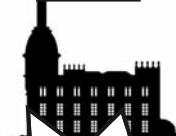


Chipping Norton News

VOTE
7 May!!



See centre
pages for
candidates'
profiles

Issue 377

May 2015

50p

A Town Manifesto

On 7 May Chippy voters elect an MP, one District and 16 Town Councillors. What are your Town issues for our elected representatives? The Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan provides some inspiration.

The Vision

'A working Cotswold Town thriving economically and socially as a rural hub'

Some 'manifesto promises'?

The Neighbourhood Plan, assembled across the political spectrum – plus recent News topics – give one possible menu for action. Here goes:

Promoting the Town

Councils, business & community working together in our best interest

Local jobs

Available sites, business support and some 'Chippy' marketing

The right housing

Houses (1800 coming!) affordable & fit for a working Cotswold town

Thriving town centre

Attractive, good shops & leisure facilities, rates & rents that work

Roads and transport

No HGV pollution, more buses, parking, hospital transport, no potholes

Great environment

Our heritage preserved, green spaces, a new tip, more green energy

Enough good facilities

Schools, ACE centre, skatepark, hi-tech library, museum, visitor centre

More local care:

More First Aid, health and social care nearby where we need it

... and our community spirit that welcomes all



Good wishes to our newly elected representatives. The Town will be looking for leadership for an ambitious Chipping Norton manifesto. See you and all our Town Councillors at Mayormaking on 18 May.

Features this month

Help market the Town ~ DofE diary

WI Centenary ~ Spring gardens

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

In this issue

Premier Inn plans ~ Post Office move ~ Charity award for Lawrence Team ~ HGV ban debate & more ...

Premier Inn proposal

Proposed 72 room hotel

At a March Town Hall Exhibition, Premier Inn revealed their proposals for a 72 room hotel, and integrated internal restaurant, on the derelict Castle View and Ambulance Station site in Chipping Norton's Spring Street. Owners Whitbread have purchased the land from the County Council and say this is part of wider expansion in the Cotswolds, which will 'support the local economy' by bringing 20 new full and part time jobs and overnight visitors to the



Town. The main entrance, along with roughly one car park space per room, is down a slope at the rear of the building. The organisers seemed surprised (they ran out of plan leaflets) by the large number of councillors and local people who showed up to look at the plans. They say there seemed to be a general welcome for more hotel facilities bringing visitors but issues were raised. The News gathered some views from the Mayor, nearby residents and some local town businesses.

Impact on Town economy

Shaun Fagan from Experience Chipping Norton said he and colleagues saw this as a positive development – hoping a new hotel would bring business people, families and visitors to Town. Shaun also welcomed the jobs. The Theatre told the News they were generally in favour – with opportunities for partnerships, and accommodation for punters and artistes. Mayor Mike Tysoe said he and some councillors are positive since hotel guests should bring spending to the Town. He hoped that shops, pubs etc would 'rise to the challenge'.

Other town business people – particularly with bars and restaurants, might not be so sure. One questioned why the whole development was needed and also suggested, given that the new Inn will have its own 66-seater integrated restaurant & bar for breakfast and evening meals, that it might not in fact be the boon to other town businesses that some hoped.

Many design issues

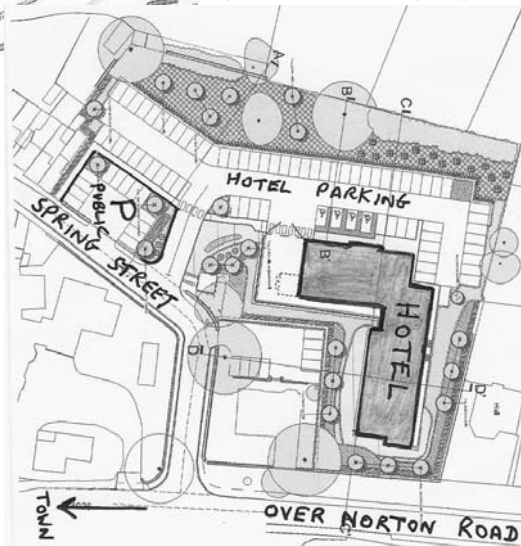
Design seems to have raised the biggest issues. Premier Inn said in their publicity that it was an 'attractively and conservatively designed building' to 'complement the surrounding area', and that they had 'spent several months working with' the Town Council and WODC to get it right. Mayor Tysoe said they only had one 'maybe 2 hour' meeting and that he and councillors still had many design issues. Everyone seems to welcome something going on the derelict eyesore of a site but with comments such as 'not in keeping', 'a 60's prison block', and 'bland and stark', many did not think this was appropriate in a conservation area, the Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty, near to listed buildings and overlooking a scheduled ancient monument.

The Local Planning authority will have a duty to look at all of this. Local specific design points raised in responses to the News included the 'blank' front with entrance round the back, the 'faceless' view of gables from the Over Norton Road (next to the Masonic Lodge and Chestnuts which will be refurbished as residential flats), the hard edges and walls in the views from the countryside, and the 'monolithic' scale and massing which will go alongside the street scene of small cottages in Spring Street. One said 'the proposal is damaging our history, heritage and landscape'.

Congestion and parking

On parking it appears all staff might be required to walk to work if all the residents use their parking spaces! For local Spring Street residents, after early



discussions, Premier Inn now say they are providing a 13 place designated space (see diagram) but it is unclear how this will be controlled. Many responses to the News concerned local congestion in Horsefair, the roundabout, down Spring Street, and nearby – especially when even more houses will be built on the old hospital site.

Premier Inn and their developers will clearly need to come back with a full planning proposal that meets objections and planning issues, in spite of the cautious welcome to the idea of more visitor accommodation in town.

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Please see our website for more information.

www.twelvepr.co.uk

Lawrence Team's WOBA award

The Lawrence Home Nursing Team was named winner of the Charity Award sponsored by First Sight Media at the 2015



Jenny Nolan, Registered Nursing Manager, and Les Waller, Team Treasurer, accepting the Charity Award

West Oxfordshire Business Awards (WOBA) gala night at Heythrop Park in March. The annual awards, now in their fifth year, provide an opportunity for the very best of West Oxfordshire businesses and charitable organizations to receive recognition for outstanding achievements over the past year. Dr Jonathan Moore, GP and Chair of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team, said, 'We are delighted to have won this award which is a reflection of our nursing team's dedication, commitment, hard work and overall achievement.'

Long time supporter Shirley Watkins held a coffee morning at Churchill Village Hall on Saturday 28 March and raised an impressive £323. Thank you Shirley and all our supporters in Churchill! Forthcoming events include the AGM on Wednesday 13 May from 6.30–9.30 pm at the Upper Town Hall, Chipping Norton – all welcome. The annual Golf Day and Evening in memory of Jane Phillips MBE, is on Friday 26 June at the Cotswolds Club, Chipping Norton and our supporter group will be attending the Charlbury Beer Festival on Saturday 27 June. More details on our new-look website: www.lawrencehomenursing.org. The restaurant scheme continues in May with The Crown Inn at Church Enstone. Please telephone 677262 to book your table. If you wish to join our mailing list, receive our forthcoming newsletter and details of all our fundraising activities please email us at: verityfifer.lhnt@gmail.com or telephone 684475.

Verity Fifer

Bumper Town Raffle

Would you like to win tickets for Blenheim Palace, Cotswold Wildlife Park, The Theatre, a Roller Disco, Oxford Ice Rink ... or meals for two, champagne, Famous Grouse Whiskey, a host of luxury or useful gifts from local shops, as well as a £150 Sainsbury's shopping voucher?

Tickets for around £1000 worth of raffle prizes are on sale around Town to raise funds for the Town's proposed skateboarding park. Mayor Mike Tysoe, with donations from many local town businesses and shops, launched the raffle to help fund the ambitious new park which the Town Council hope to see at Greystones. Tickets – at 25p a time – are on sale at The Guildhall, West End Newsagents and from many of the Town Councillors. If you see one – ask to buy a few. Tickets are on sale until the prize draw which will be at Mayormaking on 18 May.

The Town Hall ball, planned for April as a fundraiser for the skateboard park, had to be cancelled as the 80 tickets sold so far were not quite enough to cover costs. All this was a disappointment to the Mayor and organisers but they want to keep up the skateboard campaign – so if you were planning to come to the ball why not buy a bumper number of raffle tickets, donate or join in some way to help the cause? Contact mtysoe50@me.com or the Town Clerk.

Major archaeological find

The News has learned of a major archaeological find this month, near Long Compton – but the details are awaiting official confirmation and local security is tight. The find could apparently be very unusual and date back to early Saxon times. Archaeology experts working at the site were staying in Chipping Norton and early reports to the News suggest the find will be of national interest. Full story next month when public statements are available.

Ofsted rating delights St Mary's

Chipping Norton's St. Mary's Primary School has been celebrating a 'good with outstanding features' grading from



Foundation Stage children at St Mary's pictured celebrating their 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating

Ofsted. The School was inspected in early March and was rated as 'Good' for overall effectiveness with 'Outstanding' for Early Years provision and 'Outstanding' for the behaviour and safety of pupils. It was recognised that the 'whole staff work together with a tireless determination to improve the quality of education for children'. The report also reflected how attainment across the School was at least in line with that found nationally and that all groups of children including the most able and those with Special Educational Needs make good progress in reading, writing and maths. The School received an Outstanding rating for behaviour because the pupils 'show highly positive attitudes to their learning and make a significant contribution to the life of the School'. It is described as a 'Caring and nurturing place for all pupils'.

School leaders were particularly pleased with its 'Outstanding' rating for the Foundation stage where Ofsted recognised that 'thorough and very well targeted planning makes excellent use of the setting and yet remains flexible, responding to the needs of the children'. Yvonne Barnes, headteacher, was understandably delighted saying it was 'a tribute to St. Mary's team of completely committed and highly skilled staff and wonderful children'. She also thanked the dedicated Governing body and supportive parents for their part in this successful outcome for the School saying that it was a positive reflection of a united school community.

Post office move: your views?



Chippy's post office, currently run by Midcounties Co-op on Topside, is due to move up (in July/August) to the new expanded Co-op supermarket to its new position at the top of the escalators. The Post Office are asking the public what they think about the plans. They say it will be more like modern POs such as those at Witney and Kidlington – with two 'open plan' counters and one screened offering the current services with daytime hours which will include all day Saturday. There will also be a Post Office service 'retail counter' which will be open from 8am to 10pm weekdays and 10am to 4pm Sundays. This will handle basic sales including parcel and mail services. The Post Office say parking and access will be better. They want customers views – there are forms to fill in available from the Post Office or see postofficeviews.co.uk or call 08357 223344 and ask about Chipping Norton. They want to know what you think about location, access, what you like and don't like about the change. Consultation ends 27 May.

Meanwhile it is still not clear exactly what else the Co-op will move upstairs – they currently also own the Pharmacy and the Travel Agent but their future location has not yet been announced.

Any chance of a new tip?

Could there be a glimmer of hope for a new nearby recycling and waste site to help Chipping Norton? The County closed the well-used Dean Pit around four years ago after nearby local residents said it was in an inappropriate place. Local County Councillors voted for this on the assurance that a replacement site would be found. But the County then said they were 'consolidating' and so no tip. West Oxfordshire District Council stepped in and, in 2012, proposed a full recycling centre at Greystones but then withdrew saying it was 'not financially viable'.

Hopes of any County/District collaboration were then dashed in 2014 when the joint 'Oxfordshire Waste Partnership' between County and District was closed down because of cost cutting. WODC 'passed the buck' back to the County saying it was the County's job to look again at a full household waste and recycling site. So at that time (exactly one year ago) OCC's Waste Officer Rachel Burns told the News that they were 'working on a strategy to ensure that modern, fit for purpose sites are located near to centres of population' and that there would be a 'summer 2014 consultation' to include the Chippy area. A year later in March 2015, with not much progress, District Councillor Geoff Saul was told by the same Rachel Burns 'a review of HWRC provision has been ongoing for the past year to assess ... the

demand for each site A public consultation will be carried out this summer' (so which summer was that?)

Now WODC seems to be waking up again. It's still a 40 mile round trip to the nearest main tip (Dix or Alkerton) and a new WODC Household Survey reports Charlbury and Chipping Norton residents as saying that Dix Pit is too far and complaining still about the Dean Pit closure. Charlbury's Lib Dem councillor Liz Leffman made WODC put a clause in their new Local Plan saying 'There is an identifiable need for a medium-scale recycling/re-use facility in the northern part of the District'. Then Chippy Labour Councillors Eve Coles and Geoff Saul joined Liz at an April Environment Committee meeting arguing that WODC should take the lead on a Dean Pit replacement as the County seemed disinterested. The Committee have agreed to set up another joint working party of District and County members – after the election. The issue looks likely to run and run – but still no tip.

Vets all up and running

The official opening in March of Chipping Norton's new veterinary surgery on Banbury Road was well attended by customers, suppliers and local dignitaries. The building is light and airy, makes good use of space and all concerned are very



happy with the outcome. Mayor Mike Tysoe attended together with the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk.

Teas and car boot sale

Churchill Teas on the Village Green and Car Boot Sale are on Monday 4 May, 2–4pm. Fun for all the family! To book a car boot sale pitch ring Mike on 659277. All proceeds go towards maintenance and improvement of the Village Hall.

Screen by the Green

On Saturday 16 May at Churchill and Sarsden Village Hall there will be a showing of *The Imitation Game*. This outstanding film starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley is based on the real life story of the legendary mathematician Alan Turing who, together with his brilliant team of code-breakers at the top secret Bletchley Park during the Second World War, cracked the code of the German Enigma Machine. The film won an Oscar for 'Best Adapted Screenplay' and also had 5 Oscar and 9 Bafta Nominations. Go along at 6.45pm to celebrate 10 years of films in Churchill – drinks and canapés will be served! All films start at 7.30; tickets £4.50 pay on the door. Let them know if you are going. For more information and to book ring 659903 or email screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com.

Tea Party at The Theatre

The Theatre Chipping Norton is holding a tea party on Friday 22 May 2–3.30pm. Please go and join them for tea and cake at the Dementia Awareness Tea Party in The Theatre Bar. This is to raise funds to support the Theatre's Relaxed Performances

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and Screenings which include screenings of *The Sound of Music* in May and *West Side Story* in June. Call the Box Office 642350 for details.

Join in Town Festival



This year's Chipping Norton Town Festival will be in the town centre on Sunday 21 June 2015. There will be live music from 11am until 8pm on a specially constructed stage next to the Town Hall, which will be an eclectic mix consisting of local choirs, gypsy rock, gospel folk, heavy metal, classical guitar, blues and loads more. Aimed fairly and squarely at families, there will be lots of activities for children at pocket money prices including children's rides and games, masks and balloons, face painting and temporary tattoos, hats, candy floss, sweets and lollipops, a bouncy castle and much more. There will also be a show of classic and interesting cars, over fifty stalls, food stalls, two hog roasts and all the fun we expect from a small town country fair. The Festival promises to be a lively and inexpensive day out. Organised by the Rotary Club of Chipping Norton in conjunction with management committee members from the Town, every single penny of net profit is ploughed back to local charities. Our thanks go to the Midcounties Co-operative who have agreed to be the major sponsor once more.



View from the stage at last year's sunny, successful Town Festival

Over two thousand people enjoyed the fun last year, and it is hoped even more can come along this year – it will be a truly enjoyable experience. We are hoping for Volunteers/Stewards to support us throughout the day and would like to invite anyone available to help to the Festival Meeting in the Council Chamber at 7.30 pm on Thursday 18 June. This year the Fancy Dress is sponsored by Chipping Norton Leisure Centre with prizes for 7 years and under and 8–12 years. Anyone wishing to join us with a stall – please contact Joyce for an application form at chippingnortonfestival2014@gmail.com or ring 643611. For all other enquiries please contact Martin Jarratt on 642723.

Simon Hamilton

Fete and Table top Sale

Henry Cornish Care Centre in Chipping Norton is holding a fete and table top sale on Saturday 9 May starting at 2.30pm. Bring your unwanted items and sell them at the fete. No pitch fees, no costs. Come and have some fun – free entertainment including stalls, a singer who is a Paramedic, Morris Dancers from Charlbury and a Dogs for the Disabled demonstration

plus low cost refreshments, cream teas with scones. If you have your own food wagon and wish to set up there please contact Sylvia Evans on 642364.

