

## Chippy's Voice

### Stand for Town Council or join the Town Hall debate

With Town, District and General Elections all happening on 7 May, the debate is hotting up. April sees some key events and dates for voters and anyone wanting to get involved.

#### Become a Town Councillor

All 16 Town Council seats are open this year. The Council aim to represent the community and spend over £200,000 of your Council Tax money on town facilities and local grants. Are you interested in standing? Contact the Town Clerk and get your application in by 9 April.

#### Town Hall 'Hustings' debate

On Wednesday 15 April at 8pm All the main parties putting up candidates for MP (Conservative, Labour, UKIP, Green Party, Lib Dems, NHS Action Party) will join a public debate chaired by our local vicar. Come and hear what they say.

#### Annual Town Meeting

The Town Council holds its annual public meeting in the Town Hall at 7.30 on Wednesday 22 April. Your last chance to hold them to account before the election. Expect many local issues to be raised. More on back page.

#### Featuring this month

Easter Church services & the March of Witness ~ Town on the Move: promoting Chippy ~ Spotlight on the Cricket Club ~ Duke of Edinburgh Diary  
Plus all the usual arts, sports, clubs, schools and letters

### ChipLitFest in Town



Festival director Clare Mackintosh joins Polly & Patrick and some younger book fans at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop – a humming hub for the 4<sup>th</sup> Chipping Norton Literary Festival which hits Town on 23-26 April. More inside.

### In this issue:

**April Fool!** One News story inside may not quite be true – but which?

**Spot the 15 hidden Easter Bunnies** scattered throughout this Easter edition



**County drop HGV ban** Anger as Oxfordshire County Council omit Chippy's long-awaited HGV ban from their Transport Plan

**Housing approved** Planning permission granted for 228 new homes, 91 'affordable', behind Walterbush Road – with nearly £1m earmarked for Town infrastructure projects

## Your Councils – Who does what and for how much

With Council Tax bills and May election ballot papers arriving in the post here is a reminder of 'who does what and what we pay for'. For the year from April 2015 the Council Tax for a 'Band D' household in Chipping Norton will be £1566.70 – up 2.20% on last year. It covers County, District, Town and Police proportions. Boundaries are often a bit confusing (eg waste, culture, grass-cutting and verges, different licenses, parking and traffic) but try this:

### Oxfordshire County Council



Band D £1232.46 (up 1.99% since last year) — rises are capped to 2% otherwise a referendum is needed. With the Coalition's 'austerity measures' the County's grant from central government has been reduced considerably in the last four years – meaning that the County continues to have to make cuts to many core services. The lion's share of spending goes on areas such as education, social care, children's services and highways. Key responsibilities include:

- **Roads and transport:** street maintenance and new roads, lighting, bus service subsidies and planning, parking permits, park and ride
- **Children and families:** education, childcare and children's centres, adult learning, adoption and fostering
- **Social and health care:** public health and prevention, adult social services and care, health scrutiny
- **Environment, planning, emergencies:** countryside, archaeology, County Council development, waste disposal, historic records, emergency planning, fire and rescue
- **Leisure and culture:** libraries, museums, the Mill Arts Centre, marriages/births/deaths registration
- **Economy:** the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, trading standards

Contact 01865 792422 [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) Chipping Norton (and surrounding area) County Councillor: Conservative Hilary Biles.

### West Oxfordshire District Council



Band D £81.63 (zero increase) – rates are capped at 2% rise but WODC have chosen to freeze their take for the fifth year in a row. They say through efficiency savings – in admin and other areas – 'services remain protected and grants for voluntary and community sectors are maintained'. They claim to have the second lowest Shire District council tax in England and the lowest in Oxfordshire. Key responsibilities include:

- Local plans, planning and building control
- Elections and Parish Council procedure
- Community grants
- Housing and Council Tax collection
- Street cleaning and environmental health
- Waste collection and flytipping
- Conservation areas and tree protection
- Community safety and licensing
- Leisure centres, play areas and open spaces

- Parking and public toilets
- Arts and tourism support (VICs)
- WODC also run the One-stop-shop in Chipping Norton's Guildhall (open weekdays). Apart from dealing with advice and problems with all WODC services, they deal with immigration/nationality details, prohibition notices, and pedlar certificates. As a 'front desk' for the Police they handle lost property, referring incidents of crime/missing persons/anti-social behaviour and connecting the public with police officers.

Contact 01993 861000 [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) Chipping Norton District Councillors (all Labour) are Geoff Saul, Laetisia Carter and Eve Coles (whose seat is up for re-election in May)

### Chipping Norton Town Council



Band D £88.31 (up 8%). Although they are only a 'third tier' parish authority, the Town Council's tax take has risen 8% this year and 45% over two years to being more than WODC's share (it is not capped – such decisions remain entirely with the Town Councillors). The Council say that increases have been needed to pay for recreation ground improvements, expensive repairs (now and future) for the Town Hall, and deciding to take over some non-statutory services cut by County and District (for example border tidying, painting railings and bad weather contingency facilities). Key responsibilities include:

- The Town Hall and the War Memorial
- St Mary's Churchyard, Town Cemetery, Pool Meadow
- Town and Greystones recreation grounds
- Admin of Wednesday market
- Admin of William Fowler Allotments
- Town flower beds, snow patrol, railings etc
- Neighbourhood Plan and local planning input
- Grants to Town voluntary bodies
- Ad hoc: police liaison, town events, transport liaison

Contact 642641 [www.chippingnortontowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.chippingnortontowncouncil.co.uk) Mayor Mike Tysoe leads a Council of 16 councillors in total, all of whose places are up for election in May

### Thames Valley Police



Band D £163.70 (up 1.99%) – Last year the rise was also 1.99% (capped) with the Commissioner saying crime was down, admin savings were substantial but that TVP was one of only 4 forces nationwide that had not reduced frontline policing. The council tax precept pays for around 34% of total costs, the rest coming mainly nationally.

Key responsibilities include front line policing; crime handling and solving; criminal justice; alcohol, entertainment, firearms licensing; neighbourhood action and community support; road safety and traffic control. Contact 101 for all non-emergency enquiries. The Chipping Norton Neighbourhood team is led by Inspector Ollie Holland and Sgt Carl Goodman. Our Police Commissioner elected in 2012 is Anthony Stansfeld.

## PM at ChipLitFest launch

Chipping Norton's 4<sup>th</sup> Literary Festival was given a public



boost in March when MP David Cameron helped launch it at a drinks reception in The Chequers. Mr Cameron said that the Festival played to Chipping Norton strengths as a town with many creative venues, pubs, cafés and bookshops. Finding out about great books and listening to some of the nation's best authors, poets and writers was a wonderful way of bringing people together and inspiring the next generation with a love of literature. The volunteer team organising the show were there and were delighted with Mr Cameron's support. Festival Director Clare Mackintosh said, 'The Festival is a local project with a national audience. Our line-up is exceptional, and I'm looking forward to welcoming more than 70 authors to Chipping Norton in April'. The Festival, which last year received the Cultural Events & Tourism Award in the Oxfordshire Business Awards, runs from from 23 - 26 April in partnership with The Theatre, Chipping Norton, and Jaffé & Neale Bookshop & Café. More on Arts pages.

## Town Hall Ball

Tickets may still be available for the Town's Fundraising Ball on 18 April, organised by the Town Council. Funds raised will go towards a new Skate Park. Reception, four-course meal, dancing to The Monday Blues. 7 for 7.30 till midnight. Black tie/suits. £45 per person. Contact Town Clerk 642341.



## NHS update and contacts

**New GP surgery move** A reminder that 30 March sees Chipping Norton's two doctors' surgeries moving to the new Chipping Norton Health Centre in Russell Way off the London Road. Contact phone numbers remain the same for the moment (642529 and 642742).

**Outpatients and maternity** The correct telephone contact for all outpatients and maternity services at Chipping Norton War Memorial Hospital in Russell Way (OX7 5FA) is 01865 903333. This is for podiatry, X-ray, Cotswold Birthing Centre, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, hearing aid clinic, consultant clinics and district nurses.

**First Aid Service** The out-of-hours first aid service (the room next to main Hospital entrance at the back in Russell Way) is run by emergency care practitioners from the South Central Ambulance Service who are available on the spot unless out on an emergency. Mon – Fri 5pm-9pm, weekend and bank holidays 10am – 9pm.

**Intermediate Care Unit** The separate hospital beds unit is at Rockhill Farm Court OX7 5AU (to the left of the Henry Cornish Care Centre), telephone 01865 903366.

## Sun disappears over Chippy!

No, not the April Fool! Around 150 enthusiasts turned out early morning on 20 March outside Jaffé & Neale Bookshop to see an amazingly visible 86% eclipse of the sun. Members of local astronomy group CNAAG were leading the way offering their best telescopes for everyone to peer through – including large numbers of families and young children. A



school party of budding Patrick Moores marched through as well. A great recruiting day for CNAAG. There were also viewers using cardboard box contraptions, film negative and more. Patrick Neale from the Bookshop spoke live on BBC Oxford and the Bookshop Café did a roaring trade in breakfast buns and hot tea and coffee to help the crowd withstand the astonishing temperature drop during the eclipse. Something to remember.

## HGVs: County drop Chippy plan

Local anger has been aroused over Oxfordshire County Council seemingly stepping back from their commitment to deal with Chipping Norton's HGV and air pollution problem. For more than 10 years the 'Black Box' on Topside has registered illegal levels of Nitrogen Dioxide. An 'Action Plan', agreed some years ago by the County, included 'depriming' the A44, a compulsory rerouting, and imposing a weight limit through town. The County tried to withdraw this from the last Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan (called LTP3) in 2012 but it was 'reinstated' back then into that plan, after scrutiny and efforts by Chippy's County Councillor. A specific 'Chipping Norton area strategy' section in the final Plan addressed this and other transport issues.

But in the latest plan (LTP4), sent out for consultation in February 2015, the whole section on Chipping Norton has been removed. Transport strategies are there only for the large towns with a small paragraph saying, 'For smaller towns, villages and rural areas ... in the spirit of localism we are not planning to develop detailed transport strategies for local communities.' The County say that they expect local Neighbourhood Plans to set out priorities for transport. Chippy's own draft Neighbourhood Plan mentions the need for an 'HGV policy' but of course it needs the County to make something real happen, particularly dealing with the A44. On the subject of Chippy's HGV pollution the County, in their new plan, simply says 'we have commissioned a feasibility study for lorry management measures'. The Town will

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remember many previous studies on this issue and may suspect that the County is, at least for the moment, reneging on their clear previous commitment.



*The Horsefair air-monitoring box has been there so long that some locals have suggested holding a birthday party*

With elections coming in May, everyone now seems to have woken up to the County's lack of response. Guy Wall, a Conservative candidate for District and local resident, told the News, 'I live and work in Chipping Norton and my office overlooks the High Street. On a daily basis I am reminded of the terrible traffic problem through Chipping Norton. When I heard about the changes to the local transport plan (LTP4) made by OCC I was incensed and decided to take direct action. I have started a petition to get the traffic issue in Chipping Norton put back into LTP4.' In fact the Mayor and local Councillors across all parties are equally annoyed and all seem focused on writing to the Conservative-controlled County Council demanding action and reinstatement of the HGV plan. The responsibility for action, remains a County (not District) matter and in fact West Oxfordshire District Council – who monitor progress with the Air Quality plans say that last year, when the LTP4 was being first drafted in mid-2014, they did make representations to the County Council to keep the full Chipping Norton section in their draft plan.

So why is there no longer a specific action plan for the HGVs? Why did the County reject the WODC representation last year and why wasn't this important issue brought more strongly to the attention of local people, including the Town Council last year when the Stage 1 consultation for LPT4 was being done? And what will the County now do to address the issues? The News has asked both our County Councillor Hilary Biles as well as the Environment Monitoring team at WODC for more information and will report any responses next month. But it may all now be too late. Action will now need to be quick – Responses (from public and councillors) to the latest 'consultation' objecting to the omission of Chipping Norton's plan, need to be in fast. The deadline is midnight 2 April (so hurry) via [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/local-transport-plan-ltp4](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/local-transport-plan-ltp4)

### Blossom Day date

With spring in the air here's some timely advance warning of Chipping Norton's Blossom Day to be held at the Community Orchard. On Sunday 10 May – 12 noon-3pm, come and enjoy the blossom and the rites of Spring. Full details in your next Chippy News – but do put the date in your diary NOW!

### Premier Inn plans on show

Premier Inn held a public exhibition at the Town Hall on 25 March to display their plans for the new 72 bedroom hotel on Spring Street in place of care home and ambulance station. Chestnuts house will be refurbished into flats. The company say the £6.5m investment will create up to 20 new jobs and help attract new visitors to the Town. They also say they 'are aware of the Town's proud heritage and have worked closely with the Town Council to create a traditional hotel design that is in keeping with the surrounding area'. For more see [www.pichippingnorton.co.uk](http://www.pichippingnorton.co.uk) . Feedback can be sent by 5pm on 1 April to [pichippingnorton@turley.co.uk](mailto:pichippingnorton@turley.co.uk). Reactions next month.

### Red Nose for Mayor

As usual the nation put on its red noses and fancy costumes in days leading up to Friday 13 March to help raise money for Comic Relief. Chipping Norton was no exception with school groups, clubs and individuals all doing their bit. One willing (?) volunteer was Chipping Norton Mayor Mike Tysoe. Coerced by children and grandchildren (and Guildhall staff) the Mayor entered into the spirit.



Here he is pictured in full regalia and a Red Nose. He told the News, 'If readers laugh, cry, cringe or react in any way, please can they pay loads of dosh to Children in Need'.

### Exercise sitting down

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

### PM backs repeal of hunting ban

In an election promise apparently aimed at bolstering rural support, local MP David Cameron appears to be backing a repeal of the hunting ban, saying it has done little for animal welfare. He was quoted in a Countryside Alliance publication saying 'a Conservative government will give parliament the opportunity to repeal the Hunting Act on a free vote, with a government bill in government time.' His quote continued 'I have always been a strong supporter of country sports. It is my firm belief that people should have the freedom to hunt, so I share the frustration that many people feel about the Hunting Act and the way it was brought in by the last government.' However, he would probably need an overall election majority, given that most Labour and Liberal Democrats are against repealing the Act. Labour spokesperson Maria Eagle pledges to keep the ban on hunting foxes with dogs, tackle abuse in circuses, puppy farms and shooting estates and end badger culls.

## Aldi on the way



*First steps for Aldi: contractors clear the ground and then erect security fencing*



It looks like Chipping Norton's new Aldi supermarket is properly on the way. Some final planning approvals were noted at the February WODC Uplands Committee meeting and a team were spotted on site clearing the edges and putting up security fencing. The main building work will start after the summer. An Aldi spokesperson said 'Aldi can confirm approval to start work on site. This will begin in October of this year and we plan to open in 2016. We look forward to bringing our quality offering with everyday low prices to Chipping Norton.'

## More 'affordable' homes at last!

West Oxfordshire's Uplands Planning Committee voted unanimously on 2 March to grant full planning permission for 228 new homes by Bellway on land at Chadlington Downs Farm off Walterbush Road. The Committee were complimentary about the developer's successful attempts to get the Town Council, the AONB Board and the football club to support their proposals. Mayor Mike Tysoe spoke in favour of the proposal, which has been on the drawing board for a couple of years and seen modifications in response to local consultation.

The development will provide a new clubhouse for Chipping Norton Football Club, who supported the application. The developer is also to fund other play facilities and the provision of a skateboard ramp at Greystones, the preferred location identified by the Town Council. One matter still to be finalised is the safe crossing of the A361 Burford Road to access this. Oxfordshire County Council believes a pedestrian refuge will suffice, but the Town Council and District Councillor Geoff Saul are keen to see a Zebra or Pelican crossing here, which the developer have said they will fund if OCC will agree.

In addition to 91 'affordable' homes, the developers will be paying almost £1m in contributions towards local

infrastructure, including £228,000 towards public transport, £49,000 towards Special Educational Needs, £153,000 towards library services, £186,000 towards play facilities, £253,000 towards sport and leisure facilities, £63,000 towards youth facilities at The Theatre and £40,000 towards policing.

Councillor Saul praised the inclusion of 91 'affordable' homes (40% of the total), saying these were much needed in Chippy, where 187 households currently qualify for social housing. However, he expressed concern that the Housing Association 'affordable rents' were still 80% of market rent, higher than the 'social rent' model, and locally this is still not affordable, being the same amount as market rents were three years ago. This is a real concern to local people and an area the News hopes to investigate further in a future issue.

