



Happy Christmas



Season's Greetings from The Lawrence Home Nursing Team pictured in Chipping Norton's Co-op which has chosen the Team as its Charity Partner for 2015-16.

Bumper 40-page Christmas issue

Spot the 16
secretive Santas &
groan at our cheesy
cracker jokes

Churches at
Christmas

Robin Hood hits Town

Christmas
folklore and
Boxing Day
doings

Christmas Diary, Opening Times plus all the Local News, Arts,
Clubs, Sport, Schools and Letters

SEASONAL INFORMATION



Season's Greetings to all our readers from the News Team

REMEMBER!

**No January edition of the Chippy News
Next deadline is Friday 15 January**

Diary

December (News out Monday 30 November)

See also *Christmas Services* p17 & *Festive Dates* p19

- 1st **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p25
- 2nd **U3A** 2.30pm Methodist Hall Peter Nuttall - My Bucket List: Sailing the Atlantic
Quaker Meeting 7.30 Lower Town Hall details p8
North Oxon Organic Gardeners - 7.30 see p25
- 3rd **Hospital Action Group Meeting** 7pm in St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton - see p4
- 3-6 **Methodist Christmas Tree Festival** see advert p26
- 4th **Christmas Shopping Evening** see p19
- 4-5 **Lions' Santa is in his Grotto** details p24
- 5th **Town Dance** cancelled
CN Choral Society Messiah details p23
- 6th **Rambling Club** 1.30pm New St Car Park see p26
- 8th **Lights Up Arts & Memory Club** 10.30am-12.30pm at Highlands details 07717 374484
- 9th **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30-11.30 Crisis at Christmas
CNWI 2.15pm Lower Town Hall see p24
- 12th **Sunshine Cat Rescue Christmas Bazaar**, 10.30-3.30 Town Hall
Charlbury Farmers' Market 9am-1pm
Woman in Gold (Cert 12A) Churchill Village Hall see p11
Chadlington Christmas Concert 7pm details p19
- 14th **Folk Club** 7.30pm The Blue Boar see p25
History Society 7.30 Methodist Hall see p24
- 15th **Recycling Roadshow** 9-noon at the Guildhall see p12
Kingham Choral Soc Celebrate Christmas see p19
- 16th **Holy Trinity PTA Christmas Bingo** Town Hall see p19
Kingham Christmas Bingo Village Hall see p19
Horticultural Assoc 7.30 Methodist Hall see p26
- 17th **Over Norton WI** 7.45 ON Village Hall see p26
- 18th **LHNT Candles of Remembrance** see p19
- 19th **CN Farmers' Market** 8.30-1.30
Astronomy Group 5pm outside Jaffé & Neale see p27
- 21st **Lido Solstice Party** from 5pm see p19
Solstice Concert Charlbury Mem Hall see p19
- 22nd **Lights Up Arts & Memory Club** as 8 December

January (No Chipping Norton News)

- 3rd **Rambling Club** 1.30pm New St Car Park see p26
- 10th **Christmas Trees come down!** 9.30am Town Hall
- 11th **Folk Club** 8pm (New time!) at the Blue Boar - see p25
- 14th **Amnesty** 7.30pm Lower Town Hall - see p29
- 15th **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE**
- 16th **CN Farmers' Market** 8.30-1.30
My Old Lady (Cert 12A) Churchill Village Hall see p11
- 18th **West Oxon WI** 7.30 Parish Rooms see p29

February (News out Monday 1 February)

- 3rd **North Oxon Organic Gardeners** 7.30 details p25
- 7th **Rambling Club** 1.30pm New St Car Park see p26

Christmas opening times

Chemists: For urgent prescriptions when chemists are closed call your GP surgery for an emergency number.

CN Health Centre: Closed from 6.30pm on Thursday 24 Dec until Tuesday 29 Dec at 8.30am. Closed from 6.30pm Thursday 31 Dec until Monday 4 Jan at 8.30am. Outside of surgery opening times, call 111 for urgent but not life threatening symptoms, and 999 for a life threatening emergency. Order repeat prescriptions well before Christmas.

Hospital: (01865 903333) Open for first-aid injuries – normal weekdays 5pm-9pm, Bank Holidays (ie 25 & 26 Dec + 1 Jan) 10am - 9pm. Casualty at Witney or Banbury hospitals will deal with more serious injuries.

Police: Chipping Norton & the surrounding villages are policed by local officers 24 hours a day. Banbury Police Stn is open every day except 25 Dec. In an emergency ring 999. Call 101 to contact the Police for non-emergency calls.

Police Service Desk & WODC One Stop Shop in the Guildhall normal opening hours 8.45-4.30 weekdays (closes 4pm Friday.) Closed from lunchtime 24 Dec – reopens 29 Dec. Closed 31 Dec & 1 Jan – re-opens 4 Jan.

Library: Closed 4pm Weds 23 Dec – reopens 9.30am Sat 2 Jan. Library letterbox will be locked during this period for security so hold onto your books etc till 2 Jan.

Leisure Centre: Closed 25/26 Dec & 1 Jan. Visit www.better.org.uk or call 644412 for holiday opening times.

Rubbish & Recycling Collection: When ~ Mon 21 Dec then Weds 30 Dec, Weds 6 Jan, Tues 12 Jan back to normal Mon 18 Jan. What ~ black box/food caddy collections weekly. No Green Waste collection 25 Dec-17 Jan. *Household waste* collections as per the Calendar issued by WODC available in the Guildhall One Stop Shop or visit: www.westoxon.gov.uk *Xmas Trees etc:* From 18 Jan put trees & greenery (holly, ivy, wreaths) out as garden waste either in the bin or cut up and left beside it. Remove pot, decorations, wire etc. You don't need to be signed up for garden waste collections – simply leave your tree out on your green collection week. *Festive food recycling* (turkey bones, peelings etc) can be put out in both your kitchen and outdoor food caddies.

Extra recycling can be put in open cardboard boxes or clear sacks (but not black bags) – one material per bag/box please eg plastics or paper or card. NB glass must go in your recycling boxes.

Markets

Chipping Norton Wednesday Market: 23 December

Farmers' Market: 8.30-1.30 Saturday 19 Dec & 16 Jan as usual.

Town Xmas trees

come down

Sunday 10 January

meet at the Town Hall 9.30am

& join the jolly gang of fairy

light unfixers!





Aldi's new jobs in town

Aldi's new Chipping Norton store up the Banbury Road is nearing completion – and due to be opened around February. They are looking to hire 36 people, including an assistant store manager, five deputy store managers and 30 store assistants (for duties including till operation, stock management and merchandising). The News team went to visit the recruiting fair held in November at the Crown & Cushion where Aldi representatives were interviewing some



enthusiastic hopefuls from the local area for new jobs (some are pictured with Aldi's area manager Sam Sheppard). Aldi is expanding rapidly in the UK with 60 new store openings in the next 12 months listed on their website. They say they focus on 'high quality products at everyday low prices' and recently were named by *Which* as 2015 Best Supermarket. They were also ranked 2nd this year in *The Times* Top 100 graduate employers.

Aldi made the national press recently by saying they will aim to match 'living wage' rather than 'minimum wage' levels and will be paying minimum starting rates of £8.40 per hour from February 2016 for jobs such as store assistants. Assistant store managers start on £24,500 rising to c£35,000 after four years. Other supermarkets are under pressure to match these headline figures but Sainsbury's told the press recently that their basic pay is supplemented by good pensions, holiday benefits and staff discount schemes. The new Aldi store will have a large car park for customers and, although it is a brisk walk to the town centre, it is hoped that customers may make a trip to use other town centre shops. The News asked about the car parking time limits planned for the Chippy store (there have been complaints around the country about some draconian car park fines) but the company did not yet have details of this or any other specific plans for connecting with town and community initiatives.

PM's attack on County cuts

Oxfordshire County Council faces some difficult decisions on cuts, particularly after their grants from central government have been drastically reduced in the past five years. They are currently searching for another £60m in savings. As well as public concern, 14 county voluntary and other organisations have formed an 'Enough is Enough' coalition against the cuts. Now local MP David Cameron has come under attack from County Leader Ian Hudspeth for writing a letter saying he is 'disappointed' at proposed cuts to frontline services such as children's centres, elderly day centres, libraries and museums and that the County should be making more 'back office

savings'. Cllr Hudspeth's lengthy reply points to the £72m cut in grant from central government and the efforts already made to streamline services and admin significantly. *The Guardian* said Mr Cameron was 'blissfully unaware of the impact of his own policies'. The PM then came under national attack by Labour for, in a constituency MP role, using the offices of the No 10 Policy Unit to 'advise' the Oxfordshire team – which could be against the Ministerial Code.



What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

Claustrophobia!

Threats to Children's Centres

Protests – County wide and in Chipping Norton – have been mounting against the County Council's proposal to close 44 Children's Centres as part of budget cuts. This would also affect a significant number of services at Chipping Norton's ACE Centre. At the Town Council meeting on 16 November West Oxfordshire District Councillor Laetisia Carter challenged County Councillor and Cabinet member Hilary Biles to say whether she would vote against cuts to the Children's Centres. Councillor Biles



Locals staged a mass protest against cuts threatening the ACE Children's Centre in Chippy in November

responded that no decision had been reached but that the £320,000 from OCC to the Chipping Norton Children's Centre was under review. On 3 November, Conservative and Independent County Councillors, including Cllr Biles, had voted to defeat an opposition motion which had said, 'Council recognises that early intervention services for young families need to be very local and would like to see additional options that respond more fully to this need. Council requests that the Cabinet remove from any future budget proposals options that might involve the closure of any of the Children's Centres. Council considers that the closures would be a false economy resulting in greater financial pressures on children's social care services and the local NHS.' The vote was 32 to 30 against the motion.

County cuts: Hospital bus axed?

The latest news on Oxfordshire County Council's drive to save another £60m is that Chipping Norton's bus services – notably one to the Hospital – will almost certainly be hit. A County Cabinet decision in November means all bus subsidies (totalling £3.7m) are quite likely to go. Subsidies enable bus companies and community groups to run 90 out of 118 routes, mainly in rural areas that would otherwise be commercially unviable. The changes agreed will now be put forward for final approval in the Council's next Budget Meeting in February. The subsidy cuts will affect services on the S3 Oxford bus, the X50 Stratford bus, the X9 Witney service, the 488 Banbury bus via villages, and the V12, 17, and 19 villager buses. Most significant, though, is that the X8 Hospital/Town/Kingham Station and villages service will almost certainly stop as it requires a full subsidy which will disappear. Chipping Norton County Councillor Hilary Biles, who is a member of the County Cabinet, told the News, 'everyone all over Oxfordshire has reasons why buses should not be removed' but she said that she will still be trying to find a solution for the hospital bus loss and that focus should turn to the bus operators to see what they can do without subsidies.



What lies in a pram and wobbles?
A jelly baby

County threat to Highlands

Another item in proposed County cuts is the withdrawal of funding for elderly day care. Such a move would greatly affect Age Concern Chipping Norton and the Highlands Day Centre, according to Trustee Pat Lake, where the OCC grant is 25% of the organisation's yearly spend. Pat said, 'The Management Committee of ACCN are actively pursuing this matter. However, these cuts could mean that we lose Highlands, which has been such an asset to the elderly of the Town and the surrounding villages for over 20 years.'

Hospital beds – views wanted

Oxfordshire County Council is continuing its consultation on the future provision of Intermediate Care in North Oxfordshire, which directly affects the future of the 14 beds used for NHS care at the Chipping Norton Hospital site. The Council, which held a public meeting on 21 October, wants to hear from local people and the consultation can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/intermediatecare. Printed copies are available in Chipping Norton Library. Comments in writing to FREEPOST RTRX-GJUL-HXHY, County Hall, New Road, OX1 1ND. The consultation closes on 8 December and a report with recommendations goes to the County Council Cabinet in January.

The local Chipping Norton Hospital Action Group (HAG), who are unhappy both with the consultation process and with the specific proposals to move the nursing and care staffing to the Orders of St John Care Trust, are holding their own public meeting in St Mary's Church at 7pm on 3 December. They are also distributing a questionnaire about the proposed changes to all houses in the Town and

surrounding villages. They would like the public to respond to HAG who will summarise results both for their public meeting and to send to the NHS and the County Council.

The Town Remembers

There was a large turnout for the Town's Remembrance Day parade and service at St Mary's Church on 8 November. The

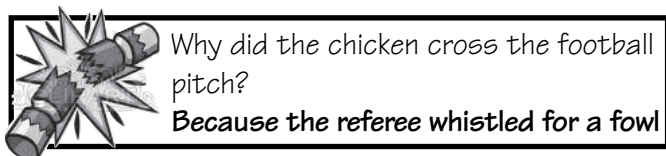


parade included veterans and many of the Town's youth organisations. Also Chris Timperley-Migita was there with Finnegan, representing the part played by animals that go to war. Names of the dogs who have taken part in the Town's parades were stitched into the dog's Remembrance coat, made by the Fibreworks' Kerry Faulkner. The Town's Baptist and Methodist ministers both contributed to the service, led by Rev'd James Kennedy. Following the Act of Remembrance and laying of wreaths, Tom Simpson who served in Iraq, spoke of the respect, integrity and faithfulness of the armed forces and reminded us of casualties of recent conflicts. Later, on the Town Hall steps, Mayor Mike Tysoe spoke of this year's 60th anniversaries of VE and VJ days: opportunities to celebrate peace after the horrors of war. On 11 November, Chipping Norton Air Cadets and prefects from Holy Trinity Primary School were among those who took part in the Armistice Day service and wreath laying at the War Memorial. Small crosses were laid, one for each of the names on the memorial as well as 24 men not included; a project is under way to rectify this. Over Norton War Memorial and Little Rissington churchyard were also visited.



Town Council Grants

Each year Chipping Norton Town Council invites applications from local organisations for grant aid. This year twelve groups applied and after consultation £15,000 was awarded. The main beneficiaries were The Lido (£4,000), The Theatre (£3,700) and the Museum and History Society (£3,500). These three play a big part in Chipping Norton life from which we all benefit. Smaller awards went to the Green Gym, who help maintain a pleasant environment whilst keeping fit, the Citizens Advice Bureau who advise and respond to a wide variety of queries, and various charities and clubs including the Lions, Rotary, Rainbows, the Lights Up Memory Club, Volunteer Link Up and the Oxfordshire Play Association.



Why did the chicken cross the football pitch?
Because the referee whistled for a fowl

Family's organ donation challenge



Chipping Norton's Valerie Pinfold, with daughters Robyn and Leah Dunbar and other members of the family, would like everyone to sign up to donate their organs or to give blood – and they are pictured out in force at the Co-op in October to raise awareness with their campaign. The family has strong personal reasons for supporting the cause. Valerie, who has Primary Biliary Cholangitis, had two liver transplants in five days back in February. You can see her story at www.mylovelyLiver.co.uk. Robyn's dad had Polycystic Kidney Disease and had a kidney transplant, thanks to his brother, in 2011. Unfortunately Robyn also has the disease herself along with other family members.

To help the cause Robyn is asking people to 'sign up' to join the organ donor register or give blood and has made this her personal challenge. Depending on how many people 'sign up' she is planning, on 27 February 2016 (the 1st anniversary of her mum's second transplant), to take on a difficult challenge – from having wet sponges thrown at her, to holding a tarantula, to a bungee jump (that will need 100 people signing up). You can sign up to the register at www.organdonation.nhs.uk or offer a blood donation at www.blood.co.uk. If you do decide to sign up please drop a note with your name, contact number and signature to Robyn Dunbar, 29 Churchill Terrace, Chipping Norton, OX7 5HS or email her at x-Robyn-luvs-u-x@hotmail.co.uk and she will add you to her 'challenge' numbers. For more information see Dunbar's Daring Donor Deed on Facebook (<http://bit.ly/DunbarsDonors>). Robyn said, 'If it wasn't for organ donation, neither my mum or dad would be able to live the lives they do now. I am also doing this to help the thousands of other people waiting for an organ'.

Skatepark setback

After much deliberation over the last year or so about the location and design of a major skateboard park at Greystones, Mayor Mike Tysoe told the November Town Council meeting that there had been a very disappointing response to the Town Council's questionnaire, which had been distributed via the three schools in town. Of 250 questionnaires distributed via St Mary's Primary School only 25 had been returned. From

Top School no questionnaires had been returned; only a petition with 120 signatures 'scrawled' upon it. 'It's just not good enough' exclaimed a clearly disillusioned Mayor, 'I'm putting the project on the back burner until people actually bother to fill in the questionnaires.'

Awaiting the High St Awards

The recent effort by Chipping Norton to win the Best Market Town award reaches a climax with the result being announced on 30 November. At the time of going to print, a public vote for the final three had just finished and Chippy was in first place but only half the score comes from that; the other half is allocated after the judges' visit, which was on 28 October. The judges took a look around the town centre and then stopped for tea and cakes from the Chipping Norton Tea Set at The Theatre. The Experience Chipping Norton team behind the entry and all the effort would like to thank everyone in the Town for getting behind the public vote and the campaign. Representatives will be attending the final awards evening in London and the result will be on the News and ECN websites as soon as possible. Everyone awaits with bated breath.



What's the most common Christmas wine?
'I don't like Brussels sprouts!'

