

Chipping Norton News



Issue 448

June



2022

50p



Chippy Celebrates!

We mark The Queen's 70 year Platinum Jubilee by remembering Her Majesty's only visit to Town in 1959 – pictured here with more inside.

Let's all enjoy a holiday weekend, our wonderful Town Festival on 5 June, and more fun events this month. All in this special edition.

News in this issue:

- Cllr Sandra Coleman elected as new Town Mayor
- Jeremy bangs a successful Auction gavel for The Lido
- Local election – Tories lose West Oxfordshire control
- Will East Chippy site reveal our Roman heritage?
- Town Council want town expansion to Build Chippy Better
- How to help our Ukrainian friends
- Blossom Day jollity in colour – despite road disruption!
- Artful dining at Whistlers and new start for Wild Thyme

PLUS all Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools and your letters

Supporting our Ukrainian guests

Ukrainian guests are finally beginning to arrive in Chipping Norton, Charlbury and surrounding villages. There are as many different stories of their journeys here as there are families, and as many different needs for support. Emma Kennedy from St Mary's Church provided this useful summary.

Asylum Welcome are doing a great job across Oxfordshire coordinating all the groups emerging to support hosts and guests – and two groups have emerged locally:

Charlbury Refugee Action Group (CRAG) have set up a CRAG Ukraine Welcome webpage at bit.ly/crag-ukraine providing information, links and support to everyone who is welcoming Ukrainian guests locally. This page is regularly updated with all the latest information. To volunteer or help guests in any way, please fill in the form on the webpage. There is also a WhatsApp group for hosts and potential hosts to share information and support. If you'd like to join this group, please email ukraine@charlburyrefugee.org.uk with your phone number

The Branch in Chipping Norton, working in collaboration with St Mary's Church, **THRIVE** and other local



organisations has had so many generous offers from language teachers and Russian and Ukrainian speakers that they are now working to put together an offer of language lessons, and are particularly keen to offer these across the summer holidays for children in preparation for them starting school in September. All information for hosts and guests and anyone who would like to offer help can be found on www.thebranchtrust.org or www.stmaryscnorton.com. This includes:

- signposting to help for hosts and guests
- a forum where you can sign up and offer help (maybe a haircut, or a lift, or a meal?)
- support around starting school, including uniform
- information about language lessons
- information about holiday clubs, food & transport

How can you help? Register your interest here <https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/ukraine> if you want to host a refugee. To sponsor a child's school uniform, please donate to local charity **THRIVE** who are partnering with **The Branch**. (www.thrive-northox.co.uk/donate). To offer your skills or practical help, please sign up on the forum www.thebranchtrust.org



Weekly welcome Hubs – Hosts and guests can come along for chat, company, coffee, cake and signposting on Tuesday 1–3pm Connect Café, Parish Rooms, Church St, CN OX7 5NT (including translators)
Thursday 10–12am St Mary's Church, Charlbury, OX7 3PX (including crêche)
Friday 10–12am Charlbury Community Centre, OX7 3PQ

Helping Ukrainians close to home

Many local people have donated goods and money for emergency support for those fighting in and fleeing from the war in Ukraine. Here are two examples last month

From Hook Norton to Ukraine One local Hook Norton initiative has been helping send urgent basic supplies to Ukrainian soldiers – many wounded and in need of evacuation. Hook Norton Brewery boss James Clarke has been working with Ewa Walton, a local dental hygienist, and carpenter Matt Waring. James provided Brewery storage and sorting facilities. On the weekend of 6–8 May, Ewa and Matt travelled to



Ukraine in a 4x4, packed with medical supplies, food, men's clothes and boots plus some baby items. A team of helpers

(pictured) packed and labelled boxes, squeezed into every centimetre of the vehicle, ready for an early evening departure. Ewa updated everyone back home with progress reports throughout the journey. Matt drove the entire way, explaining that the 4x4 would be used for evacuating wounded soldiers. He stressed the urgent need for more vehicles along with tinned meat and fish, dried sausage and meats, pot noodles, meal bars, men's work boots (size 10+), painkillers, bandages & dressings and solar power rechargers. For updates, photos and to donate see justgiving.com/crowdfunding/peaceforukraine. More Information via 07949 819694.

Slovakian refugee centre – Chilson resident Jonathan Vasey, a member of St Mary's church in Chipping Norton went to a Christian Retreat Centre in Slovakia (pictured) to see how we could support them as they converted it



to receive Ukrainians. Since the war began, Slovakia, with only 5 million people has received 500,000 refugees from its neighbour. Many have experienced unimaginable trauma, carry phone pictures of their destroyed homes, and arrive with only the clothes they're wearing and what they can carry. Whilst so grateful for the truckloads of goods arriving from the West earlier, now they want to support the local economy by buying goods locally. On St Mary's Church website (www.stmarycnorton.com) you can find out more about this trip and how you could help. Just £5 will pay for a hour with a child psychologist. This will help many children to manage trauma and give them their childhood back, £15 will buy a sanitary pack for a whole family when they arrive. As well as welcoming Ukrainians in the UK, this opportunity allows us to help those who have lost everything and are awaiting new homes elsewhere.

New Mayor & Deputy elected

Chipping Norton has a new Town Mayor. Cllr Sandra



New Mayor Cllr Coleman with Deputy Cllr Foakes with Terry Palmer the Mayor's Sergeant carrying the Town Mace

Coleman, after two years as Deputy, was elected at the first Town Council meeting of the civic year on 16 May. Cllr Coleman joined the Council as an independent in 2019, served as Chair of the important Finance & Resources and Community Committees and has taken an active role on finance, the cemetery, recreation, improving Town Centre appearance, and response to the climate crisis. She said her future priorities would include the challenging plan for East Chipping Norton, major Town Hall work, and conserving and improving Pool Meadow.

Cllr Rachel Foakes was elected Deputy Mayor, and is leading on improving the Council's engagement and communication with the community, starting a regular newsletter and informal Saturday morning 'surgeries' for councillors to meet residents over coffee. A new website is promised for June. Geoff Coleman, the Mayor's husband, will act as Mayor's consort. The new Mayor welcomed the election of two new councillors – Steve Akers and Sharon Wheaton – and thanked retiring Mayor Cllr Georgia Mazower for her hard work, particularly on modernising the Council's processes, a focus on East Chippy, and town centre attractiveness. Town Council Committee membership was agreed and new chairs will be elected at the first meetings. Most council and committee meetings will now be on Wednesdays starting at 6.30pm. See Town Council website.

Taking time to care



Sophie receiving her Oxfordshire award

The team at Chipping Norton's Beech Haven Care Home was proud to announce that Sophie Gregory was recently awarded a Highly Commended in the Oxfordshire Care Awards 2022 in the category Newcomer to Care. Also, congratulations to Maria Yates who was short-listed in the Long Term Service Award and Jo Price shortlisted for the Care Home Worker Award.

Topside Pharmacy is the tops!

Bravo to Yasin Jussab and his team at Topside Pharmacy who have been awarded the Oxfordshire Community Pharmacy Hero Award 2022. Organised by Pharmacy Thames Valley (who support community pharmacies), the awards recognise the hard work of Oxfordshire's 105 community pharmacies over 12 months. Nominations in February saw Topside receiving most votes and glowing comments for their dedication, commitment, and many acts of kindness to members of the community. One grateful customer, Jade



Yasin & the Topside Team with their award

Cooper told the News, 'Nothing beats this pharmacy. They're so understanding – I couldn't recommend them more highly!' Surprised and delighted to win, Yasin explained that throughout the pandemic the team started work at 7.30am to keep on top of the increased workload, carried out home visits for the very elderly, helped patients who couldn't see their doctor, and even performed first aid at patients' homes. He added, 'The kind support and the lovely comments make all the effort worthwhile. A massive thank you to all the amazing Chipping Norton residents who nominated us'. Topside has two pharmacists, Yasin and, on Saturdays, his identical twin brother Feroz. They are supported by the team: Sue Jeffrey, Marie Brooke, Carol Peachey, Aimee Pearce, Martin Willoughby, Julie Dyer, Michael Soper and Sarah Wilkes. Well done to them all!

Jeremy's gavel is bang on!

The fundraising Auction for The Lido in Chipping Norton went with a bang on Friday 13 May, in fact, lots of bangs of Jeremy Clarkson's gavel, as he returned as auctioneer extraordinaire. The donors' generosity saw a wide range of lots, from a weekly clutch of eggs for six months, to an electric Mini for a week. 120 enthusiastic people raised around £16,000 exceeding the Trustees' expectations in these straitened times and vital as the huge hikes in energy costs have hit The Lido hard. This was the 13th Auction, with Jeremy being a vocal and valued Lido supporter since it was taken on by the community after WODC withdrew its funding in 2003. As he says, 'I love the fact the Council said it'll have to close, and the Town said %\$#@ off and pulled together to keep it open'.

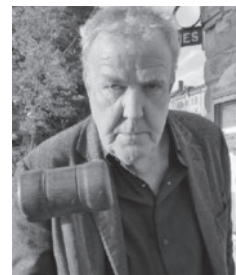


Photo: Gary Creese

Since the last auction in late 2019, much has happened, not least a global pandemic, giving the Lido some immense challenges. The bigger crisis now is escalating costs, especially in energy (gas four times last year's price) so community support is vital to ensure your Lido can ride out the storm

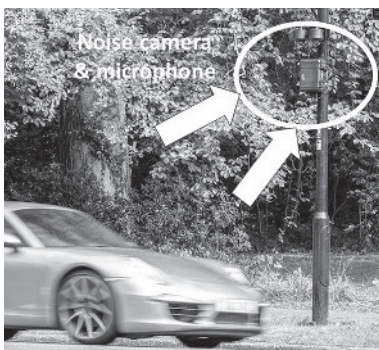
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and remain open. So the auction was important, but also immense fun. Jeremy was on top form, teasing up the bidding. Perhaps unsurprisingly the exclusive tractor lesson with Kaleb Cooper, his *Clarkson's Farm* co-star, was most popular, finally going for £1,100! Everyone is immensely grateful to the donors, the evening's co-host Ken Norman and, of course, Jeremy for his continuing support. Now it's time to use The Lido, as the best way of supporting it, so head to chippylido.co.uk to book your swims and other activities.

