



## Health Centre opens

### Town GPs' move planned for 30 March

The newly named Chipping Norton Health Centre will replace two separate surgeries from April – in a major move into the purpose-built site up the London Road. At a 'standing room only' Town Hall meeting in February Drs Jane Pargeter (West Street) and David Edwards (White House) and colleagues explained the move and potential benefits.

#### Better facilities for growing town

With people living longer, and NHS funding constraints, the aim is for bigger, modern and more efficient GP practices to deliver more and better services 'closer to home'. The new London Road 'campus' has better parking, a full pharmacy and more clinic space to house new and visiting services – both NHS and private – if the demand is there and funding can be found.

#### Questions from the public

In the Town Hall meeting the plan was generally welcomed as good news by the audience. But questions were asked about practicalities, transport, greater use of IT, and possible future services. Concerns were also raised about coordination – not

#### Sporting success



*photo: Don Davidson*

Award winners at this year's Chipping Norton Sports Awards, full details on Page 19.

competition – between Chippy Hospital, other NHS services, and social care.

#### Commitment to the NHS

The meeting ended with applause for the enthusiasm and passionate commitment to the NHS expressed by Dr Neil Fisher, one new young doctor at West Street. The GPs now need to be given a chance to get the new place working well, and then expectations will be high for making our excellent local care services even better. See full report on Page 2.

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## Health Centre goes live

**With the big GP move planned for 30 March, the News team gives an update from the packed February Town Hall meeting**

### 1 What are the reasons for the move?

The GPs explained that their old buildings have become too small and not fit for purpose for a modern health service and a growing town. Demand, particularly from the elderly, is increasing, services are needed 'closer to home' instead of in hospitals. The new facilities are better, with larger rooms, natural light, extensive parking and space for expansion. Economy of scale helps them compete for more and better services, with 12 GPs, up to 6 practice nurses and more efficient administrative support. Patients should see the 'the best of both practices' in action. Accessibility, Acceptability and Affordability were all key – particularly with pressure on NHS funding and increased workload.

### 2 How will it all work?

In April all patients will automatically be transferred into one practice now called the 'Chipping Norton Health Centre'. The West St and White House names will disappear but the two phone numbers (642529 and 642742) will remain for now. Patients will stay registered with their current doctor, but will be able to choose appointments with any doctor in the merged Centre. Patients should get 'same day' appointments by calling at 8.30am or after around 4.30pm for a 'next day' appointment. Extended hours to 7pm on weekdays (8.30pm Thursday) and Saturday surgeries will be available. There will be a single reception desk and spacious open waiting areas. With larger numbers of patients, 'peaks and troughs' at reception and privacy issues will need to be managed.

The pharmacy, owned by the GPs and already operating in a temporary site, will expand and move right behind reception (The GPs took a licence that Sainsbury's had acquired when they were planning the big edge-of-town store). It will be open late every evening until at least 10pm and to 4.30pm on Sundays. All patients can use it in the same way as Boots and Co-op, both of whom will keep their existing arrangements with the GPs as well. So room for both growth and competition.

### 3 What about transport and ease of use?

There will be nearly 100 car parking places for patients and staff. Wheelchair access is excellent with public lifts. The GPs say 84% of patients currently 'arrive by car'. However, there were many questions about potential issues. Existing hourly bus services (eg X8 and S3) may not be good enough – particularly for those from villages whose buses arrive in the middle of town. Little has been done yet by anyone about potential transport issues. Suggestions such as a voluntary

driver system, or shuttle bus, or finding public money for more buses may all need action. It looks like everyone will, for the moment, have to 'suck it and see'.

### 4 What new and improved services?

One key plan is to bring care closer to patient's homes. With much more clinic space, the GPs say they will coordinate with the hospital next door to attract more NHS specialists (from elsewhere). They may also attract private practitioners to run more specialist clinics in Chipping Norton. The GPs themselves could also offer more services locally. Dr Edwards, for example mentioned the idea of a paramedic for minor injuries during the day. The Oxfordshire Commissioning Group say they

might commission more local services such as clinics for DVT, arrhythmia, skin cancer, leg ulcer, warfarin monitoring, and various secondary care procedures. But all these will need local demand, money from the NHS, and the GPs willing to do it.

Better use of Internet and IT was another issue raised by the audience. The NHS has lagged behind other services. 75% of Oxfordshire's GPs offer online appointment booking, and all are meant to do so from 1 April. Our GPs say they want patients to wait to register on a

new merged system. Other ideas happening elsewhere include Skype or email consultations, patient online access to their own records, giving out of hours doctors and consultants online access to our records, and even basics such as text appointment reminders (eg as done by your dentist and British Gas!). The Chipping Norton Health Centre will be working with other North Oxfordshire GPs in a 'federation' to help improve all systems.

### 5 Working better with local services?

Some questions were about GPs working more closely with community nurses, the day hospital, care homes and social care. This is a top priority in Oxfordshire, with too many elderly people 'stuck' in hospital. The GPs here say moving to the new 'health campus' should help coordination, but working closely with social care (a different system entirely) still seems to be a problem. The County Council and the NHS in Oxfordshire are trying new ways to solve this – with a combined 'Better Care' fund. This includes funding for new 'neighbourhood' teams with all organisations working together.

*For more information contact the surgeries. There is also a North Oxfordshire Public Forum (run by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group) to discuss issues. Chipping Norton Town Councillor David Heyes is deputy chair – contact DavidHeyes@yahoo.co.uk*

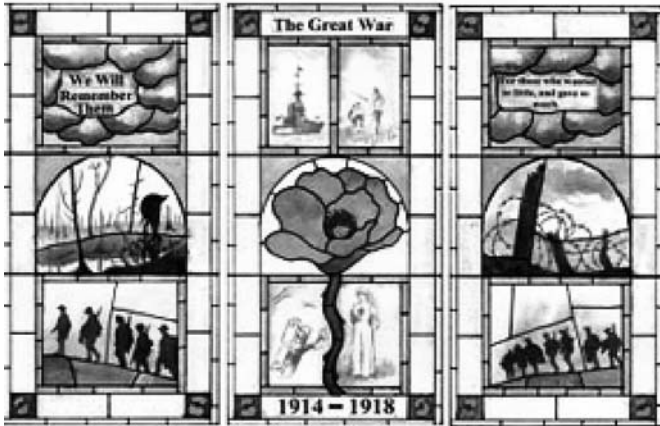


*Above: artist's impression of the new Health Centre  
Below: Joint GP panel at the packed Town Hall meeting*



## Pupils design WWI window

As part of Chipping Norton's commemoration of the beginning of the First World War the local branch of the Royal British Legion invited pupils from Chipping Norton School to submit designs for a permanent memorial. They produced some imaginative ideas from which Branch Chairman Steve Kingsford and Mayor Mike Tysoe picked out elements to fit into a final design, based around a brilliant poppy created by CNS student Zoe Foster (pictured on p29). It was felt a window would be the best way to showcase all the concepts



in one place. The design, adapted for stained glass production and worked on by Steve, represents those involved in the conflict and uses words from a design by Georgia Jukes. Finally, with help from glass artist Graham Brant and bringing in more artwork from Beth Coombes, a three-panel design was agreed with school Head Teacher Simon Duffy. Grants and donations were received from WODC, the British Legion, CN Rotary and Terra Sancta Chapter of Freemasons. The Town Council and the School agreed to fund the remainder of the cost after the design was shown to Town Councillors at their January meeting. Donations for the project are, however, still very welcome. Please contact Steve on 01295 780558 or [stevekingsford@gmail.com](mailto:stevekingsford@gmail.com).

## The Town's Fundraising Ball

Saturday 18 April

7 for 7.30 until midnight

Chipping Norton Town Hall

Welcome Fizz & a 4-Course Meal

Dancing to

The Monday Blues

Black Tie / Lounge Suit

Tickets £45pp from

The Town Clerk's Office, The Guildhall 01608 642341

All proceeds will go towards fundraising for the

Chippy Skate Park



## Winning the supermarket race



In the race to grab a bigger share of Chipping Norton's weekly supermarket shop it looks like the Midcounties Co-op will get there first. The expansion work is now well underway – the big cranes were back in January. Creation of a new, larger car park and nearly doubling the size of the store was always going to be a challenge, particularly while keeping the store open. But Chief Executive Ben Reid told the News, 'We are on track and expect to launch the new store in the last week in July'. The changes will also see the Post Office (already run by the Co-op) and possibly both the Co-op pharmacy and travel agent move upstairs into the enlarged new store.

Meanwhile, Aldi's agents told the News that they are pressing ahead with the design work for the new store to be built on the Banbury Road. They have been working through the detail of all the conditions which need clearing with WODC, so that they can start building as soon as possible. They were unable to give a start date but their original intention was to have much of the work completed in 2015. It is also now hoped that the intended footpath through to the London Road (and the nearest bus stop!) can be created.

... and what plans for Sainsbury's?

## Successful One Stop Shop



Customer Services Advisors  
Ian Fawcett & Sue Shorten holding  
lost property items.

It's over a year now since a Police counter was introduced to West Oxfordshire District Council's Office in the Guildhall after the closure of the Police Station in the Town. This central facility offers easy access to Police services, is open longer hours and deals with a variety of local issues including putting people in touch with local officers, referring incidents of crime, anti-social behaviour, missing persons and lost property. Customer Services Officer, Ian Fawcett, at the Guildhall is also a local Chipping Norton resident. He said, 'We've had some lovely comments over the last year and I think people appreciate how easy it is for them now to contact the Police through us.' Ian said they dealt with nearly 400 police related enquiries with lost property a big success reuniting mobile phones, purses, keys and other items with their owners. Recently £200 was handed in from Sainsbury's cash point, and with a little bit of detective work, they tracked down the rightful

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owner who was very grateful.

The Council aspect of the One Stop Shop deals with rating enquiries, electoral rolls and providing general information and advice. Although it is not a full Visitor Information Centre tourists can call in on weekdays and obtain helpful information about local events and places of interest to visit. Building and maintenance work which has been going on at the Guildhall since November is nearing completion and certainly makes the building a place of interest to locals and visitors alike. Opening hours are Mon to Friday: 8.45am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.30pm (4pm on Friday).

## Big move for Vets



Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital has moved. The Vets and all the staff – and no doubt the animals – were delighted to start at their brand new building in the

Banbury Road on 16 February (apologies: the News said London Road by mistake last month – don't confuse it with the new GP surgery!!). The new building is larger, with more space for larger



animals including horses, and more clinic rooms. Car parking is also much better than the old Albion Street premises. The new address is CN Veterinary Hospital, Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 5SY. Opening hours Monday – Friday: 8.30am-7pm Saturday: 9am-1pm. Contact 642547 info@chippingnortonvets.co.uk. The News team went to visit on the first day and found a light and large reception area (with two ends to perhaps keep warring pets apart?). The reception team, vets and nurses were all getting used to the premises and busy training up for the influx of clients. A more official opening is likely later in the year.

## Plan confirms 1800 houses

After more changes in recent months West Oxfordshire's Cabinet have now recommended the long awaited final Draft Local Plan to the full Council. In it they confirm 1800 homes 'requirement' by 2031 for the Chipping Norton subarea. In this they have confirmed that 600 (not 500 as last mooted) houses be allowed at Tank Farm at the top of town. The plan also seeks to secure at least 4.5 hectares (and potentially 7.3) of employment land. The plan stresses priorities for 'Town Centre vitality and viability', 'alleviation of HGV movements' and infrastructure needs 'emerging from the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan'. But final completion of the Local Plan will probably not be until January 2016. The CNNP Steering Group still hope to get the Chippy Plan to a referendum in September for formal adoption as soon as possible after that.

## Walterbush Road repairs



The much needed and long-awaited road repairs will get underway in Walterbush Road in March. On Monday 2 March, kerbing and footway resurfacing will start under traffic light control between Burford Road and Hailey Road, lasting for two weeks. Then on Monday 16 March, the road will be closed for one week for carriageway resurfacing. A signed diversion route will be in place using local roads. Gatemens will be positioned at either end of the closed road to redirect traffic. No parking will be permitted on Walterbush Road between 7am and 6pm during this period. The road resurfacing will be carried out in two phases. The Council warn that although access for residents will be maintained where possible, there may be long delays during the working day (7.30am-5pm) so please allow for this and park your vehicle outside the site limits in a safe location where it will not cause an obstruction. Residents who wish to use the footway but are unable to do so due to the road works should ask a 'pedestrian marshal' on site or contact the Scheme Supervisors, Allan Sibley or Stuart Priest, on 0845 310 1111 if they have any specific concerns. For information on bus services, contact the bus company for information on rearranged services.

## Lido auction and more

Summer may be a long way off, but for us at The Lido it's starting to feel a lot nearer because there's already so much going on. Read on and take note! Work on the pool's new lining continues apace, as do our fundraising efforts to ensure we can meet all our bills. We are applying to local and national trusts and foundations, and will be looking to the local community for support at the Auction of Promises on Friday 10 April in the Town Hall. Put it in your diary, tell your friends, buy lots of tickets, come along and bid, bid, bid! All good fun, with J Clarkson, Esq as our Auctioneer, some great lots (from pet-sitting to a sports car for six months) and, most importantly, all in a good cause – YOUR local open-air pool.

On Thursday 23 April The Lido opens for business at 12.30pm and the AGM will be held that evening. Further information at [www.chippylido.co.uk](http://www.chippylido.co.uk), including a new weekend Private Hire slot from 11am-12 noon each Saturday – ideal for children's parties! Finally, we are sorry to report that Sally Brown is moving her Brown Cow catering company to pastures new and will not be managing the Café this year. We are very grateful for all Sally's hard work over the past four seasons, helping to make The Lido THE place to be in the summer. We are now looking for someone to take The Lido Café forward. For further information or to express your interest, please email [info@chippylido.co.uk](mailto:info@chippylido.co.uk) and see our Facebook page, 'ChippyLido', or follow us on Twitter, @ChippyLido.

Claire Williamson

## Future of Glyme Hall youth club

What is happening with youth club provision in Chipping Norton? The Football social club has closed and the evening youth club at Glyme Hall, built with £1m of public money and



*David Cameron plays a mean game of table football at the opening of Glyme Hall in 2012*

opened by the Prime Minister in 2012, has been halted in recent months despite efforts by hard-working volunteers over the last three years. The County previously ran a youth club on Top School premises, with paid youth workers, but on-going financial support was cut and the School wanted the building back. Despite there being no guarantee of on-going funding, the County stepped in with a business case for a new purpose-built community and youth facility. The County own and maintain the building and provided a two-year start-up fund. The building was leased to a special locally run charitable company, Glyme Hall Ltd, whose Management Committee Trustees have had the dual challenge of making the venue commercially viable as well as meeting their stated charitable aims for community and youth club facilities.

## Commitment to youth facilities

Three years on, the Hall is being widely used. It is regarded as an excellent facility, rented by organisations such as kick boxing, yoga, the community church, Jive Bunnies, language classes and more. A net income (surplus) of around £24,000 was declared in the 2014 accounts. However, provision of an evening youth club has struggled over the past 18 months, relying on volunteers, little or no paid support, and trying to recruit members without a professional publicity or marketing network. The club has now been suspended. Provision of a youth club, however, is a core purpose of the charity. In the Board report filed last August, Trustee and Secretary Annie Roy-Barker wrote, 'The Charity continues its commitment to providing facilities for young people. Members of the Youth Club have access to the hall's spacious social area, with comfortable seating, together with a large hall that is well equipped with games such as snooker, table football, table tennis and board games. There is provision for music to be played and a television to view. In addition a well stocked tuck shop is available. The organisation of additional social functions is encouraged'.