Co-op volunteers at The Theatre

Performers at Chippy's Theatre can now enjoy newly renovated facilities after employees from the Co-op volunteered their time to help decorate its backstage area and dressing rooms. Jo Walton, Violet Gourlay



Theatre painters Violet Gourlay, Chris Lamb & Jo Walton

and Chris Lamb spent two days at The Theatre on Spring Street, as they wielded their paintbrushes to refresh the interior walls. The efforts came as part of The Midcounties Co-operative's commitment to community activity, which gives its employees up to three working days to participate in volunteering. The work followed the launch of the Society's newly extended and renovated store and marked the continuation of a long-standing relationship between The Midcounties Co-operative and The Theatre, with the store having recently used the venue for training ahead of its re-opening. Jo Ludford, General Manager at The Theatre, said, 'As an organisation, we rely enormously on the generous support of individuals and community groups to deliver our work, and the efforts of volunteers from The Midcounties Co-operative were much appreciated. Efforts such as this are vital in allowing us to maintain and develop our vision, and to keep The Theatre at the heart of its extended community.'

Star apprentice scoops top prize

Robbie Powell, 21, from local firm Chipping Norton Builders was named as 'Apprentice of the Year' at the Oxfordshire



Photo: Gary Creese

Award winning apprentice Robbie Powell was congratulated by the Prime Minister at a business event in Chippy in November

Construction Training Group Awards in a ceremony held in October at the Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel. Robbie's award was for Top NVQ Level 3 Apprentice. The review panel praised the pride he takes in his work, calling him a credit to both the industry and himself. Robbie was surprised and delighted at his win. As well as the trophy, he received a cheque for £125, which he will spend on a new wood router for work. As a previous nominee in last year's competition, Robbie clinched the top prize this year after passing his course in site carpentry with flying colours. The ACE Training Centre in Kidlington is also delighted by Robbie's win, having recognised his abilities early on. Chipping Norton Builders' MD, Joe Johnson, who has employed Robbie for three years, is justifiably proud of his prodigy. Impressed by Robbie's contribution to the company, Joe is keen to help develop more young tradespeople and has recently taken on a new apprentice plumber.

Chat, Exercise and Help!

Age Concern Chipping Norton are running their regular 'Chatterbox' session in the Lower Town Hall – every Thursday, 10.30am-12.30pm. Pop in for a chat, put your feet up, and enjoy coffee and cake. A warm welcome is guaranteed. Seated Exercise sessions are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 11am-noon. £3 per session, just come along, no need to book. Want help with IT, or your mobile phone? Call in on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Age UK Information Drop-in is on the 4th Thursday of the month, an opportunity to meet your local Community Information Networker for information and advice.

Logs for labour is on again!

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing? The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment's 'Logs for labour' programme aims to promote sustainable use of firewood by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events run most weekends in the winter, are about three hours long, and could involve coppicing hazel or thinning trees. All you need are sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (only hand tools are allowed for insurance reasons) ... or let the Trust know if your woodland

needs the help of volunteers. Information about forthcoming events is at www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour or 'like' www.facebook.com/oxonwood or from Riki Therivel 01865 243488.

Lottery funding for Bowls Club

Chipping Norton Bowls Club is among 148 local sports projects to secure a share of £9 million of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund. Sport England focuses on helping people and communities across the country stay active and create a sporting habit for life. Its Inspired Facilities arm aims to breathe new life into tired community sports facilities and convert existing buildings into venues suitable for grassroots sport. The Bowls Club has been awarded £75,000 which will be used for the replacement of the indoor four rink bowling carpet and towards the building of a two way viewing gallery, which will allow viewing, under cover, of both indoor and outdoor play. The Club has been



Above: the proposed Access & Viewing Gallery, Right: an indoor event at the Bowls Club

concerned for some time about a lack of space for spectators and a recent fall by one of its members highlighted the need to repair some unsafe areas. Tony Backer-Holst, Bowls Club President, said, 'It is truly wonderful news that sport England have so generously awarded this sum of money to the Club in recognition of our contribution to the local community and to the sport of flat green bowls. We will pursue with all vigour the work entailed in effecting the project.'



What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective?
Santa Clues

Only one fire engine

The latest County Council cuts could see the number of fire engines cut from two to one at Chipping Norton Fire Station. Nathan Travis, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at OCC, was at the Town Council meeting on 16 November to answer Town Councillors' questions about the implications. It was generally accepted that it had been difficult to recruit retained fire-fighters, with the loss of large employers in the Town and more people working out of town. Mr Travis explained that in the last three years the first appliance had been called out 113 times, but that the second had been available for only 11% of the time and had been called out infrequently. Appliances were available from Charlbury and Hook Norton with arrival

LOCAL NEWS

times of 11 and 14 minutes respectively. He felt that this made the reduction to one appliance 'tolerable'. OCC are consulting the public on these reductions.



Why do ghosts like to live in the fridge?
Because it's cool!

Demand for Horsefair response

Where next for any campaign to get action on the Horsefair traffic safety and HGV issues? All the debates and failures to act were rehearsed again by local Chipping Norton Councillors and residents in the recent Traffic Advisory Committee with County representatives. But still no promise of action. A frustrated Mayor Cllr Mike Tysoe says he wholly supports any public protests to 'try and wake up OCC' but 'even if the whole Town lay down in Horsefair for one hour every weekend we would get absolutely nowhere' – with the reaction from OCC being 'we have no money'. Now the Town Clerk has sent a comprehensive, four-page letter to the County, backed by the Mayor and put together by Town Councillor Jo Graves and District Councillor Geoff Saul. It was addressed to the Area Steward for Traffic Control and copied to Cllr David Nimmo-Smith, the Cabinet Member for Transport. It set out the all the problems, evidence and failed official plans and proposals going back over 10 years. It asked in detail a) what exactly has happened to the agreed plan to reroute HGVs and why it has not been followed up; b) for another review to be undertaken of the possible safety options in town such as a gating or

gyratory scheme or even a long term by-pass; and c) the County's views on any other options. Copies of the full letter are available from the Town Clerk.

West Street new plans

The owners of Katharine House Hospice shop, together with Kings Shoe Repairs and the large flat above, have applied for planning permission to extend the retail unit and to divide the flat into two flats and a cottage. Town Councillors supported the application subject to a garage being slightly relocated to allow easier access to an existing garage. This application follows a trend in the area behind this part of West Street where, including changes to the Fox Hotel and future changes to the former West Street Surgery and others, permission has been granted in the last couple of years for a total of 10 new homes and 4 new hotel rooms.

Top award for Café le Raj

The team at Chipping Norton's Café le Raj restaurant was celebrating in November with the news of winning a top



The Café le Raj team at the Awards Ceremony

award in a national Curry Competition. This also followed a cooking competition organised by the Bangladesh Caterers Association at Northampton College back in October when the challenge saw Café Le Raj owner Badsha Mia compete with 30 chefs from ten different regions to showcase their skills by creating a dish from a 'mystery basket' of ingredients in just 45 minutes. The chef awards and other restaurant prizes were presented at a gala dinner, with reception and speeches, on 22 November at the Park Plaza Hotel in London. The BCA, established in 1960, represents over 12,000 British Bangladeshi restaurants and takeaways employing over 90,000 people and it was their 10th successful annual awards ceremony with over 1,200 guests. Café le Raj won the 'Best Restaurant in Oxfordshire' award and Mr Mia was joined at the celebration by customers from Chipping Norton. Café le Raj, with a sister restaurant in Henley, is now well established in Chipping Norton with a strong customer base (Trip Advisor has two thirds of its ratings as 5*). It is run by a team with more than 20 years' experience in the restaurant and hospitality industry.



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There's real job satisfaction here.

It's not about clock watching, the day goes really fast.

Store Assistant Opportunities in Chipping Norton, opening February 2016

• £8.15 rising to £9.75 per hour • 15-25 hours per week
aldirecruitment.co.uk

LIKE NO OTHER



What do you call a deer with no eyes?
No idea

TYCYCLES ready to go



If your image of a bike repair workshop is an untidy, dark, oily shed or cellar, then think again! A spanking shiny new business has come to town! From its immaculately arranged wall-hung tools to its clean bright colours and personable welcome, this spells a new professional approach to bike repair. Tom Yeatman, an ex-Chipping Norton School pupil, has recently taken premises for his expanding business servicing and repairing all makes of bikes on Worcester Road Industrial Estate. Tom, 24, and his brother Rob, 22, who supports him in the business, are both keen cyclists and have now turned their passion into a business. Tom set up on his own upon leaving school five years ago, initially servicing and repairing bikes at home or at the owner's home. Business grew well and in mid October he moved to his new premises. As well as repairing and servicing bikes, with a free collection and delivery service within 15 miles, TYCYCLES stocks a range of quality accessories and general spares for sale. They also have a fleet of hybrid bikes for hire, offering delivery to local stations and including breakdown service. Tom says, 'Our passion is repairing and maintaining bikes and we are pretty meticulous about it. I love the challenge of transforming an old, battered, mud splattered bike back to its original condition. We offer a personal service to our customers of quality with added value.' Witnessing a bike transformed in this way was an impressive sight. Whether you just need a chain replaced (£7.50 ex parts) or feel your two-wheeler needs a bronze, silver or gold service (£30-£95) TYCYCLES can help. Check out their website <http://www.tycycles.co.uk> or speak to Tom on 238150 or mobile 07850 361146.

Next Quaker meeting

After last month's first Quaker gathering in Chipping Norton for many years, the group will be holding regular Quaker Meetings on the first Wednesday of the month in the Lower Town Hall 7.30-8.30pm, starting on 2 December. These will include about 20 minutes of silent worship and an opportunity to explore values such as equality that are shared by all Quakers. For further details call Marion Hall 677267.

WODC Local Plan final stage

West Oxfordshire Local Plan, which sets out the planning policies for the District up to 2031, is entering its final stages. A formal consultation in spring this year had resulted in responses from around 150 individuals and organisations. A formal Hearing before a Planning Inspector into the unresolved objections on strategic housing and employment policies, including its 'duty to co-operate' with adjacent authorities, was held at Woodgreen, Witney from 23-

26 November. A further Hearing will start on 3 February into other policies. The plan proposes significant new housing in Chippy off London Road and has the support of the Town Council.



Why did Santa's helper see the psychiatrist?
Because he had a low 'elf' esteem!

Neighbourhood Plan progress

To link with WODC's wider plan, Chipping Norton's specific Neighbourhood Plan has undergone its formal examination by a planning expert. It has passed the examination, subject to recommended amendments which have been done. All relevant documents, including the examiner's report and the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan, can be viewed at www.westoxon.gov.uk/chippingnorton and on the Town Council website: www.chippingnortontowncouncil.co.uk The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group encourages you to view the final Plan, which if adopted will influence development in the Town up to the year 2031. To be adopted, local voters must support the plan in a referendum and the Steering Group urge all to vote and support the plan which they say could deliver many benefits to Chipping Norton over the coming years. It will then become part of the local planning framework as a legally binding document that all developers must adhere to. The referendum date and process will depend on WODC but should be early in the New Year.

Charlbury Christmas Trees

Come and choose your own Christmas tree
growing in the field

Have a fun time with family and friends

- 🌲 Thousands to choose from
- 🌲 Norway Spruce and Blues
- 🌲 Choose your own tree & label it ready for cutting
or
- 🌲 Choose a tree already cut
- 🌲 Take your tree on the day or arrange to collect at a later date
- 🌲 While you choose the children can find the hidden animals

Open every weekend in December
9.30am to 4.00pm

at

Halcyon Honey Farm, Woodstock Road

Charlbury Oxon, Tel: 01608 810260

Turn off the A44 onto the B4437 to

Charlbury

Look out for the banners!!

Macmillan fundraising

Beech Haven Care Home in Chipping Norton held a successful coffee morning in September in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and raised a grand total of £100. Staff,



residents and relatives were treated to an array of cakes and beverages throughout the morning. Thanks from Lisa Turner to everyone who supported the event.



Henry Cornish Care Centre raised a further £62.72 for Macmillan. Activities Co-ordinator, Karen Berwick told the News that their Cowboy and Cowgirls morning started with balloon volleyball, followed by Cody playing some Country and Western tunes to sing along to.



Why couldn't the sailors play cards?
Because the captain was standing on the deck

Foxfield developments

Last summer a proposal to build three additional houses off Foxfield Court, Chipping Norton, caused concern amongst local people and the Town Council. The planning application was recommended for refusal by WODC before the developer withdrew it in July. WODC's reasons for refusal would have been around the impact of the proposed development on the established character, on the protected trees, on habitats and on neighbours living conditions. The site preparation works and associated traffic were also a cause for concern. In October the developers submitted a new, but very similar, application, which they claim overcomes the planners' objections. Although the layout appears to be the same, the levels are to be lowered whilst, they say, the majority of trees will now be retained. The developer has agreed a temporary haul road, which would allow lorries taking excavated material direct access to London Road over farmland. Concern was expressed about the importance of

the tree belt, which is the subject of a group Tree Preservation Order. At its meeting on 16 November the Town Council recommended refusal of this second application citing the same objections as for the earlier scheme. The application, 15/03710/FUL, can be viewed on the WODC website.

Meanwhile, another planning application for new homes at Foxfield, on the existing field area, has been amended, with the number of homes reduced from three to two, although one protected tree is still to be felled, as per the original scheme. After some debate Town Councillors voted to recommend approval, with two Councillors voting against, subject to a suggestion that the dwellings should be re-orientated to face Foxfield Court.

Police station project 'closed'

Chipping Norton Town Council had been exploring the possibility of buying the Police Station, expected to be vacated by Thames Valley Police, for community use. As reported in the June issue of the News, the Police are now intending to stay in the existing building. At November's Town Council meeting, the Mayor said that this, together with the Town Council having to spend a lot of money recently to maintain the Town Hall, meant that he considered the Town Council's interest in the Police Station to be a closed project.

Chippy songwriter's UK success

Chipping Norton singer songwriter Amy Bee has reached the semi-final of the UK Songwriting Contest with two of her songs. 'Beautiful chaos' is short-listed for the Songwriter category and 'Take good care' which was co-written with her husband, Barry Short, is also in the semi-finals for the Acoustic & Folk category. There were over 7,000 songs entered for the competition which is in association with the Trust involved in the BRIT music awards. Amy has been writing songs since she was 15 years old. Her first EP 'Rain on my bones' gained her a place at Brunel University in London where she studied as a singer songwriter and completed a Diploma in Music. Over the years, Amy continued to write material for rock, funk, jazz and pop bands she performed with – but is now focusing on acoustic folk and ballads. Amy has performed several times at Chipping Norton Music Festival, Emma's Trust Festival and other venues in Oxfordshire and London. www.amybee.co.uk



Ready for winter weather

Many are predicting a cold winter. As last year, the Town Council is helping Chipping Norton get ready for ice and snow on the roads. Mayor Mike Tysoe wants everyone to use our supplies of salt sparingly as a bad winter will use it quickly. There are 54 full small bins dotted around town (around 13 tons of salt) and 5 tons as backup. There are a few salt spreaders but the main message is to use a very small amount of salt/grit after you have cleared any snow. Please also clear pavements as well – and even table salt is helpful! There will be two bike/tractor machines on standby (thanks to Guy Wall) ready for action with snow ploughs, manned by

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volunteers if it snows. Please be patient. If someone is stuck and needs transporting (for example in an illness emergency) you can contact Mike on 07774 758550 to get urgent assistance and they will do their best to get there as soon as possible.



What does Santa do with elves that are fat?
He sends them to an Elf Farm!

Bliss at home

A new home and lifestyle shop has opened in Chipping Norton High Street, but it isn't new to the Town. Bliss Home and Vintage, run by enthusiastic mother and daughter team, Kate Gerrish and Isobel Eley, has occupied a unit at the Station Mill Antiques Centre for several years, selling mainly French vintage items, but is now expanding into contemporary items



Photo: Liam Bellie/ECN

too. Kate is the Cotswold distributor for Annie Sloan paints and runs regular furniture painting workshops demonstrating techniques that use the chalk paint to transform tired furniture. The new shop enables them to stock Annie Sloan fabrics too, with other fabrics at their disposal. They also sell lighting, decorative home touches and stationery. Kate says, 'Our ethos is to supply original British design, vintage and modern furniture with fair trade items too. We also offer an in-house interior design with our own upholstery and soft furnishing service.' Bliss Home & Vintage is open 9.30-5.30 Mon-Sat at 28 High Street and also 11-4 Sundays until Christmas. It is one of many shops in town providing inspiration for Christmas presents and seasonal decorations.

Library Wi-Fi in 2016

Chipping Norton is one of 28 libraries to benefit from the award of £86,000 that Oxfordshire County Council has received for Wi-Fi installation in libraries that currently do not have it. This is a one-off grant from the Arts Council. It is therefore not a substitute for money that may be saved from the Library Service's annual revenue budgets in future years as part of the Council's 2016-20 budget savings options. Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Cultural and Community Services, said, 'Oxfordshire has 43 libraries and despite all of the savings the Council has to make it clear that there are no plans to close any of them, which is good news.' It is not expected that the free Wi-Fi will be installed before March 2016. In the meantime Chippy library does have two public

computers that can be booked. Library staff can offer help to get you going but do not have any specific lessons or buddy system.

The Meat Joint at the Co-op

A range of homemade meat products created on a Deddington resident's farm is now available at the Co-op supermarket in Chipping Norton for the first time. Local supplier The Meat Joint, which currently sells at the monthly Farmers Market, is supplying four varieties of award-winning sausages and a range of gourmet ready meals to the Co-op as part of the store's commitment to sourcing locally produced food. The meat can be found in the store's Discovery Zone – an area dedicated to the local community and businesses. The Meat Joint says it provides exceptional care to its stock; the Gloucester Old Spot pigs run freely in outdoor paddocks, whilst sheep graze in clover-rich leys. Chipping Norton is also well served with two popular independent butchers – Kench's and Beadle's – who also provide much locally sourced fresh meat and produce.