No sign of HGV ban: update

Last month the News reported that Oxfordshire County Council has stepped back from their commitment to banning HGVs from Chippy and downgrading the A44. Their latest



Draft Transport Plan removed a commitment, made previously, to strategies for the smaller towns that included specific action to deal with illegal HGV pollution through Chippy monitored since 2005 by the 'Black Box' on Topside. The County now seems to have little urgency for taking responsibility for achieving the action that was agreed between County and District way back in 2008 after the statutory designation of Chippy as an AQMA (Air Quality Management Area). Since last month's article the News has had two responses from elected councillors (see letters page for full details). County Councillor Hilary Biles, who has been trying hard for years to get this dealt with, has focused on the funding issue. It seems that in spite of HGV traffic already polluting illegally, funding might now only be justified when Chippy has more housing with even more traffic making it worse. District Councillor Geoff Saul says it is a disgrace that the County have dropped the Chipping Norton plan without an explanation. He says OCC needs to say whether the omission is down to 'prohibitive cost, lack of requisite consent from neighbouring authorities or simple lack of any political will to make this a priority policy.'

Meanwhile West Oxfordshire District Council retains a statutory duty to monitor action and make sure the AQMA is dealt with. WODC officer Andrew Ward told the News that the County's latest plan does 'refer to' the Chippy AQMA but does not make any specific commitment to dealing with it. He is now asking the County to amplify what exactly they intend to do about the 'lorry management measures'. Maybe it is time to remove that black box – it is a 10 year eyesore and doesn't appear to be achieving any progress.

Funding Chippy's 'infrastructure'

The HGV-ban funding issue highlights some of the challenges on how a smaller town like Chipping Norton can get 'infrastructure' funding from big new housing developments. The final WODC Local Plan now commits to 1800 houses (including 600 for Tank Farm) in the Chippy area. It also refers to a list of 'infrastructure' needs – including in our

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Neighbourhood Plan – such as schools, HGV controls, a recycling centre, library and civic space, parking and much more. Some of the funding for this has traditionally been helped by 'Section 106' agreements with developers. But WODC are planning to 'scale back' 106 and use a new system called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) as a new way to charge developers.

WODC are currently consulting on how the new CIL draft charging schedule will work – for a six week period until Friday 8 May. (See www.westoxon.gov.uk and search for community infrastructure levy). All this might seem a bit obscure but it raises two very important issues for Chipping Norton: first, what infrastructure will be funded and how much money could come from new town housing.? One quick estimate, for example, could see £2-3m raised just from the 600 new houses at Tank Farm. Our elected Councillors need to take notice to make sure the Town's priorities are being met. More next month.

Supper with Agatha Christie!

On Saturday 9 May (7pm) the Friends of St Mary's School, Chipping Norton are holding a theatre-style supper evening in conjunction with the Nortonians Amateur Dramatic Society. Guests will be able to see a performance of Agatha Christie's one act play *The Rats* – a typical Christie thriller, enjoy a supper (bring your own drinks) and finish off the evening with a sharply written romantic comedy of manners, *A Marriage Has Been Arranged* by David Sutro. Tickets are £10 and are available from the School office (642673) or West Street Newsagents, Chipping Norton. More details from Andrew Pitman 01993 830930.

Maude returns to Town Hall



The News received a recent email from Chipping Norton Mayor Mike Tysoe who was keen to report that a refurbished painting had returned to the Town Hall. He was delighted saying, 'The painting looks fantastic and should now last another 75 years'. The picture hangs in the upper hall and is of Maude Brassey, the wife of Albert Brassey, MP a former Town Mayor. It was Albert who provided the magnificent gold chain, in 1897, that the

Mayor still wears today, Maude was much more than just the wife of Albert. She was born in Galway, Ireland in 1851, daughter of a Baron. Matilda Maria Helena (Maude) Brassey (formerly Bingham) to give her full name, married Albert in 1871. They had eight children and she was the mistress of Heythrop House, employing twenty one staff in 1881. Albert died in 1918, Maude outlived him till 1943. Thanks for much of this information to John Grantham whose book 'Chipping Norton Town Hall Past & Present' was published back in 2007 and is still available. The book includes pictures of all the paintings in the Hall..

the fibrefestival

Saturday 23rd May 2015

in Chipping Norton Theatre and along Middle Row

Celebrating 50 years in textile design, Kaffe Fassett will be talking about his life and work, followed by a book signing in the theatre.... but not before he has visited our street festival at The Fibreworks, Middle Row, Chipping Norton.

Wool spinning demonstrations,
Sapphire alpacas, animal portrait artist
in her vintage caravan, hand made crafts,
all day vintage tea and coffee van
and much more.

For more information call

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www.thefibreworks.co.uk



Jeremy raises £15k for Lido

The Auction of Promises on 10 April for The Lido in Chipping Norton was a huge success. Final numbers are still being crunched at the time of writing but the provisional total raised is around £15K – a vital shot in the arm at the start of the 2015 season. Top lots included a stay at Hell Bay Hotel on the Isles of Scilly which went for £1,200 and a week in a private home on the French Atlantic coast which fetched £900. Amongst other more unusual promises were a



saxogram, a tonne of manure, deerstalking in Cornbury Park and homemade ice cream. Members of the junior water polo team raised over £200 with promises of car washes, dog walking, cakes and pet care.

Jeremy Clarkson once again wielded his golden gavel to raise funds for The Lido.

Right: a delighted punter celebrates winning her chosen lot!



Photos: www.jennyastonphotography.co.uk

So many people were instrumental in the success of the evening, too many to thank individually here, but the Trustees are immensely grateful to the Promise donors; everyone who supported the event by coming; the volunteers who helped it run as smoothly as it did; Gary Creese for the excellent video of the evening (currently running at almost 320,000 views on YouTube!); Ken Norman for hosting, and of course Jeremy Clarkson, auctioneer extraordinaire who has helped raised over £150,000 since campaigning started!

The Lido opened on 23 April, many have already benefitted from the improved pools and the steam room. If you haven't been yet, why not?! Season tickets are a great value way to enjoy this fabulous facility all summer: pick up an application form from The Lido or download one from the website. Keep up with the latest news via chippylido.co.uk, Facebook and/or Twitter, and we hope to see you soon!

Claire Williamson

Golf club hotel takes shape

Chipping Norton's Cotswolds Club is now pressing ahead with its new 34-bedroom hotel to add to the golfing and other entertainment facilities. As of April the frame of the hotel is taking shape. Club owner and member Glucka Wijesuriya (Wiji) told the News that the hotel will hopefully be open by the first week of September. The hotel will connect to the clubhouse and function marquee and there will be a roof terrace and extended balcony for dining and drinks. The main Club office will move in with the hotel but the Golf Pro shop will stay separately where it is. There will

be two bars and Wiji is applying for planning permission for a spa and hoping to get a main access route from the A44. Finally improvements to the golf course will continue – to stay as the premier course in the area.

Churchill Village Festival

The Village Festival in Churchill is on Sunday 14 June, 12 to 4pm, and will include dog show, pony rides, car boot sale (contact 07738 152586) BBQ, stalls (contact 659190), games – cream teas, pony rides, jazz band, folk dancing and flower festival. Free entrance & car parking.

New bosses for street cleaners

The company that oversees services such as all Chipping Norton's street cleaning is changing. West Oxfordshire District Council is making further efficiency savings by working together with a new company – Ubico – which is jointly owned by WODC, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough Councils. WODC say that for residents 'it will be business as usual and there will be no change in services provided, with the same workers performing the same jobs to same high standard that the people of West Oxfordshire have come to expect.' The move will save around £60,000 of Council taxpayers' money per year. Services that will move under the Ubico umbrella include street cleansing, grounds maintenance, tree surgery, commercial waste collection, bulky waste collection, clinical waste collection, public toilet cleansing and stocking community sandbag points during times of flood. There will be no changes to the WODC's household waste and recycling collection service, which is currently delivered on the Council's behalf by Kier under a contract which runs until 2017.

Your chance to try golf



A new Chipping Norton Golf Academy is being launched at the Cotswolds Club (previously CN Golf Club) aiming to deliver first class golf tuition to all levels of golfer – especially to those just taking up the game. The academy is fronted by head professional Danny Phillips (pictured) and former Chipping Norton Golf Club head professional Neil Rowlands. The Academy will use a new short game

area at the Club along with a renovated practice area. Danny and Neil aim to make golf in the local community more accessible to everyone. They say many people's perception is that golf is too expensive to learn and play, however the academy will be offering group coaching sessions for as little as £5pp throughout the year. All equipment will be provided. Danny and Neil would love to see as many new beginners as possible take up the game and will be offering both ladies and

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men's beginner coaching clinics regularly. And don't forget if you're already a seasoned golfer looking for lessons then the Academy will have everything you need to improve. To find out more please email the Academy at: danny@dannyphillipsgolf.co.uk. Alternatively call Danny on 07581 097746 or Neil on 07733 107716.

Farewell and thanks Yvonne



Staff at Chipping Norton's Intermediate Care Unit up at the hospital gathered for an evening celebration Wednesday 9 April marking the retirement of their unit manager Yvonne Beard. Emma Gardner-Roberts sent the News a picture and said, 'We had a lovely evening meal at Whistlers to say farewell to Yvonne. She will be greatly missed by us all and we would like to wish her the very best of luck in her new ventures. Thank you also to the staff at Whistlers for your hospitality.'

Cotswold Birthing Centre

Please note that the direct contact telephone number for Chipping Norton's Maternity unit, The Cotswold Birthing Centre is 01608 697930. The switchboard number for all the other Outpatient services at the War Memorial Hospital is 01865 903333.

Playgroup for bereaved parents

Local mother Lydia Berry has set up the Rainbow Group, an innovative new playgroup to support parents who have lost a baby at any time during pregnancy or around birth. The first of its kind in Oxfordshire, these sessions will be held at the ACE Centre in Chipping Norton, starting on Saturday 16 May. The playgroup is specifically for bereaved parents who also have children between the ages of 0 and 7. Lydia lost her first daughter Evelyn shortly after birth in 2011 and has been working with the ACE Centre to set up the much needed play session. When parents lose a baby, raising other children can be a challenge. The sessions will be a safe space where parents can feel comfortable and able to talk about their loss or just watch their other children play.

The aim for the group is making connections with others facing similar challenges, which can help ease the burden of caring for young children whilst grieving. In the main hall at the ACE centre there will be plenty of toys and activities for the children to enjoy as well as healthy snacks, while parents can have a cup of tea and socialise with others in a similar situation. Lydia said, 'Losing Evelyn was the single most traumatic experience of my life and I found having my second daughter a year later a difficult adjustment. The support from

others who have been through similar experiences has been a lifeline so I'm really excited to start these special play sessions. I want to thank the ACE Centre for giving me such great support and facilitating this playgroup. Hopefully our daughter will have fun and my husband and I will make some new friends.' Helen Ruff, Head of the Ace Centre said, 'We are happy to be hosting the support playgroup as we think this meets a real need in our area for those who face the tough challenge of parenting while coming to terms with terrible loss. We believe bereaved parents are often a silent group in the community, as they must carry on functioning for their other children while grieving in private. We are thrilled that the idea was suggested by one of the mums who regularly uses our facilities.' The new playgroup will be held 10.30–12.30 on Saturday 16 May, 18 July, 19 September, 21 November and future dates. For more information contact Lydia: via oxfordshirerainbows@gmail.com and see www.ace-chippingnorton.co.uk. If your child is over 7 and you wish to attend please contact Lydia.

Jobs at Soho Farmhouse

Soho Farmhouse is a major new leisure development, just outside Great Tew, due to open in August. The first Soho House started in 1995 as a private members' club for those in the film, media and creative industries. Recent expansions



Artist's impression of the new development at Great Tew

include Chicago, Mumbai, Istanbul and Barcelona. The Tew plan includes 40 cabins, farmhouse and cottages, dining barn, pools, spa, gym, football pitch, tennis courts and winter ice rink, farm shop and deli. Work is going well and they need over 250 people in a very wide variety of hospitality and catering positions. A big recruiting drive saw a recruitment open day in Chipping Norton Town Hall on 22 April and there is a jobs fair on 29 April at Bicester's John Paul Centre. HR Manager Sarah Mellor welcomes enquiries and applications – contact Sarah at jobs@sohofarmhouse.com for more details.

What's new at Fairytale Farm

Fairytale Farm is now open daily for the summer. The local family farm attraction, just outside Chipping Norton, is where everything is designed around the needs of children with sensory, learning and physical disabilities, but which can be enjoyed by all children and families as well. Fairytale Farm is divided into four main zones: Huff and Puff for adventure play; Enchanted Walk for a fairytale sensory experience; Alfie and Friends, where you can meet some amazing animals; and The Stables, where you can visit Mouse Town, and enjoy the café and indoor play area. 2014 saw the introduction of Mouse Town, the Giant Rabbit Burrow, Sleeping Beauty, Hansel & Gretel and wacky Rubber Duck Racing. There are lots of new attractions planned for 2015, including a new Jack's Yard Right outside the Beanstalk Café, ; visitors enter via a quaint stone

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wishing well. Children will enjoy the brand new sandpit, which is the focal point of the new area, surrounded by a new outdoor café seating area. See www.Fairytaletfarm.co.uk

Springtime Blossom Day



Come to the Community Orchard on Sunday 10 May. The Orchard Group and Green Gym will be there to welcome you from 12–3 pm. You can have your lunch too! Delicious refreshments of bread, cheese and chutneys, cakes, fruit desserts and drinks. Activities and entertainments will range from children's games, Beltane ceremonies, quizzes and pole lathe. Music by Good Intentions – very popular last year – and the Chipping Norton Singers, whose reputation increases with every performance. Do you know about your Orchard? We have 16 varieties of apple, four of gages and plums, three pears, a quince and a mulberry. Soft fruit includes red and blackcurrants, gooseberries and rhubarb – all available for Pick Your Own in season. And an edible hedge especially for the birds! The Orchard, maintained by the Green Gym, is off the Worcester Road, just before the cemetery. Drop-off parking only, then take the car to New Street Car Park or Primsdown Industrial Estate, from where you can approach the orchard from the top. Best to walk down New Street or across the common. See you there!

Heather Leonard, Orchard Group

... from little acorns grow

Three new oak trees are greeting the world in Chipping Norton thanks to the efforts of Experience Chipping Norton and a local businessman keen to give back to his community.

Will Hadland, who is the director of Hutchinson Furniture and Interiors, has a custom of planting three trees for every oak he uses in the production of his bespoke furniture. He recently decided to extend his conservation efforts by donating three oak saplings to his home town. He planted them in the pasture beside the New Street recreation ground on the Worcester Road. The oaks are expected to live for up to 1000 years, and reach a grand height of 30 metres, giving pleasure to generations of Chippy folk yet unborn. Alison Green of the ECN team connected Will with Mayor Mike Tysoe and John Grantham, the Chairman of Trustees of the Regulated Pasture, to co-ordinate the planting. County Councillor Hilary Biles arranged additional funding via The Big Society Fund to pay for the stakes and guards.



Will Hadland pictured planting his oaks watched by Mike Tysoe and John Grantham

Duke of Edinburgh Award Diary

Training Starts

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

Welcome to this month's DofE Diary. This month marks the start of the training sessions for all of the students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme at Chipping Norton School this year.

For the bronze students it will be the first time they learn the skills needed on a DofE expedition. Before the training day started I tried to get an idea about how the students felt about the training. Most of the bronze students were keen and excited to learn what the expeditions will involve and to learn new things.

The big day took place on 13 April and all of the students took part in different sessions in their expedition groups. There was a food planning session, where the groups had to plan exactly what they were going to eat on the expeditions and got instructions how to use their cooking equipment. These were tested in a hot chocolate session –

many groups successfully made their hot chocolates and some clear experts had finished in no time!



Bronze DoE students practise setting up a tent

In another session they had to locate key places in the Cotswolds using a map and compass in the hope of not getting lost during the expedition. There was also a first aid session where groups learnt how to react to minor accidents that could occur while doing their two day walking expedition. So one of the team members had to pretend to have sprained a leg and the others showed how they would react to the situation and the medical procedures they would cover.

The last activity was setting up a tent. Most groups were confident on how to do it. Others, however, struggled a little bit and there were some confusing moments.

Next time the expeditions start and we will take a closer look at the silver expedition.

