire station and Chipping Norton School. Our next cadet intake will be in February. To find out more visit [www.136atc.com](http://www.136atc.com), or email [136@aircadets.org](mailto:136@aircadets.org).

Helen Haine

## Horticulturalists' herbaceous secrets

As the festive season was fast approaching, the December meeting of the Horticultural Association took on a different form than is usual. About 40 members gathered to hear Martin Hannant give a seasonal presentation 'The History of Pantomime Dames.' Martin was in good form and kept us well entertained. This was followed with seasonal refreshments.

Gardeners are now beginning to think about the forthcoming growing season so with that in mind Philip Aubury from Alvechurch will be with us in January.

On Wednesday 18 February in the Methodist Hall at 7.30, Robert Jacobs from Waterperry Gardens will give a presentation 'The secrets of a Herbaceous Border.'

Visitors welcome – more details from the secretary Eileen Forse, 643275.

## History Society explore steamers

The History Society committee wishes all members a Happy New Year. The Society's Social Evening, held on 12 January, was a great success. Thanks to Brenda and Shirley, the cooks, Alan and David, the organisers, and to other contributors for a convivial evening.

Our next event is on Monday, 9 February. As a preparation for Summer Excursions, Simon Wenham will present us with the History of Salters and Steamers in Oxford. For those 'Uplanders' who have yet to explore the 'City Lowlands' Salters run a steamer service between Oxford and Abingdon. On a warm summer's day it is a very pleasant outing. We look forward to seeing everyone on the

9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall.

Future dates: Volunteers' Evening 26 March. The Museum opens on 28 March. More information in the February report. Liz Whitaker

## Royal anecdotes at Over Norton WI



Over Norton WI were treated to a Christmas Wreath making workshop given by Vicky Hubbard of Bliss Flowers in November. Vicky revealed all sorts of secrets on how to produce a stunning wreath and many members made beautiful creations of their own. A delicious Christmas meal was enjoyed by members at the Red Lion, Long Compton, in December. January saw us being entertained by Ian Scott-Hunter with his delightful memoirs and anecdotes from his time as a footman to the Queen. We welcome guests and new members. For information call Ros Millard on 07932 180407

## What is LETS?

LETS stands for 'Local Exchange Trading Scheme' and is a way of exchanging goods and services – old fashioned barter – with hardly any use of sterling. A notional currency cuts out the need for direct barter – transactions are noted on your account and nobody minds if you are in debit or credit. Eat your hearts out Bank Managers!

The local group is called 'Fourshires LETS', and the currency 'stones' after the Rollright Stones. Jobs and services are rated at 6 stones an hour, whatever the skill, and the price of goods is negotiable. Examples of goods – from vegetables and fruit in season, jams and cakes and household articles to horse manure!, and of services – gardening, lifts (mileage rate for petrol), babysitting, various therapies, household sewing, help with languages – depending on the skills and needs of members. We meet once a month in homes or pubs but trading goes on outside these dates by phone, email or direct contact. Interested to learn more? Contact David Morton 676302, Tracy Lean [tracylean@googlemail.com](mailto:tracylean@googlemail.com) or Heather eonard 643691.

## Alzheimer's Society February dates

**Singing for the Brain** Mondays 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 at St Paul's Church Centre, Prescott Avenue, Banbury

**Dementia Café** 2-4pm at St Mary's Centre, Banbury

**Banbury Carers Support Group** Fridays 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 at Colin Sanders Innovation Centre, Banbury

# CLUB NEWS

**Chipping Norton Carers Support Group** Mondays 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30-12 at the Town Hall, Chipping Norton

**Bicester Carers Group** Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 at The Julier Centre, Coker Close, Bicester, OX26 6AE

**Bicester Café** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 at the Methodist Church Hall, Bell Lane, Bicester, OX26 6JQ

For more details on all of these events please call Jennie at the office on 01295 255957.

## UKIP Corner.

Some of you were invited to our EGM in January. In practical terms there no changes, except that our Chairman, Stephen Nash, and the writer, James Stanley were confirmed in their posts. Local UKIP groups are springing up all over the WODC area, following the Chippy lead. We have two meetings planned, 28 January and 11 February in The Fox, (details on the notice board by The Fox) from about 7.30pm, I hope that our Parliamentary Candidate will be there. We have also organised an Open Public Meeting for 25 February. Speakers will include Simon Strutt, our Candidate for West Oxon, Dickie Bird, the Banbury Candidate and me as candidate for the Chippy Town Council and West Oxon District Council. Details will be on the Website shortly (UKIP-Witney.co.uk).