Flytipping blight

Flytipping is becoming an increasing menace across Oxfordshire – with 3,300 incidents reported last year. West Oxfordshire, which includes Chipping Norton, saw 532 reported incidents which, according to official statistics, cost over £23,000 to clear up. The County Council, having closed Dean Pit waste tip some years back, is now consulting on further closures across the county – to save money. West Oxfordshire District Councillors are protesting. Some councillors are also suggesting the County should charge residents for each visit to a tip to help pay the costs – but at present charging is illegal and would require a change by the Government.



Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?
A mince spy!

Local help for Syrian refugees

Assistance for Syrian Refugees was discussed in a Chipping Norton Town Hall meeting on 17 November organised by Charlbury's Lib Dem Councillor Andy Graham and introduced by Labour Councillor Geoff Saul. The Government has agreed to accept 20,000 refugees during this parliament, and WODC had committed to provide homes to 6 families over the next six months or so. The meeting discussed what else could be done locally. Local groups spoke about work they were doing: collecting clothes, sleeping bags, blankets, food or financial donations, or organising delivery to refugees' first sanctuary in Greece or personally going to the camps at Calais. There was a well-informed discussion about where assistance could best be channelled. Andy Graham encouraged everyone to use social media to offer help in areas such as collection of donated goods, transport, volunteering, fundraising, cash priorities, and lobbying. If you would like to help, you can contact either Andy Graham at Andyg2439@gmail.com or Geoff Saul at gs@bradleysaul.co.uk.

The Fox reopens

At the end of October Chipping Norton's 16th century inn, The Fox Hotel, reopened after its major refurbishment. Owners Hook Norton Brewery held an opening evening event for guests and opened up to the public the next



lunchtime. Since then it has been busy with both locals and new customers trying out the lounges and bars as well as new menus for lunch and dinner. Hook Norton Brewery's Managing Director, James Clarke, said, 'We acquired the Fox Hotel in 1988. Occupying a prime site in the lovely market town of Chipping Norton, it has traded well over the years, but the time had come for a refurbishment. Seeing the opportunity in this area, we decided to invest in a complete makeover, including the addition of four bedrooms (to make 10 in total). It will be our first managed house and as such a flagship for the brewery. The refurbishment has been carried out sympathetically, but with a contemporary look we are delighted with the result and look forward to having The Fox back as part of Chipping Norton life.' Handcrafted in the Cotswold Hills since 1849, Hook Norton remains one of only 32 independent, family-run breweries. With the founder's great, great grandson, James Clarke, still at the helm, Hook Norton continues to offer a wide range of award winning ales, including Red Rye, Old Hooky, Hooky, Twelve Days and Double Stout.

Dementia Friendly Town

Claire Sexton, a Dementia Friends Champion (as featured in October) spoke to Chipping Norton Town Councillors at their November meeting about increasing understanding of and promoting activities for people living with dementia. In the last year there had been 75 local referrals to local support services from GPs. The Town Council invited Claire to attend their January meeting to discuss the opportunities further.

Mayoral robes shabby

Chipping Norton Town Councillors voted at their November meeting to spend an estimated £1,000 on a new set of 'off the peg' mayoral robes, following a couple of alleged comments critical of the condition of the robes currently sported by Mayor Mike Tysoe.



What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsilitis!

Churchill Village Hall movies

The next Screen by the Green movies at Churchill and Sarsden Village Hall are as follows: Saturday 12 December – *Woman in Gold*, Cert 12A. This compelling film is the remarkable true story of one woman's journey to reclaim her heritage and seek justice for what happened to her family. It stars Helen Mirren as Maria Altmann, an elderly Jewish lady who, 60 years after fleeing Vienna and the Nazis, starts her long struggle to retrieve family art treasures with the help of an impressive Ryan Reynolds as a tenacious young lawyer. Join us for mulled wine and mince pies from 7pm! Saturday 16 January – *My Old Lady*, Cert 12A. Recovering alcoholic, Mathias (Kevin Kline), shows up in Paris having inherited a handsome apartment from his estranged father to find 92-year-old Mathilde (Maggie Smith) and her daughter Chloe (Kristen Scott Thomas) as sitting tenants! All films start at 7.30; tickets £4.50 pay at the door. More information from 659903.

Katharine House update

A celebration of Christmas: A few tickets at £20 (including refreshments) remain for the Festive Celebration on Tuesday 8 December, 7.30pm at All Saints, Churchill, OX7 6NU. **Christmas Bag Pack Days** need volunteers to help on the day, 1.5 hour shifts – Chipping Norton Co-op on Monday 14 December. **Christmas Knitted Novelties** are available from the seven local charity shops. Each novelty is filled with a chocolate and sold for £1. Perfect for table decorations or stocking fillers. **Christmas Quilt Raffle** tickets £1, are on sale with the chance to win one of two

A poster for a production of Robin Hood. The title 'Robin Hood' is written in large, stylized letters. Below it, it says 'By Ben Crocker' and 'Music by Sarah Travis'. The background features a forest scene with a man in a hat and a woman on a horse. At the bottom, it says '17th Nov 2015 to 10th Jan 2016'. There is also a logo for 'THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON' and contact information for the box office.

THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON
BOX OFFICE 01608 642350
www.chippingnortontheatre.com
2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire | OX7 5NL

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beautiful handmade quilts. **Christmas Cards** 16 beautiful new designs on offer this year, including local scenes. The 2016 Local Scenes calendar is also available, £4.50. **KHH Lottery** is a vital income source for Katharine House. Stuck for a Christmas present idea, then a Lottery Gift Membership might be the solution, lottery@khh.org.uk. For further details of any of the above please contact Sarah in the Fundraising Department at the Hospice, 01295 816484, or sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk or visit: www.khh.org.uk or purchase at Hospice reception or KH charity shops.

Back to the future in Finstock



Martha Hitchcox, age 11, of Finstock pictured with builder Steve Peters and the Time Capsule

contributed a piece of work about their life at school or in the village, and every time they see the Village Hall they will have a connection with it'. Village resident, Shaun Morley, Chair of Trustees of Finstock Village Hall, said, 'We are delighted with the time capsule produced by the school children and the considerable thought and effort they all put into it'. The new Village Hall has received substantial support grants from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd and West Oxfordshire District Council.

Finstock Village Hall Regeneration Project began fundraising in earnest two years ago so that the much loved, but dilapidated hall could be replaced with a modern building to cater for the varied needs of the village. On Friday 9 October a ceremony was held when the whole of Finstock School came to the new hall and handed over to the local builder, Steve Peters, a time capsule that is to be placed behind the new Portland stone hall sign, created by local artist and sculptor Alec Peever. Sue Dawe, Head Teacher, said, 'This has been a fantastic opportunity for the children of Finstock School to be involved in the new Village Hall. Every child has



What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas Quacker!

Waste collections: your views

Residents in West Oxfordshire are being asked for comments about their household waste and recycling collections to help the Council plan for any future changes. A short survey asks residents for their views about the containers they use, the types of materials that are collected for recycling and how they use the service. Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment said, 'West Oxfordshire is currently ranked 10th best at recycling in England by letsrecycle.com but with the current contract up for review in 2017 we're taking the

opportunity to evaluate household waste and recycling collections'. When the Council last renewed its contract in 2010 it introduced weekly food waste collections and a fortnightly garden waste service. These are very popular and recycling rates have risen in West Oxfordshire from 34% to 60% in the past five years. The survey can be completed online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/binsurvey or call in at the One Stop Shop at the Guildhall. Deadline for completion of the survey is midday on 7 December 2015. The Council's current contractor is the Kier Group (formerly May Gurney).

WODC are bringing a Recycling Roadshow to The Guildhall on Tuesday 15 December (9am-noon). Staff will give advice on all aspects of recycling and hand out free compostable food waste bags, reusable recycling bags and lots more

What happens to food waste?

Where will those soggy turkey bones go? In the run-up to Christmas, Chipping Norton residents are being invited to a free tour of Agrivert's food waste plant to find out what happens to food leftovers collected in those little black caddies every week by West Oxfordshire District Council. Booking is essential for the popular hour-long tour on 10.30am, Wednesday 9 December at the anaerobic digestion plant at Cassington. Last year WODC collected 3,200 tonnes of food waste from residents. All food waste in West Oxfordshire is collected weekly and then recycled into a liquid fertiliser called 'digestate' for use on local farmland, and enough renewable electricity is generated as a by-product at Cassington to power 4,000 homes. To book a place on the tour, or find out more call 01993 861000.

Care Compassion and Conversation Ltd Domiciliary Care Agency

At Care Compassion and Conversation Ltd, we understand that being able to live at home, maintaining your independence can mean everything to you.

We are able to offer a range of support to help you to do this.

Our services range from companionship to complex personal care by friendly, qualified staff.

We are a locally based company who are committed to raising the standards of care provided in people's homes.

For more information please call:

01608 648656

email: info@carecc.co.uk

or visit our website: www.carecc.co.uk

CQC Registered

Lawrence Team's Xmas news

So far this year the Team has cared for 46 patients with 149 nights and 282 hours of day cover and 274 visits by nurses. This year's Candles of Remembrance Service is by the Town Hall steps from 7pm on Friday 18 December with singing led by the Cotswold Concertiers. There will be mulled wine and home-made mince pies after a short service.

We would like to thank our partner, Savills, for their sponsorship of Move It! taking place at Members' Club, Soho Farmhouse and to Soho Farmhouse and Cowshed Spa for their kind support. All ticket proceeds will go to the Nursing Team. We have sold out of tickets but do join our mailing



Photo: www.jennyastonphotography.co.uk

list www.lawrencehomenursing.org to receive information on forthcoming fundraising events, including our Comedy Evening, 'Laugh for Lawrence', at Ditchley House on Friday 1 July.

The Salford Village Fete and Dog Show took place on August Bank Holiday Monday donating £1060 to Lawrence Home Nursing Team. Thank you to everyone who attended and bought raffle tickets despite the torrential rain!

The Swan at Ascott u Wychwood is taking part in our Restaurant Scheme in December: call 01993 832332 to book your table. Thanks to the following who have participated in the Scheme this year; The Greedy Goose, Chastleton, The Falkland Arms, Great Tew, The Bell Inn, Charlbury, The Mill House Hotel, Kingham, The Harrow at Enstone, The Crown at Church Enstone, The Horse and Groom at Milcombe and Wild Thyme Restaurant Chipping Norton.

On behalf of the Trustees of Lawrence Home Nursing Team, I would like to thank all who have supported our events this year and donated to our wonderful, local Charity.

Verity Fifer

Try building your own home

West Oxfordshire District Council would like to hear from anyone with a local connection to the District who is interested in building their own home. This might be either undertaking their own construction, or employing a local builder to do all or part of the work. This is likely to be a cheaper way to get your own home, than buying from a speculative builder who would expect to make a substantial profit. The scheme is made possible by the Government's Self Build and Custom House-building Act. The District Council is administering this locally, and would like to hear from any



Why can only tiny fairies sit under toadstools?

Because there's not mushroom

interested parties. It urges them to sign up to their new on-line register. Go to <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/self-build-housing/> and select the button labelled 'Join the self build register'. For general information on self-building, see <http://www.selfbuildportal.org.uk/>. The Council would also like to hear from groups of people who would like to join together to build several houses on the same plot. This comes at an opportune time for Chipping Norton, as the Town's Neighbourhood Plan, due to be approved in the next few months, includes provision for self-build plots to be provided within developments of more than 100 houses. The News will be writing a more detailed article on self-build and affordable housing when the Neighbourhood Plan has finally been approved.

A New Year, A New You



What better way to start 2016 than by learning new skills or getting a new hobby? And the best news is: you don't need to leave Chipping Norton to do so.

Feeling artistic? Lots of Drawing and Painting courses, starting this January, £104 fee for three months.

Is your camera gathering dust? An evening course in Digital DSLR Photography – Level 2 – starts in January.

Looking for something different? Posturecise – Beginners – a course to improve your posture. three-month course starts on 12 January.

Malaysian Cookery – Improvers – one-day course, £47, Saturday 30 January.

Knitting – A beginners' course starts on 13 January, £36 fee (and look at www.thefibreworks.co.uk for similar courses).

All these courses are taught at Chipping Norton School. For more information contact Abingdon & Witney College on 01235 555 585.

Finally, for getting fitter ... Local venues like Glyme Hall, the Leisure Centre, the Town Hall or Over Norton Village Hall offer lots of activities during the week, such as Zumba (Wednesdays 6pm, Town Hall), Insanity Workout (Thursdays 6.30pm, Over Norton Hall) or Ravefit, a dance routine with glow sticks in the dark (Sundays at 6pm, Over Norton Hall). Or take up a new sport such as Tae Kwon-do (there's a free offer of a trial month at the Leisure Centre see p30) or maybe Golf – why not take lessons at Chippy's Golf Academy (see p32) and there are lots of other sporting opportunities locally.

Changes at Corbetts



After 31 years of running Corbetts electrical shop in Chipping Norton, Eric and Penny Corbett are retiring and stepping down as directors to be replaced by

Jolyon and Lezanne New who are also directors of Buywise of Banbury. Eric told the News, 'The company was in need of a fresh injection of enthusiasm to take advantage of the new opportunities afforded by social media and the internet' Eric's career began in 1973 as an apprentice Radio & TV engineer with Delnevos' of Witney. The couple started Corbetts from their spare bedroom in Milton under Wychwood in 1984, opened their first shop in Charlbury and moved to Chipping Norton 22 years ago. Eric said 'We've met many lovely people and interesting characters over the years, and dealt with most of the celebrities that live in our beautiful part of the world.' As well as the challenges of running Corbetts the couple had the joys of bringing up 6 children including quadruplets. With a new manager (another Eric!) and the benefits of Jolyon's experience, there is a bright future for Corbetts and Eric and Penny wish the team and all involved at Corbetts every success. They thank customers old and new for their support. Their immediate plans are to 'rest, relax, cycle and catch up on lost time with family and friends'.



Why is it difficult to keep a secret at the North Pole?

Because your teeth chatter

Future of Social Housing

Will there be enough housing for Chippy's young people and families to live locally? A debate amongst West Oxfordshire Councillors has put latest Government proposals under scrutiny. First, a new 'right to buy' policy will force Housing Associations to sell properties to tenants at a discount with WODC estimating that there are about 5,800 homes affected. This is a great opportunity for some to own their own home but this could reduce the stock of affordable rentable social housing. Labour District Councillor Geoff Saul is also concerned that a significant number of the new 'right to buy' properties will eventually fall into the private rented sector as 'buy to let' properties.

To compensate, much more social housing for rent or purchase will be needed. Currently 'affordable housing' is defined as properties for rent at 80% of the market rent, or shared ownership (allowing people to start with only a partial purchase) and, in Chippy, a housing development has to include around 40% of this affordable housing. But the Government's second new proposal is to change the definition of 'affordable housing' to include starter homes for sale at 80% of the market rate. This is still likely to be approaching £200,000 in Chippy. According to Shelter, the

housing charity, families will need an income of around £40,000 to afford such a purchase. Cllr Saul told the News, 'no one would begrudge anyone wanting to buy a discounted starter home but the new starter homes will only be affordable by people who already have a deposit and a sufficient salary to support the required mortgage. We will be ignoring the needs of those people who require a decent, affordable rented home in order to live and work in Chippy'.

Tory Cabinet member for housing, Robert Courts, told the press the Government was committed to more affordable housing but wanted to transform 'generation rent' into 'generation buy'. However, some local District Councillors remain worried that all this new legislation will severely reduce the supply of affordable rented housing in West Oxfordshire when there are 1,721 people on the Council's waiting list for homes. In November WODC Councillors agreed a motion put by Cllr Saul to be debated at January's Cabinet meeting. The motion asks the Council to (a) confirm its support for affordable rented housing and (b) lobby the Government not to encourage the building of starter homes at the expense of future construction of social rented housing.

Charity Summer fete plans

Very few people have not been affected by cancer; with statistics of one in three of us contracting the disease, most of us have a personal experience of cancer. Chipping Norton's Emma and Lucy Clifton want your help! They are organising a summer event in aid of Children with Cancer charity to raise money for the Kamran's Ward at the JR Hospital in Oxford. The event will be on Saturday 16 July 2016 at Chipping Norton Rugby Club from 11am – 3pm. The day is looking to be a fairly large event which will include: a number of stalls, bouncy castles, a few small funfair rides, live music and hopefully some pony rides! Emma and Lucy are currently looking for volunteers to help them out on the day. If this is something you would be interested in please contact them by calling 07415 384178 or emailing lucyclifton1993@hotmail.com or ems1999@hotmail.co.uk. There is a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Summer-Fete-raising-Money-for-Children-with-Cancer-1684737208429903/). They look forward to seeing as many as possible joining in to help raise money for such a great cause! If you have any questions about the event, please do not hesitate to contact Emma and Lucy Clifton.






VINYL SATURDAY!

IT'S BACK!

MORE DONATED VINYL

Saturday 12th December
Oxfam Books & Music, Chipping Norton

Yoga therapy in Chippy



Do you suffer from a chronic health condition? Are you looking for a strategy to manage pain and anxiety levels? Then therapeutic yoga may be for you. Nikki Jackson, an NHS-trained occupational therapist, yoga therapist and mindfulness teacher with over 20 years' experience, is one of several teachers belonging to a small group called yogatherapy-oxfordshire. She is based in Chipping Norton. The aim is to work within the community to run therapeutic yoga classes for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend mainstream classes. The teacher assesses the condition of each participant and tailors an individual programme of gentle yoga aimed at alleviating discomfort, pain and stress. Chronic health conditions can be managed more easily with gentle yoga therapy practices, such as breathing exercises, mindfulness movements and relaxation. Nikki says that yoga therapy is not a religion but rather a tool for people to use independently when they feel the need. The class sessions are nurturing, self-healing and restorative for both the mind and body. Currently Nikki is running therapeutic yoga groups for the MS Society at Chipping Norton Health Centre, at the Physio Studio in

West Street and at the Therapy rooms in New Street. Further information at www.yogatherapy-oxfordshire.co.uk, www.yogafocus.co.uk or on 07816 786656

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A book for Christmas

When was the last time you tried reading a good old classic by Charles Dickens. This winter at Chipping Norton Library, we're focussing on all things Dickensian and you might like to try reading one of his novels on these dark, gloomy nights. Look out, too, for our Christmas Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival at the Methodist Church. That's themed to a Dickensian Christmas too.