Chadlington Beer Festival



The 12th Beer Festival is on Saturday 30 May, from midday at Chadlington Memorial Hall, Chapel Road, Chadlington, OX7 3LX. There are many activities to entertain the kids, some great food options throughout the day and night and live bands. But really it's All About The Beer! A great range of real ales from hair on your chest super strength to something you'd give your Granny ... there is also Pimms, fine wines and 'proper' cider. The Beer Festival is the chief fundraiser for the Friends of Chadlington School and all proceeds go to the School. The gate price is £10, which includes a Festival Glass, programme and three beer tokens. Beer tokens are worth £1.50 each (beer tokens can also be used to purchase cider, Pimms and wine). Children's entry is £3 per child, with all activities (excluding the face painting) then free and unlimited. Non-beer drinkers are free. For more information, see www.chadlingtonbeerfestival.com.

Praying Together

Please come and join us at the Methodist Church as we pray together for help and healing of body, mind and relationships. We meet together at the Methodist Church on the first Wednesday of the month at 11.15am. All are welcome to join us, or you may prefer to write your prayer requests on the cards found on the tables at the coffee mornings in the Lower Hall. The cards can be left in the box provided and the prayers will be included the next time we meet. Confidentiality will be respected.

Elaine Lugo

Katharine House news

9th Annual Midnight Walk is on Saturday, 4 July. Walk for fun, for fitness or in memory of family or friends. This year there's a Hawaiian theme so bring out your hula skirts and flower garlands and join up for the Luau! Last year around 500 people raised around £70,000. Application forms from fundraising. Open to adults and children aged 12 and over, or come and volunteer. **Festival of Open Gardens** from May to July 2015. Various locations, including Broughton Castle, Broughton Grange and Katharine House's own gardens and an exhibition of artwork created by KHH patients. See www.khh.org.uk or pop into the Chipping Norton shop for a leaflet. **The F Word 3 course meal** is arranged by a group of sixth form business and hospitality students at North Oxfordshire Academy for 6pm on Thursday 7 May. Buy a ticket for £4.50 which will include a drink, and then on the night you pay what you feel your meal is worth. More from

iona.corbett@northoxfordshire-academy.org. And don't forget the KHH lottery and raffle – pop into the Chipping Norton shop to find out more.

More pizzas and kebabs



The new Express Kebab Pizza outlet in Horsefair is due to open by the beginning of May – after a long process of getting planning permission which was opposed by many local residents. New front signage was erected in April and the shop was being fitted out.

Meanwhile Rico's Pizza Shack which used to visit Chippy with their mobile trailer each week until the end of last year, but then stopped, has contacted

the News saying they are coming back. Rico's Roz Hicks says they will be back running their Pop Up Pizza van in Chippy on the 2nd Wednesday each month, from 5 to 9.30pm on the London Road near the hospital. The next visit will be on 13 May. The mobile unit houses a real wood burning oven and they serve a number of Oxfordshire villages. See www.ricopizzashack.com.

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Churchill Fellow meets Queen



Her Majesty greets Chipping Norton's Paul Fischer

Paul Fischer, Chipping Norton resident and well known musical instrument maker, had the privilege of attending Her Majesty The Queen's reception at Buckingham Palace on 18 March, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. The Queen is patron of the Trust which, since 1965, has awarded Churchill Fellowships to over 5000 British citizens selected from over 100,000 applicants, to travel overseas to study areas of topical and personal interest. The knowledge and innovative ideas they bring back are shared, for the benefit of their profession, their community, and, in lots of cases, the nation. For many people, a Churchill Fellowship proves transformational, and they go on to achieve great things effecting positive change within society. Paul went on his Fellowship in 1983, to Brazil, to investigate the destruction of the rainforests and its impact on the export of precious and special tonewoods used in the making of fine musical instruments. Fellow instrument makers benefited from Paul's work and the discovery of less endangered species particularly as, by 1992, two particular species were placed on the CITES Appendix I of the list of endangered species.

Fellows from every decade since 1965 represented the Trust at the reception, as well as representatives from the Winston Churchill Trust in Australia and the Winston Churchill Foundation of the United States. To mark its semicentennial, the Trust has just awarded a record number of 150 Travelling Fellowships – investing at least £1.3m in British

citizens. This year's Fellows will travel to 58 countries between them, across six continents, where they will carry out a wide range of projects. The average length of a Fellowship is six weeks. Many events are being held throughout the year to celebrate Sir Winston's life and legacy. 'We were delighted and honoured that the Queen hosted a reception to mark our anniversary year. Sir Winston's legacy lives on through our Fellows – individuals who, like him, have vision, leadership, a passion with a purpose, and a commitment to help their fellow citizens', says Jamie Balfour, Director General of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

Wild Run for Roger

Chippy News contributor and local resident Roger Sinclair is pictured on the left with local friends sliding down the last (and easiest!) of over 20 obstacles on the Vision Wild Run that took place near Enstone Airfield on 28 March. Roger said, 'It



was incredible fun, we all got covered in mud from head to toe and largely rediscovered our inner child!' Nearly 500 people took part in either the 5k or 10k mud run in various waves throughout the day, with a handful of spectators braving the wind and the rain to cheer them on. The next Wild Run is on 18 July and more information can be found at www.visionwildrun.co.uk.

Find the answer at the Library

What's new in the Library? Being part of the Oxfordshire Libraries is a wonderful thing as it gives you access to so many strands of information and resources. Have you a tricky enquiry and are desperate to find an answer? Try askalibrarian@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Along with our current eBook and eAudiobook providers we have a new kid on the block which everyone can access – BorrowBox. You can download to mobile phones, iPads, iOS and Google android devices, laptops or PCs from the comfort of your own home, 24/7 at no cost. And of course we still hire out DVDs for a week at a reasonable charge. Statistically, Chipping Norton Library has one of the highest loan rates for DVDs in the County. This means we receive most of the latest DVDs on the day of release. Not bad for a small library – do give us a try.

Judith Bucknall, Library Manager

New fixed price boilers

Chipping Norton gas users may want to look at new 'fixed price' scheme offering a top quality gas boiler open to all West Oxfordshire households. The scheme supplies a high-rated energy-efficient boiler for £2,700 which includes installation by a qualified heating engineer. It is arranged by Green Homes Together, a community interest company

Jaffé & Neale

BOOKSHOP & CAFÉ

**An evening with
Antony Beevor
celebrating 'Ardennes'
at St Mary's Church
Friday 26th June
doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start
Tickets £12.50**

Middle Row, Chipping Norton
01608 641033 info@jaffeandneale.co.uk

LOCAL NEWS

backed by West Oxfordshire District Council. To find out more call 0300 111 3330 or visit www.greenhomestogether.org.uk. Green Homes Together can also advise about funding available for loft and cavity wall insulation.

Stones' Dark Sky recognition

A ceremony at the end of March marked an important moment in the 5000 year history of the Rollright Stones – their official recognition as a Dark Sky Discovery Site. The award reflects the outstanding experience the site gives for viewing the night sky, due to its low levels of light pollution. In fact the adjudicators awarded it the highest level 'Milky Way class': very rare for a site in southern England. The audience at



George Lambrick, Head of the Rollright Trust with Robin Smitten from CNAAG who bid for the award

the ceremony in Long Compton Village Hall was treated to a clip of BBC Stargazing Live in which Londoners visiting the Stones were amazed to see, not only the billions of stars that make up the Milky Way, but the Andromeda galaxy! Mel Gigg from the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group went on to show stunning photographs that he had taken from the Stones including Moon craters, meteors and even the Space Shuttle Discovery, seventeen minutes after take-off from Cape Canaveral! This important award not only highlights the qualities of the site for stargazers but could have implications for future nearby planning applications – planning officers will need to take into account the impact of possible light pollution on the site. It is now hoped that the award could lead on to the whole of the northern Cotswolds gaining International Dark Sky Status.

Swim through May for only £5

Better Leisure Centres – which runs Chippy's indoor pool in Burford Road – have joined forces with The Oxfordshire Sports Partnership (OSP) to try and increase participation in sport. Throughout April and May, the Windrush, Chipping Norton and Carterton Leisure Centres will be hosting the GO Active Get Healthy and Active Women swimming initiative to encourage more people in the community to take part in regular exercise. Better quote that nearly 50 per cent of Oxfordshire females are 'inactive'. The project involves low cost swimming sessions. The swimming initiative will be held during normal swimming sessions. The aim is to highlight the importance of being physically active and swimming is a non-weight bearing exercise that raises the heart rate, provides a full body workout and is an exercise that can be enjoyed by everyone. The initiative will run until the end of May and those interested can purchase a voucher that offers one month of

swimming for just £5. For more information, please visit www.better.org.uk.

Youth fun in Over Norton

On Wednesday 25 March, Over Norton Youth Club had a great evening. Laura from Crocodiles of the World came to



Spot the crocs (well ... alligator actually!) in Over Norton talk to us about their reptiles, she also brought with her a python and an alligator for the children to hold and have their photo taken with. Thank you Laura.

The Youth Club is open between 7 and 9pm on Wednesday evenings (term time). We offer a range of activities such as art & crafts, pool, Wii, different sports, discos and special events. We also have a great outdoor area for the children to burn off that excess energy. We are currently in need of more volunteers to help us out, could you spare 2 hours a week? If you think you could and are interested in joining our Youth Club, please come along and visit us at Over Norton Village Hall and talk to one of the staff about what is involved. We look forward to welcoming you.

Heather Willoughby

Are you a budding Banksy?

On Saturday 9 May a graffiti artist will be visiting Glyme Hall and bringing with him a portable 'graffiti wall'. The idea is that he will work with a group of up to 20 young people (8 to 16 years old) to develop their artistic talents. The session will start by planning and roughing out ideas on paper and later transferring the designs to the wall. The session will begin at 12 noon and there will be a charge of £1 per person. As



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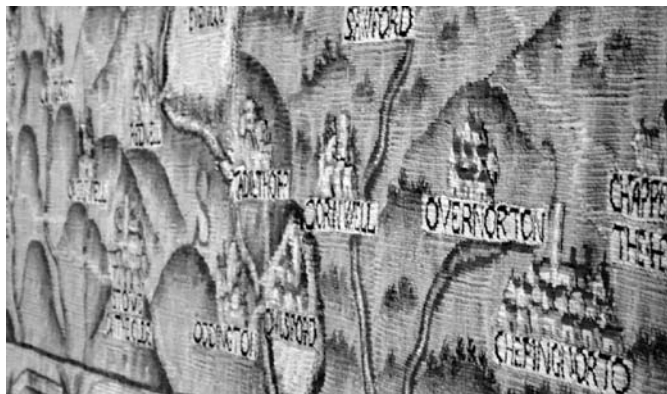
Email: clivelongbuildingcontractor@gmail.com

LOCAL NEWS

numbers are limited to a maximum of 20 young people, booking is essential – please contact Don Davidson, Chair of the Glyme Youth Committee by e-mail on dondavidson@btinternet.com if you want to attend. Anyone who interested in being a voluntary helper on the day should also contact Don as above.

Chippy on the Bodleian map

On 21 March, Oxford University's Bodleian Library opened its new £80m Weston Library on Broad Street. The building, a



greatly altered version of what was previously known as the New Bodleian Library, now includes galleries open to the public – including a four centuries-old tapestry map featuring Chipping Norton. The 1590 Sheldon Tapestry Map of Worcestershire is exhibited on a wall of the main Blackwell Hall. At the bottom-right, it includes a small section of Oxfordshire – with 'Cheping Norto' clearly visible, with what could be St Mary's Church rising above the town. Nearby settlements include Over Norton, 'Chappel on the Heath' (now Chapel House, the buildings on the A44 just south-east of the Shell garage), Cornwell, 'Rowlewright Par' and 'Rowlewright Mag' (Little and Great Rollright). The Rollright Stones themselves are visible, although not labelled. The Weston's first exhibition, Marks of Genius, has other items with local connections including JRR Tolkien's own 1937 watercolour design for the original dust-jacket for *The Hobbit*. Tolkien is thought to have drawn on Oxfordshire for inspiration; the Rollright Stones may have been the inspiration for the Barrow-downs of *The Lords of the Rings*. Marks of Genius also features the Gough Map, dating from the 13th or 14th century. This is one of the earliest detailed maps of Great Britain, and shows around 600 locations, including 12 in present-day Oxfordshire. One of those is Chippy: a little to

the left and below the city of Oxon, there is a small building labelled 'Norton'.

The Weston's public galleries are free to visit and are open 10–5pm Mondays to Saturdays and 11am–5pm Sundays. The Marks of Genius exhibition runs until 20 September, while the Sheldon Tapestry Map is due to stay on display for at least a year. For further information on the Marks of Genius exhibition visit <http://genius.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>.

SA Mathieson

New Debt advice service

From April the new advice centre for people struggling with debt is up and running in Chipping Norton run by CAP (Christians Against Poverty) with volunteers from St Mary's and the Community Church (see last month's News). CAP provides debt management service in 270 centres round the country; they will visit you in your home and offer a free personal service and will help negotiate with creditors. 18 new centres have just opened. Local MP David Cameron has given support to the initiative saying, 'CAP has an impressive record of helping people to get debt-free and stay debt-free. From the minute people approach CAP, they are guided and supported through every big financial decision so that they can pay off their debts and plan for a better future!' Centre Manager Athene Mitchell said, 'Typically, debts can build up when a relationship breaks down, or someone loses their job, or through bereavement – so often when people are least able to cope with a financial headache. We're just so pleased to be able to partner the care of the Church with the financial expertise of CAP's head office'. For more see www.capuk.org or call 0800 328 0006.



Fun Dog Show

Churchill Fun Dog Show is on 14 June from 12 to 4pm. The organisers have set up lots of great classes to enter plus there's a 'have a go agility' competition plus stalls, games, car boot sale and more. All proceeds will be donated to Medical Detection Dogs. For more information please telephone Anne Batchelor on 658284.

Police and crime update

This month's update is from PC Mick Anderton and police reports.

New team member: PC Rob Webb is joining the Neighbourhood policing team from Witney; he has previously been a patrol response officer in and around Chipping Norton and Woodstock.

General election support: Police have been planning for the General Election on 7 May. Team members will be visiting polling stations around West Oxfordshire so if there are any issues you want to discuss then take this opportunity to meet them.

Heron shot: In March police received a report from Milton-under-Wychwood about a heron being shot. A vet found puncture wounds and both its legs broken. If anyone has any information contact 101 and quote crime occurrence 43150076214.



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PROMOTING CHIPPING NORTON

Experience Chipping Norton update

More this month on efforts to promote Chipping Norton and smarten up the Town

Chippy for Market Town Award?

Can you help Chipping Norton win this year's Market Town of the Year award? Experience Chipping Norton is launching the #LoveChippy photo competition to kick things off. The ECN team spent a day in Belper (the 2014 winners) and joined a seminar about this year's awards. The ECN team



gained valuable knowledge from the enjoyable visit. Like Chippy, Belper boasts a rich heritage centred on a famous mill . . . in Belper's case, powering into the industrial revolution based on the genius of Jedediah Strutt, who built one of the world's earliest water-powered cotton mills. Both Chippy and Belper – in the Derwent Valley – are historic market towns with a wealthy past, set in areas of great natural beauty.

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Help Chippy in Bloom



ECN's Shaun Fagan is convinced Chippy has a 'red-hot chance' in the 2015 contest, backed by volunteers stepping up since ECN's well attended March meeting at Delicacy Deli pictured here. Shaun says they are on track with plans for entry into the Market Town category of the GB High Street awards. Winning will need some hard-working local enthusiasts. ECN member Rupert Parsons talked about the beautification of the Town, 'We desperately need someone to take up the Chippy in Bloom project. Chippy is already an attractive town. But if we can find the right help in making it as beautiful as we know it can be, the sky's the limit. We need someone with a keen eye to target and co-ordinate planting, garden maintenance, litter picking and local green projects which can really take our town to the next level.' So are you out there? If so, let ECN know!

Get clicking with Chippy photos

What better way to get people to appreciate the unique character of their home town than a photo competition? Now you can enter #LoveChippy through the social media of your choosing – Facebook, Twitter or Instagram are the popular picks. Subjects are limited only by your imagination, so get snapping now. There are prizes to be won so keep your eye on the ECN website and social media. The competition kicked off with two giant Easter Egg prizes donated by Sainsbury's. The lucky winner was young Milo Hughes (pictured with his dad Ant) who has already collected (and no doubt scoffed!) his prizes.