If anyone is interested I have a number of wooden shipping pallets, obtained for a garden project that did not happen, if anyone would like some for use in the garden or even for firewood, I am happy for them to be taken away, however a donation to local party funds would be appreciated. Email me via [ukip.ChippingNorton@gmail.com](mailto:ukip.ChippingNorton@gmail.com)

Jim Stanley



## MS patients – the invisible ones

The Neurological Alliance has found that the Health Commissioning Groups are not aware of many of the population with Multiple Sclerosis; are not aware how many people there are

with MS and do not obtain feedback from those with MS in relation to the services provided/needed. If you feel this is the case for you or you have good or bad stories about your treatments, then do please let me know, with your name or anonymously, either way I will be able to pass this on to strengthen our case for better services at all levels for those with MS. Let's become visible, let's make our voices heard! Our main commissioning body for Services is the OCCG (Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group).

The West Oxfordshire branch of the MS Society is here to give support to all those affected by MS, we are now well into our programme for 2015. We put on group physiotherapy, massage, podiatry, hydrotherapy, Pilates, counselling and work closely with the local CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) as well as giving grants to assist in everyday living or for respite care and all the information pamphlets from the MS Society. If you are interested in any of these or would like to suggest other activities call me on 645988 or e-mail: [westoxfordshire@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:westoxfordshire@mssociety.org.uk)

Branch website: [www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire](http://www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire)  
Helplines (local: 0800 917 9790, national: 0808 800 8000)  
Younger (20-45ish) group email: [mssy.oxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:mssy.oxfordshire@gmail.com)

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## Chipping Norton School

'Lighting the Fire' Before Christmas, many students and



parents were lucky enough to attend our first 'Lighting the Fire' event, organised by school governors and students. Twelve inspirational speakers were invited to talk about what 'lights their fire'. It was a brilliant day with great speakers, great company and great food. The event was exceptional because of the quality of the speakers, especially those from Chipping Norton School. We hope that this memorable day will be the first of many similar thought-provoking events.

### Public Speaking competitions

Two sixth form students represented the UK in a mock EU council at The Foreign and Commonwealth Office. They participated in a debate about The European Commission's proposals on energy efficiency and children's rights in criminal proceedings. We were also delighted that one of our teams recently won the senior age group of the local heat of the 2014/15 Youth Speaks competition talking about 'Women and Inequality in Science'. They will now represent the school at the Zone final in February.



**Media Day** Our AG&T students were challenged to create a



newspaper in a day. The students were split into House teams and each was given a specific role, from editor to reporter. The reporters were sent off to a series of mock press conferences around school to gather facts and opinions on the simulated news stories (freak weather events, a helicopter tragedy in Scotland and the death of the US president).

**Extra Time LAMDA** Before Christmas twelve Year 9 students took LAMDA exams; the results of the exams were very impressive with four students passing with Distinction and eight students passing with Merit.

**U18 County Cup Champions** We are extremely proud of



our 1st XV Rugby team, who ended a fine season with victory against Abingdon School at Henley RFC in the final of the revamped County Cup Rugby competition. The team demonstrated great resilience, after trailing at halftime by 7 points to nil, to triumph with a final score of 17-10.

**Family Focus Maths Workshop:** A group of Year 7 students and their parents came along to a Family Focus Maths Workshop. The session provided opportunities for parents and children to work together on a variety of games, puzzles and other activities designed to improve numeracy skills in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere.

**Partnership Schools events** Year 5 pupils came with their teachers to Chipping Norton School to learn how to blog about their sporting achievements.



Year 3 and 4 pupils from St Mary's, Holy Trinity, Hook Norton, and Great Rollright Schools took part in the Ball Skills Festival led by our

Year 11 PE students. The winners were Hook Norton and Great Rollright. Well done to everyone who took part!

The Science department is currently running a five-week Extra Time Science Club for eighty Year 4 & 5 pupils who will be exploring the fascinating theme of CSI.

Year 4 & 5 pupils attended an Able Gifted and Talented English Workshop on the theme of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* run by Mr Gent, Mr Long and Mrs Summers (English teachers at Chipping Norton School). The pupils enjoyed learning about the characters in the play and took part in lots of different activities, such as writing poems and devising a freeze frame, to enhance their learning.

