



Town Hub starts



'Momentous milestone' as The Branch takes shape

The vision for a thriving town centre Community Hub took a major step in February. With over £3m raised, building work starts on the ambitious project to transform the empty Grade II listed former NatWest bank.

A place for community – The Branch charity will provide space to meet, a community kitchen, and support for those in Chippy needing advice, conversation, training, fun and a friendly welcome. A ceremony, with prayers led by James Kennedy from St Mary's, saw over 100 people mark 'handing the keys' to builders. The team promises regular site updates with Chippy School students tracking progress. See p6.

More for young people – Other news this month sees the County Council relaunch its youth service after more than 10 years, with local youth workers. All Chippy's clubs for young people have restarted, and there's also a new Youth Club starting up in town.

Support in hard times – With energy prices and the cost of living rocketing, the News has advice on energy bills, where to get financial help, and news of the new Chippy Locker for used sports gear to run alongside the Chippy Larder's regular Friday food supplies.

All these stories and Local News inside

East Chipping Norton

Last chance! Next month, the County finally produce their plan for Chippy's expansion – The Town Council wants your help to get it right. See pages 3 & 4.

News & Features in this issue

Tribute to Cllr Eve Coles ~ Dog bins go and everyone's barking mad ~ *Wall Street Journal* raves about Chippy ~ Future of Town Hall: debate and letters ~ Chippy's experience with electric cars ~ Take a visit to Bridewell Gardens ~ From turtles to birds – help save them!

Plus Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools and your bumper letters pages

Sporting Chippy!



Chippy Swifts sporting new kit



It's 'bully' for Chippy's Indoor Hockey



Hooky Harriers' Day at Chippy parkrun

Come and join our local sports clubs – lots more on ps 23–24 – and don't forget the Town Sports Awards on 25 March



Chippy's Jubilee Celebrations – Then and Now

Chipping Norton has celebrated many Jubilees. This month we remember the two that marked 50 and 60 years of Queen Victoria's reign. Then below, 2022's Festival and Jubilee Committee remind us of what is planned for this June – a date for your diary

1887 Queen Victoria's Golden year

The feeding of the Four Thousand: Market Square dinner at 1pm consisted of roast oxen, calves and sheep followed by plum puddings weighing 1700lbs ~ Half a mile of table & a mile of seating was needed ~ The Jubilee bonfire included 500 faggots, 3 tons of timber, 2 tons of paper, 60 gallons of tar, 20 gallons of paraffin & 5cwt of coal.

Mayor HF Wilkins led the June celebrations. Houses had bunting and flowers, paupers in the Workhouse had special meals and were permitted to watch the sports. Chipping Norton Women's Jubilee Offering, headed by Mayoress, Mrs Wilkins saw 1,000 women and girls contributing £15 13 shillings and ninepence which was submitted to the Queen with a list of all the contributors. On the down side, the Jubilee coincided with a depression in Chipping Norton's glove-making industry, Some locals petitioned the newspapers, asking people to remember those with 'the grim ogre of pauperism staring in the face of a family who have so far heroically and successfully striven to remain strangers to Relieving Officers and Boards of Guardians.'



Pictured in the Illustrated London News was 'The Queen's Jubilee Festival' in Chippy's Market Square in 1887

1897 Diamond Jubilee & new Mayor's Chain

The feeding of the Five Thousand: Tea at 4pm in fields off the Burford Road consisted of: 1000 buns, 1000 lbs of cake, 350 loaves, 219lbs butter, 52lbs tea, 280lbs sugar & 40 gallons milk ~ The bonfire was 9yds high and 20yds in circumference. Londoners may even have headed to Chippy for the event, as the Pall Mall Gazette reported 'certain loyal subjects of Queen Victoria, not less loyal than their fellows, may be casting about

for means of escape from the coming crush and hustle'. The Great Western Railway advertised six-day 'pleasure trips' in June from Paddington to Chipping Norton, Moreton, Cheltenham, Evesham, Worcester and Malvern. National flags and bunting in red, white, blue ... and yellow sold for 6d a yard. The London Standard reported 'Mr Albert Brassey, MP presenting the Corporation of Chipping Norton with a Mayor's chain commemorating the Jubilee.

The chain, which is of solid gold, consists of 27 links and pendant, all richly chased and ornamented.' And, is, of course still worn by the Town Mayor on ceremonial occasions.

Chipping Norton TOWN FESTIVAL

Sunday 5th June 2022

A MEMORABLE DAY PLANNED

As part of the Jubilee celebrations put Sunday 5th June for the Town Festival in the diary. Town Centre fun and activities. Opening by a local celebrity. Prizes for 'Jubilee themed shop window competition'. To set up your own stall or to come and help just email cntownfestival@gmail.com.

Thanks Owen Mumford for joining the sponsors!

HOLD YOUR OWN JUBILEE STREET PARTY

Come to Chippy's Festival but why not get your Street involved for a party on Jubilee weekend – maybe on Friday 3rd or Saturday 4th June. Chat to your neighbours, drop a note in everyone's door and have a planning meeting – why not meet in the street?! A road-closed street party is best, or you can just have a low key Street Meet. Find out more about road closure procedures by googling 'WODC street parties'.

Lots more advice also at www.streetparty.org.uk



Chippy's dog bins – all change!



Dog poo bin gone! Only the mark of the base remains ...

Disgruntled dog owners have been upset by the removal, over January, of all the old individual dog poo bins in Chippy, with no public explanation. West Oxfordshire District Council has now removed litter bins too, replacing them, often in different locations, with dual purpose litter and dog poo bins. The results so far seem to be causing some inconvenience! Overall, the 'bin system' is run by WODC but in recent years Chippy Town Council had intervened, contracting with

WODC to add more bins. But last summer WODC started 'rationalising'. An August public notice from Enstone Parish Council explained that WODC wanted to update old rusty bins, get bins in the right locations, and reduce clutter by having combined litter and poo bins. WODC promised to liaise with town and parish councils, particularly to get changes right. Chipping Norton Town Council, and indeed dog owners, seem to have been left in the dark.

So what's happened so far? Occasionally, as opposite Aldi, one poo bin has been replaced by a new bin, but further down



Regular dog-walker in search of a dog bin ...

Banbury Road, two dog bins and two litter bins have been replaced by one dual bin, about a third of the previous capacity. Similarly, on Burford Road near Chipping Norton School, three litter bins and a dog bin have been replaced by two dual bins. Some dog owners find their old regular bins simply aren't there. They are learning the new locations but some residents complain: 'there aren't enough bins', 'one pizza box will block them', and 'the bins were often overflowing before, so these will be worse'.



New combined bin – already overflowing

The Town Council tries to liaise with WODC to get the best service. Communities Committee Chair Cllr Sandra Coleman acknowledged concerns and said she was meeting WODC's Bill Oddy to discuss location issues. She added, 'Obviously one issue is how often bins are emptied. The schedule states: the litter bins in the town centre are emptied every day and others on a Monday and Friday. Overflowing bins can be reported to WODC via westoxon.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/. Our experience is that when overflowing bins are reported, a crew is established quite quickly to sort out the problem'. Any residents concerned about the new arrangements should contact the Guildhall, deputyclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk, who will work with WODC – see letter from Cllr Coleman page 33. One real test will be the arrival of warm weather and town visitors.

Beehive at 24 High Street

March will see the arrival of a new business in No 24 High Street, formerly occupied by The Tea Set. Beehive is a home and lifestyle products emporium. It offers a mix of local and global textiles, homewares (cushions, throws, gifts and

Your town needs you!

The West Oxfordshire Local Plan included a development area called East Chipping Norton (also known as Tank Farm) and, as most people know, the Government insisted on the inclusion of 1,000 homes in this area. Work on this development has reached a critical stage.

Over the next 3–4 months, an overall masterplan will be prepared which will determine all the key issues for the site:

- Walking and cycling links to the town
- Highways – the type and route of the through road
- Blue and Green infrastructure
- Biodiversity/Landscaping
- Sustainability
- Education: Location & size of the proposed new primary school
- Housing: Design, type and mix
- Employment provision
- Open Space/Sports facilities
- Community/Health and other town-wide issues
- Water supply, and drainage and sewage disposal
- Allotments



The Town Council will be working to ensure that we get the best possible outcome for the future of our town but we cannot do it without your support. We know that there are many people in our community who have invaluable skills, expertise and experience in these areas. If you are one of these people, we would love to hear from you if you have: some time to attend meetings and carry out background research; and a commitment to a better future for Chipping Norton.

The more the community is engaged with the process, the more we can influence this to be a benchmark development for the future and a fully integrated part of our town complete with appropriate facilities for everyone. If you have knowledge or skills in any of the above areas, please contact the Deputy Town Clerk, Katherine Jang, at deputyclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk and we will send further details of the working groups and the ways in which you can be involved.

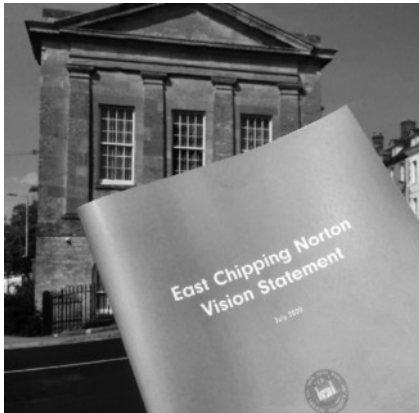
Chipping Norton Town Council

LOCAL NEWS

stationery) and handmade products from local makers. For more about the range on offer visit www.beehivehome.co.uk

East Chipping Norton – action!

Work on long-awaited plans for Chippy's 1000+ home expansion beyond Tank Farm has now, very visibly, restarted with some rapid deadlines. After months of little contact, Chippy's residents could now get a full public consultation on a new plan in April. Landowners Oxfordshire County



CN Town Council produced its own Vision Statement for the development

Council and Cala Homes, now seemingly working together, want to involve the Town Council and local stakeholders more actively. A new Liaison Group will start meeting fortnightly in early March involving WODC, our County, District and Town Councillors, key landowners including the Field Reeves and William Fowler Trust, health organisations, and representatives of local groups to be nominated by the Town Council.

April public consultation? The output will be a 'planning framework' setting parameters, rather than a detailed masterplan, accompanied by documentation outlining S106 Obligations to fund infrastructure. It will go to WODC's cabinet for adoption and, in the absence of any formal planning guidance, which was blocked by legal challenge last year by Cala, it will become a 'material consideration' when WODC are determining individual applications for the site. OCC are hoping to hold public consultation events during April unless delayed by May's local elections.

Influence from Town Council Meanwhile, Chipping Norton Town Council is assembling its own Working Group and is looking for volunteers from the Town with skills to

contribute; see page 3. At the Town Council's Strategic Planning Committee in February, Cllr David Heyes explained that a key task would be to put pressure on OCC as to what it means by 'exemplary development', and feed views into OCC's Liaison Group. The Town Council will establish this Working Group immediately after the first OCC Liaison Group meeting on 3 March, initially contacting those who contributed to the Vision Statement and, if lots of local volunteers come forward, sub-groups could be formed. Cllr Heyes is also keen to re-employ architects Maccreanor Lavington, who had helped prepare the Town Council's Vision Statement in 2019, from the £25,000 that the Town Council has budgeted for professional advice.

Need to aim high? During discussion, Cllr Chris Butterworth stressed the importance of the 2014 Neighbourhood Plan, fearing that this new work could just regurgitate its content and that developers would only build to existing Building Regulations. Others felt that the Town Council, despite being only a third-tier authority, needed to aim high. Cllr Foakes thought the Town Council, as Trustees of the William Fowler Allotments, could use this landownership as a ransom to raise standards. Cllr Jo Graves urged that the Town retain its Cotswold Working Town community feel and Cllr Mark Walker felt that people in the Town were keen to engage in the process and invitations should be wide. The meeting elected Cllr Heyes to lead the Town Council's Working Group and represent the Town Council on the OCC Liaison Group.

Net zero Walterbush Rd homes



There are plans for eight net zero affordable homes in Chippy: Chipping Norton's Deputy Mayor, Cllr Sandra Coleman met MP Robert Courts, Leader of WODC, Cllr Michele Mead and WODC officers at the proposed site recently

Vacant land off Walterbush Road looks set to be developed for affordable homes, thanks to a £78,000 grant from the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities to WODC, who own the site. The money will be used for underground power cables that cross the site and to apply for planning permission. Eight net zero custom-built homes for sale are planned, with environmentally friendly amenities including a composting club for the local neighbourhood and an e-vehicle club with charging points. Cllr Michele Mead, WODC Leader, explains, 'Our self-build register identifies local demand for this type of low-cost home ownership and building net zero carbon homes will not only benefit the environment but also make household bills lower, too'. It is hoped work will start on site later this year.

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LOCAL NEWS

Boost for County youth services

The last two years of Covid have shone a light even more on the need to support young people often facing isolation, education and mental health issues. Now, Oxfordshire County Council has announced that they are bringing back a full County Youth Service – including four youth workers based in West Oxfordshire supporting Chipping Norton. The Conservative-controlled County Council had scrapped youth workers in 2011. Back then, Chipping Norton's previously well-attended youth clubs stopped as there were no paid workers. Perversely, the County had accepted nearly £1m from the Labour Government in 2009 to fund the new Glyme Hall – justified largely on providing more and better youth facilities. But with no permanent funds for qualified staff, the volunteer-run teenage youth club efforts foundered. The Hall is rented mainly by other community groups and commercial organisations.

OCC are running a road show about the new youth service in March and April which will focus on targeted support for young people most in need such as those with housing, exclusion, family or mental wellbeing issues. Cabinet member for young people, Labour's Liz Brighthouse, hopes it will make a 'massive difference to the lives of vulnerable children across the whole of Oxfordshire'.

Chippy's youth activities



OCC's new youth service comes alongside many local Chipping Norton youth activities, back in action after Covid. There are a variety with thriving memberships such as Scouts, ATC, Army Cadets, CN Theatre's Youth Theatre, Cotswold Stage School, local schools of dance, and

*Top:
Remix for Yrs
7-11 runs on
Fridays at
Glyme Hall*

*Right:
Chippy
Theatre's Youth
Theatre has
sessions for ages
7-18*



sports clubs such as Chippy Swifts, Rugby and Junior Cricket. St Mary's Church employs outreach workers for families and young people – they provide mentoring and the after-school Remix youth club (3.15–4.45pm), run at Glyme Hall on Fridays by youth worker Joel Reed. Joel told the News, 'We have seen great numbers coming through the door and enjoying sports, tuck shop, video games, crafts and music since we re-opened in May 2021. This term is even more exciting with Community Albums coming in to run sessions teaching them how to produce music, develop their vocal and

instrumental skills, and even the chance to combine the two to create their own unique piece of music'. Remix is free to and open to anyone in school years 7–11. For details contact Joel Reed at youth@stmaryscnorton.com.

... and a new Youth Club starts!



Marion and Julie from Got2B

On 15 March a new Youth Club is starting up in Chipping Norton, run by youth organisation Got2B, who are based in Carterton and have been running youth activities elsewhere in West Oxfordshire, including February half term workshops.

The Club, will use the space of the Methodist Church, will run from 3.30 to 5.30pm for ages 13 to 17 – and promises 'fun, crafts, games and food'. It's free to attend and the Got2B team will be out and about in Chippy after school on Tuesday 1 & 8 March, in their branded jackets, handing out flyers to young people as they come out of school and asking the local shops to put up posters in their windows.

Got2B is a well-established 'not for profit, community interest company, run by Marion and Julie (pictured above). Their recent Witney Thursday youth club saw 50 teenagers turn up. Back in September, they presented their ideas to Chipping Norton Town Council, who have engaged them to run events and do outreach work. This is their first activity here. Readers may remember that two years ago the Town Council were awarded over £25,000 as a one-off County grant to fund and kick-start more youth activities. Ideas such as hiring a youth worker or creating a youth council to engage with young people were put on hold when Covid hit. More plans in due course.