New public events

ECN's monthly public meetings are generating a real buzz, particularly after Prime Minister David Cameron's launching pad at January's major Town Hall event. The March meeting saw more than 70 local people at the Deli, many signing up to help the ECN project. Then the April meeting featured Kingham charity Rafiki Thabo Foundation, supporting children's education in Kenya, Uganda and Lesotho. The next on 20 May at the revamped Red Lion will feature well-known local Penny Mallory – the motivational speaker, author, TV presenter and award-winning rally car driver who rebuilt her life following family breakdown, drug addiction and self-harm. Cotswolds Distillery will also be there conducting a tasting session with their wonderful gin! ECN is encouraging anybody and everybody to come along to these events so that their Town project can involve as much local knowledge, talent and enterprise as possible. For more information about ECN visit www.experiencechippingnorton.com

Cotswold Gardens in the Spring

Spring has definitely arrived! Living here in the Cotswolds we have the opportunity to visit many open gardens, large and small, estates and cottages, to view at close range the beauty, the design and development which have evolved over many years.

Judy Buckingham reports:

Cotswold Secret Gardens

A new book recently published shows the hidden charms of some of the most beautiful secret gardens of the Cotswolds. Not all are open to the public so the reader is given the opportunity to peep through the keyhole and see how these wonderful gardens have been created by their owners over centuries. The author Victoria Summerley, who herself recently moved to the Cotswolds, and photographer Hugo Rittson-Thomas have produced a very intimate portrait of gardens such as Cornwell, Daylesford, Burford Priory and many others. Many of these houses were built in the Middle Ages thanks to the prosperity of the wool trade in this area. Others were later commissioned by wealthy individuals. Thus Sezincote was built for George Cockerell, whose family made a fortune in India, hence the Moghul dome on the house along with an Indian temple and bridge in the grounds. Not far away Daylesford House, built for the first Governor General of India in 1790s, had greenhouses specifically for growing tropical fruits. The book is published by Frances Lincoln Ltd at £20 available at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop and Café.



Look up the 'Yellow Book'

One of the best ways to plan garden visits throughout the year is with the National Gardens Scheme (or the Yellow Books as they are sometimes known). The charity was founded in England in 1927 with the aim of 'Opening gardens of quality, character and interest to the public for charity'. In the first year 609 gardens were open and over £8,000 was raised. In 2013 3,700 gardens were visited and a considerably larger amount raised for charitable causes. Most counties have a yellow book, to be found at Tourist

Information Offices, garden centres and other public places. Owners are encouraged to open at least twice each year in order that their gardens may be seen from different aspects. More detailed information of opening times etc, can be found online too at www.ngs.org.uk

National Trust nearby

The National Trust of course has many houses and gardens open to visitors in the spring and summer months. Probably one of the most renowned is Hidcote Gardens near Chipping Campden, which attracts visitors from around the world.

Others in our area include Snowshill near Bourton on the Hill and of course Chastleton

House, whose gardens have been significantly developed over recent years. There are still many privately owned gardens open to the public, such as Rousham, Sezincote, Bourton House and Rodmarton near Cirencester. For more see www.nationaltrust.org.uk



What's Happening@

THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 9NL

LIVE HIGHLIGHTS:

Mon 27th April, 7.45pm
Thur 30th April, 7.45pm
Sat 2nd May, 7.45pm
Sun 3rd May, 7.45pm
Wed 6th May, 7.45pm
Thurs 7th May, 7.45pm

Sat 9th May, 7.45pm
Sun 10th - Mon 11th May

Wed 13th May, 7.45pm
Fri 15th May, 7.45pm

Sat 16th May, 7.45pm
Fri 22nd May, 7.45pm
Fri 29th May, 7.45pm
Sat 30th May, 7.45pm

FILM:

Sat 2nd May, 11am
Fri 8th May, 7.30pm
Thurs 14th May, 10.30am
Sun 17th May, 7.30pm
Sat 23rd May, 7.30pm
Sat 24th May, 7pm
Sun 31st May, 7.30pm

THEATRE SCREENINGS:

Mon 4th May, 7.30pm
Mon 11th May, 7.30pm
Thurs 14th May, 7pm
Tues 19th May, 7.30pm

THE FUREYS £18
DON Q £14, £12 conc
LUKE JERMAY: SIXTH SENSE £15
OPERA DELLA LUNA: THE GHOSTS OF RUDDIGORE £18, £16
SHOOTING WITH THE LIGHT £14, £12 conc
BRAINSEX With Timandra Harkness £14, £12 conc, under 26's £8.50
JULIA BIEL £16, £14 conc
ROALD DAHL'S DANNY CHAMPION OF THE WORLD £13, £11 conc, schools £8.50
CELTIC FIDDLE FESTIVAL £15, £13 conc
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY PRESENT THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF COMEDY (ABRIDGED) £16, £14 conc
WHISPERING BOB HARRIS £8
GYPSY FIRE £16
SHAPPI KHORSANDI £15, £13 conc
ELIZA CARTHY & TIM ERIKSEN £16

Tickets £8, £6 under 16's

SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE (U)
THE FACE OF AN ANGEL (15)
CINEMA BAMBINO: ADULT & BABIES FILM CLUB
THE WATER DIVINER (15)
WILD TALES (15)
SHE DONE HIM WRONG (pg)
DARK HORSE (PG)

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE £15 (recorded, captured live)
JULIUS CAESAR £15 (recorded, captured live)
MAN & SUPERMAN £15 (broadcast live)
PIRATES OF PENZANCE £17.50 (broadcast live)

For info on Gallery Exhibitions & Take Part Activities please visit the website or pick up a brochure

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THE ARTS

North Oxfordshire Artweeks 2-10 May

Artweeks, a selling exhibition of over 400 artists, is almost upon us. From 2 to 10 May in North Oxfordshire artists will be opening their studios in a variety of venues for everyone to see their crafts, meet the artists and discuss how they achieve the work on display. Guides and trail maps are available around the town and local villages.

We mentioned last month that quite a few artists in this area are keen to take Artweeks back to its original concept of seeing artists at work in their studios. We also mentioned a few by name. Here are more details of some you can visit and watch them at work. Catalogue numbers are included.

no.30 Various artists plus a daily demonstration in The Village Hall, Great Rollright.

no.32 Anuk Naumann, painter, in her studio in Great Rollright.



no.35 Martin Sanders (pictured) wood turner, at Rockhill, in Chipping Norton. Demonstrations on request.

nos.40, 41, 42 Judith Yarrow, Crabby Taylor and Rosie Colvin painting, bookmaking, jewellery and ceramics at

Cross Leys, Chippy. Raku firing from 6pm on Friday 8 May.

no.66 Rebecca Abrey painter, Chadlington

no.77 Various artists including Maureen Sparling (pictured) demonstrating, St Mary's Church in Charlbury .

no.79 Catherine Binnie, Christine Thornton, sculpture, pottery in Charlbury

For information about each artist, where they are, opening times and where to find refreshments, the Artweeks catalogue is available in libraries, book shops and many outlets as well as on line at www.artweeks.org/festival



The Fibre Festival 23 May



Colour & Kaffe Fassett at the Fibre Festival

This year's Fibre Festival on Saturday 23 May celebrates the remarkable textile designer Kaffe Fassett. Though tickets for his afternoon lecture are

now sold out, Kaffe will be visiting the hub of the Festival, The Fibreworks shop, beforehand. The shop will be spilling out into Middle Row with demonstrations of spinning, stalls with locally produced yarns and handmade textiles, alpacas, a vintage tea van and an exhibition of hand made Kaffe designs.

Lesley Wildman, co-owner of The Fibreworks, commented, 'It is our privilege to honour Kaffe's contribution to the world of textiles with an exhibition of his work produced by local knitters and quilters over the past decades. We look forward to what promises to be an inspirational look into Kaffe's world, giving us all a chance to bring the joy

of colour into our lives. We are also running several workshops in the coming months taking Kaffe's designs as inspiration and using our stock of his fabrics and publications.'

Reviews

Chipping Norton Music Festival

The Festival Concert finale to the 103rd Chipping Norton Music Festival in March showcased young musicians performing with poise, self-assurance and very considerable



Music Festival photos: Martin Davies

musical ability. The evening began with a journey 'over the Irish Sea' with some very young singers from Wychwood C of E Primary's Lower School Choir (pictured above). Their joyful performances included three part rounds and energetic actions with great flair and superb synchronisation. The evening's music ranged across styles and periods from

Matthew Ernst's beautiful solo performance of Handel's *Silent Worship* in the Junior Vocal 7-9 years category to Jazz improvisation and *The Lion King*. Beginner pianist Joanna Pike's *Little Grey Owl* showed incredible steadiness of beat as well as expressiveness, which perfectly conjured up an image of a little owl fluffing its feathers! She is pictured with her well deserved



Wychwood Trophy awarded for the most promising primary school pianist. Advanced pianist Bella Bourne Swinton Hunter was presented with the Rotary Club Cup for her beautiful performance of Schumann's *Trois Romances, No 1*. Folk music was represented by the haunting *Ashokan Farewell*, played by Chloe Rodger on the violin, and violinist Alice Davies won the President's Cup for her stunningly precise performance of *Adagio* by W McGibbon. A real musical treat.

Harriet Fender

The Theatre

Take Part – The View Beyond Some 85 youngsters aged from 9-14 took to the stage on two successive nights at Chipping Norton Theatre last month with their latest production, written and directed by Joanna Higgins with Pippa Phillips. Divided into eight age groups, the evening comprised thirteen entertaining and diverse pieces interspersed by a novel 'running gag' – performed by teenagers from an older group – which also cleverly served as a device for introducing the next act. Speech, mime and dance were all represented in an evening of colourful enthusiasm, fun and drama. Take Part is undoubtedly a large and valuable part of the lives of these youngsters and the Town is lucky to have such a facility. For more information on The Theatre's Take Part courses, visit www.chippingnortontheatre.com. or call The box Office 642350

Gay Holden

THE ARTS

The Art of Waiting book launch



Chris Jory signs a copy of his new novel at Jaffé & Neale

Local author Chris Jory presented his second novel, *The Art of Waiting*, to an appreciative audience in Jaffé & Neale last month. The atmospheric book tells the story of a prisoner of war in Russia in 1943 who wants more than anything to go home to Venice. But when he eventually gets back, he must make some profound decisions. Chris spoke to the *News* last year about his first published novel, *Lost in the Flames*, a World War Two-era drama set largely in Chipping Norton. *The Art of Waiting* is published by Polygon and is available from Jaffé & Neale.

Other events

The Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society

This month's lecture *John Piper, an Artist's Life in Architecture* is given by Denis Moriarty, who will explore John Piper's passion for architecture, landscape, ruins, country houses and churches. 13 May, 11am with refreshments from 10.15am.

Bradwell Village Hall, Burford. Non-members welcome, no need to book (suggested donation £8). For more details see website www.cotswolddfas.org.uk

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

Charlbury Art Society

Alan Crawford, a historian with a particular interest in the Arts and Crafts movement, will talk on *C R Asbee and the Arts and Crafts Movement in Chipping Campden* about how 50 Cockney craftsmen moved with their families from London's East End to Chipping Campden in 1902.

The Memorial Hall, Charlbury. 15 May, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome: £5 at the door. Members free.



C R Asbee

Future events

Music at Blenheim

This year for the first time in a decade, Blenheim Palace will be hosting a series of live summer concerts in their Great Court. Nocturne Live begins on 25 June with performances from singer-songwriter and musician Van Morrison and Grammy Award-winning American jazz vocalist and songwriter Gregory Porter. Tickets on sale now. For more information visit www.blenheimpalace.com

Longborough Festival Opera

Longborough Festival Opera has an intimate auditorium for just under 500, with an orchestra pit for 70 players. The auditorium is in a magnificent converted barn in the grounds of a country house overlooking the Evenlode valley, ten miles from Chipping Norton. Each Festival encompasses the full range of opera genres and there are four contrasting operas this summer, mentioned in brief below:

Wagner's epic love story *Tristan und Isolde*

Verdi's tragic masterpiece *Rigoletto*. This new production is set in America in the 1920's, a world of post-war exuberance, decadence and glamour.

Donizetti's sparkling comedy *Don Pasquale*, set on a 1930's Hollywood sound stage.

Handel's *Xerxes* is a Young Artist Production; a witty and elegant commentary on love and power. The hero Xerxes is sung by the brilliant Jake Arditti, a success last year with Longborough audiences.

Dining is an important part of an evening at Longborough – bring your own picnic, enjoy a three-course meal in the restaurant, or the ultimate dining experience of exclusive private dining towers tucked around the grounds.

The Festival season runs from 12 June to 26 July. Book tickets by calling 01451 830 292 or visiting www.lfo.org.uk



Café • Shop • Flowerpots • Garden
Gallery • Working Pottery



Special Events at Whichford Pottery

Plant Well, Grow Well, Eat Well!
Saturday 20th June - 10am to 5pm
Talks by guest speaker Pippa Greenwood and plants for sale by Phoenix Perennial Plants (please call to book talk tickets - £15).

Gardening Masterclasses
Get your hands dirty and learn from our Head Gardener, Paul Williams. Please contact us for more info.

Whichford Pottery, Whichford,
Nr. Shipston-on-Stour Warwickshire, CV36 5PG
Tel: 01608 684416 www.whichfordpottery.com
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ELECTION S

Polling for General, District and Town Elections takes place on Thursday 7 May. C
Results will be posted as soon as possible at <http://www.westoxon.gov>

Parliamentary election:

The current elected MP is David Cameron (Conservative). Candidates registered are

Colin Bex	Wessex Regionalists
David Cameron	The Conservative Party
Duncan Enright	Labour Party
Andy Graham	Liberal Democrat
Nathan Handley	Independent
Deek Jackson	Land Party
Stuart MacDonald	Green Party
Clive Peedel	National Health Action Party
Vivien Saunders	Reduce VAT in Sport
Bobby Smith	Stop Emotional Child Abuse – Vote Elmo
Simon Strutt	UKIP
Chris Tompson	Independent

West Oxfordshire District Council

Out of 47 District Councillors Chipping Norton is represented by three. The seat being contested (by rotation) is currently held by Eve Coles (Labour) who is retiring.



Richard Averill

Green Party

Richard moved to Chipping Norton four years ago, after retiring from being an IT Consultant, specialising in healthcare, most recently based in Charlbury. He now puts a lot of energy into voluntary activities and projects in the Town. These include

being Chairman of the Green Gym, which carries out local conservation work including planting 350 trees on the Common and maintaining the community orchard. He also works for Transition Chipping Norton, for example promoting energy efficiency measures to local households, and has started a community allotment. He will focus his effort to ensure that the planned development of the Town will serve the coming generation of Chipping Norton residents well, and provide sustainable employment.



Ivan Aguado Melet

Liberal Democrat

Ivan is a horse trainer living in Churchill, Chipping Norton. Originally from Barcelona, he has been living in the UK for the last 16 years. He trains horses and competes in show jumping competitions at national and international levels. Ivan studied administration before following his

passion with animals and in particular horses, and promotes animal welfare which he believes is an important issue in this area.



Sian O'Neill

Labour & Co-operative Party

Sian left South West Wales to train as a London teacher, moving to West Oxfordshire 25 years ago with husband and young family. She taught Keep-fit and Aerobics for Chipping Norton Adult Education Centre,

before returning to full time teaching, including supply teaching at both Chipping Norton schools. Her four children attended local schools. In the Nortonians, she enjoys singing and theatregoing. Sian values Chipping Norton as a unique town, with its strong sense of community and values. She is honoured to be chosen as Labour and Cooperative candidate to replace Eve Coles, who is standing down after 20 years outstanding service to the Town. Sian will continue to listen to your concerns and strive to make your voice heard.



Jim Stanley

UKIP

If elected, I will only work for the good of the Town, in accordance with local people's wishes. Chippy is a unique place, not understood by those who do not live here. I support Mayor Tysoe's efforts to purchase the Police Station, and a skatepark for the

youngsters of the Town. I have pressed for much needed resurfacing of our roads. We need an HGV route or ring road. We do not need a 70 room Premier Inn, an overnight stop at best, impacting adversely on our thriving small Hotel, B&B and Guesthouses locally. The introduction of 1800 new homes will change our town for the worse, we do not have the infrastructure, schools and other facilities to support this development.



Guy Wall

The Conservative Party

Guy lives in Chipping Norton, owning a business in the centre of town. Married to Joanna he has two children, Oskar, 5, who attends Holy Trinity School and Natalia, 2, who attends the ACE Centre where Guy is a Governor. Guy is a Trustee at Glyme Hall, he jointly funds the quad bikes for the Town Council's winter patrol. Recently Guy set up a Petition to tackle the increasing levels of HGVs in the High Street. Guy says, 'Chipping Norton is a wonderful working market town, it needs a strong voice at the District Council with a "can do" attitude. If you want me to fight for you for the good of OUR town, please support me on 7 May'.