9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February

Chipping Norton School

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## Holy Trinity Primary



**WOW day to London** Years 5 and 6 had an extra special treat just before Christmas when they headed to London for their WOW day. After a morning visiting the

National Gallery and a walk exploring the sights, sounds and excitement of Trafalgar Square, they headed to watch *The Nutcracker* ballet at the Coliseum. Here are some of their comments: 'I loved the waltz of the snow-flakes because their costumes looked amazing. It was brilliant!'; 'The highlight of our trip was watching the ballet followed by driving through the lights on Regent's Street. The ballet was magical and the lights shone like stars'; 'My favourite part was looking around the National Gallery because the paintings were outstanding; also we saw Big Ben and the London Eye in the background. An amazing day!'



**Fire Station visit** As part of their topic on the 'Great Fire of London', our Year 2 children were lucky enough to visit Chipping Norton Fire Station. The children were given a tour, used the water hose and looked at the firemen's uniforms. Thank you to the Fire Station staff for such a wonderful trip!

**Care Home Visit** Our Year 6 visited Henry Cornish Care Centre in December to donate the WWI commemorative paintings that the children had created. The paintings will be hung in their lounge. The children also sang Christmas carols with the residents.

**Christmas Performances** Audiences were wowed by the fantastic singing and acting in Foundation Stage's performance of 'Shepherd Little' and in Key Stage 1's performance of 'The Hopeless Camel'. The Key Stage 2 Carol Service provided a beautiful afternoon and evening. The church looked magnificent by candlelight and the children's voices soared to the rooftop.

**Christingle Assembly** Year 3 performed a fantastic Christingle assembly. All the other classes and parents were impressed by their clear speaking and beautiful singing and it was a wonderful sight to see all the Christingles lit on stage.

**Christmas Fayre** Thank you to all who supported us at the PTA Christmas Fayre. There was a huge selection of stalls filling the hall and several of the classrooms. It was a wonderful evening and raised a fantastic £1600!

**Bag Packers** Year 5 and 6 children from the School raised an amazing £484.79 packing bags for shoppers at our local Co-op just before Christmas.

**Choir** Our school choir spread some Christmas cheer by singing Christmas carols to customers in Barclays Bank and at the Chipping Norton late night Shopping Evening. They also recently travelled to Birmingham to take part in the Young



Voices Singing Festival. All pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoyed taking part in the Schools' Concert at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience the performance of a live symphony orchestra.

**Pantomime:** We would like to say a big thank you to the PTA for funding our trip to the Chipping Norton Theatre pantomime, *Mother Goose*. It was a morning enjoyed by the whole school and we were particularly proud to see our very own Holy Trinity pupils up on stage!



**School Concert:** We held our first ever Instrumental Concert at the school with 32 pupils performing. The children played so well and really reflected the musical talent we have at Holy Trinity.

**Golf Coaching:** Years 3 and 4 have been having golf coaching from a golf Pro from Chipping Norton Golf Club. The children have shown great enthusiasm practising their putting and swing skills.

**Dance with CNS:** Year 3 have been enjoying dance lessons led by Year 12 Leaders from Chipping Norton School.



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## St Mary's Primary

**Wriggly Nativity** Our Reception classes enjoyed presenting



their Wriggly Nativity to parents and friends at the end of term. This version of the Christmas story is written so that no child is required to sit still but rather that their excited energy is channelled into the telling of the story. We were very proud of our children who did just that with great enthusiasm. They sang, danced and acted their way through the story with confidence to an appreciative audience.

**Website blogging workshop** Three Year 5 children were lucky enough to attend a special blogging training session held at CNS on 2 December. Dijonay Walker, Charlie Rose and Vivek Kumar were invited to join other Year 5 children from



across the Partnership to learn how to write and publish a blog. This was a really useful session and has provided the children with a new skill that they are excited to share with others in our school. The blogs which the children wrote during the session have been published on the Sainsbury's School Games website and they have been designed to keep parents, children and people in the local community up to date with our sporting achievements. Throughout the next few months we will be training further children from St Mary's to blog and updating the website with more information so please log onto [www.yourschoolgames.com](http://www.yourschoolgames.com) and visit our blog!