Invitation from Highlands

As the *Chippy News* reported last month, it's All Change for Highlands!! They are no longer running the Friday Members Day but hope to replace this with a Lunch Club and other groups throughout the week. Fitness '4' Seniors on a Friday at 11am is proving successful and Chipping Norton Stroke Club will meet one afternoon a month starting in March. The Transport Service taking vulnerable people to GP appointments and local hospitals will continue and the aim is to use the mini-bus to take groups out to local venues as the weather improves. The building is still available to hire for events, family gatherings, meetings etc at reasonable rates, and of course CATS is still enjoying lots of great theatre trips and days out. Joyce Taylor, on behalf of the Committee, said: 'Here's where we need your support: we will need **volunteers** and **drivers** for any of the activities we have planned for our senior community members to enjoy. Please contact us for more details or to make bookings by phone 01608 643320 or email highlandschippingnorton@gmail.com'.

A **Cheese and Wine Evening** is being held on Friday 8 April at 7.30pm by Highlands (Charity Age Concern Chipping Norton). Please come and join in if you have been involved in Highlands in the past or wish to volunteer in the future.

Milestone for The Branch

Renovation work is starting! Little did we know when St Mary's purchased the Old NatWest Bank back in October 2019 that it would become the centre for our Covid relief effort – the perfect storehouse for several tonnes of furniture, toiletries, wellbeing packs, Christmas hampers and 46,000 meals. Now it starts the next stage in its journey serving our town and villages – renovating it, as 'The Branch', to becoming our Community Hub. As regular readers will know, the fundraising target over £3m is almost in sight, and the building is being prepared for works to commence. A momentous milestone on Sunday 13 February saw the congregation from St Mary's make its way up the hill after Sunday morning service to be joined by others to give thanks and hand over the keys to the builders.



One of the youngest supporters of The Branch hands over the keys to the Builders

Builders now on site We apologise up front about the disruption ahead but hope you feel it will be worth it to create Chippy's new Community Hub. From mid-February, the builders have been on site to undertake investigations and enabling work. We are delighted to have appointed local (Horspath, Oxford) mid-size builder, SavvyGroup. In our selection, we were mindful that our builders needed to be very considerate of their impact on the Town. Some further

planning and listed building consent applications are displayed outside the building – minor adjustments, several to meet requirements of our initial planning consent (such as lowering the rear extension roof by 30cm and different external wall materials), are set out, and we've also modified lift and skylight designs. Unfortunately, 300 years ago, the original planners did not consider future building access needs, so everything will need to come in and out of the front doors. Therefore, to keep everyone safe, the area outside The Branch will need to be cordoned off as a temporary compound. We are talking to County, District and Town Councils to make sure we minimise disruption.

Working with the community. The Branch team want to involve the whole community and keep everyone up to date from the start. We plan a monthly *Chippy News* update, an information news board out front, and students from Chipping Norton School on site each month monitoring progress and learning about the different trades (and career opportunities!). A group will photographically document the transformation. Tenders will be to local subcontractors where possible; builders will park in New St car park not Market Square, and deliveries will be avoided on Market Wednesdays. Please accept our apologies in advance, and if there is anything we could be doing better, please do not hesitate to contact us

Help with energy and cost issues

By April, Chippy residents will all face big cost increases – top being more than a 50% rise in energy bills – but with council tax, national insurance and rising food prices also hitting us. Don't struggle alone – talk to friends or organisations who can help.

Help with energy costs – Teresa Archer of **Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire** says please contact them via citizensadvicewestoxon.org or helpline 0808 2787908. They have energy advisers and a wealth of useful online advice. So far, Government help includes a £200 cut (automatically applied to electricity bills) in October but to be paid back over five years, and in April £150 off Council tax bills for bands A to D. Through Local Authorities there are (for those on low income or benefits) also Warm Home Discounts, more Council Tax relief, and special one-off grants. Energy suppliers also have grants and special prepayment help. The non-profit energysavingtrust.org.uk (call 0300 123 1234) also has great energy-saving advice.

Worries about money and debt – In Chipping Norton help is available through **Christians Against Poverty** or **CAP** – who specialise in debt counselling for people in financial difficulty. The local branch also runs Life Skills groups helping with practical skills to survive on low incomes. One example client (in a national report) spotted a leaflet in a community hall and rang up. He said, 'Val (CAP Debt Coach) and Anne (Befriender) came out to see us. They have both been a tremendous support to us, and with CAP's (free) help, we went through a Debt Relief Order (DRO). We still struggle financially, but all our bills get paid. It all goes out on the first of the month when I get paid. What's left goes for food. We might struggle a little at the end of the month, but

no one is threatening to cut off our electricity'. Starting on 7 March, CAP's next Life Skills course runs in Chippy Parish Rooms from 12 to 2.30pm (see advert below). For debt counselling, call 0800 328 0006 to book an appointment with the Chippy CAP team, or find out more at capuk.org.

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CAP
LIFE
SKILLS

LOCAL NEWS

at build@thebranchtrust.org. For more information about The Branch, please see www.thebranchtrust.org.

Emma Kennedy – St Mary's and The Branch

More at Chippy Museum



Museum Curator, Pauline Watkins in conversation with Jan Cliffe and volunteer David Nobbs

Our local volunteer-run museum reopens its doors on Saturday, 9 April. Over the years, generous local acquisitions have expanded the collections of fascinating memorabilia including Prehistoric and

Roman Artefacts; Saxon Manor to Market Town in pictures; Chipping Norton Baseball Club – former all-England Champions; Chippy at War – The Home Front, and much more. Chipping Norton Museum has acquired a large collection of early photographs and volunteers are slowly digitising several hundred rare glass plates (negatives) gifted to the Museum, many dating back to the earliest days of photography in the 1800s, eager to reveal previously unseen images depicting the daily lives of Chippy's past inhabitants.

The Museum's volunteers also deal with genealogical enquiries and visitors from around the world, especially from America, Canada, Australia and South Africa, searching for information about their families' pasts. Opening times: Mon-

Sat 2–4pm at 4 High St, opposite the Town Hall. Admission: Adults £1.50, U16s accompanied by an adult – free. Chipping Norton Museum of Local History, 4 High Street, Chipping Norton OX7 5AD, Telephone 01608 641712.

Bingo back at Gt Rollright

Bingo returns to Great Rollright on Friday 25 March, as usual in Great Rollright Village Hall. As those who have joined us before know, it's a fun evening for young and old and a chance to win prizes! Games start at 7.30pm and normally finish at 9.15pm – so not too late for younger ones and plenty of time to go out for the older ones! Bar and refreshments too. Every game cash prizes. Non-profitmaking event with proceeds towards local causes. Doors open at 7pm. Next diary dates are 22 April and 27 May. Information from grbingo@aol.com.

Try Churchill & Sarsden Café

In January, a quartet of *Chippy News* Team members sampled the Community Café now open every Tuesday morning at Churchill and Sarsden Village Hall. There's a warm welcome, with an excellent range of delicious homemade cakes and quality beverages including fresh filter coffee. There is always someone to talk to, or you can find a quiet corner to



access the Hall's superfast broadband. Hazel Hughes, who helps run the café, explained that the café is a Village Hall initiative which sprang up in Autumn 2021 in response to the challenging times of early Covid lockdowns. It is staffed by community volunteers as a sociable space to meet up or relax and managed as a registered food business with the top grade 5 hygiene rating. The Café and Village Hall is on the B4450 next to the village green in Churchill. Hazel said, 'It is an excellent spot to start a cycle route or a beautiful circular walk. Alternatively, you can just stroll around the green – or come straight inside for refreshments! You can find us on Facebook too: search @ChurchillSarsdenCommunityCafe. Our customers include residents, visitors, cyclists, walkers and occasional campers! It's a great pleasure to see everyone enjoying themselves and we welcome many more through the door'. Tuesdays 10am–12noon term time.

Illegal parking down New Street

Problems with off- and on-road parking down Chippy's busy New Street continue. The Town Council's Traffic Advisory Committee expressed concern in January about more residents turning front gardens into car park spaces illegally, without proper permission. First, doing this off a main road across raised kerbs, pavements and grass verges has safety risks and needs County Highways consent. Second, creating a non-permeable hard car space needs planning permission, and third, any building work in the grounds of a listed building needs listed building consent. The Town Council's Planning Committee is to look at possible breaches for reporting to West Oxfordshire District Council for potential enforcement action. Meanwhile, dangerous, often overnight, parking on double yellow lines down New Street is causing concern. This



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OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 11-4



has again been reported to WODC, who are in charge of parking enforcement. They say they will be sending officers out on late shifts during the year to monitor and issue parking penalty notices. So watch out, any rule-breaking parkers!

Bird flu hits Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council has issued advice after the County joined a growing number of UK locations recording



cases of avian influenza (bird flu) in the wild bird population. By mid-February approaching 100 UK cases had been found. Bird Flu is an infectious type of influenza that spreads among birds. In rare cases it can affect humans – transferred by touch. There are a number of strains – this one is H5N1. It doesn't easily affect humans but there

have been deaths around the world. OCC has local responsibility for animal welfare and are advising local people out walking to keep to the footpaths, to keep dogs on leads, not to feed wild waterfowl, not to pick up or touch dead or sick birds and not to touch bird feathers or surfaces with bird droppings. If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese, ducks) or other dead wild birds such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra Helpline 03459 335577.

Spotlight on Heythrop Park

The 440 acre Heythrop Park Resort near Enstone reopens this July after a £40 million transformation to become the biggest hotel in the adult-only Warner Leisure Hotels group which recently bought the site. The resort has 337 bedrooms in both the grand Heythrop Hall and adjoining modern hotel, recently the Crown Plaza (pictured below), ballroom, theatre



and three restaurants. Also included are the existing 18-hole golf course, restored gardens, parkland and refurbished spa and leisure facilities.

Heythrop has a fascinating and varied history! The Grade 2 listed Heythrop Hall was built in Italian Baroque style in the 1700s by the first Duke of Shrewsbury who had missed out on nearby Cornbury Park. Badly damaged by fire in 1831, the Hall remained derelict until Thomas Brassey gave it to his



third son Albert as a wedding present. Young Albert restored the interior in neo-classical style with stained glass by Morris and Co. In 1926 the Jesuits took it over as a college, then in 1970 National Westminster Bank made it their training centre. In 2000 it was bought by Firoz Kassam's company (also owners of the Kassam football stadium in Oxford) and it became a Hotel, Golf and Country club after a £50 million refit. In 2018 it passed to Bourne Leisure, Warner's parent company.

Golf and Leisure Centre manager told *Chippy News* that Warner usually offer local membership for both Leisure Club and the Golf Club. Unfortunately, all Warner sites stopped local Spa membership during the pandemic but they hope to reintroduce it. When the site re-opens, the manager hopes Chippy locals can take advantage of this as well as continuing to use the footpaths running through the Park. This local investment may also lead to more local jobs and visitors.

As a footnote, Park visitors may also glimpse the adjoining Amazing Animals site which provides animals for film, TV work and for parties for celebrities including Sting and Elton John. Unfortunately, it seems unlikely that the Scout Association will regain their campsite in the grounds, which many Chippy residents remember fondly from the time of Jesuit and NatWest ownership.

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Pass Notes – The Cannon Run

For those who missed that spectacle of very fast cars roaring through Chippy in January, here's our own version of Pass Notes (apologies to The Guardian)



Out on the Xmas 2021 Cannon Run

What is Cannon Run?

It's a driving club that organises routes for drivers of souped-up supercars so they can drive around the country in convoy.

Sounds great. What is a souped-up supercar please?

Ideally, something like a Lamborghini or Porsche

or even a big 4x4 that you can decorate with logos and stuff. It's a bit naughty but apparently, if you take out the catalytic converter, your vehicle can produce some really explosive backfiring. If you're lucky, you also can shoot flames out of the exhaust pipe which is super impressive! If you don't actually own one, don't worry, Cannon Run can help you hire one.

Oooh fun, but why are we talking about it now? Cannon Run just organised a massive convoy of 110 of these cars which drove through Chipping Norton on Sunday 30 January – surely you saw it (or heard it)?

No, I was out of town that day. But hang on, this is starting to sound a bit anti-social. Only if you don't want over 100 backfiring cars driving past you at speed, spouting flames and exhaust fumes at you putting the bins out. Don't you want a tiny percentage of the population to have fun? Not everyone wants to sit around doing puzzles listening to Classic FM, you know.

But what if it upsets residents, pedestrians and is detrimental to the environment? Luckily, it's a free world, and also it's really great driving fast in powerful noisy cars. It makes you feel like you're King of the Road – an excellent feeling!

Sounds a bit dangerous as well. Can the police do anything? Only if they catch them being dangerous or if someone dies in a terrible accident. Talking of which, there have never been any accidents in the entire history of Cannon Run. It's actually a very safe hobby, much like taking your hamster for a walk or knitting.

Hmm, I'm not sure Cannon Run are exhibiting much social responsibility. Wrong. They have raised some money for charity. Except not environmental charities, obv.

Yes, I can see that would be a bit inconsistent. What do Cannon Run say? We spoke to Tom at Cannon Run and he said, 'What we do is cool'.

Lido prepares for new season

The Lido, Chippy's open air pool, opens for the 2022 season on Saturday 16 April. Recruitment for this season is ongoing, so please email info@chippylido.co.uk if you are interested in being a lifeguard, working front of house or in the café. If you'd like to help run The Lido and secure its future, bring your passion for the place to the team of Trustees. We'd welcome anyone with technical and engineering skills, and/or

experience/interest in Leisure provision, Health & Safety, Marketing or Fundraising. Equally, if you have other areas of expertise to offer, please let us know. Full details of this summer's timetable and ticketing will be on the website soon, so keep an eye on chippylido.co.uk and The Lido's social media.

Claire Williamson

Return of the Pit Kitchen

Did you find the Pit Kitchen last summer? This was a pop-up hot food café on the Cornwell Estate off the lane from Salford to Swailsford Bridge, that served 'street food' style chargrilled meals. So popular was it that the Estate has applied for planning permission for the same again, this time off the track just beyond Southern-



Last year's Pit Kitchen – back by popular demand!

down Care Home that leads to the Sewage Works. Subject to permission, this café with outdoor seating, functioning from a timber clad shipping container, will be festooned with lights and open between 5pm and 10pm Wednesdays to Saturdays, April to October. Although Cotswold Conservation Board remains unconvinced that the café, particularly the lights, would be adequately screened, fans of last year's café have written to WODC in their hundreds to support the venture.

Computer Problems Getting You Down?



Have someone solve it to bring you back up!

If your needs include:
- Software/Hardware Troubleshooting
- Network Troubleshooting
- 3D Digital Modelling/Texturing
- 2D Photo Editing/Graphics (like this ad!)

...then let William Chalstrey know!
Because he's here to help!

will.chalstrey@gmail.com
07866 284509

LOCAL NEWS

They come from far and wide, not just locally. By 6 February, 281 hungry fans had besieged WODC's website with enthusiastic words of support!