Claire Williamson

Town centre 'Noise camera'?

Chippy town centre's long-standing HGV and traffic problems do not just include air pollution and pedestrian safety. A recent Town Hall meeting also highlighted the increasing noise nuisance – from motorcycles, revved up performance cars, and lorries. Our MP, Robert Courts, reacted



favourably to a suggestion from Chippy bookshop owner Patrick Neale, for trying cutting-edge technology 'noise cameras' which use microphones to detect illegal noise levels and cameras to film culprits. Mr Courts has written to the County Council's transport Cabinet member Duncan Enright suggesting the County might trial it in Chippy. He says Kensington and Chelsea have successfully trialed it issuing 100 fines over a period of six weeks. Meanwhile, there's also a new nationwide trial – and Mr Courts ran an online vote on

his website to put forward a West Oxfordshire town. Chipping Norton narrowly lost out to Bladon (where Mr Courts lives) in that poll. But our MP says he is still supporting Chippy and wants the County Council to reply with their possible plan for adopting the idea.

Town Meeting: more on traffic

HGVs and town safety were the dominant issues at Chipping Norton's official Annual Town Meeting on 23 May. New Mayor Sandra Coleman chaired the Town Hall event, with a near full turnout of Councillors and over 70 residents. The Mayor encouraged us to enjoy June's Jubilee festivities and the major cycling weekend. Her priorities would include East Chipping Norton, Town Hall upgrade and Pool Meadow. Committee reports mentioned Council Tax increases, new town website, plans for a 'pesticide-free Town', town centre improvements, and traffic safety ideas. The public were encouraged to come to the regular important committee meetings. Chippy's Police Inspector Chris Ball reminded us 'Chippy was a safe place to live' – but with criminal damage, burglary and domestic violence all being priorities. He urged everyone to report issues to the police.

Oxfordshire's Cabinet member for Transport, Cllr Duncan Enright returned with an update on potential HGV solutions. Keen to make progress after one year in his job (the cry came: 'we've been at it 50 years!'), his focus could still include the 'Rollright route' but more likely would be on getting the whole A44 end-to-end 'corridor' downgraded with weight limits. Town Cllr Jo Graves frustratedly told him that was exactly the plan in the 2000s – with the 'A44A' Action Group. The County had agreed but failed to implement this plan. Hope apparently lies with a 'new regime' in charge. Cllr Enright is also looking at town centre safety measures including at the New St junction. An hour of public questions and discussion followed

When the Queen came to Chippy



Her Majesty has made only one official visit to Chipping Norton – in 1959 on a tour of Oxfordshire. It was a memorable occasion for everyone – from the Guard of Honour to the Penhurst children and Hospital patients given the best view. The News Team was delighted to chat to eyewitness Brenda Morris, just 20 then, working in Barclays Bank on Topside.



Brenda's dad, photographer Jim Shadbolt, and Basil Packer, had the only official local licences granted to Packers Photography studio to take photos inside and outside the Town Hall. Arriving from Banbury, the Queen made a surprise stop-off to stroke the Heythrop Hounds at Chapel House. Watched by huge crowds, she entered the Town Hall and signed the visitor's book and also her portrait (still on display). Mayor Cllr Wykes, originally evacuated to Chippy in WWII as a teacher with his school, surprised the Queen when he showed her the crest of HMS Magpie – the ship adopted by the Town in 1942 and commanded by the Duke of Edinburgh later in 1950.



The Queen received a gift of Bliss Mill Tweed and a posy from the Town's oldest resident, 100-year-old Mrs E J Margetts and the Mayor's young daughter Penny. Brenda reminds us that Her Majesty wasn't our only royal visitor. Prince Charles came during the Town's 400-year Charter celebrations in 2006, Princess Margaret occasionally attended church with friends in the Wychwoods and, we believe, the then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip privately visited Great Rollright Manor – the home of Commander Heywood-Lonsdale, a brother naval officer. *Very many thanks to Brenda for her memories and wonderful pictures (including those on the front page).*

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– including about this and other traffic issues such as noise cameras, Speedwatch, safer walking routes, encouraging cycling, and OCC's recent 'resurfacing' attempts. Drinks and informal group discussions continued after the main meeting.

Further tales at Diddly Squat

You have to feel sorry for Jeremy Clarkson, don't you? A bit? Just a bit? Sometimes? He opens a farm shop selling produce from his Diddly Squat farm near Chadlington, plus a few bits (well, a lot of bits, actually) of other stuff. His Amazon TV series, *Clarkson's Farm*, makes the shop a tourist destination causing traffic congestion. Locals complain. He builds a lambing shed, no longer needs it, plans to convert it to a restaurant, serving meat from the farm, with a 70-space car park. Locals complain. Permission is refused. He decides to build the car park anyway to serve the shop. Locals complain. Permission is refused.



*Diddly Squat visitors enjoying food & drink
Roadside parking*

park wouldn't solve all traffic problems. Others (from across the country and abroad) including



Just like Marmite, love it (as many do) or loathe it, the Diddly Squat goings-on have certainly divided opinion. Chadlington Parish Council and dozens of locals objected, saying the car

suppliers of his cheese, sausage rolls, dog biscuits, fudge and the famous cow juice, supported. WODC's Business Development Manager supported this 'extremely popular' venue bringing benefits to other local businesses but WODC's Landscape Officer was concerned about visual harm. Cotswold Tourism supported but Cotswold Conservation Board had concerns. Thames Valley Police required lighting but CPRE, the Countryside Charity, objected to lighting.

In May, WODC refused permission for the car park, saying, 'By reason of its location, size and design, the proposed development would not be sustainable and would not be compatible or consistent in scale with the existing farming business or its open countryside location and would have a visually intrusive and harmful impact on the rural character, scenic beauty and tranquillity of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.....'. So where will the hundreds of Diddly Squat visitors park? On the road?

Doing little to endear himself to locals or planners throughout his planning battles, Jeremy Clarkson's *Sunday Times* column of 15 May describes the 'red trouser people in the nearest village' and alleges that 'freemasonry plays a part in many planning decisions', then he exclaims, 'I have no idea what I have done to upset them'. The controversy he creates is material for his TV series and journalism and publicity for the Farm Shop itself. Meanwhile, with series 2 of *Clarkson's Farm*

expected this summer, there is certainly diddly squat chance of those queues getting shorter any time soon. Poor man!

Our local election results

Labour wins Chippy seats – Labour Party candidates won all three Chipping Norton seats in the 5 May elections. Rizvana Poole took the one WODC seat being contested this year with 1237 votes (61% of votes cast on a 37% turnout), beating Emma Leeming (Conservative, 607 votes) and Ivan Aguado (Liberal Democrat, 185). Labour still hold all three of Chippy's WODC seats.



Successful Labour candidates Rizvana Poole (District) with Steve Akers & Sharon Wheaton (Town Council)

Rizvana has been a Town Councillor since 2019 and active locally, including as the lead volunteer running Chippy Larder. She said she wanted to help the Town and District work more effectively together, and work with others to make more things happen for the community.

Conservatives lose WODC control – At WODC, after 22 years, the Conservative Party is no longer in charge. They won only 4 of the 16 contested WODC seats, losing 7 of those previously held, with Liberal Democrats the biggest local winners. Out of 49 total WODC seats, Conservatives still hold 20 with 3 Independents, but the Liberal Democrats (15), Labour (9), and Greens (2) have formed a controlling Alliance cabinet – with 26 of 49 seats. Charlbury's Lib Dem Anday Graham is Leader, and the Cabinet includes Chippy's Geoff Saul in charge of Housing & Social Welfare. The Alliance mirrors what happened at Oxfordshire County Council last year with the same three parties 'Fair Deal Alliance'.

Our new Town Councillors – Two new Chipping Norton Town Councillors were elected in a by-election. Votes were: Steve Akers (Labour, 1103 votes, elected), Sharon Wheaton (Labour, 980 votes, elected), Chris Knowles (Conservative, 723), Scott Fisher (Independent, 661). Turnout was 37%. This brings our Town Council back to a full contingent of 16 comprising 12 Labour, 1 Conservative and 3 Independent. Steve Akers said he and Sharon would strive to continue the legacy of Cllrs Eve Coles and Laetisia Carter whom they replaced and it was 'humbling to have trust invested in us by our fellow Chippy residents'.

Oxfam Record Fair

Music Lovers, save the date. Whether you are into Classical or Prog Rock, Opera or Post Punk or anything in between, Saturday 25 June will be a feast of vinyl, CDs and music videos. The Oxfam Record Fair is in Chipping Norton Town Hall 10am–4pm bringing you a cornucopia of recorded music of every type. As well as the Oxfam Bookshop's own extensive range, there will be other record traders offering a wealth of music to hunt through. There will also be books, including biographies of your favourite artists and memorabilia. Refreshments will be available all day. Admission

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is free so come and have a really good rummage and chat about music to people who share your passion. Donations of records and CDs are always welcome in the shop.

Liz Atkins

Flowers Etc for sale



After 31 years, and moves to several locations, Chippy florist Sarah-Jayne Jacobs (pictured) has decided to retire and put her thriving business, Flowers Etc, up for sale. The busy New Street florist is the only flower shop in Chipping Norton which offers a bespoke service. As well as beautiful hand-tied bouquets, Sarah and team supply arrangements for birthdays, weddings, funerals,

Valentine's and Mother's Day and everything in between. Anyone interested in becoming Chippy's next top florist should contact Sarah-Jayne on sj.jacobs@icloud.com.