**School Prayer Space:** *Diocesan Governor Fiona Rossington writes:* During the latter part of 2014, Room 4 was turned into an interactive prayer space. All children were asked to contribute their thoughts or prayers by writing them on post-it notes or paper chains at the end of the session. The comments ranged from 'It's cool!!!' to 'I love how close we get to God and how nice it is. You can really feel the love in the air' and 'It relaxes me when I feel down and lets me have time to think about God.' [www.prayerspacesinschools.com](http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com)

**Long Service Awards** Two members of our staff have been recognised for their long service to Oxfordshire County Council.



Yvonne Barnes, Headteacher at the school, has been a teacher, Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher in Oxfordshire schools over a period of 25 years. Jill Hannington, a Key Stage One teacher, has been a teacher, Senior Manager and



Advisor for the Multicultural Service in Oxfordshire over a period of twenty seven years. Both staff members were awarded certificates and long service awards at a ceremony at County Hall in Oxford in November. Yvonne Barnes said that it has been a joy and a privilege to teach and serve the children of Oxfordshire for the past 25 years.

**Ball Skills** Our Year 3/4 children had a great time recently at the Ball Skills Festival at Chipping Norton School. They practised various ball skills and joined in with an exciting range of games. This culminated in a game of bench ball which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children had a



fantastic time and had the chance to practise a range of skills whilst learning valuable lessons about team work and sportsmanship. They can't wait to share some of these skills with others in their PE sessions at St Mary's!

**'Cold Lands' Foundation** For the next few weeks, we are learning about Cold Lands. It has been perfect timing with the spell of cold weather that we are having! We have loved setting up our role play area, complete with explorer's tent,



equipment for exploring and warm clothes. We have been retelling 'Cuddly Dudley', a story about a penguin who wants to be on his own until he realises how much he misses his family.



## Acorns Primary

**Starry Night Sleepover with ET!** On 14 November, members of Class 3 prepared for a night of magical star gazing and learning, with the support of Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group. Once school had finished, children



excitedly set up their beds in the school hall and changed into some warm clothing. Whilst the children munched on hot dogs, baked beans and marble cake, Robin Smitten and his stargazing friends set up an array of telescopes and binoculars on the school playground. Robin's 'Magic of the Stars' presentation was fascinating and fact-filled. Then the children went onto the playground to meet the rest of the astronomy group. They saw the North Star, the Seven Sisters, orange and blue stars circling each other, the Andromeda galaxy and much more.

Moving into the warm, it was time to watch the classic movie: ET, which the children absolutely loved! Whilst watching, they enjoyed a few treats, including flying saucers and Haribos, hot chocolate, popcorn and cake! Snuggling down into sleeping bags, the children drifted peacefully off to sleep...for an amazing 7-8 hours! It was a really super night and thanks must go to many, including: the children of Class 3, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Robok, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Ayres, Mr Hilton, Robin and the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group ([www.cnaag.com](http://www.cnaag.com)).

## Great Rollright Primary

If you have driven past our school recently, you will have noticed a building slowly growing! We are building a replacement classroom for the current undersized one used by Years 3 and 4, which is in fact part of our school hall! No Government support was available so all of the money for this project has been raised by our school community and The Friends of Great Rollright .

On Sunday 19 April we will be holding our first ever Great Rollright School Charity Golf and Family Day at the Cotswold Club, Chipping Norton. Players will pay £35 to participate and we need teams of four players. The tournament starts at 12 noon. Families can join in the fun at 3pm with a Hog Roast and activities for the children. Tickets for non-golfing adults arriving then cost £10, school age children £5 and younger children are free!! Tickets available from the school office (01608 737202). All of the above prices are for tickets bought in advance; tickets purchased on the day will be considerably dearer.

We continue to sell our postcard bricks to raise money for the new building too. Each brick costs £5 and not only supports the build, but also enters a draw to win a share of a racehorse for a year, valued at £1,200. The draw will be held on 1 April 2015. To buy a brick contact the school office or

email [greatrollrightfriends@gmail.com](mailto:greatrollrightfriends@gmail.com). Many thanks for your support!

## Chadlington Primary

**Term Topic** This term's topic is 'We are Puppeteers' and the Key Stage 1 pupils are looking forward to exploring the world of Punch and Judy, scripting their own plays and making their own puppets. The whole school are working towards another evening at the end of term especially for the parents to see the puppet shows we have all been busy producing. This is after the great success of our 'We are Engineers' evening last term.