Town Hall fashion show

Chipping Norton Town Hall was the venue, at the end of January, for Terra Libra's Sustainable Fashion Event raising money for the Mindful Mums group. Terra Libra, started in 2021, is based in Chipping Norton and provides modelling talent working with sustainable environmental brands and fashion labels. Taking over the whole building, there was a bustling swap shop in the Lower Hall, with visitors bringing unwanted items of clothing and taking away as much as they could carry. This proved a big success! The Upper Hall had the Terra Libra fashion show featuring models from the Agency's books, showcasing a range of fashion items from (mainly) local sustainable fashion brands. A special feature on the catwalk was the specially designed



Bustling Swap Shop in the Lower Town Hall



Terra Libra's young models on the catwalk with Sarah Jarman's specially designed boards as the backdrop

boards by Sarah Jarman of Saspsdesigns. Surrounding the catwalk were pop-up shops from the featured fashion brands: Ivy the Brand, Spotty Leopard, Threads & Fibre, and MFB Activewear. Unable to attend on the night, but featuring in the fashion show, were A Dress from Jess, Cheeky Parrots and Rosie & Cooley. In between shopping and choosing swap shop items, visitors enjoyed a glass of sparkling English wine or fruit juice kindly donated by Eager Juices.

Rebecca Williams from Terra Libra said, 'A big thank you to the volunteers who helped on the day; last-minute models stepping in due to Covid drop-outs; everyone who came and supported the event; those bringing so many clothes to the swap shop; all the fantastic brands that provided catwalk items; and all local businesses donating raffle prizes. A great way to bring together community and raise awareness of sustainable fashion and supporting local businesses. It was a successful event which we've been asked by many who were isolating to run again, which we may do later in the year, watch this space!'

An ideal stage to be wed

Looking for a unique place around Chippy for your wedding ceremony? The Theatre Chipping Norton has just become a licensed wedding venue and is already taking bookings for summer 2022 and 2023. As a former Salvation Army Citadel, built in the 1870s, the Theatre's vaulted wooden roof and bare stone walls bring huge character and romance, with theatrical glamour thrown in! Ceremonies take place on the stage, with the option of using theatre lights and sound to enhance the experience – you can even use the backstage dressing rooms. Whilst full reception space is difficult, the Theatre's wedding brochure says they can accommodate up to 200 guests and provide a pre or post drinks and canapés event using the bar and gallery. They can also recommend local suppliers and full reception venues. The News team did wonder if a private film showing of 'Bridesmaids' or 'My Best Friend's Wedding' could be an added extra. Download detailed information and a brochure by visiting cotswoldtheatreweddings.co.uk. So, the Bride and Groom can tread the boards in the footsteps of famous players, from John Hurt to Prunella Scales, Michael McIntyre to Jo Brand, and Ben Kingsley to Reggie Yates! It sounds like a great addition for local wedding ceremony venues that include Hook Norton Brewery, Cogges Manor, Cornwell Manor – and even, apparently, the 10-acre 'Cotswold Field of Dreams' near Churchill. The latest 'Hitched' wedding website also gave their Oxfordshire award for wedding events catering to Chippy's Ross and Ross Events.



Library's gadget & IT support



Age UK are back in the library for Gadget and IT Support every other Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm. Whether you need help with your phone, laptop or tablet, Age UK Oxfordshire and

their volunteers can help you develop your skills to be involved safely online, informed and to stay digitally connected. Learn about staying in touch with family and friends over Skype or Zoom, online shopping, setting up an email account or joining virtual groups: all on your own gadget. For more information and to book your place contact Age UK Oxfordshire on 01235 849434 or email network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk. If you use Facebook you may be interested to know that Chipping Norton Library has a new Facebook page. By following our page you can find out about upcoming events and library updates; and, of course, it's also a great way to support us! You can search for www.facebook.com/ChippingNortonLibrary.

Sally Moore – Library Manager

VIP visitors for Chippy Larder

February brought some high-profile visitors to The Chippy Larder. First, we had a visit from High Sheriff of Oxfordshire,



Oxfordshire's High Sheriff pictured with Chippy Larder's Rizvana Poole

Imam Monawar Hussain, who brought a touch of 18th Century glamour to Chipping Norton with his lace jabot and velvet breeches! The office of High Sheriff is a royal appointment and Imam Monawar is also a chaplain at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, a tutor at Eton College and founded The Oxford Foundation, a charity that promotes religious and racial harmony. The High Sheriff took some time to speak with Larder members about the positive impact of

The Larder which he thought was 'Inspirational!'

We were then visited by Cllr Mark Lygo, Lord Mayor of Oxford, and County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health and Equalities who had heard great things about The Chippy Larder. He spent the afternoon meeting Larder Members and talking about The Larder's commitment to

Nourish, Empower and Connect the Community which he is keen to support as well as our commitment to stopping food waste and making good quality, nutritious food accessible to all.

Rizvana Poole

'Have a go' at the Firestation

Could you join Chippy's fire-fighters? Why not come along to the 'Have a Go Day' on Saturday 12 March, just pop in between 9am-2pm. Come and have a chat with experienced on-call firefighters and ask any questions you



may have. They'll help you try out the physical assessments such as ladder-climbing, hose-running and putting on breathing apparatus, as well as find out more about the recruitment process. Just turn up or email david.cuthbert@oxfordshire.gov.uk for more information. You can also pop in any Wednesday night 7-9pm to chat to the crew.

So far this year, the Station has attended almost 20 incidents and has been training hard to maintain its effectiveness. They attended a Banbury area exercise testing their firefighting and search and rescue skills. On 9 February, Firefighter Gunnar Hergt hung up his helmet after serving the town for 17 years, attending call-outs to fires and road traffic collisions – and local fêtes and shows! A big thank-you to Gunnar and good luck for the future.

CPRE – Local Trustees wanted



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

Do you care about your local countryside? CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Oxfordshire works to improve, protect and preserve the landscape for us all. Due to the retirement of current members, CPRE is looking for new trustees to join their Branch Executive team to help staff and volunteers run the charity. Why is this important in and around Chipping Norton? Town growth can threaten attractiveness and benefits of our rural countryside. CPRE promotes sustainable forms of living, protecting the Green Belt and working with community groups to give hedgerows a new lease of life. This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, making a real difference as part of a friendly group passionate about Oxfordshire countryside. Application deadline is 31 March but CPRE is happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis. For further info, contact Dorian Grier, Branch Secretary dorian.cpre@gmail.com or telephone 01491 612079. For more information see www.cpreoxon.org.uk.



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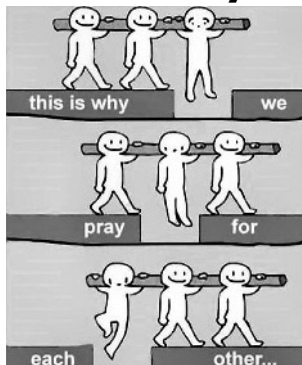
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World Day of Prayer



On Friday 4 March, worshippers in Chipping Norton will join this year's World Day of Prayer, and 2022 is the turn of women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland to prepare and write prayers for the whole world. The service will celebrate our landscape, people and culture, shaped by our history. It also illustrates our diversity and will reflect on issues facing us today.

The World Day of Prayer service sees a continuous wave during the day, starting in Samoa, moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe, and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, services take place in large urban centres such as Central Hall, Westminster, towns and remote village churches.

All are welcome to come and join in at 10.30am on Friday 4 March in the Methodist Church, West St, Chipping Norton.

Chippy Locker for sports gear

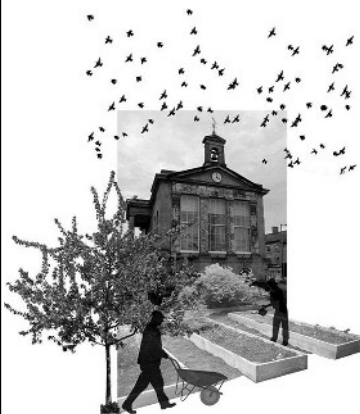
The Chippy Larder is launching its newest venture 'The Chippy Locker!' to encourage young people to take up the sporting opportunities available in Town and help the environment at the same time. You can bring in your clean (good condition) youth sports equipment every Thursday to The Chippy Larder at The Guildhall and we will give you £2. We need rugby boots, football boots, Astro pitch boots, shin pads, goalie gloves, tennis racquets, cricket whites, etc. We will then open up The Chippy Locker on the third Saturday of each month for everyone, where you will have the opportunity to come and buy sports equipment for just £2.! The Chippy Larder is open every Thursday 1-6pm at The Guildhall.



Rizvana Poole

The best use of our Town Hall

How can Chipping Norton make best use of its iconic listed – but expensive – 19th century grade II* listed Town Hall? We decided to revisit the Chippy News archives, ten years ago, when Architecture students at Oxford Brookes University were challenged by their tutor to explore imaginative ways for the building to be brought into the 21st century at the heart of the community, whilst retaining its historic character.



As reported in the News last month, The Town Council, as owners, are now looking at potential bills of £500,000 over the next 10 years for repairs and upkeep, which have or will come out of our pockets as Council Tax payers. Next year's budget sees direct running costs and repairs of £80,000 – and even with good post-Covid recovery, an anticipated rental income of only around £26,000. For years it has been the Town's magnificent 'civic space', and often well used. But large civic events have declined, and commercial and town organisations can now choose from church and school halls, The Theatre, the purpose-built Leisure Centre and modern Glyme Hall. St Mary's Church is developing The Branch town centre community space and also planning to remove their church pews, creating the largest flexible space in the Town.

But could this be a great opportunity for a growing Town to use some different ideas? The first-floor main Town Hall with its proscenium arch is a fine civic space, but could it be more flexible? Could the Lower Town Hall and Council

Chamber be made attractive for more frequent use? Here are some of those Brookes' students' ideas back in 2012:

- Most of the students' schemes envisaged the exterior of this listed building being retained but the interior opened up to accommodate a range of potential new uses, with flexibility of the space being key.
- Ideas included a new home for the public library, a bookshop, a café, a restaurant, the sale of local produce, a slow food centre, a cookery school, a bike shop and a media centre. In fact, both books and food featured strongly across the submissions. Facilities for young people were also a focus.
- Suggestions included moving the Council Chamber upstairs, enabling the most accessible part of the building downstairs to be put to more active use.



- Notable, was the emphasis on retaining free public access to the building; as was the expectation that uses would spill out to a future pedestrianised public space beyond, particularly between the main entrance and Westgate.

Images reproduced with kind permission of Oxford Brookes University.

As the Town Council plan to finance their extensive Town Hall repairs, and also contemplate the future of The Guildhall, do Chippy News readers have ideas to contribute? Building redesign? Indoor markets? Library? Heritage and visitor space? Hospitality? Council office and community use? Ask a commercial developer for their ideas? All thoughts welcome.

Whichford Potter hits TV



Adam Keeling with his massive Rhubarb Forcer

Keen viewers of Channel 4's *Great Pottery Throw Down* will have spotted Whichford Pottery's Master Thrower, Adam Keeling, who was thrilled to be a guest judge. On the show he demonstrated how to make a Whichford Pottery Rhubarb Forcer. To make the challenge fairer, the contestants were asked to make a smaller Seakale Forcer. Adam and his family employ 25 potters at Whichford Pottery who turn five to eight tonnes of clay a week into flowerpots, from tiny Longtoms to huge

bespoke urns. All flowerpots are handmade and carry a 10-year frostproof guarantee. Adam says, 'At the heart of the business are skills my dad was taught by fourth generation potters'. Adam said they were proud to be keeping alive traditions of the English Country Potters before them and added, 'throwing 32lbs of clay into a Seakale Forcer was a really tough challenge for the contestants. They all did so well. This much clay not only requires physical strength but also immense skill. I was impressed by their determination and was pleased that they all managed to complete the task. AJ was

crowned the winner of this task and it was well deserved'. It's not too late to watch Adam in action! Catch up on Channel4.com, episode 5.

For more information about Whichford Pottery, see www.whichfordpottery.com or come and visit the Pottery!

Annabelle Jones

WSJ promotes 'hipper' Chippy!

The select band of *Chippy News* readers who also read the *Wall Street Journal* will have spotted an item about our little town in that august New York financial tome which boasts Chinese and Japanese editions. With a headline 'As the North Cotswolds Get Hipper, Home Values Soar', journalist Ruth Bloomfield describes our area as 'a fashionable place for frazzled urbanites to take a weekend break'. Intriguingly, she also describes our 'sophisticated nightlife' attracting people to live here rather than just visit.



'Hipper' Chippy hits US headlines

The article ascribes the boom in North Cotswolds' popularity to an easy commute to London, lush countryside, Covid, Jeremy Clarkson and his TV series, the Chipping Norton Set, Soho Farmhouse and Daylesford. No surprise there, then! Local upmarket estate agents mention high numbers of buyers and rapid price increases for Cotswold country homes worth over £2 million (apparently up 23.4% in 2021). The article includes some nice photos of our Town Hall, The Fox, Bitter & Twisted, Diddy Squat Farm, local celebrities and property including that owned by the Beckhams. Most of the (somewhat selective) details of the area are accurate suggesting the writer may live locally. Readers may well ask where does this leave Chipping Norton's community as a whole and the average resident? Do we think the 'high-end' inward investment can have that elusive 'trickle-down' effect to help those struggling to make ends meet here? And how does this help provide high-value jobs and homes for locals at reasonable prices? And might readers of the *WSJ* benefit from reading the *Chippy News*? All food for thought for us and our 'powers that be', particularly as Chippy's expansion is becoming a near reality.

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A Visit to Whichford Pottery is a Real Treat...

- * Full range of our Handmade Frostproof Flowerpots
 - * The Octagon shop * Inspirational garden * The Straw Kitchen
- Please see our website for Pottery & Café opening times.

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

Hedgehog highways in Chippy?



WODC has recently launched a scheme encouraging town residents to create 'Hedgehog Highways'. If you live in Chipping Norton, send a picture of a newly created hedgehog hole in your garden to the WODC climate team to receive a free hedgehog highway sign! To find out more you can visit www.westoxon.gov.uk and search 'hedgehog'.

Lawrence Team's June opera



Book now for summer opera in Enstone

The Lawrence Home Nursing Team is pleased to announce 'A Summer's Evening of Opera' at Rectory Farmhouse, Church Enstone on Friday, 17 June – by kind permission of Sally Coles and Andrew Hornung. Gardens open from 5pm, music 7pm to 10.30pm (one-hour interval), tickets £30, under 16s free. Welcome drink on arrival provided by the Zurich Community Trust. A magical evening of opera, with world-class professional singers and chamber musicians in beautiful gardens in aid of the Team. Follow four characters' journeys through a kaleidoscope of arias, duets and ensembles. Music by Handel, Mozart, the great bel canto Italian opera composers and Rodgers & Hammerstein, plus surprises and gems from Beethoven's *Fidelio* to the sheer pizzazz of the finale from Verdi's *Falstaff* and the caustic wit of Sondheim's lyrics. Come early, find the perfect spot, set up your picnic. Some chairs provided but guests are encouraged to bring their own rugs or deckchairs. If there's inclement weather, the Opera Evening will be in St Kenelm's Church, Church Enstone. Email fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org or tel 07990

882233 for tickets and information. Free parking on Little Tew Lane. Joining instructions will follow thereafter.

Verity Fifer

Early warning of Blossom Day!

Nature pays no regard to pandemics so we can be sure of blossom at Chippy Community Orchard in May and, all being well, will celebrate it for its beauty and its promise of fruit to come on Sunday 8 May from 12 noon–3pm with music and dancing from Charlbury and Finstock Morris, children's activities, rural crafts, refreshments – and **new this year** for children and adults, Willow Coppice will teach us to make willow fish. Can you help your orchard? The half-acre of land is leased from the Field Reeves, maintained by the Green Gym and administered by a committee made up from the Green Gym and general public. Committee members needed! We'd encourage anybody with pruning and/or social media skills but just interest and enthusiasm will be welcome. For more information, please contact Heather Leonard by emailing rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk.



Blossom Day celebrations

Heather Leonard

Come along to our Open Day

Willow Gardens, Chipping Norton
Thursday 10 March – 10am to 2pm

Our brand-new Extra Care scheme in Chipping Norton offers independent living in your own beautiful apartment, combined with access to welcoming communal areas, exclusively for people over the age of 55*.