## Lido Auction and opening

April is always a big month for The Lido – the start of the season. This year sees the refurbishment due for completion and the all-important Auction with Jeremy Clarkson too. It's Friday 10 April for the Auction of Promises, 7:30pm in the Town Hall, hosted by Ken Norman keeping our tame auctioneer on side! Tickets are available from Jaffé & Neale Bookshop, at £15 to include wine and nibbles. There are some amazing lots including a brand new Mazda for six months (do the maths to work out your max bid for that one!), a luxury break on the Isles of Scilly, and others to suit all tastes and pockets. It's always a fun evening – get your tickets soon.

The main event, of course, is the start of the season. On Thursday 23 April the Lido opens for business at 12.30pm. Apply for your Season Ticket by downloading the form from the website. A lot of hard work has gone into giving both the main pool and the toddler pool a new lease of life during the winter, so it will be great to see them finished, filled and ready for swimming. Keep up with developments via [chippylido.co.uk](http://chippylido.co.uk), facebook and/or Twitter.

**Claire Williamson**

## New debt advice centre

A new centre is opening in Chippy on 13 April to support people struggling with debt. CAP (Christians Against Poverty) will be run by volunteers from St Mary's Church and the Community Church covering the Town and surrounding villages. CAP provides local Debt Management in 270 centres



nationwide. By visiting clients in their own home, CAP offers an individual and personal service free of charge. Information is collected and then sent to CAP Head Office where negotiations with creditors take place. CAP volunteers continue to support the client throughout their journey out of debt. Chippy's new Debt Centre Manager, Athene Mitchell, says she is enthusiastic about what is to come. 'We uniquely stay with people for the duration offering friendship, support and prayer'. It looks like CAP will provide an important service in a key area of need and as Athene says, 'It's church in action reaching out to our community'. The Freephone number is 0800 328 0006 if you feel you could benefit from CAP's services.

## Final Draft Local Plan approved

After years of delays and debates West Oxfordshire District Council approved their final Draft Local Plan setting out how West Oxfordshire should develop until 2031. This was after much consultation last summer on housing issues. The Plan proposes an extra 10,500 houses over that period across the whole District, slightly lower than the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) said last year. Most extra homes will be in Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton. There was much heated debate in the final WODC Council Meeting about the sites in North Witney. For Chippy 1800 homes are proposed for the 'sub-area' with now 600 (up from 500) expected in the Tank Farm site at the top of town. Employment land provision is also key with potentially another 7.3 hectares allocated in the east of the Town. Chipping Norton District Councillor Geoff Saul said he voted for the overall plan and said he had been reassured by officers that the increase in numbers at Tank Farm would not affect provision of employment land.

Other key commitments for the Chipping Norton strategy are 'Town Centre vitality and viability seeking to alleviate the impact of HGV movements through the Town and meeting future infrastructure requirements'. The final version of the Draft Local Plan will be published for six weeks from mid-March, during which time representations on its soundness and legal compliance can be made. It will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination later in the year. Further information can be found at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/draftlocalplan](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/draftlocalplan)

## Highlands Red Nose fun

Highlands Day Centre went 'Funny for Money' for Comic Relief on 13 March. They reported a great day dressing in red,



making Red Nose buns and having a sing-along during which they raised money with the Funny for Money sweepstake. Event organiser Joyce Taylor said, 'People were very generous and we would like to thank all those who took part or donated towards our fundraising efforts. If you would like to know more about Highlands and the service we offer just call in and have a chat or ring Jane on 643320'.

## Housing on Parker Knoll land?

Could another housing development be coming soon in Chipping Norton on the long-empty London Road industrial site? The site, bought by a private property company years ago when the Parker Knoll factory closed, has always been designated for business use, but there has been little sign recently of attempts to build offices or industrial facilities. Sainsbury's had an option on the site for their failed supermarket bid but that option will expire. And the use as an overnight bus park by Stagecoach for their S3s was only ever temporary. One likely move now could be to sell the site for housing.

This was hinted at in WODC's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) last year where the idea of in effect 'moving' the space for employment further up the London Road was mooted. The SHLAA said that any housing allowed on the Parker Knoll site 'would be dependent on an alternative replacement site being identified for business use elsewhere. A potential site for business use exists to the north-east at Rockhill Farm on the London Road.' That land, owned by Oxfordshire County Council, has always been designated for 'mixed use' (housing and employment). The SHLAA emphasised that retaining equivalent space for business use was essential. The empty Parker Knoll site is around 1.95 hectares and the land at Rockhill Farm is 2.75ha. Separate from this, more employment land is allocated as part of the proposed development at Tank Farm.

The idea of a 'swap' could now be more likely as the suggestion is firmly in the final Draft WODC Local Plan which is now going for inspection. The idea of housing at the Parker Knoll site might be welcomed by some as breaking the current impasse. Mayor Mike Tysoe said that another advantage would be getting any light industry further away from nearby schools, church and houses. However others are



**Café • Shop • Flowerpots • Garden  
Gallery • Working Pottery**



**Special Events at Whichford Pottery**  
**Half-Price Seconds Sale**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April - 10am to 5pm

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**Gardening to Impress**  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - 10am to 5pm  
Talk by guest speaker Diarmuid Gavin and plants for sale  
by Hoo House Nursery (please call to book talk tickets - £15).

Whichford Pottery, Whichford,  
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less keen on such 'swaps' fearing they might encourage speculative land owners to sit on land awaiting a redesignation for a higher land value. More news is awaited. It is not known whether Sainsbury's themselves have any further interest. The News understands that West Oxfordshire District Council, other than facilitating the idea in the Local Plan, is not in any current discussions with Sainsbury's or the landowners.

## Foreign investors target Town



*Proposed Gateway to the Town – the Chippy Shard*

The News has learned that a number of Chipping Norton's Topside shops could soon be owned by a major foreign investor. Middle Eastern and Russian oil billions have already been spent in London on office, retail and hotel developments, and it seems an unnamed oligarch has been looking at Chippy and rural Oxfordshire as a next big investment opportunity. With so many shops becoming vacant and restaurants up for sale – but with big housing growth on the way – it seems now might be a good moment to snap up everything that is going. A high powered property team recently visited the Town, led by Kazakhstan businessman Aloof Lirpa, a name to look at carefully in future. They had heard about Chippy's 'West End', and assumed it was the shopping destination of the Chipping Norton Set, but then failed to find the Agent Provocateur or Louis Vuitton outlets they were expecting. A Newsteam member spotted them in the Old Mill café supping English tea and the conversation turned to getting their hands on Dorothy Perkins and some other Topside Grade 2 jewels to create a new flagship shopping row to rival Bicester Village.

Apparently the team, already involved in the London Shard, also want to build something similar – but smaller of course – in Chipping Norton to provide a symbolic landmark, to celebrate their investment, at the entrance to the Town. Most likely location could be, appropriately, next to the Town's petrol station. This would be linked to a major re-configuring of the double roundabout at the end of Horsefair. This junction has for a long time been a menace – most recently Top Gear's presenters were recently filmed 'being confused' there. Full plans for the whole venture are likely to be made public on 1 April.

## District Councillors' Surgeries

Chipping Norton's Labour District Councillors Geoff Saul, Eve Coles and Laetisia Carter hold drop in advice sessions regularly from 5.30pm to 7pm on the first Thursday of every month at the ground floor meeting room of Bradley Saul Solicitors at 2 Market Street (next door to Trev Beadle's butcher's shop). The

next date is Thursday 2 April, or you can contact Geoff Saul at [geoff.saul@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.saul@westoxon.gov.uk) if you have concerns over housing, planning, recycling and refuse collection, parking, anti-social behaviour or any other local issues.

## Top Gear losing direction

Local resident Jeremy Clarkson has hit the spotlight again. As well as his publicised 'fracas', a recent episode of Top Gear saw him 'confused' at Chipping Norton's notorious Horsefair double roundabout. Presenters Clarkson, Hammond and May were shown attempting to



negotiate the roundabouts in small cars. Their experience resulted, inevitably, in a few bumps. Usually, Top Gear episodes filmed locally concentrate on the rural scenery and empty roads outside of town; but this one, filmed last year, gave prominence to such local sights as the Jet petrol station – appropriately for a petrolheads' programme!

## Oyez, oyez: Town Crier wanted



Chipping Norton's Town Crier has resigned after admitting that he pretended he had served in the Coldstream Guards and had worn military medals that he hadn't earned. Anthony Church (pictured left in 2005) also admitted to using the initials of the British Empire Medal – which he had not been awarded – after his name. The 62-year-old served as Town Crier not only

for Chippy but also for Oxford, Banbury, Thame and Wallingford. A replacement will now be needed – so what qualifications do you need to be Chippy's Town Crier and why do we have one? The Town Crier has had a long history. In medieval times, he had an important role in communicating the news to local people. Many were illiterate, newspapers did not exist, and so oral communication was the way in which most people learned of news and events.

The Crier would tell people about proclamations, when the next market day would be, and advertise goods. To gain attention, the crier would ring a bell, bang a drum or blow a trumpet, and cry, 'Hear ye', or 'Oyez' (which has its origins in the Anglo-Norman word for 'Listen'). By the early 18<sup>th</sup> century,

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the Town Crier was also known as a 'yelper' because of his shouting to attract attention. Because they were responsible for communicating both good and bad news – the latter including tax increases – their role was protected in law. They were seen as representing the monarch, and therefore, anyone who tried to assault a Town Crier could be charged with treason. Town Criers are not salaried employees of a council. However, they can charge between £200 and £300 per day for their services, plus expenses. For charitable events, they usually only charge expenses, although event organisers can pay them at their own discretion. So if you fancy being our Town Crier, have a loud voice, and can ring a bell (and look good in red and gold robes), keep an eye out. When the vacant role of Chippy Town Crier is advertised, it may be worth having a go.

## Mr Mould – I presume



In the tiny village of Narlai deep in the Rajasthan desert, whom should one of our Chippy News reporters come across last month but young Oliver Mould from Great Rollright. Oliver is spending part of his gap year before university working in hotels in this remote location and he certainly looks the part. Small world, eh – and this is not our April Fool.

## Magnificent Marquees

A new, and yet not so new, local business is Four Shires Marquees, run by Jack Drinkwater and Gavin Roach, and it is already taking bookings for the summer. Jack took over the business from his uncle, who didn't have to time to focus on it after taking over The Mill House Hotel at Kingham. Previously known as Top Marquees, Jack and Gavin have re-branded and re-launched the business with a new website, [www.fourshiresmarquees.co.uk](http://www.fourshiresmarquees.co.uk). Both Chippy locals and 25 years old, the friends will be using the internet and social media extensively to attract customers. 'We wanted a name that better reflected the area we can serve', said Jack, 'so although it's a new name we'll be offering the same friendly service that Top Marquees was known for. So far it's gone really well. We've got a lot more bookings than we'd hoped for at this stage, so we're really pleased.'

## Country Market needs baker

Are you a baking enthusiast? Chipping Norton's Country Market – held on Saturday mornings in the Lower Town Hall – urgently needs another producer to provide us with sumptuous goodies that would add a touch of luxury to our baking table. Could it be you? Betty Hicks, Chippy's latest Honorary Citizen, is taking 'early retirement', at 85 years of age, from the Country Market; therefore we need another baker to take on the role of chief scone maker. We are happy that Betty will still come and help us on Saturday mornings and will remain our secretary. We have built up an appreciative line of customers over many years, but we also need more people to visit us and more producers to continue running the market as the viable business it is at present. The Country Market is a non-profit making enterprise but we do

need to pay our way, so we need the support of the people of Chipping Norton.

If you think you could help us and make a small profit for yourself by baking, sewing or growing, please drop into the market on any Saturday morning 9-11am and speak to our market manager, Elizabeth Milhofer.

**Yvonne Keevans**

## Graffiti wall project

Are you a 'budding Banksie' aged between 8 & 16? As reported last month, Glyme Hall Youth Committee is organising a series of special events for young people throughout the spring and summer. The first will be a 'Graffiti Project' on the afternoon of Saturday 9 May. A graffiti artist will be visiting Glyme Hall with a portable 'graffiti wall' to work with a group of up to 20 young people. Starting by planning ideas on paper, the group will then transfer their ideas to the wall with large black pens. Splashes of colour will be added to make the design look fresh and bold. As places are limited to 20, booking is essential – contact Don Davidson by e-mail :- [dondavidson@btinternet.com](mailto:dondavidson@btinternet.com) There will be an entry charge of £1 and the event should start at 12:15pm. Two or three adult helpers on the day would really help the Committee make the afternoon go with a swing. Anyone interested in helping as a volunteer should contact Don as above.

The Youth Committee is in the process of setting up a Facebook page and is looking for someone familiar with social media to work with them to ensure the page is attractive and relevant to young people. Again, if you are interested get in touch with Don.



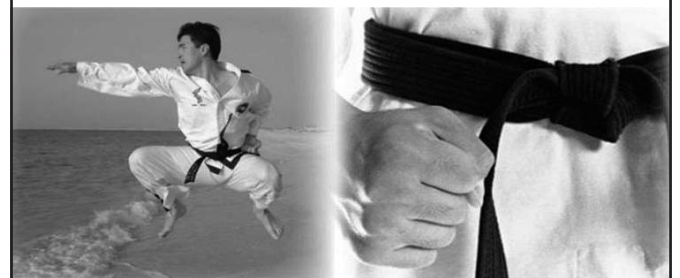
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## Caffè Nero hits town



After much speculation, Caffè Nero is opening a branch in Chipping Norton – just after Easter – in what was the Dorothy Perkins shop on Topside. March saw much activity putting in equipment and a notice on the door was advertising for staff. Recently Caffè Nero said it intended to open around 200 new branches in the UK by 2018. Under a recent change, shop premises can be converted to café use without needing planning permission for a period of up to two years. So is anyone up for visiting all 16 coffee providers in town and writing a consumer report?

## Recycling more food waste

Chipping Norton residents have been contributing to a huge take-up for food waste recycling – but more is needed. Around a thousand more householders in West Oxfordshire have responded to an awareness campaign by taking on weekly food waste recycling collections. WODC has seen a huge increase after placing stickers on householder waste bins in December, reminding people to use food containers for leftovers and unwanted food rather than putting food in the household rubbish bin. Food tonnage collected during December and January is up by 130 tonnes compared to the previous year, and during the two-week ‘sticker’ campaign, the Council received over 1,000 requests from households for food waste bins. As well as being environmentally friendly, diverting food waste from landfill saves money; the additional 130 tonnes collected during the first two months amounts to nearly £10,000 in savings. Last year, in West Oxfordshire, over 4,000 tonnes of food waste was sent to landfill, costing the council taxpayer over £430,000 in landfill charges. Analysis

shows that around 30% of the household rubbish collected in West Oxfordshire is food waste. All West Oxfordshire households can recycle any food waste, cooked or raw, as part of weekly collections. During the recycling process at the Agrivert plant in Cassington, gases are captured and turned into electricity, while the end product is a nutrient-rich fertiliser known as ‘digestate’. Householders who need information or a caddy, should call 01993 861000 or visit the Council’s website: [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk)

## Chippy CAB is moving

From the beginning of April the Citizens Advice Bureau will be moving to the new Chipping Norton Health Centre up London Road. Barbara Shaw, the CEO of West Oxfordshire CAB said, ‘We have been looking for alternative premises in Chipping Norton for over four years and we think that operating from the new Health Centre will enable more people to access our services’. The current premises in Horsefair have very poor access especially with the narrow pavement and large lorries passing by. The CAB say the new facilities will provide a much better environment for both clients and volunteers. Face-to-face advice we will be available at the Health Centre only on Wednesdays – both for drop-in and appointments. Telephone advice will be available Monday to Friday from Adviceline on 03444 111444. For cheaper calls from mobiles – please ring 0300 3300 650. eAdvice is available at [www.caox.org.uk/eAdvice](http://www.caox.org.uk/eAdvice). The CAB is looking for a room in the Town Centre where they can offer additional appointments one day a week. If any local businesses or organisations are willing to offer some space, please contact Barbara Shaw on 01993 892067.



## Summer Festival lineups

Line ups for this year’s big local summer music festivals are taking shape. **Cornbury Music Festival** at Great Tew (10-12 July) have announced ‘legendary Welsh soul man’ Sir Tom Jones. Others will include Supertramp founder Roger Hodgson, Razorlight, The Fratellis, Chas and Dave, Blue, Billy Ocean, Hank Wangford and Martha Reeves and the Vandellas. The Festival also works with the Chipping Norton Schools partnership. The winner of Top School’s Battle of the Bands gets to play there, as does the Chipping Norton School Band. Some talented young musicians in local primary schools also get free tickets for themselves and their families. See [www.cornburyfestival.com](http://www.cornburyfestival.com) or call 0844338000. (top price is £182 for an adult weekend pass)..