## Renewed efforts needed

Don Davidson, Chair of the Glyme Hall Youth Committee, told the News what the Trustees were trying to do about all this. He said, 'Although the current evening Youth Club sessions have been suspended, the Committee are working with Oxfordshire Youth and other providers to put on a

series of events at Glyme Hall throughout the year. These events will be open to young people of Chipping Norton and the surrounding area. It is hoped the first event will be in May. One activity is likely to include a 'graffiti wall', brought by Oxfordshire Youth with an artist to help guide young people. If there is any suitable artwork we hope to display it on one of the Hall walls. As well as this, Pat Lake, Chair of the Glyme Hall Management Committee, is aiming to work with West Oxfordshire Hub in Witney to look at other options for youth activities at the Hall. Watch this space for more details'. Oxfordshire Youth is a charity (previously the Oxfordshire Association for Young People) that considers itself Oxfordshire's leading provider of outstanding youth services. The Hub includes a £1m new youth centre, opened in Witney in 2012, and was partly intended to act as a local centre to help 'satellite' venues. The Hub idea has been given support by Oxfordshire County Council who, in cost-cutting measures three years ago, removed permanent on-going funding for youth services from centres in Carterton, Eynsham and Chipping Norton.

## New Hospital phone number

The new number for the Outpatient Unit is 01865 903333. This involves Podiatry, Physiotherapy, X-ray the Hearing Aid Clinic, Speech Therapy, Consultant Clinics, District Nurses and The Cotswold Birthing Centre.

## General Election hots up



The Green Party have announced their candidate to stand against David Cameron in the Witney constituency at the General Election. Stuart Macdonald (pictured) is a professor of management and has lived in Witney for over 20 years. He stood against David Cameron in the 2010 general election. He said,

'The world's attention will focus on Witney as the general election approaches. It will see in the local Green Party a real alternative to Witney's tired political establishment. In 2010, in Witney, David Cameron promised the greenest government ever: in 2015, in Witney, the Greens will take him to task'. In the run up, the Greens will be staging a series of public meetings on issues such as food banks (see separate article, page 8), flooding, housing, public transport, public goods, infrastructure and social mobility. Contact Stuart at s.macdonald6@ntlworld.com or call 07740 465284.



On 25 February UKIP's Witney candidate Simon Strutt and Town and District candidate James Stanley held a UKIP public meeting in Chippy Town Hall and invited other parties and candidates to come and debate (more in next month's News). The Henry Cornish Care Centre on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> ran a Big Political Debate discussing the Labour and Conservative policies as part of a 'Your Votes Count' campaign focusing on the elderly! Labour Candidate Duncan Enright has been out in the Town campaigning and invited David Cameron to a

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'bake off' competition, offering to combine it with a charity event at the Methodist Church to help share hot meals with the community. This was in response to the MP baulking at TV debates. As well as David Cameron for the Conservatives, candidates are expected from the Liberal Democrats, the NHS Action Party, and Fathers for Justice. No doubt more to come. Full details before the election.

## New Council and new mayor



*Mayor Mike Tysoe may serve another term*

A reminder to everyone that this year is your chance to stand as a candidate for Chipping Norton Town Council. All 16 places are up for election. You have to get your applications in by 4pm Thursday 9 April. The Town Council will spend over £200,000 of your Council Tax money next year and 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 and Greystones recreation grounds. Anyone interested should contact The Town Clerk, at the Guildhall for further information; phone 642341 or email [ctownclerk@btconnect.com](mailto:ctownclerk@btconnect.com).

With the election outcome uncertain it will be fast footwork after 7 May (election day) to elect a new Town Mayor. At the February Town Council Meeting the Mayoral Selection Committee reported that their preferred candidate for next year (2015/16) would be for Mike Tysoe to continue as Mayor for a third year and for Richard Benfield to be Deputy – but of course this will all depend on the election result. The Committee also recommended that a workshop be organised for new Town Councillors as soon as possible after the election

One other oddity to report: the Town Council has decided that The Mayor's Ball in April will now have to be known as the 'Town Fundraising Ball', as apparently there are political sensitivities about the name so close to the elections!

## District Council election

Chipping Norton's District Council seat, currently held by long-standing Labour Councillor Eve Coles, is up for re-election as well on 7 May. Information on all the candidates will be in the News before the election.

## Age 18? Get registered to vote

Are you at Chippy School or have you just left? Did you know that 30% of 18–24 year olds are not registered to vote? With the 7 May elections approaching, everyone is being urged to look out for letters sent to their homes to check whether they are included on the new electoral register. The Government introduced Individual Electoral Registration (IER) last year, making every eligible voter responsible for registering their own details. The District Council has responsibility for maintaining West Oxfordshire's electoral register and has sent letters to households so that people can check whether they are registered to vote. Any households that have not received a letter by the end of February will

need to apply to register. This can be done quickly and simply online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or by calling 01993 861410. You may not realise that it is a legal requirement to register your details, even if you do not vote. Not registering could adversely affect your credit rating, as well as remove your chance to vote. To vote in the May elections you need to have registered to vote before 20 April 2015. Letters were sent out from 10 February 2015.

## Town Meeting: 22 April

Chipping Norton Town Council is holding its Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 22 April at 7.30pm in the Large Hall. This is the one public meeting when the Town Council give an annual report of what they have been doing – and also answer questions. Usually the public turnout is low – but this year the whole Council is up for election two weeks later, on 7 May. There is also a District and General Election, so expect lots of interest in Town affairs from the candidates. Put the date in your diary.

## Racehorse raffle raises roof

Children from Great Rollright Primary School are selling raffle tickets with a difference: the winner will receive a 1/20<sup>th</sup> share in a racehorse. It's part of the school's innovative 'buy a brick' campaign, a fundraising scheme helping to put the roof on a brand new classroom for years three and four who often have to have lessons in a partitioned section of the school hall. The new purpose-built classroom will also allow the hall to be used for sports lessons and other activities. The school has already raised more than £100,000, and the parent and teacher association are raising a shortfall of £20,000 selling 'bricks' at £5 each for the draw. Six-year-old racehorse St John's Point is trained by Charlie Longsdon, whose daughter Milly is a pupil at the School. 'We wanted to do something to help the school,' said Milly's mother Sophie, 'and this seemed like the perfect plan'. The winner will receive a 1/20<sup>th</sup> share in the syndicate for the racing season 2015/16. 'Bricks' can be bought singly for £5, or in rows of 12 for £50. Individuals or businesses can also buy a 'wall of bricks' (60 tickets) for £250. All money raised will be used to complete the building works and equip the classroom. To buy a 'brick' and enter the draw email [greatrollrightfriends@gmail.com](mailto:greatrollrightfriends@gmail.com) or call 01608 737202.



Clare Mackintosh

## Fun and games at Tickittyboo

On Saturday 7 March, Tickittyboo – the childrenswear and toy shop in Chipping Norton's Middle Row – is celebrating its second anniversary by holding a party for customers. Julia Cook told the News, 'There will be cake, a bubble machine and music for the children all day. We will have an amazing balloon artist from 1–3pm and Caroline from Pedal Car Parties will be in Middle Row in the afternoon, also from 1pm. So the

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children can have a go on a pedal car! visit [www.pedalcarparties.co.uk](http://www.pedalcarparties.co.uk) for details of typical models. We are really proud to make the two-year mark and want to thank Chippy and our customers for their continued support'. The shop will be open from 10am-5pm.

## Penhurst – a change in view

Work at the old Penhurst site is in full flow. Demolition of the old school buildings is nearly complete and then work will start on the new residential care home, conversion to flats of the main Monk's Dene house and a whole new row of cottages and houses for older people. All this will mean a new



landscape and views around the site. Pictured here is the current view from the open fields of the recreation ground and common towards St Mary's Church. The future view will



include the new row of houses (also pictured). More progress in pictures as the site develops.

## Interest in community farming?

Are you interested in joining in on a community agriculture scheme? Your views are needed! Transition Chipping Norton (TCN) is a group of volunteers interested in promoting sustainability at the local level. They are looking to open a Community Supported Agriculture scheme, where people from Chipping Norton and the surrounding area could become participants in a farming co-operative. Members would contribute a small amount of money as well as help in managing the farm, and in return would be able to share in the organic produce they would have helped to grow. Not only would becoming part of such an organisation give you access to organic produce, but also an exciting chance to become part of a close-knit community. It would be a great way to meet more local people, or a fun hobby to take up as a family. Also, there is something extra delicious about eating food you have grown yourself! In order to see whether such a farm would be viable they are carrying out a small survey. So if you are local to Chipping Norton, and think you would like to be part of this (or even if you don't!) please take a few minutes to complete this survey and let TCN know what you think. TCN thank everyone in advance for your feedback. <https://it.surveymonkey.com/s/ZF86BWW>

## Fracking fears for Chippy?

In a recent argument about new legislation which would allow fracking companies to drill under people's homes without their permission, a historical precedent was brought to light which would have greatly concerned the citizens of Chipping Norton. In the reign of King Charles (the First – that is). Many of his subjects were affected by the search for saltpetre, an essential ingredient of gunpowder, which occurs naturally through the actions of microbes on decaying living tissue – long undisturbed earth floors were an ideal place to dig for it. 'Petermen', authorised by the Crown, dug up the floors of barns, houses and churches, often without permission and often causing local outrage. Apparently in 1628, 20 bushels of saltpetre were supposedly dug from the floor of Chipping Norton's St Mary's church, the Petermen tossing seats aside and leaving the ground so uneven that the parishioners could not kneel! We are assured that our nearby Cotswolds are not really suitable geologically for fracking operations (in spite of fracking protests in Dean outside the PM's house) so actions akin to those in the 17<sup>th</sup> century may not be expected in the future.

## Exercise sitting down

Age Concern Chipping Norton will be offering a tester session for seated exercises on Thursday 16 April at the Lower Town Hall from 10.30 to 11.30 am. If successful there will be regular fortnightly sessions. Sessions cost £3.50. Anyone can come – please just turn up.

## Chris's Marathon cancer run

Chippy resident and former cancer patient Chris Bray is running the London Marathon to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. Five years after being diagnosed with bowel cancer he is 'all clear', thanks to excellent care from a host of staff at the Churchill and Horton Hospitals, West Street Surgery and local health visitors. As part of his rehabilitation Chris started running – short distances at first but leading eventually to half-marathons in Cardiff (October 2013) and Oxford (October 2014).



Pictured here with Poppy, his faithful four-legged training companion, Chris now has his sights set on running all 26 miles and 385 yards of the London Marathon on Sunday 26 April. He is on the team running for Cancer Research UK's Bobby Moore Fund, which is dedicated to improving treatments for bowel cancer. Chris's personal target is to raise at least £2,000, but he hopes to do better. Bowel cancer is one of the most common types of cancer diagnosed in the UK, with around 40,000 new cases every year and affecting one in every 20 people in the UK during their lifetime. To donate, see Chris's fundraising page at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ChristopherBray>. You will also find Chris with members of his family offering a bag-

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packing service at Chippy's Co-op and Sainsbury's stores on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March.

## 200 years of geological map



The Churchill Heritage Centre is celebrating a big anniversary this month. 200 years ago, Churchill-born geologist William Smith published the first geological map of England and Wales. This feat, a result of extensive travels on his own and with his nephew, led to Smith being recognised as the

'Father of English Geology'. His achievements and life, are being marked on 22 March, at noon, with the grand unveiling of a commemorative plaque which will be placed near his birthplace on the wall in front of Spring Cottage on Junction Road by Professor Hugh Torrens, the foremost expert on William Smith.



There will also be a Bicentenary Exhibition at the Heritage Centre, curated by the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. The university is loaning original maps, diaries and letters, and there will be specially commissioned audio recordings giving the background to the story of the famous map and explaining how the William Smith collection came to be archived in the museum in Oxford. For more information, go to the Churchill Heritage Centre website at [www.churchillheritage.org.uk](http://www.churchillheritage.org.uk) or contact Janie Hextall on 01608 658278 or 07717 296993.

## Memories of Churchill funeral

With 50 years having passed since Winston Churchill's funeral – and his burial in Bladon – the News wondered if there were any local memories or connections? One story in the local press was of 66-year-old retired banker Mike Cross, who went to Chipping Norton School and played football in Chadlington for many years. Mike recalls the referee stopping a local game while a train passed by on the day Churchill's coffin was carried from London. Mike works in the Soldiers of Oxfordshire museum in Woodstock. Churchill served in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars – as did Mike's great-grandfather. Any other Churchill memories?

## Meeting on food banks

The West Oxfordshire Green Party are holding a free public meeting, called 'From Chipping Norton Set to Food Bank. We're All in This Together', at 7.30–9.30pm on Thursday 5 March at Glyme Hall, Burford Road, Chipping Norton. They say 'the Green Party holds public meetings on matters of concern often neglected by the main parties. The meetings are

promoted nationally and attract much attention. The next public meeting is on food banks. We wonder why there are food banks in one of the richest constituencies in the country. Come and hear what the experts have to say as well as those who run local food banks, and those who use them'.

## Cheap Theatre standby slots

Chipping Norton Theatre is re-launching its scheme to offer cheap standby tickets for 14-25 year olds. Oxfordshire County Council are giving them £500 to help with running and promoting the scheme.

## Theatre props bonanza

What was that mad rush last month that saw Chipping Norton Theatre's bar overflowing with around 100 nostalgic theatre punters, budding AmDram performers, and more? News team members went along, battling their way in past large Ali Baba jars and a long rack of exotic and macabre costumes. It turns out that The Theatre was having a big sale of old costumes, props and general



bric-a-brac. Surplus merchandise was also on sale. The Theatre's Fundraising Officer Helen Datson was busy on the till (pictured above wearing the lid of the Ali Baba jar), and was delighted afterwards to report that over £1,100 was raised for Theatre funds. She thanked everyone who

turned up to buy and also all the volunteers manning the busy stalls and the refreshment bar. Panto enthusiasts were not disappointed. Last year's Mother Goose provided several goose hats, including those worn by Pippins – memorabilia from the exhilarating and exhausting weeks they spend with the Panto. Other prized items were a full-sized unicycle, juggling equipment, and Four Candles (in fact, lots of them!) perhaps as a reminder of Theatre supporter and patron, the late Ronnie Barker.

The Theatre, in fact, has a large store of old props, costumes (Horses? Cows? Camille the Camel!), and even some stage sets. Often, much has to be got rid of as it ends up filling warehouses, but there is still plenty hidden in the attic. The Theatre also hires props out to other theatre companies with specialist equipment is available for rent too – the website provides details of snow, fog and bubble machines available. Anyone interested in finding out more, volunteering, or supporting The Theatre through the Friends & Patrons Scheme can visit [www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com),



## LOCAL NEWS

or contact Helen Datson on 01608 642349 or email [fundraising@chippingnortontheatre.com](mailto:fundraising@chippingnortontheatre.com)

### 'The Fuss' at the Town Hall



*Holy Trinity School parents enjoying the evening: Jon Fletcher, Paul Bates, Kyla Bates, Teresa Palmer, Steve Palmer, Hannah Fish, Orsi Mance & Topsy Fletcher.*

Holy Trinity School PTA have raised over £2,000 thanks to proceeds from The Fuss charity gig at the Town Hall on 7 February. They'll use the money to buy iPads, including protective casings, for the children to use in class. The evening was from all perspectives and a great success. Samantha Jackman, whose commitment and energy made the event happen, was supported by Jane Webster and other members of the PTA who gave their time and talent to the event. The Fuss deserves a big mention – not only was their mix of classic and modern dance floor favourites a complete hit, but they gave their time, energy and skill for free. Organisers are keen to stress that it was a hugely generous commitment on the group's part. As well as their gratitude to The Fuss, the organisers would like to thank their sponsors, CETA, Sainsbury's, Topiarus and Machine Link Ltd, and Cats Brewing Company and the Wine Bear from whom they sourced beer and wine.