**Aardman Animation Workshop** This term's topic sees



the beginning of a whole series of exciting events building up to our production in the Summer term which is the screening of our very own animated film at Chipping Norton Theatre. We were so lucky to have a visit in January from a company called 'Animate it' in conjunction with Aardman Animations, the production company behind Wallace and Gromit. We were

all taught to model our very own Wallace, Gromit or Shaun the Sheep!! The Company will be returning later in the term to assist us with our own animations.

## Middle Barton Primary

We had a busy and exciting end of term at Middle Barton School with the Y3/4 class assembly on World War I which acted out the Christmas Truce through mime and singing. We were also lucky enough to enjoy some WWI workshops, organised by a governor and Woodstock Museum, with artefacts for the children to feel and try on. On Friday 5 December we had the official opening of our new library to which parents, governors and community members were invited. A librarian and author spent the afternoon in school running workshops with the classes before cutting the ribbon to mark this special occasion.

As Christmas approached we were very pleased with the children in their performances of the nativity and Carol Service (pictured here), as well as the choir at the Christingle and Lessons and Carols.



A trip to the pantomime at Chipping Norton Theatre, Christmas lunch and the parties were all much enjoyed too.

This term we are looking forward to more exciting events - the Young Voices concert in Birmingham for the choir, more sports tournaments (swimming gala, netball and ball skills), the literacy parent forum, a whole school science afternoon and class assembly for Y5/6 to name but a few!



## Town Nursery



The children have been very busy with lots of art activities. They have been painting and gluing using different shades of pinks and purples to make cards for Valentine's Day.

We are changing our display boards. In the playroom the children enjoyed marble rolling to create a border for their display, using white, blue and silver paint. In the sitting room they enjoyed sponge painting and shape printing, using glue, chalk and glitter to add a different texture. In the kitchen they made Perspex printing and hand prints. They used their hands or brushes to create patterns in the paint.

## Chipping Norton Pre School

**Ofsted inspection 7 January 2015 'This provision is Good'** We are thrilled with our Ofsted rating of GOOD! We are incredibly proud of our staff, committee, parents and children and would like to share with you some of the comments made by our Inspector:

'Staff skilfully support all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.'

'Children make good progress in their learning and they are acquiring the skills they need to prepare them for school.'

'Strong teaching'

'Staff extend opportunities for children to practise early writing skills outdoors.'

'Staff are very kind, caring and supportive.'

'Staff provide a welcoming and safe environment.'

'Staff have excellent links with the schools in the same town.'

Ofsted do not inform Pre Schools of an inspection; they just turn up. Therefore this report genuinely and honestly reflects the high quality of care and education given to our children every day of the year. Our previous inspection in 2010 also resulted in a GOOD rating demonstrating our consistent ability to deliver.

This result recognises the hard work and total dedication of our Manager (Debbie Rose), Assistant Manager (Ami Rose), our wonderful team of practitioners, the Committee and our parents.

Chipping Norton Pre School, Burford Road. 01608 643376. [www.cnpreschool.co.uk](http://www.cnpreschool.co.uk)

## Sibford School

**Achieving beyond expectations:** Pupils at Sibford School are performing better than predicted across more than 10 subject areas, according to Value Added Results. Figures calculated by the CEM Centre at Durham University show that Sibford students achieved results that were 'statistically significant' better than predicted. Head, Michael Goodwin, said: 'What this means in layman's terms is that, on average, students who took GCSEs in these subjects achieved at least half a grade higher than their measured potential would have suggested. So, for example, a student predicted to gain a mid A grade will, on average, have gained an A\*. As a non selective school we take pupils of all abilities, and to be able to

demonstrate that we are adding this value to their education is excellent news.'

**Swinging into the rainforest** Junior pupils arrived back at school after the Christmas break to find their classrooms transformed into rainforests ... complete with snakes, parrots, monkeys and gorillas! For the next six weeks the school is



operating a 'creative curriculum' with lessons in nearly all subjects being based around the rainforest. Junior school assistant head, Edward Rossiter explained: 'By introducing a thematic approach to teaching we are supporting the children's natural curiosity and stimulating their creativity.'