**Wilderness** at Cornbury Park in Charlbury (6-9 August) have announced Icelandic maiden Bjork, Ben Howard, George Clinton (Parliament and Funkadelic), Roisin Murphy, Nick Mulvey and many more activities including talks and debates, theatre, wellbeing and arts and crafts. Top adult full weekend ticket with camping £165.99. More at [www.wildernessfestival.com](http://www.wildernessfestival.com)

**The Big Feastival**, the Alex James and Jamie Oliver food and music fest in Kingham this year is from 28-30 August. BRIT Award songstress Paloma Faith is mainstaging on the Sunday, and Michelin Masters Raymond Blanc and Ashley Palmer Watts are joining the cooking. Weekend adult camping ticket £150. See [www.jamieoliver.com/thebigfeastival](http://www.jamieoliver.com/thebigfeastival)



**THE ENCHANTED GROVE**

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Mill House Hotel  
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12 – 6  
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## LOCAL NEWS

Fairport's **Cropredy** Convention is 13-15 August. The line up along with Fairport, includes Emmylou Harris, The Proclaimers, Level 42 and Toyah Willcox. Three day adult tickets £115. See [www.fairportconvention.com](http://www.fairportconvention.com)

### Geologist celebrated



A plaque commemorating the life and achievements of Churchill-born geologist William Smith was unveiled by Professor Hugh Torrens on 22 March near Smith's birthplace in Junction Road, Churchill. An appreciative crowd attended. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was the day before Smith's 246<sup>th</sup> birthday and this year is significant because it is the bicentenary of the publication of William Smith's first geological map of England and Wales. There is also a Bicentenary Exhibition at the Churchill Heritage Centre, curated by the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. See [www.churchillheritage.org.uk](http://www.churchillheritage.org.uk) for details.

### Join the Rollright Big Bake

Advance warning – Saturday 4 July is the date for the Great Rollright Big Bake and Food Fayre. As well as lots of stalls, BBQ and more – there is a wonderful Big Bake competition that anyone can enter, from cupcakes to the men's scone challenge. More details nearer the time and information from Alison at [Laurassister@icloud.com](mailto:Laurassister@icloud.com) or Sharon [sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk) or [mail@brendahayden.com](mailto:mail@brendahayden.com)

So why not get into practice, learn some baking skills and have some fun as well? Sign up for a Masterclass in Great Rollright in April, May and June all in aid of Tearfund's No Child Taken campaign. The Masterclasses with fees and contact details are as follows:

**Perfect Afternoon Tea** – in your home 12 April 1-4pm £10 contact Marilina 730001

**Bread Making made easy** – 18 April 10-3 £20, contact [sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk)

**Beautiful Cake Decorating** – 25 April 2.30 – 5.30 £15, contact [dna.stevens@btinternet.com](mailto:dna.stevens@btinternet.com)

**Dinner Party Puddings** – 17 May 2-5pm £15, contact [ralphmunte@mac.com](mailto:ralphmunte@mac.com)

**Pies and Mighty Pies** – 30 May 2-5pm £20, contact [orders@pieandmightypies.co.uk](mailto:orders@pieandmightypies.co.uk)

**Junior Baking** – muffins and doughnuts, min age 8; 6 June 2-4.30pm £8, contact [mail@brendahayden.com](mailto:mail@brendahayden.com)

**Foraged Feast** (outdoor event) – 20 June 12-4pm £15/£8, contact [charliefothergill@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charliefothergill@hotmail.co.uk)

See village webpage [rollrightreview.webplus.net](http://rollrightreview.webplus.net) for full details

### Broughton Farm Club

An opportunity to learn about life on a traditional mixed farm is on offer at Broughton Grounds Farm every Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm to 3pm. This is a charitable event



for local people with disabilities and their carers/companions. The farm is on the Broughton Castle Estate just three miles from Banbury. A variety of seasonal activities takes place including feeding lambs, calves and pigs, making jam or chutney, collecting eggs and growing vegetables. There are demonstrations of crafts and there is often produce to take home. The cost is £5 per person – free for carers and support staff. For further information contact James Taylor on 07875 626590 or [james@broughtongrounds.co.uk](mailto:james@broughtongrounds.co.uk)

### Events at Finstock Village Hall

The campaign to rebuild Finstock Village Hall now has most of the funds it needs and so the rebuild is likely to start on 1 June. Over £50,000 has come from the local community, alongside some major grants from the Parish Council and other bodies. Events leading up to June include a Dominoes Night (18 April), The Lempen Puppet Theatre Company (22 May), Botanical illustration / painting workshop (23 May), Sea Legs Theatre presents *Little Bo Peep* (26 May), The Finstock Village Music weekend (28-30 May) ending with a Farewell to the Hall party. All details including tickets and prices can be found at [www.wegottickets.com](http://www.wegottickets.com) or via e-mail [morley.shawn@gmail.com](mailto:morley.shawn@gmail.com), or phone 01993 868134.

### Screen by the Green

On Saturday 11 April Churchill & Sarsden Village Hall is showing *What We Did On Our Holiday*, cert: 12A. An uplifting and heart-warming comedy, loosely related to and from the same creators as the BBC's *Outnumbered*. David Tennant, Rosamund Pike, Billy Connolly and Celia Imrie star. All films

# LOCAL NEWS

start at 7.30: £4.50 pay at the door. Book by ringing Jackie on 659903 or emailing [screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com](mailto:screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com)

## Awards for carers



*Julie Miles (left) & Christina Esteban (right) with Mandy Vettraiño Southerndown General Manager*

Two carers at Southerndown Care Home in Chipping Norton recently received a prestigious Long Service Award to celebrate working for Barchester Healthcare for over ten years. Christina Estaban, now Senior Carer, started working for Barchester in February 2005 and 'has worked with residents and their relatives to ensure that their needs have been met over the years, doing so with compassion and understanding'. Senior Carer Julie Miles has been with Southerndown since March 2000, and she 'has a clear empathy for the residents in her care and has always gone the extra mile to achieve this, working in many different roles including activity coordinator'. Mandy Vettraiño, General Manager of Southerndown, said, 'Julie and Christina have demonstrated their dedication and loyalty to our home and the residents year after year. I speak for all of us here at Southerndown when I say that I'm looking forward to many more years of working with them both'.

Two carers at Southerndown Care Home in Chipping Norton recently received a prestigious Long Service Award to celebrate working for Barchester Healthcare for over ten years. Christina Estaban, now Senior Carer, started working for Barchester in February 2005 and

## New LHNT website goes live!

The Lawrence Home Nursing Team's new-look website is live. Please visit [www.lawrencehomenursing.org](http://www.lawrencehomenursing.org) and hear from our Patron, David Cameron, MP. Special thanks to Chippy web designer, Mike Rushby at Urban-Lighthouse and Jenny Aston Photography who have made it all happen. In style!

Our first 'Lunch for Lawrence' took place at the Lower Town Hall on 4 March. Nick Pullen Head Chef at Wild Thyme made a delicious parsnip and ginger soup served with freshly baked bread rolls, supplied by FWP Matthews. Our army of volunteers made an array of delicious cakes too. Thanks to all our supporters who came to taste the culinary delights; with special thanks to our event sponsor, Sainsbury's.



*Nick Pullen of Wild Thyme Restaurant with Michelle Lockyer and Ben Newton from Sainsbury's at the Town Hall Lunch for Lawrence*

The restaurant scheme continues in April with Daylesford Organic, Kingham and The Harrow, Enstone taking part. Please telephone: 731700 (Daylesford) and 678852 (The Harrow) to book your table. Forthcoming LHNT events to put in your diary include afternoon teas at Chastleton Church

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Diary Skills and Physical Section

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

Welcome back to April's DofE Diary edition. So far I have looked at the Volunteering activities of the Chipping Norton School students who are completing their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. This time I will focus on the Skills and Physical sections of some of the Bronze and Silver students. The Skills section is all about learning a new skill such as 'fine art or website design' or 'playing a musical instrument', which is what Charlotte Facer did. Being a Bronze student Charlotte has to complete three months of flute lessons at school. She told me she decided to do flute lessons for her DofE because it is different from all the other activities she does. It is also an activity during which she can meet new people as she also attends the weekly West Oxfordshire Wind Band and performs with the school Jazz Band. The best thing from the Skills section so far has been that she has clearly improved



*Naomi polishes her batting skills*

her performance.

The last activity section to talk about before the expeditions and the training days start is the Physical Section. 'You don't need to be super fit or Olympic standard to achieve this section', say the organisers. To complete her Silver DofE Award this year Naomi Hodkinson decided to do one of her favourite sports, cricket, for her Physical section. Despite the season not having begun yet, training has already started in Oxford. She thinks cricket is a good stress relief and it is also great to be able to play in a team. Despite being an amazing cricketer already she still hopes to improve her communication skills when playing. She considers the great coaching she is getting to be the best of this section,

which is shown in her improved performance. When I asked her to sum up DofE she said 'challenging, enjoyable, different.'

Next time I will be writing about the training sessions starting for both the Bronze and Silver participants.

## LOCAL NEWS

(adjacent to the House) on Saturday, 11 April. The annual Golf Day and Evening in memory of Jane Phillips, MBE at the Cotswold Club, Chipping Norton is on Friday 26 June. More details to follow. To join the mailing list or for newsletters and information email [verityfifer.lhnt@gmail.com](mailto:verityfifer.lhnt@gmail.com) or call: 684475.

**Verity Fifer**

### Tickittyboo is two!

Much fun was had in Middle Row in March for Tickittyboo's 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Party. Julia Cook told the News, 'The children had masses of fun. We had beautiful weather, music and our wonderful bubble machine. Pedal Car Parties were fantastic. We are so grateful to all the loyal customers who supported us and we welcomed some new faces at the party too!'



### Wild Thyme news

Chipping Norton's Wild Thyme restaurant in New Street has completed its refurbishment featuring local artist, Pam Franklin's, new work. There are some new menus and also an earlier opening time of 6.30pm on Friday and Saturday evening (and last orders 9.30pm) which might entice some pre-theatre parties. Also watch out for April events – Tasters of Spring on Thursday, 16 April and Brunch at Wild Thyme on Sunday, 26 April to coincide with the ChipLit Festival. Contact Wild Thyme on 645060.

### Library update

The big event this month is, of course, the Chipping Norton Literary Festival, over the weekend of 23-26 April. The Library is hosting three events for children and tickets for these are available now at The Theatre Box Office at the very reasonable price of £2. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm there will be the first of our Storytelling sessions with Mog the Cat and on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon the renowned artist Peter Horacek will be holding a workshop with stories and drawing. We conclude on the Sunday afternoon with another Mog the Cat storytelling session (2pm). All our events are kindly sponsored by our own local Fairytale Farm. In addition we will have secondhand books on sale all weekend – you never know what you might find to buy.

**Judith Bucknall**, Library Manager

### Cotswold picture prizes

West Oxfordshire District Council is looking for photos of the 'Oxfordshire Cotswolds' that capture something special about the local area: landscapes, scenic town images, historic buildings or lifestyle. Winning photos will get into tourism materials. Prizes will be given! The closing date for entries is Monday 20 April. For full details see [www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/photos](http://www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/photos) or contact Diane Blackwell on 01993 861553 [diane.blackwell@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:diane.blackwell@westoxon.gov.uk)

[oxfordshirecotswolds.org/photos](http://www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/photos) or contact Diane Blackwell on 01993 861553 [diane.blackwell@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:diane.blackwell@westoxon.gov.uk)

### Join the hospice Rainbow Run

Individuals, families and teams from Chipping Norton are all invited to sign up to run, jog or walk in Oxford's second Helen & Douglas House Rainbow Run on 24 May, to raise money for the children, young adults and families who use the hospice service. Entrants will be showered from head-to-toe with colours of the rainbow at different points along the 3km course. The run, open to all ages, starts at 11am. Places cost £12.00 for children aged 13 and under and £17.50 for anyone 14 and over. Helen & Douglas House cares for terminally ill children, young adults and their families and relies almost entirely on donations to support their families. They cannot do this without your support. For more information visit [www.hdh.org.uk](http://www.hdh.org.uk)

### Swap party & clothes sale

**Rafiki Thabo Foundation**



...supporting communities in Africa...

There is an afternoon children's toy and clothes sale and a clothes swapping, shopping and pampering evening on Friday 24 April in Churchill Village Hall, all in support of two local charities. The sale of second-hand but still fantastic clothes and toys at bargain prices will be from 3-6pm. Oopsadaisy's beautiful children's clothes will also be on sale and there will be teas & coffees and a cake stall. The evening clothes-swap party will be from 8pm till late. This is a great way of refreshing your wardrobe without spending a fortune: there will be good quality, stylish 'pre-loved' clothes, shoes and accessories for sale at bargain prices – plus some brand new clothes for sale. Tickets are £3 in advance or £5 on the door, to include a drink on arrival. All funds raised will go to the Rafiki Thabo Foundation and Kingfishers Playgroup. Rafiki Thabo is a local charity supporting students in Kenya, Uganda and Lesotho. Many of our beneficiaries are women and girls. Kingfishers Playgroup provides excellent pre-school care to 2.5 to 5 year olds from Kingham and surrounding villages. For more information please contact [janet@rafiki-foundation.org.uk](mailto:janet@rafiki-foundation.org.uk) or call Janet on 659269 or Lore on 658483.

# Jaffé & Neale

BOOKSHOP & CAFÉ

Join us for an evening with  
**Jessie Burton**  
author of

**'The Miniaturist'**  
at the Methodist Church  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm prompt**  
Tickets £5 each

Middle Row, Chipping Norton

01608 641033 [info@jaffeandneale.co.uk](mailto:info@jaffeandneale.co.uk)

## Graffiti – will CCTV help?



This month saw the shocking sight of graffiti already on the newly refurbished historic Guildhall in Middle Row (pictured left).

Police and the building owners (the District Council) are investigating.

Meanwhile graffiti on another prominent civic

building – the Town Hall – has resulted in the Town Council putting CCTV cameras (one is pictured above) on the front to discourage vandals and graffiti artists who had been damaging the 19<sup>th</sup> century stonework. Scratches, spray paint and crayons had all been used in recent incidents. Two newly installed cameras will overlook the area in the hope of catching the culprits. Town Mayor Mike Tysoe said it cost £2,000 to have damage dealt with the last time. The new system cost £3,230 plus an annual maintenance cost of £101. The cameras will be monitored by Council staff and any relevant information will be passed on to the Police. The Town Hall requires the Town Council's biggest annual financial outlay, with continuing costly repairs, recent redecoration and £30,000 on new boilers.



## Police and crime update

Chipping Norton's Neighbourhood Police Sgt Carl Goodman told March's Town Council meeting that local crime, drink driving, anti social behaviour and burglaries were down. He also said PCSO Cheryl Harrison is returning to duties in Chipping Norton. More news from local press and police reports below:

**Liaising with farms and rural communities** Chipping Norton police are stepping up their liaison with local farming communities – and increasing work on 'rural mapping' to help with tracking livestock, knowing who to contact and sharing information. Input locally from the Heythrop Hunt has also been useful.

**Interfering with badgers** A local badger sett has been interfered with recently in Gagingwell near Chipping Norton, an offence contrary to the Protection of Badger Act 1982. If anyone has any information that could assist in this active investigation then please contact the police quoting occurrence number 43150053593.

**48 trees damaged** Between 5 and 6 March 48 trees at a new housing estate in Hook Norton were criminally damaged with a chainsaw and are likely to die. Any witnesses please call PCSO Louise Beaumont, at Banbury via 101.

**Village shop burglaries** The spate of village shop burglaries (including attempts) continued in February. After incidents at Glympton, Wootton and Kingham there were reports from Milton-Under-Wychwood, Deddington and Stow-on-the-Wold. Call 101 with any information.

**Speeding and parking** The Chippy Neighbourhood Team are about to launch another campaign on both these issues at

the request of local people. Speeding and other offences such as use of mobile phones whilst driving and drivers/passengers not using their seat belts will all result in prosecution. Parking problems outside schools are continuing.

**Scam with broken down cars** Please look out for a fraud which is being reported in the area. Victims are flagged down by men next to 'broken down' vehicles and given 'gold rings' and business cards as 'guarantees' against lending them money for petrol. But the rings are worthless and the identities fake. Offenders seem to target men over the age of 55.

**Chainsaw stolen** This was a theft from a vehicle parked close to The Masons Arms. Offenders smashed a rear window and reached in and grabbed a chainsaw. Call 101 if you know anything.

**Neighbourhood Watch** A meeting for anyone in Chippy interested or involved is on Monday 20 April, 7-9pm at WODC Offices, Woodgreen, Witney. For information or to reserve a place call The Watch Office at Witney Police Station on 01993 893866.