Great Rollright bingo

Everyone is welcome at the next bingo night on Friday 10 June in Great Rollright Village Hall – a fun evening, with prizes, for all ages! Doors open 7pm, games start 7.30pm finishing at 9.15pm approx. Bar, refreshments, cash prizes, non-profit-making – all proceeds to local causes. Next bingo is in September after a summer break! Details: grrbingo@aol.com

The Royal British Legion CN

PRESENTS

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RETROS

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1960's Dance

at

THE CROWN & CUSHION HOTEL

Saturday 16th July

Doors Open 7.30 pm

TICKETS £20 in advance
from: Carol Tel 07785770813
or Topside Pharmacy

(Proceeds to The Poppy Appeal)

More on rubbish and bins

WODC caused much local ire after removing many of Chippy's dog waste and rubbish bins, replacing them with 'joint' bins – but in fewer locations. They did this apparently without first consulting Chippy's Councillors or local dog walkers about the best replacement tactics. The New Street playground, run by the Town Council, was particularly badly treated – with only a couple of bins for a very large area.



Perversely, the News Team found that WODC had given Churchill two side-by-side bins for their very small playground (pictured left). Lucky them! WODC now say they will add back some of our bins if Town Councillors ask – and this is now happening at the play-

ground. The catch, however, is that while WODC might provide more bins, our Town Council will have to pay to have them emptied. It does seem as if WODC is saving money with our Town Council (and us as Council taxpayers) having to pick up the bill.

Meanwhile bus users standing at that reinstated Walterbush Road bus shelter (summarily removed, then replaced three years later by the Town Council) might be wondering about the appearance of four large empty wooden barrel-bins just where the bus users' bench used to be. They appeared a few months back, presumably as planters for some flowery displays. But so far they've simply become a convenient place to dump much rubbish and dog poo bags (see picture). Well, they do look a bit like rubbish bins!

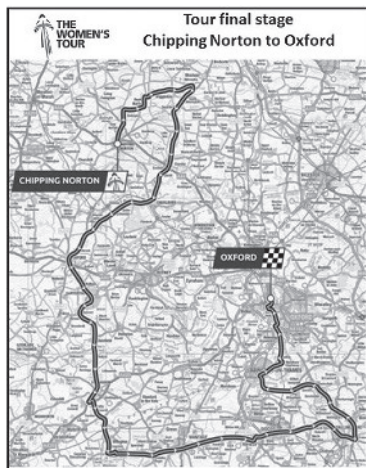
Hopefully, with Spring here, they might soon get filled up with earth and summer plants.



New Youth Awards launched

Got2B, a not-for-profit company who run youth activities around West Oxfordshire, including a new Youth Club in Chipping Norton, are launching some West Oxfordshire Youth Awards (WOYAs), to recognize achievements of young people aged 13–17. Those nominated will be invited to a Gala Dinner in November. Categories will include: Young Hidden Hero, Young Artist of the Year, Young Activist, Young Phoenix, Young Sportsperson of the Year, and the Got2B Award. Got2B are looking for West Oxfordshire-based businesses to sponsor the awards, assist in the selection process, and help nurture community relationships. Anyone can nominate a young person for a WOYA – simply visit got2b.org.uk and complete a nomination form. To sponsor, contact Natasha Harris, Youth & Community Development Manager: natasha@got2b.org.uk, 07888 672817.

Cycling bonanza hits Chippy



Race route starting in Chippy

As reported last month, on Saturday 11 June Chipping Norton town centre will see over 100 top-class international female road-racing cyclists gather for the final stage of the 2022 Women's Tour. The race starts in Market Square at 11am and wends its way via Over Norton, Great Rollright, Hook Norton, Milcombe, Great Tew, Enstone, and Charlbury then through Oxfordshire ending in Oxford City. Race

organizer Sweetspot has a three-year partnership with Oxfordshire councils, and this Stage visits parts of the County not featured before. Last year Banbury hosted the start. The Women's Tour is the UK's first international stage race for women, bringing the world's top riders to Great Britain as a part of the UCI Women's World Tour. It attracts a roadside audience of 300,000, and over three million media fans.

The organisers want this to engage everyone locally in cycling – a 'lead out group' of selected local cycling club enthusiasts will, in fact, leave 10 minutes or so before the main race. Following last September's Cycling Open Day, the Cycling Chippy group have been working to encourage cycling in and around our town. Town Councillor and cycling enthusiast Mark Walker is helping with all this and said, 'we will be sharing cycling routes suitable for mixed abilities, signing people up for a guided ride to Charlbury on Sunday 12th, proposing cross-town quiet routes, promoting women-only rides, and understanding how we can make cycling more accessible. TY Cycles will be on hand doing basic maintenance and following the Grand Depart at 11am will be demonstrating a selection of e-bikes. We'll also be setting up the "tricky trail" around midday so come along and test your skills!'. See TransitionChippingNorton.org/cycling for latest information.

Important note: The main High Street through the town centre will be closed from 4am until 11.30am on Saturday 11 June, lower Market Place closed from 4am to 2pm, and upper Market Place from 4am to 4pm. There will be extra visitor parking at Chippy Rugby Club.

Soho Farmhouse's GQ Heroes

With Chipping Norton recently hosting its own successful ChipLitFest, even more literary and music events seem to be springing up (see FarmED's recent venture on page 8). Now an upmarket residential event is being hosted at Soho Farmhouse at Great Tew. GQ Heroes is a premier event for 'top tier luxury business and creative minds', 13–15 July. Their publicity promises, 'globally renowned talent and captains of industry on stage and in intimate conversation, GQ Heroes is a new type of summit that aims to explore and debate the relationship between luxury, media, politics, music, art, television, wellness and mental health'. On stage will be 'contemporary music icons, fashion designers, wellness game-

changers, comedians, politicians, international bestselling authors, film stars and activists' plus 'an unprecedented collection of CEOs, digital disruptors and industry leaders'. These include Rowan Atkinson, Emily Eavis, Azeem Rafiq, Ewan McGregor and Adwoa Aboah. For more details and to register see gqheroes.com.

Flying the flag in Chippy

In April, Chipping Norton Town Council erected this new six-metre flagpole – with a Union Flag duly hoisted – in the Millennium Garden along West Street. This was done quickly to have a flag flying in time for the Jubilee celebrations. The old flagpole mechanism on the Town Hall roof has been broken for some time and replacing or moving it safely had caused problems. New Chipping Norton Mayor Cllr Sandra Coleman (pictured with the new flag) explained that the Council hoped to replace the Town Hall flagpole; however, the building has listed status and the planning authority has confirmed that it will need a full planning application, with a permitted design that could be somewhat complicated. Short term, a contractor is accessing the roof to lay the old flagpole flat and the process to replace it will now start. Cllr Coleman said, 'I am very pleased that we have been able find a way to continue to fly our national flag whilst the Town Hall flagpole is out of action. This is especially fitting in this Jubilee year. We will also continue the process of bench restoration and replacement so people can sit and enjoy the garden'.



Hedgehog Highways in town



Earlier this year *The News* reported WODC's new idea to encourage hedgehogs in our gardens. A 'Hedgehog Highway' scheme was set up to inspire local residents to create a network of holes in fences large enough for our prickly pals to travel through. Once you've created an opening in or under your boundary fence, you can request a free 'Hedgehog Highway' sign from WODC to mount above it, as a reminder to

keep it open. Rachel Crookes, WODC's Biodiversity & Countryside Land Management Officer, said, 'Whether you're in a town centre or rural area, you can help our hedgehogs by making more habitat available to forage, breed and hibernate. We would encourage more residents to get involved and make a gap in their fence or leave a space in their garden wall. By offering greater access to our green spaces, we can help support these at-risk creatures'. So far, 39 households across West Oxfordshire have requested the signs. Most are in Witney with just three in Chipping Norton (see picture). So come on Chippy, let's help our prickly pals and they'll thank us

by eating beetles, slugs and other garden pests. To find out more and request a Hedgehog Highway sign, see www.westoxon.gov.uk and search 'hedgehog'.

FarmED's Literary Festival



Polly & Patrick from Jaffé & Neale Bookshop with an array of books

FarmED, the new not-for-profit education centre just outside Shipton-under-Wychwood is still a relatively well-kept secret. If you're looking for something a bit different for yourself or the kids, or fancy some fabulous cake while walking nearby, FarmED is well worth checking out. It's a Community Interest Company (CIC) which does what it says on the tin: 'inspire, educate and connect people to build sustainable farming and food systems that nourish people and regenerate the planet'. On 15 May a News Team member went along to FarmED's first-ever food and farming literary festival – a sell-out event reckoned to be the first of its kind in the UK. Co-sponsored by Chelsea Green Publishing (books on sustainable living policy and practice) it covered a broad range of authors and topics. Ben Raskin, Head of Horticulture at the Soil Association and author of *The Woodchip Handbook* spoke about the power of woodchip in gardens large and small – while former barrister Sarah Langford discussed her forthcoming book, *Rooted*, about farming and our world today. You could even learn how to become a published author in the food and farming field.



BBC's Dan Saladino with FarmED founder Ian Wilkinson

One key festival theme was diversity: of food types, of animal breeds, of land ownership and in the food production business. The panel on Exploring the Concepts of Land Justice was refreshingly radical. Did you know that half of England is owned by less than 1% of the population? Or that Land Justice has implications for access, food, water, ecosystems, biodiversity, employment and more? As one panel member put it, farming and food production just doesn't feature in career options suggested to school leavers. The whole event's highlight was a conversation between Ian Wilkinson, FarmED's founder, and author and BBC broadcaster, Dan Saladino, who is superb at what he does. The festival was an opportunity for him to showcase his recent book *Eating To Extinction*. It's so good to hear an intelligent and optimistic expert talking about biodiversity, but breathtaking to realise just how much diversity we have lost in our diet and how important diversity is to our gut health and overall wellbeing. You can check out FarmED at www.farm-ed.co.uk, while Jaffé & Neale in Chippy have the books.

EV charging hub goes live

On 26 April, after a few missed deadlines, the 12 new Park and Charge bays for electric vehicles in New Street Car Park finally went live, with eager first users plugging in straight away. The Oxfordshire County Council and EZ-Charge teams were there to welcome 'first users' with a free charge and demonstration – complete with a few different sorts of electric vehicles to show how it's done. These bays are particularly aimed at town centre residents with no front drives or space to charge their cars. Nearly 100 'charging' uses were recorded in the first two weeks. There are 7–22kw 'fast chargers' with tariffs around 25–35p per kWh, cheaper if



The OCC team at the New Street launch

you do it overnight. The bays – clearly marked with green paint – are for 'charging only' and parking wardens will penalise interlopers just looking for a parking space. The project, coordinated by OCC's Jenny Figueiredo, has now seen 20 Park and Charge hubs go live in car parks across Oxfordshire. See more at parkandchargeoxfordshire.co.uk.