## Kingham Hill School

**Open Day 7 February 11am-2pm:** A chance to meet staff and tour our facilities including The Veritas Building (pictured



here) – our beautiful new location for Maths and Science, day and boarding houses and fantastic leisure facilities with free Leisure Club Membership for all parents. You can also find out more about our five school transport routes with pick up points at Moreton, Stow, Chipping Norton & Kingham (free for the first year, small charge thereafter). All followed by a delicious informal lunch. All the family are welcome. Please let the School know if you plan to attend via [658999/admissions@kingham-hill.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:658999/admissions@kingham-hill.oxon.sch.uk)

## Emma's Athletics Scholarship at American University

Following a very impressive 2013-14 season, Emma Slevin of Kingham Hill School, has won a valuable scholarship at the University of Richmond, Virginia.

Emma has Midlands Counties Champion and a very impressive performance at the England U17 National Championships at 1500m on her CV. However, it was her stunning time of 4:37:09 in the 1500m at the British Milers Club Grand Prix in Manchester that clinched the scholarship. Emma also loves cross country running! At Richmond she will be running for the Cross Country & Track Team competing against other universities and other collegiate athletes. Emma can't wait: 'I am very excited about taking up my scholarship at Richmond and benefiting from top quality coaching.'

Headmaster, Nick Seward, commented: 'Emma has done tremendously well and deserves this wonderful opportunity. She is an inspirational pupil and we will follow her career with pride and interest.' Although she has not made the final decision, Emma is likely to study Psychology and probably Sports Psychology alongside her fledgling athletics career.

# LETTERS

*The News team welcomes letters (names supplied please) but reserves the right to cut depending on space available. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Team.*

## State of Toppide buildings



May I draw attention to the potential detrimental situation which could well exist at the parade of shops running from The Crown and Cushion through to Boots, due to the action (or lack of action) taken by the freeholder both in recent years and possibly in the future? It has already taken a couple of years for the interior of original Cotswolds Newsagents shop to be fitted out. Work on the interior ceased for many months and has only recently recommenced. The state of the interior of the temporary shop premises, a few units down, can only be described as substandard and hardly a good advertisement for shopping in Chipping Norton. This is particularly unfortunate in view of the considerable efforts being made to attract visitors and shoppers to the Town. It is understood that significant works to the exterior of the original shop unit were only carried out after pressure was brought to bear by the Council.

Bearing in mind that the Post Office will be moving to the Co-operative development in the near future and presumably eventually the newsagents will relocate back to the refurbished unit, there will likely be two empty units right in the middle of the Town Square. Having regard to the attitude up to now, they are likely to remain unoccupied indefinitely as substantial remedial works will be required to be carried out to bring the premises up to required present standards. As these are apparently listed buildings, it is understood that, for empty properties, business rates will not have to be paid, so there is not the same incentive on the part of the freeholder to refurbish and lease the units, which would otherwise be the case. As the News often highlights the retail aspect of life in Chipping Norton with, for example, articles on shops that have opened recently or where retailers have relocated to new premises, would it also not be pertinent to report on the very unsatisfactory state of affairs which could possibly well exist right in the heart of the shopping area of the Town.

**Local Resident** (Name & address supplied)  
(See also article 'The Future of Toppide' on p7)

## Better footpaths

Following Sue Harris' letter of thanks, in the December issue, for the clearing of the footpath alongside the A3400 Stratford Road (which I've occasionally walked for the last 60+ years, and still do), I'd like to add my thanks for that and for the clearing of the footpath alongside the A44 to Salford. What a huge improvement this has made, so thank you to whoever was responsible. The circular walk from Chippy, to Salford, along Cornwell Lane, up to Boulter's Barn and back along the Churchill Road is now much easier, but would be even better if the Churchill Road footpath

from the Old London Road to Westfield Farm was similarly cleared. Anyone out there listening?

Two bits of lost property, found in the Worcester Road cemetery in the latter part of 2014 – one pair of kitchen scissors and one lady's shawl. Phone 643718 to reclaim them.

**Paul Burbidge**

## The Regent takes a bow

Referring to your December item on the Regent Cinema, on Saturday 22 September 1973, I purchased the final ticket for the evening showing of 'When Eight Bells Toll' starring Anthony Hopkins and 'Puppet on a Chain' starring Alexander Knox. Both adapted from Alistair MacLean's novels. I still have this ticket, which I believe cost me 8d. I also own the internal wall telephone which connected the theatre to the projectionist upstairs. Knowing this was the last performance, I arrived late; determined to buy the very last ticket issued by Ralph Austin, who kindly gave me the telephone following the closure. Thirty years later in 2003, while working for Mick Didcock I helped to carry him at his Funeral Service.