## Val Carpenter 1942-2015



The funeral took place on Wednesday 11 March at St Mary's Church Chipping Norton of my dear sister and best friend Val. She was born in Chippy and will be remembered by many as the manager of the Library. She was a very proud mum to Andy and Simon and adored grandma of Oliver, Jack, Ellie and Joseph. Val enjoyed life to the full and was

involved in many organisations in the Town and had lots of friends. She loved theatre trips and our holidays, walking, baking, music and dancing and was an excellent pianist. Val became ill with lymphoma in 2011 and bore her illness with great fortitude and we were all very proud of her. I would like to thank everyone who came to fill the church and for all the many cards I have received – it has been amazing. We will all miss Val so much – she was very special!

*Love leaves a heartache no one can heal*

*Love leaves a memory no one can steal.*

Maureen Pratley

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## Promoting Chipping Norton

*More this month on efforts to promote Chipping Norton and smarten up the Town plus news of some local businesses leading the way.*



### ECN keep the ball rolling

After the big Town Hall meeting with MP David Cameron in February, local business group Experience Chipping Norton have launched a call for more Ambassadors to join and help with events and projects to promote the Town.

A public meeting at Middle Row's revamped Delicacy on 18 March set out some of the plans including:

**Christmas:** energising the seasonal town centre and shopping event aimed at maximising Christmas cheer in Chippy – for both traders and shoppers.

**Chippy Food Festival:** Our own town food festival to celebrate the amazing local array of fresh produce, delicious home bakes and gourmet gastronomy.

**Town Beautification:** A targeted programme of litter removal, weeding and gardening etc, to restore the Town to its former glory.

**Chippy in Bloom:** Let it grow! Getting budding gardeners involved in decking out the town in glorious colours with flowers, plants, shrubs and trees.

**Back to Business:** Getting all local traders accessing an exciting schedule of network meetings, seminars and training workshops, to boost and support local business

ECN's Shaun Fagan is delighted with the enthusiastic response so far. They need specific skills in events and meeting management, admin/project support, graphic design, marketing and PR, website and social media management, promotional video and photography. They also want to make ECN shine by using the best social media and marketing techniques.

The next ECN public meetings are on 22 April 6-8pm (venue TBC) and 20 May 6-8pm at The Red Lion. visit [www.facebook.com/ExperienceChippingNorton/events](http://www.facebook.com/ExperienceChippingNorton/events) or contact Shaun at 07827 999135 for more information.

### Chippy Businesses lead the way

**West Oxfordshire Business Awards** Chipping Norton organisations will again be on show at the WOBA finals at a gala dinner on 27 March at Heythrop Park. The Lawrence Home Nursing Team are nominated for the Charity Award, and Care Compassion and Conversation are up for the New Business Award. Chipping Norton businesses who won last year are sponsoring various categories including Owen Mumford (Innovation), Wise Investments (Employer of the Year), and mark-making\* (Social Media).

**Vinegar firm in top 50** Chipping Norton's local food business – Wormersley Fruit and Herb Vinegars – has made it into the list of the UK's 50 most promising food and drink entrepreneurs in a new Government Initiative. The 50 Food Stars, selected from hundreds of award-winning businesses, were invited to a special launch event at DEFRA's Government offices in London in February. They will attend masterclasses on topics such as exporting and social media as part of support from the Food and Drink Federation and Cranfield University.

**Shoe-in at Number Six** Jo Harper, who owns Shoes at Number Six in New Street, and husband Jamie had a great night out at the National Footwear Awards in February. Held at the National Motorcycle Museum, the event featured a cocktail reception, dinner and casino.



*Jo & Jamie Harper pictured at the Awards ceremony*

Jo has been selling shoes in the Town for fifteen years and moved the shop from Topside to the new location in New Street three years ago, re-branding at the same time. Shoes at Number Six was nominated in four of the independent retailer categories: Ladies, Family, Children and Mens and then short-listed for Ladies Independent Retailer of the Year.

In the final she lost out to much larger retailers like Charles Clinkard but said, 'It was quite an honour and privilege to be shortlisted which means we're in the top five among all the shoe retailers in the country. Service and quality are now so important, with competition from the Internet. Sometimes we don't realise how lucky we are in this town, because people do make an effort to shop locally before looking further afield, and that ethos is so important.'

### Smartening up the Town

**Litter picking** ECN last year tried sustaining a first Sunday-in-the-month 'diary date' for a voluntary 'town clean up' – and want to have another go (it has dwindled recently). The Easter Sunday date listed in last month's Diary has been cancelled but ECN's Shaun Fagan says they want to restart on Sunday 3 May. Can any interested parties please email [info@experiencechippingnorton.com](mailto:info@experiencechippingnorton.com)

**Market Square appearance** Mayor Mike Tysoe reports they have sourced some new railings for the lower car park by Sainsbury's to 'smarten up that area of town considerably'. The Town Council are removing rotten planters next to the Bookshop – are there any sponsors out there for new ones? Topside Car Park is having all its white lines repainted, courtesy of Oxfordshire County Council.

**Sprucing up play area** The Mayor also reports that the Council are close to finalising the contract to restore and repaint all the equipment in the New Street and Cotswold Crescent recreation grounds. There will also be some new outside gym equipment at the New Street one (courtesy of Penhurst developers). Commenting on the Town Council Tax increase Mayor Tysoe said 'if the Town wants improvements to the Town then the money has to come from somewhere.'

# TOWN ON THE MOVE

## Where next? Shops, pubs and commercial property

More news on what is happening to commercial property and some town businesses

### Town Centre – a positive outlook

With recent news of Topside shop changes, concerns have been expressed about empty shops, rents perhaps too high and why such an apparently prosperous town is not attracting or keeping quality retail outlets. The News spoke to Peter Talbot who looks after Commercial Property at Taylor & Fletcher in New Street, who said that 'rents are extremely reasonable' and 'nothing is empty out of lack of interest'. He did say that few shops are big enough for the national chains and that WH Smith and Boots have the cream of the crop currently. However Caffè Nero is moving into the recently vacated Dorothy Perkins and the old Burtons end of the store is up for rent separately to be accessed from the newly expanded Co-op side. Peter is optimistic overall – 'the market is busier and (we are) feeling better times'. He is also positive about local landlords in town such as those at Topside who are taking time to update the fabric of the buildings due to monetary and listing restrictions. Peter says most keep rents to a reasonable level for small businesses wishing to establish themselves in town.

There are a surprising number of retail businesses and buildings on the market in Chippy, not many of which are advertised openly, ranging in asking price from £50,000 to £2.5m. Examples include the Movable Feast business and the large property which houses businesses such as WineBear. Most are through retirement or for personal reasons – and all are seeking owners who want to invest in Chippy's commercial prospects. So it's not all bad news on the Chippy commercial property scene! There are indeed empty properties but our leading local commercial property agent is optimistic about filling at least the ones they are responsible for and a national coffee shop chain is confident enough in the footfall on the High Street to establish itself here.

### Local round up

**The Red Lion** Mick and Sheila are moving on after three-and-a-half years and Stuart Taylor, well known from The Chequers, is taking over at the end of April. Stuart will be making a few changes but with a light touch. 'I want to keep it as a rural town pub,' said Stuart, 'so no sweeping changes. But it's pretty much the only place with a beer garden, definitely the only one that's not overshadowed by other buildings, so I

will be making that more attractive.' Stuart is also planning a series of events including a mini beer festival for the Bank Holiday at the end of May. He will take over on Wednesday 22 April and is keen to have the pub ready for the following weekend when the Fox Hotel closes for an unspecified period.

**Whistlers Wine Bar** Jane Main, joint proprietor with husband Richard, wanted to reassure customers as the property is advertised for sale. They said 'Definitely don't panic! Jane and Richard love Whistlers, they love their customers and they love Chippy. This is their home and they have no intention of going anywhere. It's just that a happy change of circumstances with the arrival of their first child in June



means exploring options. Frustratingly, the living space above the restaurant wasn't designed for raising a baby. Jane will definitely have her hands full, which takes her away from serving you, and Richard's ability to support the operation front of house has reduced significantly due to his headship at Buckinghamshire's largest primary school. They're busy working out possible solutions and no doubt will have solved the conundrum soon. Just to reassure you, selling is the least preferred option so, chances are, you'll be seeing them for quite some time yet.'



**The Fox Refurbishment** plans were approved by WODC to include four extra bedrooms in the hotel's cottage annexe and a revamp of the garden and car

park areas. The plans show that the car park on Cattle Market (closing to public) will become the new car entrance, being integrated with the existing Fox car park. Hook Norton Brewery declined to say if the car park plan was going ahead and could not give any reopening date. They did suggest punters could visit the reopened Sun Inn in Hooky to see what a similar refurbishment looked like.

**The Black Horse** The Salford pub closed after the sad death of the landlord in November. It is being offered for auction by Taylor & Fletcher on 22 April at the Fosse Manor Hotel, as a pub not a development opportunity. Whether the new owners will want to retain it as a pub will remain to be seen. As it is the only pub in the village, doing anything else with it will be difficult, though not impossible. Taylor & Fletcher said the sale is on behalf of the former landlord's brother.



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# EGGS FOR EASTER

## The History of the Easter Egg

As you're tucking into your Easter eggs this month, have a thought to your ancestors – for they would have enjoyed an egg or two as well. The name 'Easter' is derived from 'Eostre', the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring. Two of Eostre's most important symbols were the hare because of its fertility and the egg, which symbolised new life. Ancient people also reportedly saw a hare in the full moon. The Easter Bunny nowadays carries on the theme, representing fertility and life.



Christians associated eggs with the creation and beginning of life. The first reference to an Easter egg that the Oxford English Dictionary records dates from 1572. But apparently a notation in the household accounts of King Edward I showed an expenditure of eighteen pence for 450 real eggs to be gold-leafed and coloured for Easter gifts!

By 1737 both young and old were recorded as giving Easter eggs to each other not just over the course of the Easter weekend, but for a full two weeks! The custom was widespread, with rich and poor both giving presents of Easter eggs and grown-ups enjoying them just as much as children. However, in some countries, such as Russia and Germany, the giving of Easter eggs was associated with 'the common people'. By the start of the nineteenth century, Easter eggs took a variety of forms. Some were to be eaten, but others were simply painted or made of wood and carved – simply being decorative items.

In 1858 Berrow's Worcester Journal noted that although the eggs had originally had a religious character, that aspect had been lost – and 'with the children of the present day, the Easter egg is a simple box enclosing a pretty present' rather than representing Christ, creation and the beginning of spring. In 1861 a children's party was held for those of the French

royal family. The highlight came at four o'clock in the afternoon, when an enormous Easter egg appeared in the room and 'was immediately surrounded by a crowd of eager assailants, who soon tore open its sides and found a complete arsenal of toys' inside. It makes our chocolate eggs suddenly seem a bit less impressive – but not enough to stop us eating them this year!!

## Easter Egg hunts

Easter Egg hunts local to Chipping Norton include at **Daylesford Farm Shop** on Sunday 5 April where children hunt for real eggs hidden in the courtyard, exchanging them for chocolate treats. It starts at 10am, all ages are welcome and is free of charge (donations to a local children's charity are welcomed). **The Mill House Hotel** in Kingham is offering a three course Easter Sunday lunch £18.95 per head after which children can enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt. **Blenheim Palace** has an Easter Egg Hunt around the Pleasure Gardens, with clues and prizes! The Gardens will be transformed into a traditional Victorian fairground (3-6 April all weekend). At **Fairytale Farm** just outside Chipping Norton you can visit the Easter Bunny in his giant burrow, hear some bunny tales and join in an Egg Hunt with prizes (3-6 April 10am-5pm) See [www.fairytalefarm.co.uk](http://www.fairytalefarm.co.uk).

## Eggs with a Christian message



The Fair Trade Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010 to promote the Christian message – the only egg with a copy of the Easter story in each box. There is also a charitable donation for every 150g egg sold. More than a million Real Easter

Eggs have been sold raising £140,000 for charity. Eggs use Fairtrade chocolate and this year contents include a 3ft storybook/banner, an olive wood key ring made in Bethlehem and story booklets. For details see [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) They are sold in some supermarkets but make most sales from direct sales from churches and schools, who find champions to promote the Real Easter Egg.



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Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 5SR  
tel. 01608 642570 email. [advice@astral-lbh.co.uk](mailto:advice@astral-lbh.co.uk)  
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## Walking in another man's shoes

**Paul Meathrel, Pastor of Chipping Norton Community Church sent the News this Easter Message:**

I vividly remember my first business trip to West Belfast almost twenty years ago. Sitting in the back of a taxi and being shocked by what I saw, kerbstones on either side of the road painted in nationalist and unionist colours, murals and a fortress like police station daubed in paint with shattered windows from projectiles hurled the night before. Being told by my hosts to be careful with my British accent as we visited a café on the Falls Road for lunch was unnerving. The surroundings and faces were so familiar yet I felt like a stranger in another world. It felt to me as if I was walking in another man's shoes.

In Chipping Norton, every Good Friday, for the last 15 years representatives of the churches have marched behind a man carrying a wooden cross through the centre of town before gathering on the Town Hall steps for a short service.

What on earth is all this about?

The Good Friday March of Witness draws attention to the events of Easter as the absolute centre of the



*The Good Friday Open Air Service following the March of Witness in 2002*

Christian faith, not simply a couple of Bank holidays. The March looks back to the Easter story in which Jesus himself took a similar journey carrying a cross before being crucified on it by the Romans. A completely innocent man who died a criminal's death. He walked the path to death willingly. Despite his innocence he did not protest or cry out. He willingly accepted that walk and its destination, death. Knowing that he walked in someone else's shoes – ours.

Jesus made this walk so that others might not have to take it and died this death so others might not experience it.

The message of Easter is that, if we put our trust in him, he will walk in our shoes, in our place and restore to us friendship and relationship with God. This is why Christians march following in Jesus' footsteps each Good Friday.

*Good Friday March of Witness, 10.50am from outside the Methodist Church, Chipping Norton.*

*Good Friday open air service, 11am, Town Hall steps. All are welcome*

## EASTER SERVICES

### Churches Together

*Good Friday 3 April 11am Town Hall steps (preceded by The March of Witness)*

### Baptist Church at Highlands

*Good Friday 3 April 6pm Multisensory Worship  
Easter Sunday 5 April 10.30am Easter Sunday Celebration*

### Community Church at Glyme Hall

*Palm Sunday 29 March 10.30am Family Worship  
Easter Sunday 5 April 10.30am Family Worship*

### Holy Trinity (Roman Catholic)

*Maundy Thursday 2 April 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by 'Watching' at the Altar of Repose until 9pm  
Good Friday 3 April 10am Stations of the Cross  
3pm Liturgy*

*Holy Saturday 4 April 8pm Easter Vigil*

*Easter Sunday 5 April 10.30am Mass of the Resurrection*

### Methodist Church

*Good Friday 3 April 9.30am prior to the March of Witness  
Easter Sunday 5 April 11am Easter Service*

### St Mary's (Church of England)

*Maundy Thursday 2 April: 10.30am Communion Parish Rooms, 7.30pm Holy Communion, St Mary's Church*

*Good Friday 3 April: noon-3pm Service of Reflection and prayer, St Mary's Church*

*Easter Sunday 5 April:*

*8am Holy Communion, St Mary's Church*

*9.15am Holy Communion, St James' Chapel Over Norton*

*10.45am Family Celebration with Communion, St Mary's*



## The Centre for Work, Rest and Play

### Group Meetings

Age Concern Monday Club  
Community Church  
Akanishta Kadampa Buddhist

### Mind & Body Fitness

Body Conditioning: Yoga  
Mindfulness: Stay Supple  
Fitsteps: FitBeing  
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### Pre-School Fun

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# THE ARTS

## Chipping Norton Music Festival Reviews & experiences The Youth Jazz Band Challenge



As always, an explosive start to the Festival! This year, the female singers stood out as great assets to their bands. The singing of Street Life, in the performance by Cokethorpe School Jazz Band, certainly contributed to them being the winners of the Rotary Cup this year.



Popular with the audience were the Oxfordshire Youth Big Band. Twenty-three players and their conductor produced the Big Band Sound of the 30s and 40s, with powerful brass and keyboard playing. Their stage presence was really professional with synchronised movements and many opportunities for good solo performances.

After all the bands had played, the adjudicator Colin Touchin made observations and comments. I had just enjoyed listening to the music, but he had heard so much more and gave instructive critiques.

All the entries combined to make for a great evening's entertainment and I hope more will go along next year to share the performers' enthusiasm and love of jazz.

Kaye Freeman

### I was an assistant to the adjudicator

This year I had a new experience at the Music Festival. Not only was I a News reporter, but also assistant to the adjudicator Nadia Hinson at the primary and elementary session for ensembles and strings on the afternoon of 11 March. From the adjudicator's table at the very front of the Town Hall I was able to see at first hand how Nadia went about her pleasurable task. As soon as I had called the name of the participant(s) and they were bravely facing their audience ready to play, Nadia was making notes. I say 'bravely' as most of the players in this session were very young and the Town Hall is very large and must have felt quite daunting. However, never did these talented youngsters show any nerves. Some of their feet didn't even reach the ground as they sat playing their instruments, their eyes fixed on their music or glancing up quickly at the conductor. I was amazed at the skill these young musicians displayed, particularly two of the violinists. Nadia's comments were both positively encouraging and helpful, sometimes pointing out how their posture and a smile could enhance their already excellent performance. Each performer or ensemble was handed the report on their playing which I know they will be very proud of.