But Chippy's car park users will tell you there are now 12 fewer parking spaces in town, until West Oxfordshire District, the County Council or any private businesses find the funds to provide more town centre visitor parking. See letters page for parking debate.

More town centre investment

Another prominent commercial building in Chippy's town centre, on the corner of New Street and Market Place, looks set for an upgrade. The ground floor is occupied by Fairfax Estate Agents, but upstairs has six long-empty, usable rooms over four floors, last rented by solicitors Johnson Gaunt. Commercial property agents, White Commercial told the News the building sold quickly, with much interest. Despite being on a busy junction with no car parking, the agent felt the building was appealing with potential for conversion to other uses. He suggested that purpose-built offices, such as on the business parks, are less versatile and tend to be harder to let, particularly post-Covid, despite all mod cons and plenty of parking. But this building could of course be converted to residential following the same route as many other town centre upper floors such as White Hart Mews, Hitchman's Mews and others on New Street. On balance, it's positive to see investment in older buildings in the heart of the Town.

Meanwhile, work is fully in progress at the old Harpers' site (cinema and residential plans) and the old NatWest Bank (The Branch Hub) but a start is still awaited on planned developments at the sites of the old Hospital, Police Station, HSBC, and on re-letting long-empty shops in listed buildings on the High Street.

Unearthing Chippy history

Diggers moved on to land off Glyme Lane in Chipping Norton



in early May, but not to build new homes. Far from it. The News understands that Oxfordshire County Council's Archaeologist has asked for further investigations on the part of the site controlled by Cala Homes, where well documented Roman finds have been found previously. As we report on page 10), work on a Masterplan for the East Chipping Norton 1000+ home expansion has been 'paused'. OCC's official spokesperson told the News that new investigations were needed to 'inform the development, as set out in WODC's Policy CNI'. It had to be done before a Masterplan was developed and consulted on. The results of this evaluation would then 'inform any design proposals'. So, just normal processes at work, then. A Cala Homes spokesman told the News, 'We have commissioned a 17-day contract to dig trial trenches, starting on 3 May. By the third or fourth week in May we will have an understanding of the significance of anything we find'. They added that further work on the Masterplan 'will respect any findings of significance.' Local social media saw a flurry of excitement about what the archaeologists might unearth and how it might affect plans.

Catching up with things Roman

There are already many local sites of Roman interest – notably the recent discovery of 'a major palace' in the grounds of Broughton Castle (currently being investigated). Interested Chippy residents may also want to visit the Roman Villa in North Leigh near Witney. At present, this is considered to be one of the largest Roman villas in Britain. The remains of this villa are located in peaceful landscape within a loop of the river Evenlode and so provide a delightful setting for a day out. The early 4th century mosaic floor is a must-see. The villa is open over the summer 11am–5pm on Sunday 12 June, Saturday and Sunday 23 and 25 July, Wednesday 10 August, Saturday and Sunday 20 and 21 August, and Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 September. This is an English Heritage site and so free to visit for members. See www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/ for details.

New Chippy Archaeology Group

With an increased interest in Chipping Norton's history and in potential, previously undiscovered, archaeological finds, this month sees a timely launch of a new Chipping Norton Archaeological Research Group (CHARG). The Group sees a need to protect the Town's heritage, and has already instigated some exciting projects, including geophysical surveys of potential sites of archaeological interest. It has connected with the County Council's archaeology unit, WODC and Historic England, and wants to provide a local link for interested residents. You can join. See more on this and contact information on page 26.

Our Town's Roman heritage?

The East Chipping Norton development site has always been of historical interest – with evidence of Roman (and earlier) activity already known. How significant could this be? Below is an 'alert' written for the News back in February 2019, by historian, author and one-time Chippy resident David Eddershaw.

One issue with little coverage so far is the effect the development will have on a significant bit of Chippy's early history – the archaeological site near Glyme Lane. The exact boundary of the development area and the precise route of any new road are not yet finalised but they will inevitably have an impact.

The famous 2nd century carved stone head (pictured) ploughed up in a field at Glyme Farm in 1972 (now in the museum) is the most interesting find so far confirming some kind of quite important Roman building there – perhaps a villa or a temple? – we do not know, nor are we sure about its exact position. The OS map marks a 'Roman Building' in one of the fields here and the suggested boundary of the East Chippy development carefully skirts round it. However, the map is misleading, giving a false sense of certainty about the building's location – itself only a rough indication based on information I supplied many years ago. As far as I am aware it has never been fully investigated to prove more accurately where its buried foundations are situated. If it is indeed a villa like others in Oxfordshire (roughly equivalent to a large farmhouse with outbuildings) it is likely to consist of an extensive range of buildings, courtyards and barns. A temple or shrine would be smaller, probably a single building, but it is essential to establish its exact position and its archaeological context (ie



Photo: Katherine Jang

what other associated features may be nearby), before any development work starts.

There is evidence that the archaeology goes back much earlier than the Romans, and extends much wider towards London Road. More recent fieldwalking has produced other finds such as flints and early pottery fragments suggesting

human activity and possibly occupation of this high ground near the source of the river Glyme as far back as the Neolithic. Thankfully these finds were made legally with landowners' permission and correctly reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme sponsored by the British Museum, who will have recorded them and hence are available to developers. The construction of a road and hundreds of houses here will destroy whatever below-ground evidence lies in its path. However, this is not all bad news. A clause in the Local Plan stipulates that there must be 'investigation, recording and safeguarding of the known and potential archaeological significance of the area prior to commencement of development' with results deposited in a public archive. This is standard practice for any major development.

Back in 2019, David suggested the Town insist on a full investigation and raised all this with WODC. This says he will follow the new investigations and their findings with much interest!

Road closure chaos

Oxfordshire County Council claim they cannot stop lorries using the A44 through the Town because there is no suitable alternative. Except, it seems, when it suits them. Sunday 8 May



saw New Street suddenly entirely closed to all traffic from Market Place to Elmsfield to enable OCC's contractors to resurface the road during the afternoon. Local residents were flabbergasted at the lack of notice given; drivers confused by lack of diversions in place; and our major Blossom Day community event saw the Orchard totally cut off – equipment, performers and visitors could not arrive. West Street, The Leys and Station Road were chock-a-block with irate drivers searching in vain for a through route. Chaos resumed on Thursday 12th when contractors returned to add their chippings, albeit this time they closed the road in shorter sections. Not everyone saw the signs restricting parking and so resurfacing happened around parked cars. Asked about alternative routes, one contractor shrugged his shoulders and replied 'I dunno, I'm from Birmingham', explaining that their blank diversion signs (see picture) was because signs were

moving around many work locations the same day! Formally asked what procedures they have in place for adequate notice and proper diversions, OCC responded with what New Street residents described as 'total poppycock!'

Let's 'Build Chippy Better'

After Covid and nearly three years of delay, in May the Town was expecting a long-awaited Masterplan consultation for East Chipping Norton and its 1000+ new homes. The lead landowners, Oxfordshire County Council and Cala Homes, had set up a Liaison Group with our Town Council and others, to work on details. But all that is suddenly on hold while new 'survey work', requested by the County Archaeologist, is done on the Cala Homes land. OCC's Communications Consultants say discussions with local stakeholders 'will resume in due course' – but clearly any significant historical discoveries, could well mean, at a minimum, more delay, or even potential changes to the whole East Chippy plan. More in future News issues (see feature on page 9).

Meanwhile, the Town Council's own Working Group, involving some local residents with a wide range of expertise, is meeting every week or so. It is exploring how the East Chippy development can integrate properly into the Town and bring services and infrastructure the Town needs. Biodiversity, open space, footpaths and sports pitches have been examined and other issues will follow. Under a theme of 'Build Chippy

Where's the money for Chippy's future?

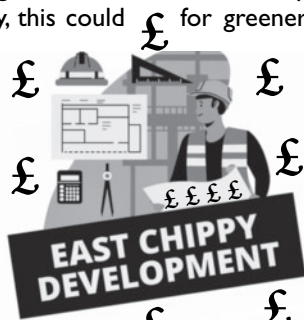
Back in 2017, WODC (planning authority) and OCC (major landowner) agreed to allocate 1,200 homes at East Chipping Norton in WODC's Local Plan. It met their housing targets and, they claimed, could provide funding for the Town's infrastructure, including some HGV traffic relief. 200 homes are already built including at The Pillars. But, five years on, there's still no actual public commitment by OCC and WODC to specific funding for the future infrastructure we need. Surely it's time for a reckoning before any Masterplan is agreed?

Where's the infrastructure money? For a large housing site, developers have to fund specific, mainly on-site, infrastructure directly related to the project (schools, open space etc) through a 'Section 106' planning law agreement. A 2019 WODC report suggested, for East Chippy, this could approach £26m, which would include a new school – but it might well fail to fund items such as over-stretched sewerage facilities or wider Town needs such as the main A44 HGV issues, additional parking and town centre improvements. The Government wants Councils to charge an additional and more transparent Community Infrastructure Levy to help, based on each property's floor space. But that WODC report (CIL Viability Assessment 2019) claimed that charging any CIL at all at East Chippy, would make it 'unviable' for developers, eroding their 15-20% profits. Of course, since then, house prices have risen significantly. But WODC have 'parked' their plans for CIL and, it seems, currently have no clear policy nor an adequate infrastructure funding plan.