Please note, that the library closes at 4pm on 23 December and will reopen at 9.30am on Saturday 2 January, during which time our letterbox will not be open, so hang on to all your borrowed items till the new year. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Judith Bucknall, Library Manager

In the Spotlight Wendy's busy Chippy life

The News team went to talk to Wendy Portman, another of the Town's interesting residents, who now lives at Henry Cornish Care Centre – thanks to Karen Berwick for the introduction – and we discovered an interesting connection...

The News team's 'office' is in Hill Lawn Cottage off New Street – just opposite where the old Regent Cinema was. The cottage happens to be where Wendy lived when her father Harry Baker was the cinema projectionist. Wendy has a book on 'the Dream Palaces of Oxfordshire' with the Regent featured in it, which includes pictures of herself as a young girl, outside the cottage and the old cinema where she spent many an idle afternoon. Wendy is a born and bred Chipping Norton lass, having been born in Rockhill, and has lived here all her life.

When Wendy left school at 14 she went to work as a dental receptionist in the Town but at 18 she caught pneumonia and was off work for a year with complications. This was an extremely difficult time for the family, as they had no financial help from the Government and had to manage without her extra income. After the illness Wendy went to train as a nurse but gave it up to be married at the tender age of 20. She and her husband George had two children: a girl, Wendy, named after her mother and a boy called David. When the children were older Wendy went back to work as an auxiliary nurse until her retirement.



Wendy pictured recently with photos of the old Regent Cinema

She spent time working at Cotshill and Castle View. It didn't take Wendy long to decide that being busy was preferable to being bored and as she wanted to do more work for the community, was appointed first warden at Vernon House

where she spent many a happy time. She also started on a new adventure as a volunteer to train guide dogs. Questa was the name of Wendy's first guide dog puppy but after Questa was mistreated by the new owner she decided to keep her as her own addition to the family. Wendy and her husband George raised four guide dog puppies but wouldn't give them up until they had had their first birthday and a nice big cake to eat to celebrate this. When Wendy handed her last puppy over to its new family, she decided that she wanted to settle down and so

began a very happy retirement for George and Wendy until the passing of George just before their Golden Wedding anniversary. After two years she went to live with her daughter for 14 years until moving to live in the Henry Cornish Care Centre a year ago which she is really enjoying.

A happy Christmas to Wendy and all at the Henry Cornish Care Centre.

William (Bill) Reginald Tanner

10 December 1920 – 28 August 2015

Bill lived in Chipping Norton all his life, apart from his war years, and worked for the Council for 44 years. He was born in Albion Street and went to school in Church Street. At the age of nine, he joined the Salvation Army Band, but when they disapproved of his visits to the local cinema, he and some friends formed the Chipping Norton Silver



Temperance Band. He went on to play trumpet in a dance band called The Blue Lyers, which played in the Town Hall every Saturday night and at local dances. During the war, Bill served in the Royal Engineers, on bomb disposal. He was initially based in Belfast, where he met his wife, Lila, and was later sent to clear mines in France and Belgium. Bill and Lila had three sons, Robert James, Philip and William Reginald Jnr. The couple enjoyed ballroom dancing and became keen dancers, a hobby which took up much of their spare time for many years. After Lila's death in 2003, Bill started to play pool and could often be found at Chipping Norton Football Club and The Black Horse, Salford. Not being a drinking man, he found a way of making a half of lager last all night! He also attended the Highlands Day Centre four days a week, which he enjoyed very much. In his

final years Bill found contentment at home in his bungalow in Cornish Road, where he had lived for 32 years following his retirement. Bill was a quiet unassuming gentleman, but had an eventful life – and like his father before him was a 'Chippy man'.

From notes by Reg Tanner

Police and crime update

This month's update from PC Mick Anderton and local press reports

West Street fight – Approximately 1.25am on the 14 November, a fight involving eight people took place on West Street and persons were injured. The fight continued all the way down New Street to Dunstan Avenue. If you have any further information please contact police and quote crime reference number 43150321638

More sheds burgled – The latest shed break-in around Chipping Norton saw fishing tackle and power tools taken. Three sheds were broken into just off the A44 near Heythrop sometime between 13 and 15 October and several farms have also reported sheds being broken into. East Downs Farm, Chipping Norton, had a Stihl hedge trimmer stolen from a locked building overnight on 7–8 October. Police ask everyone to check the state of security on your outbuildings, sheds and garages.

Catapult damage – Police are investigating seven incidents of criminal damage caused by either a catapult or paint gun. Marbles shot from a device have damaged car and house windows – putting the public at risk. The neighbourhood policing team want information to catch the offenders and are working closely with other police departments regarding these crimes. The offences occurred in Chipping Norton, Enstone, Glympton and Wootton during the evening of 19 October and in Sandford St Martin on 26 and 27 October.

Child Sexual Exploitation awareness – PCSO Chris Jones recently organised two Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) awareness events, including a film and discussion in Chipping Norton, which attracted large audiences.

Anti-bullying week – was from 16-20 November when the neighbourhood team gave presentations at various schools around the area.

October Crime – There were no calls for police assistance on Halloween this year. During the last month there had been five assaults in the town centre during what police termed 'the night time economy'; 12 garage and one shed break-ins, four incidents of criminal damage, three thefts, three incidents of shoplifting, two thefts of motor vehicles and seven incidents of making off without payment.

Evidence of Legal High abuse – a box of nearly 30 spent Nitrous Oxide (N2O – laughing gas) capsules and five balloons were spotted outside the Royal Mail depot in Station Road, Chipping Norton and similar items have been found in the shelter by the MUGA (multi use games area) on the recreation ground and also on the steps of the now-demolished Solar Designs building in Station Road. All this was reported to police who had no comment other than 'If anyone is offered anything of a suspicious nature or sees anything suspicious please ring Thames Valley Police on 101'.

For advice contact your neighbourhood team on the police non-emergency number 101. You can also email: ChippingNortonNeighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.

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CHURCHES AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas: A time of gifts

This year's Christmas reflection is written by Angela Kyte a local Quaker involved in the revival of regular Quaker meetings in Chipping Norton

Have you, like me, been racking your brains trying to find suitable presents for friends and family in the run-up to Christmas? I wonder how often we think about ourselves as recipients of gifts. Maybe there's the sigh as you remember the brave face you put on as Aunt Amelia yet again handed over a garish cuckoo clock or an unfashionable jumper, or the warm smile as your youngest child produced an over glued and over glittered card, but have you ever stopped to think what it is like to be always on the receiving end of gifts from others?

There are plenty of people who are unable to give presents. Maybe it's because they are homeless or because their income is insufficient to buy the toys or clothes that their children long for. As you rush around, working down your present-buying list, imagine what it might feel like to be the man or woman sitting in the street, hoping that the next passer-by won't make the

assumption that you are a drug addict or a scrounger, and that passer-by will give you one or two coins. How must it be to be one of the refugees fleeing from the terror of war, finding yourself in a hostile Europe with nothing, dependent on the goodwill of those who contribute to the charities? Can you imagine being helpless in a wheelchair or hospital bed in need of care for even your most intimate needs?



Christmas is when the church reminds us of a baby born in a stable, and a family without a roof over their heads. The story in the Bible goes on to tell of shepherds and Wise Men bringing gifts. It can be hard to be gracious and kind as we receive a gift, especially if we can give nothing in return, but it is a way of offering thanks, and can in itself be a gift to others. As we give and receive presents this Christmas, remember those who can only give their warmth and gratitude and remind yourself that this too is a gift.

Christmas Services

Community Church

Sunday 20 December
4pm Carol Service at CN School

Methodist Church

Sunday 13 December
11am Junior Church Christmas Celebration
Sunday 20 December
11am Morning Worship
6pm Carols by Candlelight
followed by coffee & mince pies
Christmas Day
10am Family Service



St Mary's Church (Anglican)

Sunday 20 December
6pm Carol Service by Candlelight followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Service (note time)
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion;
10.45am Family Celebration

St James' Chapel Over Norton (Anglican)

Sunday 20 December
9.15am Morning Worship with Carols

Holy Trinity Church (Roman Catholic)

Christmas Eve

6pm Vigil Mass for Christmas
11pm Christmas Carols
11.30pm Christmas Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10.30am Mass (Confessions by request)

Baptist Church

No Christmas services in Chipping Norton. However Baptists are welcome to attend the joint service on

Christmas Day

10am Service at Woodstock Baptist Church



FESTIVE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Let's Celebrate!!

Now is the season for parties and romantic dinners. Christmas, New Year, Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day are upon us in the next couple of months. With this in mind the Newsteam's Sue Hadland reports on visits to three of our local restaurants to sample what they have on offer.

First up was **Wild Thyme** where four of us went for dinner on a Saturday evening. As usual the restaurant was full, booking is essential, and the welcome warm. They do have a Festive Menu but at weekends it is only available for large parties and everything has to be pre-ordered, but during the week anyone can sample it. We made our choices off the main menu which is priced at £37.50 for three courses. The double baked goats cheese soufflé which two of us had, was delicious, made to perfection. How do they do it? The main course of local venison, pan fried loin, borscht, pancetta, braised red cabbage, rosti potato, wild mushroom, sour cream and dill was declared a triumph by my friend Leigh who is a bit of a gastronome. I had the local partridge, a kiev breast, tortellini, salt baked pear, creamed celeriac, savoy cabbage, girolles and Madeira cream game jus. The combination of flavours was wonderful but I did find the Kiev a little dry. One thing you must do here is allow plenty of time. Everything is cooked to order and a meal can take up to three hours. We made this mistake and had to forego dessert. We were able however to enjoy the cheeseboard. A selection of seven local cheeses with grape chutney and homemade biscuits. One of the best cheeseboards I have ever had. This is the place to go if you want to impress and why it doesn't have a Michelin Star, I do not know.

The next Friday I went to **The Thai Shire**, such a cosy, homely place with its fusion of Thai, Malaysian and Chinese cuisines. For around £20 a head you can eat a feast. My

favourite dishes are the Chinese mixed starters and their steamed fish. The sizzling beef in black bean sauce is excellent and their Singapore noodles make a spicy alternative to rice. What this restaurant really does well is New Year, both English and Chinese. The New Year's Eve party at £38 per head is not to be missed. I have been twice. You get 8 courses spread over the evening culminating in Champagne and a very lively party at midnight. An evening to remember.

Finally Mr Munchie and I went to **Whistlers** the following Friday evening. The restaurant was not full on that occasion but it certainly deserves to be. Some work has been done on the decor and it is bright, well lit with reflective marble topped tables; everything a brasserie should be. The serving staff are very attentive and I immediately felt welcome there. The food was in excess of my expectations and fairly priced, less than £25 for a three course meal. The scallops were melt in the mouth and the sea bream main course in a bouillabaisse sauce with squid, prawns and crispy croutes absolutely delicious. Mr Munchie's deep fried brie with honey and pinenuts was declared a hit and his pizza was nice and spicy. They do have a Christmas Menu and also a very nice looking New Year's Eve offering. See their very well presented website for details.

So I have had a busy month and I hope have given you some ideas. I will be back in February having had a look at The Fox and the new Hotel at the Golf Club



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WHAT'S ON AT CHRISTMAS

Thursday 3 - Sunday 6 December

Methodist Christmas Tree Festival details of this now annual popular event are on p26

Friday 4 December

Chippy Xmas shopping night Chipping Norton holds its traditional late night shopping, thanks to Experience Chipping Norton. Fun for all the family with a treasure hunt, hog roast, mince pies and mulled wine from the different shops and stalls. Holy Trinity School choir will be singing carols and the Brownies have a lantern procession finishing up singing around the tree outside Jaffé & Neale. There will be charity stalls, raffle prizes to be won and competitions for 'Best shopkeeper's Christmas jumper' and 'Best Dressed Christmas Dog'. A great evening for Christmas shopping while supporting our local business and organisations!

Saturday 5 December

Town Christmas Dance: Unfortunately the Christmas Dance had to be cancelled due to low ticket sales.

Chipping Norton Choral Society perform Handel's *Messiah* 7.30 St Mary's Church Chipping Norton – details p23

Saturday 12 December

Chadlington Christmas Concert: *A Cotswold Christmas by Candlelight* is an evening of seasonal music and readings with mulled wine and nibbles at 7pm in St Nicholas Church, Chadlington. Including Craig Ogden, Wychwood Chorale members, Chadlington School children and soloists. Tickets £10 from Bec 676685 or Chris 684234.

North Cotswold Chamber Choir: *Joy to the World* – a carol concert with readings. 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Adderbury. Tickets from Jaffé & Neale.

Tuesday 15 December

Kingham Choral Festive Concert: Celebrate Christmas in Song & Verse 7.30pm at Kingham Primary School Hall. Favourite Christmas songs with light-hearted readings, poems, raffle and mince pies. Good company and your chance to sing along too. The perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit! Tickets £6 from choir members, Kingham Coffee and Kingham Stores or call 658647.

Wednesday 16 December

Town Hall Christmas Bingo: Holy Trinity PTA are holding a Prize Christmas Bingo and Raffle evening at Chipping Norton Town Hall. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm. £5 on the door, bar and snacks.

Kingham Christmas Bingo: Come and join in with Kingham All Blacks FC at Kingham Village Hall. Doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30.

Friday 18 December

Candles of Remembrance: The service organised by the Lawrence Home Nursing Team will be by the Town Hall steps from 7pm. Singing by the Cotswold Concertiers with mulled wine and mince pies after a short service.



Monday 21 December

Solstice at the Lido: Season's greetings from everyone at The Lido! You can come and celebrate the Winter Solstice. From 6pm on 21 December there'll be a fire, a donation bar, cakes, music and dancing, and the steam room will be open! Tickets just £6 from Jaffé & Neale (£4 for children/concessions), include hot food and your first cup of mulled cider (or apple juice). Over the weekend of 12/13 December the Lido team will be at The Co-op store to help pack your shopping in return for a donation. Or, indeed, with your own particular bag-packing protocols, you can pay them not to pack your bag! Support and involvement welcome in both

events. You can help the Lido secure its future with their Lottery or direct donations to The Lido or via www.Totalgiving.com. More at www.chippylido.co.uk. Meanwhile work continues behind the scenes to ensure the pools can open next summer.

Ring in the Winter Solstice: Voicesunlimited are celebrating the winter solstice on 21 December in Charlbury at the Memorial Hall. Time TBC. Please join us in our musical celebration with seasonal songs and carols. Further details at [www.kath@songspace.co.uk](mailto:kath@songspace.co.uk) or on 01993 868487.

5-24 December



Santa at Fairytale Farm: Santa returns to Fairytale Farm this Christmas at weekends from 5-20 December and daily 21-24th. At the Farm's magical 'Christmas Fairytale' event, children can meet Santa in his grotto and receive a present, join in various Christmas activities, enjoy all the usual Fairytale Farm attractions and Christmas lights. There's Christmas cookie decorating, Santa's Christmas hunt and mulled wine and mince pies for the grownups. The animal areas and adventure playground will be open until dusk, then the Christmas lights are on, creating a wonderland of colour. Grotto tickets £4.95, plus normal farm admission, includes Santa visit, gift, Christmas cookie decorating plus the mince pie and mulled wine for parents. Non-farm visitors can meet Santa for £7.50. Details www.fairytalefarm.co.uk

25 December

Christmas Day Services: See details on page 17.

Pubs & Hotels open at lunchtime: If you fancy Christmas Day pre-lunch drink with friends in a local pub, there are a few options for you. In Chippy, only The Crown & Cushion will be open, but is fully booked for lunch. In Churchill, the Chequers will be open noon-2pm for drinks; in Chadlington the Tite Inn will be open for drinks noon until 3-ish or longer depending upon customers; at The Wild Rabbit in Kingham the bar will be open all day. The former Harrow pub in Enstone is now the Artyard Café with Mediterranean style food but is planning to offer a traditional set menu on Christmas Day. All the other pubs and restaurants that we contacted were already fully booked for Christmas day lunch.



CHRISTMAS TR

The Christmas and Boxing Day holiday has many
Norton has a fair share of

Pantomime tradition



Don't forget your tickets for **Robin Hood**, this year's Panto at Chipping Norton Theatre. Today's Pantomines can be traced back to the ancient Roman festival of 'Saturnalia', a midwinter feast when life was turned upside down, men dressed as women and vice versa, with comic results. Panto came to Britain from Italy in the 18th century with the Commedia dell'Arte, the Italian tradition for improvised theatre. Over time traditional stories got mixed up with fairy tales, folk stories of the Arabian Nights. These evolved into the dozen or so familiar productions we see today. In the late 19th and early 20th century, music hall artists and well known actors played the main parts just as today, TV personalities and pop stars take the opportunity to tread the boards.