### Campaign for affordable housing

Cottsway Housing Association, which run many of the homes in Chipping Norton, is campaigning for the Government to support more affordable housing. On Tuesday 3 March they will put a 'model village' on display made of shoeboxes or other recycled materials designed as houses by local children in a competition to win an iPad. The event, in Witney, is part of a baton relay from Land's End to London in the Homes for Britain campaign which calls on all political parties to end the housing shortage. In the latest Chippy housing planning application, 91 out of 228 proposed homes off Walterbush Road would be 'affordable' – for rental or shared ownership.

### Lunches for Lawrence

The Lawrence Home Nursing Team are launching their 'Lunch for Lawrence' Week at the Lower Town Hall on Wednesday 4 March from 11.30 am. Come along on market day for some warming soup freshly prepared by Wild Thyme Restaurant and bread rolls supplied by independent millers, FWP Matthews. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes also available. Alternatively fundraise for us and hold your own 'Lunch for Lawrence' and invite friends, colleagues or customers. Visit [www.lawrencehomenursing.org](http://www.lawrencehomenursing.org) and download soup recipes from Emily Watkins, Chef at The Kingham Plough. Special

thanks to Sainsbury's, Chipping Norton, for their generous support. Our restaurant scheme continues in March, this time at The Chequers in Chipping Norton. Please telephone 644717 to book a table. Huge thanks to John and The Fox Hotel who raised £380 from their recent quiz night supporting LHNT. If you wish to receive the forthcoming newsletter or join the supporter group please email: [verityfifer.lhnt@gmail.com](mailto:verityfifer.lhnt@gmail.com) or telephone 684475.

**Verity Fifer**

### Tess swims for Mind

Chipping Norton's Tess Biles duly completed the arduous challenge of covering the distance of a cross-Channel swim, with all her sponsorship money going to mental health charity Mind. She told the News, 'My initial target was £250, however I received my final total in January and it revealed the staggering total of £1,185.80! I couldn't believe it; I am so overwhelmed by everyone's support. So I want to say thank you to everyone who donated, and to those who encouraged me through the grueling process. It was well worth it! The charity does wonderful work and it will no doubt go to amazing use. So thank you!' Well swum Tess.



### Promoting Chippy to tourists

Everyone is aware that the Cotswolds have long been a popular tourist destination for home and overseas visitors but it appears interest in our nearby area is increasing from statistics gathered by the Oxfordshire Cotswolds website in the past year. The annual number of visits to the site, which largely covers West Oxfordshire, has almost doubled to over 370,000. Various recent improvements guide internet browsers to the different towns and villages, the accommodation on offer, places of historical interest, restaurants, theatres, etc. It is a reflection of the times when most people planning holidays make the internet their first port of call to gather information. There are national and international sites devoted to hotels, restaurants, etc, so it seems essential that if we are to compete for business, Chipping Norton must be seen in as wide a context as possible, to promote its tourist potential. In January MP David Cameron was at an event in Eynsham promoting 'inbound tourism' for our local area. Around 70 representatives from local businesses and attractions, and regional and national organisations were there. Did anyone from Chipping Norton go? Write to the News and tell us about it.

### Record for Cancer fundraising

During the past year our local fundraising group for Cancer Research UK has raised over £22,000 from our events and, more sadly, from In Memoriam donations. Our major events included a Dance Miscellany evening, Auction of Promises and an Alternative Race for Life. Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported us. Great strides have been made in conquering cancer but we are acutely aware that much remains to be done and funding is still important. Of course

## LOCAL NEWS

this does not happen by accident and volunteer helpers are always very welcome. We were very pleased that three people came forward at the Town Hall Organisations Day on 24 January. If anyone is interested in what we do and would like more information please contact me on 645134.

**Graham Raven**

### The sun & moon for breakfast



*Sorry – this photo of a total eclipse over Stonehenge was the nearest we could get to an 86% eclipse near the Rollright Stones ...*

Where were you in August 1999? Maybe up at the Rollright Stones with water in a saucepan. Did you experience the solar eclipse:

the strangeness of the sun being blotted out and the warm summer's day suddenly turning cold? A similar eclipse of the Sun will take place in just a few weeks' time – on Friday 20 March. Solar eclipses happen when

the Sun, Moon and the Earth are briefly aligned. As this happens, the Moon can be seen slowly moving across the Sun, blocking out its light as it does so. The word eclipse comes from *ekleipsis*, an ancient Greek word for abandonment. Temperatures drop and birds and animals often go quiet. Although on this occasion you will need to travel to Svalbard or the Faroe Islands to see the sun totally eclipsed, an 86% partial eclipse will be visible in Chipping Norton, provided skies are clear enough! This astronomical phenomenon will begin at 8.30am and last for about two hours with the largest part of the sun obscured at 9.33am. The CN Amateur Astronomy Group will be outside Jaffé & Neale in the town centre at breakfast time and are hoping to see many others out to witness it also as it will be the last such eclipse visible in Britain in most of our lifetimes – the next one won't be until 2090. But remember, looking at the Sun directly can cause eye damage so wear eclipse glasses or project an image of the Sun with a pinhole projector (instructions can be found online). See also CNAAG club report on p25.

### Petition to protect countryside

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Oxfordshire and ROAR – the Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally – are petitioning Secretary of State Eric Pickles and local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire from unsustainable development. They say that current planning rules are unfairly penalising particular villages and greenfield sites, a situation which is likely to get worse with the proposed 40% increase in housing in Oxfordshire by 2031. Helena Whall from Protect Rural Oxfordshire said, 'Developers are frequently bringing forward large and inappropriate developments that threaten to swamp existing communities and infrastructure. Unless we stand together, the rural nature and beautiful countryside of Oxfordshire will be at risk. By signing our e-petition you can help us to persuade our local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire. You can sign at <http://chn.ge/1IjvYUA>.

### Town Hall Harp Concert

Professional harpist Zanna Evans (pictured) will be giving a concert in aid of the Rafiki Thabo Foundation, in association with the Chipping Norton Music Festival, at 8pm on Saturday 7 March in the Town Hall. This is 'an informal evening of inspired harp music, journeying from classical harp to contemporary jazz with a Latin twist.' Zanna has performed at venues including the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and Rio de Janeiro's opera house. She is passionate about exploring the versatility of the harp and has recently returned to the UK having studied Brazilian popular music in Rio. While there, she recorded her debut album, *Dreams Rising*. The Rafiki Thabo Foundation is a local charity that aims to enable young people in Africa to access education and fulfill their dreams. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door – available from Jaffé & Neale Bookshop or Janet ([janet@rafiki-foundation.org.uk](mailto:janet@rafiki-foundation.org.uk); tel 659269).



### Screen by the Green

This month's movie at Churchill & Sarsden Village Hall is *The One Hundred Foot Journey*, cert PG on Friday 13 March – An Indian family move to Europe after their restaurant in Mumbai is destroyed, and end up by chance in an idyllic village in the south of France. Papa, the patriarch opens his family Indian restaurant but opposite the Michelin-starred restaurant run by the imperious Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren). Food and culture wars with romance break out. A little in the style of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* this is 'a delight that will please all the senses, especially if you like food'. This is a film and supper evening – why not join other film lovers at The Chequers: a special £15 film menu will be offered, main course at 6pm, dessert after the film – to book ring Jackie on 659903 or email [screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com](mailto:screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com) – booking essential! All films start at 7.30: £4.50 pay on the door.

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## Latest on recreation facilities

Chipping Norton Town Council are progressing with their plans to upgrade the Town's playgrounds. At the New Street Recreation Ground, the Council has got a commitment from the Penhurst developers to fund outside exercise equipment suitable for most age groups. Discussions are taking place with suppliers and with Field Reeves (the landlords) to agree a suitable area. Councillors are also discussing with the developers for a water tap and electric power to be supplied to the area to facilitate power washing equipment. Recently installed rubber matting may be extended. At the Cornish Road Recreation Ground, the climbing wall has been replaced and a new slide will be delivered and installed. The slide is being funded by the Hailcorns Tenants Association. Some refurbishment is also planned at the Cotswold Crescent Recreation area. There are no immediate plans for the Walterbush Road Recreation Ground as the Chadlington Downs developers may fund a new recreation ground behind the new football club.



*Could a skate park at Greystones look like this?*

Finally the proposed skate park at Greystones is still under discussion. It would be an expensive undertaking with funding having to come from various sources. The Rotary Club are generously giving some of the funds from their Race Night and proceeds from the Fundraising Ball on 18 April will help. Some local contactors may be prepared to help with the groundworks. The Mayor has made it clear that the young people who are agitating to have this expensive facility should raise some money themselves. The Town Council may also ask for money from the Chadlington Downs developers (see next article).

## How to spend community cash

To fund a new skateboard park Chipping Norton Town Council may also ask for a share of the 'section 106 agreement' money for community infrastructure expected from the large 200+ house development at Chadlington Downs next to Walterbush Road and the Football ground. February's Town Council meeting was told that the total '106' could be around £230,000.

The County Council will also expect a large share – some of which might go towards safer pedestrian access to Greystones. The criteria for deciding the best use of '106' money are not always apparent to the public. In this situation other competing uses – for example public transport to the other end of town including the new health centre, other highways use, schools or library facilities might also have a case to put in a bid for some of this 106 cash. What do readers think?

## Join the Chippy Road Runners



If your New Year resolution was to get fitter or healthier (and we're ignoring the fact that you've already had a month to do so!), Chippy's Jason Shurmer has set up a running group in town, for anyone who wants to

run – all ages, genders, abilities welcome! The Chippy Road Runners meet on the Town Hall steps every Sunday at 10am, and anyone can suggest a route for the group to run. Jason told the News, 'We all have a plod along a four to five mile route, usually splitting into little groups depending on our ability. There are about 11 to 15 of us most weeks and we're expanding each time, through word of mouth and Facebook. We're a jolly bunch and do not take it seriously – it was my intention just to motivate people who like to have a run and don't necessarily want to go alone.' If you'd like to join in, turn up on Sunday, or find out more on the group's Facebook page called The-chippy-road-runners.

## 50 plans and counting

Chipping Norton based planning business, RCOH, is celebrating the sixth neighbourhood plan it has supported passing its referendum at Rustington on the Sussex coast. It means that it has supported 1 in 8 of all plans that have made it through the system in England and as many as one quarter of plans using paid-for professional help. The consulting firm, based at the Stone House Business Centre in town, has just started its 50th plan project in Blandford Forum, Dorset, and has supported the first three Community Right to Build Orders to be made for two housing schemes and a new community centre. Its Planning Director and local resident, Neil Homer, says, 'The demand from town and parish councils

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# LOCAL NEWS

across the south for our professional planning and architecture services is continuing to grow as more plans pass referenda. Some plans are making a real difference to how significant planning decisions are made, especially where there is no up-to-date Local Plan or adequate five year housing supply. We are now recruiting for more planners to join our team based here in Chippy and in London.' Contact [neil.homer@gmail.com](mailto:neil.homer@gmail.com)

## Artistic facelift at Wild Thyme



It's now been six years since Sally and Nick Pullen opened Wild Thyme Restaurant with Rooms in Chipping Norton's New Street with a good reputation for serving locally sourced, award winning food. The latest news is that local artist, Pam Franklin ([www.pamfranklin.co.uk](http://www.pamfranklin.co.uk)), has created a series of limited edition,



hand finished prints for the restaurant which showcases Pam's new areas of work. Based at the Potato Town Studios in Swerford, Pam is an established artist who has exhibited both locally and in London, with her paintings having been purchased for private collections all over the world. For this new collection Pam wanted a local venue and has chosen a theme linked to the restaurant and to the name 'Wild Thyme'. Using a 10<sup>th</sup> Century charm titled the 'Nine Herbs Charm', Pam has used associations with herbs to build up these pieces of work. Working with Pam, Sally has taken the opportunity to give the restaurant a facelift with a fresh new look whilst showcasing Pam's work. Pam's artwork will be on display at the restaurant from Tuesday 3 March. (Contact Wild Thyme on 645060).

## Library joins LitFest

'People who read regularly for pleasure have greater levels of self-esteem, are less stressed, and can cope better with difficult situations, new research for Galaxy Quick Reads has found.' So says a recent report in the Bookseller. What a great incentive to get back to a Good Read these coming months. We have a great collection of books entitled Books on Prescription currently at the library to help prove that you can Read yourself Well. And just published are this year's set of Quick Read stories with such titles as Street cat Bob, and Paris for One by Jojo Moyes – all available at the Library. March also brings World Book Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> when all children get a £1 book voucher to spend on a book and then in April we have the Town's ChipLitFest when we all enter into the excitement of putting Chipping Norton back on the Literary map. Look out for the storytimes and workshop at the Library and author talks from far and wide.

**Judith Bucknall** Library Manager

## Jiving for Heroes

During 2015 Karen Biles is going to be running Saturday workshops at Glyme Hall to raise money for charity. The first session was a jive workshop, which raised £200 for Help for Heroes. Some of the upcoming workshops include adult ballet and ballroom dancing. If you have any workshop suggestions or if you would like to run a workshop please email Karen via her website [www.karenbilespt.co.uk](http://www.karenbilespt.co.uk).



## Katharine House update

It's still not too late for Chipping Norton supporters to organise a **Care for a Cuppa** fundraiser! You can organise a coffee morning or afternoon tea for Katharine House between 1 and 8 March. Call 01295 812161 to order your Care for a Cuppa fundraising pack. **The Katharine House Hospice Stall Sale** is 11am-2pm, on Saturday 14 March with donated items, bric-a-brac, books, toys, cakes and light refreshments so come along and browse for a bargain at the



## Special Event at Whichford Pottery

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# LOCAL NEWS

Institute, The Green, Adderbury. **The Black Dyke Brass Band** Concert is at St Mary's Church, Horsefair, Banbury on Saturday 28 March. Doors open at 7pm (concert start time 7.30pm) and tickets are £20 each. Book early by calling fundraising on the number above.

## History revealed at Guildhall



*Foreman Roger Compton of building contractors A C Nurden Ltd, putting the finishing touches to external render*

Refurbishment works at Chipping Norton's historical 15<sup>th</sup> century Guildhall have unearthed some interesting features. As well as improving the look of the building inside and out, the essential maintenance works have revealed glimpses into this medieval listed building's past. During the six-week refurbishment, specialist contractors replaced the rotting wooden sash windows, installed stone window sills, removed crumbling concrete render from

the external walls and replaced it with breathable lime render and carefully chipped away whitewashed render on internal walls to expose original stone bricks. The building has been repainted on the outside and entrance doors and surrounds refurbished. Whilst removing the render externally, a 'hidden' entrance was discovered and, inside the building, a beam set into a wall has been exposed along with an intriguing section of red bricks among stone.

Members of the Chipping Norton Buildings Record, who are working on a project with English Heritage which includes the Guildhall as an important historic building in the Town, have documented these findings. The Guildhall is usually thought to have been built around 1520 but there is now some suggestion that parts could be earlier than previously

supposed, possibly coinciding with the foundation of the Guild of the Holy Trinity in 1450. The Guildhall has been used by the District Council since 1974, houses the Town Council's own offices and now offers a 'one-stop shop' for District Council and Police services. The latest refurbishment, costing around £50,000, is almost complete, with future plans to install a glass viewing pane to give a view into the original basement space beneath the building.

## Dark Skies at Rollrights

The Rollright Stones have been awarded coveted Dark Sky Discovery status for the quality of the night skies. Dark Sky Discovery derives from a collaboration of several high profile astronomical organisations to provide a nationwide list of publicly accessible sites where the night sky can be viewed with high quality. The Rollright Stones now joins a growing number of sites where the public can enjoy stunning views of the stars. Resident astronomical society the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group



instigated the application which was fully supported by local landowners, the Rollright Trust, WODC, English Heritage and the AONB. They look forward to a great season of visitors to the monuments and some terrific stargazing nights. Find out more about CNAAG in Clubs News p25.