Using land profits. Here's another big issue: 'land value' profit. OCC, a public body charged with serving our community, owns about 42 hectares (around 60%) of the East Chippy site. When agricultural land is approved for residential use, its value can leap 8-10 times. Government 2019 estimates suggested this 'gain' in West Oxfordshire

could be £3m per hectare – or up to £125 million for OCC's land (and with big value increases since 2019). It's from this large value that OCC can very effectively subsidise the developers for necessary on-site infrastructure, or, say, for greener homes, or invest in Chipping Norton's wider sustainability. If not why not? Or will OCC take most of their 'land proceeds' away into their central coffers? Surely WODC, their planners, and our Councillors should demand transparency and that the County commit to securing our town's future as a 'Working Cotswold Market Town'.

'A Fair Deal' for Chippy? Finally, surely it's about time WODC stepped up to their statutory duty. They produce an 'Infrastructure Delivery Plan' to guide infrastructure provision. The existing one includes Chipping Norton, and it does include putting a full HGV weight ban and diversion in place, as well as extra town parking. The problem? Firstly, it's out of date, written in 2016 when only 600 new homes were proposed. Secondly, as suggested earlier, there's no funding committed to anything in it! Surely time for our elected Councillors to press for urgent action on this, and certainly before any Masterplan is agreed! Finally, our LibDem/Labour/Green 'Alliance' Councillors, now running both the County and WODC, need to 'pull their fingers out' and ensure a fair deal for Chippy.



LOCAL NEWS

Better', the Group want to keep local people informed and engaged in this important process that will radically affect the Town's future. Look out for the Build Chippy Better stall at the Town Festival on Sunday 5 June, and share your thoughts there about what infrastructure the Town needs, particularly with another 2,800 or so more residents coming!

Alongside 1000+ new homes, East Chippy's development has to provide land for new employment, pay for a new primary school, A361 alternative route, a local centre, sports pitches, open space and play areas. But what other infrastructure improvements and facilities does our town need to cope with nearly doubling in size – and be sustainable as an attractive market town? Expanded health facilities? More fundamental HGV and town traffic solutions? Town Centre redesign and extra town parking? Better bus services both within the town and outwards? More public sports pitches? Improvements to public footpaths? Library, heritage and visitor facilities? Tell the Town Council what is important to you – they will feed this information to WODC planners to inform discussions with developers and public bodies such as County Council and Health authorities. The next task will be finding the money! (see box on previous page).

Jubilee jewellery from Mimi



The saying goes that diamonds are a girl's best friend, but for local jewellery designer, Mimi Munro, who's putting her own stamp plus a special Jubilee hallmark on her work this year, it's not so true. Mimi (pictured) explains: 'I love stones, and think everyone should be able to wear a stone that helps support them in some way. If it be funky, traditional or unique. To me, moonstones to diamonds are as equal as each other and should be worn together. There's no specialness. And I'm a believer that jewellery should be worn, not sitting

in a box. It's just a question of finding your own style in jewellery'. Established three years ago, Mimi Munro Design produces her jewellery from a workshop in nearby Cornwell. Her logo is 'no stone unturned'. Mimi makes earrings, bracelets and bespoke pieces – ideal for anyone celebrating their own special 2022 anniversary, like Her Majesty the Queen! Each piece she makes this year will have her own bespoke hallmark, as well as special Jubilee one for 2022, an X. Mimi says: 'The Jubilee Hallmark is celebratory of marking each piece made this year, like the 70 years the Queen has reigned. And it is the Orb with a cross to the top, with six dots, which signify balance. The hallmark for 2022 is a resounding X, which for me signifies love'. More information at www.mimimunrodesign.co.uk/, @mimimunrodesign.

Unicorns at Fairytale Farm

Fairytale Farm, the family adventure attraction near Chippy, sees the return, from 28 May–5 June of 'Once upon a Unicorn!' If your little one comes dressed in unicorn fashion, they can receive a sweet treat on arrival. There is lots of fun and magic on offer. In the craft corner, Ribberty Rabbit crafting gives the youngsters a chance to test their creative

skills. There are useful training tips along the way on the 'How to Train a Unicorn' trail plus the chance to receive an 'Apprentice Unicorn Trainer' award from the Unicorn Queen. They can even pose for a photograph with the Queen and her unicorns as they sing a whimsical tune under the rainbow. All this promises a really good day out for all the family – who can enjoy all the regular attractions and animals at the farm as well as the cosy café. See www.fairytalefarm.co.uk

Kaleb makes the news!

Cheers to Kaleb Cooper, farmer and breakout TV star, who has been all over the news again, this time with reports that he has launched his own cider and is publishing a book, *The World According to Kaleb*. The 23-year-old national treasure and former Chipping Norton School pupil shot to fame as Jeremy



Kaleb: a cider man

Clarkson's sidekick in the Amazon Prime Video series *Clarkson's Farm*. Kaleb told *The Times*, (in a latest celebrity interview feature!) 'I've spent the last year breaking my back cultivating malting barley so that Jeremy could launch Hawkstone lager. But truth be told, I've always been a cider man myself'. According to *The Times*, Kaleb rarely leaves the Chippy area, hates London, and gets a nosebleed if he goes to Stow. His popularity continues to soar – he now boasts a staggering one million Instagram followers and is also a hit with *Times* readers who commented, 'The world needs more Kaleb's' and 'File under inspiration'.

WE WANT YOUR VINTAGE
HANDBAGS, CLOTHES, SHOES ETC

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ENJOY OUR QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE!

OPEN
SEVEN DAYS
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Hooky's Jubilee Ale



To help us celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Hook Norton Brewery have brewed a classic new beer. Jubilee Ale, brewed to 5.2% to reflect 1952, the year of the Queen's accession, is a dark ruby red beer that combines a robust pairing of traditional all-English hops, delicate and smooth Goldings and floral Fuggles with two new hop varieties. James Clarke, Managing Director, said, 'The recipe is based on two historic beers: Old Hooky, first brewed to celebrate Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee in 1977; and Celebration Ale, brewed in 1999 to celebrate the Brewery's 150th Anniversary.' Jubilee Ale will be available in 500ml bottles from the brewery shop, online at www.hooky.co.uk and in cask in Hook Norton pubs.

June work at The Branch

You may see some building work on The Branch in Market Place starting in June. Emma Kennedy from St Mary's Church sent this update. 'To keep everyone safe, OCC have asked us to have a compound in front of the building. Unfortunately, due to the building's location, this is the only access we have – and everything will have to come in and out of the front. The Programme for June is focused on site set-up (establishment of the compound, erection of scaffolding and site welfare and office). Once that is in place we will start the alterations on the ground floor (installing temporary works, removing ground floor structures, installing hoist to access basement, etc). It is a big job, but we hope that our artwork on the

hoardings will tell you some of the story, with a panel to keep you up to date on progress inside. Once again, we apologise for any disruption, but please email build@thebranchtrust.org with any concerns'.

Try lunch at Willow Gardens

Carls Kitchen has now opened at Willow Gardens in Chipping Norton (on Russell Way just across the road from Chipping Norton Health Centre). It's a light and friendly new restaurant and lounge area that's open to the general public – and it's



Carls Kitchen at Willow Gardens – serving lunches and open to all

currently serving lunches from 10am to 2pm. Carl told the News that they do daily specials including fish and chip Friday and a beautiful Sunday lunch as well as sandwiches, paninis, jacket potatoes and light bites. They aim to be a welcoming hub for the community offering quality food at realistic prices. Carl has various sites around the country but is based down the road in Stratford-upon-Avon so please pop in and say hello to him or his manager on site, local girl Marina, who will be sure to look after you. The food and drink are great value and should be welcomed locally.

We call it Willow Gardens, but you could call it home.

Our brand-new Extra Care scheme in Chipping Norton offers a selection of two-bedroom apartments with access to modern communal areas, exclusively for over 55s*. Our fantastic facilities are now open, why not come for a look around and see for yourself?



Why choose Willow Gardens...

- Ideal for those thinking about downsizing
- On-site café/bistro, hair salon and residents' lounge
- Optional 24/7 tailored care if and when you need it

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 service charges apply.

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

Arrange a viewing by calling **07595 055 542** or emailing **Jackie.Davies@housing21.org.uk**

Willow Gardens | Russell Way | Chipping Norton OX7 5FX



Typical Housing 21 apartment

housing21.org.uk

Housing 21
Extra Care Living

June Festivals & Fetes

Charlbury have Jubilee Barn Dances on the school playing field on Saturday 4 June. Children and families from 2.30–5pm, then Adults 7–10pm. Refreshments, BBQ, Bar and more. Tickets from tiny.cc/barndance, Community Centre or Cotswold Frames.

Long Compton Community Fete is on Saturday 25 June 2–5pm. To be opened by a 'national celebrity', there is everything from Jazz and Shipston Town Band to Punch & Judy, prosecco bar, stalls, teas, classic cards, crafts, bellringing and a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flypast. Adults £4, over 5s £2.

Adlestrop Village Open Day is on Sunday 26 June, from midday until 5pm. Beautiful gardens open, classic cars, stalls, teas and cakes in the village hall, BBQ on the green, children's games, treasure hunt, Air Ambulance pod, and raffle. Entry £4 with proceeds going to Adlestrop Village Hall, Adlestrop Church, Midlands Air Ambulance, Crisis in Ukraine and Kate's Home Nursing. Off the Stow road: postcode GL66 0UN.

Hook Norton School's Jubilee Fete Saturday 25 June, 3–6pm in the school grounds. A fun-packed afternoon organised by the Friends, and themed with everything Royal and uniquely British! Bouncy Castle, guess how many Pearls the Queen has in her jewellery box, Royal Raffle, Her Majesty's Craft Tent making royal crowns, Hunt the runaway corgis, entertainment, Palace Tea Tent and BBQ. £1. Proceeds to help the School.

Burford Festival 9–19 June sees open gardens and events from *Twelfth Night*, *Lady Bracknell's Legacy* and *Under Milk Wood* to talks from Lord Peter Hall, Brian Kay, Jack Straw, and Stanley Johnson. *Alice in Wonderland* themed cream teas, workshops on poetry, dance and creative writing, fashion show, Ghanaian Gala evening, plus music including Festival Finale with Burford Singers. See www.burfordfestival.org

Waterperry Gardens, Oxford, 23–26 June. The International Contemporary Crafts Festival is a collaboration with Waterperry Gardens. Handmade Oxford has delicious treats, British crafts, fun workshops, craft demonstrations, talks and artisan food and drink. Details: www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk.