Christmas



Chipping Norton's late December is a good time for Christmas crackers which were introduced to Britain around 1847 by sweetmaker Tom Smith. The crackers contain French bonbons which are wrapped in paper with twists at the ends. In the early days sweets weren't a great success so watching a sparking log was the idea of including the crackers. The cracker container was pulled apart and the prizes (like Kings), riddles and small



The Boxing Day Hunt

Around 10am on Boxing Day there is the traditional meet of the Heythrop Hunt in Chipping Norton's Market Place. It is a longheld event which attracts many spectators but not many people know anything of the history of this famous local hunt. Up until 1835 this area was hunted by the Duke of Beaufort who lived at Badminton. From September to Christmas and March to April, the whole operation moved to Oxfordshire/Gloucestershire only to return to their home base in the early part of the year. Eventually this arrangement became too impractical and the independent hunt known as the Heythrop was formed under Lord Redesdale and Mr Langston of Sarsden. Another well known Chipping Norton figure, Albert Brassey was Master from 1873 to 1918. The area hunted includes the estates of Batsford, Sezincote, Ditchley, Sarsden, Great Tew, Rousham, Blenheim, Swinbrook and Cornbury. Nowadays, the Heythrop is an intrinsic part of the local community and its economy bringing visitors to the area. Hunting takes place four days a week and other events are held throughout the year, such as the Pony Club meetings and Point to Point racing.



Christmas Down U

Christmas day!
and 9 hours of sunshine forecast for
planned? Visiting friends in Banbury
am Street? After exchanging presents,
restaurant, such as the local Thai, Indian
rads, Pizza Hut or KFC? Alternatively, a
! Drive and Grantham Place to head off
takes spotting pelicans in the mangroves
good? Well, maybe not here but,
in Chipping Norton New
be doing just that! And, yes,
es in Chippy down under!

ADDITIONS

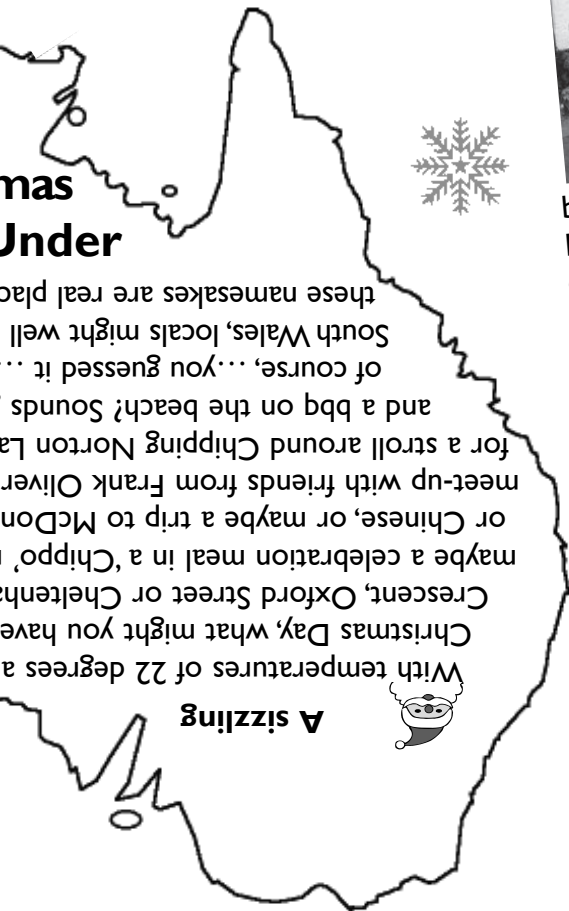
traditions drawn from far and wide. Chipping
such festive activities.



s Crackers



night shopping day on 4
d time to buy your
which were first made in
15-1850 by London
a. He got the idea from
were wrapped in pretty
each end. Originally the
at success but whilst
fire one evening, he got
e 'bang' when the sweet
part. His business took
crowns (from the Three
l toys.



mas Under

these namesakes are real plac
South Wales, locals might well
of course, ...you guessed it ...
and a bdq on the beach? Sounds
for a stroll around Chipping Norton La
meet-up with friends from Frank Oliver
or Chinese, or maybe a trip to McDona
maybe a celebration meal in a 'Chippo'
Crescent, Oxford Street or Cheltenham
Christmas Day, what might you have
With temperatures of 22 degrees a

A sizzling



Christingle

The Christingle service in St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton is at 4pm on Christmas Eve. The idea of Christingle came from the Moravian Church in Germany around 1747. The Minister gave the children in his congregation a lighted candle with a red ribbon tied around which represented Jesus as the light of the world. When the Moravian Church came to England in the late 1700s, the custom came with it. In today's service, an orange represents the world, the candle, tall and straight, gives light in the darkness like the love of God. The red ribbon is seen as a symbol of the blood of Christ shed when He died on the cross. The word itself probably comes from the German Christkindl, meaning Little Christ Child.



Mummers the word



Why not try a nearby
Mummers Play on Boxing Day?
Mummers Plays, or Mummie
Plays, are ritualistic
performances probably over a
thousand years old,
traditionally associated with
Christmas time (Midwinter
Solstice). Although usually

broadly comic, the plays are based on themes of Dualism and Resurrection and generally involve a battle between two or more characters, representing Goodness against Evil. The central incident is the killing and restoring to life of one of the characters, who include a Hero (usually Saint, King, or Prince George), his chief opponent, (Turkish Knight or a soldier named Slasher), the Fool, and a quack Doctor who needs to have a patient to cure. The hero sometimes kills and sometimes is killed by his opponent; in either case, the Doctor comes to restore the dead man to life. Other characters might include Father Christmas, Beelzebub, Robin Hood, Little Devil Doubt. Now that our local Mummers (Kingstone Rappers) have disbanded the nearest Boxing Day Mummers plays are in Oxford where the Headington Quarry Morris perform at the Crown & Thistle (11.15am), The Six Bells (12.15pm), Chequers (1pm), and Mason's Arms (1.45), all in Headington; Further south, Wantage Morris perform at Faringdon Market Place 10am, The Bear Hotel, Wantage, at noon and at The Hatchet Inn, near Wantage, 1pm; and to the north, Ilmington Morris will be at the The Howard Arms at 1pm and The Red Lion at 2pm, both in Ilmington on the way to Stratford.

The Theatre

Robin Hood – a perfect panto!



Photo: Ric Mellis

Robin Hood (Scott Ellis) and Maid Marion (Madeleine Leslay)

Deep in the forest, Maid Marion hurtles into the lives of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws, and they immediately fall for each other. Together they must save the lives of the niece and nephew of the evil Sheriff of Nottingham, who wants to bump the kids off to get his hands on their inheritance. What's more, he has his eye on Maid Marion.

Unsurprisingly for a folk story about spreading the wealth, wise cracks about taxes and toffs are rife. The Sheriff of Nottingham, as played by Andrew Piper, is a top toff. He calls the evening, with relish, a 'baddie's panto'. It's certainly his show, and he and his sidekick Dennis (Samuel Dutton) make a great comic double act.



Photo: Ciaran Dowd



Photo: Ric Mellis

Directed by Abigail Anderson, the panto moves at a cracking pace. The characters – all of them loveable no matter how nasty some of them want us to think they are – are all well-defined from their very first scenes, a particular highlight being the entrance of Connie Clatterbottom (Andrew Pepper), the flamboyant school teacher panto dame. The acting is terrific all round, and special mention must go to the Pippins playing Tilly and Tommy.

Ultimately it's a production with a big heart that even the youngest will enjoy – no scary stuff, just catchy songs, gloriously over-the-top costumes, and lots of laughs. It's a real inclusive, feel-good show; just as a perfect panto ought to be.

Robin Hood is on at The Theatre until 10 January. Tickets are available in person from the Box Office in Goddard's Lane (642350) or online: www.chippingnortontheatre.com

Gillian Lowe

Books for Christmas

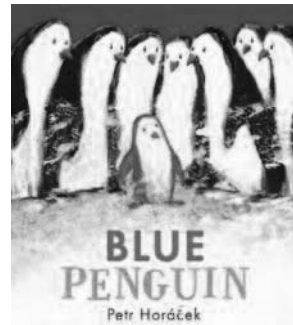
Local interest: *Take Six Girls: The Lives of the Mitford Sisters* by Laura Thompson delves into the scandals and sibling rivalry of the famous sisters who dominated the headlines in the mid-20th century, and who continue to fascinate us today.

Village Christmas and other Notes on the English Year by Laurie Lee is a nostalgic journey back to the traditions of Lee's childhood Cotswolds home: from May Day rituals to gardening, from carol singing in the snow to pub conversations and songs.

For grown-ups: *Think Like an Artist: How to Live a Happier, Smarter, More Creative Life* is the latest book by BBC Arts Editor and BBC Radio Oxford presenter Will Gompertz. It explores how we can adopt the practices of the world's most creative thinkers to help us achieve extraordinary things too.

For kids: *Once Upon a Northern Night* by Jean E. Pendziwol and beautifully illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault. As a young child sleeps, a beautiful northern night unfolds: animals awaken, snow swirls, stars twinkle and winds whisper. A magical book to read to the kids at bedtime.

For those who love the striking Jaffé & Neale window displays created by children's illustrator Petr Horáček, his latest picture book is *Blue Penguin*. Illustrated in his colourful, warm style, it tells the story of a little blue penguin who wants to be accepted by the other penguins.



For the coffee table: *Soviet Bus Stops* is the unlikely title and concept for a beautiful collection of photographs detailing public art and creative minds from the Soviet era. By photographer Christopher Herwig.

All books available at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop & Café, info@jaffeandneale.co.uk.

Callum's prize-winning photo



Callum Harvey, an A-level student at Burford School, won first prize of £100 for his photo St Peter's Filkins I. Year 12 and 13 students from Chipping Norton and Burford Schools were invited to take part in a photo competition

sponsored by the Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society. The competition is part of the CDFAS programme to encourage students' participation in the Arts.

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Oxfordshire Crafts Guild Exhibition

From now until 23 December the works of many members of the Oxfordshire Crafts Guild will be on show at The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN.

Visit www.oxcg.co.uk for opening times and see www.facebook.com/oxfordshirecraftguild for more details.



December & January events

The Chipping Norton Choral Society and Cotswold Baroque Orchestra, conducted by Peter Hunt, will be performing Handel's *Messiah* at St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton, on Saturday 5 December at 7.30pm. Tickets £12 in advance, £15 on the door. Under 14s free. Available on 01869 338586, from Jaffé and Neale, tickets@cncs.org.uk or from choir members.

The Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society



Christmas lecture, 9 December. Peter Medhurst will speak on *We Three Kings: music, art, legends and poetry inspired by the Magi*. On 13 January the lecture is *The Drama Behind the Taj Mahal* by Oliver Everett, 11am at Bradwell Village

Hall, Burford (coffee and mince pies from 10.15). Non-members welcome (suggested donation £8). For more details see website www.cotswolddfas.org.uk.

Charlbury Art Society will meet on 9 December at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Browns Lane, Charlbury. Glenda Chadwick will give an illustrated talk on *Nativity Art*, followed by seasonal drinks and canapés. Everyone welcome. Free for Society members; £5 for non-members. For further information on the Society phone Marion Coates on 810116.

On 13 January, comedian **Ruby Wax** will be talking about her new book, *A Mindfulness Guide for the Frazzled*, 6.30pm, Methodist Church Hall, Chipping Norton. Contact Jaffé & Neale for ticket details. Tel: 641033, info@jaffeandneale.co.uk.

Lenthall Concerts: Wednesday 13 January, 7.30pm, Burford School, performed by the Bochmann Trio, Maria Tarasewicz (piano) and Leon Bosch (double bass). Beethoven's String Trio in D op 9 no 2; Bottesini's Grand duo; Schubert's Quintet in A (The 'Trout'). Tickets from Madhatter Bookshop, 122 High Street, Burford: 01993 822539, or Lenthall Concerts: 01993 824949. Visit www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk for details.

On 13 February **The Nortonians** present *Sherlock's Excellent Adventure* by James Barry. Matinée and evening performances, the Town Hall, Chipping Norton. Tickets £8 to include light refreshments. Tickets available from 6 January, The Newsagent, West St and wegottickets.com. Tel 01993 830930 for further details.



Local Festivals in 2016

A Brief Summary of Festivals in Chipping Norton next year:

104th Chipping Norton Music Festival, March

The Festival runs from 4-19 March and opens with the Youth Jazz Band Challenge in Chipping Norton School Hall, followed the next day by choirs all day in the Town Hall. Throughout the festival there will be over 100 classes in music and drama for all ages, individuals and groups, including strings, woodwind and brass, piano, voice, and composition through to verse-speaking. There will also be concerts in the Town Hall by well-known musicians:

6 March at 7.45pm: Gin and Jazz with the Helen Abbey Quartet; highly rated, Helen is described as a 'smooth' jazz musician.



13 March at 3.30pm: Ellipsis, a piano, flute and oboe trio of international fame.

Syllabus available now at Jaffé & Neale or email secretary@cnmf.org.uk.

Chiplitfest, April

ChiplitFest runs from 21-24 April and is a Festival for writers as well as readers. Many have enjoyed the extraordinary range of workshops and interactive events over the past four years. The Literary Festival will host a range of events for readers, writers, children and young people, illustrators and poetry fans. A new element in ChiplitFest 2016 is the appointment of two popular children's authors, Jo Cotterill and John Dougherty, to curate its programme for schools and young peoples.

The varied events will take part in several venues around the Town including The Theatre, Town Hall, a pub, a hotel, a school, a church and, of course, a bookshop. www.chiplitfest.com (launched in January) will keep you up to date with events and authors attending.

Fibre Festival, May



This Festival, on Saturday 28th, celebrating the making and designing of fabric and all things wool, is organised by Fibreworks on Middle Row. In 2015 their guest speaker was Kaffe Fassett and next year they will have an even more colourful speaker: fashion designer Zandra Rhodes. She has been an international fashion designer and icon for over 40 years; with her trade-mark pink hair, dramatic clothes, jewellery and make-up she is a walking advertisement for her designs which are glamorous and individual. She will talk about her career and show some of her iconic designs, worn by local models. Tickets go on sale 25 January (18 January for Friends of the Theatre).

Chippy Jazz and Music, September

For the very first time, the Chippy Jazz and Music Festival will be a two-day event on Saturday and Sunday, 10 and 11 September. There will be live jazz in town centre venues throughout the weekend, plus a concert with school jazz bands on the Sunday. And then, to round things off on the Sunday evening, some top-quality jazz stars in concert.

CLUB NEWS

Rainbows go roundabout

This term the Chipping Norton District Rainbows have completed the Roundabout Global Adventure Badge and part of this involved looking at Fair Trade. After obtaining some



information from the Co-op, we were invited to visit the local store. So on Tuesday 10 November 20 Rainbows from the unit had the chance to look at Fair Trade products, taste various foods including fruit, cake and bread and touch some raw fish. The girls had an amazing time and we would like to thank Sarah, Kristel and Hollie for making us feel so welcome and the activities so interesting.

Rainbows, part of Girlguiding, is open to girls from 5-7 years old. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers and if you are interested, please contact Alison Dunbar on 644480 for further information.

Lions welcome Santa to Town

The Lions, like many other clubs and charities, are having a busy Christmas. We would like to thank all who attended the Reindeer Race in November; we will announce the total raised in the New Year. However, we have one more event to cover and that is Santa's visit to the Town. Thanks to Cotswold Newagents and Tayler & Fletcher, the Lions have permission to turn the Old Post Office into a Grotto. Santa can be visited from 4pm on Friday 4 December and then 10am-4.30pm on Saturday 5 December. Entry to the Grotto will be by ticket only. Tickets (£5 per child – includes a wrapped present) are on sale at Bartholomew's Hairdressing, Gill & Co, and The Co-op Chemist.

The money raised by these events will fund 'Message in a Bottle' bottles and hampers for anyone in real need at



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Christmas. It will also be used to maintain Defibrillators (and our fleet of mobility scooters. We now have three spare scooters. Anyone in medical need of one should contact the Lions. And some good news – the Defibrillator in Hailey Road, is now operational.

For further information or if you'd like to join Chipping Norton Lions, please visit chippingnortonlions.org.uk, or contact President Rob Caswell (646003) or any Lion.

Liz Nason

Festivities to come with CNWI

Members of Chipping Norton Women's Institute enjoyed a very practical Christmas craft workshop at their meeting on 11 November. Under the expert guidance of Ann Sharman and after much diligent stitchery, a most attractive collection of Christmas tree decorations was created, to the credit of all concerned.

At our next gathering on 9 December, the Christmas party will take place, with bring and share refreshments, festive fun and plenty of time for conversation. Although we do not have a meeting in January, we will mark the anniversary of our WI's formation in 1948 with a lunch at the Crown & Cushion. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us in the lower Town Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm.

Prudence Chard 642903

History Society on their mettle

The meeting opened to the foot-tapping tunes of the morris as Stephen Wass played us in to our meeting. Mr Wass is an archaeologist currently working on several projects, including one at Enstone; he is also an Adderbury Man, as both dancer and musician. His subject was 'Old Mettle' or, to give him his proper name, William Castle. William was a weaver's son, born in Adderbury around 1792, and left fatherless six years later. There is much contemporary writing about his adult life in and around Banbury. Mr Wass encouraged our participation by handing round excerpts from diaries and journals which each of us read out at the appropriate moment. William was born with a defect more recently acknowledged as Moebius Syndrome, and it is possibly this disability which defined his life. He was very poor but always in work of some sort, selling matches he made himself, assisting the sexton at St Mary's, and most notably, playing the Fool at many events, where he loved to dress up. Despite being a convicted thief, he survived when others didn't. Interestingly, he was accepted by Society, even if he was not liked. He was so well-known that his portrait was printed several times and one of these prints attracted our speaker to seek further information.

Our next meeting will be on 14 December. Many of you will have Witney blankets at home. So come along to the Methodist Hall at 7.30pm to hear Valerie Burton's talk on their history and her memories of the famous firm.