## New Care company in town

Goldsmith Personnel originally a London-based care company have relocated their Oxfordshire branch office from Bloxham to Chipping Norton with a view to expanding their services locally. The new offices are above the Oxfam bookshop at 6a Market Place in West Street. Goldsmith Personnel have been providing care for the elderly including those with dementia in Oxfordshire for a few years and serves both clients referred by the County Council and private clients wishing to purchase their own independent services direct. The service is available between 7am and 10pm daily and ranges from light domestic support to personal care and social care relief to clients and their families in need of relief from care, live-in care services are also available. Anybody looking for care services can call in at any time for an informal discussion.

Goldsmith Personnel have already made strong links in the community by working in partnership with the local District Nursing teams and the Mental Health Team and are well known to The Alzheimer's Society, local GP Surgeries, the Monday Club and many other local social clubs. To support its aim of taking on more clients, Goldsmiths are planning to recruit more staff, preferably with their own transport, to

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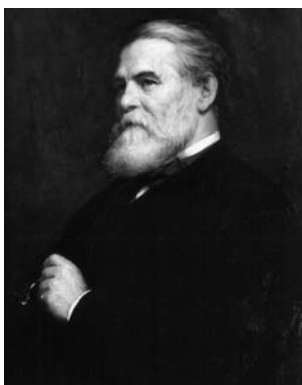
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**t: 07812 406827**

support people within their own homes. All new care staff will be provided with free induction training and additional training up to and including NVQ2/3, flexible working hours can be accommodated. For more information call 642064.

## Daylesford – a church in peril?



Anyone driving past Daylesford Organic may easily miss the Grade I listed St Peter's Church hidden in the trees. The Church was built in the 1860s for Harman Grisewood, a wealthy stockbroker who bought the estate later in 1885. The church, featured in Jenkin's '100 best churches' was designed by the great gothic revival architect John Pearson (pictured left) who designed Truro Cathedral.

The inside is described as a 'jewel box', especially when the sun shines, and there is a monument outside the east end to Warren Hastings, Governor General of India whose family had owned the estate on and off since the 12th century. But now St Peter's is potentially in peril. After active and popular use up to the 1980s, regular services ceased in 2001 and Daylesford parish joined with Kingham with their parish church St Edward's. Past moves involving the Churches Conservation Trust and an offer by a local resident to endow St Peter's church have foundered and without significant investment the building will gradually decay.

The Parochial Church Council has been trying to find a solution and there have also been moves to try and form a 'Friends of St Peter's'. Local Churchill resident Patrick Bucknell, who himself has been helping with the efforts, contacted the News about the situation. The main idea could be to transfer the church into a Trust for upkeep but there have been problems with rights of way as land was sold off by the Church Commissioners. The News spoke to the Rev David Salter, vicar of Churchill with Sarsden, Kingham and Daylesford (strangely Daylesford is in Gloucestershire but comes under the Diocese of Oxford) who said that negotiations to sort the situation were progressing and he was hopeful of a resolution so that work to preserve the church could be done. However, Patrick Bucknell said no timescale is known and he looks forward to news soon on how the ecclesiastical authorities are proceeding.

## Co-operation among co-ops

The Phone Co-op, Chipping Norton's national telecoms provider, has won the contract again to supply Midcounties Co-operative, the largest regional co-operative in the UK with over 450 stores including Chippy. The contract (the third won since it started supplying Midcounties in 2006) is through The Co-operative Business Telecoms part of The Phone Co-op. The service supports comms for all the phones, alarms, card capture machines, the teleconferencing in stores and offices across the region and the multiple lines at The Co-operative Energy call centre in Warwick. The company says this is a good example of the principle of co-operation among co-operatives, with strong shared values.

## Hospice's Rainbow Run

Helen and Douglas House are looking for Chipping Norton supporters to join this year's Rainbow Run in Oxford on 24 May to raise money for children, young adults and families who use the hospices. Runners, joggers and walkers will be showered from head-to-toe with colours of the rainbow at different points along the 3km course at Cutteslowe Park. The charity's first Rainbow Run in 2014 at University Parks, attracted around 600 people and raised over £30,000. This year, the Cutteslowe Park venue can take 1,500 runners so the organisers are hoping to raise around £70,000 that could pay for six weeks of specialist medical care in both hospice houses and to those children being supported at home. The event begins at 11am and registration opened on 11 February. Places cost £12 for children aged 13 and under and £17.50 for anyone 14 and over. For more information and to sign up visit

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# LOCAL NEWS

www.hdh.org.uk. In case anyone is worried the paint used is made from a safe and biodegradable form of potato starch.

## Addressing a Haggis!



What a great evening in the Parish Rooms in January as the Friends of St Mary's Church celebrated Burns Night along with many guests. There was much tartan in evidence (one gentleman in full Scottish regalia including sporran!) as the Piper welcomed in the Haggis, addressed by Jim Hopcraft of the Chequers in his own inimitable way (a man of many hidden talents and surely worth coming along next year if only to hear Jim!) The Cock-a-Leekie Soup, Haggis, Neeps and Tatties followed by Topsy Laird all went down very well, helped by suitable beverages. A Toast to the Lassies and a response from the Lassies all made the evening great fun. The Friends are really pleased to have raised over £700 towards maintenance of our glorious St Mary the Virgin Parish Church – known as 'the Cathedral of the Cotswolds'. Thanks to all those who came along.



*The Haggis addressed, the Lassies toasted and Neeps & Tatties duly consumed at FoSM's Burns Night*

We are particularly keen to support the current project for the long-awaited restoration of three fine chest tombs at St Mary's due for completion by summer of next year. This will involve relocating the Redrobe and Rickardes tombs in the recently enhanced area beside the chancel, which already contains the magnificent Croft tomb. Fundraising (which has included £5,000 from FoSM) is close to target but more is still needed. Donations can be made by visiting the Living Stones, Chipping Norton page on virginmoneygiving.com. Our Church will need work on the roof and so the Friends have planned a busy programme of fundraising for 2015. Two definite dates for your diaries are Saturday 15 August with Jigsaw Sound presenting a choral concert in Church and an opportunity for you to let your hair down on Saturday 17 October at a Barn Dance in the Town Hall. Summer will bring the Annual Garden Fete in the Old Vicarage Garden once again – more details in next month's News. For more information on how you can help the FoSM please contact Jo Graves on 643976.

**Jo Graves**

## Police and Crime Update

*This month's report from local press, WODC and police*

**New St flytipping conviction** After a crackdown by West Oxfordshire District Council, flytipping in Chipping Norton is getting punished. Chadlington resident Aaron Deakin-Harse was found guilty of dumping at New Street car park's Household Recycling site several bags of commercial waste which included oil filters and vehicle parts. He was given a curfew order, for 8 weeks, he will be fitted with an electronic tag and was also ordered to pay costs of £150 and a Victim Surcharge of £60. Chipping Norton resident Frank Curtis was charged with leaving 12 black sacks of household waste in a layby on the Churchill Road. Mr Curtis pleaded guilty and was fined £295. He was also ordered to pay £150 costs and a Victim Surcharge of £30.

**WHSmith break-in** Police appealed for witnesses after a burglary at 3.10am on Thursday 22 January at WHSmith in Chipping Norton High Street. Four masked offenders forced open the front door of the shop and stole cigarettes. They left the scene in a car – a Subaru Legacy or similar-looking vehicle. Police would like to hear from any witnesses or anyone who saw suspicious behaviour the day before. The burglary follows a similar incident at Sainsbury's last August when cigarettes were also stolen.

**Chadlington and Kingham raids** The weekend of 6/7 February also saw actual or attempted break-ins at Café de la Post in Chadlington, Kingham Village Stores in Church Street, Kingham, Wootton general stores and the Post Office in Glympton. Police said mainly cigarettes were taken, doors and windows were forced and the incidents may be linked. If you have any information please contact PC Taylor via Thames Valley Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

**More police complaints** Thames Valley Police say that complaints against the police rose from 954 to 1043 last year – up 9%. This was less than the 15% rise across the whole country. More than half were investigated with 174 upheld. Another third were closed after resolution and the rest withdrawn or dropped.

To contact police including the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood team call 101.



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# PROMOTING CHIPPING NORTON



## Your Town Needs You ... Can You Help it Grow?

**Experience Chipping Norton, was set up by a team of Chipping Norton business people to help promote the Town – with initial funding from the Government's town centre initiative led by Mary Portas. After last month's very well attended Town Hall meeting with the mayor and MP David Cameron, ECN is on the hunt for local Ambassadors willing to offer their time and expertise to help their important town project. ECN's Shaun Fagan sent this to the News:**

Prime Minister David Cameron has congratulated ECN on their work to help propel his home town into a prosperous and rewarding future – visit the ECN website for the full video of his 23 January Town Hall appearance. But visions need sheer hard work to become a reality. Following a great start, the team at ECN need volunteers with skills and experience in particular in event and meeting organisation, marketing, communication, project management and administrative support.

### So what exactly is ECN?

ECN aims to embody every element of Chipping Norton – the traders, shoppers, parents, community groups and tourists who live in or visit this buzzing market town. We want to see businesses and residents coming together to support this venture, which in turn will support them. How? Through a website packed with news and information, skilful use of social media reaching into every branch of modern life, innovative networking and educational opportunities for business owners, and a central body linking young and old, businesses and charities, entrepreneurs and not-for-profit groups, festival organisers and festival goers.

The ECN website aims to be the 'go-to' place for information about local businesses and events, our range of festivals, places to eat, drink, stay and be entertained, school news, community and charity events. It is also the place for a terrific read about the characters who make our town so fascinating.

### It's everybody's business

It all starts with business. Celebrating the biggest turnout of business people he had ever seen in Chippy, Mr Cameron talked on a personal level to those who packed the Town Hall at ECN's civic event. 'I can't tell you how great it is to be in my own home town with the business men and women who make this such a fantastically vibrant place to live', he said, 'this is a great place to live and to shop, and I say that because I live here, I shop here and I love it here. And we all know that Chipping Norton has even more potential than has been achieved so far.'

Trade, tourism and community are the three pillars of the ECN concept, Chairman Patrick Neale said, 'While other towns have concentrated on just networking or promotion of tourism, ECN intends to promote Chippy as a forward-looking and supportive place to do business, a fantastic place to visit as a tourist; and a welcoming and healthy place to live, work and raise a family. As the concept grows, each of these groups will start to support each other, with all sorts of links developing between the three. We see ECN as expanding along with the Town, having endless potential for new ideas.'

### The start of something really big

ECN has much to offer local business people. Beyond the website and far-reaching social media, we provide lively business network opportunities, and a range of speakers, workshops and courses to connect new or less experienced traders with people who can help them. For instance, Nicola Horlick, CEO of Money & Co, recently spoke to local traders about alternative investment for growing business, which was invaluable knowledge.

Patrick Neale adds, 'ECN enjoys the full support of the Mayor, Town, District and County Councils, and it's vital we

build on the great momentum generated by David Cameron's call to arms. That's why we'd love to hear from anyone who can give us genuine help in reaching our goal.' Perhaps the final word should go to Mr Cameron, who gave a rallying cry to a town he desperately wants to see prosper. 'So that's the challenge. You've got a great group of people putting their effort into ECN. If everyone gets involved, helps promote and fund it, this could be the start of something really big.'

If you feel you can help the ECN team, please make contact via [www.experiencechippingnorton.com](http://www.experiencechippingnorton.com) or by email [info@experiencechippingnorton.com](mailto:info@experiencechippingnorton.com)

**Shaun Fagan** Experience Chipping Norton

*ECN is currently an unincorporated association with a committee and with membership free to all local organisations. A paid model may be introduced in due course*



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# THE ARTS

## Town Festivals

### Chipping Norton Music Festival



The Chipping Norton Music Festival is non-competitive and part of its aims is to give participants the opportunity to perform in front of an audience and have help improving their technical and performance techniques. They all receive helpful tips and encouragement from highly qualified professional adjudicators.

Over its 103 years, the Festival has evolved from a choral music festival to one that includes a vast range of solo and instrumental classes. Additions in the last 10 years include Speech & Drama, Folk, and the Youth Jazz Band Challenge (in association with the Rotary Club of Chipping Norton).

Throughout the Festival, classes are held most days in the Town Hall where anyone can attend. Listening and watching the performances and adjudications is really enjoyable; you will find the enthusiasm of the participants catching. This year there are record choir entries in both the Junior & Senior classes with over 700 singers involved! All in all, there will be over 100 classes of assorted categories which will include strings, woodwind and brass, piano, singing and composition through to verse-speaking and drama for all ages, individuals and groups.

Here is a brief summary of the classes and workshops, all held in the Town Hall unless otherwise stated:

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Jazz Challenge – Chipping Norton School  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> am – Junior choirs – Chipping Norton School  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> pm – Senior Choirs – Town Hall  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – Classical guitar classes and Master Class, adjudicated by Craig Ogden, world internationally famous guitarist  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Folk Music  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Ensembles, Family class and Strings  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Piano  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – Piano  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Woodwind and brass  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Year 5 Singing workshop, led by Peter Hunt, with children from local schools – Chipping Norton School  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Speech and Drama  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Senior Vocal classes and Master Class  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> – Junior Vocal  
Audience Tickets at the door: £1.50 per day or £5 to all classes. Visit [www.cnmf.org.uk](http://www.cnmf.org.uk) for tickets, times and more information, including details of the Festival's main concerts. Tickets also from Jaffé & Neale.

### ChipLitFest 2015

Two additions to the Festival Programme have been announced: TV and film scriptwriter Jesse Armstrong (*Peep Show*, *The Thick of It*), 8pm, Friday 24 April; Comedian David Baddiel, 4pm, Sunday 26 April. Both events at The Theatre. Phone 642350 for tickets. More on the Festival 22-26 April next month. Details [chiplitfest.com](http://chiplitfest.com)



## Fibre Festival

Though still a little way off, the Fibre Festival on 23 May has a special guest: the world renowned textile artist Kaffe Fassett. A master of colour who combines different shades to create beautiful patterns and textures in patchwork, needlepoint, knitting and mosaic, Fassett's textiles have been exhibited all over the world and his books of designs have inspired many quilters and knitters. Tickets for his lecture *Glorious Colour* are going fast, and early booking is recommended. For more details visit [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com) or call the Box Office on 642350. More details on the Festival nearer the time.



## The Theatre

### New production

It's 30 years since *My Mother Said I Never Should* was



Photo: Stu Allsopp

*Sue McCormick and Zara Ramm in rehearsal for The Theatre's new production of My Mother Said I Never Should*

written by Charlotte Keatley. It has since been voted one of the 100 greatest plays of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is now an A-level set text. It's on now at The Theatre Chipping Norton in a new production directed by John Terry which will make audience members see the auditorium in a completely new way.

The play charts the everyday lives of four generations of women from childhood into old age. With its four strong roles, it's regarded as a great play for actresses. For The Theatre's production Charlotte Croft, Jessica Guise, Sue McCormick, and Zara Ramm take on the parts. As an illustration of the scope and ambition of the play, Sue says of her character: 'Doris goes from five to 87 years old. She lives through joys, sorrows, frustrations, disappointments and grief to a contented old age.'