We'd love to show you around, so come along to:

- Find out more about our tailored Extra Care service
- View our show apartment and communal areas
- Meet our dedicated Housing and Care Manager

*Extra Care is for those aged over 65, however, if you are aged between 55 and 64 and have a care need you may also be eligible. **Eligibility criteria, monthly rent up to 75% on shared ownership, core charges and services charges apply.

Book your place by calling **07595 055 542** or emailing **Jackie.Davies@housing21.org.uk**
Willow Gardens | Russell Way | Chipping Norton OX7 5FX

housing21.org.uk    

Housing 21
Extra Care Living



Typical Housing 21 apartment

Guide price:
25% shared ownership from
£64,375** for
a two-bedroom
apartment

Garage store makeover



Balloons to celebrate the opening or the revamped store

The 24-hour Londis Store at the Esso Garage on Chipping Norton's London Road reopened with a colourful balloon display after a week of refurbishment and refit. The previous stocks of provisions have been extended and hot takeaway food from Hot Dogs to DUNKIN' Donuts are available in an extended range. The same helpful staff are enjoying the improved facilities both in front and behind the counter.

Junior Church plan for Lent



Following a very lively Christmas service with the children very much in control, members of the Junior Church at Chippy's Methodist Church in have now started planning for Lent

and Easter. We aim to meet on 27 February to celebrate the start of Lent with pancakes and a family Lent challenge. Then 13 March sees the return of Steve Hutchinson for our family service where we will serve refreshments afterwards. Steve is from Scripture Union and it's his 30th visit to Chipping Norton. Visitors are always welcome.

Elaine Parsons – Methodist Church

Katharine House update

Keen gardeners in and around Chipping Norton are invited to take part in Katharine House's popular **Open Gardens 2022** scheme this summer. Whole streets or villages often get involved – visitors buy tickets or make a donation for the Hospice for a blooming marvellous day out. To find out more about the scheme, contact Sandra Price on GetInvolved@khh.org.uk or visit the website at khh.org.uk/gardens. In other latest news, the **Katharine House Banbury Shop** is having a revamp and has signed a new 10-year lease. You can sign up for the **Extreme Abseil** fundraising event on 2 April to be held at the 127-metres-tall National Lift Tower in Northampton. The **Blenheim Fun Run** is back on 15 May. Run, jog or walk (there's a dogs' event as well) to raise money for Katharine House. The

RideLondon–Essex 100 event is on 29 May and you can sign up for one of three places for the Hospice. Lots more at khh.org.uk

Plans for Oxfam Bookshop

As we all emerge from a trying couple of years, the Oxfam Bookshop in Chipping Norton is planning to bring a little joy into our lives. Lovers of vintage children's books, vinyl and any form of transport will have plenty to look forward to in the coming months, with new specialist



Oxfam volunteer, Dave pictured in the Children's Book section

areas in the shop being planned together with a Town Hall event in early summer. All other tastes are catered for on the well-stocked shelves, but, as ever, the stock relies on the donations received so please keep the books, records, maps, stamps and even postcards coming. If you can Gift Aid your donation, Oxfam benefits from HMRC by an extra 25% on the sale price of every item. That can make a huge difference to help further work carried out by the charity amongst the people of the world less fortunate than ourselves.

Liz Atkins



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A tribute to Eve Coles

The News Team was sad to read the family announcement that Eve Coles had passed away aged 81 on 28 January in the loving company of her son and daughter, following a period of ill health. A beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Eve was a devoted resident of Chipping Norton and served as a dedicated Labour Town Councillor for over 45 years, and nearly 20 years on West Oxfordshire District Council. Eve's family were holding a private funeral, with a memorial celebration likely later in the year. Born a 'Chippy Girl' during WW2, Eve spent her early years, after a family move, in the East End of London, missing Chippy's countryside, but returned soon for some 'not very memorable' school years. But she said, 'I discovered I was quite bright after all' training as a nurse, finding her calling in a caring profession, and working at the Horton, at Chippy Hospital and then for 38 years at Castle View Care Home until she retired. She married Eddie in the early 60's, Debi and Steve were born, and they moved to their brand new house in Cornish Road.



In the 70s, Eve and Eddie began a lifelong and passionate involvement in the Labour movement – starting with their trade unions (Eve was a steward in NUPE then UNISON). An active campaigner with CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament), she memorably backed the Greenham Common protests. She took up the cause of striking miners, the environment and the NHS – which she defended determinedly nationally and in Chippy with the Hospital Action Group. In a tribute, Chipping Norton Labour Party's Steve Akers wrote 'Eve carried the torch for peace, justice and equality for many years as the only Labour Councillor in West Oxfordshire. She was a dedicated, inspirational socialist who campaigned tirelessly throughout her life for the causes she cared most about'. (See *Labour Party tribute on page 25*)

As a Councillor, Eve put Chippy first, rather than political ambitions, with a reputation for working 'on the ground' to

get things done for both Town and individuals. In 2015, after nearly 40 years on the Town Council, she was still topping the poll. It was hard work on many Committees, notably the Recreation Committee, campaigning for the new Leisure Centre, representing the Town for better public transport, and leading the A44A campaign for dealing with HGV pollution. Chipping Norton Deputy Mayor, Sandra Coleman, said, 'Eve will be greatly missed. At Full Council in March, we will honour and mark her commitment and discuss how to permanently mark and recognise her many decades of extraordinary dedication and service to the Town'. A tribute from former Mayor and Honorary Citizen, Pat Lake, noted Eve's service as Governor at Penhurst School for 20 years, Trustee and Governor at the ACE Centre, and Trustee and Secretary at Age Concern Chipping Norton. She was also 'hands on' with Tamara Malcolm in the start of Chippy Theatre, and a long-term allotment user and Committee member.

Former Mayor and longstanding Town Councillor, Jo Graves, serving alongside Eve for over 20 years, called her 'a person of quiet strength and determination. Eve contributed so much to our community with her caring and in always speaking up for those who, perhaps, felt they could not be heard. Her tenacity in flagging up our pollution levels in Chippy and her persistence at District Council in making sure that Chippy's voice was heard, is testament to this. Eve will be missed, and personally I miss her gentle wisdom on the Town Council'. The Labour Party gave Eve an Award of Merit for services but, back in 2015, she told the News, 'I wasn't interested in the award itself – I prefer to concentrate on what we can achieve'. When asked why she had never been Mayor, she said, 'Oh well, I don't like the trappings and networking, I'm a Socialist not a socialiser! I'd rather be hands on doing things'.

Sources: Chippy News archive interviews with Eve and thanks to individuals as stated

See your Town Council in action



Chipping Norton Town Council holds regular main and committee meetings, all of which are open to the public to attend. You can also ask in advance (contact the Town Clerk) for an opportunity to present to or ask questions of the Council. Most meetings are at 7.15pm in the Town Hall – either in the main or lower halls or Council Chamber. Next year's budget has now been set and plans are being developed for the year. The next few meetings are:

- Wed 9 March – Communities Committee (Recreation, Pool Meadow, events, Cemetery, etc)
- Mon 21 March – Full Council
- Wed 6 April – Finance and Resources Committee
- Wed 13 April – Strategic Planning Committee (Town Hall, East Chipping Norton, Future projects, etc).

Two other important dates are likely to be Monday 16 May (the first full **Council Meeting** of the year to elect the mayor and appoint committees) and Monday 23 May, the **Annual Meeting of the Town** – not a Council meeting but a meeting of town citizens to hear from



and ask questions of the Council and other bodies on Chipping Norton issues. Agendas and papers for all meetings are posted on the Town Council website and a newly designed website will be released soon. From June, all Full Council meetings will be held on Wednesdays. See www.chippingnortontowncouncil.co.uk.

Electric cars – coming to Chippy!

Thinking it's time for an electric car? There are lower running costs, less maintenance and less pollution – but what about choosing, charging, and driving? We get the lowdown from three Chippy residents who have 'taken the plunge' with an electric car.

Roger – MG5 fully Electric just bought (1 of only 2 UK electric estate cars)

How do you charge your vehicle? – Chippy's few public points include the Co-op car park, Costa, or Shell up the Banbury Road – with 12 new ones arriving in New St car park. I charge at home, so I did consider a 7kw home charger to charge fully overnight. But, at £1,000 including a £350 government grant, keeping to a standard 3 pin socket at 3.5kw (17 hours for full charge) works fine given my low mileage.

What's it like for long journeys? The official range is 250 miles but in practice, in winter 180-200 miles is more realistic. My longest so far, on 100% charge, is 215 miles from Chippy to Canary Wharf and back. 70mph motorway driving drains the battery quickest. It was squeaky bum time returning to Chippy with 1% left, doing 55mph on the M40 to save power and using the slower North Circular with 'stop start' which suited the car, with its 'regenerative braking'.

How is the driving experience? It's great driving a zero emissions car, healthy for the planet. I drive slower now but enjoy the performance when needed! Longer trips take

planning – weighing up free slow or fast expensive chargers. An upcoming trip to Cornwall, with a car full of teenagers and Labradors will need planning with my Apps (Zap-map, Shell Recharge and BP Pulse). One charge might not work with the full load – but charging stops can coincide with a nice coffee, lunch or dog widdle-break!

Any advice for someone buying? I was inspired to buy electric by COP26 and encourage others to help the environment and save sky high fuel costs. EVs are expensive, but costs are recovered with lower fuel bills (25% of equivalent diesel), cheaper servicing, fewer moving parts, no congestion charge nor road tax. Get charging points on your sat nav! Maybe look at a second-hand early EV such as Nissan Leaf, from £6k, especially with leased and warranted batteries.

Linda – all electric BMWi3 bought 3 years ago

How is your electric vehicle experience so far? We absolutely love it! Not only is it fun to drive, with a very fast getaway from a standing start (it's no milk float!), the design is well thought through with easy access. Being able to travel anywhere knowing you are not polluting the atmosphere is a relief.

What about charging and range? We took advantage of the Government subsidy to have a home charge point fitted and generally charge overnight. Range is about 160 miles, less on a motorway, especially if using headlights, wipers, heaters and electric seats! Driving on local roads under the 50mph

speed limit, we often seem to end the journey with more in the battery than when we started!

Have you had any challenges charging on a longer journey? Early on we had one example of 'range anxiety' when several charge points along our route were occupied or out of order, but these days, with more public charging and efficiency of the available apps, journeys are easier. We can thoroughly recommend it!

Nigel – Mini Countryman Plug-in Hybrid (3+ years back)

How did you decide which car? Back then we considered fully electric (Nissan Leaf or the small BMW i3). But with electric ranges lower, charging points fewer, and a family in Glasgow, to avoid the hassle of running out on the M6 or M74, we went for the hybrid Mini.

How do you charge your car? A 16amp charger (partly with Government grant). We plug in every time we get home. We've not bothered with the complexity of different operators at public chargers. A summer charge for 22 miles makes only 16 in the frost as

well as using lights and heating more. Range doesn't worry us, we simply use infrequent visits to petrol stations to keep topped up.

How does the plug-in hybrid work? When the battery runs out it automatically switches to engine but keeps recharging going downhill or braking, switching back to electric occasionally during a long journey. You can select engine to start off a journey then switch to full electric to meet low emission zones. The engine drives front wheels and battery the rear, so in slippery conditions or for extra acceleration you can use 4-wheel drive.

What advice would you give to a new buyer? Drive carefully in car parks or when passing cyclists or people – you may not be heard, even on petrol. Also, we always try to use trains for long distance (eg to Glasgow). I guess a small EV will be our next car.



Charging an electric vehicle at home is convenient

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NATURE IN ACTION

With Spring coming, this month we feature Bridewell Gardens – a quiet and inspiring local haven with an important role in helping mental health recovery. Why not plan a visit?

Finding hope with nature – Bridewell Gardens, which you can find just on the far side of Charlbury, is a creative and inspiring walled garden and vineyard where people can



find hope in recovery, gardening and working with nature. The Gardens, run as a charity, provides a mental health recovery service for West Oxfordshire, supporting people who have experienced severe and enduring mental

illness. The approach used at Bridewell, social and therapeutic horticulture, is proven to be a powerful intervention for people recovering from serious mental ill health. The growing evidence of this is now informing public health interventions.

Living with mental health issues – Anyone can be affected by a serious mental illness. Over 6000 of us are registered with Oxfordshire GPs with a diagnosis of



schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses. That's the equivalent of the entire population of Chipping Norton living with the debilitating effects of what can be life-limiting conditions. Living with a serious long-term mental health condition can impact every aspect of daily life – such as finding it hard to make small decisions like what to wear or what to cook, leave the house, drive or take public transport. Social interaction, visiting new places, managing finance can all be challenges. It is not uncommon for people living with serious mental illness to become isolated, feel alienated from society, or lose their feelings of self-worth. A way forward can be hard.

*Bridewell Gardens,
The Walled Garden
Wilcote Oxfordshire
OX7 3DT*

www.bridewellgardens.co.uk

**Bridewell
Gardens**



mental health recovery

Bridewell Gardens

mental health recovery



Joining a working community – A typical working day at Bridewell might include any of a wide range of activities to meet the varied needs of people on site: sowing seeds, watering, weeding, clearing paths in the cottage garden or

potager, pruning roses, fruit trees or vines, tending vegetable beds, harvesting soft fruit, making jams or chutneys, blacksmithing, willow-weaving, woodwork and caring for Bridewell's chickens. Working with nature, in the supportive community Bridewell offers, plays a vital role, enabling people to make active steps towards recovery, to managing their mental health and finding seeds of hope in recovery. While next steps might be engaging in new social activities, taking up training, volunteering or paid work – recovery looks different for everyone.



Opening for visitors – Most Bridewell days are reserved for those who need help – but everyone can visit. On

Saturday the 30 April there is a plant sale with a wide variety of perennial plants for sale. This will take place in the vineyard – the walled garden will not be open during the plant sale. The entire site will be open to the public during Open Days 11am–4pm on: Sunday 15 May, Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 June and Sunday 11



September. On Open Day visitors may explore all parts of the vineyard and walled gardens. Produce on sale will include Bridewell sparkling wine with grapes from the organic vineyard. The pop-up café has coffee and cake in beautiful and peaceful surroundings. Dogs are welcome on a lead. Bring a picnic to relax in the vineyard and make the most of your day out in this idyllic West Oxfordshire corner. No booking needed and suggested donations £5.



Greenfinch



NATURE IN ACTION

Steve Akers, an enthusiastic Chippy birdwatcher told the News, 'The highlight was seeing four Bullfinches – three males and a female, plus a female Blackcap that has taken up residence in our garden for the winter. However, we noticed bird numbers were down on previous years. This fits a worrying global trend with birds disappearing from our lives. We can all play our part stopping this decline – protecting habitats where we live and supporting nature conservation campaigns and organisations'. If you feed birds in your garden, please help keep birds safe from diseases. You should clean and wash feeders and birdtables regularly, wear gloves and



Male Bullfinch

remember to wash your hands. Have a water source and leave some areas a bit wild. What we do in our outdoor space, balconies and backyards can make a massive difference.

If you enjoyed counting the birds why not do it regularly – explore the Garden Birdwatch www.BTO.org

A January weekend saw Chipping Norton's eagle-eyed bird enthusiasts out in their gardens!

Shockingly, we've lost 38 millions birds from UK skies over 50 years – and the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch helps monitor how garden birds are faring. Everyone is encouraged to watch gardens for an hour and send results. A couple of News Team members reported 'all I got was a couple of pigeons and jackdaws' but even 'nil' reports are important to help our scientists. Spotting, including for children, can be fun and the RSPB's website has a terrific identification chart. Blackbirds topped the list last year (including those confusing brown female ones!). Most important is the 70-bird 'at risk' Red List – swifts, greenfinches and house martins joined cuckoos and puffins this year.