SPECIAL!!

Chipping Norton's polling station is the Town Hall, open from 7am to 10pm.
www.chippynews.org/elections and on the News website at www.chippynews.org

Chipping Norton Town Council

This Council is elected every four years – the last time was in 2011, so this year all 16 seats are contested.
Voters can choose any number of candidates up to 16.



**Richard Averill
Green**

A retired IT consultant, putting his energy into voluntary local activities. He would now like to bring Green values to the Town through the Council.



**Richard Benfield
Conservative**

Born and bought up in the Town and started work in the Town at the former White Hart Hotel. A town councillor since 2013.



**Chris Butterworth
Conservative**

Retired schoolmaster resident in Chippy for 11 years, past Mayor and present Deputy Mayor. The Chair of the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.



**Eve Coles
Labour**

Retired carer. Town Councillor since 1976. District Councillor for 20 years. Highlands Trustee and Secretary Age Concern. ACE Centre Trustee. Interests in environment and leisure.



**Alex Corfield
Conservative**

Current Town Councillor, Chippy architect and Planner for 35 years. Supports local business. Interests: CHAOS, sports, Theatre. Lives in Norton Park with his dog Molly.



**Don Davidson
Independent**

Lived/worked in Chippy since 1974. Town Councillor 20 years, four as Town Mayor. Welcomes Aldi and Premier Inn. Favours managed town growth for the Town.



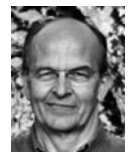
**Jo Graves
Independent**

Resident in Chippy for 30+ years and serving on the Town Council for 22 years. Standing as Independent, to serve all residents of Chipping Norton.



**Tahirul Hasan
Conservative**

Current Town Councillor has lived here for 27 years, brought his family up here, runs a Taxi business and is very active in charity work.



**David Heyes
Labour**

Elected to the Town Council in 2011. Fully supports the Council's efforts to encourage developments which preserve and enhance the special characteristics of Chipping Norton.



**Martin Jarratt
Independent**

Current Councillor, Mayor twice. Chairman of Town Festival, Cemetery and Welfare Charities committees. Trustee of Highlands and Glyme Hall. Member of Rotary, Probus and Nortonians.

Steve Jordan



Labour

Steve, a supporter of our Chipping Norton Theatre and U3A, lives in West Street. He enjoys photography and walking the area's footpaths.



**James Kitcher
Conservative**

Runs Cotswold Lettings in Middle Row. Worked on Neighbourhood Plan bringing a small business perspective; active in promoting our wonderful town including Victorian Christmas shopping.



**Glen Pashley
Independent**

I have always lived in Over Norton with my family and have been on many local committees including the Parish Council and Youth Club;



**Annie Roy-Barker
Conservative**

Town Councillor. Former District Councillor. Trustee, Highlands Day Centre; Vice-President, Chippy Rotary; Secretary/administrator Glyme Hall. Passionate about Chippy, its people, its structure, its future.



**Claire Sexton
Independent**

Claire is a neuroscientist at Oxford University and, if elected, would work with local organisations to make Chipping Norton a Dementia Friendly Community.



**Jim Stanley
UKIP**

All Councils should be about People, not Party. UKIP insist Councillors follow the People's wishes; if elected I will act for the people of Chipping Norton.



**Mike Tysoe
Conservative**

Resident 16 years, recently retired. Elected to CNTC in May 2011 – Mayor/Chair of F&GP committee, leads 'Snow Committee'; helps a small Town business.



**Andrew Villars
Conservative**

Resident over 10 years. Passionate about our town and keen to promote the Town's interests through the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan. Trustee of The Theatre.



**Mark Walker
Labour**

Active in the community for over 10 years; Town Councillor for the past year. On the recreation committee and proud of recent play equipment refurbishment.

ELECTION DAY 7 MAY

**Polling Stations
open 7am – 10pm**

WI MOVEMENT: 1915-2015



The first WI badge

Passing the Baton – The WI celebrates 100 years

Chipping Norton, WOWI and Over Norton are the three local Women's Institute branches which will be joining in the National Federation's centenary celebrations this year. Jane Hall, an Over Norton member, reports what it is all about:



Current WI logo

A remarkable women's organization

This year the Women's Institute celebrates its Centenary and across the country local groups will be planning their own celebrations. The WI is a remarkable organisation which started in Anglesey in 1915 and was formed to encourage women to get together to grow and preserve food to increase the supply of food in war-torn Britain. This help was called on again in 1940 when the Ministry of Food allocated sugar to WI Preservation Centres to make jam and preserves which increased supply during the Second World War. Many readers will have visited a market to buy cakes and jam made by WI members as they know they will be in for a treat. This tradition of markets goes back to 1919 when the very first market was held in Sussex. That was the year that a WI group was formed in Sandringham and Queen Mary became President.



The first UK Women's Institute meeting in Anglesey in 1915

A campaigning legacy

Cake making is not their only area of expertise – their campaigning on important issues is also well known. From their Equal Pay for Equal Work campaign in 1943, the WI has displayed an uncanny ability of earmarking problems in their embryonic stages, as when they lobbied for action on Pollution in Seas in 1927 and in 1954 campaigned for Preservation of the Countryside against Desecration by Litter. Their SOS for Honeybees in 2009 called for increased funding for research into honeybee health and was successful in ensuring that honeybees received their share of £10 million Insect Research Fund.

Celebrating and 'passing the baton'

The Centenary Celebrations of this august organisation commenced on 1 January when a specially designed baton began its journey around the UK starting in Anglesey and finishing at the Annual Meeting in June at the Royal Albert Hall. The baton is being transported by various ingenious methods throughout the country, but closer to home it is envisaged it will travel over the weekend of April 17/18 by vintage car from Shipton Under Wychwood, to Hook Norton Brewery by fire engine, then by dray horses to the Gate Hangs High, after which there will be a Do It Yourself picnic at Broughton Castle. On Saturday afternoon the baton arrives at Bloxham School where local members will enjoy entertainment and cream teas. Three local members, Becky Pearman from Over Norton, Prudence Chard from Chipping Norton, and Celia Storry from West Oxfordshire WI will proudly represent

their members at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June in the presence of HRH the Duchess of Cornwall. Up to 8,000 WI members will be dressed in their best, enjoying the excitement of the occasion and the freedom to explore the beautiful grounds.



Photo: Chipping Norton Museum

The oldest of our three local branches – Over Norton WI – celebrating its 20th Anniversary and the Queen's coronation in 1953. The WI Groups in and around Chipping Norton will be having their own celebrations, but whatever they plan, it is sure to include lots of scrumptious cake!

If you want to know more about your local WI, meeting places and contact details are as follows: Chipping Norton – Lower Town Hall (642903), Over Norton – ON Village Hall (631526) or West Oxon (WOWI) – St Mary's Parish Rooms (646228).

KARATE

MONKEY DRAGON SCHOOL OF KARATE

Starting new Karate Kids classes

Are a great way to boost your child's confidence and raise their Self esteem. We make sure they receive the exercise that so Many miss out these days. Karate can help improve their Concentration, co-ordination and prepare them for situations. Where they need to stand up for themselves.

Come along and try your **FREE** introductory Lesson on Thursdays at:

CHIPPING NORTON LEISURE CENTRE
BURFORD ROAD
CHIPPING NORTON

CHILDREN 6-7.00 PM
ADULTS CLASS 7-8.00PM

For more details ring:
01608 643903
07984 791866 or
07831 851769

CLUB NEWS

End of an era at Gt Rollright WI

Great Rollright WI held their well-attended AGM in March. President, Kath Hales stood down after 10 years. She was replaced by Martene Midwood with Clare Houlton as the



Kath, Mary and Joan Pictured with their bouquets at Great Rollright WI's recent AGM

new Secretary. Bouquets were presented to Kath, with grateful thanks also to Mary Dorling and Joan Tustian in appreciation of their work for the WI group. Kath thanked everyone, particularly the Committee, for supporting her during her presidency.

The evening proceeded with WI business. Finances were in good order, thanks to Fiona Wilmoth. The 2015/16 diary dates were approved with an eclectic mix of talks, outings and hands-on activities including floristry, craft and pottery workshops/demonstrations. The evening ended with a social get-together. The group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30pm at Great Rollright Village Hall and welcomes new members. Call Martene Midwood (730 578) for details.

Judy Midwood

Lions boost charity funds

Our Easter Bingo on 27 March was a winning event for everyone! Over £1100 was raised for our defibrillator fund. Much of the money will go on maintenance of the four defibrillators in the Town and we are researching a possible new site. The evening was organised by new members Sue Bartholomew and Dawn Hunt, ably assisted by four new members acting as wine waiters. Any worries they had about success were dispelled half an hour before the start as the crowds arrived and helpers had to put out more and more tables and chairs. Underpinning the success was the generosity of local businesses and people who donated the excellent prizes, with particular thanks to Gill & Co and Bartholomew Hair Ltd who sponsored the bar and hall hire respectively. Of course such an enjoyable evening depends on the callers and we are indebted to Jim Prew, Peter and Nellie for giving their services to support us. We thank them all.

There were 13 winners in our Easter Eggs draws around the town and villages. We are grateful to all the pubs and businesses who ran the draws and to all who participated and helped raise over £840 to boost our charity funds for local causes.

Visit www.chippingnortonlions.org.uk for information about the Lions and photos of recent events. Being a Lion is rewarding and fun and we welcome new members. So if you are interested in learning more please contact Graham Raven (645134) or Rob Caswell (646003) or any Lion.

Liz Nason

Battle of Cropredy at History Society

It is always a pleasure to listen to Liz Woolley. In April she gave us an insight into the coming of the railway to Oxford: problems, advantages and the resultant demographic changes, notably the development of the suburbs. Both Liz Woolley's latest book and that of our Museum on the railway are available. Incidentally, I wonder if St Michael at the Northgate in Oxford still has three clock hands? Our final meeting of the season is on Monday, 11 May at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall. Stephen Baker will be telling of the Battle of Cropredy Bridge. We look forward to seeing you then.

Liz Whitaker

Plans for Celebrations at CNWI

Members of Chipping Norton Women's Institute talked over various aspects of WI life at their meeting on 8 April. By the time this is printed the WI Centenary baton will have passed through our area and several members will have attended local events to celebrate this unique occasion. Plans are now in hand for the Spring gathering of the Northern Group at the Town Hall, while our book group and a proposed visit to Worcester in mid-June are also taking shape.

At our next meeting on 13 May we are to discuss the resolution on healthcare which is to go forward for debate at the Centenary AGM in London. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us in the lower Town Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

Prudence Chard 64290

Starwatchers warm to the summer sun



The very best superlative could hardly sum up the success CN Amateur Astronomy Group enjoyed with our four BBC Stargazing events in March. The ultimate high had to be the eclipse on Friday the 20th when over 150 people watched the event from the town centre – see article & photo on p3 of last month's News or watch a video of the event at the CNAAG Youtube site. The onset of summer, a quiet spell for most astronomy societies, sees CNAAG merely pause for breath before embarking on either late night observing or Solar Sunday events either at the Rollright Stones or other local venues where our own star will be up for scrutiny – keep an eye on the website www.cnaag.com.

We meet on the third Monday of the month in the Methodist Hall and our guest speaker for May is Grant Miller of Oxford University who will talk about the fabulous Zooniverse project – a million eyes on the sky. We also look forward to June for the Summer Stones and Ancient Magic event at the Rollrights and also ttpgetting up close and personal with the Vulcan bomber at Wellesbourne airfield – plus many other events and meetings – who says astronomy is ever boring? CNAAG is for everyone with an interest in the stars and you are welcome to any of our meetings

Robin Smitten

CLUB NEWS

Railway Club off to Amberley



'So the members and me had a nice cup of tea and then we went home!' (with apologies to Bernard Cribbins). Sad to say, our

speaker failed to arrive at the April meeting. Apparently there were crossed wires/lines over the date. Instead we had an extended tea break with lots of chat and banter. We also had the return of a lapsed member of many years, and hope to see him again next month! On 5 May, Mike Walker will return with the second part of his talk on Railway Signalling – 'The Electronic Age' and on 2 June, old friend of the Club, William Hemmings will tell us all about 'Main Line Steam on the Western Rails'. As always a warm welcome for new members and visitors, with free coffee/tea and biscuits in the interval.

Our spring outing on Sunday, 10 May, is a return to the Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre in West Sussex, last visited in 1994! They now cover 36 acres, with a narrow gauge railway and a bus service around the site. This weekend sees 'A Spring Vintage Fayre, with stationary engines, tractors and steam'. Plenty to keep us occupied! A few seats are still available – call me (641586) if you are interested in joining us.

Estelle Brain

Delightful mix at Chippy Folk Club

It was great to see new faces and old friends at Chippy Folk Club in April. Thanks to Rosie and Paul who kicked the evening off with a beautiful song written by a friend of theirs. Thanks to Josie, Victoria, Peter and Shirley who each came for the first time and gave us some wonderful songs. We had round banjos, square banjos, classical guitar and acapella. We had Bob Dylan, 17th century ballads, blue grass, Elvis and everything in between, with a few choice poems from Anne along the way. It's always a delightful mix of songs and styles and you would be very welcome to join us. We meet the 2nd Monday of every month at the Blue Boar at 7.30pm. Come and play, sing, recite or listen. £1.50 on the door. Our next meeting is on 11 May. For more information and pictures about the club do visit www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk

Rachel Chai

West Oxon MS Branch

The MS Society is co-funding the ground breaking MS SMART trial which will investigate whether three potential treatments already being used for heart disease, motor neuron disease (MND) and depression could slow or halt disability progression in people with secondary progressive MS. The 3-year trial will test the safety and effectiveness of three different drugs: amiloride (licensed to treat heart disease), fluoxetine (depression) and riluzole (MND) against a placebo. 15 centres across England (including the John Radcliffe Hospital) have recruited 440 people with secondary progressive MS. The total cost of this trial will be £2.7 million. There is currently no drug or therapy that can help control or stabilise secondary progressive MS. For more information about the trial, visit www.ms-smart.org or www.mssociety.org.uk Lengthy and expensive trials need to be funded through government research grants but also from people's generous donations through the MS Society.

In the meantime MS Society branches like ours in West Oxfordshire support those with MS by providing information, grants and running helpful therapies such as physiotherapy,

hydrotherapy, pilates and, soon, targeted yoga. All this needs funds and volunteers, please do contact me if you can help. Contact details are:

West Oxon branch www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire
Helplines: Local 0800 917 9790, National 0808 800 8000
For younger (20-45ish) group: mssy.oxfordshire@gmail.com
My contact details are as follows: Tel: 01608 645988 or you can e-mail me – westoxfordshire@mssociety.org.uk

Peter Branson

Kingham & The Wychwoods Rotary

Kingham Duck Races: Easter Monday brought the Club out in force to organise these annual races backed by the



Kingham Events Committee and The Mill House Hotel. With the brook running high, a glorious day and the biggest turnout since the event started four years ago, there was excitement all through the 41 races. The grand final worth £100 was won by a guest staying for the weekend at the Mill House – hopefully an inducement to return next year! A variety of food stalls and children's entertainment ensured there was plenty to do in the delightful hotel grounds. Our thanks go to the hotel owners and staff and to the stallholders and helpers who helped us raise an estimated £2,000 for charities including Birthlink UK, Meningitis Now, Riding for the Disabled, Kingham Primary School Association, Cystic Fibrosis and Cherwell Hospital Radio.

Kingham Open Gardens: We are planning an Open Gardens Day in Kingham on 14 June in aid of the Thames Valley and Chilterns Air Ambulance Trust. Do come along to see some of Kingham's best gardens

Anyone interested in serving the community whilst enjoying a relaxed social programme and having fun with like-minded men & women of any age can contact us via www.kinghamrotary.org.uk or Mike Clark on 01451 830684.