Since its first performance at the Contact Theatre, Manchester, the play has traditionally been performed in-the-round. The actresses are aware of the unique challenge that this presents. Sue again: 'Acting in-the-round is freer and more natural... The challenge is to make sure that every audience member gets a fair share of focus, energy and emotion.' Designer Alex Berry concurs. She has the challenge, along with director John Terry, of creating a stripped-back space for the performers. 'Chipping Norton Theatre in the round is a wonderful space, and the intimacy of the set-up will lend a

# THE ARTS

real immediacy to the action, so approaching the design we knew needed to not obstruct that in any way ... Costume has been an enormous help in solving the design and taking the weight out of it, as it is our only constant indicator of time and place. It is a remarkably powerful tool and very easy to read, so if you get lost just look out for the mohair jumpers.'

The production is on at The Theatre until 11 March. Book online ([www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com)) or from the Box Office (Tel: 642350). There'll be a free post-show discussion on Tuesday 3 March.

## Award-winning films

The Theatre's film programme continues in March with a number of Bafta and Oscar-winning films worth catching.

Friday 13 March sees Michael Keaton's Oscar-nominated performance in the darkly comic and inventive **Birdman**. Keaton plays an over-the-hill film actor trying to regain respectability by mounting a Broadway play. On Sunday 22



*David Oyelowo – a memorable Martin Luther King Jr in Selma*

March, **Selma**, largely ignored by the Academy Awards except in the important category of Best Picture, tells the story of Martin Luther King Jr's historic 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery to demand voting

rights. British actor David Oyelowo is a memorable Dr King, and the film is bolstered by a number of other fantastic British actors. Multi award-winning Eddie Redmayne is Stephen Hawking and Felicity Jones is his wife in **The Theory of Everything**, which returns on the morning of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> for a Cinema Bambino screening – parent and babes film club. Check availability for these films with the Box Office.

## Take Part

The Chipping Norton Singers' Showcase, which also featured five members of the Creative Writers' Group, gave a terrific performance on 9 February to a large and appreciative audience at The Theatre. Singing songs which ranged from a sea shanty to a traditional Zulu number, a Scottish fishing song to the Beatles and the Beach Boys, the harmonies and timing of the 45-strong unaccompanied choir were quite remarkable. Bearing in mind they have only just celebrated their first anniversary, musical director Cat Kelly is to be applauded for her achievement. If you love to sing, all are welcome. That is what Take Part is all about.

Catherine Evans, Jo Huckvale, Mike Kilbane, Eve Smith and Ann Wooby represented the Creative Writers' Group and read their own work or that of other members. This comprised some hilariously clever poems, short stories and a very amusing final piece entitled A Local Celebrity's Take On Creative Writing Classes. It poured blistering scorn on the supposedly earnest amateur pedants who agonise over every word, nay every letter, while the true writer just gets on with it. Hah! Which 'Local Celebrity' one wonders?

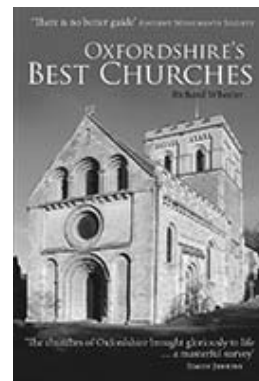
For more information on Take Part contact Anne Gill on 649102 or email [anne@chippingnortontheatre.com](mailto:anne@chippingnortontheatre.com)

## Makaton signing for babies

This course is designed to encourage the development of communication and language skills for babies and toddlers from 6-18 months. Children and their carers will learn approximately 100 signs and symbols using songs, games and activities. Six sessions beginning 27 April, 10-11am. £60 but bursaries may be available. Booking open until 2 April via the Theatre Box Office: 642350 More information is on the Take Part section of the Theatre website.

## Spring Reading

**Oxfordshire's Best Churches** out in paperback. Oxfordshire has some of the finest, most diverse and historically important churches in the country. This guide by Richard Wheeler, illustrated with 340 colour photographs, explores 116 of the county's churches, their art and architecture, stonework and woodwork, stained glass and wall paintings. Priced at £15.99, it will be out on 17 April, published by Fircone Books and available from Jaffé & Neale.



## Other events

**Charlbury Art Society** Illustrated talk from Ken Wise on Leonardo's Anatomy at the Memorial Hall, Charlbury. 11 March, 7.30pm. New members welcome: £3 at the door.

**The Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society's** lecture this month is Duccio's Maesta and the Arts of Siena. The speaker is Alice Foster. This is a change from the printed programme. 11 March, 11am preceded by the AGM at 10.30. Bradwell Village Hall, Burford. Non-members welcome, no need to book (suggested donation £8). For more details see website [www.cotswolddfas.org.uk](http://www.cotswolddfas.org.uk)

**Chipping Norton Choral Society** and the Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra will be performing Elgar's **The Dream of Gerontius**. Conducted by Peter Hunt. Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Banbury. Tickets £13 from Jaffé & Neale (under 14s free). Call 07836 518868 or email [tickets@cncs.org.uk](mailto:tickets@cncs.org.uk)



**Ai Weiwei at Blenheim Palace** This immensely popular contemporary art exhibition is now extended until 30 April. More than 50 artworks are on display in the Palace and formal gardens as part of of the

new Blenheim Art Foundation launched last autumn, which brings an exciting new programme of contemporary art by leading international artists to the Palace.

**The Oxfordshire Museum**, Woodstock Saturday talks this month, for International Women's Day include: 7 March: Women's lives in Britain 1900-1950 – Radical changes or the same old oppressions? with Cathy Hunt. 21 March: Fashion on the Ration with Julie Summers. 28 March: Beachwear & Bikinis 1920-1960 with Alison Carter. All talks are at 3pm. Tickets £7 available from the Museum (Tel: 01993 814106).

## 2015 Sports Awards

On 21 February an enthusiastic audience at Chipping Norton Town Hall Mayor Mike Tysoe present the Town's 2015 Sports Awards. The event was professionally hosted by organiser (and News sports editor) Graham Beacham who commented on excellent nominations from many sports active in the Town. In a special guest speech Tracey Shadbolt reported back on this year's success of the whole Skater Hockey Club winning the national championship and with her were the Club's World and European Championship representatives. Awards were as follows:



### Individual sportsperson:

- 18+ Winner - Ryan Shadbolt, Skater Hockey
- 11-17 Joint Winners - Matilda Donaghy, Athletics (1)  
& Danny Molyneux, Cricket (2)
- U11 Winner - Leah Notman, Horse Riding (3)
- U11 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Max Miles, Motor Cross



### Special Olympic Legacy Gold Medal

sponsored by the Leisure Centre to Seymour Mincer (4) for all his work with Chadlington Whites football .

### Team awards

- U18 Winner - C/N School U16 Boys Rugby Team
- U18 2nd Place - C/N School U14 Girls Hockey Team (5)
- U18 3rd Place - C/N School U13 Girls Indoor Cricket Team

### Club Award to C/N Skater Hockey Club (6)

### Certificates for their contribution to local sport:

- Di Wooley – Holy Trinity R C School
- Jo Phillips – C/N School Partnership
- Tym Soper – Football
- Vincent Murphy – Rugby
- Lorraine Willoughby – Swimming



The Mayor, in a short speech, talked about the Council's plans for a skateboard park and encouraged all to help with fundraising. Particular thanks must go to main award judges, Vincent Murphy, Lorraine Willoughby and Tym Soper, organiser Graham Beacham, the Town Clerk's office, Cllr Sue Bartholomew and daughter Jessica (who organised the bar) and all who helped with the event.

*staff art & craft exhibition*

Chipping Norton School

We are planning a staff Art & Craft exhibition to be held in the Spring in school. The Exhibition will include; Painting, Drawing, Ceramics, Sculpture, Knitting, Writing, Music, Mixed Media and Photography. It will be held in the Art Department Gallery area from Friday 13th until Friday 27th March during school hours. All welcome!

Private View will be on Friday 13th March. Look out for Invitations and posters coming soon!

**Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society**  
Presents  
**RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S CAROUSEL**  
at The Theatre Chipping Norton

Songs include:- "If I Loved You", "Mister Snow", "June is busting out all over", "You'll never walk alone"

Thurs 16th – Sat 18th April 7.30pm & Sat 18th April, 2.30pm

Tickets £12.50, matinee £10.50 conc (incl £1 booking fee)

Tickets from The Box Office 01608 642350

Music by RICHARD RODGERS, Books & Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

An amateur production by arrangement with R&H Theatricals Europe

# SPORTS NEWS

## Chippy Trixsters are British Champions



**Annual Review:** Chipping Norton Skater Hockey Club began the season last February with two teams at Peewee age, two in Youth and a Senior squad. We had an excellent year with our Peewee B team playing their 1st season of really good development hockey. Our Peewee A team won every game of the season to finish top of the Southern Area Skater Hockey league, earning them a place at the National Championship Tournament. Our Youth B team also played excellent hockey with Youth A team placed 3rd, the highest position yet for our youth squad. Seniors went out to play good fun hockey attracting new players. Dream Team Awards went to Devon Shadbolt and Brett Massey.

During the summer Devon Shadbolt, Brett Massey and Jake Williams joined Team GB in The Junior Olympics winning a bronze medal and a silver medal in the World Championships, in Las Vegas.

The National Championships were held in Rotherham in November. We won all our 10 games which put us in the final against Medway Assassins. After the first half Medway were 1 goal up. The Trixsters never gave up and with four minutes to go Devon Shadbolt scored 2 goals, to put us 2-1 up. The crowd went mad, the roof lifting. With 68 seconds to go Leo Hughes scored our third. With the parents counting down from 10 we knew that Chippy Trixsters were the National and British Champions 2014. What an amazing achievement after only four years of the Club's existence. This won us our place at the European Championships, which take place in Delemont, Switzerland, in August. Dream Team Awards went to Brett Massey (net minder) Aidan Hughes, and Devon Shadbolt also Top Goal scorer.

Well done to Leo Hughes for being selected for Super League U10s and Team GB, Aidan Hughes for Super League U12s and Team GB and Devon Shadbolt for Super League and Team GB. They will be representing Britain in California in July. Jake Williams has also been selected for Super League

Club awards for 2014 ~ Players' players: Nicole Jeffries, Devon Shadbolt, Aidan Hughes, Harvey Lewis and Ollie Aldsworth. Parents' players: Jake Mckilroy, Devon Shadbolt, Aidan Hughes, Harvey Lewis. Most improved: Nicole Jeffries, Ben O'conner, Amelia Roberts, Harvey Lewis.



If anybody is interested in sponsoring the Team to go to the European Champions or for the Team GB Boys to go to California please contact [david.shadbolt694@btinternet.com](mailto:david.shadbolt694@btinternet.com) – any amount, little or large, will help towards these exciting events. Thanks to all players and parents for all their support and here's hoping for a successful year in 2015.

Tracey Shadbolt



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## 4 Shires Swimming Club

Another great month. We have two County Champions so far this year – fantastic performances from Felicity Darwent and Ellie Lawrence both of whom became Oxon and North Bucks County Champions for their age group (50 backstroke). Also, Rebecca Hoadley, our Ladies Club Champion, has become the first 4 Shires swimmer to qualify and compete in the South East Region Winter Championships. Felicity Darwent has become our first swimmer to qualify and compete in the South Zonal Championships.

The club goes from strength to strength and this month we have had 14 new members join us. Finally congratulations go to Oliver Crabtree who is our Swimmer of the Month.

Louise Berry

## Squash at the Leisure Centre

Top scoring players in the leagues for January: League 1 Nigel Hill, League 2 Dan Stafford, League 3 James Rowe, League 4 Mark Nicholson, League 5 Laurence Berman, League 6 David Fenton, League 7 Matthew Blacker, League 8 Geoffrey Finlay. For more information about Squash at the Leisure Centre or to book a court call 644412.

# SPORTS NEWS

## Chipping Norton Bowls Club

If you are thinking of taking up bowls as a hobby, now is a good time to begin in the comfort of our indoor facilities and



before the start of the Outdoor Season in April. At the moment Chipping Norton Indoor Bowls Club runs bowls coaching every Monday morning from 10am-12 noon. We can supply equipment to get you started. You can find us at Greystones on the Burford Road beside the Rugby Club where you can be assured of a warm welcome and the chance to make new friends. For more information please contact: Bill Jarvie 643556 or Mike Harris 658201.

John Bowlt

## Chipping Norton Cricket Club

**Indoor Season:** The indoor season has now come to an end. CNDCC won 50% of their games and finished in a respectable mid table position. Ian Widdows scored the most runs, with 139 averaging 34. Jim McGeown topped the wicket takers with 6. Thank you to all who played in the indoor season.

**2015 Season:** The 2015 season is approaching – the fixtures are out and pre-season nets are on Fridays, 8.30-9.30pm at Sibford School, OX15 5QL. Due to work commitments Sam Evans has stepped down as 1st team vice-captain to be replaced by opening batsman Mark Usher. Congratulations to four of our Youth Players – Lottie Oxton and Gaby Heath who are now in the girls U11's County Squad and Morgan Stevens U14's and Jamie King U16/17 who have been accepted into the boys' 2015 County Development Squads. Well done all.

**Interested In Cricket?** CNDCC always welcomes new players, we pride ourselves on a great atmosphere with talented teams/players. The introduction and success of a

youth setup is also driving the club forward. After the rise in recent years the next few seasons could be even better though the friendly/family feel is not lost. With membership fees for the 2015 season – at only £30 it is well worth joining. All ages and abilities are welcome, and all will get an opportunity. If you are interested in joining this success story please contact any of the below:

Ian Widdows (1st XI Captain) – 07795 100952

Sam Townsend (2nd XI Captain) – 07929 213422

Sam King (Sunday XI Captain) – 07429 038395

Visit [www.cndcc.co.uk](http://www.cndcc.co.uk) for the latest news and articles.

Sam Evans

## Football

**Chippy Swifts:** Latest League positions to date: First XI: Fourth. Second XI: Fourth. Under 14's: Second.

### U13s Football:

Chadlington Whites U13s (pictured) took on Chipping Norton Town Swifts U13s in a League match which ended in a 2-all draw on 8 February. Seymour Mincer and Drew Duncan of Chad



Whites sent the following report: 'A cracking match played in great spirit with both teams combating a stubborn pitch to secure a just reward for their efforts. At the final whistle, honours remained even and in truth the match could have gone either way due to determined attacking football from Chad and The Swifts. Well done to both teams. Many thanks to the Referee, Mike for running the line, Tom for the orange slices and great spectator support.'

**Old Boys:** We're desperate for a keeper as Kevin Perrott is now out for the rest of the season after getting injured whilst refereeing. We are also looking for a manager and secretary either players or non-players.

Upcoming home fixtures in March are: 5<sup>th</sup> v Royals at home and 12<sup>th</sup> v OCC 2nds – Thursdays 7.45pm kick off.

John Daly

## Chipping Norton Rugby Club

On Sunday 19 April, Chipping Norton Rugby Club are hosting the Oxfordshire U11 & U12's Rugby Festival and are looking to local businesses to support the event and help us raise vital funds for our club. The event will see teams competing from all over Oxfordshire with 2500-3000 people at the club during the day.

**Raffle Draw:** The raffle could be a major fundraiser for the club. We have obtained a licence to sell tickets in advance to optimise ticket sales. Currently we need prizes – if you, your employer/company can help with a raffle prize please email Lorna, [rugbylorna@btinternet.com](mailto:rugbylorna@btinternet.com)

**Sponsorship:** We will be producing a full colour programme and are keen to offer the advertisements to local businesses first. Half page advert £60, full page £100. There are also other opportunities to sponsor the events, balls, tuck shop, trophies, pitch markers etc

For more details, or to register an interest please contact Steve Kelly, [skelly1966@hotmail.com](mailto:skelly1966@hotmail.com)



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# CLUB NEWS

## Yacht Club hear tall stories

The January AGM was well attended. With sandwiches and a glass of something 'on the house' we plane sailed through official business, heard Commodore and Treasurer reports, were given an outline of 2015 plans, and discussed the Club's future direction. Topics included training, crewing service, Members' directory, gatherings on the water, the balance of internal/external speakers, and the Cotswold Club as our continuing principal venue.