Liz Whitaker

Folk Club's festive spread

We had a delightful and musical mix of old and new friends at Folk Club last month, with tunes on harmonica, slide guitar, banjo and hammer dulcimer. We heard three-part unaccompanied harmony, Americana, Pete Seeger, Beatles, blues, folk and songs from local songwriters. The back room at the Blue Boar came alive to the sounds of harmony, rhythm

and laughter. The night ended with every stringed instrument in the place jamming along to Bill's blues harmonica, not to mention every foot tapping. Thanks Bill!

On Monday 14 December at 7.30 we have our 'Christmas edition' which is always popular, with a festive spread provided by the Club. All are welcome. Come along and sing, play, recite or just listen. £1.50 on the door at the Blue Boar. (Festive songs optional but welcome!)

Rachel Chai

Rotary works for the Community



Pat Lake received a cheque on behalf of Highlands from Rotary President Martin Jarratt

During November, we welcomed new members and enjoyed a diverse range of speakers and activities at our weekly meetings. Bonfire Night, our charity fundraising event, was held at Kings Stone Farm, Little Rollright (by kind permission of David Haine.) During the evening, which was a great success, donations were given to Chipping Norton Scouts, Cricket Club, Museum, Lido, Theatre, Youth Theatre, Highlands, Skater Hockey Club, Stroke Club and Hospital Action Group.

Our Good Neighbour Scheme – the voluntary car service for medical appointments – is proving very successful and widely used. If you require transport, please call 01993 776277. We hope to extend this Scheme to include services such as befriending, gardening, shopping etc. If you prefer to work with young people, we hope to start a group for young carers in the spring.

If you would like to get involved, help in your community and meet new people, please contact me, Annie Roy-Barker, 644107. I really look forward to hearing from you.

Steam into 2016 with the Railway Club

We welcomed John Dagley-Morris in November, a return visit after fifteen years, to talk about 'Mainline Steam – 1970 Onwards'. John has travelled the UK, especially Devon and Cornwall, in order to obtain rare shots of preserved steam on the main line. He has experienced conditions in all weathers, going to much trouble and walking long distances, cross-country and over poor terrain. As usual his slides were of excellent quality. A dedicated man for sure!

For our festive meeting on 1 December, Frank Cooper returns to talk about 'The Great Western Society – Rail Motors'; when we will enjoy our usual glass or two of wine with hot mince pies. And of course, our now famous Christmas Raffle! New members and visitors will be very welcome to join us on this, our final meeting of the season.

A big thank you to Joyce Langan for donating a railway artefact, a limited edition George V engine plaque; belonging to her late husband John. He was an engine driver in the local area and also visited the club as a speaker; delivering his memories of steam in Chippy. We will raffle it as a prize in our Christmas Draw. Finally, the Chairman and Committee wish

all members and friends a very happy Christmas and extend an invitation to steam into the New Year, ready for the new programme and our AGM on 2 February 2016.

Estelle Brain 641586

Flower Club's successful Fayre

Thank you to all who supported Chadlington Flower Club's Craft Fayre, which raised £450 for Club funds. October's meeting saw Louise from Foscoate Wreaths inspire us with a demonstration of how to make fabulous Christmas wreaths for our front doors. We are looking forward to our Christmas dinner at the Mill House Hotel in Kingham and also busy preparing next year's programme. New members are always welcome. Phone Ann Anston on 683289 for details.

Elaine Parsons

Christmas treats at NOOG

Following November's fascinating, detailed introduction and demonstration of how to keep a wormery, our next meeting, on Wednesday 2 December, will be more domestic. North Oxon Organic Gardeners' now time-honoured December 'eating meeting' will be an opportunity to bring along samples of our families' traditional Christmas fare to share. The more obscure and interesting, the better! There is no entrance fee for those contributing to this pre-Christmas feast.

With no meeting in January, we start the New Year on Wednesday 3 February in inspiring style. James Campbell, the new and highly effective Chief Executive of Garden Organic (formerly known as the Henry Doubleday Research Association) will be coming to speak. He'll bring us up to date on the developments and activities of this highly regarded national organisation, based at Ryton Gardens near Coventry. Do join us. Meetings start at 7.30pm, in St Mary's Parish Rooms. Visitors: £3, Members: £1. For enquiries about NOOG, please contact tracylean@gmail.com, 01295 780710, www.noog.org.uk.

Tai Chi in the New Year

The Phoenix and Dragon School of Tai chi continues its classes in the New Year. Would you like to try a session in a relaxing and friendly environment? Please drop in to our weekly classes in Chipping Norton from Tuesday 5 January (7-8.30pm Tai chi Chen style, St Mary's School) or Hook Norton from Wednesday 6 January (10-10.30am Double fan Chen style, 10.30-11.30am Tai chi for 50+, Memorial Hall). All levels and ages welcome. Info: www.chippingnortontaichi.co.uk or call 07940 304110.



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CLUB NEWS

Air Cadets on Parade

ATC cadets have recently been training on radios and in first aid, learning about airmanship and leadership, doing night exercises and playing sports. Weekend activities included a



136 (Chipping Norton) Squadron Air Cadets at Chipping Norton War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday 2015

Radio Operator workshop, shooting on a range and flying. One cadet and a member of staff travelled to Scotland for a camp, taking part in sailing, walking, camping, cycling and climbing. Congratulations to Cadet Rillie who was presented with his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Fifty cadets joined the Remembrance Parade in November, with some providing the guard of honour at the war memorial. Congratulations to them all for turning out so smartly, marching so well and honouring those who have fallen in conflict. We also had 15 cadets at the memorial for remembrance day itself.

In December we are holding an awards evening to celebrate the achievements of individual cadets and the squadron as a whole. ATC is for young people aged 12-17. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7-9.30 in 136 Sqn HQ next to the Fire Station in Chipping Norton and our next open evening and joining day is in February 2016. We are still seeking more volunteers to help with squadron activities. If you are interested in becoming an adult volunteer helper, or just want to find out more about air cadets, please visit www.136atc.com, or email 136@aircadets.org.

Helen Haine

Horticultural Association's new season

The autumn/winter season began in October with a good number of members and visitors from the newly formed Camera Club. The speaker Peter Preece showed beautiful pictures of wild life entitled *Every picture tells a story* taken over many hours, in all winds and weathers – a fantastic evening. Our AGM, chaired by John Grantham, started the November meeting – all officers and committee were re-elected. This was followed by Gardeners' Question Time, a new venture for us. Around 50 members heard a panel of 5, (drawn from the membership), answer varied questions. Many felt it had been a very interesting and enjoyable evening. Our Christmas event on 16 December in the Methodist Hall at 7.30pm, sees the return of Howard Drury from Birmingham with *Howard's Great Garden Quiz* – a fun evening for gardeners and non gardeners, followed by seasonal refreshments. More details available from the secretary Eileen Forse 643275 or our website cnha.uk

Defining Events in Over Norton

Over Norton Village Hall was packed with WI members and their guests eager to hear historian Dominic Sandbrook list his Top Ten Defining Events in Britain since 1945 on 19 November. Fresh from a celebration of his latest book at Jaffé & Neale and with its accompanying TV series currently being broadcast, local resident and visiting Professor at Kings College, London Dominic produced an intriguing and unpredictable list. Beginning with Indian independence and ending with the SNP's landslide victory in the last election, he charted trends such as the rising influence of America and Europe and the growth of nationalism. His lively talk ended with an invitation to the audience to suggest their own Defining Events followed (of course) by tea and delicious cakes. And there will be festive fare on offer at the December meeting on the 17th with mulled wine and mince pies at a social evening open to any ladies who would like to come along and see what the WI is all about. Meetings are at 7.45 in Over Norton Village Hall. Contact Lesley Stobart 642690 for details.

Record numbers for Chippy Ramblers

Chippy Rambling Club walked in brilliant sunshine this month. We walked up from Great Tew, through a delightful field full of sheep and past a farm building with a very tall handsome chimney, then along a minor road and through more fields of sheep. Unfortunately, the farmer had erected electric fences which were illegally blocking the public footpath but we managed to negotiate them (we decided in the end that they weren't live, but we didn't want to take any risks!). So we arrived safely at Little Tew where our leader used to live, and she treated us to a guided tour of the charming village, then back across fields to our parked cars. We were delighted to welcome four new members and to hear how they had enjoyed the walk. We meet on the first Sunday of the month in the New Street car park at 1.30pm (in winter) get into two or three cars and head for the start of the walk, which we take in turns to lead. We walk at a leisurely pace for a couple of hours and new members are very welcome. Enquiries to Heather Leonard (643691) or rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk or email me at jennyharrington@btinternet.com

Jenny Harrington

Christmas Tree Festival

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Ceremony
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6pm



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Lunches
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Stalls
Preserves

Thursday 3rd December 6pm – 9pm
Friday 4th December from 2pm – 8pm
Saturday 5th December from 10am – 8pm
Sunday 6th December from 1pm – 5pm
(with Circuit Service at 6pm)

All proceeds in aid of Chipping Norton and Stow
Methodist Circuit The Methodist Church

CLUB NEWS

Great Rollright WI keeps active

Recent meetings have been activity evenings, with many members in attendance. In September we were treated to a



floral demonstration by member Glynis McGurk, after which members produced their own table-top arrangements to take home. The October meeting saw member, Nancy Lee, show us how to make a lovely Origami Christmas tree decoration. Again, these were taken home with much pride and satisfaction. Our thanks go to Glynis and Nancy who have worked so hard on our behalf. Our November meeting was another interactive craft evening and we are looking forward to our Christmas social evening on 14 December at Whistlers, which promises good food and great company.

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Great Rollright Village Hall, Visitors and new members are always most welcome. Please call 730578 for details.

Judy Midwood

Well ahead at Investment Club

The recently launched Investment Club now has thirteen members, including some from Chippy, and has two vacancies before the membership closes. The group meets every month over dinner at the Swan at Ascott Under Wychwood. Although it started investing at the top of the market, it is performing at least better than the FTSE 250 index. In fact Chairman Paul Jackson says that members who joined recently are well ahead. Even in these uncertain times there are opportunities and the combined team from a broad spectrum not only makes for interesting discussions but is also fun and hopefully rewarding! Guests are welcome. For more information call Paul on 01993 831967.

Scouting News

Beavers Our Beavers enjoyed a day out to Crocodile World in November. We learnt all about the differences between crocodiles and alligators, and we were able to touch a snake, a lizard and a baby alligator. We also watched the crocodiles and otters being fed and were entertained by the meerkats. A fun day out for all. We are now looking forward to making our Christmas tree decorations in readiness for the Town's Christmas Tree Festival.

Cubs Cubs had an exciting day out at Waddesdon Manor, they really enjoyed the adventure playground, throwing big piles of leaves at each other and hunting for conkers. The surprise hit of the day was the rose garden, which even though it was autumn had lots of roses in bloom. The recent Hindu Diwali festival was celebrated by making 'pinprick lanterns'. These were simple to make, but very effective, and kept the cubs quiet for ages while they carefully pricked out their chosen pattern onto card!

Scouts The Scouts all survived the recent survival camp, sleeping outside under a shelter they made themselves. We are currently working on the teamwork challenge - easier for some than others - nonetheless great for integrating our many new members into the troop. Many Scouts turned out, looking very smart in their uniform, for the Remembrance Parade and lots of very proud parents came along too.

The coming weekend sees the district night hike (let's hope the weather holds!), then, in a couple of weeks, the district cooking competition. Hopefully the teamwork challenge has set them up for these two events!

Explorers We recently had a tin can challenge which involved producing a 3-course gourmet meal from a selection of unlabelled tins selected at random. Points were awarded for ambience, the design of the menu, food, originality and



The gourmet cooking team of Alex Davison, George Hill, Fergus Dyer and Ollie Marven

clearing up. The results were really impressive and greatly enjoyed by the leaders. *Come Dine with Me* eat your heart out! (pun not intended). See the photo of the enthusiastic chefs!

Starwatchers sail the Winter skies

Cooler air brings great observing conditions for Chippy astronomers as the early onset of dark allows us to scour the cosmos during more sociable hours. On 19 December, weather permitting, we will be observing the Moon from outside Jaffé & Neale to add some seasonal astronomy to the last shopping Saturday before Christmas - start approx 5pm. Saturday 16 January will find us at Oxford University's, Department of Astrophysics for our regular Stargazing Oxfordshire Open Day, with an indoor display and telescopes set up outside. It's a free public event but so popular advance booking is necessary. We may also have some telescopes set up in town on the same night. On Monday 18 January, we welcome astronomer Owen Brazell from Abingdon Astronomical Society and on the same date, snow permitting, a small CNAAG contingent will trek out to Fairford school for an evening's observing. BBC *Stargazing Live* may be scheduled during that week, and if so, we will be planning to hold observing and indoor events throughout January in the area. If your club or group would enjoy an astronomical evening, please get in touch (via www.cnaag.com).

The winter months are the very best times to view the universe in all its glory and Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group exists for everyone with an interest in the stars and space to come along to any of our meetings and find out about the incredible universe we live in. Whether you are a seasoned astronomer or just an occasional observer, studying the stars takes us away from the Earth to embark on the most breathtaking and grandest of voyages. A Starlit Christmas and an Astronomical New Year to everyone.

Robin Smitten

CLUB NEWS

Mike Golding at the Yacht Club



Mike Golding, training offshore as he prepares for the Vendée Globe

With Mike Golding, whom we welcomed to our October meeting, we continue to attract some of the biggest names in yachting. Mike is one of the world's most successful offshore racing

sailors. He's logged over 250,000 racing miles, crossed the Equator 25 times and rounded Cape Horn five times. He's the first person to have sailed single-handed and non-stop around the world in both east and west-about directions (1993/4 and 2000/1), and holds too many records to list here.

A former career fire fighter, Mike turned to professional sailing following his win in the BT Global Challenge in 1996/7. In 2006 he made international headlines by giving up his own prospects of winning the Vendée Globe (a solo around the world race in which he has competed three times) to rescue fellow sailor Alex Thomson, whose yacht was sinking in the Southern Ocean. The yachts used in these races are very specialised, very high-tech, ultra-light sixty footers, weighing in at a mere eight tonnes. They carry enormous rigs that propel them at crazy speeds through the often frightening seas, and just watching the videos left us exhausted. Visit

cnyco.uk for details of our Christmas get-together and January AGM, and remember to book in if you can join us.

Roger Backhaus

Find out about Freemasonry

Do you want to know the secret? You may have always thought of Freemasonry as a secret society which has a reputation for being involved in dubious activities. However, this is definitely not the case and Freemasonry is in fact one of the world's oldest, non-religious, non-political, charitable organisations. Did you know that Freemasonry is the second biggest financial contributor to charitable good causes in the UK after the national lottery? Freemasonry is not a secret society, however like many organisations, it does have things that are confidential to the members. Freemasonry is open to 'all men of all ages' who wish to challenge, develop, and discover more about themselves whilst making new friends. The Evenlode Lodge, as with other local lodges, meets in the Freemasons' Hall on Over Norton Road.

To find out about the secret, visit www.evenlodelodge.org, or email secretary.evenlode@oxfordshiremasons.org

Les Waller

WOWI plan glitz and glam!

West Oxfordshire WI had a very thought provoking speaker in October. Tim Yeoman, a volunteer for Asylum Welcome, came to talk to us about his work with refugees and asylum seekers at Campsfield House detention centre in Kidlington. We certainly left the meeting feeling that we were lucky to live where we do and felt helpless to do much about their plight except welcome them amongst us. Tim did say that a

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CLUB NEWS

way of helping would be to collect men's and women's toiletries and babies' nappies of all sizes. This is what our members are bringing to the next meeting and hopefully we'll have a boxful to send on.

We are looking forward to November's meeting when Fibreworks will show us how to make fabric Christmas Wreaths. Then December will see us all dressed in our glitz and glam for a Christmas meal at Whistlers. Why not join us in the New Year? We meet in St Mary's Parish Rooms at 7.30pm on the third Monday of the month.

Hilary Dix 646228

Green Gym is rained off!

First, we would like to thank the Town Council for once again giving us a generous grant towards our expenses. As for the rain, it's very unusual for us to cancel a session



because of bad weather but one week last month we were due to work at the BBOWT Nature Reserve near Hook Norton. The forecast was continuous heavy rain and the site consists of steep grassy banks, so we put safety and comfort first! We will go back there soon to do the clearance BBOWT needs.

Another session was spent preparing for Apple Day in the Community Orchard and for a third session we were at Warriner School farm at Bloxham, laying a hedge. In addition, a small group has been working at Kingham Millennium Wood, culling ash trees which, are suffering from Ash Dieback.

But despite bad weather and ailing trees, we are a cheerful bunch so come and join us on Wednesday mornings! Get fit and enjoy good company while caring for the local environment. There are jobs for all ages and abilities, there's no joining fee and lifts may be available. Visit our website: www.chippygreengym.org, phone me on 643269 or email jennyharrington@btinternet.com. Everyone is welcome!

Jenny Harrington

Amnesty International card campaign

At AI Chipping Norton Group's Annual Greetings Card Campaign on 12 November we wrote over 90 cards with messages of friendship, comfort and support to Prisoners of Conscience in different parts of the world. Even more are being written in members' homes as we feel this is an important part of being a member of Amnesty International.

We wrote to Phyo Phyo, a young girl imprisoned in Burma for helping to organise student protests, Fred and Yves, arrested for trying to encourage civic education among the young in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and many more. Writing makes us feel close to these brave people and encourages us to continue in our campaigns on their behalf.

Thanks to all those who have supported us throughout 2015. Do visit our stall during Late Night Shopping on 4 December, cards to buy and quality raffle prizes to win!

Next meeting: Thursday 14 January, 7.30pm Lower Town Hall. All are welcome. Details: Priscilla Peace 01451 830459.