Amnesty challenge Human Rights plans

As members of Amnesty International, we care about how our government acts on human rights. We want to ensure that the next UK Government and Parliament are supportive of human rights and work to protect those rights, both here in the UK and internationally. At our April meeting we talked about what questions to ask canvassers of various political parties when approached by them. Three members of our Chipping Norton group recently met David Cameron to discuss the Conservative Party's promised manifesto proposals concerning their proposed 'British Bill of Rights and Responsibilities'. We want to be sure we know what plans other political parties have regarding this. New members welcome: call Priscilla Peace for details on 01451 830459 or visit our website www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/chipping-norton

Kaye Freeman

CLUB NEWS

Royal British Legion special events

The Chipping Norton branch has a challenging year ahead, with the 70th Anniversary of VE and VJ days, 75th Anniversary of Operation Dynamo, the Dunkirk evacuations and The Battles of France and Britain and the 100th Anniversaries of the Gallipoli Campaign and the Battle of Festubert. We can't mark all of them but we are commemorating the end of The Second World War. We started with a talk by Arnhem veteran Steve Morgan last month. Forthcoming events are as follows:

Friday 8 May The 70th Anniversary of VE Day – a short ceremony 7pm at the War Memorial – the Branch Standard will be officially charged into the care of our new Bearer, Tjark Andrews, Parade Marshal Peter Clarke will be presented with a new RBL insignia cane and a wreath will be laid.

Friday 5 June The unveiling of a specially commissioned stained glass window at Chipping Norton School to mark the centenary of the First World War. This will be an invitation only event, but if you would like to see this stunning piece of artwork, based on designs by CNS pupils at the school, call Steve Kingsford on 01295 780558.

Saturday 20 June: We will be joining Stow-on-the-Wold Branch to join in their Drumhead Service and Parade at 3pm, as part of their commemorations.

Sunday 21 June: Chipping Norton Town Festival – we will have a WW2 themed stall with a competition for children, polo shirts, badges and poppy cup cakes for sale in aid of the Poppy Appeal and Branch Funds.

We plan a trip to The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock and in September a 40s style dance with the Magdalen Swing Band – details will be announced shortly.

If you would like to join us please contact secretary Mike Dixon on (642032 /dixon.lmichael@sky.com)

Steve Kingsford

DIY at Chadlington Flower Club

Members are pictured at the Pot et Fleur workshop evening producing their own pots having had a demonstration from chairperson Ann Anson. We are now planning a beginners' flower arranging workshop on Saturday 13 June. This will



involve Ann giving a demonstration using flowers and foliage to produce a small table arrangement. The cost of £5 will include tea and cake and basic materials such as a small container and oasis. Participants should bring flowers and foliage of their choice plus a pair of secateurs. Call Ann (683289) or Kaye (01993 831146) before 30 May if you'd like to book a place.

Elaine Parsons

Green Gym at St Mary's School

This month we have not strayed from Chippy. We continue to tend the triangle near Travis Perkins – to be called Fitzalan Wood – and have returned to St Mary's Primary School to tidy up their garden and weed the vegetable patches we created almost three years ago. And at the request of the Chip Lit Festival we had a blitz on the disused Parker Knoll site to be used as their car park. We picked up a great deal of litter and cut back the buddleia etc and it's amazing how respectable that neglected site now looks!

If you know of a local community site which could do with our help during summer, do get in touch. Our activities are currently limited to avoid disturbing nesting birds. And if you would like to get fit while caring for the local environment, join us on Wednesday mornings. There are jobs for all ages and abilities, there's no joining fee and lifts may be available. Visit: www.chippygreengym.org, call me on 643269 or email jennyharrington@btinternet.com. All are welcome!

Jenny Harrington

Scouting around and about

Beavers: The Beavers are very proud to see seven of their number moving up to Cubs after the Easter break, with six of them achieving their Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Congratulations on this fantastic achievement. All the Beavers have been busy earning badges whether by competing in the Winter Challenge, attending camp at Horley, working hard at home or through a promotion within the section. Well done all!

Cubs: Following on from their recent success at the District Scrapheap Challenge (one of our teams came second and went through to the county finals) the cubs have been building carts to transport an egg safely down a ramp. Some were successful but a few were definitely not safe for egg transportation! This gave our scrapheap challenge team a

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CLUB NEWS

boost before the county finals in Kidlington. Although they didn't win they really enjoyed the day building a model and listening to stories and applying bandages to each other.

During the usual cub pack meetings they have: up-cycled old cassette tape cases to make mobile phone holders, observed and photographed the moon and played all of their favourite games.

Scouts: The new term sees the start of a very busy time for Scouts. We will attend the District St George's celebration on 26 April – a fun afternoon for all the family! Scouts who have achieved their Chief Scout's award will attend the County Awards day on 9 May. We are also going to the district Hill Walking and Climbing Weekend in the Peak District at the end of May – the first weekend of three weekend camps in a row ... all very different though! We also embark on the brand new Scouting badges – a big change for us all. This term sees the World Challenge badge.

Many thanks to all the townsfolk who donated to our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts bag-pack in Sainsburys at the end of March. £348 was raised which will be spent on much needed new equipment.

Explorers: We are really pleased that two of our Explorer leaders, Kirsty Dare and Andrew Leech (aka Peach) have scored the double whammy of Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and Queen's Scout Award. They had a good time at St James's Palace last month where they met Prince Philip at their DoE presentation and are attending Windsor Castle at the end of April to receive their QSA. Kirsty and Peach are both really energetic and enthusiastic leaders and we are very proud of them. The Explorers have spent a couple of meetings recently at Horley campsite near Banbury one for a fire and

fun evening and one at the annual CESAW weekend – the county explorers activity weekend with lots going on.

Yacht Club welcomes a legend

In February we welcomed Sir Chay Blyth, intrepid marine adventurer, rower and sailor.



Chay joined the Paras from the factory floor, and despite never having rowed before, he and John Ridgeway were the first to row the Atlantic. Chay later entered the first single-handed round-the-world sailing race (despite having never sailed

before!) and amazingly got as far as the Cape of Good Hope. Only one competitor, Knox-Johnson, finished... Chay was the first person to sail non-stop around the world 'the wrong way' against prevailing winds and currents, taking 292 days. Excitements aboard ever-bigger boats followed before he took up power boating, co-skippering with Richard Branson. Chay founded the Atlantic Rowing Race – in the first of which Jan Meek, ex-mayor of Chipping Norton, was a competitor.

The talk ended with a movie showing the battering of boats and crew in the Global Challenge – the organisation Chay founded for people to experience the extremes of ocean yacht racing. Most memorable was the clip of a cockpit full of crew, which was suddenly empty, apart from green water and foam. Wow!

In March we welcomed Paul Fisher, one of the UK's best-known designers of small boats, for amateur or professional construction. Always fascinated with boats and sailing, he designed and built his first boat when just 15. After a degree in Naval Architecture and Shipbuilding he learnt his trade with McGruers, a premier UK boatyard. Paul established Selway Fisher Design, creating some 400 designs covering a wide range of craft – canoes, dinghies, day boats, yachts, junks, slipper launches, steam vessels – pioneering modern wood/composite construction. In addition to his real-world designs Paul designs replicas and models for the film industry, from galleons to U-boats.

Our next meeting is 27 May at which Chris Adams will tell us of his experiences sailing Western Sweden. To book and for more details visit the club website cnyc.co.uk.

Roger Backhaus

Wychwoods Investment Club Invests!

The Club now has a constitution and an on-line dealing facility so it is now poised to make fortunes whilst having some fun along the way! Chairman Paul Jackson says, 'You would think we were all drug dealers moving millions around the world. The onerous rules to open a club trading account took a long time which not only surprised us but tested our patience.' The Club has now made its first investments in the Man Group (a major hedge fund), TUI AG Travel, Bellway property, Skye Pharmaceuticals and John Wood a supplier to the oil industry. The group which is eight so far (including some from

Bartholomew's Hair



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Chipping Norton) is seeking four or five new members interesting in the equity markets. The joining investment is £500 with £50 added each month. The club meets over dinner on the 4th Wednesday of the month at The Swan in Ascott under Wychwood. Anyone who is either trading regularly and wants to exchange views, or is a novice, is welcome to join in the fun, initially as a guest without any obligation, should call Paul Jackson 01993 831967.

Chipping Norton Rotary roundup

Music Festival winners: The start and the finish of the Chipping Norton Music Festival involved Rotary prizes, as



Cokethorpe School Band won the Youth Jazz Band challenge against some tough opposition and received the Bob Ellis Cup and a £250 bursary. The final Festival Concert found a worthy winner for the Rotary Club Cup in Bella Bourne Swinton Hunter, a gifted pianist. Congratulations to the Festival Committee for yet another a professional event.

Stroke Awareness Day: Hosted by the Club in the Town Hall on 16 May, from 9am to about 1.30pm. Have your blood pressure checked for free, as high blood pressure is an indicator of higher stroke risk. Local health professionals (including, we hope a representative of the new joint GP Surgery) will be available to chat and answer any questions about their work.

Chipping Norton Town Festival: The Town Festival is on Sunday 21 June, from 11am till until mid-evening. There will be loads to see and do plus non-stop music of every type. There is an article on p5 with more details so put the day in your diary. Oh, and hope we get lovely weather again this year.

Simon Hamilton

Alzheimer's Society May 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.

Chipping Norton Carers Support Group Monday 11th 10.30-12 at the Town Hall, Chipping Norton

Singing for the Brain Monday 18th 10.30-12 at St Paul's Church Centre, Prescott Avenue, Banbury OX16 0LR

Dementia Café Wednesday 6th 2-4pm at St Mary's Centre, Horsefair, Banbury

Banbury Carers Support Group Fridays 1st & 15th 10.30-12 at Colin Sanders Innovation Centre, Banbury

Bicester Carers Group Tuesdays 12th & 26th 10.30-12 Bicester Health & Wellbeing Centre, Launton Rd, Bicester, OX26 6DJ – note new location

Bicester Café Wednesday 27th 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

Horticultural summer visits

The April meeting, the last in the autumn/winter programme, proved to be a very popular topic. Over 50 members and friends heard Julian Tolkien speak about his obsession with pelargoniums – from the very tiny; the heavily scented leafed to the large blousy plants we are used to seeing. He also gave hints on the best way to propagate cuttings and the medium that is best to use. The summer months will be our time for visits to gardens and places of interest – while some will continue to help in the garden at Abbeyfield – we will also have a plant stall at the Town Festival. More details can be found on our website cnha.uk or by contacting the secretary Eileen Forse on 643275.

Packed schedule for Single File

Last month Single Filers had a varied choice of events – all organised by members. Most popular was a birthday meal at the Mason's Arms near Swerford. Jazz with Jacqui Dankworth & Charlie Wood at the Town Hall was delightful foot tapping experience. We also enjoyed a magical live relay of *Swan Lake* from the Royal Opera House at the cinema in Banbury. Other activities included a Queen tribute band in Oxford, pie night at the Mill House Hotel in Kingham, a 5-mile walk starting in Somerton, the play *My Mother Said I Never Should* at The Theatre here and comedians at Fritwell village hall.

Fortnightly club nights have been held at pubs in Chippy, Swerford and Charlbury. Single File is a local social group of about 30 members, not primarily a dating agency, for those between 45 and 70 who may be single, separated, divorced or widowed. Contact us on 07765 598518, enquiries@singlefilecn.org.uk or visit www.meetup.com/single-file-chipping-norton

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CLUB NEWS

WOWI

It is the WI's Centenary year and the baton which has been making its way around the UK comes to this area in mid April. Local WIs took charge of events on the way which included lots of lovely things to eat! More on this next month! Celia Storry will represent West Oxfordshire WI at the Centenary Buckingham Palace Garden Party in June and Jean Davison is going to the Centenary National Federation AGM in the Albert Hall. See feature on p20 for more about the WI Centenary.



WOWI's charming pennant in pride of place in front of the stage at Oxford Town Hall

Our March meeting was the AGM and a new committee was elected. Three members stood down after three years of hard work which included setting up WOWI. Our grateful thanks go to Claire Storry, Fiona Tomlinson and Camilla Engberg. I'm sure the new committee will need to call on their expertise from time to time.

Two members attended the Oxfordshire Federation AGM at Oxford Town Hall bedecked with pennants from all the WIs around the County. We were very proud to see ours in front of the stage. Thanks to Jean Davison for making it at

very short notice. Its thoughtful design includes Bliss Mill with an edging of sheep.

This month we welcome Gillian Cane to talk on the Mitford Sisters. At May's meeting we plan to go 'Under the Bonnet' of our cars. Then Judy Taylor is coming in June to show us how to plant a hanging basket with the chance to plant our own small pot – compost & pots provided.

Please come and join us in St Mary's Parish Rooms – we meet at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Hilary Dix 646228

Garden visits with NOOG

North Oxon Organic Gardeners had a comprehensive exploration of the world of herbs last month, when naturopath Sharyn Singer shared her vast knowledge of the medicinal uses of herbs and how to incorporate them imaginatively into delicious meals and drinks.

Our first outdoor meeting of the year is on Wednesday 6 May, when we visit The Grove in Middle Barton, one of the National Garden Scheme 'yellow book' gardens specially opened for us. Although only a third of an acre, the garden contains a wide array of unusual plants, impressive collections of weigela and philadelphus, as well as a pond and greenhouse. £3 entry includes tea and cake. Meet outside The Grove for a 7pm start.

On Wednesday 3 June at 7pm we have a guided tour of Bridewell Organic Gardens in Wilcote. Established to provide therapeutic social activity 20 years ago, the formerly derelict walled garden is now a haven of cottage plants, vegetables and fruit, a five-acre vineyard and a range of craft activities. Do join us. For enquiries about NOOG or directions, please contact tracylean@gmail.com, 01295 780710, www.noog.org.uk.

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SPORTS NEWS

Football

Town Men's Teams: Pictured below is the current First Team. Left back row is Manager Mikey Roberts who has been



involved with the Club for over 35 years. He is looking forward to getting back into the new clubhouse as soon as it is built and says he would also like to see the Town support the Club more! The First Team are fourth in their league and sadly lost 0-2 in the Senior Cup quarter-finals. The Reserves are fifth in their league.

Other Local Football: Charlbury 1st XI are one place behind the Town's 1st XI in the Premier Division of the Witney and District League. Division One sees Chadlington sixth, while Kingham are eleventh and relegated. Enstone are bottom of league 2 and also relegated. Middle Barton are eighth in league 3. In league 4 the reserve sides of Charlbury, Kingham and Chadlington are fifth, eighth and tenth.

Chadlington Whites U13s: Following some good results, including a win over Chippy Swifts reported below, Chad Whites are third in their league after completing their fixtures.

Seymour Mincer & Drew Duncan report: Glorious sunshine greeted us at Greystones on 22 March for our final League match of the season – a local derby versus Chipping Norton Town Swifts. It is always exciting when the two teams meet and this game was no exception with both teams showing great spirit and enthusiasm. The Whites ended up victors through good passing, great teamwork and clinical finishing. Well done to both teams. Many thanks to the Referee, Mike for running the line, Miles for the orange slices and superb spectator support.

Golf at the Cotswolds Club

The club has men's, ladies', seniors' and juniors' sections plus social events, monthly quizzes and a social Texas Scramble golf event each bank holiday.

Ladies' Section: The new season started with Angela Knowles winning the 9 hole Spring Hare. Well done to the Ladies winning third round of The Mail on Sunday and those through the first round of Captain's Trophy. Winter trophy winners: Committee Cup – Pam Maynard; Squirrells – Jenny Reynolds; Arc Shield – Anne Johnson. Competition winners: Saturday – Anne Johnson; Fun – Pauline Walker; League – Veronica Boulter and Pauline Murphy; Eclectic Silver – Kath Jordan, Bronze – Angela Knowles.

Men's Section: Winter League final winners were Peter Madeley and Dudley Hendy, runners-up Will Holdsworth and Peter Tuzio. In March the traditional Four Nations saw over 40 golfers representing the home countries. Wales narrowly

retained the title. The Carter Cup was won by Chris Harvey and Nick Morley. Monthly Medal #1 saw some excellent scoring with Andy Perrie and Martin Parry both 4 under. The Jakeman Cup was won by Mssrs Jones, Simpson, Waring and Busby scoring 112 points. In matches the club lost 5-1 to Burford and 3.5-1.5 to Bicester. Central Sevens team beat Haddon Hill to make the second round.

Forthcoming Events: Men's Open 7 June; Ladies Open 12 June; Invitational Mixed Open 19 July celebrating 125 years of golf. See www.cotswoldsclub.co.uk or call Danny on 642383. If you are interested in joining try a complimentary round of golf with a member.