Jonathan Smith gave a colourful presentation on tall ships and their sailors, including one local man whom he quoted: 'Witney is a very quiet place, what a great difference one sees out here in San Francisco, where all is life, pleasure and excitement, to the quiet ways of our country town'. To us modern sailors the rigs and cordage of these topsail schooners, ships, brigantines, barquentines, etc are awesome. Apparently one, the Stavros S Niarchos (pictured), is on the market but our Treasurer was unresponsive.

Roger Backhaus then talked with equal enthusiasm about his kind of sailing – on a small long-keeled wooden boat, which he keeps and sails in the Netherlands. The simple classic unstayed lug yawl rig is better than anything else (he assured us) and the Zeeland waters are perfect for him and for this shoal-draft boat. These waters are a largely protected playground, established under the mammoth Delta Plan by the Dutch, after the disastrous 1953 flood.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 25 March we welcome Paul Fisher, one of the UK's leading designers of small boats (including Roger B's).

Visit [www.cnyoc.org.uk](http://www.cnyoc.org.uk) for details and to book.

Roger Backhaus

## MS – What can we do in Chippy?

I would like to put on some events or run some therapies in Chipping Norton. Let me know what you would like to see or you could help organise. The events could be social, information giving, or for fundraising, or any combination. Exercise is of great benefit to those with Multiple Sclerosis and using a trained instructor is a great way to provide it and ensure participants do not exceed their personal limitations. These therapies could be Pilates, physiotherapy, reflexology, massage or similar. I am hopeful that yoga sessions could start in early May – would this be useful to you if you are affected by MS? Please let me know! Contact details: West Oxon branch [www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire](http://www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire) Helplines: Local 0800 917 9790, National 0800 800 8000

For younger (20-45ish) group: [mssy.oxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:mssy.oxfordshire@gmail.com)  
My contact details are as follows: Tel: 01608 645988 or you can e-mail me – [westoxfordshire@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:westoxfordshire@mssociety.org.uk)  
Peter Branson

## Poetry pleases CNWI

An eloquent programme of poetry chosen by Margaret and Christopher Bond was introduced to Chipping Norton Women's Institute at their meeting on 11 February. Arranged around the theme of love and marriage their rich and varied selections contained verse both humorous and thought-provoking, ranging from the classic to the comical and the serious to the sentimental. Thanks to Margaret and Christopher, this was an excellent and enjoyable presentation which held the attention of their audience throughout.

At our annual meeting on 11 March a review of the past year's events and activities takes place and plans will be made for 2015-2016. Several members are to attend the OFWI Annual Council Meeting in Oxford on 24 March and we also look forward to hosting the next gathering of the Norton group in April. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us in the lower town hall on the second Wednesday of the month.

Prudence Chard 642903

## Lions Club for fun & fundraising

Our main event in March is the Prize Bingo evening on the 27<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall – doors open 7pm – eyes down 7.30. Please support us. Profits from this will go towards maintaining the four Defibrillators, the disability mobility scooters and to other local causes. Easter Eggs Raffles are now on sale in various Public Houses and shops. Our grateful thanks go to World of Color Cotswolds Ltd, for their help in printing the cards.

As the fourth Defibrillator is now in place we plan to hold two free Awareness Courses on Wednesday 11 March at 7.30pm and on Friday 10 April at the Crown & Cushion Hotel (with thanks to Linda Maia e Silva). These sessions are open to all local people with an explanation of how to use a Defibrillator and other important points for helping someone who suffers a sudden collapse or chest pains. A call to 644678 would be appreciated if you would like to attend.

We have four more new members but would still like more – if you are interested in joining us, please get in touch with any of the Lions or Rob Caswell 646003 Graham Raven 645134, Martin Guy 641154 or Mike Graham 644678.

Liz Nason



**CHIPPING NORTON LIONS**  
INVITE YOU TO OUR



# EASTER BINGO

**on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm**

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# CLUB NEWS

## WOWI ... dogs, hats and Denman

West Oxfordshire WI meet in St Mary's Parish rooms the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm. Do come and join us! We ask visitors to contribute £4 and hope you will join us for the year! Last month we had a speaker from Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. He brought his beautiful dog Scooby and gave an inspired talk. We had a collection and they were thrilled with our £60 donation.

In January, one of our members went to Denman College, the WI centre near Abingdon. She was treated to a demonstration by Sarah Randell, the Food Advisor for Sainsbury's. It was interesting to discover many different uses



for Marmalade! Putting it into a chicken dish, into chocolate brownies and a marinade for sausages. All tasted good. Six members are going to Denman in March for a tour and to find out about day and residential courses – not just cookery but textiles, computing, writing etc. You name it, it's probably done at Denman. Another reason to join the WI. It's not just a 'once a month' organisation.

We welcomed a milliner, Louise Pocock in February. She gave us a marvellous talk about the history of hats and how to wear them and we all had fun trying on her models! March's meeting brings someone who is coming to get us all singing!! She also makes chocolate so we'll have Singing and Chocolate! What a combination! Please come and join us!

Hilary Dix 646228

## Lights Up Arts and Memory Club

This Club is for anyone affected by memory difficulties, anyone who has dementia, and anyone who cares for someone with memory difficulties. Absolutely anyone is welcome, with their Carer if they have one. We share memories and reminisce, explore The Arts (in the broadest sense, not just painting) and share social activities. Lights Up meets from 10.30am to 12.30pm, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, at Highlands on Burford Road in Chipping Norton. Our next Dementia Friendly Community Event is a Tea Dance 2.30-5pm on Saturday 18 April in The Royal British Legion, Lansdown, Bourton on the Water. With the Peter Gill Swing Band, tickets are £10 and include afternoon tea. Tickets and information from Kelly (07707 787 580) or Val (07717 374 484).

## February Folk Club warms up

A good crowd braved the winter to descend on the Chipping Norton Blue (Boar) early February. This was the 'usual' singaround where each of nearly twenty performers – mostly guitarists, but some solo singers (one in Brazilian) – took turns to entertain us. 'Folk' music was interpreted in a variety of styles, from blues to banjo to – Bach? well known folk musician. Plans to augment the monthly (2nd Monday) singarounds with 'floor spot' evenings which give the opportunity for local artists to show their stuff have been put off till the summer. But there is a concert at the Parish Rooms on 25 April featuring the Carrivick sisters – details to come on the website [chippingnortonfolk.org.uk](http://chippingnortonfolk.org.uk) along with lots more about the club.

## Scouting news

**Beavers** Seven Beavers took part in the annual Winter Challenge Walk, a challenging 9 miles along the Ridgeway to achieve their Hikes badge. At the end of February 14 Beavers will be camping at Horley – full report to follow.

**Cubs** had a busy weekend recently as the district swimming gala was on the same day as the Winter Challenge walk. Seven cubs opted to swim. They all swam their best, with some looking apprehensive beforehand, but all enjoying the event. Coming 8<sup>th</sup> overall they behaved extremely well, giving great encouragement to the other swimmers. The Cubs (and parents) who took on the Winter Challenge 9-mile walk all finished in a good time despite the mud! At evening meetings the Cubs, using a selection of bouncy balls, footballs and paper lampshades, have reconstructed the solar system. 'Bouncy ball Earth' looks suitably tiny next to huge 'paper lampshade Jupiter'. Shrove Tuesday was celebrated early with lots of sugar and syrup on pancakes that the cubs had made.



**Scouts** District Winter camp saw great fun, from ice sculpting, skiing, and curling to good old-fashioned scouting skills – one of our Teams won the weekend's competition – first of 15 teams! Well done them! Five Scouts took part in their 18-mile Winter Challenge walk. They are pictured here finishing just before dark, after sprinting over the

finish line! Pottery, jewellery-making and stage performances are the activities this term, along with making pancakes. The next Troop adventure is a driving session – driving real live cars!! Not on the roads of course!

**Explorers** have held meetings with a variety of team building activities, an auction of life attributes, a murder mystery and a balloon debate. Five Explorers took to The Ridgeway on a freezing cold Saturday on the Winter Challenge 18-mile hike. They braved frozen provisions and added a fire extinguisher they found by the side of the track to their essential kit but were still smiling at the end. Along the way they filmed a highly entertaining video of their exploits. Thanks to Peach our leader who has built a huge cupboard in the scout hut to store all our gear.

# CLUB NEWS

## Chipping Norton Air Cadets

The cadets' huts are now bustling every parade night with increased numbers and additional support staff. In addition to the usual weekly training and activities, cadets have a wide choice of weekend opportunities, often off site and outdoors. Since Christmas these have included flying, a road march, cross-country, field craft, navigation walk, self-defence,



conflict management, first aid and radio operator training. At Easter there is a week's residential camp at RAF Boulmer.

At the end of January the squadron turned out for a joint activities day at Kingham Hill School, joining cadets from the school's Combined Cadet Forces (CCF) unit. Over 30 cadets spent the day on four different activities including rifle range shooting and tackling the climbing wall (pictured above). We hope this is the first of many such joint activities, sharing both staff expertise and facilities to enhance the cadets' experience. We now have two new volunteer staff to help with cadet activities, but should you also wish to volunteer, we would welcome anyone with experience in outdoor pursuits.

Air Cadets meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening 7-9.30pm in Chipping Norton in the small building between the fire station and Chipping Norton School. To find out more visit [www.136atc.com](http://www.136atc.com), or email [136@aircadets.org](mailto:136@aircadets.org).

Helen Haine

## Winter walk with Chippy Ramblers

The first Sunday in February, with temperatures hovering on freezing, saw Chippy Ramblers with frost on their boots, do a circular walk from Cornwell to Salford – and back! We visited the two tiny churches of Cornwell and Salford noting their similarities of Norman origins restored by the Victorians – and boasting ancient fonts. The sun on the red/orange willows and the lichen covered bare winter trees lent a special enchantment to the walk. By the time we reached Cornwell again all cold feet and hands were banished, showing that good brisk exercise is the best opponent of this chilly weather. Our walks are usually less than five miles lasting about two hours – so come and join us on the first Sunday of the month. We meet at 2pm (in summer time) in New Street car park. For more information ring 643691 or 643269.

Heather Leonard

## Green Gym finishes plantation

We have finished planting trees on the triangle near Travis Perkins! Over 300 of them! This is a part of the Common which had become completely overgrown and which we hope will turn into a pleasant and useful amenity for the public. It is to be called Fitzalan Wood after the Lord of the Manor who gave the land to the Town back in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. We were very pleased to have help from some children from St Mary's School in the last stages of the planting (see p31). We also

continue to lay the hedge between the allotments and William Fowler Wood and to clear scrub on the BBOWT reserve near Glyme Farm – to keep the site open for small mammals, wild flowers and butterflies.

If you know of a local community site which could do with our help during the summer, do get in touch. This is the season when our activities are limited by the need to avoid disturbing nesting birds. And 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). All are welcome!

Jenny Harrington

## eRotary arrives!

1 March sees the opening of a new virtual Rotary



Group. Yes via the internet! Paul Jackson former President and founder of the Rotary Club of Kingham and the Wychwoods, who was also involved nationally in the development of what Rotary are calling eClubs, says the world has changed and we need to go with the flow. eRotary means everyone can contribute online when they want to, feel part of the group and develop relationships leading to real friendships – there is no pressure to be involved all the time. Paul says, 'using the Internet to develop ideas and find ways to help society just makes more sense that meeting every week over a meal.'

Membership is also innovative with unheard of trial offers (three months free) and a new family membership. The annual fee of £75 mainly goes towards the administration of the

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# CLUB NEWS

world's largest humanitarian organisation. The club is looking for projects locally that can involve helping the under privileged. Give us a call if you see any such possibilities. Visit [www.1100rotaryclub.org](http://www.1100rotaryclub.org) or contact Paul 01993 831967 / [paul.jackson@triangle.eu.com](mailto:paul.jackson@triangle.eu.com). You will be most welcome.

## Chadlington Flower Club



The January meeting was our AGM with some lovely food. Once the business was over David, our treasurer entertained us with memories and photos of a holiday to Mongolia. A lovely evening – thank you David. In March we have a members' evening workshop entitled 'Pot et Fleur'. New members are always welcome so come along. For more information contact our Ann Anson on 683289.

Elaine Parsons

*Pictured is Julie Thompson a long standing and valued club member and winner of The Flower Arranging Cup, for 2014. Sadly she is not in the best of health and we all wish her well and miss her at our monthly meetings.*

## Amnesty urges Universal Human Rights

Three members of Chipping Norton Amnesty International group recently met David Cameron to discuss the Conservative Party's promised manifesto proposals to repeal the 1998 Human Rights Act and to introduce a 'British Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (BBoRR)'.

We believe the Human Rights Act is itself a Bill of Rights which increases British sovereignty, gives judges flexibility for political and cultural variation, and enables UK residents to resolve cases in UK courts (rather than the European Court in Strasbourg). We are concerned that the proposed BBoRR would increase Strasbourg's supervision, remove the prohibition on torture thus breaching international obligations, endanger our global reputation, and make it harder for us to condemn other countries' human rights violations. David Cameron promised to respond further to our concerns and we await his letter.

Our Group has a busy year ahead with a variety of speakers and activities. New members welcome: call Priscilla Peace for details on 01451 830459.

Kaye Freeman

## U3A Science boggles the mind

The Chipping Norton branch of the U3A (University of the Third Age) runs about 15 regular groups, including bowls, music appreciation, table tennis, bridge and a new Shakespeare group. There is a monthly lunch at the Crown & Cushion and interesting talks in the Methodist Church Hall. Members' ages range from late 50s to the 90s.

The Science Plus discussion group meets monthly in Chadlington. About seven strong, it has been going for several years. We discuss ideas and ethics in science (physical and social), medicine and the environment. Our January subject was 'The origins of living organisms' and we considered whether life began in a warm primordial soup, at high

pressure in the ocean depths, or via comets from space, as some claim. This brought up as many questions as it answered, but increased our knowledge.

Future topics include 'The unconscious mind' (asking questions such as: are we in control of our conscious actions? How much is locked away in our minds and can it be released?), 'What's at the bottom of a black hole?' and 'The development and usefulness of robots'. The subjects may sound rather highbrow but the lively and sometimes humorous discussions can be quite down to earth. We frequently wander off at a tangent. For example 3-D printing in medicine led us on to the ethics of the allocation of limited medical resources. We find scientific data from various sources including the internet.

If you would like to find out more about the U3A in the Chippy area contact Secretary Peter Nuttall on 01608 238671 or Google Chipping Norton U3A.

Richard Dixon

## Chippy stargazers' month of treats

Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group's stargazers look forward to a veritable treasure chest of stellar delights throughout the month. CNAAG's participation with BBC StarGazingLIVE 2015 begins with the privilege of a lecture by the renowned astronomical historian Dr Alan Chapman from Oxford on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> in the Methodist Hall 7.30 for 8pm start. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> grab a bacon sandwich and come



Photo Mel Gigg

*The sun – eclipse due on the 20<sup>th</sup>*

along to Jaffé & Neale Bookshop in the Market Square to observe the 86% solar eclipse which runs from 8.30-10.33am weather permitting. We aim to have several telescopes with attached astronomers to allow you to view the event in complete safety and talk to the astronomers. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> we travel to at the Dept of Astrophysics in Oxford to support their Stargazing Live/Stargazing Oxford public event (2-10pm) with a record crowd expected. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> we hold our Spring Moonwatch at the Rollright Stones, weather permitting. This is a very special event, not just an ongoing celebration of our first 10 years but to celebrate the granting to the Rollright Stones of the coveted Dark Sky Discovery status (see article p13). Our outreach programme continues apace as we try to fit everyone in before the days get too long.