Kaye Freeman

MS Society takes stock

Many good things happened in 2015 and some excellent events and activities were organised by the local branch of the Society. We hope to provide even better support and fun activities in 2016.

But, less money and so less services from the County Council make it likely that charities will have to do even more just to maintain the current level of support. Opposing any cuts is difficult as the Council and the health commissioners will have less money to work with, but if we can start to get more joined-up thinking with services integrating to avoid duplication, then we can save money and time, as well as giving all patients a better, more cohesive service. Please keep your voices being heard by the decision makers by giving evidence of poor service etc so we can influence changes to improve all of the services provided at even less cost. Contact me, Healthwatch, your local Patients Participation Group (PPG) or your local Patient Forum and look out for campaigns and consultations.

Here's to a happy New Year for all.

Contact details: Helplines ~ Local: 0800 917 9790, National: 0808 800 8000; Branch website www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire; younger people (20-45ish) can email mssy.oxfordshire@gmail.com or you can contact medirect by calling 645988 or emailing ptr.branson@gmail.com

Peter Branson

Bartholomew's Hair



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SPORTS NEWS

7th Town Sports Awards

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- Sportsperson of the Year (18+)
- Young Sportsperson of the Year (11-17)
- Younger Sportsperson of the Year (U11)
- Team Award (18+)
- Team Award (U18s)
- Club Award

Plus Olympic Legacy Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for coaches and individuals who are dedicated to helping sporting clubs in the town.

Nomination forms are available from the Town Clerk's office at The Guildhall or via email: cntc@btconnect.com Closing date for nominations is 29 January and the Award Ceremony is on 26 February 6.30-9.30pm in the Town Hall.



Tae Kwon-Do



Congratulations to the students of TAGB Tae Kwon-Do Schools, who achieved a 100% pass rate in their recent Junior Grading. Our Junior Syllabus lasts 3½ years and allows students to grow in Confidence, Discipline, Team Work and Aggression Management in a dynamic and rewarding environment.

Tae Kwon-Do can have many benefits for growing children including fostering self-discipline, improved socialization skills, encouraging physical activity and learning to set and achieve goals. It can also increase self-esteem and respect for others while encouraging non-violent conflict resolution, improving listening skills, developing teamwork and the attitudes fostered by Tae Kwon-Do can lead to

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improvements in other areas of life such as increased levels of concentration and good behaviour at home and in school. Each New Year people want to start afresh but may be short of cash. So, to kick start your new year, Combined Self Defence is giving new students a free training pass up to April 2016. For more information on Junior, Senior & Self Defence Classes, including sessions at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre and to register for a month's free training pass please go to www.martialartsvoucher.co.uk or call 07977 560086.

Lee Chapman

CN Rugby Club

Chipping Norton U12 rugby team enjoyed a fantastic tour to Barcelona during half term. Eighteen players, parents and a team of coaches, enjoyed some sensational hospitality from Barcelona rugby club, culminating in a five team tournament. One highlight was training alongside Spanish and German players under lights on a first rate 3G astroturf. The sessions led by Argentinean, Spanish, German and English coaches focussed on athletic movement, skill development and conditioned games.



The boys played in a tournament on the final day, drawing their first match with Barcelona. They then beat Sant Boi RFC and a second Barcelona team. The final match, against a very strong Berlin side, went to the wire. But Chippy held on to win the day, scoring two excellent tries! The players then acted as a guard of honour for a premiership match, before watching the World Cup Final and sharing a barbecue with the other teams.

The squad, who are enjoying an unbeaten domestic season, are looking forward to playing Shipston, Chinnor and Wallingford in the run up to Christmas. This season four new players have joined and new players are always welcome!!

Matt Penton

Football

Chadlington Whites U14

For our third League match, we travelled to Bicester in mid-October, to play the highly-energised Launton Athletic. The Whites got off to a slow start but the second half was more finely balanced and The Whites reacting more quickly to win the ball and penetrate the Launton goalmouth and the game ended in a 3-all draw. Then at the beginning of November we travelled in glorious sunshine to Carterton for a series of friendly matches against the Oxford Mail League domiciled, Carterton Town. All 12 Chad White players available demonstrated a stronger hunger to win the ball, retain possession and distribute effectively to team mates. As a

SPORTS NEWS

result, and in addition to keeping better shape throughout, the team reaped the rewards of a very determined performance – three wins and a draw.

Seymour Mincer and Drew Duncan

Chipping Norton Town Swifts



The Swifts have welcomed lots of new recruits in all age groups, with all five sides looking strong and capable of setting the foundations for a successful season.

The **Under 7s** have continued to improve with very good results against Witney Vikings, Carterton, Combe and Chadlington. A couple of good additions should ensure they continue this good form.

The **Under 8s** faced tough tests against Carterton and Highfield but passed them with flying colours, and improve with every game. The new players have settled in well and are enjoying their football.

Swifts **Under 11s** seem more comfortable after stepping up to the 9v9 format. Defensively they look much stronger and with two clean sheets in their last three, and an away draw playing 8v9 with several absentees, the signs are there that the team can really push on.

After a shaky start, the **Under 12s** are back on track taking their first points, with a thrilling 5-5 draw against Deddington followed by a 3-2 win against higher league opposition in Easington.

The **Under 15s'** fantastic start to life back in the 'A' League has continued, and after knocking league champions Clanfield out of the cup, they have since progressed further in cup competitions by beating Chalgrove, and have added to their league points tally with a 7-3 win against Tower Hill, taking them up to 4th place in the highest division.

CNTSFC welcome new players at all age groups. Please visit www.chippyswifts.co.uk for manager contacts, training times, fixture details, and weekly match reports.

Luke Newman

Chipping Norton Bowls Club

The Club are delighted to have been awarded a Sport England grant for improvements to its facilities. See article p6.



Steve Tollhurst pictured with prize winners at the October presentation evening

The outdoor section held its annual prize presentation dinner in October with prizes presented by Oxfordshire Outdoor Bowls President Steve Tollhurst who said, 'I have been to three or four presentation dinners over the last few months and I have to say this has been the most fun. Many thanks for inviting me. The grassroots of the sport are what it's all about and this Club with its friendly atmosphere and excellent food plus the quality of the greens is a venue we all look forward to visiting. You have a good management structure and an excellent team supporting you and I wish you every success'. Club President Tony Backer-Holst thanked everyone for coming with special thanks to Val Harris and Roberta Jarvie, Indoor Chairman and Club Secretary for all their hard work.

John Bowl

Hook Norton Harriers

Hooky Harriers meet at 7pm Tuesdays at Hook Norton Sports and Social Club and 7pm Thursdays at CN Leisure Centre. We welcome runners of all abilities, whether you just need the motivation to get out with some company or are training for something more. Please feel free to join us.

Our 9th Hooky Christmas Canter will be held on Sunday 20 December at 11am from Hook Norton Sports and Social Club, The Bourne, Hook Norton OX15 5PB. A multi terrain run, with a great Christmas atmosphere. Fancy dress encouraged! With mulled wine (or hot drink) and a mince pie for all finishers. Entry via www.hooknortonharriers.org.uk or call 07870 375725 for a form. Entries on the day £2 extra.

Sandra Heryet



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SPORTS NEWS

Cotswolds Golf Club



Juniors: Ian Coaker recently won the Cherwell Cup which is an open Stableford competition run at Cotswold Club for all juniors in the county with a handicap of 18 and over. It was a tough day and Ian just beat Michael Pearson by 1 shot with 32 points; Fellow member Matt Clacy (pictured) was the BB&O champion of the Championship age 13 and under with a score of 41 points. Juniors have coaching with the BB&O Academy and the winners of county competitions go through to the final which Matt won at Maidenhead recently.

Mens: *Chris Denton reports:* The Men's Team finished the season as champions of Division One in the Central Sevens Inter Club Golf League. This a league in which in most of the local clubs compete in one of five divisions and each fixture



comprises seven single matches. The Cotswolds Club team, led by Trevor Thomas won 5 and drew 3 of their 10 fixtures to finish 2 points ahead of Shrivenham who were second and West Berks who finished third. Other local teams in Division 1 were Cherwell Edge, The Wychwood and Rye Hill. The squad was Trevor Thomas (captain), James O'Donoghue, Paul Scholfield, Chris Dyer, Alan White, Shaun Kench, David Howlett, Roly Stowe, Paul Needle, Keith Willis and Chris Denton and all played their part in the overall league victory. Special mention should also go to James O'Donoghue, who won the Division 1 order of merit with 7 wins and 1 draw from his 10 matches. Trevor has served his two years in office and is handing over the reins to Alan White, so good luck to Alan and the squad in the defence of the title in 2016.

Other Men's Golf news The first round (of 7) of the Winter League was recently played in anything but winter conditions and that was reflected in the excellent scores. On 1 November it was difficult to believe it was winter. The weather was fantastic, T shirt weather from 8.15 and no wind to speak of. There were lots of good scores particularly in Division 1.

The following Sunday saw a Texas scramble. What a difference a week can make to the weather conditions and the course! 18 teams competed and the early starters had the best of the weather, so well done to the later starters who finished first and second. The winning team comprised Graham Reynolds, Malcolm Bruce, John Snell and Chris Denton.

Ladies results: During October Caroline Johnson was the Bring & Win 4 Clubs + Putter winner and EG Medal winner on the 3rd and 8th of the month. On the 10th the EG Medal winner was Kath Jordan, on the 15th Ed Douglas Stableford winner was Veronica Boulter, with Maggie White the Sat Stableford winner on the 17th & 24th. The end of October saw a Senior Ladies' competition with Chris Reeves winning the Golden Girls' Cup, Joyce Ashbrook the Year's 9 hole competition with Suzi Sinson the 9 hole winner on the day.

Kevin Stirrup

Golf Academy: Chipping Norton Golf Academy, based at the Cotswolds Club is offering fantastic deals on Golf lessons this Christmas. If you are looking for a new hobby, or are stuck for ideas on gifts for friends and family then please contact the Academy by emailing to cngolfacademy@gmail.com or by calling 07581 097746 to find out more on golf coaching packages, beginner group clinics, junior coaching and individual lessons. You can keep up with the Academy by following on facebook at Chipping Norton Golf Academy.

Danny Phillips. Head PGA Professional, Cotswolds Club

Show Jumping

12 year old Emily Notman of Kingham represented Burford School in the National Schools Equestrian Association championships in October having made it through the qualifying rounds. Emily was quite nervous as she was the youngest in the competition and her pony Bailey XII was the smallest. Emily was thrilled by her pony's performance which won second place adding, 'I was particularly happy as it was my mum's birthday so was a lovely present for her as she is so supportive along with my dad and little sister'. This performance qualified Emily to take part in a timed Style & Performance class in which she came third with the highest style marks and a clear round that was unfortunately three seconds over time.



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Chipping Norton School

School turns purple for Baby Violet: The Student Council



organised a special non-uniform day in order to raise funds to support Southampton University Hospital's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. Earlier this year, the hospital provided specialised intensive care treatment for Mr & Mrs Whitcombe's new

baby daughter, Violet. Students and staff were invited to donate £2 in order to come to school in their own purple or 'Violet' clothing. The students enjoyed a variety of purple-themed activities throughout the day, including a Bake-off competition to produce the best purple cupcakes.

In total the school raised £2,000 and Mr & Mrs Whitcombe and their daughters, Florence and Violet, were delighted to present a large cheque to Southampton Hospital's Friends of PICU.

Year 11 Careers Fair: Students and parents were invited to a Careers Fair to find out about further education courses and training options available next year.

The Apprenticeship talk was organised by Oxfordshire Apprenticeships and it was helpful for students to be able to talk to current BMW and ACE Training apprentices. We were very grateful to Jack Owen and Chay Fisher (ex CNS students) who had returned to talk to current students about their experience of apprenticeship.

Another ex-student, Jolene Hutchison (partner at Blaser Mills Law Firm in High Wycombe), talked to individual students about careers in Law. Students also had the opportunity to talk to experts from the fields of Finance, Design and the Police Force.

At the end of the evening the 'Preparing for University' talk was very popular with lots of questions asked at the end of the session.

West Oxfordshire Hockey Champions: Our girls'

hockey teams have enjoyed great local success this season. Last month the Year 10 team competed at the West Oxon School Sports Partnership tournament and beat all the other schools to be crowned West Oxfordshire Champions. Their success was matched by the Year 7 team who also triumphed at their competition. They also won all their matches



(scoring nine goals and conceding none) and as West Oxfordshire Champions will now compete in the County tournament.

Family Focus: During the last week of term we welcomed



families from Years 4, 5 & 6 Primary Partnership schools to our Family Focus workshops in art, DT, ICT and first aid. The workshops are run by teachers at school and are designed especially for parents and children to work together. All workshops were well attended and the families left with a sense of achievement and pride in the fact they have tried something new together. We look forward to the next Family Focus Week which takes place in February.

Street Dance: We have been privileged to have street dance expert Dennis Victory work with Year 12 Dance Leaders,



GCSE/A Level dance students and Year 12 Sports Leaders this autumn. The students have really benefited from Dennis' professionalism and expertise and have learnt new dance techniques including 'Vogueing', locking and krumping. Dennis also led Year 6 Dance sessions at our ten primary partnership schools.

CNPS news: The teams at this year's U11 Partnership Schools Girls' and Boys' Hockey tournament arrived at CNS



ready to work hard and demonstrated keen competitive spirits. The Tournament was led by Mrs Phillips with our Year 12 Sports Leaders taking key roles such as umpiring, score keeping, leading the warm up and of course being fantastic role models to the younger pupils. The Year 12s take great pride in presenting the trophies and congratulating everyone on their hard work. The winners were: Big School Girls: Hook Norton and Small Schools Girls: Chadlington; Big School Boys: Kingham and Small School Boys: Enstone.

Holy Trinity Primary

Remembrance Day: Children from our school who are Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs and Scouts wore their uniforms as a mark of respect for our two minutes' silence. Some of the children also formed part of the Remembrance Sunday procession in Chipping Norton. Our Year 6 Prefects joined the Royal British Legion and veterans at the War Memorial for the Remembrance Day service and two minutes silence.



Scholastic Book Fair and purchase of new books: This

was extremely well supported and as a result the school was able to use the commission to buy over £400 worth of new books for the school library. To mark the Book Fair, we held a Bunting Design competition where the children were asked to decorate a piece of bunting using the theme of their favourite reading book.



Operation Christmas Child: As in past years, we are supporting Operation Christmas Child. The children have started bringing in their beautifully decorated shoeboxes for delivery to children in more than 100 countries.



Children in Need: To help raise funds for this worthy cause, we asked the children to bring in all their spare change. We filled a giant Pudsey with their generous donations of coppers before our Junior Leadership Team counted all the coins and the total raised was an amazing £184.

Trip to the Dentist: Our Year 3 visited Chipping Norton Dental Wellness. They went to learn about how to look after their teeth. They were able to sit in the dentist's chair and talk with the dentist and hygienist about how to clean their teeth. They had a session which focussed on how much sugar was in a variety of food and drinks and learned which things were best for them. They had great fun using the disclosing tablets

to highlight which teeth they often missed when they brushed their teeth. Every child left with a goodie bag, which included a toothbrush, toothpaste and a timer to ensure they cleaned their teeth for the correct amount of time.



Stone Age Trip to Hill End: Our Year 3 had an amazing day making spears, foraging for food, flint napping, grinding wheat to make flour, making and cooking bread. All the children had a fantastic day.



Trip to Ashmolean Museum: Year 5 visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford as part of their topic on Ancient Greece. 'It was very exciting to see so many artefacts including a Greek mask, coins and a vase! The museum guide told us our answers were excellent and she was so impressed with how much we knew, particularly our knowledge of Greek myths. We were a credit to our school.'

Dennis Victory's Street Dance: Dennis came to visit our school to work with the Year 6 class and choreograph an exciting Street Dance routine. He certainly put the children to the test with 'body popping', free styling and expressing their 'swagger'! They performed their finished routine to the other children in the school.

Bingo: Our PTA are holding a Bingo evening at the Town Hall on Wednesday 16 December. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm.

Christmas preparations: Foundation Class are very busy with planning and preparations for their Christmas production: *A Miracle in Town*. We cannot wait to see them up on stage, retelling their very own, special version of the Christmas story. KS1 children are also very busy rehearsing for the production of *Midwife Crisis*, which, we are sure, will be up to their usual high standard. The KS2 Christmas Carol Service will be held in church on Tuesday 15 December.

St Mary's Primary

Year 5 Visit to Chipping Norton Museum: Alex Williamson reports: Our topic has been World War II. So we



went see how the war had affected our town. We learnt that there were lots of evacuees sent to Chipping Norton from West Ham. Apparently there was not a single bomb dropped on the town during the war. On display were gas masks and information about rationing. There was a recipe for a meat dish which sounded disgusting. We also learnt about the Chipping Norton riots and discovered that there had also been a murder. My favourite part was the war section, everyone had a great time.

PGL Liddington: Lily Edwards & Isobel Gillard report: Our first activity was Passport To The World, a treasure hunt – in the



dark! We did a range of activities including: abseiling, climbing wall, zip wire, crate challenge, challenge course, canoeing, campfire, disco and best of all... the giant swing!!! Once you were screwed onto the swing you got pulled up (by your team mates) to the height you wanted; then you had to pull a string to swing! All of year 6 enjoyed and cherished the experience and would love to go back to PGL again!



Mr Rowley: Mr Rowley has joined the KSI team and will be Rowan's Class Teacher until September next year. Mr Rowley is delighted to join St Mary's; his teaching experience has been with KSI and Lower KS2, in urban and industrial areas. Having spent part of last year's summer term working with classes at St Mary's he is a familiar face to many children. Mr Rowley is particularly looking forward to working in a smaller community where the children can walk within their community to access learning opportunities.