Alison Huitt

## Jacqui Dankworth and Charlie Wood

On Sunday 15 March acclaimed jazz singer Jacqui Dankworth, and her husband Charlie Wood on piano and vocals, made a welcome return to Chipping Norton as part of the Music Festival. A near sell-out audience was treated to an evening of duets based around the music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.



Jacqui's exquisite voice with its stunning vocal range, clarity and contrast was spell-binding, particularly in her solo slow number 'Just For A Thrill' when she

held a crystal clear note for several seconds – and us in the palm of her hands. Her scat singing was spot-on and did not dominate any of the numbers; rather it was a sleek transition from one medium to another, fitting perfectly within the song.

The combination of Jacqui's and Charlie's voices is quite lovely and their timing impeccable. Unusual harmonies gave even the most well-known songs a new interest, and Charlie's 'vocal strumming' to 'In A Mellow Tone' added a most effective bass line. However, it may have been due to a bad sound check, but his solo pieces came across as too loud and his mouth too close to the microphone for the lyrics to be heard clearly. The hired grand piano certainly got quite a work-out. But all in all it was a terrific evening.

Gay Holden

Music Festival photos: Martin Davies

### What's Happening@

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#### LIVE HIGHLIGHTS:

Thurs 2nd April, 11.30am	KIDS SHOW: SWORD IN THE STONE £8.50, 5+ years
Sat 4th April, 7.45pm	THE RAT PACK IS BACK £16
Sat 11th April, 11.30am	KIDS SHOW: HUGLESS DOUGLAS £8.50, 3+ years
Thurs 16th - Sat 18th April	CAROUSEL £12.50 (Sat matinee £10.50)
Tues 31st April, 7.45pm	ROCK 'N' ROLL POLITICS WITH STEVE RICHARDS £14
Wed 22 April, 7.45pm	A STRANGE WILD SONG £14, £12 conc, Friends 2 for 1
Mon 27th April, 7.45pm	THE FUREYS £18



CHIPPING NORTON LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
THURS 23RD APR  
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Wed 1st April, 7.30pm	TESTAMENT OF YOUTH (12A)
Thurs 2nd April, 7.30pm	WILD (15)
Wed 8th April, 7.30pm	FIFTY SHADES OF GREY
Thurs 9th April, 7.30pm	INTO THE WOODS (PG)
Fri 10th April, 7.30pm	THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG)
Sat 11th April, 3pm	INTO THE WOODS (PG)
Sat 11th April, 7.30pm	THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG)
Mon 20th April, 7.30pm	STILL ALICE (12A)
Thurs 23rd April, 10.45am	CINEMA BAMBINO: ADULT & BABIES FILM CLUB
Thurs 23rd April, 7.30pm	LOVE IS STRANGE (15)
Sat 25th April, 7.30pm	BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP (15)
Sun 26th April, 7.30pm	SET FIRE TO THE STARS (15)
Tues 28th & Wed 29th April, 7.30pm	SUITE FRANCAISE (15)

For info on Gallery Exhibitions & Take Part Activities please  
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BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 [www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com)

# THE ARTS

## ChipLitFest 23-26 April

### Arts team picks...

In the run up to the Festival, some of our arts team choose the events and talks they're looking forward to this year.

**Kaye:** **'Polly Toynbee**, described as 'the queen of leftist journalists', writes for the *Guardian* newspaper; as a respected journalist she was named Columnist of the Year at the 2007 British Press Awards. Because I read her column I will enjoy hearing her talking, here in the Prime Minister's constituency, about her latest book, *Cameron's Coup: How the Tories took Britain to the Brink.*'  
*Polly Toynbee and David Walker discuss their book at the Town Hall, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>, 12noon.*



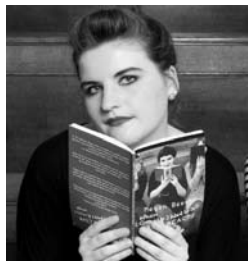
**Gillian:** 'The **Jesse Armstrong** event sounds fascinating. He's written lots of great stuff for film and TV, including *Babylon* and *The Thick of It*, both of which I loved. It'll be really interesting to hear him talk about his first novel – I want to know if it's as acerbic and funny as his other work. I hope so!'

*Jesse Armstrong discusses his novel Love, Sex and Other Foreign Policy Goals at The Theatre, Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm.*



**Harriet:** 'The succinct power of poetry can get forgotten alongside more high-profile literary forms. A Literary Festival is a good time to remember. I'm looking forward to hearing student **Megan Beech**, contributor to a growing spoken-word poetry scene who also has a published poetry collection.'

*Megan Beech performs at The Chequers, Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, 8pm.*



For more information about what's on during the Festival, go to [www.chiplitfest.com](http://www.chiplitfest.com) or pick up a brochure from Jaffé & Neale or The Theatre Box Office.

### Village Crime

**M C Beaton**, author of the hugely popular *Agatha Raisin* and *Hamish Macbeth* series of murder-mysteries, will be in conversation at the ChipLitFest. In advance of her appearance, she very kindly took some time to answer our questions.

***Death of a Liar*** is your latest *Hamish Macbeth* novel. Can you fill us in on any plot details without giving anything away?

The liar in the book is a woman who lies and lies to get sympathy and attention until one night she phones Hamish Macbeth and says someone is going to kill her. He goes back to sleep, but decides in the morning that he'd better check it out, and finds her dead. He begins to find out that her death is linked to other murders and the plot becomes more complicated.

*You've talked about a fishing trip to Sutherland in Scotland as inspiring your first Hamish Macbeth mystery. How was the first Agatha Raisin novel inspired?*

My editor, Hope Dellon, at St Martin's Press in New York had been in love with the Cotswolds for a long time and asked me

if I could write a Cotswold detective story. I had always liked anti-heroes and heroines, such as Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair* and decided to create a character you might not like, but might want to win through in the end.

*The first Agatha Raisin novel was recently dramatised by Sky 1. Do you know of any plans to film more novels in the series?*

I enjoyed Sky 1's pilot of *The Quiche of Death*. I hope there will be a series. But watch this space!

*Agatha Raisin has been portrayed by both Penelope Keith and Ashley Jensen – two very different actresses. Who, do you think, captures the essence of Agatha?*

I love both of them. It is a hard part to play. The actress has to be abrasive, rude and yet likeable and both these ladies do a brilliant job.

*Whose books do you read when you're not writing?*



MC Beaton

I read a lot of detective stories. I am fond of the old classics like Dorothy Sayers, Agatha Christie, Josephine Tey, Edmund Crispin, Nicholas Blake and many, many more. Modern ones – Simon Brett, Stuart MacBride, Denise Mina, Alexander McCall Smith and Ian Rankin and a whole lot more of them as well.

*Do you have plans for another novel in the near future?*

You bet! I am contracted for six more so that should keep me going. I am currently working on the latest *Hamish Macbeth*, *Death of a Nurse*.

*M C Beaton joins Simon Brett in conversation in Village Crime at The Theatre, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>, 2pm.*

## The Theatre Review

***My Mother Said I Never Should*** is about how some things



change from one generation to another, but how other things, like expectation and guilt, stay the same. The recent production at The Theatre was beautifully directed and performed: there were some very moving moments, which were tempered in other scenes with warm northern wit. The stage had been moved to a square platform in the middle of the auditorium with the seating arranged around it, which lent a very intimate feel to the production. Actresses Sue McCormick, Zara Ramm, Jessica Guise and Charlotte Croft – playing members of the same family – were all thoroughly convincing as they switched between their younger and older selves. With much of the action going backwards and forwards in time, often the only way of knowing when each scene was set was through what the women wore. The clothes were

# THE ARTS

fantastic evocations of the different eras – congratulations to the costume designer, and to the rest of the production team.  
Gillian Lowe

## Easter holiday workshops at The Theatre

*Musical Theatre Experience* for 5-8 year olds Tuesday 7 April-Thursday 9 April Tickets £65

*Comedy Workshop* for 8-14 years Tickets £30 Wednesday 8 April, 10am-4pm

*Dance Workshop* for 8 -12 years Thursday 9 April-Friday 10 April Tickets: £50

Contact The Theatre Box Office on 642350 for more information on these and other workshops, or visit [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com)

## Artweeks 2015

The original idea of Artweeks was to introduce the public to artists' workplaces to see the processes of their craft. As well as mentioning some of the local venues, this month the News will mention some places to find artists at work.

### North Oxfordshire 2-10 May

#### Chipping Norton

Town Hall: high quality work from 14 of Oxfordshire Craft Guild's finest designer makers of surprising diversity include Alex Griffin, furniture maker; Jane Hanson, potter; Selma Stagg, ceramic jewellery; and Tlws Johnson, glass maker.

No8 Cross Leys: Jeweller Rosie Colvin, painter Judith Yarrow and ceramicist Crabby Taylor are all inspired by landscapes and natural materials. Some work in progress.

#### Charlbury

Venues include artists' homes and studios, local churches, and The Bell Hotel. Thirty-one artists will display skills in painting, printmaking, ceramic art, sculptures, silversmithing, photography, calligraphy and installation art.

Tony Lloyd demonstrates printmaking in the Royal Oak Press, Park Street.

Sarah Pulvertaft makes contemporary jewellery: see her in her workshop at Ranger's Lodge, Cornbury Park.

A Trail Map will be available to give full details of artists, locations and opening times with most venues open 12-6pm.

#### Great Rollright

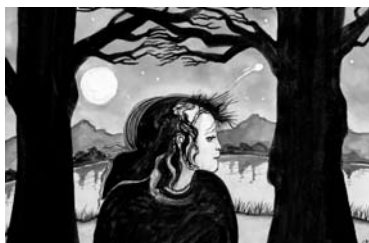


Pot by Penny Varley – Site 31

Twenty-seven artists, including eight newcomers, will be displaying work in five sites around the village. Exhibits include painting, sculpture, textiles, photography, ceramics, jewellery, mosaics and wood. Visitors can also talk to artists and see demonstrations. Anuk Naumann has a lovely garden studio, and will use half of it to show the processes of her work. The

Shrubbery, South End. The Village Hall: eleven artists' work on display plus a daily demonstration of various crafts from the Hall and other sites.

Tea, cake and parking at the Village Hall.



Night Vision by Geoff Clifford

For information about each artist, where they are, opening times and where to find refreshments, the Artweeks catalogue will be available in April in libraries, book shops and many outlets as well as via the Artweeks website [www.artweeks.org/festival](http://www.artweeks.org/festival)

## Other events

### Kingham Choral Society

Spring Concert: **All Creatures Great and Small**

Saturday 11 April, 7.30pm, Kingham Primary School. Tickets £5 available from Kingham Coffee/Kingham Stores or Gwyn Devas: 658090/Linda Sale: 658647.

### Chipping Norton Choral Society

& Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra perform Elgar's **The Dream of Gerontius**.

Conducted by Peter Hunt Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Banbury

Tickets £13 from Jaffé & Neale, [tickets@cncs.org.uk](mailto:tickets@cncs.org.uk) or Tel. 07836 518868. Under 14s free.



### Great Rollright Village Hall

Cry with laughter at Spitz & Co's interpretation of **Gladiator** on Saturday 18 April, 8pm. This very talented duo have a brilliant sense of timing and a dare-devil attitude which combine to present a very memorable and entertaining evening. Suitable for all ages. Tickets £10, or £5 for under 16s, available from Sarah (730888) or Ian (737568).

### Bledington Music Festival: Pianofest '15

2-4 June at St Leonard's Church, Bledington

Coffee concerts at 11am and evening concerts at 7.30pm.

Performances from The Cann Twins, Sasha Grynyuk, Clare Hammond, Tamsin Waley-Cohen, Simon Crawford-Phillips, Alissa Firsova and Mark Bebbington.

Tickets on sale now at The Borzoi Bookshop, Jaffé & Neale, The Kings Head in Bledington, Kingham Stores and at [www.bledingtonmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.bledingtonmusicfestival.co.uk)

### Charlbury Art Society

Tony Lloyd will give an illustrated talk on *Creativity: The Creative Mindset and Creative Processes* at The Memorial Hall, Charlbury. 8 April, 7.30pm. Non-members welcome: £5 on the door.

The Society shows off its talent in the annual Arts and Crafts exhibition on Saturday 11 April, 9.30am-5.30pm in the Morris Room, The Corner House. 50p entrance, children free. New members are always welcome (phone Roy Coates on 01608 810116).

### The Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society

This month's lecture is *The Golden Age of Venetian Glass*. Jane Gardiner (ex-Deputy Director of Sotheby's) explores the stylistic development and use of Venetian glass from its early beginnings to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

8 April, 11am at Bradwell Village Hall, Burford. Non-members welcome (suggested donation £8). For more details see [www.cotswolddfas.org.uk](http://www.cotswolddfas.org.uk)



# SPORTS FEATURE

## Time for Cricket!

*The News features Chipping Norton's proud Cricket Club who invite all to join for the summer. Enthusiastic member Sam Townsend tells us more about the Club and its current plans*

### Summer is coming



As the mornings become lighter and the evenings draw out, the sun has made a welcome (if sometimes fleeting!) return to our skies. As the daffodils flower and the clocks change, many of us risk turning our thoughts to summer. But as the

final words of *Auld Lang Syne* rang in our ears, the wheels of motion had already begun to turn at Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club and plans made with our attention firmly on the summer of 2015.

### A proud heritage



Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club has definitely adopted the 'can do' attitude it had in years gone by, making giant leaps recently. Established in 1833 we are proud to say that we are now over 180 years old and a real institution of our town. The older individuals amongst us might remember when the club played at Greystones and used a bus for transport, before settling at the current Banbury Road home. Refurbished and regularly available for hire, we are now in our third clubhouse (built and maintained by the players, of course) at a really lovely spot. Happily Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club is cemented at the Banbury Road Ground for another 100 years, providing a home for Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket, as well as the flourishing youth organisation.

### Talented U9s and upwards

In line with the former 'ladies committee' (wives, partners, sisters and friends who organised delicious cricket teas) the current club Youth Coordinator (Sue Powell 01295 721523) is ably supported by a team of helpful mums. Sue will oversee a busy programme of U9 'soft ball' fixtures



this summer, as well as the U11, U13, U15 and U17 competitions. Current 1st XI captain Ian Widdows established the youth organisation just six years ago, providing sport, competition, entertainment and fun for our local youngsters.



The hustle and bustle on a summer's Friday evening at Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club really is very refreshing to see and provides a warm welcome to allcomers. The youth section is producing some very talented boys and girls, including local youngster Danny Molyneux who recently won the Chipping Norton 'Young Sportsperson of the Year' award for his displays, which he was able to add to an Oxfordshire Cricket Association award. Well done Danny!

### Success, hard work and support



Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club is very proud of the recent advances of the senior teams too. Having almost disbanded in the mid-2000's, the 1st XI have risen from Division 6 in 2007 to Division 2 now, while the 2nd XI are now in Division 6 having progressed gradually from division 11. This could not have been achieved without a little talent, hard work and support from players and supporters of Chipping Norton. For this, we are very grateful. Lords we might not be (yet!) but if the draw of a cucumber sandwich, friendly face, cheap pint or the sound of leather on willow entices you, then please make yourself known to Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club. Pop in with your family to watch or play, and be sure to receive a very warm welcome. As one of the youngsters said at training recently, 'Chipping Norton Cricket Club is brilliant!' May the on and off field success of the club continue and roll on a long, warm, sunny summer. For more information visit [www.cndcc.co.uk](http://www.cndcc.co.uk) or call Sam on 07929 213422.

*Photos: 1. Sunny days – the victorious team leaving the pitch in the early evening sunshine; 2. Before the clouds of War threatened – CN vs Heythrop 27 April 1912; 3. U11s Squad 2014; 4. 2014 Youth Award winners; 5. the latest Club photo*

# SPORTS NEWS

## Football

**Chipping Norton Town** Both the Town's Mens teams are having good seasons; both are near the top of their league tables and still have chances in cup competitions. In mid-March I watched some of a 1<sup>st</sup> Team match at home versus Minster Lovell which ended in a draw. I hope to catch them



for a team photo at some stage. Earlier in the same afternoon at Wootton, I managed to take a team photo of the Reserves. This also gave me the chance to present Tym Soper with a certificate from the Town Sports Awards for his contribution to sport in the Town for football. Let's hope next month we can get some trophy news!