Suzi Sinson & Richard Squire

Chipping Norton Bowls Club

The Indoor section held its Annual Prize Presentation evening on 9 April. Indoor Chairman Roberta Jarvie welcomed



Competition winners with Vice-President Oxfordshire Robin Mcstay, Club President Tony Backer Holst and Roberta Jarvie

everyone including guest of honour Robin Mcstay, Vice-President Oxfordshire, then reported on a very successful season with over 40 new members and both finalists in the Oxfordshire Men's singles competition with the 10's team also in the final and four members in the Oxfordshire Men's rinks final.

Club prizes were presented by Robin McStay and the winners were: Triples: Tony Backer Holst, Robin Cox & Peter Betteridge; Rinks: Paul Robbins & Robin Cox, Freddy Brooks & Nina Boulton; Mixed Pairs: Paul Robbins & Nicola Jones; Ladies Pairs: Val Harris & Jean Dix; Men's Pairs: Eric Dix & David Stansfield; Never Won: Nigel Siford; Men's Singles: Martin Shepherd; Ladies' singles: Val Harris (the 6th year in succession Val has won this title!).

Robin Mcstay thanked the Club for its warm welcome and congratulated winners and players. Roberta Jarvie thanked all who had made the evening such a success and also Brenda Shepherd for her hard work throughout the season with the leagues and Rosemary Brooks for organising the competitions. Indoor Chairman Roberta was then thanked by Club President Tony Backer Holst who concluded, 'This will be her eighth year in the role and I do not know how we would have managed without her'. For more information contact John Bowlit 684140.

4 Shires Swimming Club

Yet another busy month for 4SSC! We sent two swimmers to a Level 1 gala in Sheffield and Rebecca Hoadley and Felicity Darwent achieved Long Course personal bests to take a step closer to qualifying for the regional championships later this year. Looking forward to April, as well as external meets, we have our own Club Spring Sprint Meet, an opportunity for all swimmers (even those who have just joined the Club!) to be

SPORTS NEWS

timed whilst swimming, to gain times to enter galas or to improve on their personal bests. It should be a busy but fun day! Good luck to our Masters squad competing in their very first external gala this month – hopefully this is the first of many. For more information please visit www.4SSC.co.uk

Louise Berry

Chipping Norton Cricket Club

This Coming Season... Not long now until the start of the cricket season. It kicks off on Saturday 2 May when the 1st XI are at Broughton & North Newington, while the 2nd XI host Shrivenham 2nd XI. Training is at the Club, Banbury Road, in Chipping Norton every Wednesday evening at 6pm. All are welcome. The Club will also have a Sunday & Midweek XI with a great atmosphere for young and old.

The fixtures for May are:

- Sat 2 May – 1st vs Broughton & North Newington (A)
2nd vs Shrivenham II (H)
- Sat 9 May – 1st vs Wantage (H)
2nd vs Broughton & NN II (A)
- Sun 10 May – 2nd vs Shrivenham II (A) Cup1
- Sat 16 May – 1st vs Witney Swifts (H)
2nd vs Brill (A)
- Sat 23 May – 1st vs E & W Hendred (A)
2nd vs Bampton (H)
- Sat 30 May – 1st vs Westbury (H) Cup1
2nd vs Farringdon II (A) Cup 2 if successful

Recent Football Match: CNDCC (plus a number of



helpers) recently made up a football team to face Kingham All Blacks. Thank you to all who came – players and supporters. CNDCC managed to beat Kingham 5-3.

Youth Setup: The Club now has a junior/youth committee. Youth Co-ordinator Sue Powell has sent the following report: The Youth Section held their opening Registration Evening on 17 April and the Youth Season is in full swing with teams of U9s to U17s practising for their first games. We still need more boys and girls, especially in the U13s and U15s. The U17s are busy with GCSE preparations but will need more boys when they start playing their games in June. Come and join in the fun on Fridays 6-7.30pm with qualified/DBS-checked coaches. The U17s train with the men on Wednesdays from 6-7.30pm. Training is at the Banbury Road ground. Parents and supporters are also needed and we need an U13s Team Manager to do the admin for the U13's Coach, so if you feel you can help in any way, please get in touch with Sue Powell, Youth Coordinator, bloxhamsue@aol.com/01295 721523

More info about CNDCC: can be found on our website – www.cndcc.co.uk, alternatively 'like' our page on Facebook – Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club.

Sam Evans

Chipping Norton Rugby Club



Vince Murphy welcomes Ken Bumpass, President of Oxfordshire RFU to re-open the clubhouse

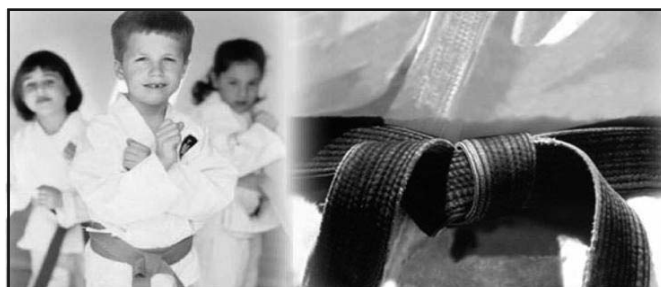
Clubhouse project complete: Club Chair Vince Murphy was delighted to report the reopening after a major upgrade: new colour scheme, extended bar, improved entrance lobby, new carpet and furniture – and better ladies loos in the pipeline (put the weekend of 27/28 June in the diary to volunteer!). Vince praised everyone's magnificent efforts, with

financial help from RFU, Wyfold Charitable Trust, Brewery and much free time from designer David Rondel as well as club members and spouses. See the Roll of Honour!

UI1s & UI2s Festival: The Club successfully hosted the Oxfordshire Festival on 19 April. Around 40 teams and 2000 people came – a big fundraising opportunity! A great team of parents and volunteers helped out to prepare and run the event. Many thanks.

Club Ball: 9 May at 7pm is the end of season ball – tickets £35, fabulous 3-course dinner, live music and raffle. Dress code: club/black tie. Carriages at 1am. To book contact Frances Morton 07531 626021 or chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com

The First XV are 8th out of 11 teams, with to date 7 wins and 9 defeats.



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Partial Solar Eclipse: Despite quite thick cloud throughout most of the eclipse, the 105 minute CNS live feed went ahead successfully and was followed by the majority of



students in school and also many of the children at our partnership primary schools. Thank you to Mr Conduct (Physics teacher) and John Vincent (Governor) for all their hard work setting up the live link. If you were unable to follow the live stream you can still watch it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BhtVf2YZEg>



Year 7 STEM Workshop: Twelve students from Chipping Norton School attended a fantastic STEM workshop at the North Oxfordshire Academy. They listened to engineers

from local businesses describe their work and met the 'Bloodhound Supersonic Car' education team who explained how they are attempting to build a car which will break the 1000mph world land speed record later this year.

Students were then divided into groups and challenged to design and build a car out of K'Nex which could be propelled by an air pump. The team (including Aaron Tyler-Chamberlain and Rowan Wilkes) who created the fastest car not only received glossy posters of Bloodhound SSC but have the privilege of having their names etched on the wing of Bloodhound SSC.

Mock Trial Competition: 13 Year 8 and 9 students took part in a mock trial competition at Oxford Magistrate's Court. Each team member was given a role to play and after studying a set of preparation materials the school teams faced each other in the court room. We were ranked in the top three out of seven other schools. All our pupils did exceptionally well. Georgina Housby won the best defendant award, and Harry Marsh was declared the best witness.

English Schools XC Championships: Sixth Form student Megan Humphreys competed at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships and finished an impressive 11th out of 300 runners in the senior girls' 4.3km race. Megan finished only 44 seconds behind the gold medalist.

Defibrillator Training: Conscious of the fact that the school is the largest employer in Chipping Norton and has a great many visitors we purchased a defibrillator last year. Deputy Headteacher Mr Sellars asked Dick Tracey, Divisional Responder Commander for South Central Ambulance Service, to visit the School and show a group of Sixth Form students and staff First-Aiders how to carry out CPR and use the defibrillator correctly. Although the trainees hope to never have to use the defibrillator or CPR, everyone felt more

confident that they would be able to react appropriately if an emergency arose.

The Apprenticeship Launchpad: The Apprenticeship Launchpad promotes apprenticeships as an alternative route into STEM-related careers. Year 10 students attended a recent session at Innovative Cryogenic Engineering at Abingdon & Witney College. The students were able to use the latest



technology to freeze Cadbury's Cream Eggs and flowers before being given the opportunity to talk to young people who started as apprentices and then gained an engineering degree through the Army.



Indoor Rowing Championship: Congratulations to Year 9 student Amelia Ledgard-Hoile who competed for Hinksey Sculling School at the annual South of England Indoor Rowing Championship at Oxford Brookes University. Despite only taking up rowing last May Amelia came first in the 4 minute sprint with an impressive distance of 1037 metres. We wish her luck at the National Schools Regatta in May.

Swimming Relay Competition: Congratulations to Year 7 students Hew Stantiford, Theo Williams, Will Huddleston and Michael Pearson who as a team recently won the West Oxfordshire Relay competition. They will now represent West Oxfordshire at the County School Games in April.

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Holy Trinity Primary



Eclipse trip! Year 5 took a trip down to Jaffé & Neale to watch the solar eclipse on Friday 20 March, as part of their 'Space' topic. They got the chance to talk with some local astronomers and

even take a closer look through some of their telescopes! Comments from the children: Lots of people let us look through their telescope. We even saw the reflection of the eclipse on car windows! A lady let us borrow her special glasses to protect our eyes. It was awesome! We were filmed by the BBC!



Chipping Norton Music Festival: Year 4 Speech and Drama Presentation. The children were awarded Distinction for their entertaining performance of 'Walking with My Iguana' and Commended for 'Gran, Can You Rap?' The adjudicator commented: 'Some splendid iguanas were taken walking with you. They gave visual interest to your lively vocal presentation. How well you provided the rhythm to suggest walking. This was great fun! You worked together to form a disciplined vocal chorus. Well done!' 'You all engaged with the "rapping" rhythm with some pleasing vocal energy. Your voices combined together harmoniously. Gran certainly sustained the momentum when she rapped alone. Some splendid movement and break-dancing gave visual interest. Well done!'

Schoolympics: On 25 March, Years 2 and 3 took part in the Schoolympics event organised by the Chipping Norton School Leaders. They all competed in fun games with other local schools. Several of our children were awarded a special certificate for their participation. Well done everyone!

A F Harold Workshop: This month, years 4, 5 and 6 are looking forward to a visit from children's author, A F Harold. He is a poet, writer and performer who does things that aren't always entirely normal! He will be sharing some of his unique and imaginative ideas and inspirations with us when he comes to complete a workshop with us.



Foundation Stage Class trip to the farm! Foundation stage had an amazing afternoon watching the lambing at Goffe's Farm. They were lucky enough to see a lamb being born. The farmer showed them how baby lambs are

tagged and numbered. We also saw cows, chickens and stroked the horses. Thank you very much to John and Tom who showed us around the farm.



Easter Celebrations: We drew the end of the busy Spring term to a close by having a whole school celebration assembly whereby the children shared the work they have been doing to prepare themselves for Easter. We had singing, poetry, retelling of the Easter story, informative presentations and beautiful artwork showcased. Well done everyone for all your wonderful work!

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St Mary's Primary

PACS: As part of developing our children through the PACS project (Positive Assertive Confidence Skills) we took part in a day of outdoor learning. The children were taught how to use flint and steel to light a camp fire, build shelters and cook. A great time was had by all.



'Outstanding' Foundation Stage: We were all thrilled with the outcome of our Ofsted inspection. The children were amazing and demonstrated their love for learning. The inspectors recognised the strength of communication between ourselves and parents and the valuable contributions parents and volunteers have made.



Eclipse: Kieran, age 5, reported, 'We were watching the partial solar eclipse on the screen in the classroom. The sun went behind the moon. We discovered it was dark and quiet outside. The sun was the shape of a banana.'

Dance Festival: The children had great fun working with the Sports leaders to produce a dance to accompany the story *Commotion in the Ocean*. The Sports leaders did an excellent job of engaging the children during the session and the children worked hard to complete dances for the different parts of the story.

Farewells: Shelley Williams, who has been teaching at the School for 17 years, has relocated to Devon to start a new lifestyle with her family. Shelley came to the



school as a newly qualified teacher and then became part of the Senior Leadership team. Laura Morgans, who has been at the school for two years, will be moving to the Midlands with her new husband. We wish them both every happiness for the future.

Ball Skillz: Tia Edginton and Keeley Hall (Year 10) report: As ex pupils of St Mary's and as part of the voluntary section for our bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, we are running a 'Ballz Skillz' club at St Mary's who have been very helpful in getting the Club started by letting us use both the School and its equipment. Nine great active children from year 3 and 4 are taking part. This is a great opportunity for us and the children

to learn and practise to work as part of a team. We would encourage anyone to do the D of E as it is fun and something to be proud of.

Bake Off: The pupils have risen to the St Mary's Bake Off challenge 2015 with over 40 entrants baking small cakes and biscuits for the first round. The cakes were sold off at the end of the day, raising £150 towards electrical cooking equipment, to be used in the School's cooking sessions. The semi-final is on 29 April, when pupils will be challenged to bake a dough or pastry item. These will again be judged by School councillors.



Chipping Norton Music Festival: Peter Cunningham and Rio Dumbleton report: Seven schools took part, including St Mary's. Mr Peter Hunt had a great way of helping warm up our voices, we had to repeat six times 'The lips the teeth the tip of the tongue.' We sang an assortment of songs including *Let it go*, *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* and *Summertime*. We had a great time and wish we could do it again!

Year 2/3 Schoolympics: Years 2 and 3 took part in this year's Schoolympics along with children from other schools in the Chipping Norton schools' partnership. We were allocated a country to represent, and after a non-stop two hours of competition the results were announced....Portugal were the winners! The team was made up of children from both Charlbury and St Mary's. We would like to thanks the sports leaders who organised and ran the event.



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ACE Centre Nursery



The Easter holidays were a hive of spring time activity this year. The children in the holiday play scheme built a bug hotel, decorated hard

boiled eggs, made rabbit masks, modelled spring animals and went on an Easter Egg Hunt. Not only this, but the Nursery School garden has had a makeover thanks to volunteers from Jaguar Land Rover. Over the course of two days, the most amazing number of jobs were taken on and finished to a professional standard with a highly creative engineering flair. This marvellous team of 20 fabulous volunteers has transformed, cleaned and re-energised many areas in the garden. Ten tonnes of sand have been delivered into the sand pit; our sheds look brand new; the allotment is freshly dug and ready for the children to really explore growing and finding mini-beasts this term; a wonderful water wall of guttering and funnels now surrounds a new outdoor science area; an outdoor musical extravaganza area has been created and a garden display wall painted. We cannot say a big enough thank you to Ron Gallimore and his team of volunteers, especially Emma Griffiths and George Blancke for all their work coordinating the volunteers.

Great Rollright Primary

Term 4 was yet again a busy one beginning with an exciting Book Week, launched with a visit from Barbara Spencer who inspired everyone to write, and Years 5 and 6 enjoying a visit to Sibford School to meet Simon Mayo.

We finished Term 4 with our Easter Service in St Andrew's Church. The whole school then donned their Easter bonnets and paraded to The Village Hall where The Friends of Great Rollright had organised our annual egg hunt!

It has been very exciting to watch our new classroom being built and the Ocean Class will be using it from the beginning of Term 5! We could not have built this new room without some amazing fundraising, especially from The Friends of Rollright. The Buy a Brick Campaign raised £5300 by the time we made the draw for a share in a race horse for a year that was our fantastic prize. This prize was generously donated by Charlie Longsdon, and it was at his stable yard that we drew the winning brick and the share in St John's Point was won by Rod Avery! More funds were raised at the Friends Golf day at Chipping Norton Golf Club in April. We are very grateful to the Club for their support with this event!

Middle Barton Primary

We are thrilled to have recently received the AfPE award (Association for Physical Education) for high quality provision for sport and PE in our school. We are the first school in Oxfordshire to be awarded with this and have a special trophy and certificate in our entrance area. Our external assessor, who spent a day in school interviewing staff and pupils and

observing lessons, put in his report, 'I am very aware of the amount of effort and commitment required to reach this standard'. This is a wonderful success for our School.

Over the last month we have had many entries in the Chipping Norton Music Festival from across the school – Y5 partnership concert, recorder ensemble, brass, piano, choir and speech/drama classes. Well done to all our participants.



Pictured here is our school choir in action.