... and later on:

Kingham Village Fete Sunday 10 July 10am–4pm Kings & Queens theme, dog show, prizes for best fancy dress, live music, tea tent, food stalls, bouncy castle and more.

Whichford & Ascott Fete. Save the date! This year the Whichford & Ascott Fete & Flower Show is on Bank Holiday Monday, 29 August, 1.30–4.30pm on Whichford Village Green. A great day out for all the family! More in next month's News.

Great Rollright Autumn Fair. Friends of Great Rollright School are joining forces with other village groups to organise the second annual Autumn Fair on 10 September. There's a flower and produce show, village scarecrow trail, dog show, bouncy castle/games, pony rides, stalls, café and barbeque. All local gardeners, bakers and crafters please note – the show category list and entry form will be published shortly. Local businesses, non-profit groups and any others interested in booking a stall, donating a raffle prize or sponsoring this charity event can contact the organisers by email greatrollrightfriends@gmail.com.

Come to Blue Cross Bake Sale

Drop in to Chipping Norton's Blue Cross charity shop in West Street on 15–17 June for an inviting Bake Sale – to support the charity with its 125th anniversary celebrations.



A Blue Cross fundraiser

has rehoming and adoption centres, animal hospitals – and of course its charity shops such as in Chippy. Founded in May 1897 in London as 'Our Dumb Friends League', the early focus was on care for working horses. It launched The Blue Cross Fund in 1912



An early League animal ambulance

to care for horses in the Balkan War – followed later by treating over 50,000 horses in France in WWI. Over 350,000 animals were cared for during WWII, including from the Blitz. The official charity name became Blue Cross in 1950. It has helped an estimated 38 million pets and people. To get involved see www.bluecross.org.uk or call in to the Chippy shop for a chat.

Katharine House fundraising

This summer sees many ways to support our local Katharine House Hospice. Their biggest fundraising event of the year, the **Moonlight Walk**, is on Saturday 16 July. You can walk in memory of a loved one or just support the Hospice. The theme is the 80s – and it's going to be spectacular. Get friends together, dig out your shell suit and sign up at khh.org.uk/moonlight. There are **Open Garden** events under way with fabulous villages taking part, plus some private tours and events with limited availability. It's calling all runners for: **The Big Half**, a taster of the official London Marathon route on 4 September; **Chicken Run** with Brackley Running Club for a 10k run on 18 September; and **Oxford Half** on 16 October for 13.1 mile run around Oxford's iconic landmarks. **Swim the Serpentine** event is on 17 September in Hyde Park. Sign up for half-mile or one-mile swims for Katharine House and join around 6,000 others taking part. **The Rose**, is the new name for the hospice's supporters' magazine after a shiny new makeover; see khh.org.uk/rose. Find out about all events and news at khh.org.uk

A glimpse of Chippy's lions!

Two delightful cast-iron lion heads were uncovered during decorating works at 16 New Street in Chipping Norton earlier this month. Hidden behind the large fascia, it was a surprise find for the decorator working there. The building, like its neighbours, dates from the early C17th but was remodelled in the early C19th and it is likely that the ornamental trellis work, including the lion heads, dates from that time. There used



The lions' heads revealed above the doorway of No 16 & a close up photo

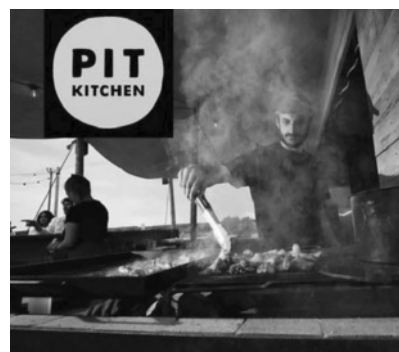


to be a pub on New Street called the Blue Lion, but at number 6, not at these premises. This building was known as Lion House Antiques during the 1980s, run by Bob Croot who recalls painting the lions gold. It is now occupied by Maxwell Douglas Estate Agents. Asked if he would keep the heads on display, Max said there was not enough space between them

for his signage. So, sadly, they'll be covered up again soon. Glad we got to see them though!

Pit Kitchen is back!

The outdoor Pit Kitchen, serving East London-style Street Food, returned in May to a rural spot just off the A44 outside Chipping Norton towards Salford. It's open until late October on its new hilltop field site on the Cornwell Estate OX7 5YF. Run by brothers Adam and James Thomas, it successfully ran a popular 'pop up' version last year and has planning permission for the next season.



The Thomas brothers' Pit Kitchen has proved a popular addition to the Chippy eating scene

Everything is cooked over open air wood fire pits for ultimate flavour and served from its converted shipping container kitchen counter. Drinks include artisan craft beers and a well-curated wine list. Open Wednesdays-Saturdays 5pm-10pm with last orders at 9pm. Walk-in only. No bookings. Takeaway service available. Parking and toilets on-site. The Pit Kitchen also offers outside catering for private parties and weddings with menus featuring its Middle Eastern-style street food. See www.pitkitchen.co.uk

The new 'Highlands Community Centre'

Latest updates on what's planned in the former Day Centre

The News recently reported the pausing of the long-running Day Centre meetings up at Highlands on the Burford Road. In April, Pat Lake, the Chairman of Age Concern Chipping Norton (who own the large house) and the Highlands organiser, Joyce Taylor, hosted a cheese and wine evening for former staff members and many others to celebrate their association with the Highlands Day Centre. Pat said there was plenty of chat about times gone by – with guests upset about the Day Centre stopping, while understanding that it was not possible to operate with paid staff, and that the Charity would have to look for volunteers to keep any Day Centre meetings going.

Attention has also turned to finding community uses for the excellent facilities in the large house and gardens. The Highlands Community Centre, as it is now being called, will have a part-time Organiser, currently Joyce while a replacement is found. If you are interested in this part-time job, please contact Pat Lake on 01608 643458. A number of local organisations are already using the facility:

- **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** will be celebrated with an indoor street party at Highlands, run by Age UK Oxfordshire 2-4pm Thursday 30 June. Call 01235 849434 or email network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk for details.

There will be further news about Highlands Community Centre later in the year. If you would like to hire Highlands, or you're interested in volunteering to help at The Day Centre please contact Joyce Taylor on 01608 643320.

- **Fitness 4 Seniors** is an excellent one-hour exercise class



now at Highlands weekly on Fridays at 9am (evidence-based fun with music) and fortnightly at 11am (no music). It's run by a qualified fitness instructor, Louise Barnes in conjunction with Age Concern Chipping Norton and aims at 'Strength, Stability and Flexibility' to help build confidence, particularly with falls prevention in mind. Book your place via 01608 643320. Find out more from Louise on 07879 685579 or email louisebarnes@gmail.com.

- **Late Spring**, a bereavement group, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.30am – get in touch via Support Line 01235 426600.

- **Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS)** will start rehearsing at Highlands in October for their next musical production. Why not join in? If you are interested phone David Court 01608 811031 or email [courtdavid35@gmail.com](mailto:court david35@gmail.com).

LOCAL NEWS

Singing with the Methodists

Chipping Norton's Methodist Church Singing Group is



thrilled to be back singing and has enjoyed getting together to practise and make plans for future events. At the beginning of May, they sang at Wigginton Church anniversary service and their next performance will be in our Church at the beginning of July. Keep your eye on the church notice board or website for more information about the concert or the singing group.

Elaine Parsons

Lawrence Team Cricket Day

Two splendid events are planned to support the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. First in June is *A Summer's Evening of Opera* (see details below) and then there's the Jane Phillips



Memorial Cricket Day at Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club on Sunday 3 July from 1pm. The Jane Phillips XI will play Chipping Norton & District XI in a 20/20 match to rival the T20! £10 family entry to the ground from 12.30pm. The first 50 children to arrive will receive a mini cricket bat signed by past and current international cricketers. Activities for the whole family include a kids' tombola and a prize raffle. Refreshments are available with the Club bar open throughout. We are looking for a sponsor. Please contact fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org or call 01608 684477.

Verity Fifer

Library gadget & IT support

Gadget and IT Support sessions at Chipping Norton Library with AgeUK are on Tuesdays 2pm–4pm. For help with your phone, laptop or tablet, AgeUK Oxfordshire and their volunteers can help you develop your skills to be involved safely online, informed and to stay digitally connected. You could 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 details and to book a place, contact AgeUK Oxfordshire on 01235 849434 or email network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

Origami for Wellbeing workshop Want to try something new and wonderful? Discover relaxation through paper folding and make something beautiful by joining us for an

Origami for Wellbeing workshop on Thursday 21 July at 2pm. Free for all ages. Book your place via 01608 643559 or chippingnorton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Sally Moore – Library Manager

Farewell Old Friends

Annie Gripper 25.9.1929–13.4.2022

The News Team was sad to hear of the passing in April of Annie Gripper and received this tribute from her daughter Sally.

Annie moved to Chipping Norton in 1957 and worked alongside her life-long partner, John Gripper, at the Veterinary practice at the top of Albion Street. She put her nursing skills to use to provide Family Planning Advice and also, for many years, worked delivering babies as a Midwife at Chippy Hospital. She was supportive of her husband's interests and became Mayoress of Chippy in 1966 alongside him as Mayor. Annie was true to her maiden name



John & Annie Gripper as Mayor and Mayoress

'Makepeace' and was always sociable to stop and chat with everyone. She developed special relationships with all her grandchildren and great grandchildren, and loved family occasions. She died very quickly, after a diagnosis of cancer three weeks earlier. She did not want anyone to make a fuss so died without telling many people that she was so unwell. Her request for those who know her is to remember her for her joy for family, laughter and long life. As a family, we want to thank Sally and Bridget for their constant attention and care for her. Also her GP, Dr Brown, and the Lawrence Home Nursing Team for their valuable care and support to enable her to die at home, in her own bed, surrounded by her family. Her warmth and presence is greatly missed by us all.

Sally Bowman (née Gripper)

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Police and community wellbeing

This month includes news from Chippy fire station, Neighbourhood Watch, local press reports and latest police statistics.