Blackcap

Turtle news from Cape Verde

Regular News readers may recall News Team's Charlotte Bird's article on conservation work in Cape Verde's tiny island of Maio. Charlotte is back in Maio and caught up with conservationist, Alex Tavares.

Alex explained the fascinating, but precarious, life cycle. Seven turtle species feed in Cape Verde, but only one breeds – the Carreta Carreta. The breeding season, currently June and July, was April and May only a few years back – the change due to global warming which a new project is looking into. Alex, working with Fundação Maio Biodiversidade, is helping track turtles with chips inserted between their webbed 'fingers' (pictured bottom right) A female can lay four to seven times, at weekly intervals, in one season, travelling between islands making nests in different locations, but always returning to where they were born to lay one batch. Sadly, less than half the (unguarded) nests survive as eggs are eaten by crabs and stray beach dogs. If turtles hatch during the day, birds eat them. Tragically only 1% of baby turtles reach adult age. Hopefully this will improve as new hatcheries protect the nests.



Turtle size depends on diet not age, and currently the only way to determine age is via DNA, an expensive procedure done by universities. Oceanic I turtles are smaller and they feed relatively locally, off the coast of Africa, which is 550km away. Neartic turtles travel further to South Africa for a plentiful supply of food and are therefore bigger. Whilst in the ocean they have natural predators – sharks and whales – and then there is man.... the oceans are full of loose nets which trap the turtles. Their main food is jelly fish which, sadly, turtles often confuse with plastic bags. The good news is turtles are now protected in Cape Verde. It is illegal to catch, eat or sell them or turtle shell handicrafts.

To follow Alex's work go to www.maio-eco-tours.com



THE ARTS

The Theatre

Live on stage

A number of performances at The Theatre in March are part of a 2-for-1 ticket offer, available to National Lottery players through the 'Love Your Local Theatre' scheme. Contact Box Office for more information on 01608 642350.

Mark Harrison Band. Thu 3 March, 7.30pm. Acclaimed singer-songwriter (and now Chippy resident!) **Mark Harrison** brings his unique music and band to his local theatre, performing original and catchy songs complete with wry intros. £16, £14 concessions



The Duran Duran Experience. Fri 4 March, 7.30pm. Calling all Duranies – the UK's premier Duran Duran tribute band is coming to Chippy! Watch them belt out the hits from Rio to Notorious. £19

Black is the Color of My Voice. Sat 5 March, 7.30pm. Inspired by the life of Nina Simone, this powerful one-woman play follows a jazz singer seeking redemption after the death of her father. Written and directed by Fringe First award-winner **Apphia Campbell**. £16, £14 concs, £7.50 under 16s

The Mikado. Thu 10 March, 7.30pm. Gilbert and Sullivan fun with Yum-Yum, Ko-Ko and Nanki-Poo in a story filled with romance, chicanery and a legal conundrum, courtesy of **The Merry Opera Company**. £17.50, £15.50 concs

Drag Queen Story Hour UK. Sat 12 March, 11.30am. Fabulous drag queen, **Aida H Dee**, reads her own children's book and more in this engaging and creative story time for youngsters. £10

Crimes, Camera, Action! Wed 16 & Fri 18 March, 7.30pm, Thu 17 March, 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Multi-award-winning **New Old Friends** are back with their latest caper, whisking the audience to golden era Hollywood and introducing hard-boiled private eye Stan Shakespeare. £16, £14 concs, £7.50 under 16s

Clive Anderson. Sat 19 March, 7.30pm (age 14+). The host of *Whose Line Is It Anyway*, *Loose Ends* and *Talks Back* hits Chippy with his much anticipated (and rescheduled!) show as part of his first ever solo tour. £18.50

Dear Zoo. Thu 24 March, 4pm, Friday 25 & Sat 26 March, 11am & 2pm (Age: 3+) **Rod Campbell's** best-selling lift-the-flap book has delighted young readers since 1982. This enchanting production features puppets, music and lots of audience interaction. £13, £11 under 16s

Behind the Mask. Mon 28 & Tue 29 March, 7.30pm. The Theatre's own talented Youth Theatre and Youth Musical Theatre performers present their annual showcase and reveal 'the secrets behind the mask'. £6, £5 concs

Tickets at chippingnortontheatre.com or on 01608 642350. For *What's On The Theatre Screen*, see advert below left.

Easter Workshops for Young People



Play in two days. Two days of drama games, storytelling, and improvisation, working together to create a play to show families on The Theatre's stage. Mon 11 & Tue 12 April, 10am–4pm for 8–12-year-olds. £55. Wed 13 & Thu 14 April, 10am–1pm for 5–7-year-olds. £45.

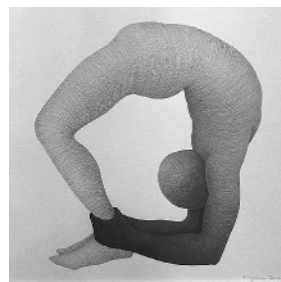
Dance morning. A high-energy, fun workshop covering a variety of dance styles, culminating in a sharing of participants' work on stage. Wed 20 April, 10am–1pm for 5–8-year-olds. £25.

Online Auction

Chippy Theatre is launching its first ever online auction 4–6 March with lots ranging from paintings to treasure hunts. To view the prizes and enter a bid, register via **GalaBid**. Every penny raised will help to keep our beloved Chippy Theatre going for everyone to enjoy! Visit chippingnortontheatre.com for details.



Owen Mumford Gallery



Myrica Jones. Ongoing to 22 March. The works include a series of figurative ink line drawings on paper that were inspired by themes of constraint, strength, gravity, escape and hope. Myrica's Yoga Pose 4 won the Guest Selector's Prize at the Oxford Arts Society's Open Exhibition 2020. 1–3pm on Saturdays; 30 minutes before each performance.

What's On

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LIVE @ THE THEATRE

<p>3rd Mar, 7.30pm 4th Mar, 7.30pm 5th Mar, 7.30pm</p> <p>10th Mar, 7.30pm 12th Mar, 11.30am 16th–18th Mar</p> <p>19th Mar, 7.30pm 24th–26th Mar 28th & 29th Mar 2nd April, 7.30pm</p>	<p>MARK HARRISON BAND— £16, £14 concs THE DURAN DURAN EXPERIENCE—£19 BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY VOICE—£16, £14 concs, £7.50 under 26s</p> <p>THE MIKADO—£17.50, £15.50 concs DRAG QUEEN STORY HOUR—£10 CRIMES, CAMERA, ACTION!— £16, £14 concs, £7.50 under 26s</p> <p>CLIVE ANDERSON—£18.50 DEAR ZOO—£13, £11 under 16s BEHIND THE MASK—£6, £5 concs BANTER—£19.50</p>
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FILMS

<p>1st & 2nd Mar, 7.30pm 3rd Mar, 10.30am 11th–15th Mar 20th & 22nd Mar, 7.30pm 25th, 26th & 30th Mar 28th Mar, 10.30am</p>	<p>TICKETS £10, £7.50 UNDER 16S NIGHTMARE ALLEY (15) CINEMA BAMBINO—BELFAST (12A) DEATH ON THE NILE (12A) THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE (12A) THE DUKE (12A) CINEMA BAMBINO—THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE (12A)</p>
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SCREENINGS

<p>8th Mar, 7pm 13th Mar, 2pm 24th Mar, 7pm 1st April, 7pm</p>	<p>TICKETS £17.50 THE BOOK OF DUST—£17.50, £12.50 under 16s RIGOLETTO BILL MURRAY'S NEW WORLD EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: FRIDA KAHLO</p>
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GALLERY

<p>17th Feb–22nd Mar 24th Mar–18th April</p>	<p>MYRICA JONES CALLY BOND</p>
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BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 www.chippingnortontheatre.com

Festivals

CN Music Festival 4–19 March.



Concerts include the following:

Sun 6 March **Out of the Blue Workshop and Concert.** Book for the workshop (4pm) or concert (7pm) only or take advantage of

booking both. Workshop numbers are limited.

Thur 10 March – 7.30pm. **Adderbury Ensemble** with Viv McLean performing Beethoven and Mendelssohn.

Sun 13 March – 7.30pm. **Jacqui Dankworth & Charlie Wood.**

Multi award-winning vocalist, Jacqui Dankworth is joined by widely acclaimed American pianist-vocalist, Charlie Wood, for a unique concert of duets.



Mon 14 March – 7.30pm. **Adderbury Ensemble** directed by Martyn Jackson: Walton String Quartet and Schumann Piano Quintet.

Fri 18 March – 7.30pm. **Festival Folk Night** at The Chequers. Lively folk music and reels. Arrive early to ensure a seat. £5 on the door.

Sat 19 March – 7.30pm. **Festival Concert:** showcasing some of the best performers across the two-week Festival; an opportunity to hear award winners.

Sun 20 March – 7.30pm. **Adderbury Ensemble** with Viv McLean.

Tickets for concerts, Festival passes, donations and Friends' subscriptions can be made online at cnmf.org.uk. Visit adderburyensemble.com or details of the Adderbury Ensemble events and to book tickets.

Fiction at ChipLitFest 21–24 April.

This year fiction is celebrated with a rich collection of much-loved established writers and new voices. Highlights this year include **Douglas Stuart** who won the 2020 Booker Prize for the extraordinary

Shuggie Bain and has just published his new novel *Young Mungo*; and **Claire Fuller**, winner of the Costa Novel Award with *Unsettled Ground*. There are lots of other wonderful novelists appearing at the Festival; keep an eye on chiplitfest.com and to guarantee tickets get priority booking by becoming a Festival Friend.



Poetry

Daniel Sluman – singled out for *single window*. Poet, disability rights activist and former Chippy resident Daniel Sluman, was shortlisted with his *single window* for the prestigious TS Eliot Prize for the best collection of poetry published in 2021.

Daniel's third book is a hybrid memoir of poetry and images composed during enforced isolation from society due to disability. *single window* is an uncompromising and starkly realised sequence of poems in the form of a journal, which bear witness to the loneliness and fear experienced by disabled people living in Tory Britain. Through a hyper-confessional fusion of poetry and photography, this book details the realities of disabled living, exploring intimacy and unconditional love as well as isolation and confinement, and documenting a world that most people never see. Of the shortlist readings and the award ceremony held in



Simon Parker – *Riding Out* at ChipLitFest

Simon Parker, who grew up near Chipping Norton, enjoyed a hectic life as a travel writer, broadcaster and global adventurer until the pandemic forced him to stop and take stock in March 2020. The News spoke to Simon who candidly recalled those strange months and how he came to write his travelogue/memoir, ***Riding Out***, which is published later this month. When COVID-19 struck, Simon was working in South Africa and returned to the Woodstock home he shares with his fiancée. Compelled to abandon his frenetic, nomadic lifestyle, Simon put away his suitcases and sat down for the first time in his life. He soon found that the anxiety issues he had kept buried for years came flooding back. As he puts it, 'Our concept of normality was taken away from us. I didn't have a blueprint to deal with that. I thought my anxiety was in the past, and I had to go off on this massive journey to try to come to terms with it.' That journey involved confronting unprocessed past and recent traumas during a 3,500 mile cycle ride around Britain. And writing 100,000 words for what he calls his 'multi-pronged book' became a therapeutic experience.



Simon grew up in Gagingwell and was clearly a gifted student at Chipping Norton School – playing the lead in the school musical and captaining the rugby team. Despite this, he characterises himself as 'not exactly the model student',

rebelling against the system, and leaving CNS in 2005 with 'rubbish A-levels'. However, a persuasive personal statement secured him a place at Liverpool Hope University to study film and drama. Taking a gap year in the middle of his studies, he hitchhiked around New Zealand and Australia, and his passion for

travel was sparked. Simon went on to gain a first-class degree, then embarked on a career in the media, most recently for the BBC and *Daily Telegraph*, filing some 100 stories from 40 countries a year. Having partially stepped off the rollercoaster, Simon now has an eye on writing more books and certainly has stories to fill them. Simon will be talking about *Riding Out* at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury on 11 April and as part of ChipLitFest on 22 April. *Riding Out* is published by Summersdale on 21 April. Signed copies will be available at Jaffé & Neale.

THE ARTS

January 2022, Daniel has this to say: 'Being shortlisted for this award has been an incredible experience and I'm so thankful to the judges for picking *single window* amongst so many great books. Writing is such a solitary act 99% of the time, so the opportunity to read in front of so many people at the Southbank Centre, and appear on Radio 3, has been a break from normality I'm very grateful for.' Available from Nine Arches Press.

Lectures & exhibitions

Kingfisher Art. 5–20 March, 14 New Street Chipping Norton. Kingfisher Art will host an exhibition of watercolour landscapes by Oxfordshire artist **Rod Craig** at their gallery, featuring recent work inspired by the changing seasons of Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds including *April Skies around Chipping Norton*, pictured. 10.30am–5pm Tues to Sat; 11am–3pm Sunday.



The ChippyExchange – Mapping Chippy Workshop. Sun 3 April 2pm–5pm. Community event in the Town Hall. Draw your own map of the Town showing ideas on what really matters for people in Chippy and deliver to the Chippy Larder, The Theatre or the Leisure Centre, or send a photograph to thechippyexchange@gmail.com or thechippyexchange on Instagram. Include your contact details. Deadline 22 April. All returned maps will go into a prize draw to win one of two £25 Co-op gift vouchers.

Zuleika Gallery. 9 March–25 April. Wed–Sat 10am–5pm in Woodstock, *Impressions of Colour*: prints by leading British artists including **Howard Hodgkin, Michael Craig-Martin, Gillian Ayres** and **Ian Davenport**. Ongoing to 31 March at Blenheim Palace Stables Café *Weavescapes*, woven artworks by **Julia Engelhardt**.

Darl-e and the Bear. Woodstock. *Bear Den Open Call*: The Gallery are seeking proposals for a new monthly, two-week exhibition slot to highlight the work of local artists and emerging artists who have graduated within the last two years, currently working in the UK. For further information visit darleandthebear.co.uk/open-call.asp

The Arts Society Cotswolds. Wed 9 March 11am: *The Bayeux Tapestry, the World's Oldest Comic Strip.* Lecturer: Eveline Eaton. The historical, cultural and artistic aspects of this unique masterpiece which provides posterity with such a startling testimonial of people's lives in the late Viking age. This 'hybrid' lecture will be live at the Warwick Hall Burford, OX18 4RZ & via Zoom. Booking via theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk or 01993 823943.



The Oxfordshire Museum. Woodstock, Wed 3 March, 7.30pm lecture: Ben Ford: *Archaeological highlights from excavations at Magdalen College and the Westgate Centre.* Oxford Archaeology Senior Excavations Director Ben Ford presents the most interesting discoveries from the Medieval Friary found in excavations at the Westgate centre and the Medieval Street found in excavations at Magdalen College. Email: contact@friendsoftom.org.uk for an invitation.

Choirs, concerts & cinema

Kingham Singers. The choir is starting up again on Mon 14 March. Rehearsals weekly at the Methodist Chapel in Churchill at 7.30 pm. Singing for pleasure is the aim; all welcome. Further information from Linda Sale 01608 658647.

The Wychwood Chorale. Sat 2 April 7.30pm All Saints' Church, Churchill. *Beginning to see the light*: choral music from across the centuries on the theme of light. Free admission and refreshments. Voluntary collection in aid of The Lawrence Home Nursing Team and All Saints' Church.