Graham Beacham

**Old Boys:** Very sadly the team has folded due to lack of committed players. Thanks for CN support over the last 12 years.

John Daly

**Chadlington Whites U13s:** are pictured here celebrating coach Seymour Mincer's Olympic Legacy Award at the Town Sports Awards held in February



## 4 Shires Swimming Club



This year proved to be the best ever performance of 4 Shires at the County Championships with 25 finalists, 4 gold medals, 2 silver and 7 bronze. Swimmers and coaches have all worked hard across the year to achieve these excellent results. Congratulations to all. The Club hopes to do even better next year!

The less experienced swimmers also did well at the recent City of Oxford Development Meet. The meets are ideal for encouraging improving swimmers to compete and progress their personal best times. 4 Shires entered a record 39 swimmers – all of whom enjoyed swimming at the new Oxford pool. Personal Best times were aplenty - it was a very good day.

This month the Club welcomed nine new members, a mixture of young swimmers and 'Masters'. It's great to see

the Club continue to grow. Swimmers of the month were Ellie Lawrence and Rebecca Hoadley who both swam so well at the County championships that the head coach could not choose between them!

If you are interested in finding out more about the Club then please go to [www.4SSC.co.uk](http://www.4SSC.co.uk)

Louise Berry

## Cricket

**Interested In Cricket?** Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club 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 for the Club and everyone involved. As the Club goes from strength to strength, the friendly / family feel is not lost and is still very much apparent.



*Indoor Nets  
Above:  
Senior  
players  
Left: Junior  
players  
pictured at  
a regular  
Friday  
session in  
March*

Outdoor Nets start up at the Club on Wednesday 8 April at 6pm. With membership fees for the 2015 season 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 following: Ian Widdows (1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain) – 07795 100952, Sam Townsend (2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain) – 07929 213422, Sam King (Sunday XI Captain) – 07429 038395

Youth Cricket is continuing with a new Co-ordinator, Sue Powell. There is a registration evening for all interested in junior cricket on Friday 17 April at 6pm.

Please keep visiting the club website at [www.cndcc.co.uk](http://www.cndcc.co.uk) for all the latest news and articles about Club activities.

Sam Evans

**Stop Press:** The Cricket Club is hoping to welcome an Oxford Legends XI to play cricket this season. Dave King from the Club has become a board member for Oxfordshire Cricket.

And on a personal note, I find it hard to believe that I am looking forward to playing my 41<sup>st</sup> season for the Club at senior level!

Graham Beacham

# CLUB NEWS

## British Legion and the Red Berets



As part of their celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, Chipping Norton Royal British Legion is hosting An Evening with Steve Morgan at The Crown & Cushion Hotel on Tuesday 14 April at 6.30pm for 7pm.

Steve Morgan enlisted on 8 July 1943, four days before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. After 16 weeks training with the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in Colchester he volunteered for airborne forces. He went to RAF Ringway and undertook parachute training in March 1944. He was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Battalion and took part in Operation Market Garden. Steve is one of the last survivors who actually fought on the bridge at Arnhem 'The Bridge too Far', and was eventually taken prisoner by the Germans.

Tickets (inc buffet): £10 (serving members of HM Armed Forces, cadets & u16s £6) from West Street Newsagents or call 01295 780558/e-mail [stevekingsford@gmail.com](mailto:stevekingsford@gmail.com) Dress smart/casual. Holders of the red beret are asked to wear them with medals for a photo opportunity after the event.

Steve Kingsford

## Busy weekends for Air Cadets

Chipping Norton Air Cadets have now settled into a routine on parade nights with the more senior members taking a more active role in organising and helping the newer and junior cadets with the usual weekly activities. Additional weekend activities have continued unabated, including a weekend leading cadet instructors workshop at RAF Henlow, flying, fieldcraft, navigation walk, self-defence, conflict management, first aid and radio operator training. At Easter there is a week's residential camp at RAF Boulmer and Duke of Edinburgh awards practice.

If you are between 13 and 17 and interested in becoming a cadet or joining our team of adult counter staff call us on 646599 7-9pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Air Cadets meet Tuesday and Thursdays 7-9.30pm 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

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## All the Scouting news

**Beavers** Seventeen Beavers camped at Horley on the last weekend in February. They collected firewood, built fires and put up a tent which all goes towards the Camp Craft Activity Badge. The Beavers also went on a trip to Tesco as part of the Farm and Fork programme. This involved learning about where our food comes from; tasting a variety of fruit, vegetables, breads and cheeses; visiting the bakery and stepping inside a deep freezer. The highlight of the visit for the Beavers was a demonstration of how to gut a fish!! (see picture) The Beavers would like to say a big 'Thank you' to the staff at Tesco who gave us a really informative and enjoyable visit.



**Cubs** The Cubs excelled themselves recently at the district Scrapheap Challenge. This year's challenge was 'The Great Egg Race'. Our five teams of cubs had to make a car to carry an egg powered by string the length of a badminton court. All the teams made great cars and then raced them in multiple heats. Dan and Edward (pictured here) went through to the semi-finals which

they won and then came second in the final. This result means that they go through to the County Finals next month.

**Scouts** The highlight of the month for the Scouts was definitely their trip to Unipart, in Oxford, to get behind the wheel in a car.....only one or two of them brushed the hedges around the edges of the track – and most drove in a straight line – they were amazed at their own achievements...though one or two of our parents are now worried for the safety of their cars! Scouts have been busy this term completing their Navigator badge, with an in-depth visit to town finding all the hidden places from their maps. We had a great session with members of CNAAG – the scouts were in awe of what they could see in the night sky!! Thanks to Robin and team for this. We are also completing the Creative Challenge, by working on some very interesting puzzles – lots of teamwork and thinking to be done!

**Explorers** Shoppers at the Co-op on 28 February may have noticed a group of Explorer Scouts in blue, red and white scarves packing bags to raise money for a trip to Japan. Four Explorer scouts from Chippy are among the 36 Oxfordshire scouts selected to go to the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree at the end of July. The Explorers won their places against stiff competition in Autumn 2013 and since then have been busy raising the funds to go. They will travel to Tokyo for 4 days' sightseeing and then on to their 10 day international camp at Yamaguchi city where they will mix with 30,000 scouts to celebrate international friendship. During the trip scouts from all over the world will also gather at Hiroshima to mark the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the nuclear bomb on the city. We wish them all the very best.

Closer to home Explorers have recently spent an evening taking part in 'ability games'. Great fun was had by all trying to play football blindfolded, they did have a ball with bells in but seemed to spend most of their time kicking each other rather

# CLUB NEWS

than the ball. They also spent some time having recipes read to them, whilst others were attempting very loudly and vigorously to 'put off' the listener. We spent a short time then reflecting on how life might be for folk who deal with such problems on a daily basis.

Shortly before Shrove Tuesday we had a 'pancake' evening when Explorers prepared and cooked their own pancakes – the most exciting of which were pancakes made from differing coloured batter mixtures to produce very 'arty' pancakes.

## Life with the Lions Club



A big thank you from Chipping Norton Lions to everyone who attended our Bingo Evening and sponsored us by giving prizes. Thank you also to all the places around town which agreed to have one of our Easter Eggs (pictured) and all who took part in the Easter

Egg draw. We will announce the resulting profits next month.

**Forthcoming events:** Our last Defibrillator Awareness Evening will be held on the Friday 10 April at the Crown & Cushion from 7.30pm. After that if a local club or group would like their own session please contact Mike and Liz 644678. The other event that the Lions will be attending is the Town Festival on 21 June.

Now we have more new members (but would still like more!) we hope in the future to be organizing more events so please watch our noticeboard or if interested in joining us contact either Rob. Caswell 646003, Graham Raven 645134, Martin Guy 641154 or any of the Lions. You can find out more about us by visiting our website: [chippingnortonlions.org.uk](http://chippingnortonlions.org.uk).

Liz Nason

## History Society's University Tour

From drinking, quarrelling 13<sup>th</sup> century students with limited learning to the sophisticated, multi-faceted, highly regarded University of today, Alastair Lack gave us a bird's eye view over the centuries of Oxford University. He is a graduate of the first college, University, which was founded in 1249 by William of Durham, has worked for the BBC and is currently a Blue Badge Guide for the University. In a well-delivered, light-hearted talk, he touched on the St Scholastica's Day Riot; President Khrushchev and May Day; the many faced Boundary god, Terminus, marking the University land of the Sheldonian from the town land of the Broad; and Merton College. Merton is the first college to have legal statutes giving it complete educational freedom from all external interference. If you want to know about the University breweries; the University Chest; the building which changes with the light or, indeed, what you can study at Oxford, then book a tour or a talk with Mr Lack. You will not be disappointed.

The AGM went off predictably well. Cicely Maunder proposed a vote of thanks to Brenda Morris and, in absentia, to Shirley Watkins for their culinary efforts at Chastleton on behalf of the Museum. If you can help by making a cake occasionally please contact Brenda on 643779. If you could help in the Museum phone Pauline Watkins on 641712. Our next speaker is well-known to us. Liz Woolley will be talking

about the Railway. So we look forward to seeing all you enthusiasts at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall on 13 April.

Liz Whitaker

## Amnesty focus on repression in Tibet

At our March meeting we watched a most heart wrenching yet informative film about Tibet, its history of repression and resistance. Group member, John Lilly, provided the film, *Tibet – Cry of the Snow Lion* for us, along with helpful explanations of Tibetan history and culture, acquired from his personal experiences from his long association with Tibet. The film is a documentary about the captive nation of Tibet. Using material gathered during 10 years, the film functions as both a breathtaking travelogue and a political provocation, offering convincing evidence of the Chinese government's determination to wipe out Tibetan culture and identity. As the narrator, Martin Sheen, notes, the ruins look as if they date from a far distant past, when, in fact, the monasteries were systematically destroyed by Chinese military forces in the late 1950's and early 60's. Our next meeting Thursday 9 April, 7.30 in the Lower Town Hall. New members welcome: call Priscilla Peace for details on 01451 830459.

Kaye Freeman

## UKIP Corner

Thank you to all of you who helped with and attended our recent Public Meeting. I found it an enjoyable evening with interesting, challenging questions. I hope we all learnt from the answers our speakers provided. As the Election draws closer at our next Support Group Meeting we will be appealing for help with our leaflet distribution. We have yet to decide

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exactly when this will be, so please watch the notice board by The Fox for details. I will be campaigning in the Town in the Town & District Council elections so if you have any questions about policy or want to tell me what you would like your UKIP Councillors to do, please stop me when you see me. I can't represent your views until I know what they are! Or contact me at [UKIP.ChippingNorton@GMail.com](mailto:UKIP.ChippingNorton@GMail.com)

Jim Stanley

## Green Gym helps Warriner School



This month we have spent three mornings at Warriner School, Bloxham, and two mornings at the BBOWT nature reserve near Glyme Farm. At the Warriner School Farm we have been laying a hedge, burning the resulting brash, and also planting a few young trees (whips) in the gaps. At the Glyme Reserve (pictured) we have been cutting back blackthorn seedlings in order to keep open the central grassy area for small mammals and wild flowers. Once again we had an enormous bonfire of all our cuttings.

The Green Gym was busy on 18 March planting trees on under-used grass areas at Cornish Road. Having secured a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2)

and the support of the land owner, Cottsway, the Highway Authority and service providers, they leafleted all houses in the vicinity explaining the idea was to plant 16 flowering trees, mainly flowering cherries, to enhance the area. Organiser, Hilary Norris said, 'the trees will brighten up this part of town and, if we can secure funds, we might continue to plant trees in other areas that would benefit too, subject to neighbours' support.'



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

Jenny Harrington

## Chippy's intrepid Ramblers

On 1 March on a cold and dull afternoon, seven intrepid walkers set off from New Street car park, through the Tiown and up the Burford Road. Passing the Leisure Centre and the allotments to Glyme Farm passing a barn being renovated. On over the fields to the Nature Reserve then left alongside the golf course through Pearman's farm, crossing the London road to Swing Swang lane and on to the Banbury road where some of the party headed back to town. The rest took the footpath to Over Norton before turning off into the woods to head back to town. Our next walk is on Sunday 5 April meeting at New Street car park at 2pm. Details from 645342 or 643269.

Doreen Molyneux

## MIND at the Town Hall

Oxfordshire MIND's Wellbeing Service has settled in well at the Lower Town Hall every Tuesday from 12.30 to 3.30pm having moved at the turn of the year. Now in the centre of town it is easier for people to drop in and join the group or seek out information about mental health issues from the two MIND workers.

The atmosphere is fairly informal and is a good situation for those who may initially find it hard to approach a GP. Conversely some members have been referred by a doctor or hospital. Mental health problems come in many guises. Depression is a fairly common and often severe illness. Some people seem to have a predisposition to a degree, and it can be triggered by, for example, bereavement, separation, debt, joblessness or physical disease. Some sufferers have suicidal feelings or overpowering thoughts that everything in life is futile. Medication is effective in many cases, but does not necessarily solve the underlying problems. MIND can be one piece in the jigsaw of help that is available. There is no magic wand solution to depression but it can be partly solved by realising that you (or a friend or relative) need help, and feel able to access it, as hard as this can seem at the time.

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MIND or a GP can be a profitable first port of call. Some GPs have a specialisation in mental illness and all should be able to signpost appropriate support which is generally of a high quality in Oxfordshire. To contact the charity Mind you can drop in on Tuesday, phone the Oxford Office on 01865 247788 or contact MIND via [info@oxfordshire.mind.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordshire.mind.org.uk)

Richard Dixon

## Conviviality at Folk Club

CNFC was distinguished in March by a somewhat slim turn out (many regulars otherwise legitimately committed and fewer than usual visitors ... we love our visitors). However, this resulted in a lively, highly informal sing-around and as eclectic a mix of music as ever – from traditional ballads to ‘unamplified acoustic folk-rock’ – I think this genre exists, if not, it does now. Plus the Mexican Spanish folk song? It was very fine, also, to witness the return of our ‘resident’ poet and her spouse in excellent voice. The atmosphere was possibly even more convivial than the norm which is a high bar indeed at CNFC. So here are some words and phrases of varying degrees of relevance and accuracy: select, elite, exclusive, chosen few, circumscribed, pretty good overall I’d say if push comes to shove. See you in April... Visit [www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk](http://www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk) for details of our meetings.

Paul Cherry

## Thriving Ladies Probos Club

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 24 February at The Crown & Cushion Hotel. The President reported on the theatre trips, outings and activities enjoyed during the year and thanked the Committee. The Treasurer reported a healthy bank balance in excess of £1600. Officers were elected for the following year. The new President is Sally Watson, Vice President Cicely Maunder, Secretary and speaker organiser Chris Carpenter and Treasurer Maureen Ford. Our speaker at the February lunch was Sally Watson who gave an enthralling and most entertaining talk entitled A Goon in our attic and other tales. We have now been running for seven years and our numbers are almost up to capacity. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month at The Crown and Cushion Hotel for lunch from 12.30pm followed by a speaker. Anyone wishing to join can come along as a guest with an existing member or phone the Secretary Chris Carpenter on 642155

Cicely Maunder

## ON WI ‘Experience Borneo’!

Over Norton WI held their Annual Meeting in March. This was well supported and another increase in membership was reported. Prior to the business of the evening, member Frances Buckel gave members an insight into the incredible world that is Borneo with her breathtaking slides of her recent experiences there. Wildlife and bird enthusiast Frances negotiated a rope bridge above a 200m chasm and travelled through the forest by boat, photographing wildlife, including a breakfasting Orangutan. She was moved by memorials to British and Australian servicemen killed in Japanese prisoner of war camps in World War II and disturbed by the destruction of the forest in order to support the world’s demand for palm oil. She took us through the street markets piled high with a huge diversity of produce and explained the delights of street food.

We have a varied programme for the rest of the year including a photography workshop, an outdoor cookery

demonstration, gardening and winetasting. Contact Ros Millard 07932 180407 for details – we welcome guests.

## Chipping Norton Rotary roundup



*President Simon Hamilton with Kenya Kids' Julie Cupples*

**Kenya Kids** We had the honour to welcome Julie Cupples, the founder of Kenya Kids to a recent meeting. In the past four years she and her small team have arranged for a small village to have a crèche/infant school so that the mothers can have time to get work since many of the families have lost fathers to HIV and also

arranged for a well to be dug so that the village has fresh, clean water for the first time. Now she is setting up a shelter for young girls aged 13-14 in the town of Kisumu – the third largest in Kenya. The girls will go to school and be educated when the only other option is to become street girls as they are orphans or have been abandoned by their parents. The club was pleased to donate €1,000 and I hope to report how this project progresses.