CNAAG is a highly active astronomy group with the emphasis on fun and education and if you have an interest in the stars and universe, come along and meet us at any of our meetings, you will be made most welcome.

Robin Smitten

## Horticultural herbs for healing

The weather in January and February has been very kind to Chipping Norton Horticultural Association allowing meetings to continue as planned. Philip Aubury from Alvechurch, started the year by getting us to think about planning our seed sowing and planting even if we do not have a large garden – showing ways containers and pots can be used and still produce crops. His talk was well received with much to think about. Late January we supported Organisations Day in the Town Hall with many visitors to our table. February's

# CLUB NEWS

meeting, Rob Jacobs from Waterperry Gardens revealed The secrets of a Herbaceous Border – the history and workings of Waterperry and illustrated in lovely pictures a year in the life of a herbaceous border. A lively speaker enjoyed by all. Over 50 members and friends supported both these meetings.

On Wednesday 18 March Davina Wynne-Jones from Barnsley Herb Garden will talk on Herbs for Healing. 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall. Subscriptions of £10 for 2015/16 will be due. For more details visit [cnha.uk](http://cnha.uk) or call 643275.

Eileen Forse

## History Society messing about...

'There is nothing-absolutely nothing half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats...' The Salter family, trading originally at 'the Feathers' inn, Wandsworth, agreed with Ratty as they built up their highly successful rowing boat business on the Thames. Dr Simon Wenham's lively illustrated talk traced the firm's history from 1858 when their first boatyard was set up at Folly Bridge, Oxford. For many years the Oxbridge racing boats were constructed here as were, later, flat-packed steamers for the use of the Methodist Missions in the Congo; umpire boats for Henley Regatta; Houseboats and, of course the Pleasure boats. The talk sparked several recollections, and we learnt that Jerome K Jerome was not the only person to camp in a boat on the Thames as a member of our audience recounted her river adventures!

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Monday, 9 March at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall. There will be a brief AGM followed by a talk on Oxford University by

Alastair Lack. Dates to note: Volunteers' Evening: 26 March at 7pm. The Museum will open on 28 March at 2pm.

Liz Whitaker

## Chipping Norton Rotary roundup

**Youth Speaks winners:** The Senior Team from Chipping Norton School won their local Rotary Youth Speaks heat in November, and have just won the Rotary Zone Event in Witney. Archie Powell, speaker Abigail Hollis and Eleanor



Jukes (pictured above) chose the topic 'Women and Inequality in Science'. They now compete in the District Finals. Chipping Norton Rotary has been involved in this national public speaking contest for about 18 years.

**Stroke Awareness Day 16 May:** This is part of the Stroke Awareness Initiative run nationally by Rotary and the Stroke Association. Trainee doctors will be in the Town Hall to take blood pressures for free and give you advice about further checks if your blood pressure is high. Strokes are usually associated with high blood pressures, so it may be a 'wake-up' call for some. There will also be representatives of local medical groups available for an informal chat.

**Chippy Town Festival 21 June:** Organised and presented by the Rotary Club with the help of a band of committed individuals from the Town, this event has been very successful up to now and it is hoped this will continue. You can contact the Town Festival's organising committee via [www.chippingnortonrotary.org.uk](http://www.chippingnortonrotary.org.uk)

## Railway Club plan timetable

The 2015 season began with the AGM on 3 February. The Chairman and Committee were re-elected and the Treasurer, Ken Treadaway confirmed our healthy finances. Programme Secretary Richard Stow outlined an interesting programme for the coming year. Membership Secretary, John Mann was encouraging about membership numbers. Following the AGM, member Graham Thornton entertained us with his slides, many of which were taken on previous outings.

We plan two outings this year. On 10 May a return to Amberley Chalk Pits Museum in West Sussex; our last visit was in 1994! On 6 September a new venue, the Spa Valley Railway in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. More details later.

We look forward to meeting Frank Banfield on 3 March, taking over from Dave Baker with archive railway cine films. Not easy to find a replacement these days; there are very few speakers showing these nostalgic films, which are so popular with members. Our 'Coventry Kid' friend, Chris Youett will be the speaker on 7 April, talking to us about 'A Journey in East Anglia'. Many good meetings to look forward to this year and as usual, we welcome both new members and visitors. Free coffee/tea and biscuits served in the interval.

Estelle Brain 6441586

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# CLUB NEWS

## Over Norton WI's surprising sketches



Over Norton WI held a sketching workshop at their February meeting in which local artist Gareth Williams demonstrated the basic rules of sketching producing amazing results using light and shade. He then worked closely with members helping them to create their own masterpieces! An excellent evening full of fun and laughter was enjoyed by all and even those who had never drawn before and thought they couldn't surprised themselves with their results.

Our new programme will shortly be available and will include a wide range of speakers and activities from historians to make up artists. We meet every third Thursday at 7.30pm in Over Norton Village Hall. Come along as a guest, you will be given a warm welcome. Call Ros 07932 180407 for details.

## From oak trees to herbs at NOOG

It was lovely to welcome new faces to N Oxon Organic Gardeners' February meeting when we had a lively discussion about getting the best out of the soil, and Tracy Lean demonstrated how dogwood cuttings can make elegant plant supports. On Wednesday 4 March, retired biologist Martin Woolner, who fascinated us last year with his revelations of 'Life in the Leaf Litter', will be back to explore the world of 'British Oak Trees & their Wildlife'. Now a volunteer at the ancient woodland of Burnham Beeches he has vast experience of the ecosystems dependent on the oak – one of Britain's oldest and most loved native trees.

On Wednesday 1 April, Sharyn Singer, naturopath and nutritionist, will provide insights and tips about the 'Cultivation and Culinary Use of Herbs'.

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 NOOG: 01295 780710, [www.noog.org.uk](http://www.noog.org.uk) or email [tracylean@gmail.com](mailto:tracylean@gmail.com).

## Alzheimer's Society March dates

People with Dementia and their carers are eligible to use all the services the Society offers, so you can choose the meetings that suit you best.

**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** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**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

## Single File at The Theatre

Recently Single File has had several trips to Chipping Norton Theatre, always a wonderful venue. The Buddy Holly tribute band ably supported by Big Bopper, Dion and Richie Valens was an exciting, foot-tapping evening of early rock & roll. Also we have been to excellent tribute concerts of Simon and Garfunkel and Abba (where one Single Filer could be spotted dancing in the aisle). Enjoyable too, was the fact based film *The Imitation Game* charting Beltschley Park code breaking in the Second World War.

Several members went to the Ashmolean Museum Western Art print room with water colours and drawings from the 17th to the 20th centuries. A little bit different was a delightful poetry evening with a classical guitar interlude at a member's house. Amongst other events were two very well attended birthday meals at Spice of India in Chippy and the Mason's Arms near Swerford.

Single File is a local social group, not primarily a dating agency, for those between 45 and 70 who may be single, separated, divorced or widowed. We have about 30 members. Contact us on 07765 598518, [enquiries@singlefilecn.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@singlefilecn.org.uk) or visit [www.meetup.com/single-file-chipping-norton](http://www.meetup.com/single-file-chipping-norton)

Richard Dixon



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## The Centre for Work, Rest and Play

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## Volunteering in the community

**CNS Year 11 student Connor Vellinga continues his series about what it takes to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)**

This month we will be following the individual journeys of some of the students doing their DofE award at Chipping Norton School. A total of 93 students have decided to go for the DofE awards this year, 63 for bronze, 23 for silver and 7 for gold. In the last few weeks I have caught up with some of the bronze and silver students who have started the first stage of their awards, the activity sections, which consist of three elements: a physical activity, a skill and volunteering.

'Volunteering is all about making a difference to other people's lives. Getting off your sofa and taking time out to change things for the better can be great fun.' This is how DofE describe the volunteering section. 'It's about choosing to give time to help people, the community or society, the environment or animals.' This could include conservation work, working at charities, or working at a library which was what Frazer Chapman, a bronze DofE candidate decided to do. Frazer (pictured above) has recently completed his three months of volunteering at Chipping Norton Library. During



this time Frazer had to do many different jobs including packing, returning and displaying books. He told me that it was great to see the variety of books that he handled and to find



out where they had come from and where they were going next. 'One of my favourite tasks has been cutting spiders to create Halloween decorations'.

After successfully achieving his bronze DofE award last year, Sunny Bhamrah decided to continue for silver. He chose to do his six months of volunteering at the British Heart Foundation shop in Banbury because he likes helping other people. Sunny (pictured left) fills shelves and helps around the shop. He considers the customers and the staff to be the best part of this activity because they are always very kind and supportive. He described his DofE experience as 'fun, new and challenging.'

Overall the students thought the volunteering section of the Award is good fun, rewarding and helpful.

Next time we will take a look at the skill and physical sections as well as the bronze award training day.

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## Chipping Norton School



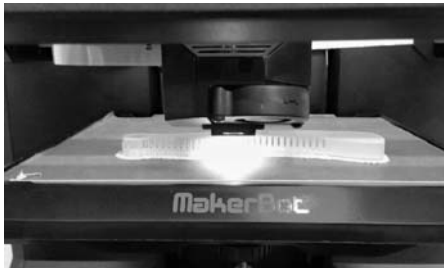
**Sweeney Todd:** Since July last year, the Music, Drama, Dance and Technical Theatre departments have been working tirelessly with a talented team of students to bring 'Sweeney Todd' to our school stage. The show ran for three nights and was a triumphant success. The audience was stunned by the amazing performances of all the main actors (including James Hastings, Will Heppell,

Eleanor Juckes, Alice Webb, Lili Field and Jack Sharkey) who were supported by a talented chorus, the musical skills of the orchestra, the stunning set, special effects and lighting.

The set comprised of a revolving cube with different scenes on each side and the barber shop with the dreaded chair perched on the top. The infamous razors were made using the school's new 3D Printer.

### New 3D Printer:

There has been a great deal among excitement from students since the arrival of the new Makerbot 3D printer in the Design and



Technology Department. Using the printer to create the cut throat razors for Sweeney Todd, has shown students the potential they now have at their fingertips. It is a very exciting time within the Design and Technology Department and we now await the arrival of our new Laser Cutter.

**Partnership Events:** We have recently welcomed pupils from our primary partnership schools to take part in two sports tournaments. Our Year 12 Sports Leaders helped organize both events and took very active roles to ensure that the tournaments ran in a professional manner. At the U11 Netball tournament all teams played brilliantly. The winners were: Small Schools Tournament – Great Tew; Big Schools Tournament – Holy Trinity. At the U11 Swimming Gala each partnership school sent along a team (two boys and two girls) of enthusiastic and talented swimmers to take part in Back Stroke, Breast Stroke, Free Style and Medley relays. The whole team took part in the Float Race. After an exciting and energetic gala the winners were announced: Big School Winner – St Mary's; Middle School Winners – Enstone; Small School Winners – Great Tew. St Mary's won overall and will go onto take part in the WOSSIP Swimming Gala.

Congratulations to the winners and all the school teams who took part in the events and thank you to Four Shires Swimming Club who offered lots of support at the swimming gala.

**Rotary Youth Speaks Competition:** After their success at the local heat, Eleanor Juckes, Abigail Hollis and Archie Powell succeeded in winning the zone competition with a persuasive performance of their talk on 'women and inequality in science'. The team fought off some tough competition from other schools and will compete at the district final in March.



**WWI Window:** We are working with stained glass artist, Graham Brant to create a commemorative window. The window will be funded by the Town Council, the British Legion, Chipping Norton School and others. Students have been involved in putting together the design shown in the article on p3 which was inspired by the poppy pictured here, designed by Zoe Foster. We want to raise £1000 to enable us to install the windows at the back of the Main Hall and would be very grateful for donations to this project.

**LAMDA:** Before Christmas, the members of the Extra Time LAMDA club took their exams; the results of the exams were very impressive with four students passing with 'Distinction' and eight students passing with 'Merit'. Well done to all students involved; what a fantastic result!

**Dance Workshop:** Miss Homer and the Year 12 Dance



Leaders went to Holy Trinity School to lead a Dance Workshop based on the theme of 'Space'. After the fun warm up the Year 3 pupils learnt a dance routine with the Dance Leaders to perform at the end of the session.

## Holy Trinity Primary



**A trip to the Sheldonian:** *Olivia Riley and Phoebe J report:* Years 1 to 6 were treated to a musical extravaganza at the Sheldonian in Oxford. All the children had a truly memorable day. Two Year 6 children wrote about their experience. On the 30 January our school, (apart from foundation stage), took part in the trip to the Sheldonian Theatre. The Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra put on a concert of 7 tunes including: Host Jupiter, Rimsky-Korsakov, Short Ride in a Fast Machine, Let It Go, First Time in Forever and the Star Wars overture. The trip was a great success for all the schools that came on the day. We could tell that the conductor had young children by the choice of some of the music. We decided that it was a brilliant experience for the school. Some of the comments that were given from the year 6 children reflect

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this. 'I was speechless as the Orchestra played their tunes because they were all rather young, (but still older than us). It was an excellent performance.' Clara Fyfe. 'The tunes were either lively or emotional and each had its own thought and emotion, so you always felt involved!' Olivia Riley. As you can see, the whole school enjoyed the music and the coach ride to the theatre loads.

**Year 2 Looking at the local area:** *Sophie Hergt, Year 2 reports:* In Geography we are looking at Chipping Norton and how it is different to where Katie Morag lives. We went to St Mary's Church, the old hospital, the war memorial and Sainsbury's. Ben the manager showed us around the store. We saw where the food is kept, the bread is cooked and the freezing freezer.

### Sport Sport and More Sport

**High Five Netball:** *Gaby Heath reports:* This month we have been taking part in lots of sporting fixtures. It is always great fun to join in with the partnership and come together for such events. Some of the children have written about their experiences. On 28 January, Year 6 took part in the High 5 netball tournament. We played four matches; we won two games and drew two



*Holy Trinity Y 6 Hockey Squad*

games. We had a great day, although it was freezing. We won the Big Schools tournament and brought back the trophy! We now go through to the semi-finals, where four of our girls and three of our boys will compete at Carterton Community College.

**Athletics:** *Freddie Hammond reports:* On 10 February, a group of Year 5 and 6 children went to Carterton Community College and took part in a School Athletics competition. We had lots of fun taking part in both track and field events. We managed to come 7th overall. Jacob Roe did particularly well in the running event.

**Golf:** Our Year 3 and 4 classes have been fortunate to have had a local golf instructor in to teach us some basic skills. We all now know how to putt, hold a club and stand. We think that we have some future golfing stars in our midst!

**Hockey:** *Sienna Harris reports:* On 12 February nine of our Year 6 girls went to Tudor Hall to compete in the 2015 Official Annual Hockey Tournament. They had a fantastic time and all thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to participate. This is what one of our girls thought about the event: 'Five private schools participated along with us in this exciting tournament. We played 3 games and won against Bloxham in our final match, 2-0. Gaby Heath, one of our excellent team members, won a special award for her determination and encouragement to the team. Overall we came fifth, but we had great fun playing'.

## St Mary's Primary



**Swimming Gala:** 21 January saw sixteen excited and nervous pupils take part in the Chipping Norton Partnership Swimming Gala. In total, there eleven schools took part. We had an A and

B team which each entered five races. The A team qualified for all four finals, unfortunately B team did not make it but several of B team members were scouted by Four Shires Swimming Club.



The overall winners of all schools were St Mary's A team. Gabriel Alves, a member of our team said, 'I like the fact that the entire team got the credit not just an individual person.' This is the second year in succession that St Mary's have won the Chipping Norton Partnership Gala. They will now go on to represent Chipping Norton in the West Oxfordshire Gala.