Chipping Norton Choral Society. Sat 2 April, 7.30pm. The first concert under the baton of new conductor Ben Goodall takes place at Deddington Church. Verdi: *Stabat Mater*; Puccini: *Cristanemi for String Orchestra* and *Messa di Gloria*. Tickets – £13 in advance or £16 on the door, under 16s free. To find out more about rehearsals or join as a singer visit cncs.org.

Burford Singers. Sat 9 April at 7pm Cirencester Parish Church, Bach *St John Passion*. Tickets £25 (reserved) and £15 (unreserved). Booking from 20 February to 8 April available at burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets and in person (unreserved tickets only) from The Madhatter Bookshop, Burford and Cirencester Visitor Information Centre.

CRAG Sunday Tea Concerts. Sun 20 March, 3pm, at The Memorial Hall, Charlbury. **James Eastaway** and **Lucy Russell** play Mozart quartet for oboe and strings. Sun 3 April, 3pm. **Fretwork**: works for viol consort by Purcell, Locke, and Jenkins. Tickets £12 (£6, under 16s) from Cotswold Frames, Charlbury or 01608 811558 or nick.parker@coopnet.net. All proceeds to Charlbury Refugee Action Group's support for refugee relief.

Screen by the Green Sat 5 March 7.30pm, Churchill Village Hall – *Mothering Sunday*, an adaptation of a 2016 novel by Graham Swift. A delicate, moving portrayal of grief and love, set soon after WWI. Starring Josh O'Connor, Odessa Young, Colin Firth, Olivia Coleman, and Glenda Jackson. Numbers limited with spacing, booking essential. Tickets £5 from 01608 659903 or screenbythegreen@gmail.com

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SPORTS NEWS

Town Sports Awards



The deadline for nominations was in February, the judges are making their selection and we look forward to the Awards Evening on 25 March. Look out in the May edition of the Chippy News for details of all the winners!

Graham Beacham

Rugby Club

After an injury impacted start to our Berks, Bucks & Oxon Premiership league campaign, the 1st XV has returned to fuller strength and moved up a gear with four wins from four away games placing us mid table. 5 March sees a return fixture against Chesham, so come and cheer the 1^{sts} on! Our younger age groups are loving the return to more regular match play, with notable successes for our U12's and strong



performances from the U16's while our U10's recently enjoyed a coaching session with our affiliated Premiership Club, Gloucester Rugby (pictured above). The Club is hosting the Oxfordshire U10 and U11 Minis Festival on Sunday 10 April. With up to 60 teams and 600 young players from across Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire it promises to be a superb day for all the family. We welcome new players in all age groups with senior training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, while the U6-U16's train and play on Sunday mornings. See our social media channels and website for details and finally, a warm welcome and thanks to our newest club sponsor, DSA Prospect.

Graeme Williamson

The Vintage Sports Car Club

The VSCC were delighted to win three prestigious industry awards in 2021: Club of the Year at both the Classic and Sports Car Club Awards (pictured) and the Octane Historic Motoring Awards followed swiftly by Competitive Event at



the 2021 Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards. Here are some of the judges' thoughts across all three awards:

This was a great idea, superbly executed. It was pure magic! – Royal Automobile Club.

Please let the VSCC always continue to do what it does so uniquely and so excellently – James Elliott, Octane.

Since 1934 it's provided a safe, fun environment for the enjoyment of vintage cars and it continues to this day while encouraging younger enthusiasts, too. 87 years and still going strong ... congratulations to the VSCC. – Classic and Sports Car.

Tania Brown

Cricket Club

This month sees the Club start indoor training and preparations for the new season. The outfield has already been mown once. We then play friendlies in April and begin our second season in the Cherwell League in May. New players always welcome – it would be nice to register as many adults on Registration Day as the Youth Section do!

Graham Beacham

Youth Section

We are a friendly club with action-packed Fridays starting in April. Youngsters learn cricket in a fun way from the age of 5 and after they're 10 they can stretch themselves and join an

Future England star plays at Chippy

This summer sees Burford School's 450th Anniversary and Bill Williams of the Old Burfordians Association has been exploring the School's sporting history. He has unearthed accounts of two very low key matches played over a century ago between the School and Chipping Norton Cricket Club which were made memorable by the presence of a future sporting star!

The summer of 1894 saw the future Gloucestershire and England cricketer, Gilbert Laird Jessop, play against Chipping Norton CC. Jessop was a trainee teacher at Burford Grammar School at a time when masters used to play alongside the boys against club teams.

The first match was remarkable for its low scores! It was played at Chipping Norton and the low-lying, rain-sodden ground made for a dead wicket. Chippy batted first and were soon all out for an average of one run each. Rev FW Marshall stood out with a score of 5! Chippy then batted again and were all out for 13! Burford did little better – all out for 33 (with Jessop out for a duck and the highest score 5) but this number was enough to give them victory.

The return match was played at Burford with a late start 'owing to the late arrival of the visitors' reported *The*



Burfordian! Chippy won the toss and opted to field. Top scorer Jessop made 29 valuable runs and Burford ended with 79. They went on to demolish Chippy's batsmen who scored a mere 17 in their first innings and couldn't avoid the follow on. Rev Marshall then managed 8, in a total of 18 and Burford won the match by an innings and 62 runs, with 'Mr Jessop taking 5 for 12' according to the school magazine.

A month after this match, Jessop made his debut for Gloucestershire, alongside W.G. Grace at Old Trafford and in 1899 represented England in the first of 18 test match appearances. Jessop's finest hour came in 1902, when his score of 102 off 79 balls, effectively won the 5th test against Australia, at The Oval. As a result, the match has forever been known as, 'Jessop's match'!

SPORTS NEWS

age group team, and maybe progress to the Senior teams. But first you need to Register to join the Club!

Registration Day is Saturday 19 March 10am-4pm at the clubhouse on Banbury Road (OX7 5SX). Membership forms will be available but to be sent a form beforehand, or if you can't make that date, please email Youth Co-ordinator Sue Powell bloxhamsue@aol.com. Everyone registered on and by 19 March is guaranteed a place – but late entries may find slots filled. The Youth Section relies on parental help so every family/parent is expected to volunteer – either helping the coaches, running the kitchen/BBQ on Friday evenings and/or Bar work. Please volunteer now, as some jobs need to be ECB DBS'd before the season starts as part of our safeguarding policy.

Swifts

Chippy Swifts have entered the Spring stages of the 2021/2022 season, all we need now is a little Spring weather! As our 10 teams aim for success in newly seeded leagues, we have been lucky to receive some incredible support off the pitch. For the first time in many years Chippy Swifts are



The two new girls' teams in their new kit – see front page for colour photo

fielding a couple of all-girl teams. With new coaches taking on the challenge of leading our new stars, both girls' teams (and the coaches) have been fully equipped with new kits, training jackets and woolly hats thanks to a generous donation from The Armed Forces Trust. We are extremely grateful to Peter Clarke for the connection and organising the funding. Here they are looking great in their new gear.

Martyn Walsh

4 Shires Swimming Club

With a busy season under way, swimmers are preparing for various meets and galas. We hope last month's successful Chipping Norton Schools Partnership gala will have produced some new talent. County relay team members Oscar Spence and Ellis Hale were named Senior and Junior Swimmer of the Month respectively. We welcome two new coaches Izzy Lane and Ben Chapman. If you are a keen swimmer and wish to compete or to develop your fitness and swimming skills, please book on to one of our Trial sessions via www.4ssc.co.uk/join-us or by emailing membership@4ssc.co.uk.

Lucy Warner

Hook Norton Tennis Club

Winter league matches: the A team is currently 2nd in division 1, the B team is 7th in division 1 and the C team is 2nd in division 3. All ladder matches are under way and members can enter a Fun Tournament Saturday 9 April. Coaching is available

from: Marc Gilkes: 07930 406015 also Faith Heron: 07771 904905 & Steve Bone: 07850 036656. Members book courts via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub> Club sessions are also listed there. Contact Kate Hopkins 01608 642774, khs.shoes@gmail.com or visit the website for details.

Elaine Priestley

Harriers take over CNS parkrun



Harriers volunteers at CNS parkrun in February

CNS parkrun takes place every Saturday at 9am, staffed by a committed core team and a band of volunteers. On 12 February, Hook Norton Harriers, Chippy's local running club, took over volunteer duties – offering support, cowbells, and cake to all runners and walkers.

Many Harriers regularly take part at CNS parkrun – a 5k timed run and walk open to all abilities and speeds – so it was great to offer our time as volunteers. Harriers acted as marshals, timekeepers, funnel managers, and finish token hand-outers in cold and windy conditions, cheering on the 105 hardy participants. It was great to also see some members' children getting up early to help. With some keen cooks amongst our number, we also provided an array of home-baked goodies to reward runners at the finish line.

Many thanks to Harrier Ian, for co-ordinating the volunteer rota, and to the Chippy parkrun core team for letting us loose on the event. We hope they will let us have another Harriers takeover in the future – perhaps in the summer, with lollies on offer to runners instead of cake...

Nell Darby

Indoor Hockey back on track



Indoor Hockey players at the Leisure Centre – see front page for colour photo

The growing number of local hockey players has welcomed GLL/ Better's decision to reinstate the 'pay as you play' open indoor hockey session on Sunday mornings at the Leisure Centre. The session was lost last summer but recently returned in only half the main hall. With the help of WODC's leisure team GLL has agreed that the session can use the full hall from 3 April. This makes for a better hockey experience to encourage even more players to join us. Meanwhile, the half hall session runs from 10-11am every Sunday. Players of all ages and abilities are welcome. We're not a club, so there's no long-term commitment or subs to pay, just pay the session fee before the session. It's not taken too seriously, and you can borrow a stick and shinpads if the old ones have long since bitten the dust or if you've never played before! For details and further information contact Sharon 01608 730546 or sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk.

Neil Homer

CLUB NEWS

Scouting update

Beavers: Woodpecker Colony has had a busy term welcoming new Beavers and working towards a new badge called Money Activity – everyone has loved learning all about money! We are looking forward to better weather, longer days and getting back to weekends away. If you would like your child to join 6th Chipping Norton Beaver Scouts, please contact amy@chippyscouts.org.uk to join our waiting list.



Dasher and his sleigh plus a Mars rover (pictured right). The winners were Josh, Felix and Tobi with their scrap heap car. (pictured above)

Scouts: The Scouts are also working on their Skills Challenge. They have learned how to iron a shirt, polish shoes and clean toilets! They have also been researching the dangers of drugs, alcohol and smoking and the importance of a healthy diet and getting enough sleep.

Explorer Scouts Jill Elliot reports: The Explorers in groups of 4-5 were set the challenge to cook a two-course meal MasterChef-style keeping to a total budget of £10. It could be starter/main course or main course /pudding. Most seems to go for the latter, not surprisingly, and pancakes did seem to be a popular choice especially if filled with chocolate. The Leaders then tasted each of the 10 dishes and marked the groups on menu choice, teamwork, quality, and presentation. They were impressed with the quality of the food and skill and enthusiasm of the Explorers, but the washing up needed some improvement. It was a very close contest with the top two groups only separated by a few points. The winning menu was Halloumi cheese marinated in honey, grilled and served on a wrap filled with homemade vegetable couscous followed by Brownies. The wrap was so tasty the Judge couldn't eat it all and took it home for lunch next day!

History Society takes to the water

Chipping Norton History Society will meet on Monday 14 March at 2pm in the Lower Hall at the Methodist Church, West Street. The meeting's speaker is Mark Davies who will give *A Literary Tour of Oxfordshire Waterways*. This will be preceded by the AGM. Visitors are welcome – visitor fee: £3. Jannis Paxton

Cubs: The Cubs have been working towards the Our Skills Challenge award which has involved learning how to iron their neckers, set the table for dinner and how to make a hot drink safely. They have also learned some yoga poses, how the human body works and about healthy eating. The award also involved making a model so we held a Scrapheap Challenge. The Cubs brought the contents of their recycling bins along and made everything from a rocket to a fox, an abstract house to



Labour's tribute to Eve Coles

It is with great sadness that Chipping Norton Labour Party announces the death of our much loved and respected Comrade, Eve Coles. Eve passed away peacefully at the John Radcliffe Hospital on Friday 28 January surrounded by members of her family. Eve carried the torch for



peace, justice and equality for many years as the only Labour Councillor in West Oxfordshire. She was a dedicated, inspirational socialist who campaigned tirelessly throughout her life for the causes she cared most about – defence of the NHS, the environment and peace and disarmament. She was a lifelong member of CND.

She served as a District Councillor for Chipping Norton for almost 20 years, standing down in 2015. She was a long-standing member of Chipping Norton Town Council. Whatever the issue, Eve always put the interests of Chipping Norton first. Eve was a stalwart of the Labour movement in West Oxfordshire and will be hugely missed. Eve's family will be holding a memorial event to celebrate her life at Chipping Norton Town Hall in the early Summer.

Steve Akers Vice-Chair CNLP

See also p16 for a further tribute to Eve Coles

Railway Club keeps steaming on

A small attendance on 1 February – the first meeting of the new season. This was the AGM and the Chairman and Committee were all re-elected. The speaker was Club member, Geoff Turner... travelling from Evesham. His slides included scenic views of UK and Swiss Steam Railways. We hope that as Spring appears, bringing lighter nights and better weather, numbers will improve. On 1 March we welcome the return of 'Coventry Kid', Chris Youett... with Part 4 of his Age of Steam in North Wales. Always a popular speaker, Chris travels from Coventry to Banbury by train... of course!

In March the Club is proud to be celebrating its 48th Birthday. In these difficult times we must keep steaming on! So, members – do come back and be counted! New members too, and visitors to the Town are always welcome. The meeting on 5 April sees the return of Frank Banfield,

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delighting us with even more of his Heritage Railway films of the 1950s. The May outing to the Bluebell Line will go ahead as planned... more details later.

Estelle Brain

Phone box call for WOWI



West Oxfordshire WI had a busy January preparing for our February display in the Town phone box pictured here. We made dozens of green hearts to support the *Love your Planet*,



Green Heart Campaign to show awareness of climate change. Our January speaker kept us on the Re-use & Recycle track by giving a demonstration of hand-made paper making, using recycled paper and even flower petals. In February we shall hear about the History of the Foundling Hospital. It's unbelievable that it's a whole year since our last Annual meeting and in March we will be electing our Committee and President. Some Committee members are standing down after many years' hard work – it's always good to have new members coming forward to take on these roles. After a couple of months' break, the Sunday teas resume on 6 March 2.30 – 4pm at the Methodist Church. Do come for tea, cake and chat! WOWI welcomes new members – come to a couple of meetings as a visitor and check us out. St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, 7.30pm, 3rd Monday of the month. Details via wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Hilary Dix 01608 646226

Ramblers explore the Sibfords

The Sibfords, (Gower and Ferris with Burdrop sandwiched between), are not on the way to anywhere and so remain undiscovered treasures. Twelve Chippy Ramblers put this right on Sunday 6 February by linking the villages on foot with a lot of green space to climb and slither through in between. The houses are charming, and on a cold, windy winter's day the spring flowers were cheerfully pushing through: snowdrops accompanied by primroses, comfrey, winter aconites, jasmine, candy tuft, aubretia, irises, daffodils, crocuses, hellebore and many more – and, lifting the eyes, to sunlit rolling hills, the shadows of the scudding clouds were a delight to the eye. The coffin path from Swaycliffe to the church at Burdrop offered challenges of contours and stiles; and, at the end of a two-hour walk, we were pleased to stroll in the arboretum which was planted by house owners who, on moving away, gave it to Gower. Thanks for parking spaces at the Wykham Arms were repeated inside the pub over welcome hot and cold beverages which completed the Sibford experience. For a leisurely walk of about 2 hours, meet at New Street Car Park

on the first Sunday of the month. 1.30pm in March, and 2pm from April after the clocks change. Contact Heather Leonard (rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk) or Jenny Harrington (jennyharrington@btinternet.com/01608643269) for details.