**Alan Brain**

## Christmas tree thanks

The Town owes a very big thank you to those volunteers who gave up their Sunday mornings to either put the lights on the Town's Christmas trees or to take them off, some people doing both. I am grateful for all those volunteers, including members of the Chipping Norton Explorer Scouts. Without their help Chipping Norton town centre would not have looked so good over the Christmas period. My thanks also to Martin Jarratt for supplying the trees and for Richard Taylor in helping with delivery and disposal. Thanks to Terry at the Town Hall for his help. Thanks too, to the retailers and householders who have trees on their premises. Maybe some other retailers may like to join in next Christmas. To you all, on behalf of the Chippy folk, thank you.

**Pat Lake**

## Horticultural Heroes

Please could you, through the pages of the Chipping Norton News, extend our sincere thanks to Topiarus Horticultural, who once again this year graced us with their generosity, braving the frosty winter weather, when they offered to tidy the gardens at Henry Cornish Care Centre. Last year they came and did some voluntary work for us and this year the manager phoned me to say they were quiet as it was just before Christmas so could they come and do the same again,



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# LETTERS

They were extremely polite and hardworking and, this time of year, it isn't easy to make a garden look much, but ours certainly looks better.

**Luciano Thomas**, Family Liaison Co-ordinator

## RIP Murphy the cat



Regular users of Chippy Lido will be only too familiar with Murphy the marmalade tom cat who was a daily visitor to the Lido during the summer months, mingling with his many admirers. I am sure they will be upset to learn that after a short illness he sadly passed away on 9 December. We are uncertain of Murphy's exact age but believe he was somewhere between 16 and 20 years old. He was an exceptional character who loved meeting people and gave much joy to all who knew him. We miss him terribly.

**Susan and Richard Anning**

## Help for Save the Children

A big thank you for all the help, support and contributions received on the 22 November at the Children's Afternoon Tea held in the Town Hall in aid of Save the Children. The sale of the contributions and tea raised £124.60, which is matched by the Government. The card sales raised £160.00 so, a total of £409.20 was sent to Save the Children by Pauline and Graham Evans (the coordinators). With good wishes for 2015.

**Helina Taghavi**

## Crown & Cushion Raffle

The Crown & Cushion Christmas Raffle raised £650 and £325 was donated to both Helen & Douglas House and Katharine House Hospice. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way by donating prizes or buying raffle tickets.

**Linda Maia e Silva**

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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## Legion Thanks

The Royal British Legion Women's Section Chipping Norton Branch would like to thank all those who gave prizes for our Xmas Raffle and all who came to our bingo at the Football Club in December which was a great success. Thanks also to Nash's cake shop for letting us sell Raffle Tickets at the rear of the shop. We made £600 which will go towards Widows and Children of our Forces. Thank You

**Betty Hicks**, Secretary

## ON THE SOAP BOX

### Road Safety

A child is knocked over by a car on his way to school and sustains serious injuries. Again. Almost 20 years ago, when asked if we could have a pelican crossing installed across Burford Road outside the secondary school, OCC told me, 'There haven't been enough pedestrian casualties to justify this.'

Eventually, a crossing was installed, but only after a pupil was injured. Now, another accident, another child hurt. This time at West End. How many more before measures ensuring children can walk to school safely are 'justified'? Irrespective of the details of this case, pedestrians stand far more chance of being badly injured or killed by a vehicle travelling at 30 mph than they do by a vehicle travelling at 20 mph. A 2014 government publication reports there are 16 deaths or serious injuries to school-pupils every week and recommends 20mph limits in priority areas. Lots of places, including North Oxford and the whole of Islington have a 20mph limit. Why can't Chippy?

**West Street resident** – name and address supplied



## March deadline: Friday 13 February

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)

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

## New plan for 228 homes off Walterbush Road

The planning application has now been submitted for 228 new homes off Walterbush Road. It includes full details of the houses, materials, landscaping, etc, and also of a new club house and parking for the Football Club. The new homes, called Chadlington Downs, would be constructed by Bellway and 40% are proposed to be affordable. The application comes some four years after negotiations with the Town Council, local residents, the Football Club and West Oxfordshire DC first started. Developers made changes from the original plans, saying there was overwhelming concern expressed locally about traffic and parking along Walterbush Road and so a new junction onto the A361 near the Rugby Club is now proposed.