All our school employees recently took part in a Worklife enhancement survey with the results being very pleasing ('a shining example' was the comment given by the facilitator). Happy staff make for happy children!

Finally, our school is growing and thriving – from September 2015 we are increasing from four classes to five and have just appointed new staff to reflect this. It's a really positive and exciting time for our school.

Chadlington Primary

Gold Artsmark Award: We are very excited to announce that we have been awarded the Gold Artsmark which is in recognition of our outstanding teaching and learning centred around the Arts. There is only a small percentage of schools that have been awarded this across the country and being only a small village school we are particularly proud. Our wonderful music, dance, drama and art provision, our forays into puppeteering, model making, animation and film making and our participation every year in Artsweek have all been praised.

Aardman Studios trip: Our Dragons Class had a



wonderful trip to the studios where Shaun the Sheep was recently made and had their very own tour. This is in preparation for

this term's Film Festival at The Theatre in Chipping Norton where the animations which everyone has been busily producing will be shown on the big screen. The Elves class are about to go on their residential to the Court Hill Centre where apart from pond dips and night walks etc they will be filming the final parts of their animation...

Chadlington Beer Festival date: Our fantastic annual Beer Festival – the main fundraiser for the School is on SATURDAY 30 MAY – it promises to be bigger and better than ever. (See also article p10 for more about the Festival.)

Kingham Primary

Y2 trip to Cogges Farm: *Emily (Y2) reports:* It was brilliant, everyone had fun. First we dressed up like Victorians. Then we planted some lettuce in a pot which we made out of newspaper. Then we went on a beautiful wildlife walk and made some delicious welsh cakes. Finally we made some flour and it was hard work!



Y5 South American Dance Workshop:

Claudia (Y5) reports: We were lucky enough to have a dance workshop. Our first dance was a Mayan dance, which told people about the Mayan lifestyle. We

worked on lots of different moves to try and tell a story then slowly put it all together as a class. After that we started a Brazilian carnival dance. We used scarves, mini flags and masks. It was a fantastic day and we learnt lots about South American dance.

Y3 and Y4 production *Revolting Children*: *Ava and Zara (Y4) report:* Our production featured lots of revolting children from lots of different books, like *Horrid Henry*, *Just William* and many naughty children from Roald Dahl's stories. We sang songs from *Matilda the Musical*. We both enjoyed acting in front of a big audience and really want to do it again!

Acorns Primary

Amazing adventure:

For the second time, Year 6 Acorns children and Year 5 Shipston pupils went on the residential to Manor Adventure in Powys, Wales together. Over the three days away from home, the children experienced wonderful sunny weather plus lots of fantastic activities.



We broke up the journey by stopping for a few hours at the excellent Owl and Small Breeds Centre in Kington. The children were shown various animals up close including tortoises, goats, ferrets and owls.

We arrived at the Abernant Lake Hotel in beautiful sunshine and clear blue skies. Pupils were soon participating in their first activity and over the three days were always active in numerous physically and mentally demanding challenges such as the zip wire, abseiling, climbing and an obstacle course. On Thursday children learnt how to canoe and kayak on the lake.

We updated parents and carers with photos posted on Twitter and uploaded a video and slideshow of the day's events each night to the school website. The staff and I were very proud of the pupils as they challenged themselves in every activity, often surprising themselves with their hidden abilities, collaboration skills and determination to overcome their fears.

Visit <http://www.acornsprimary.co.uk/news-in-pictures/> for photos and videos:

Sibford School

Rugby Sevens: Our rugby players enjoyed a touch of success when the Premiership Cup arrived on campus courtesy of current champions Northampton Saints. This was to mark the start of Sibford's annual Rugby Sevens Tournament. Now in its 17th year, the tournament is supported by the Northampton Saints Community Coaching team and also features the Oxfordshire regional tournament of the Elite Insurance Sevens Series for Under-13s, where pupils compete for the opportunity to play at The Saints' Franklin's Gardens ground. Sibford School under 18 players, Callum Pharo, Oliver Rigby and Tom Meredith are pictured with the Championship Trophy.



May Open Morning: There is a whole school Open Morning on Friday 1 May starting at 9.45am. It will include a presentation by head, Michael Goodwin, and guided tours of the school.

Early Years 'Come and Play' Afternoon: The school host an Early Years Open Afternoon 2pm-3.30pm on Wednesday 6 May. Youngsters between the ages of two and four are invited to join some of Sibford's youngest pupils as they go on a bear hunt, with a host of free activities based on the popular Michael Rosen book, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Parents will have the chance to find out more about Sibford's provision for children aged three to five. For further details on both events call Elspeth on 01295 781203.

Kingham Hill School

Open Day: Saturday 9 May 11am-2pm All are welcome to



our Trinity term Open Day, so do bring your family to look around. You will have the chance to talk with teaching staff and house-parents, and 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). You can also look round The Veritas Building (our beautiful new Maths and Science facility pictured), 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 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. Call the School on 658999 or email admissions@kinghamhill.org www.kinghamhill.org.uk All the family is welcome.

LETTERS

HGV ban – Funding needed

As your County Councillor I have raised and argued the point with County officers and the Cabinet Member for Environment & Economy, about HGVs travelling through Chipping Norton on a regular basis since I was elected in 2005. I had Chipping Norton re-instated in the County Council Local Transport Plan 3. I have also argued against the removal of the small town's strategy and voted against the current draft plan when it came to Cabinet last month. Last year I again went through the proposals to re-route HGVs that have been drawn up ready for funding.

Funding for large highway schemes is now agreed at the Local Enterprise Partnership. Their decisions are based on housing growth and employment. Oxfordshire County Council has been waiting for the West Oxfordshire Local Plan to be finalised to see if Chipping Norton would be the third area of growth. County would then ask them if they supported a proposal for a major infrastructure investment. I spoke to WODC officers last year and they have supported the inclusion in the freight plan for signage etc., which in fact we have already implemented in Chipping Norton. Those strategies are still in the draft plan – freight, but not under any particular town given we are not the only town with Air Quality issues.

I have been in contact with Barry Norton, the Leader of WODC, since January this year when WODC were near finalising their Local Plan. Last month, WODC stated they will support Chipping Norton for significant infrastructure, which means that we are able to bid to the Local Enterprise Partnership for funding. It is really a catch 22 position as we do not want housing growth given the problems we have with traffic and we cannot get the funding without housing growth. We all agree we want HGVs out of the town centre. The costing several years ago was over £6 million; however my gut feeling is that the small town's initiative, hopefully, will go back in so that when funding is available we are able to bid. I will keep up the pressure for our lorry route. I constantly meet officers re this issue and I have been in contact with officers at WODC over the last 12 months to make sure they support us. I do not take responsibility for the District Councillors as to why they do or do not know anything.'

Hilary Biles, County Councillor

HGV ban – County needs to explain

It is disgraceful that Oxfordshire County Council have dropped the proposed HGV weight limit and re-routing without any explanation of why they are doing so and seemingly in the vain hope that no one would notice. OCC need to tell us whether the omission is down to prohibitive cost, lack of requisite consent from neighbouring authorities or simple lack of any political will at the County Council to make this a priority policy. We need clarification from OCC.

Going back to the basic issue, the preferred recommendation from the October 2008 Air Quality Action Plan was to impose an environmental weight limit through the Town. This would require removal of Primary Route status from the A44 and 'the designation of an alternative Oxford-Evesham Primary Route with the agreement of the relevant

highway authorities and government offices'. The recommendation acknowledged that there would be considerable cost involved in replacing signage and that all of these measures would require the consent of neighbouring authorities which could not be guaranteed. What is galling is that in producing their draft LTP4 the County have dropped the proposed scheme without any explanation of why. For example, are OCC arguing

- that the expense is prohibitive and OCC cannot afford it on purely economic grounds?

- that they have failed or are failing to obtain the consent of neighbouring authorities such that this scheme is unviable for that reason?

- or that they do not consider that there is a serious enough problem to warrant pursuing this in the first place - ie lack of political will?

There is either a debate to be had or an urgent need to explore the alternative options. It looks to me that what is lacking here is the political energy and will on the part of OCC to push this through as a priority policy. Bearing in mind the 1,800 new homes now earmarked for the Chipping Norton sub area, this should now become a priority policy. As a WODC Councillor I am pleased to support WODC's commitment to an HGV weight limit, de-priming of the A44 and infrastructure investment in Chipping Norton to accompany the expansion of new homes set out in the emerging Local Plan. However, the key to HGV re-routing lies squarely with OCC.

Geoff Saul, District Councillor

Long distance post!

Responding to last month's alert about the last post collection being 9am, your readers might be intrigued by the notice on the Diston's Lane post box. It says 'A 4pm or later collection is made from the Postbox at Milton Under Wychwood'.

I discovered that if you catch the 2.35 bus from West Street you can be back in Chippy by 4.03pm.

Kate Ward



Cemetery Clear Up thanks

My grateful thanks to all the stalwarts who turned up in March in rather inclement weather. Despite this a good area of brambles and overgrown graves round the edge of section one was cleared. The colonnade floor was pressure washed and our thanks go to Cotswold Tool & Plant Hire for the loan of a generator, which enabled us to do this work. Thanks also to Peta Simmons for generously supplying coffee and cakes to the workers. It was a very satisfactory morning's work and we will be arranging another session in October, when all help will be gratefully appreciated.

Martin Jarratt, Chairman of Cemetery Committee

LETTERS

Good Friday thanks

Chipping Norton Churches Together would once again like to send huge thanks to Adam Quinton, Manager of the Co-op, for the generous donation of 100 hot cross buns which were handed out at the Good Friday open air service. If anyone received a bun and would like contact please leave details with Emma Bayley office@stmaryscnorton.com / 646202

Jane Butler

Car wash business – land wanted

Does anyone want to rent me some land to set up a small professional car hand wash business in Chipping Norton to generate up to ten jobs in the summer months and approximately five throughout the rest of the year? I carried out market research on this business idea with positive feedback agreeing this is needed within Chipping Norton for residents, visitors and passers. I'm 27, ex-military and live and work in both London and Oxfordshire as a Close Protection chauffeur to the wealthy and successful people that have estates and homes in Oxfordshire. I have had to, as part of my job, maintain and clean all their vehicles, which made me think why is there not a professional hand car wash and valeting service within Chipping Norton? I am also passionate about the Cotswolds and would very much like to keep this theme for my potential business – in Cotswold colours that blend in within a lovely Cotswold place like Chipping Norton.

The business needs 1500 square feet of preferably hard standing ground – ideally near a busy main road and close to the town centre to allow customers to drop and shop. I have substantial funding to turn waste land or grass land into hard standing surface which is totally reversible. I can offer good rates of rent and hope to have this up and running as soon as possible. If anyone can help or want more information please contact me on 07842 816991 or sa809703@hotmail.co.uk

Christopher Durrant

Who says teenagers don't care?



On Sunday 5 April, we set off for a relaxing dog walk through Pool Meadow. However, when we got there, we were shocked at what we saw. Everywhere we looked there was litter: Coke cans, Lucozade bottles, crisp packets, and cookie wrappers and what we believe to be drug paraphernalia. The list could go on forever.

We realise that clearly the last group of people that were at Pool Meadow were too bone idle to take their own rubbish home or to the nearest litter bin. We thought this was a disgrace and we felt it imperative to do something about it. Would you walk past this and just leave it to fester? We decided to sort it out then and there and clear up every last piece of rubbish. It only took us a few minutes, but if the group that had left the litter had picked it up themselves it would have taken a lot less time and effort. A common stereotype of our age group is that we cause problems and don't bother to find solutions. But who's to say teenagers don't care?

Izzy Evans and Hattie Cornish

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.

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Bright red post boxes – at last

Efforts to spruce up post boxes

Most readers will have noticed how all the Town's post boxes have had a makeover with bright red paint. Over four years ago the then Mayor Chris Butterworth took on the challenge of trying to get many of the Town Centre's shabby objects spruced up but, as he told the News, the task 'turned out to be greater than riding up the A44 and around the Town Hall on a camel during Christmas shopping'. Despite his efforts the campaign to tidy up



Chris Butterworth and the truly pillar-box red (honestly!) Topside letter box

Chippy was only partially effective. His main targets were the Royal Mail post boxes and the BT phone box. He told the News, 'I first contacted the relevant companies in 2010 and annually since then to cajole them into action. Who won the race? Well I suppose BT did when the phone box (except for its roof!) was given a coat of fresh paint in 2013 and lorded it over the deteriorating post box on the other side of the road and the one at the Post Office.'

Trail of excuses

Trying to encourage the Royal Mail to reciprocate was not so easy and Chris had been given a trail of excuses. Firstly, when organising the Street Party for the Queen's Jubilee he was told we stood no chance due to the multitude of similar requests. Secondly, in 2012 they had spent their budget on painting post boxes gold because so many of our Olympians had won Gold medals in the London Games. In 2013 Chris was informed that Chippy had moved to the top of the 'to do' list in 2014 as a priority. He continued 'I was excited at the prospect of sparkling refurbished red post boxes but alas, my hopes were dashed as 2014 moved steadily into 2015. But lo and behold as I prepared to make the annual phone call this month my efforts were rewarded when, at last, I was dazzled by the freshly painted bright red boxes – and don't they look great? Just to be sure they look good for the next big event I will start my request for the next re-paint this year!'

Letter of appreciation

Eagle-eyed reader Paul Burbidge was quick to write to the News expressing his, '... appreciation of the Royal Mail for repainting the postboxes around Chippy. Don't they look smart now? Have they put up the cost of the stamps, though, to pay for the paint?'

And another thing ...

See article p4 about the proposed Post Office move from Topside to the newly-extended Co-op and 'Long distance post' letter on p34.

DIARY

May (News out on Monday 27 April)

- 2-10 **North Oxon Artweeks** see p16
- 3rd **Ramblers Meet** 2pm New St Car Park details 643691
- 4th **Teas on the Green** Churchill 2-4pm see p4
- 5th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p22
- 6th **U3A** 2.30pm Methodist Hall Ruth Pole - Mercy Ship details p28
- NOOG** 7pm Visit to The Grove Middle Barton - details p26
- 7th **ELECTION DAY - profiles ps 18-19**
- 8th **70th Anniversary of VE Day** RBL ceremony see p23
- CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** see p35
- 9th **Graffiti Workshop** for 8-16 yrs from noon at Glyme Hall - booking essential - details p12
- Henry Cornish Care Centre Fete** 2.30 see p5
- Supper with Agatha Christie** 7pm St Mary's Sch see p6
- 10th **Blossom Day** at the Community Orchard 12-3pm see p9
- 11th **History Society** 7.30 Methodist Hall see p21
- Folk Club** 7.30 Blue Boar see p22
- 12th **Lights Up Arts & Memory Club** 10.30am-12.30pm at Highlands details 07717 374484
- 13th **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30-11.30 for Christian Aid
- CNWI** 7pm Lower Town Hall see p21
- 14th **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall details p22
- 16th **Chipping Norton Farmers' Market** 8.30-1.30
- Rotary Stroke Awareness Day** from 9am Town Hall see p25 for details

- 16th **Rainbow Playgroup** 10.30-12.30 Ace Centre see p8
- The Imitation Game** in Churchill 7.30 - see p4
- Chipping Norton Choral Society: Dream of Gerontius** 7.30 St Mary's Church Banbury Tickets from Jaffé & Neale
- 18th **Mayormaking** 7.30pm Town Hall
- CN Amateur Astronomy Group** 7.30 Blue Boar details p21
- West Oxon WI** 7.30 St Mary's Parish rooms see p26
- 20nd **ECN at the Red Lion** details p14
- 21st **Over Norton WI** 7.45 ON Village Hall - Barney Norman - Contemporary Art
- 22nd **Theatre Tea Party** 2-3.30pm see p4
- 23rd **The Fibre Festival** 10am-5pm - see advert p6 for details
- 26th **Lights Up Arts & Memory Club** - as 14th April
- 27th **CN Yacht Club** meeting - see p24 for details
- 30th **Chadlington Beer Festival** from noon details p10

June (News out on Tuesday 26 April)

- 2nd **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p22
- 2-4 **Bledington Music Festival: Pianofest '15** see p17 for details
- 3rd **U3A** 2.30pm Methodist Hall Michael Bull - Do's & Don'ts of Antiquing
- NOOG** 7pm Visit to Bridewell Organic Gdns - details p26
- 7th **Ramblers Meet** 2pm New St Car Park details 643691
- 14th **Churchill Village Festival & Fun Dog Show** see ps 7 & 13