Heather Leonard

Chipping Norton Probus

Following a well-attended and lively Christmas lunch at the Crown & Cushion we started the New Year cancelling our January meeting because of concerns over Omicron. We hope to hold our AGM live on 15 February and to run a normal programme thereafter with speakers arranged and outside visits planned through to December.

Over the past two years we have welcomed eight new members, although sadly losing one or two who have moved away or found the effort a little too much. However we have a healthy membership of 47, with plenty of room to welcome more. For enquiries contact membership secretary Simon Bucknall 01993 830760 simon.bucknall@talk21.com

Mike Jackson

CN Amnesty supports Human Rights

Colombia is cited by Amnesty International as being the most dangerous country in the world for environmentalists and human rights defenders. Indigenous groups are subject to killings, death threats and harassment, while state protection



Chipping Norton Amnesty Group send a message of support to human rights defenders in Colombia

remains limited and ineffective, with 13 human rights defenders killed in Colombia in January 2022 alone, all linked to the defence of land and the environment. Joel Chipiaje and the ASEINPOME community, on whose behalf our Group is working, face these risks every day.

To find out more, please contact Val on 01608 645036 or come to our next meeting on 10 March at 7.30, Lower Town Hall, when we shall be learning about UNICEF.

Tricia Seaton



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CLUB NEWS

Green Gym makes willow wreaths

We have ventured out of Chippy for two sessions this month: to Church Enstone to clear scrub and trim a roadside hedge and to the BBOWT nature reserve beyond Glyme Farm, again to control blackthorn scrub. In Chippy, we have removed ivy



from graves and from the yew trees in the churchyard and we have cleared a new path at Pool Meadow. At Fitzalan Wood (near Travis Perkins) the willows, which we planted seven years ago, have really taken off so we continued to pollard them and to control the bramble. And, thanks to Andy Goodwin of the Willow Coppice Project, we learned how to make wreaths from the trimmings (pictured above).

If you would like to join us on Wednesday mornings, working in the fresh air on environmental projects in good company please visit www.chippygreengym.org and then contact me at jennyharrington@btinternet.com, or phone 01608 643269. Everyone welcome! Jobs for all!

Jenny Harrington

u3a returns to the Swinging Sixties

We were back on Zoom for our February meeting. We joined poet Andy Smith on his comfortable sofa as he reflected on the wartime experiences and romances of friends and family, filling in the background behind each of his poems – thus his Grandfather's grim experiences in the First World War led to the story of his Mother falling down the stairs of a London bus, literally, into the arms of the soldier whom she would later marry.

Our Zoom meeting on 2 March starts with a short AGM at 2.15pm and continues at about 2.30pm with Graham Harrison, as he and his wife Bronwen, take us back to the Swinging Sixties. With Bronwen's fabulous voice and Graham's anecdotes, they revisit the songs and stories from the decade that put flowers in our hair and invented the modern teenager. The perfect antidote to the practicalities of the AGM! Visitors are always very welcome – just visit the website u3asites.org.uk/chipping-norton to receive the Zoom link. We hope to be back in the Town Hall in April.

Chris Clinch

National Trust Association update

NCANT are pleased that recent meetings and the Christmas lunch were most successful and we now propose to resume our normal format for talks and activities. With the help of its supporters, the National Trust has taken care of this country's special places for over 125 years, ensuring that they are preserved for future generations. Activities include: coach outings, talks and annual lunch with speaker. Meetings are at 2pm in Broadwell Village Hall. On 17 March Richard Parker

will talk about Coventry Cathedral, old and new, then on 21 April Nicola Dyer, who many will remember from Chastleton and who is now a Project Manager on historic buildings, will talk about her current project at Evesham Abbey. Members will be emailed with details of outings and events. New members welcome.

Please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ncotswoldassoc or call 01608 659215 or 01608 658157 for further information.

Rees Jenkins

Scrabble Club comes of age!

Since I set up Chipping Norton Scrabble Club 18 years ago, many people have come along, played and stayed, while others have played for only a short time and moved on. We're a small friendly group and always welcome new players. We don't do



The Scrabble Club T-shirt – worn with pride – says it all!

competitions or play with a timer and we allow words to be checked before and during your go. It's a nice sociable fun few hours, sharing our love of Scrabble, chatting, snacking and having a laugh. Members range from 40s to 80s but whatever age or experience of playing, we all get along fine. We take turns to host the monthly meetings 2-5pm on a Thursday afternoon. We celebrate our 18th anniversary this March, so why not come along and join us! Dates of future meetings and

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CLUB NEWS

etc can be found on <https://sltventures.com/cn-scrabble-club/>
We are looking forward to meeting you very soon.

Sarah Turner

Yacht Club keeps flag flying

Chipping Norton Yacht Club held its AGM by Zoom in January. We nearly decided to go physical but wimped out. It was heartening to hear our Commodore's report of 2021, in which, as he reminded us, we had managed to enjoy several 'real' meetings with dinner and a talk, as well as many virtual talks. The Zoomed



A CNYC member's boat pictured in Greek waters in happier times but now languishing unloved and unused in The Netherlands

events improved as we became accustomed to using the technology – some adopting Caribbean seascapes as their background, some zipping in and out of media-sharing to show slides or movies. Not the same as a pub, but kept us going and in touch through the year.

Financially, we have kept our flag flying with no government support whatsoever, and have resumed membership subscriptions for 2022, after living off our hump

for a couple of years. Even when paying for speakers, Zooming meant we had no travel, accommodation, meal, drink, top up, or CNYC mug to fund.

There's a full programme being organised for 2022, with the barn at the Blue Boar as our new venue. If you have an interest in joining us, or would like to come along to a meeting to test the water, you'd be most welcome. No need to own a boat, we have many already. Visit cnyc.co.uk for the programme and to make contact.

Roger Backhaus

Horticultural highs and lows

The February meeting of the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association was a wet and very blustery evening as members met to hear the speaker Roger Naumann, to whom we are very grateful as he was able to step-in at short notice. His talk was entitled *Growing up and working with Organics* – he spoke about his early years growing up on his parents farm – helping with all the tasks and how this led to his interest in horticulture and organics.

At the March meeting on Wednesday 16th at 7.30 in the Methodist Church lower hall, annual subscriptions of £15 will be collected and new membership cards issued – this entitles the cardholder to receive a discount at several Garden Centres. The speaker at this meeting will be Victoria Logue from Cheltenham and her topic will be *The Highs and Lows of Growing Vegetables*.

To keep abreast of any changes that may have to be made during these difficult months, visit our website www.cnha.uk or contact the secretary Eileen Forse 643275 for up-to-date information.

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Chipping Norton School

Valentine's Day Roses: Our sixth formers were helping to spread the love on Valentine's Day by delivering red roses around school. Students paid to have a red rose with a handwritten message delivered to their Valentine. The cost included a donation to the Young Minds charity and £122.68 was raised for this good cause



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UK Space Design Video Competition: At the end of last term, a group of Year 11 students competed in the UKSDC Video competition, after narrowly missing out on qualifying for the National Finals of the main UK Space Design Competition. The team created a 5 minute video based on 3 days worth of research. The team's project, called Susei, was a spacecraft designed to extract minerals from an asteroid, and ship them back to Earth. The judges commented, 'We were impressed with the practicality of your design: from excellent wall design, moderation in facilities provisioning, and a clear breakdown of the cost of your proposal...'. The CNS team, along with three other teams, were declared joint winners, and now progress to the National Finals in March.

PE Department update: We are now back to our regular fixtures for both Netball and Football against other schools in West Oxfordshire. We are delighted that the numbers attending clubs and matches has been really high and it has been great to start getting back to normality with fixtures every day of the week in one sport or another! Some notable performances so far include Year 9 Netball who are unbeaten and both our Year 7 and Senior Football teams who are unbeaten and in the Quarter Finals of the County Cup competition.



Some notable performances so far include Year 9 Netball who are unbeaten and both our Year 7 and Senior Football teams who are unbeaten and in the Quarter Finals of the County Cup competition.

CNPS news: The primary schools have joined us for tournaments in Ball Skills, Netball and for a Swimming Gala



run in partnership with 4 Shires Swimming Club. These were all supported enthusiastically by our Year 11 and 12 Sports Leaders.

We invited selected students to an Able, Interested & Motivated Print-making workshop based on the theme of the Circus. We are in the middle of a 3-session Science Club, in which the children are looking at activities based on 'Life on Mars', and it is great to hear the excited children as they come out talking about what they have learnt and the science equipment that they have used.

CNS Extra Time Clubs: We have a full timetable of Extra Time clubs on offer to our students led by our very enthusiastic, qualified coaches. We have been lucky to have Thomas Page, of Thomas Page Dances, join our team to lead our new Dance Club, InFlux, and the uptake has been fantastic. Our Art coach, Carol Harvey, has invited in local artists Ruth and Alex to work with her this term on a project called 'Mapping Chippy'. Our students have been asked to show what they like about Chipping Norton, and what they might like to see in the future by representing it on a map. You can also get involved with this project by emailing thechippyexchange@gmail.com. We are very grateful for this inspiring opportunity.

We hold clubs in a wide array of interests from origami to squash, drama to cookery, and are always on the lookout for new coaches to extend our provision. If you feel that you would like to offer an After School club to our students at Chipping Norton School please contact Robyn Bissett on rbissett@chippingnortonschool.org.

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SCHOOLS NEWS

Holy Trinity Primary

We have had a very sporty month at Holy Trinity School and the children have relished the opportunity to get out and about again to compete against other schools.

Year 6 entered two teams into an U11 netball tournament at Chipping Norton School and thoroughly



enjoyed themselves in spite of the cold weather. The children played well in their teams and reported great sportsmanship across the tournament. The boys' team were delighted to come first, followed by the girls' team who came a close second.

Some of our Year 6 children were also selected to take part in a Swimming Gala at the Leisure Centre. This was organised by Four Shires Swimming Club. Our team came second overall, missing out on the top spot by mere seconds.

Year 4 were invited to take part in a Ball Skills Festival at Chipping Norton School. Four schools attended the event and a great time was had by all. The children took part in lots of fun activities to develop their throwing and catching skills and the afternoon ended with a bench ball tournament where one of our teams came first. Thank you to the Year 11 sports leaders for providing us with the opportunity and for leading it so competently.

Chance to Shine, a cricket charity, paid us a visit and the KS2 children had a great time learning the three disciplines of cricket – fielding, batting and bowling. This really sparked their enthusiasm for the sport and several expressed an interest in joining the local cricket club. The staff benefitted from some CPD training at the end of the day.



questions about caring for the tortoises. It was a very enjoyable and successful visit, which really enhanced the children's topic and science learning.

Beyond the sporting world, Year 1 have been enjoying their *Amazing Animals* topic and enjoyed a visit from some baby tortoises (pictured). The children learned how to handle the tortoises safely with consideration for the tortoises' wellbeing. They were able to share their learning about animal classification and had lots of

Reception class and Year 2 enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, welcoming in the Year of the Tiger. They learned about Chinese traditions and took part in craft activities. Year 2 made and enjoyed a Chinese food feast and learned how to sing heads, shoulders, knees and toes in Mandarin. They also wrote fortunes and delivered these to all the other classes.

Year 4 and 5 children have been offered the opportunity of attending a three week Science Club at Chipping Norton School on the topic of *Life on Mars*. The children who opted to attend have been enjoying using science equipment such as Bunsen burners, test-tubes, microscopes, pestles & mortars and pipettes. They have been taking part in exciting experiments and learning about the challenges of life in space.

We were delighted to welcome Robert Courts, our local MP, to speak to Year 5 to enhance their topic of 'Democracy'. This was a great opportunity to hear all about his role in government, how parliament works and for the children to ask many, many questions.

St Mary's Primary

Multi Faith Week 2022: Multi Faith week gave our school community the opportunity to explore a range of religions and faith. As part of our school vision, we wish to promote lifelong learning and value the learning about other cultures.

We want to give each child the opportunity to develop knowledge about the world around them. Each Department spent time learning



about a religion and used a variety of cross curricular activities to demonstrate what they had learnt. To finish the



week the classes visited the other departments to see the learning across the School. The children had a fantastic week and have enjoyed sharing their experiences with others.

Year 5/6 enjoyed learning about Islam. The children made small prayer mats, Islam posters, models of mosques. They also made Mehndi hands in clay and paper stained glass windows.

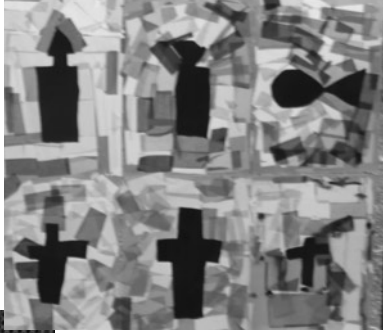
Year 3/4 learnt about the day-to-day life and festivals of Hinduism; the children enjoyed creating their own Rangoli patterns. Rangoli patterns are used as part of Diwali celebrations across the world.

Key Stage One enjoyed a visit to the Methodist Church in Chipping Norton as part of our interfaith week as we were looking at Christianity. We set about hunting for Christian symbols in the church as we had been learning about these at school. We



SCHOOLS NEWS

looked at crosses, candles, doves and the fish symbol and were surprised as to how many we could find in the church. Mrs Parsons told us the story of Noah's Ark from the Bible, and we listened to *Who built the Ark*. On



returning to school, we enjoyed making stained glass windows using Christian symbols and looking at all the photos we had taken.

Foundation Stage have been learning about Islam. We started by finding out where India and Bangladesh are on a map. Mrs Khatun (our lunchtime supervisor) came

to talk to us about her prayer mat. She dressed Mrs Yates in one of her beautiful saris! We spent the week making our own prayer mats, tasting Indian food and producing a huge Taj Mahal collage. It leads to our Bangladesh restaurant, where we have been role playing. The icing on the cake was welcoming our parents into the classroom to see all of our learning.

Netball: *Ananya & Joseph report:* The Netball tournament was an amazing and fun experience. Sports tournaments are a great way to be encouraged to play sports and keep fit. I also

like competing against other schools and developing sportsmanship and teamwork. We played against three other schools.

Great Rollright Primary

We're always looking for new ways of inspiring a lifelong love of reading in our children. This term we're celebrating the joy of a local library – by taking every child in Yrs R-4 on a trip to our closest library, in Hook Norton. The Reception children have already been on their visit, and spent a fun afternoon browsing the shelves



(pictured) and enjoying storytime and songs with the librarian. The next step – applying for their own, free library card!

In other news:

Critter visit: Our whole-school topic this term is Rainforests, and children in Years R-2 were thrilled to get up close to some real jungle creatures, thanks to Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow. We saw and handled some giant millipedes, stick insects, and tarantulas -- and even a couple of very large snakes.

Netball success: Our Yr 5-6 girls team came 2nd, and our boys team 3rd, in the recent Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools netball tournament. And we're especially proud of Finley, Seb, Willa, and Zara, who won awards for sportsmanship.

Parents and carers are encouraged to visit to see all we offer — including a free bus to Chipping Norton. Please call us on 01608 737202 to arrange your visit.

Chadlington Primary



School trips, visits and workshops are integral to the School's creative curriculum designed to stimulate interest in our whole school topics.

Last term, our topic was *We are Painters* and Key stage 2 took part in a workshop at the British Museum, exploring ancient Egyptian tomb paintings which inspired them to create a large Egyptian tomb frieze in school, using ancient techniques. In October, artist Caroline Ross taught them how to make paint in the traditional way using natural materials which they later used in their Egyptian friezes.