**Rotary Race Night** The Club's annual Race Night was held at the end of February, and 99 eager racegoers helped to raise a bumper profit for charity whilst having a great time. Over £2000 was raised. One of the main beneficiaries is the local Riding For the Disabled whose horse Rotary Blue (pictured) was bought by the Rotary Club of Kingham & the Wychwoods and whose continuing maintenance is being supported by the Chippy club. The other beneficiary is the Chipping Norton Skateboard Fund which is being supported by Mayor Mike Tysoe. 10% of the profits goes to the Rotary Foundation – Rotary's own charity which is used to fund charitable enterprises around the world.



**Coming up ...** Stroke Awareness Day on Saturday 16 May and the Town Festival on Sunday 21 June. More detail in future editions, but please do put these events in your diaries.

**Polio to date** You all know how close Polio Eradication is to the hearts of Rotarians – since Rotary started the campaign to eradicate the disease in 1985 it has been reduced by 99% and is endemic only in three countries now. In this year to date there have been 14 cases worldwide – 13 in Pakistan and one in Afghanistan. This compares with 27 in the same period in 2014. If you want to help to stamp out the virus, go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and follow the links to Explore Our Causes.

Simon Hamilton

## As we go with Chadlington Flower Club

February's meeting saw us all inspired by Emma Remington's demonstration entitled As We Go into the Woods which took us through her childhood memories and showed how to use greenery from our gardens in flower arrangements. 1 May is NAFAS National Flower Arranging Day and as part of their

# CLUB NEWS

celebrations our flower club is taking part in The Lonely Bouquet Challenge where we will be leaving flowers in and around town and inviting whoever finds them to take them home and enjoy them. So look out and see if you are one of the lucky ones. Our April meeting at 7.30 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> is a talk by Sue Burn from Batsford in Chadlington Memorial Hall. All welcome. For more information call Ann Anson on 683289.

Elaine Parsons

## Railway Club plan Spring outing

At an excellent March meeting, new speaker Frank Banfield did not disappoint and came armed with a good selection of archive railway cine films. He is replacing Dave Baker, who is unable to visit again due to ill health. Among those shown were The Iron Mule (1925); Farmer moving South (1950); which involved moving the complete farm, animals included from Yorkshire to Sussex by train! Link Span (1956) and another about the Longmoor Military Railway project. A special mention though for a Polish film about the Elblag Canal, which runs to Gdansk in present day Poland and was probably made in the early 1930s. Amazingly, the canal and its inclined planes are still fully operational today.

For our spring outing on Sunday 10 May, we have a return to the Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre in West Sussex; our last visit was in 1994! Now considerably larger, they cover 36 acres, with a narrow gauge railway and a bus service around the site. This particular weekend is a special event; 'A Spring Vintage Fayre, with stationary engines, tractors and steam'. Plenty to keep us occupied for several hours. I will be taking names and money at the April meeting.

Once again our 'Coventry Kid' speaker, Chris Youett will visit on 7 April, talking to us about A Journey in East Anglia. I've

no doubt he will be accompanied by his 'running mate' Dave Walker who will add to the usual banter between them.

New members and visitors are always welcome and free coffee/tea and biscuits are served in the interval.

Estelle Brain 641586

## Labour Party hear Neil Kinnock



At the latest in their Supper Club events, the local Labour Party listened to a compelling speech by former leader Neil, now Lord Kinnock. He is pictured talking to Labour's candidate in the

General Election, Duncan Enright and Labour County Councillor Laura Price. To find out more about local Labour Party activities contact David Heyes 646505.

## Forward planning at CN WI

The annual meeting of Chipping Norton Women's Institute took place on 11 March with a full review of the past year's activities. Plans for the next twelve months were discussed: predominantly the programme of speakers for 2015-16, the forthcoming gathering of the Norton group and the Annual Council Meeting of the Oxfordshire Federation, which is to be attended by five members. Several of us participated in an enjoyable lunch in aid of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team, while plans for an outing to Worcester, the progress of the Centenary baton and our recently formed book group were also talked through.

Our summer session of evening meetings will begin on 8 April, when we will celebrate the centenary of the Women's Institute movement. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us in the lower Town Hall at 7pm (note change of time) on the second Wednesday of the month.

Prudence Chard 642903

## Alzheimer's Society April 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 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 at St Paul's Church Centre, Prescott Avenue, Banbury

**Dementia Café** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 2-4pm at St Mary's Centre, Horsefair, Banbury

**Banbury Carers Support Group** Fridays 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 at Colin Sanders Innovation Centre, Banbury

**Chipping Norton Carers Support Group** Mondays 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 at the Town Hall, Chipping Norton

**Bicester Carers Group** Tuesdays 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 at The Julier Centre, Coker Close, Bicester, OX26 6AE

**Bicester Café** Wednesday 29<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

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## Congenial Chippy Art Group

The Chippy Art Group meets every other Thursday at Glyme Hall, 10.30am-12.30pm. Participants have been tackling 'negative spaces', in a variety of media, charcoal, pencil, water colour and pastel creating interesting modern shapes, patterns and life like pictures. Jan Wilkinson who convenes the group gives suggestions and sets a topic to tackle, although members are free to pursue whatever they want. It's a fun, congenial group, no pressure as members can dip in as they wish. More participants welcome phone Jan 730268 for further details.



please contact [tracylean@gmail.com](mailto:tracylean@gmail.com), 01295 780710, or visit our website [www.noog.org.uk](http://www.noog.org.uk).

## Exploring Pelargoniums

Over 60 members and friends of the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association met for their March meeting. Davina Wynne-Jones from Barnsley Herb Garden, gave a very interesting and educational, illustrated talk on Herbs for Healing and brought plants for sale. Some members continue to help in the gardens at Abbeyfield, Chadlington – about once a month for 2/3 hours. Anyone interested in joining the group, can call 643275 for dates. Next month's meeting will be on Wednesday 15 April in the Methodist Hall at 7.30pm. Julian Tolkien from Winchcombe will give a talk and demonstration on Pelargoniums. For details and forthcoming outings, contact Eileen Forse on 643275 or visit our website [cnha.uk](http://cnha.uk)

## All about herbs at NOOG

Our 1 April meeting will be a practical session when Sharyn Singer, naturopath and nutritionist, will share her extensive knowledge of the 'Cultivation and Culinary Use of Herbs', in St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton at 7.30pm. (Members £1, visitors £3). And on Wednesday 6 May, meeting at 7pm, we're out of doors to visit The Grove in Middle Barton. This third-acre garden is very much a plantsman's paradise, guaranteed to provide interest all year round. Numerous borders are filled with unusual shrubs and hardy plants and interesting collections including weigela and philadelphus. There's a pond and greenhouse too. We'll end the evening with tea and cake (£3). Do join us. For enquiries about North Oxon Organic Gardeners or directions,

## U3A go back to School Days

Chipping Norton & Area U3A have a regular monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month in the Methodist Hall at 2.30pm. In March we welcomed Richard Thorpe who gave a fascinating talk on Lloyd George and his importance in history with many amusing and informative anecdotes. In April we have a change of subject and Prof Martin Kemp will be talking about Mona Lisa and the Body of the Earth on the 1<sup>st</sup>. We are also having one of our regular sociable coffee mornings for at the Crown and Cushion Hotel in Chipping Norton. The theme this time is School Days. For any further information about us do visit our website at [u3asites.org.uk/chipping-norton](http://u3asites.org.uk/chipping-norton) or call Peter Nuttall (01608 238 671).

Barbara Walters

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## Chipping Norton School

'Connecting Classrooms' exchange visit: During the



February break science teacher, Mr Ockleston visited Imingcangathelo School; our partner school in South Africa. During his visit he organized many activities including a Year 7 House Rugby tournament. He showed the South African students the 'Day in the Life' videos that many of our students had produced and recorded interviews to bring back to the UK and show to the students at Chipping Norton School. During this unforgettable trip Mr Ockleston was very impressed with the commitment that each student showed to their education and the ambitions that they have for their futures.

During the year our students have been raising money to support Imingcangathelo School. This money will be used to provide infrastructure to allow internet access at the school. Our students will continue to participate in activities linked to the school and we look forward to receiving an exchange visit from Mr Malgas in the summer term.



**Extra Time CREST Award Science Club:** This club encourages students to learn about aerodynamics, scientific investigation and engineering. Students create their own online workbook and work towards gaining a Bronze CREST Award. We are very grateful to

David Sullivan, an Engineer from Jaguar Landrover, who recently came along to the club to explain how vital aerodynamics is to the manufacture of Formula One cars and airplanes. The group learned about testing conditions used to evaluate different structures and how mathematical modelling is used in modern designs.

**School Council trip to Parliament:** Members of the School Council visited London. As well as going up The Shard and enjoying a boat trip on the River Thames, they were given a guide tour of the Houses of Parliament. They were able to listen to a debate in the House of Commons and took part in an interactive workshop on making laws at Portcullis House. The students were very grateful to Mrs Ashdown and Mrs McAuliffe for organising this trip.

**Family Focus Week:** Pupils from the partnership schools and their families were able to participate in several workshops as part of another successful Family Focus Week. English teacher Mr Long led a No Fear Shakespeare session based on Henry V. Parents and children enjoyed acting out some of the important scenes from the play and everyone had lots of fun, whilst absorbing Shakespeare, a subject that can sometimes feel quite intimidating.

Over 70 people took part in the very popular Astronomy workshop run by the Science Department and one of our community partners, Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group (CNAAG). It was a great night, with everyone taking great delight in being able to observe our wonderful night sky.

We are very grateful to Beth and Ross from St John Ambulance who ran a workshop to help families to learn valuable First Aid skills that could help to save lives.

### Partnership Events:

The Year 12 Sports Leaders and Year 9/10 assistants led a successful *Dance Festival* for 180 Year 1 pupils. The CNS Leaders working with Miss Homer had devised a session based on the book *Commotion in the Ocean*. Each group of pupils enjoyed showing others their interpretation of a sea monster. A lot of fun was had by all!



Year 3 and 4 pupils from Enstone, Great Tew, Charlbury, Chadlington, Middle Barton and Kingham schools took part in a *Ball Skills Festival* led by Year 11 Sports Leaders.



Thirty of our Primary Partnership pupils took part in the *Able Gifted and Talented Art Workshop* run by Mrs Corley and Ms Ashton. The teachers talked to the students about various artists and demonstrated how to make a paper lantern. Each child then designed and made several lanterns which they proudly took away with them to show their teachers and parents.

## St Mary's Primary

**Book Shop Visit:** Key Stage 2 children enjoyed visiting Jaffé



& Neale to exchange their World Book Day vouchers for one of the special edition books.

**World Book Day:** Students and staff paid £1 to dress up as their favourite book character, proceeds going to the School Library. Comments from Yr6: Issy, who



was Triss for the book *Divergence* – 'It's been a fun day dressing up as a book character'. Ashton, who was Fred Weasley from *Harry Potter* 'I really liked today because we got

to dress up as our favourite book characters'. Emily dressed up as a character called Skye, from a book that she is writing.

**Meeting Chris Riddell:** Lily Edwards, Charlie and Olly Weaver were lucky enough to meet the author and illustrator Chris Riddell at Jaffé & Neale bookshop. He was there to celebrate World Book Day for which he has specially written a new *Goth Girl Book*. *Olly reports:* 'He drew us some of his favourite pictures and read some of his new book. He told us one of his favourite books was *Alice in Wonderland*. It was great to be able to chat to him and he signed my book'.

**Reception Grant:** We were delighted to receive a grant of £5000 from Oxfordshire County Council, to further enhance our indoor and outdoor provision. Our new resources include an outdoor role play area, a water explorer's tray, a huge amount of outdoor Maths equipment, massive wooden blocks for building and remote control cars. We would like to thank Eddie's Dad for helping us to construct lots of the flat packed items and look forward to sharing our learning with parents.

**Chinese New Year:** Our Reception classes have enjoyed finding out about China and the Chinese New Year. We set up

a Chinese restaurant and take away in the classroom and dressed up in traditional Chinese costumes. We enjoyed hearing the story of the Chinese New Year and how it is named after the animals. We had masks and re-enacted the animals racing across the river. The classroom now has Chinese decorations including lanterns that we have made. Our favourite activity has to have been the food tasting! We tried prawn crackers, rice, noodles, soy sauce and spring rolls. Prawn crackers were definitely the favourite!!



**Red Nose Day:** Friday 13 March was officially Red Nose Day and the children at St Mary's School were very excited about raising money by wearing a red nose or red clothes. Some decided to make their faces look funny for money!

**Friends of St Mary's School:** We are looking forward to this Spring and Summer's fundraising. On 17 April we have a fantastic line up of comedians from The Cotswold Comedy Club performing. Also on Saturday 16 May there will be a theatre and supper evening of Agatha Christie at the school, brought to us by the Nortonians Amateur Dramatic Society. Finally St Mary's Summer Fete will be on Saturday 27 June. Here's hoping for a sunny day! Please contact the School Office for more details of any of these events.

**Year 5/6 Museum trip:** During a visit to the



Ashmolean Museum, Year 5/6 took part in a workshop about the origins of the Olympic Games, and examined a

range of artefacts and archaeological evidence. The workshop leader was impressed by the children's existing knowledge and their interesting questions. 'I really enjoyed sketching the outside of the Ashmolean because it looked just like the temples we'd learnt about,' commented Tia. 'I liked trying to draw the large statue of Zeus throwing a thunderbolt,' said Charlie R.



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## Holy Trinity Primary

**WOW day:** Years 3 and 4 children enjoyed a variety of wonderful experiences on their WOW day to London. The first stop was the Science Museum where the children enjoyed exploring, experimenting and investigating. Then the children were treated to a musical extravaganza: The Classical Spectacular music concert with incredible lights, lasers, special effects and cannons at the Royal Albert Hall.

**Big Science Day:** Pupils enjoyed participating in our Big Science Event. 'We worked in small teams and used our own creative skills to devise our own open ended science investigations which we then carried out, recorded the results and presented our findings.'

**Comic Relief:** Red Nose Day proved to be a colourful day in Holy Trinity School with both staff and children wearing their red noses and red



clothes! We enjoyed a Holy Trinity Red Nose Bake Off. Congratulations to all who entered: our cakes would have made Mary Berry salivate! The winners are pictured here. Our School Council also had lots of fun painting the faces of the staff at Sainsbury's supermarket.

**Sports success:** We successfully participated in the West Oxfordshire County netball tournament, WOSP hockey tournament, Years 2 and 3 School Olympics and our Year 6 children successfully entered a hockey tournament against seven Independent schools at Tudor Hall. Several of our children and a member of staff were awarded Sports Awards from Chipping Norton. Congratulations to Leo Hughes (roller hockey), Leah Notman (horse riding), Max Miles (motor cross) and Di Woolley (contribution to sport).

**Celebration Assemblies:** Our Foundation Stage children said a big thank you to their wonderful mummies, grandmas and aunts in their Mother's Day assembly. They celebrated by sharing their wonderful artwork and singing. Year 5's class assembly took us to infinity and beyond! The children shared their knowledge about their topic Space. Our end of term Easter Mass saw the whole school come together to celebrate with a selection of songs and poems.

**Modern Art:** Inspired by Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Piet Mondrain and Optical Art, children from Years 3-6 recreated some wonderful masterpieces to create their very own Tate Modern. The children are rightly very proud and excited by their fabulous designs.

**World Book Day:** The whole school joined together to



celebrate World Book Day. During the afternoon, the children, office staff, teachers, support staff and helpers stopped what they were doing for a 'drop everything and read' half an hour which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Year 5 children also organised a Book Swap with children bringing a book into school which they no longer wanted and swapping it for a different one. The children from FS, and Years 2, 4 and 5 visited the local bookshops to buy a World Book Day book each and visited Chipping Norton Library for reading workshops led by the Oxfordshire Schools Librarian.

**Sing Up!** Holy Trinity enjoyed a very musical month in March! During the afternoon of 12 March the whole school took part in our annual Sing Up event. This is one of the children's highlights of the year! They were split into mixed age groups and rotated around the classrooms to learn four fun songs chosen by the teachers. The afternoon ended with everyone meeting in the school hall to sing the songs together.

**Chipping Norton Music Festival:** Our children also took part in lots of the categories in the Chipping Norton Music Festival which was held in March.

Our Key Stage One and Two choirs raised the roof at the Junior Choirs concert on Saturday 7 March, earning



themselves much praise for the standard of their singing and two highly commended certificates from the professional adjudicator.

Our Year 4 Class will be taking part in the Speech and Drama section, along with our many instrumentalists who are busy practising for their concerts too. We wish them luck!

## Kingham Primary



A school full of teachers, teaching assistants and office staff in their *Where's Wally* outfits and a school of children dressed as book characters set the scene for a wonderful World Book Day 2015! The winners are pictured here. Money raised provided the children with a day of music, dance and movement based on *The Iron Man* (KS2) and *The Troll* (FS and KS1) delivered by the London-based company West End in Schools.