Foundation Open Morning: In the Foundation unit each child has a Learning Journey folder in which there are photos, teacher's comments and evidence of children's learning. We enjoyed holding a morning where parents were invited into school to share their child's learning journey over a juice and a biscuit. Mrs Bray was on hand to demonstrate maths activities that can be done at home and she enjoyed talking to parents about maths learning. The parents were amazed at all their children's good learning and the progress they have made so far.



she enjoyed talking to parents about maths learning. The parents were amazed at all their children's good learning and the progress they have made so far.

Author's visit: Ms

Hollander and Olly Weaver report: John Dougherty and Jo Cotterill came to work with all of the year 5s and to inspire us to write our own 'Fate' stories. They acted out part of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Jo was a purple-wigged Lady Macbeth; she was hilarious! We had lots of great unique ideas of our own. Examples are: an adventure involving cats, Niall's story included a log cabin and Cadence's story involved a closet. Our stories are going to be published in a real book for Chipping Norton Literary Festival next year.....we can't wait.



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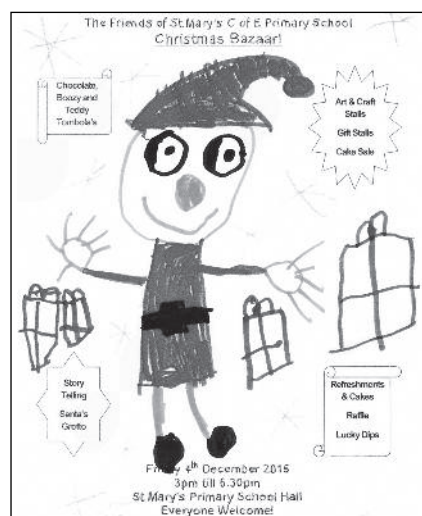


Friends of St Mary's: Steph

Woodward (Chair), Lisa Harrison (Treasurer), Annie Francis-Maingot (Secretary) report: We are very pleased to help with fundraising events for our

School and have thrown ourselves into our new roles within The Friends of St Mary's Primary.

We are now busy organising our first fundraising event – the Christmas Bazaar on Friday 4 December 3-6.30pm in the school hall. We have lots of festive fun and games, plus refreshments, gift stalls and a visit from Santa himself! We look forward to welcoming everyone and making the event a great success!



Ellie Tinkham age 5 of Apple Reception Class won the competition to find a poster to advertise the Christmas Bazaar on 4 December



Middle Barton Primary

Congratulations to Lucy Sharkey and George Allsworth who were appointed head girl and boy last month with deputies Poppy Fraser and Tom Horner, and prefects Ethan Ashworth, Gracie Hotson, Becky Skinner, Aaron Denton, Olivia Hogan and Jess Phelps. Mr Duffy from CNS, his head girl and boy and our Chair of Governors, Mrs Balfe, and Headteacher, Mrs Tailby, were overwhelmed with the high standard of applicants and the amazing presentations they did in the whole school assembly. Well done to you all – we look forward to benefitting from your many leadership skills.

Oaks class have presented a class assembly in November about their attitudes to work and the growth mindsets they are all exhibiting. This is a big focus for development for our school in promoting active and positive learners who are able to challenge themselves and really engage in developing their potential.

We held a dragon storytelling day on Tuesday 3 November when 'Agent Green' visited school to run workshops with the children, inspiring some exciting creative writing and storytelling sessions with a host of local volunteers and a librarian. We dressed up (see photo) and really threw ourselves into the occasion!



Great Rollright Primary

It's a good time to reflect on how much has happened since we returned to school in September. The four year olds who tentatively joined us are now bold and confident individuals; one would think they had been in school for ever!

We have new Governors leading and managing the school and new Trustees on our Friends of Great Rollright Primary School Committee working hard as ever to organise social events and raise money for the school. The Friends have organised two very successful parties in The Village Hall and served teas at Chastleton House on three occasions.

We finished the year on a high with our new community classroom. This new community classroom is available to rent at a very reasonable rate by contacting grcommunityroom@gmail.com

We have explored how to keep ourselves safe and healthy. We held a very successful Science Fair and had an exciting visit from The Explorerdome which turned our hall into a planetarium! Our wonderful choir performed brilliantly at St Mary's Church, Banbury. Our range of after school clubs has extended and we have more children than ever attending one or more clubs.

We have Christmas plays to enjoy, an evening Carol Service for everyone (15 December at 6.30pm in St Andrew's Church), a delicious Christmas dinner to share and, if we're very good, a visit from You Know Who!

Kingham Primary

Sports news: Well done to the Under 11 Girls' and Boys' Hockey teams, who were not only a credit to the school, in behaviour and sporting attitude – but their impressive stick skills too! Both teams played their socks off in the Chipping Norton Partnership Tournament, winning all but one of their games; earning the girls second place and the boys – first!



Art competition: Congratulations to Isabel whose poster (pictured) was put through to the final rounds in the Oxfordshire Schools' Firework poster competition and guess what..! Her poster won her category!

Y1 & 2 trip to St John's House Museum: Olivia year 2 reports: I leapt on to the coach with Joe, then I had a sleep. After a while we reached the museum. We dressed up as Victorian children. Just at the moment two teachers

appeared and we walked into the classroom, it was sccccaaarrrrrryyyyyy. There were cobwebs in every corner, some even had spiders. Just then the bell rang 'SILENCE!' She said, 'We are having a visitor called Mrs Archer.' Then we wrote on slate boards with slate pencils. Next we read a story called The Shepherd Boy and The Wolf, it definitely taught me a lesson. All in all I had a stunning day.....

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Acorns Primary

Campaign against speeding: For quite a while now staff and parents have raised concerns about the speed vehicles travel through Long Compton, especially past the school. PCSO Emma Turner worked with children from Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 to find out just how fast motorists were driving. She explained to the children how the speed gun works, what the speed limit is through Long Compton (30 mph) and how drivers who are travelling above the speed limit are breaking the law.



The children and PCSO Emma positioned themselves outside the school and took it in turns to track the speed of vehicles travelling in both directions. Some drivers were on or well below the speed limit. The children thanked them by giving a polite round of applause as they drove past. However, there were a number of cars, lorries and tractors that were well above the speed limit, the highest being zapped by the speed gun at 45mph!

The children proved there is clear evidence to support the need for a lower speed limit through the village, combined with traffic calming measures and a safe place to cross.

Joining forces: All three schools in the Stour Federation Partnership have joined together by dressing in three colours to raise money for armed forces charities recently.

Chadlington Primary

Sports Award: We are very proud and excited to report that the school has just been awarded the coveted Physical Education and Sports Award in recognition of our excellent provision in this area. This is to add to our Arts and Music Award that we were awarded earlier in the year.

Christmas highlights: The whole school Christmas trip this year is to see the national tour of Mary Poppins at the Bristol Hippodrome. The school will be once again taking part in and singing at the Christmas Tree Festival in Chipping Norton. Finally, during the last week of term the Friends of Chadlington School are holding their popular Christmas Bedtime Story Evening where festive tales, hot chocolate and cookies will be enjoyed by all.

School Parliament: As a result of the recent Key Stage 2 trip to Westminster, the Wizards class have decided to replace our current School Council with their very own Parliament. They are busy planning elections for the Lords, the Commons, the Speaker and the party leaders!

Sibford School

Pupils plant trees of knowledge: Pupils at Sibford School are creating a new heritage apple orchard. Fifteen trees of



different varieties that have originated in Oxfordshire and the neighbouring counties have been planted in a field that lies at the edge of the school's 50-acre campus. The seed of the idea came from local villager Bill Crabtree who uses the field, known as Holly Tree Field, to graze his sheep. The apple trees have been supplied by Marcus Roberts, founder of the Mid Shires Orchard Group, whose daughter Abigail has recently joined the school. They have been sponsored by parents and staff together with Bill and his wife, Barbara. Each tree has been individually fenced to protect it from the grazing sheep, with the cost for this being covered by money raised from Sibford's Clothing Bank (part of the school's commitment to recycling). The trees were planted by members of Sibford's Year 10 and 11 horticultural class with the help of teacher Angy Bovill, Andy Newbold and members of the school's grounds staff. Bill Crabtree also came along to ensure that everything went to plan. He is pictured above with some of the members of the planting team.

Ace Centre Nursery School



Our new starters have settled in with the help of nine hatching chicks and are developing into effective learners. We have helped them start their learning journey by focusing on their own interests - playing with and exploring what they already know. Confidence has grown and children are now willing to have a go at new experiences, such as making water slides, rigging outdoor pulley systems, moving and dancing like

animals, drilling and joining natural objects in our woodwork shop, creating large scale leaf art and taking part in small scale group times, all in order to sow the seeds of school readiness.

Of course, children benefit from skilful adult support and we value this adult-child interaction as core to powerful learning. All staff worked on this aspect of professional development in a twilight session entitled Interaction or Interruption with national trainer and author Julie Fisher. Participants left buzzing with inspiration, sparking with their own ideas! So all here have the potential and support to enjoy and achieve whatever they set out to do this year. Why not drop in and join us to see for yourselves.

LETTERS

Remembrance thanks

This year the Remembrance parade was again blessed by a huge turnout of supporters watching the parade. The Royal British Legion, Chipping Norton would like to thank the Town



for its superb support. We were delighted to again welcome serving members and veterans of 2624 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment. With more people in the parade this year, including all the youth organisations from the Town, both branches of our cadet forces and the excellent RBL Bodicote Band, meant St Mary's Church was filled to the brim. It was a great honour for 'Chippy' Royal British Legion to see all the support we received for this annual event.

Our thanks go to all who helped make Remembrance Day a special and moving event including our vicar, James Kennedy, local police and civilian workers helping ensure the safety of our parade, Mr David Astor, who represented Her Majesty The Queen, our Mayor Mike Tysoe and Hook Norton Brewery for kindly donating a barrel of Hooky bitter, which went down well after the parade! On Armistice Day we again enjoyed great support with a large contingent of Air Cadets and prefects from Holy Trinity Primary School.

Our challenge as a branch now is to build on the great support we have had this year and secure our future in supporting our service men and women, past, present and future. If you would like to join us please contact our membership secretary, Mike Dixon, on 642032 or dixon.lmichael@sky.co.

Neville Edwards, President, CN Royal British Legion

Chipping Norton Lions

invite you to meet

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Christmas greetings

Dear Residents, I am sure we are all getting really busy in the run up to the festive season. I would like to wish everyone a very 'Happy Christmas' and a 'Peaceful and Happy New Year'. With best wishes.

County Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles

Lost son found

In response to my letter in November (about my long lost son), I made contact with a lady from the school website and she knew someone who knew the family. In a very short time I found my son and we are now in regular contact. He has been living just 12 miles from me. I also have a grandson. Thank you to all the people who contacted me.

Yvonne King

Horsefair again!

I wrote a letter to the Editor about the danger of the traffic in Horsefair – years and years ago! But sadly, nothing is ever done about it. The News even allocated the front page in February 2005, 'BYPASS BY 2020?' Not much chance of that, considering ten years have passed and how many years it takes to plan! If Deddington can resolve a narrow road problem on a B-class road, why not Chippy where two A-class routes intersect at that point? Perhaps a note of nostalgia for some of us and a little nudge for our councillors and planners might be provided by a feature month by month of 'From the Chippy News ... years ago!'

Gerald Forse

Angel on Top Side!

My Guardian Angel was behind me when I walked along Top Side. I used the ATM and carried on in rather a daze. Suddenly this Guardian Angel came up behind me and handed me the cash I had left sticking out of the machine! I would love to thank him ...

Sally Jaffé

Cemetery clear-up thanks

Thank you to the 12 stalwarts who worked so hard in the cemetery for our October working party. A fine dry day enabled us to achieve much needed cutting back of shrubs, brambles and the removal of ivy from a number of headstones in the oldest part of the cemetery. The morale of the team was once again boosted by the excellent refreshments kindly supplied by Peta Simmonds. We will be organising another clear-up session next Spring – date TBC.

Cllr Martin Jarratt, Chairman Cemetery



ON THE SOAPBOX

My morning walk to work has been totally spoiled by the line of vans parked along Penhurst Gardens and Worcester Road. Why are all these builders taking up



so much pavement and road space? It makes walking and driving by it very difficult as the road is too narrow!

Pat Moral

LETTERS

Bernie rides again

Bernie Lyford-Smith, who served from 1939 to 1949 in the air force subsequently formed a dance band. In retirement he came over from Kidlington to entertain residents at Castle View care home, old peoples' clubs and other places. Misfortune struck but despite severe visual problems he hopes to entertain all with Christmas carols at his new home in the Henry Cornish Care Centre. He hopes all friends will come to see him.

Dr Bruce Parker



(The News team went to visit Bernie. Thanks to Karen Berwick at the Henry Cornish Care Centre, where he showed us some of the photos from his band days, including supporting Johnny Dankworth, Joe Loss and others – and, yes, Bernie is ready to entertain any visitors!)

More notice boards please!

I understand that the consultation meeting about the Hospital on 21 October was poorly attended and that many felt that this was due to poor publicity. This raises a more general issue: namely that we need more places to post notices in the centre of the Town. The new railings near the pedestrian crossing are visually a great improvement but since their erection the rule about no notices has been very strictly enforced. We put up notices about Apple Day in the Community Orchard twice and twice they were swiftly removed. Surely both the Town Council and the District Council should be supporting community events, not sabotaging attempts to publicise them?

An active town like Chippy needs more notice boards in the centre where people will see them as they pass. The board above Middle Row, near the Blue Boar, has hardly any footfall, and the one with the map near the railings is not available. I hope the Town Council will now provide at least one more board in a central position where it will catch the eye.

Jenny Harrington

The price of a pint

I called in to the re-furnished Fox Inn for a lunchtime pint and was charged £4.10p for a pint of Old Hooky beer. If Mr Benyon the Ops Manager for the brewery really wants to attract locals (News November issue), I suggest he reviews his prices – or does he only want to mug visitors?

Murray McGlynn

Some seasonal thoughts

Every year, we hear the immortal words of Laurence Binyon's poem 'For The Fallen', for me, the fallen are represented by a good friend who was killed in the Falklands Conflict. For my father, it was WWII, for his father WWI, and so on. I suppose every generation remembers their own fallen, and almost by default, those who have gone before. *They shall not grow old ... We will Remember them.*

Have you noticed how our TV advertisements are becoming Europeanised? How many poorly dubbed foreign language soundtracks, (spoken over the film of LHD drive car) do you see every day. Even Japanese cars (a RHD country) suffer with this, and unbelievably I have even seen an advert for an Oxford built Mini, on a foreign plate and LHD, such is the subliminal effect of Europe! There is another way our way of life is being undermined, this time by the USA, and that is the awful phrase 'Happy Holidays'. With councils removing Christian symbols from public buildings and crematoria, with the excuse that it may offend those of a different religion, may I remind these officials that this is a Christian country.

And with that I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Jim Stanley Secretary UKIP Witney

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.

Quiz Answers
1 St Nicholas / Kris Kringle / Pere Noel / Santa Klaus / Father Christmas
2 Ebenezer
3 Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen,
Comet, Cupid, Donner & Blitzen
4 Advent
5 Ten lords a leaping
6 Penguins - Antarctic (S Pole),
Polar Bears - Arctic (N Pole)
7 Raymond Briggs
8 Tinsel
9 Ivy
10 Oliver Cromwell

Wordsearch words:
Bitter and Twisted, Bliss Mill, Blue Boar, Chequers, Happy, Christmas
Highlands, Horseshoe, Mop Fair, Nortonsians, Panto Pippins, Rollright,
Robin Hood, The Fox, William Smith, Wren

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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Christmas fun with Santa



Once all his presents have been delivered (to good girls and boys) Santa likes to settle down by the fire with a nice cup of tea and chuckle over the latest antics of April & Alfred and have fun with some Christmassy puzzles!

Chippy's Christmas WordSearch

Search the box below and find 16 hidden items with a local or seasonal flavour ...

W	C	H	E	Q	U	E	R	S	Q
I	R	A	C	D	F	A	P	N	U
L	W	E	H	L	P	R	B	A	R
L	S	D	N	A	L	H	G	I	H
I	C	P	G	D	P	G	M	N	P
A	N	A	P	E	F	P	B	O	T
M	X	N	V	T	K	A	Y	T	T
S	O	T	P	S	K	H	S	R	V
M	R	O	B	I	N	H	O	O	D
I	O	P	F	W	A	O	R	N	P
T	L	I	F	T	X	R	R	D	T
H	L	P	A	D	H	S	I	I	L
E	R	P	B	N	B	E	A	T	L
Y	I	I	R	A	T	F	F	C	I
T	G	N	S	R	C	A	P	O	M
H	H	S	O	E	X	I	P	S	X
R	T	C	Q	T	B	R	S	T	M
O	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C
P	F	Y	A	I	L	T	R	B	P
I	R	A	O	B	E	U	L	B	B

Christmas Quiz

- 1 Give three alternative names for Santa Claus
- 2 In *A Christmas Carol*, what was Scrooge's first name?
- 3 Name all of Santa's reindeer (no mention of Rudolph)
- 4 What is the name given to the four Sundays before Christmas?
- 5 What did my true love give to me on the 10th Day of Christmas?
- 6 Penguins & Polar Bears - who lives where? (zoos don't count!)
- 7 Who wrote the children's story *The Snowman*?
- 8 Which Christmas tree decoration is said to have been invented by spiders?!
- 9 Which evergreen plant is traditionally forbidden in Christmas decorations?
- 10 Who banned Christmas in 1644?



Santa's Spot the Difference!

We found nine differences – how about you?

APRIL & ALFRED

by Denise Mansbridge



(Quiz answers on page 39)