In December year 5/6 children took part in the Oxfordshire-wide Big Christmas Sing while Reception and key stage 1 performed a delightful version of the nativity, which can still be viewed on our website. The youngest children had earlier visited the local FarmEd project in to find out more about where food comes from.

This term's topic is *We are Sculptors*. Key stage 2 visited the Henry Moore gallery at Tate Britain and returned to the British Museum to learn about the Parthenon and the Elgin



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SCHOOLS NEWS

Marbles as background to their work on the ancient Greeks and their influence on painting and sculpture. Key stage 1 are exploring sculpture through a range of materials, making polar bears from clay and an interactive polar ice-cap display.

Bledington Primary

We have just had a *Science and Space* week in school. Every pupil has been an investigator and has found out information about planets, galaxies, constellations and space exploration.



We worked in mixed-age groups of nine so that older pupils could help younger ones. We did planet art, made shooting rockets, built flying saucers and wrote fact files.

We had an amazing visit from the Planetarium. We lay on our backs and watched the sky while Mark talked to us and answered our questions about Earth and Mars. We also had an assembly from a real-life Astronomer!! When we stayed late at school we got to have tomato soup and rolls for a snack and then hot chocolate and cookies later.

'I liked making rockets from film canisters filled with

rennies. You put the lid on, shook them and they shot off across the playground!' Rafferty

'I loved blending colours with tinfoil to make my own planet.' Toby

'I enjoyed star-gazing using the binoculars and the big telescope. You could see things really closely.' Willow

'I loved all of it. I made the great bear constellation using cocktail sticks and mini-marshmallows.' Casper
Thank you Mrs Rollins for organising all of this.

Sibford School

Sibford School is delighted to have been rated 'Excellent' by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). The ISI inspection described Sibford School as a warm and welcoming school which offers an outstanding education. It reported that:

- * Pupils' attainment and progress from their different starting points are excellent
- * Pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding develop to a high level as they move through the School
- * Pupils demonstrate outstanding attitudes towards learning and achievement
- * Pupils' communication skills are advanced for their age throughout the School



Toby Spence, Head (pictured), explains, 'At Sibford we value holistic education where the happiness and well-being of pupils is paramount. We encourage pupils to live adventurously and foster resilience and we look for the unique talents in every individual that comes to the School'. The School offers a wide range of sporting opportunities and an excellent support for learning department to support those with additional learning requirements. Scholarships and bursaries are also available.

Whole School Open Mornings: From 9.45am–12pm on Friday 4 March (fully booked) and Friday 29 April. These events offer the opportunity to talk to staff, meet current parents and take a tour of the school with student guides. Please note that booking is essential: via the website www.sibfordschool.co.uk or by calling 01295 781203.

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LETTERS

Future of Highlands

It was with great regret that we received a letter from the Management Committee at Highlands Day Centre



announcing that the Club was to close (See February News and box below). No indication of such an announcement had been given or mooted. A great deal of thought and preparation went into the scheme which has suffered, as have several other clubs in the Town, due to Covid. As a member myself, I would like it to continue, and would like an effort to be made for it to carry on. It is an opportunity for a fresh start. It is working – we are fetched and taken home, meet and enjoy fellowship and good food, and also get advice from the staff to help with difficulties that have arisen at home.

I realise that things may have to change but, with the prospect of summer, we look forward to meeting in the garden (now in excellent condition) and being near St Mary's School and the Secondary School we can be mutually helpful to each other. I hope the Committee can please reconsider the situation and have further discussions. There is quite a population with needs to be met on this side of town. Just to announce closure one Friday without any discussion with key members seems disrespectful and a used facility will be going to waste. I for one will miss it. We have had some wonderful helpers, cooks, speakers and others over the years. This has been a lifeline for the people of Chipping Norton – why take it away?

Sheila Parker

The start of Highlands

The Highlands house was owned by Bruce and me, and we lived there with our family of three and our elderly uncle plus a teacher from St Mary's School. On Good Friday 1981, my mother, who lived in The Green following my father's death, was killed waiting to cross the road at the bottom of the Burford Road. We were devastated and moved from Highlands to her house in The Green where we lived until 2000. My husband Bruce was instrumental in helping to set up the Day Centres and Highlands was bought back for this purpose. We went to South Wales to purchase a small minibus and set up a Day Centre at Highlands. We went each Friday to Enstone and The Tews to collect and return members. Bruce and local builder, Mr Sole, worked tirelessly to make the property ideal for this purpose and together with an American friend created a vegetable garden. Our members could walk down there and comment on the crop and prepare peas and beans etc for lunch. A good meal was produced, frail members could be helped to contact the surgeries and also enjoy talks. Two rooms on the first floor were let for therapies. A hairdresser came and sometimes carers would bring people to have a bath. The arrangements were successful and there was an opening ceremony conducted by Sheila Stewart in the September.

Sheila Parker

Responsibility for litter and dog bins

Many people have noticed and commented on changes WODC have made to our litter and dog bins. (See February letters and article page 3) The litter bins have some advantages over the old dog bins, with no lid to lift and greater capacity, but the total number of bins has been reduced – bins outside the town centre are now placed only at junctions where they will be accessible to more people. The Town Council do not have responsibility for the new bins, but are concerned that our town remains clean and tidy and will negotiate with WODC where there is insufficient provision. Any residents who are concerned about the new arrangements should contact the Guildhall (deputyclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk) who will work with WODC to assess any changes needed. Some Town Council bins have been removed from New Street Recreation Ground – this will be addressed by the Communities Committee who are responsible for the bins here. I would ask that dog owners don't leave dog waste at sites where there is no longer a bin but look for the nearest alternative provision, and also that any overflowing bins are reported to WODC at <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/> as this will help establish where more bins are needed.

Sandra Coleman – Chipping Norton Deputy Mayor

Gathering for Chris Sole



Sunday 27 March 2pm at Chipping Norton Town Hall.

After two years we have, at last, managed to reschedule 'a gathering' for Chris so please come and join us to share memories and stories of the man who served proudly as a Funeral Director for over 36 years in Chipping Norton and surrounding villages. We realise that this is Mothering Sunday but

getting dates to all align has been tricky. Many apologies, and so we hope everyone who wishes will still be able to come for a cup of tea, some good cake and laughs whilst remembering Chris with a lightness of heart.

We are delighted that Steve Weston has agreed to leave Devon for a couple of days to join us and share a few memories of the many years that he and Chris worked together. We are just as delighted that our own James Kennedy will also be standing with us as he recalls more recent memories working with the one and only Chris Sole. There will be a collection on the day for the Lawrence Home Nursing Team and Chippy Shuttle. We look forward to seeing everyone and if you would like to contact me please do not hesitate to email me on samanthasole@icloud.com

Sam Sole

A bus shelter as a thank you

When I was six years old I was evacuated to Chippy from London. I was made welcome and have been here ever since. It is my home, I have brought my family up here and I feel I would like to do something in return. That is why I want a proper bus shelter for myself and other 'oldies' as a thank you.

Rita Heritage

LETTERS

Keeping the Town Hall in good repair



Recent technical issues have unfortunately left the Town Hall flag at half mast

Mr Robertson (February letters) really does not know what he is talking about – previous Town Councils since 2010/11 have worked really hard to keep the Town Hall in good repair using limited funds available at the time. Before 2011 the outside steps were repaired (over £100,000) and some upgrades made to kitchen and bar areas which should be revisited when funds are available.

Since 2011 the following was done:–

- roof patched up saving money for inevitable repairs
- all rainwater goods renewed with cast iron
- exterior and interior painted
- outside doors renewed/repaired
- gents and ladies toilets upgraded or repaired
- new curtains and blinds for Upper Hall
- damp patches in Lower Town Hall sealed/replastered
- outside railings and loo signs repaired/refurbished
- flooding dealt with at WODC-operated loos
- new boilers and heating systems installed
- roof vents in the Upper Town Hall blocked (under advice) and insulation installed
- flag pole sorted & portico repaired after overnight collapse
- new fuse boxes and rewiring for external power sockets
- CCTV,WIFI and better sound system installed
- new floor installed and recently recoated
- new chairs and four important oil paintings restored
- Town Hall deep cleaned four times a year

As well as that, and small on-going repairs, CNTC used to save considerable money for inevitable major repairs to the roof. The whole Hall will have to be scaffolded, at considerable cost,

before one tile is replaced. I don't know what the current Town Council's policy is but the above works were carried out using local experts, ie the Town's money was spent in the Town – if at all possible – not spread around the home counties.

Michael Tysoe – Former Mayor & Town Councillor

Guildhall – time to move on

Further to the letter (February News) from John Grantham re the use of the Guildhall and the Town Hall, I have to agree with him. Both buildings are listed and both require a



very large figure to maintain them. Chipping Norton Town Council cannot afford this. It would, in my opinion, be better to keep the Town Hall and sell the Guildhall. The Town Hall presently makes a loss, but it does have the capacity to bring in some cash and if the Town Council Offices were there, they would be more central and the building would be used throughout. The Guildhall has limited opportunities for any income making. It is listed, so any purchaser would be required to keep it in a suitable condition. It seems obvious to me that this is the answer.

Peta Simmons – Former Town Councillor

(The Town Council are considering their future commitment to The Guildhall, which is, in fact, owned by WODC – Ed)



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LETTERS

Christmas Gift Bags from St Mary's

A massive thank you to Judith Marshall and all the volunteers from St Mary's Church, who contributed Christmas food/gifts



St Mary's volunteers outside The Branch in Market Place, all set for Christmas deliveries

and gave up their time to wrap, sort and deliver the lovely Christmas bags of goodies around Chipping Norton. This was such a lovely thing to do and very much appreciated by my mother, Terry Howes. There was a wonderful mixture of items in the bag – all beautifully wrapped too. I walked past The Branch in Market Place on Christmas Eve and it was buzzing with volunteers coming in and out and packing cars. It was amazing to hear how many bags of presents they distributed around the Town.

Well done and thank you. Many thanks to everyone for this kind and generous Christmas good deed.

Julie Wood and Family

Gwyn & Ruth on the Chippy Piano

Thank you for including us in the February mag (*Town Piano in action*). Just an update: we now sing and play on a Friday morning between about 11 and 12.

Ruth Dale

All piano players are welcome at the Community Piano in Withers Court arcade opposite the Town Hall – Ed

The Chipping Norton News Team welcomes letters but reminds writers that name & address must be supplied and that the opinions expressed are not those of the Team.

Town Council attendance and grants

May I draw attention to two points regarding Town Council matters? Firstly, I am concerned that the Full Town Council meetings take place now only bimonthly and are poorly attended by councillors. Secondly, the Town Council Communities Committee meeting dealing with the Grants to Voluntary Bodies took place in December with only half of its members present. Surprisingly money was given to Friends of Great Rollright School which has nothing to do with Chipping Norton. This was objected to by Cllr Jo Graves as these monies are for use in the Parish of Chipping Norton. Other major and important applicants, The Theatre, Lido and Museum, had large reductions in their usual grants whilst Chipping Norton School PTA was granted £5000 for table tennis!! There were no reasons given in the Minutes for the way that the money had been distributed. It is interesting to note that the applicants for grants received notification of the results of their requests on 12 January – five days before they were ratified by the Full Town Council meeting on the 17th, which again was very badly attended by only half of the Council members!

Martin Jarratt

Galanthi galore!

I have snowdrops in my garden (*Ref Feb News – Snowdrop Festival*) some from a couple of bulbs originally from Heythrop churchyard (I was christened there in 1958). Others have been swapped with friends over the years to include galanthus elwesii, reginae and woronowii species and various hybrids. As a result, I can see flowers from November to April. I've earmarked one to name for my granddaughter—it's rather nice!

Graham White, Kingham



(Graham reports he has three thousand snowdrops in his garden with 26 different ones including several different species – Ed)

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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Award-winning Basket Room



The Basket Room team with their award

The Business has scooped a prestigious 'Female Founder Award' in *The Independent Awards*, led by Holly Tucker MBE (founder of notonthehighstreet and Holly & Co) alongside Dell, NatWest and Royal Mail.

The awards recognise the 'bravery, innovation and sheer hard work' of independent retailers across the UK with a top prize of £10,000 for each winner in ten categories. The Basket Room sells handwoven storage baskets, basket bags, woven planters, rugs and bike baskets online and to over 140 retailers across the world, from small independent plant and gift shops to High Street favourites like Oliver Bonas and the The Conran Shop.

The company partners over 4,000 female weavers working in craft collectives and co-operatives across Africa, bringing a sustainable stream of creative work to rural

The Basket Room, the ethical home-ware brand headquartered in Chipping Norton's Worcester Road Industrial Estate, was founded in 2014 by local Holly McMullen and Londoner Camilla Sutton.

women who otherwise depend on drought-dependent farming to support themselves and their families. Holly and Camilla will be using the £10,000 cash prize to pay for a sustainability impact report to be conducted on the ground in Africa. Camilla explains, 'Investing in this sustainability report will enable us... to understand the environmental and social impact of raw materials better, further understand weavers' pay versus various wage thresholds, and understand their overall welfare and success stories more clearly. This will allow us to share a more transparent story with our customers, improve operations on the ground with the weavers, and make greener and more sustainable choices for the business as a whole.' 'Winning means so much to me, Camilla, and the whole team' says Holly. 'For seven years we've worked extremely hard, making our passion and dreams become a reality. To be recognised in this way feels incredible!'



The Basket Room is open Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm
01608 239482,
thebasketroom.com



DIARY

March (News out Monday 28 February)

- 1st **Railway Club** 7.30pm Upper Town Hall - see p25
- 2nd **Methodist Coffee Morning** in aid of Highlands 9.30-11.30am in the Church
- U3A Zoom Meeting** 2.15pm - details p27
- North Oxon Organic Gardeners** 7.30pm Parish Rooms - Ancient Woodlands of Gloucestershire
- 4th **World Day of Prayer** - see p12
- 4-6 **CN Theatre Online Auction** - see p20
- 4-19 **Chipping Norton Music Festival** see p21
- 5th **Screen by the Green** *Mothering Sunday* 7.30pm Churchill Village Hall - booking essential - see p22
- 6th **CN Ramblers meet** 1.30pm New St car park see p26
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church see p26
- 7th **Methodist Church Crafty, Cuppa & Chat** 10am in the Methodist Hall
- 9th **The Arts Society Cotswolds** 11am Eveline Eaton - The Bayeux Tapestry - see p22
- Town Council Communities Ctte** 7.15pm - see p16
- 11th **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35
- 12th **Have a Go at the Firestation** 9am-2pm - see p11

- 14th **History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall see p25
- 16th **Horticultural Assoc** 7.30pm Methodist Hall see p28
- 19th **Farmers Market** 8.30am-1pm
- CNMF: Festival Concert** 7.30pm Town Hall see p21
- 20th **CRAG Sunday Tea Concert** 3pm Memorial Hall Charlbury - see p22
- 21st **Town Council - Full Council Meeting** - see p16
- West Oxon WI** 7.30pm Parish Rooms - see p26
- 25th **Town Sports Awards Evening** 7pm Town Hall
- 26th **Burford and Kingham Rotary Crocus Pot Sale** outside the Tolsay in Burford - details 01608 643844

April (News out Monday 28 March)

- 2nd **CN Choral Soc Concert** 7.30pm Deddington Church - details p22
- Wychwood Chorale Concert** 7.30pm All Saints' Church, Churchill - see p22
- 3rd **The Chippy Exchange - Mapping Chippy Event** 2-5pm Town Hall All welcome - see p22
- CN Ramblers meet** 2pm New St car park see p26
- 5th **Railway Club** 7.30pm Upper Town Hall - see p25
- 6th **North Oxon Organic Gardeners** visit a garden in Chadlington - see <http://www.noog.org.uk>