News from Chippy Firefighters

In April the team at Chipping Norton Fire Station held



another successful car wash raising over £1700 to be split equally between the Firefighters Charity and the Humanitarian Appeal for the Ukraine.



Then, to mark all the fundraising over the last several months, the firefighters' team were presented with the *Community Fundraiser of the Year* award at a Community Safety event at Blenheim Palace. It was a proud moment for them all, and is a testament to the crew's dedication to their communities.

This April and May the station crew have had several training sessions to keep their skills up to date, including an area exercise with neighbouring crews at Cornbury Park. It covered water rescue and how to rescue a person from a car on its roof. The crew have also attended incidents involving chimney fires and road traffic collisions along with ensuring that fire alarms that had gone off were not actual fires!

The Station's next **Open Day** (Saturday 16 July 10am to 4pm) has lots to see and do. Come along and meet the crew. For more, including future events, see their Facebook Page which also has links to important safety advice. The crew at Chipping Norton Fire Station, are keen to recruit new firefighters. If you or anyone you know, might be interested in finding out more, please, contact Station Manager Gary Crone via 07775 827281 or gary.crone@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Dave Cuthbert

Crime in Chipping Norton

Latest data from Police.uk national database for the Chipping Norton area (Town and nearby villages) is for March with 70 crimes reported including the largest category of sexual or domestic violence of 33, followed by antisocial behaviour (13), burglary/theft (9), criminal damage and arson (8), shoplifting (6) and public order (6). Levels had been coming down since last October but are rising again. Over the recent three years, roughly two thirds of our crimes end with 'no suspect identified' or 'unable to prosecute suspect'. Since the closure of our town Police Station some years ago, Witney acts as a main base with a small non-public base at Chippy Firestation. Our neighbourhood group of officers including an inspector, sergeants, police constables and PCSOs.

Court and police notices

Vehicle smash and grabs – early May saw a spate of crimes with thieves targeting vehicles with items on display inside – such as handbags, purses, satnavs or expensive clothing. Incidents were reported in Chippy in New Street and Albion Street car parks, and beauty spots such as Rollright Stones, Chastleton and dog walking areas. PCSO Wes Smith says if you see anyone acting suspiciously around cars call 999 and take all valuables out of your vehicle.

Catalytic converter thefts – Chipping Norton has also seen recent thefts of catalytic converters (notably Toyota and Honda makes) and car number plates. You can ask your car supplier for advice on clamps or guards for converters. Use security screws (from your local garage) for number plates.

Trial for rape – After investigations of a reported rape of a woman (not named for legal reasons) in Chipping Norton on 20 May last year (2021), a 27-year-old man appeared in Oxford Crown Court in April. He pleaded not guilty and a trial is set for 27 February 2023.

Illegal HGV loads – A Chipping Norton man from Insall Road was fined more than £2000 in April for a series of motoring offences involving driving an HGV with legal weight limits exceeded and dangerously loaded items, thus involving 'a danger of injury to any person'. His license was endorsed with 3 points.

Fired for insulting behaviour – The *Daily Star* reported in April that a 34-year-old woman, who had just left a café with her daughter, was 'catcalled' by a man from a work van with (apparently) 'Chipping Norton Roofing' on it. He had yelled 'let's look up your skirt' at her. She called the number on the van, told the 'truly sorry' boss (apparently in Stratford) who said he had sacked the person responsible!

Neighbourhood Watch Network

30 May to 5 June is national Neighbourhood Watch week, which also celebrates 40 years of the network organisation – where citizens in local groups in local streets and communities can work together to help keep each other safe. It has been found by the British Crime Survey that there was a decrease of 10% in property crime in areas where Neighbourhood Watch existed. Chippy residents can sign up to newsletters and find out more on how to set up your own local Watch. The News is not aware of a specific Neighbourhood Watch for Chipping Norton but are happy to publicise any information that is received. There's also an online Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Conference coming up on 31 May. For more see www.ourwatch.org.uk. The separate national online website Nextdoor also has many local Chipping Norton community members. It is not specifically for crime and safety, more for connecting people locally, but can be very useful spreading alerts and warnings – such as suspicious local activity or scamming.



Artful dining at Whistlers

Chipping Norton's Whistlers restaurant in Middle Row hit the culinary headlines in March when the Oxford press carried a 1000+ word sparkling 5 Star review of their special £85 seven course tasting menu. The Oxford Times' critic Tim Hughes called it 'Food as Art' and a 'Symphony of Taste'. A delighted Tim experienced the whole menu and said 'talented Cotswold Chef Nathan Phelps and his sparky Australian partner Kerry Foley' are 'now making waves in gastronomic circles' and 'snapping at the heels of the Michelin Guide's Cotswold darlings'.

The News Team went to chat to Kerry and Nathan, who in fact, for those nostalgic about Chippy's history of fine dining, worked as a chef at Le Chavignol, the French restaurant in Horsefair back in the 1990s. The couple bought Whistlers in late 2019 – bad timing! The next two years saw valiant efforts to keep the place going during the pandemic, with takeaways and al fresco dining in Middle Row. They've now revamped the inside making it seem more intimate than before.

Pre-Covid Whistler's regulars – many from Chippy – were used to the varied menu from pizzas and burgers to more traditional main courses. Kerry told the News that she and



Whistlers in Middle Row offers 'fine dining' to Chippy regulars and visitors to the Town

Nathan are very conscious of this previous loyal base and want to make sure their latest fine dining experience is of interest – and value – to both Chippy regulars as well as the many visitors now coming to the Town. A good value way to sample this, is to go for the lighter set menu (only £25 for two courses, £30 for three). It's available lunchtimes and early evenings. There are three choices for each course – a typical mix might be Ham hock terrine, then Chalk stream trout fillet, followed by lemon meringue cheesecake.

But for a bit more 'food as art', the higher-priced à la carte menu includes choices such as Orkney scallops, 32-day aged sirloin steak, and a board with three artisan cheeses. Kerry and Nathan also hope to organize more special evenings with tasters or canapé events including live music. The enthusiastic couple and their team will give you a great welcome, making this revamped eatery a great addition to both Chippy and the Cotswolds' dining experience. See www.whistlersrestaurant.co.uk

A new start for Wild Thyme

Sally and Nick Pullen of Chipping Norton's Wild Thyme restaurant have announced that they will be leaving the New Street premises after 13 years – but will continue to provide their popular meals and dining experiences from a 'Prep Kitchen' base in the Elmsfield Industrial Estate. The New Street site has seen many customers enjoy special meals and



Sally & Nick with the Wild Thyme team

occasions, but the couple say that the cost of running such a small restaurant, particularly through and after Covid, has made that kind of operation unviable. There are still some great chances to dine one last time at the current New Street restaurant with Nick, Sally and the team up to the end of July. Dates for these special events and menus are on their website.

The team are then shifting the business, with Elmsfield the base from September, and will continue to offer the weekly Friday 'Take Me Home' service. Sally and Nick are currently looking for other venues, including perhaps a 'seasonal' one for next year, in which to hold their regular Dining Clubs so that they can continue to provide great hospitality in and around Chipping Norton. Nick will also be focusing more on their 'Private Chef' service for parties of 10 or more in customers' own homes and other venues. The Wild Thyme team will also cater for parties up to 60. Their work in the Community continues, including Nick's Cookery Workshops with students from Chipping Norton School in conjunction with The Branch from St Mary's Church.



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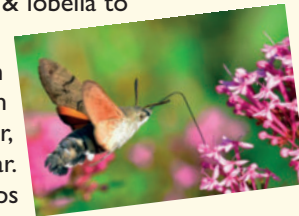
Garden delights

Hopefully as you read this, we'll have enjoyed some summer Jubilee weather in the garden. Here are keen local gardener Graham White's latest thoughts from his Kingham garden.



Writing this took me back to Chelsea Flower show for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Rochfords Nursery produced a crown containing sixty thousand Saintpaulia plants, and I watched a blackbird stealing strawberries from the Ken Muir stand. In gardens across the country, flowerbeds were planted with salvia, allysum & lobelia to display red, white & blue. All plants from a different era.

I still plant a window box with early strawberries, to pick from the kitchen window – the ultimate in low food miles! That, in turn, is replaced with another box with summer pelargoniums – good old-fashioned blaze of colour, but also popular with day-flying hummingbird hawk moths I enjoy each year. Above the window, the bumblebees have nested again, as for many years. In gaps between the paving, two types of ground nesting bees; ashy mining and tawny mining bees were both fascinating to watch. I hope the way I garden encourages such creatures. I put a bit of thought into growing single flowered, rather than more showy varieties to make more nectar available. That in turn, repays me with better pollination. Despite the lack of April rain, I'm hoping for a bumper apple crop, as the blossom was undamaged and alive with bees on several days.



All summer vegetables, courgettes, beans and outdoor tomatoes are safely planted out now, along with the 'jungle plants', as my eldest grandson calls them. Tetrapanex, canna, colocasia and tree ferns, kept safe from winter frost, are now making an impact. I'm lucky to have space to grow such plants, and conscious that anything that enthuses another generation about our plants and wildlife is well worth doing. Whether I can rustle up a swarm of bees for him to watch the local beekeeper collect, as last summer remains to be seen!

On your allotment

Chippy's William Fowler Allotment Committee have a 'plot buddy scheme', to offer support to allotment newcomers. One buddy, Wayne Richmond took on his allotment just before first lockdown, and has now successfully cultivated many vegetables. Running an allotment requires both time and expertise, and Buddies can encourage new people, with a reassuring hand nearby to answer questions and help out. The News team met Wayne on his plot.

Allotments inspire strong community spirit – from sharing a flask of tea, to offering advice. It's a safe and collaborative outside space and gardening boosts wellbeing bringing a sense of purpose and achievement. Wayne's tips for starting include:

- 1. Start small.** Maintaining an allotment can be fun and rewarding, but it can also be lots of work and take time. You may feel overwhelmed in your first season if you're too ambitious. Don't forget, you can always grow more crops or expand your plot next year!
- 2. Get a good set of tools.** A cheap set is fine when you're starting out. You'll need a trowel, fork, and watering can at a minimum. A spade, hoe, and pair of gardening gloves are a sound investment too. Keep an eye on free ads – gardening items appear all the time.