Year 1 had a lovely time at Oxford Fire Station and learned about the role of our fire fighters. There was an actual emergency during the visit so the Y1s saw at first hand the efficiency and speed with which the firemen responded to the incident.

Year 2 had a wonderful trip to the Falconry Centre to look at the owls; this follows English work they have been doing based on the book, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson.

Year 5 spent an afternoon learning the ocarina, an ancient wind instrument originally crafted from shells, and introduced by the Mayans. After hearing a brief history and learning how to play a D major scale, the children learnt *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* and *Oh When The Saints*.

## Middle Barton Primary

It's been an exceptionally busy term at Middle Barton School and it started with a special event to challenge our Able, Gifted and Talented pupils in the first week back after half term.



These children, who excel in a variety of subjects, took part in a Young Apprentice style event, making cakes to market and sell to their classmates. It was a real success and the bakes were delicious!

We celebrated our love of reading on World Book day by dressing up as our favourite story characters. The children paraded down the catwalk (as did the staff!) and shared their chosen books with their classmates in the afternoon.

We haven't stopped singing this term either! Our annual Sing Up event was such fun. All the children learnt songs in groups and performed them together in a concert style assembly. There were a real variety of song choices, with lots of actions and some impressive rounds. We have also been

involved in the Chipping Norton Music Festival. Our talented school choir performed at the Junior Choir event and received wonderful feedback from the judges. We are proud that our children are attending many of the instrumental and speech and drama classes too.

## Acorns Primary

**A Growing School:** Class 3 (Year 5/6) got off to a fully engaging start to the new spring Half Term by getting actively involved on the school allotment and around the village as part of their new topic: *Allotment*.



The children's first task involved writing a letter home to inform their parents about their allotment morning due to take place the next day. An excited group of children arrived at school on Tuesday morning armed with spades, forks, wellies, flasks and camping chairs!

A highly enjoyable cross-curricular morning was spent completing a number of tasks to prepare the allotment for spring. Encompassing Maths, Science and Design & Technology activities, the children took part in digging and weeding, pyramid structure making, as well as measuring and creating a plan of the plot.

Fully inspired, the children also had an opportunity to use their map skills to locate the village vegetable allotments on Google Earth and an Ordnance Survey map and to venture out into the village to identify features represented by symbols on their maps.

The children have based their writing around their experiences of working on the allotment, writing balanced discussions as to whether lessons should be inside or outside!

## The Town Nursery

Nursery 4 have been spending a lot of time outside in our wood area, where we have been having campfires and toasted marshmallows. The children were busy collecting sticks from all over the field to burn in our fire and the next day we used ashes and ends of sticks that didn't burn to draw pictures. The children were amazed that a burnt stick could become a pencil to draw with. Having looked at work by Andy Goldsworthy this has inspired the children to re-create their own interpretations of his work, tying sticks together and hanging them from trees and balancing stones of varying size on top of each other. They have been working in little groups supporting each other and suggesting ways to make their structures more elaborate, using the saw to cut old branches and old Christmas trees that were used to make a roof on the stick den.

If you have any old drainpipes, logs, crates or cardboard tubes the children in Nursery 4 will make good use of them,



# SCHOOL NEWS

both inside and in the field. Please contact Ruth, on 07817 538180, if you have anything that might be of interest for them to construct or extend their play.

## The Ace Centre Nursery School

As always, there has been a lot going on at the Ace Centre Nursery School! Outdoors, we have been building dens to keep out the cold and digging rivers (small canyons) through the muddy sandpit. Groups of children cooperate to transport water up through the garden, whilst others plot the route of the river. Then, whoosh – the water pools and sloshes and puddles all the way down! The Ball Factory has been another favourite this winter. It is a combination of A frames, tough spots and guttering where water is poured in at one end and balls come out the other – all unforgettable magic for any three or four year-old.



Meanwhile, indoors, one of our children brought in a bird's nest. We wondered what it was like to be a bird; so, we collected long clematis vines from Forest School, wove them together and built a giant bird nest to sit in! All visitors are welcome. Do drop in any time to find out more about the outstanding provision available for your child at the Ace Centre Nursery School.

## Kingham Hill School



**Open Day:**  
Saturday 9 May  
11am-2pm  
Time is moving fast and we are already starting to prepare for our Trinity term Open Day. All are welcome so

do bring your family to look around. Your visit will include the opportunity to talk with teaching staff and house-parents, find out more about our five school transport routes which include pick up points at Moreton, Stow, Chipping Norton & Kingham (free for the first year, small charge thereafter). Your tour will include the opportunity to look round The Veritas Building (our beautiful new Maths and Science facility pictured above), day and boarding houses, fantastic leisure facilities, find out more about our free Leisure Club Membership for all parents, wander the beautiful grounds and enjoy a tour of the school conducted by our senior pupils – all followed by a delicious informal lunch.

Most importantly, you will experience the ethos and atmosphere of our happy and thriving family community and get a real feel of what life is like at Kingham Hill. Please let us know if you would like to join us. Whole family welcome. Call the School on 658999 or email [admissions@kinghamhill.org](mailto:admissions@kinghamhill.org) [www.kinghamhill.org.uk](http://www.kinghamhill.org.uk)

## Sibford School

### Simon Mayo visit:

Broadcaster and author Simon Mayo visited recently to chat to students about his book trilogy ... *Itch, Itch Rocks* and *Itchcraft*. Sibford students were joined by pupils from other local primary schools to hear the BBC



Radio 2 Drivetime host speak about his writing and his character Itchingham Loft. Simon Mayo caused gasps from the audience when he set fire to a 10€ note ... just prior to reading an extract from his latest novel, *Itchcraft*. After the talk Simon took time out to sign copies of his books. He is pictured with Brailes Cof E Primary School pupil Jessica Bradford (age 10) and Sibford pupil Lottie Hunt (also 10).

**Easter fun in the country:** Sibford School's Fun in the Country holiday club will be operating over the Easter holidays from Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April and Tuesday 7 April – Friday 10 April. Cost is £28 per child per day. To book email: [funinthecountry@sibfordschool.co.uk](mailto:funinthecountry@sibfordschool.co.uk).

**May Open Morning:** Sibford will be holding an Open Morning on Friday 1 May from 9.45am, and on Wednesday 6 May, the school will be hosting an Early Years Open Afternoon between 2pm and 3.30pm. For further details on both events call Elspeth on 01295 781203.



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# LETTERS

## The wood for Churchill's coffin



Marina Johnson with her memory box

I've seen in the News you're looking for stories about Winston Churchill. My great grandparents, Iris and Len Broxholme, used to manage the Blenheim Sawmill. Their daughter, my Nanny Marina Johnson remembers her father telling her about Winston Churchill visiting the then Duke of Marlborough and requesting he be buried on the estate. The story goes that Mr Churchill (who would have been Prime Minister at the time), and the

Duke went to find a tree to make his coffin with. They marked it and my great granddad was duly instructed to cut it down and make two coffins; one for the Duke and a second for Churchill. With the remaining wood he made a box for his daughter, Marina, which she used to keep her paint and brushes in! More recently she now uses it as a memory box for the letters and cards that she was sent when her granddaughter, my cousin Emma Curtis-Smith died back in 2005.

Ian Nolan

## Diamond Wedding

Congratulations to Marina & Joe Johnson who were married in St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton on 2 April 1955. Your family and friends are looking forward to celebrating this special occasion with you.

Pete Nolan

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## The 'Last Post'

This is not an April Fool. We are the fools – the last post is now 9am from boxes in Cornish Road and top of The Leys. No doubt some people have not noticed the changed collection time notice on the box. Did our stamp price rise to pay for this deteriorating service? The sooner the monopoly dies the better for all of us. Queen Victoria did better – the last post on Sundays went on the 3pm bus to Oxford! Soon the mailboxes will be outside the Royal Mail delivery office for each resident to collect their own – at a greater price no doubt. We had no warning or notice of this deterioration.

Bruce Parker

## Wrong way on Topside

I was shopping in Chipping Norton this morning, 5 March, when the driver of a red Ferrari, (registration supplied to police), drove at full throttle the wrong way into the one-way exit for cars from 'Topside' on to the main A44, narrowly missing another



vehicle which was obliged to stop. The Ferrari driver then continued to turn right up to WH Smith (continuing the wrong way), stopped on a yellow line and went into the shop. My photograph shows the car parked outside Smith's. The Town Hall clock records the time, 10.50am. I did hear what sounded like an acquaintance of the male driver who I think was passing by, laughing and saying, 'Oh ADRIAN!!' This twit should not be on the road.

Name and address supplied

## Parking fine reprieve

Since my letter appeared in last month's *Chipping Norton News* I have spoken to Adam Quinton, Manager of the Co-op, and he has explained that the Co-op car park is owned by Mid-Shires Co-op and they are responsible for solving any problems customers may have regarding parking. He expressed his concern that customers should not feel inhibited from returning as many times as they wish during the day. It is helpful if you retain your receipts, then if a parking ticket is issued, a member of staff will arrange for it to be cancelled, as has happened in my case. My thanks to Mr Quinton for sorting out my problem so efficiently.

Jane Hall

## Despicable cemetery thefts

I, like many others visit a grave at Chipping Norton cemetery on a regular basis to place flowers and bulbs and make a special effort on particular dates. Towards the end of February I placed a lovely basket of bulbs which, by Mothering Sunday, should have been beautiful. However when I visited on Mothering Sunday I was heartbroken to find some wretched, mean, despicable person had removed the bulbs from the basket leaving just an empty container. What kind of person steals flowers from a cemetery? This is not the first time this has happened. In the past fresh flowers have been removed from the vase. I accept that squirrels and rabbits

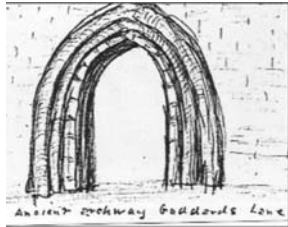
# LETTERS

eat some flowers but they always leave the stem. What an awful world we are leaving for our children/grandchildren when people have absolutely no respect for the dead and for the families special place of remembrance.

**Joyce Harding**

## The Goddard's Lane archway

The question of what happened to the Goddard's Lane archway arose in the News recently and I believe I may know the answer. I understand that when it was removed around the change of the century (20<sup>th</sup>), it was taken to the old council yard at the top of Rock Hill, the plan being to rebuild it, but of course that never happened. The council yard then moved to the Banbury Road site, soon to become Aldi. Years ago men working in the yard discovered what was believed to be the remains of the archway – large blocks of stone, much of it carved and shaped – dumped in a heap. What remains will now be under the brambles to the left of the gate into the yard just behind the wall. Local historians need to move fast if they want to find it!



**Cicely Maunder**

## Care Home thanks

We would like to thank every member of staff at Southerndown Care Home for their excellent care of our mother Nola Goldstraw, during her final months. Throughout her time there she was treated with dignity and compassion by dedicated professionals and surrounded by love and laughter. We cannot thank everyone there enough for helping us, her family, come to terms with terminal illness. Southerndown is truly a jewel in Chipping Norton's crown and somewhere the whole Town can be justifiably proud of.

**Ruth Goldstraw & Rachel Watts**

## No election abuse please

When I became involved in local politics as a UKIP Candidate a few years ago I was pleasantly surprised by the welcome I received from my political opponents. Over this time we have all met casually in town and have built a mutual understanding and respect. I know that any posters I may put up, about our recent Public Meeting for example, will be respected, as they were, and none of us will resort to insulting stickers being posted on drainpipes as has happened recently attacking UKIP. This sort of fly-posting is illegal, factually incorrect and detracts from the appeal of the Town we are all working to improve for everyone. Our goals are the same, we just differ on how to get there! There are now many public forums on the Internet and more public meetings – the right place for those who disagree with our policies and aims to debate issues in an adult and democratic manner. Of course, by their actions, they have already lost any argument they may have by posting these abusive stickers. At the end of the day, if you agree with the things I say, you will vote for me. If not, you will place your X elsewhere on the Ballot Paper. That is your absolute right. It is called Democracy.

**Jim Stanley**, UKIP Candidate for Chipping Norton

## Katharine House thanks

The 'Care for a Cuppa' coffee morning held in the Town Hall on Friday 6 March in aid of Katharine House raised £390. Thank you to all those who so generously supported us, a big thank you to my helpers and the local businesses who gave so generously for the raffle and tombola and to those who made cakes and helped in any other way.

**Cicely Maunder**

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

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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### Advertising and Sponsorship

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

## Election roundup

### Town Hall Election debate

Are you interested in joining the general election debate? Wednesday 15 April at 8pm in Chipping Norton Town Hall could be your chance. All the main parties (Conservative, Labour, UKIP, Green Party, Lib Dems, NHS Action Party) will be sending a speaker and all, except the Conservatives, will be represented by their local candidate in the parliamentary elections. The chair, James Kennedy, Vicar of St Mary's Church will invite the audience to put questions which candidates will answer in turn, in an allotted time, usually three minutes each, not to be exceeded, and candidates will answer questions in rotation so that no candidate always has to answer first.



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### Get registered to vote

Are you registered to vote on 7 May? Every eligible voter is responsible for registering their own details. The District Council recently sent all households letters to check. If you didn't get a letter you may need still to register. This can be done online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or by calling 01993 861410. It is a legal requirement to register, 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 election you must register to vote before 20 April.

### UKIP in the public eye

Around 20 people came to UKIP's February open public meeting in the Town Hall. James Stanley, candidate for Town and District Council chaired. Local parliamentary candidate Simon Strutt and Banbury's candidate Dickie Bird gave their views on local and national issues. The Q&A session covered

agriculture, the NHS, small businesses and the Ukraine situation. Jim Stanley also told the News he wants a fair contest – without abusive anti-UKIP stickers being illegally flyposted around town (see letters).

### Could you be a Town Councillor?

A reminder 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 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, Worcester Road Cemetery, four Town recreation grounds, Pool Meadow, Greystones

recreation grounds and local grants. Anyone interested should contact the Town Clerk at the Guildhall (T: 642341 E: [cntownclerk@btconnect.com](mailto:cntownclerk@btconnect.com)).

### Town Meeting, Wednesday 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 gives an annual report of what it has been doing. As Mayor Mike Tysoe told the News this is 'your opportunity to question, challenge and thank (whichever you feel is applicable) your entire Town Council – and this only happens once a year!' 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



## DIARY

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> **U3A** 2.30pm Methodist Hall - details p28
- NOOG** 7.30 St Mary's Parish Rooms - details p28
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Clean up Chippy** CANCELLED - see p14
- Ramblers Meet** 2pm New St Car Park see p25
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p27
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30-11.30 for Methodist Women in Britain
- CNWI** 7pm Lower Town Hall see p27
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall details p24
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Lido Auction of Promises** 7.30 Town Hall see p5
- Lions' Defibrillator Course** 7.30 Crown & Cushion see p24
- CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** see p35
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Church Spring Fayre** stalls 10am-12noon and lunches noon-1pm
- What we did on our Holiday** in Churchill 7.30 - see p10
- 13<sup>th</sup> **History Society** 7.30 Methodist Hall see p24
- 14<sup>th</sup> **Lights Up Arts & Memory Club** 10.30am-12.30pm at Highlands details 07717 374484
- RBL Evening with Steve Morgan** 7pm Crown & Cushion - see p23
- 15<sup>th</sup> **Election Debate** 8pm Town Hall - details above

- 16<sup>th</sup> **Seated Exercise Class** 10.30am Lwr Town Hall details p4
- 16-18 **CHAOS - Carousel!** Theatre Box Office - 642350
- 18<sup>th</sup> **Chipping Norton Farmers' Market** 8.30-1.30
- Town Fundraising Ball** 7pm Town Hall details p3
- Gladiator with Spitz & Co** 8pm Gt Rollright Vill Hall see p20
- 20<sup>th</sup> **Neighbourhood Watch Meeting** details p13
- CN Amateur Astronomy Group** 7.30 at the Methodist Hall - details 07527 224411
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Town Meeting** 7.30 Town Hall see above
- 23-26 **Chipping Norton Literary Festival** see p19
- 23<sup>rd</sup> **Chadlington Flower Club** 7.30 Chad Mem Hall - see p27
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Charity Toy & Clothes Sale and Swap Party** in Churchill Village Hall - details p12
- 28<sup>th</sup> **Lights Up Arts & Memory Club** - as 14<sup>th</sup> April

### May (News out on Monday 27 April)

- 2-10 **North Oxon Artweeks** see p20
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Ramblers Meet** 2pm New St Car Park see p25
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p27
- 6<sup>th</sup> **U3A** 2.30pm Methodist Hall Ruth Pole - Mercy Ship details p28
- NOOG** 7pm Visit to The Grove Middle Barton - details p28
- 7<sup>th</sup> **ELECTION DAY**