The number of houses has also grown as a result. With 228 homes now proposed, 137 would be houses for normal sale (2, 3 and 4-beds) and 91 affordable. Of these 64 would be rented and 27 shared ownership, apparently agreed with WODC, a welcome addition to meet housing need. Will it get approved? The site is still within the Cotswolds AONB, just like the West End Farm site along Churchill Road, where another housing proposal was refused and an appeal dismissed. Developers will hope for a different reaction; this

site is not within the Conservation Area, nor within the setting of Bliss Mill. The developers are stressing how the proposal will improve and soften the 'urban edge' currently



*Artist's impression of the proposed housing development*

presented to the AONB and the approach to Chippy along Burford Road. More importantly, WODC has already identified this as a site suitable for housing, albeit for 150-180, not the 228 now proposed.

Negotiations with the Football Club have resulted in detailed proposals for a new 260-square metre club house comprising two changing rooms, a club room, bar and kitchen, with 40 car parking spaces. A play area is proposed near the clubhouse and a smaller one for younger children within the development. Developers may be asked to provide funding to the Town Council for a completely separate games area elsewhere in town – possibly a skateboard park at Greystones, the Town Council's favoured location. The deadline for comments has passed, with only one comment online from a member of the public. Chipping Norton Town Council supported the application. Oxfordshire County Council raised concerns about several traffic and transport related issues. Whether these will be overcome remains to be seen. But the decision will be made by WODC at a future date. Their target will be mid-February.

## DIARY

### February (News out on Monday 2 February)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Chipping Norton News Team Meeting** 7.30 The Chequers' Barn - details 643219
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p23
- 4<sup>th</sup> **U3A** 2pm Methodist Hall details p25
- NOOG** 7.30 St Mary's Parish Rooms - details p26
- 6<sup>th</sup> **The Fuss** Holy Trinity School Fundraiser 8pm at the Town Hall details p8
- CN School Parents' Association Quiz Night** 7.30 - Tickets £8 from the School Office
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Sale of theatrical costumes & props** 10-noon in The Theatre bar - Spring Street
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Folk Club** 7.30 at the Blue Boar details p24
- History Society** 7.30 Methodist Hall see p27
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30-11.30 for The Singing Group
- Blood Donor Sessions** 1.15-3.30pm & 4.15-7pm at Glyme Hall see p13 for details of how to book
- CNWI** 2.15pm Lower Town Hall see p23
- GP Surgery Move - Public Meeting** 7.30 Town Hall details p3
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall details p24
- 13<sup>th</sup> **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** see p35
- 14<sup>th</sup> **A Most Wanted Man (Cert 15)** in Churchill 7.30 - see p14

- 15<sup>th</sup> **Pancake Sunday at Methodist Church** details p6
- 16<sup>th</sup> **CNAAG** 7.30 at the Methodist Hall - see p23
- WOWI** 7.30pm St Mary's Parish Rooms see p26
- 18<sup>th</sup> **Horticultural Association** 7.30 Methodist Hall see p27
- 20<sup>th</sup> **Rotary Race Night** 7.30 New Beaconsfield Hall Shipton-u-Wychwood see p23
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Chipping Norton Farmers' Market** 8.30-1.30
- Chipping Norton Vintage Fair** 10-4 Town Hall - see advert p8
- Charity Quiz & Chilli** 7.30 Rugby Club details p11
- 26<sup>th</sup> **Chadlington Flower Club** Demonstration 7.30 Chad Memorial Hall details p23
- 28<sup>th</sup> **Highlands Rummage Sale** 10am - 1pm Town Hall see p5

### March (News out on Monday 2 March)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Clean up Chippy** Volunteers meet 10am Town Hall
- Ramblers Meet** 1.30pm New St Car Park see p13
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Chipping Norton News Team Meeting** 7.30 The Chequers' Barn - details 643219
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p23
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Lunch for Lawrence**, to support the Lawrence Home Nursing Team - midday Lwr Town Hall details p8
- U3A** 2pm Methodist Hall details p25
- NOOG** 7.30 St Mary's Parish Rooms - details p26
- 6-29 **CN Music Festival** see p19