**Chess Club:** *Charlie Yates reports:* The Chess Club is a time to improve your chess playing skills and a time to catch up with your friends. It is a free club unless you want to enter the tournaments. It is really fun, I shall miss it when I go to Chipping Norton School. I have not only improved my Chess skills but, also my maths, I have also made new friends, there's not many clubs that can do that! I would like to thank Mr. Lawson for running the club.

**Dragon on the Loose:** Year 2 first English lesson of the Spring term was interrupted when the school secretary came with a message. Oliver, a member of the class takes up the story, 'We were asked to go to the reception area where we found a large box covered in warning labels.



This was ripped open by what we think were very sharp talons or claws, there were dragon like foot prints on the carpet.' A message was attached to the box, asking the class to look after

its contents. Unfortunately, its occupant has clearly escaped, we searched the school grounds where we found a large egg so a dragon could be on the loose in Chipping Norton!

### Tree Planting:

*Tori Kennedy and Lily Edwards report:* On 27 January five pupils from St Mary's School went to plant some trees for the community. First we made our way to the field which was next to Travis Perkins. The field had been cleared



of brambles in order to plant the trees. There were already over 200 trees planted. Lily (my friend) and I planted three trees and cleared a big bramble root. The trees were an Oak, a Willow and a Hazel! Overall it was a very fine experience and we can't wait to see the beautiful trees grow! Mr Averill, from The Green Gym, commented 'It was wonderful to have a new generation of 'Chippy' people, from St Mary's, involved in our project!'

**Jo Graves:** St Mary's Primary School would like to congratulate Mrs Jo Graves (a Governor of St Mary's) on her



BEM. All staff and children were delighted to welcome Jo into assembly for her to explain to the children the meaning of her award, and how her works in the community have been recognised.

### Image Musical Theatre:

St Mary's was delighted to welcome back IMT. Grace, Year 1, said, 'They came to my school to perform *The Jungle Book* and I was so excited when I was chosen to take part. I loved wearing the monkey costume, it was so much fun.' Jack added, 'Although we had to learn a lot of lines it was totally worth it! I would definitely do it again. Unfortunately I won't get the opportunity again because I am in year 6. Definitely recommended!!!!'



## Middle Barton Primary



On 15 January our choir performed as part of the 'Young Voices' singing concert at the LG Arena (NEC) in Birmingham, along with 6000 other children and an audience to match (see photo). It was the most amazing event to be part of, singing and dancing to a whole range of fantastic songs. After a few initial nerves at the size of the arena and number of people in it, our children soon warmed up and felt like rock stars for the night! Head girl, Carmen Cavana, commented, 'It was a great night and I won't ever forget it'. This seemed to be echoed by everyone!

Other more local events which we have been part of include the partnership netball tournament and swimming gala at Chipping Norton School. Our children from Y5 and Y6 represented our school with pride and team spirit.

On 29 January we held a Literacy Parent Forum for parents and governors, led by our literacy subject leader, Mrs Rothwell. It was on the theme of spellings and how we teach spellings in our school. It also involved some hands-on activities to test out everyone's skills!

## Kingham Primary

### RSPB Big Garden

**Birdwatch:** Rex and Zack report: On 25 January Year 4 did the Big Garden Birdwatch for the RSPB. We saw a range of birds including lots of sparrows and blue tits. We also gazed



upon a very brave little wren. Altogether we saw a whopping 146 birds. It was extremely good fun and we totally recommend it – it happens only once a year!

**Trip to BBC's 10 pieces:** Mr Lamming reports: Thirty five KS2 students were lucky enough to go to the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford for a classical music concert. The aim was to broaden their experience of live music and introduce them to a whole range of orchestral instruments. The County Youth Orchestra played a variety of pieces from Holst's 'Jupiter' and Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Scheherazade' to John Williams' 'Star Wars Overture'. They also used 'Frere Jacques' to introduce each section and instrument of the orchestra. The children were brilliantly behaved and were a real credit to the school. We all had a thoroughly good time and the children came away debating their favourite piece. Thank you to the KPSA for funding the trip.

## Chadlington Primary

**We are Puppeteers performance:** To round off our term topic 'We are Puppeteers' the Pixies and Elves class performed two wonderful puppet shows with their very own handmade puppet theatres to an invited audience of parents. They also demonstrated how to make rows of paper dolls and puppets.

**Little Wild Things:** Next term the Elves class are beginning their five week programme of activities with Little Wild Things at the Forest School near Enstone. They are very excited about the promised outdoor enrichment activities and especially about the chance to get extremely muddy at the same time!!



### Sport and Dance:

The Wizards class took part in the annual Chipping Norton Swimming Gala and did wonderfully by finishing second place with two members of the team getting picked for the Four Shires Swimming Club. The

Pixies and Elves are very lucky to be getting first rate ballet lessons on Friday afternoons with Ali Maxwell from the Royal Academy of Dance following the RAD Primary Syllabus.

**Friends fundraiser:** The next fundraiser for the Friends of the School will be a Kids Grand Spring Sale of quality clothes, books and toys with a Book Cafe on Saturday 21 March from 10-4pm in the Chadlington Village Hall.

## Acorns Primary

Delving deep into the tomb of Tutankhamun using video footage, internet research, non-fiction texts and drama, children in Class 3 at Acorns Primary School have become fully immersed in the world of Pharaohs and Ancient Egypt. They have written diaries from the perspective of Howard Carter, the



Englishman who discovered the famous Pharaoh's tomb and used clay to recreate historical artefacts found in the various chambers.

To gain an understanding of the role of a Pharaoh, children read about famous Egyptian Pharaohs, then created Top Trump cards to show important information. In considering the qualities of a Pharaoh and to develop questioning skills, an interview for the next Pharaoh of Long



# SCHOOL NEWS

Compton was conducted. Children devised their own interview questions in groups, which focussed on important job roles and personal qualities, they then proceeded to interview Archie. You will be pleased to hear that Archie was successful in his application and later that day was appointed as the next Pharaoh of Long Compton! He chose his name to be Pharaoh Rammen. Following Archie's appointment, the class designed Nemes: Egyptian headwear in Design Technology and presented their final products to their peers.

## Town Nursery



In nursery this month, the youngest children enjoyed initiating a session of shredded paper play. They became involved in emptying the box full of shredded paper, throwing it in the air, and giggling as it landed on all the children, staff and parents. We are still finding shredded paper around the building two weeks later.

We are currently promoting the children's independence and self help skills. The children are being encouraged to pour their own drinks, hold their own cup and feed themselves, using their fingers or a spoon. We are very proud of all their progress so far.

## Sibford School

**Students warn of pitfalls:** GCSE drama students combined coursework with community action when they devised an original play warning of the pitfalls young people face with social networking. The Year 10 pupils produced an original script, titled 'Social Media ... The Minefield', in which a newcomer to a chat room becomes a victim of cyber bullying. Head of Drama, Neil Madden: 'The students wanted to raise awareness of the dangers that young people face when using social networks so, as well as performing the piece as part of their controlled assessment, they also staged a special performance for fellow pupils.'



**Hats the way to do it!** Sibford pupils donned their hats and raised more than £345 in support of St Mungo's Broadway. The school took part in Woolly Hat Day ... with pupils paying for the privilege of keeping their hats on. Projects operated by St Mungo's include the West Oxfordshire Single Homeless Pathway, a semi-independent housing scheme based in Chipping Norton, Witney and Carterton.

Pictured in their hats are Scarlett Fowler, Charlotte Harries-Harris, Emma Mortimer, Alex Thompson and Meghan Robinson.

**March Open Morning:** Sibford will be holding an Open Morning to give parents a chance to find out more about the school on Friday 6 March from 9.45am. Call Elspeth on 01295 781203 for further details.

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

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# LETTERS

## Beware Co-op parking fines

Beware when shopping at the Co-op not to pop back for something you had forgotten or you may pick up more than you bargained for! I shopped one morning



*You have been warned!!*

at the Co-op which took me about thirty minutes, but after lunch remembered something I had forgotten. My husband returned to pick it up and was rewarded with a £70 fine! It would seem that the parking attendant's machine showed that he had been parked for more than two hours even though the second shop had taken about ten minutes and the car was parked in a different area of the car park. Euro Car Parks in London now run the Co-op car park and it would appear that even though my car was not parked for more than two hours, they decree that you cannot return within two hours. So if you return home and realise you have forgotten to buy something, be very careful where you park on your return and keep a close eye on the clock! This is another example of extracting more money from the unsuspecting motorist, and in Chippy this heavy-handed approach is quite inappropriate and may backfire and send shoppers out of town.

Jane Hall

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## Ludicrous Town Council tax

Aren't there any other town residents concerned about our spendthrift Town Council? Considering how little they are responsible for, I object to their 8% rise in the precept they raise within our Council Tax. Last year their increase was 37%; 45% in two years! Inflation is currently around 1% and the District have frozen Council Tax for the past two years. In the past, the Town precept rose infrequently and when it was increased, it was by very little. 45% is ludicrous and a great deal of money. Please make sure you know who and what you are voting for come the Election in May.

Cicely Maunder Past Town Mayor

## Calling all Royal Artillery veterans

*Ubique. Quo Fas, Et Gloria Ducunt.* To all gunners serving or veterans. In most counties in this country there are clubs for the Royal Artillery – with the exception of Oxfordshire. I would like to rectify that by starting a club in our County. I have had to join one in High Wycombe, a long distance from where I live in Chipping Norton – I need a closer venue! I would like to hear from any gunners who would be willing to meet or form a club. Hopefully this could be in Oxford itself so all gunners in the County have a chance to meet up three or four times a year. If anyone is interested please get in touch with me at Keith1911@uwclub.net



Keith Clandfield veteran gunner

## Too many coffee shops

I, like most, have heard the rumours about Costa coffee or even Cafe Nero moving in to the shop vacated by Dorothy Perkins. Why do we need another coffee shop, particularly those that sell coffee of an inferior quality to that which is already available in the many outlets already in Chippy? I believe you should add shops to improve the quality of the Town. Adding either of these two coffee outlets previously stated would not do this.

Roy Crumpton

## Thanks to a Good Samaritan

I am a former resident of Chipping Norton – lived there from birth until June 2013, when I moved to Darlington. I now live with my fiancée Kirsty and have a nice job up here. On 13 December I came down for the week before Christmas to see my parents and friends, for some pre-Christmas fun. Unfortunately on my way home in the early hours of the 14th an accident happened of which I don't remember a thing. I have to say I was very drunk and don't expect any sympathy. What I'd like to do is find out who called the ambulance, who found me lying in the road after I'd fallen and broken my ankle, as I'd like to personally thank them. It could have been a lot worse on that cold icy night. I am truly grateful. I was taken to Oxford to the JR and given the best treatment.

My friends, family and fiancée have been amazing even though I've been stupid! I spent the whole week in hospital which I will never forget. It's certainly put me off drinking for a while.... If not for ever! Certainly binge drinking anyway. Lesson learnt! I'm recovering well and hope to return to work soon. There is only so much day time TV a person can take! I'd be most grateful if something could be published in your next issue with details of how that person or persons

# LETTERS

could contact me.

My mum has been sending me a copy of the *Chippy News* since I moved out. My heart is in Darlington but my soul will always be in Chippy!

**Bryan Barnes**

*(The News has Bryan's details and can pass any contact on - Ed)*

## Wind in the Willows treat



*Photo: Martyn Stacey*

*Weasels pictured outside Toad Hall in the Norts' latest production, Wind in the Willows*

What a treat we were given on 31 Jan – *Wind in the Willows* – a great performance: The Nortonians (always talented) and the young enthusiastic and multiple talented Burford School – they must have excellent teachers. Look out for some of these names in the entertainment world. The welcome on arrival was second to none with the Weasels giving our free programmes, delicious coffee and a free biscuit for £1. As for Toad's outfit – can I have the address of his dresser?

**Roma Smith**

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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## Wolf Hall, Putney and Ice Cream



The superb BBC2 series *Wolf Hall*, charting the rise of Henry VIII's chief minister Thomas Cromwell, finished its run of six episodes on 25 February. One of its chief locations, the National Trust's Chastleton House, is a mere five miles from Chipping Norton and is due to re-open to the public on 4 March. So it seemed an excellent time to pay a visit and speak to House Steward Sebastian Conway to find out some interesting snippets about the filming and ongoing plans that will be of particular fascination to fans of *Wolf Hall*. Working from dawn to dusk last July, filming actually took just one week. However, preparing the house and getting everything back to normal took another week each side of the filming. The location fulfilled many different needs for the production, from *Wolf Hall* itself to the Seymours' family home and externally the stable yard was transformed into Putney High Street where



There will be a small exhibition on the filming for this season's visitors featuring photographic panels, short behind-the-scenes documentaries and a trail around the rooms used in the production. Oh – and

the ice cream? On a hot day at the end of filming Mark Rylance, who plays Thomas, hired an ice cream van which made its way along the perilous lanes to treat the cast and crew. What a nice man. And here is a final word from Sebastian, 'We simply couldn't open Chastleton House and garden to visitors without the dedicated support of our volunteers. If you would be interested in joining us at Chastleton as a volunteer working in the house or garden, please contact us by calling 01608 674981 or by emailing [Chastleton@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Chastleton@nationaltrust.org.uk).'

Thomas' father had his smithy. Those of you familiar with the house will see from the photo the transformation of the ticket office into the smithy with the production crew setting the whole thing up.



**Gay Holden**

*Photo credits: Top Left: Chastleton House exterior during filming: National Trust Images/Sebastian Conway  
Top Right: Great Parlour as a Bed Chamber & Stable Yard as Smithy : National Trust Images/Megan Taylor*

## DIARY

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

- 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 p26
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Lunch for Lawrence**, to support the Lawrence Home Nursing Team - midday Lwr Town Hall details p9
- U3A** 2pm Methodist Hall Richard Thorpe - Lloyd George details p25
- NOOG** 7.30 St Mary's Parish Rooms - details p27
- 6-29 **CN Music Festival** see p17
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Harpist Zanna Evans Charity Concert** 8pm Town Hall - details p10
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Folk Club** 7.30 at the Blue Boar details p23
- History Society** 7.30 Methodist Hall see p26
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Lights Up Arts & Memory Club** see p23
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30-11.30 for Home Missions
- CNWI** 2.15pm Lower Town Hall see p22
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall details p25
- 13<sup>th</sup> **The One Hundred foot Journey (Cert PG)** in Churchill 7.30 - see p10
- CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** see p35
- 14<sup>th</sup> **Charlbury Farmers' Market** 9-1
- 16<sup>th</sup> **CNAAG** 7.30 at the Methodist Hall - see p25

- 16<sup>th</sup> **WOWI** 7.30pm St Mary's Parish Rooms see p23
- 18<sup>th</sup> **Horticultural Association** 7.30 Methodist Hall see p26
- 20<sup>th</sup> **Partial Solar Eclipse** 8.30-10.33am see p10
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Chipping Norton Farmers' Market** 8.30-1.30
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **William Smith Bicentenary plaque unveiling** noon Churchill Heritage Center see p8
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Lights Up Arts & Memory Club** see p23
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Yacht Club** see p22
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Lions Club Easter Bingo** 7pm Town Hall see p22
- 28<sup>th</sup> **Cemetery Clear up Day** meet 10am Worcester Road entrance
- Sunshine Cat Rescue Jumble Sale** noon-2.30 Milton under Wychwood Village Hall, Admission 40p or a tin of cat  
Details 01993 831 279.

### April (News out on Monday 30 March)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **U3A** 2pm Methodist Hall Martin Kemp - Mona Lisa details p25
- NOOG** 7.30 St Mary's Parish Rooms - details p27
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Clean up Chippy** Volunteers meet 10am Town Hall
- Ramblers Meet** 2pm New St Car Park see p24
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p26
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Lido Auction of Promises** Town Hall see p4