- 3. Grow what you'll use.** Think about what you and your family enjoy eating regularly or would like to eat more of. Consider growing crops that would otherwise be costly in the supermarket. Mixed salad is a good example.

- 4. Plan your plot.** You can do it on paper, but there are websites that help show you how many individual plants you can grow in a given area. Alternatively, read your seed packs to see what space a plant needs and plan accordingly – all helpful for smaller plots.

- 5. Starting indoors.** Many crops require 'starting off' indoors before being planted out. If you don't have space or your house is quite dark, consider buying seedlings or 'plugs' that are ready to be planted out straight away.

If you are interested in taking a vacant plot, contact Sonia at finance@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.



Chipping Norton's 2022 Blossom Day, up at the Community Orchard, was one of the best ever!

Volunteer organiser Heather Leonard reported that on Sunday 8 May, the 'sun had got his hat on and the orchard had donned her best dress. Over 200 joyful local people came along, many with young families, to enjoy everything food, juice, joyful dancing, kids' activities, and many a picnic'. Heather was delighted – in the end – but couldn't resist words of

frustration that, for the 12 noon start, only a solitary Morris man and the Bodger with his lathe had arrived.

A Memorable Blossom Day!

Where was everyone?

It appears that Oxfordshire County Council's Highways crew had unilaterally turned up, closed off New Street from the Town down past the cemetery, and set out to do an afternoon of resurfacing, with little help for bewildered residents, drivers and orchard-goers. Heather cried 'how dare they spoil our event with no warning, no signs and no diversions'. But it was thankfully then 'Oh joy'.



The Morris men (minus two lost minstrels) jangled down, Helen and Andy trudged in carrying willow bundles and the kids' activity gear, and the public, bless'em, used Shanks's Pony and arrived in droves.

The depleted Morris team were clapped and cheered; willow coronets with hearts, flowers and ribbons bobbed through the mature trees, and Heather concluded '*a win for the community with few thanks to the Highways Dept.*' Better luck next time – Apple Day is on Sunday 25 September. **See you then.**



THE ARTS

The Theatre

The Mountaintop – A review

The Mountaintop, by Katori Hall, is a fictional encounter between Rev Martin Luther King Jr and Camae, a motel maid, the night before his assassination. Dr King has just delivered



Photo: Geraint Lewis

Brilliant performances from Luke Wilson & Boni Adeliyi

his historic speech, 'I have been to the mountaintop', and returns extremely weary to his Memphis motel room. He orders a coffee from room service and meets Camae, who changes his whole evening. What starts as banter and perhaps flirting turns into political, theological and philosophical debate. Camae, brilliantly played by newcomer Boni Adeliyi, is a feisty and captivating character who makes King evaluate his life's work and his legacy. The play takes the audience on a rollercoaster ride of emotions with its humour and pathos. Luke Wilson's performance as the charismatic King is phenomenal. We are reminded of King's dream and the positive changes he set in motion when Wilson performs his final monologue. This rouses the audience to feel a responsibility to carry on with 'the march' by reminding us that it is the sum of our individual actions that realise changes in society. This play was first performed when Obama was elected president, during a time of hope. However, ten years on, changes may have occurred but King's dream of equality has not. This play is extremely thought-provoking and makes the audience consider their role in the continuation of King's legacy. The message remains as relevant to society today as it was when it first performed.

Kenda Daymond, age 13, Chipping Norton School

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All praise from Chippy News Arts Pages Team to Director John Terry, the actors, and the whole of the creative team. If you missed this must-see home-grown performance you can catch it on tour. Oxford Playhouse 23–25 June 01865 305305. Other venues info at chippingnortontheatre.com

Live performances

The Ronnie Scott's Story Saturday 4 June, 7.30pm. Direct from Soho's world-famous jazz club and combining live jazz, narration and rare archive photos and video footage, The Ronnie Scott's All Stars, led by the Club's musical director, celebrate **The Ronnie Scott's Story**. £24

Steve Knightley Wednesday 8 June. 7.30pm. Steve's (rescheduled) show is perfect for anyone fascinated by the art and craft of song writing, with numbers from his back catalogue along with new material. £19.50

Graeme Hall Thursday 9 June, 7.30pm. Master dog trainer Graeme Hall of Channel 5's *Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly* is bringing his wisdom, charm, and puppy prowess to Chippy, inspiring audiences to get their pooches back on track and trained for life. £17.50

Sounds of Simon Friday 10 June, 7.30pm. A tribute to Simon and Garfunkel, including all the classics, from *Mrs Robinson*, to *Homeward Bound*. £16.50, £14.50 concs



Comedy Club for Kids Saturday 11 June, 2.30pm (3+). The best stand-ups and sketch acts from the international circuit doing their thing for an audience of children and their families. £11

Flo and Joan: Sweet Release Saturday 11 June, 7.30pm (14+). Sold Out

Alfie Moore: Fair Cop Unleashed Friday 17 June, 7.30pm. Cop-turned-comedian Alfie Moore's latest stand-up show is based on a dramatic real-life incident from his police casebook, hilariously woven together with insights into his life on the police force front-line. £16

Ballet Central Saturday 18 June, 7.30pm. Four new pieces of repertoire showcase the skills, artistry, and versatility of these brilliant young performers. £16, £13 concs

Much Ado about Murder, Wroxton Abbey Wednesday 22 June, 2.30pm & 7.30pm (Age 10+). The Theatre's open-air season kicks off with superlative silliness in this original murder mystery setting five suspects under the spotlight and relies on the audience to find answers. £18, £16 concs, £12.50 under 26s

Patrick Kielty: Borderline Friday 24 June, 7.30pm (Age 16+). Patrick Kielty's new stand-up show delves into his homeland's recent history to try to make sense of what Brexit's new borders and political upheaval mean for our shared identities. A Northern Ireland native, who grew up close to the Irish border, he returns to his satirical roots. £20

Andrew Pepper and Friends Saturday, 25 June, 7.30pm (Age 14+). The three-time Chippy panto dame is joined by cabaret superstar Sarah-Louise Young and vaudevillian Ada Campe, with Alex Maynard on piano and Dan England on the drums for this cabaret feast. £18, £16 concs

THE ARTS

Oddfellows Brass in Concert Sunday 26 June, 2pm. This popular brass band plays traditional tunes, movie scores and popular songs. £15, £12.50

Jazz Concert for Ukraine Thursday 30 June, 7.30pm. Fourteen of Oxfordshire's top jazz musicians perform in this fundraiser for Ukrainian refugees. £12

The Theatre thank their new partner, Wigwam Self Storage, who are providing free storage and use of their vans for the forthcoming open-air season.

Take Part & Summer activities



NEW Youth Theatre Year 3 Group (7–8 yr olds) Wednesdays, 4.15pm–5.30pm. £75 (10 week term). **NEW Adult Drama Group** Wednesdays, 7–8.30pm. £70 (10 week term) in addition to the Tuesday group due to popular demand.

Three Day Drama for 5–7 year olds. 25–27 July, 10am–1pm. £75. Interactive workshop that builds confidence, enhances creativity and fires up the imagination. Participants explore improvisation, mime, and storytelling in a series of fun and informative workshops. This ends in a performance on The Theatre's stage at 12.45pm on Wednesday 27 July.

Three Day Musical Theatre for 5–7 year olds. 1–3 August. 10am–1pm. £75. Looking to get your first taste of musical magic? High-energy workshop working alongside

renowned practitioners to learn parts in a wide range of musical numbers. Participants will be introduced to the basics of acting, singing and dancing for musical theatre, ending in a performance on The Theatre's stage for friends and family at 12.45 on Wednesday 3 August.

Acting Summer School for 8–14 year olds. 25 July–5 August. Week 1: 25 July–29 July, 10am–4pm (7pm Friday). Week 2: 1–5 August, 10am–4pm (7pm Friday). £135 per week. Week-long course looking to hone acting skills and explore what it takes to tread the boards. Working alongside industry professionals, participants will take part in fun, practical sessions focussing on voice, movement, improvisation and text work. Ending with a performance on The Theatre's stage 6pm on Friday.

West End Summer School for 8–14 year olds. 25 July–5 August. Week 1: 25–29 July, 10am–5pm (7pm Friday). Week 2: 1–5 August, 10am–5pm (7pm Friday). £150 per week. The ideal introduction to the magic of musical theatre. Suitable for anyone with a passion for performance, this week offers the chance to develop skills in acting, dancing and singing, working alongside industry professionals. Participants work together to devise their own musical theatre show, ending in a performance on The Theatre's stage at 6pm on Friday.

Further information from chippingnortontheatre.com or 01608 642350.

Art, exhibitions, talks

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock.

2 June–24 November:

Tuesday–Saturday: 11am–5pm. Sunday: 2–5pm.

Children and Military Lives –

Stories of Adventure, Family and Exile. In collaboration

with two charities, Little

Troopers and War Toys, the

Exhibition tells the stories of

the children of armed forces

personel and children who

are victims of war. The latter

are presented in the unique

photo series War Toys by

photographer Brian McCarty

about children's experiences

of war, expressed through

unique, art-therapy-based

collaborations in the field.

Acting as their own art

directors, children, often in

refugee camps, are given the

opportunity to depict real

scenes from their experiences

using toys and the local

terrain. The resulting images

are impactful and thought

provoking.

The Arts Society Cotswolds.

Wednesday 8 June, 11am at

Warwick Hall, Burford or via

Zoom. *Music in Art* with

Sophie Matthews. Explore

the wealth of art and music

on the theme of the

legendary singer Orpheus,

who lost his beloved

through a single glance. A

rich array of paintings and

musical examples from

Monteverdi, Gluck and

Offenbach, even taking

in the Can-Can! Details

and to book contact

Frances Sparkes on

01993 823943, publicity@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

or theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk



Growing up on an army base in Germany during the Cold War 1960

photo series War Toys by photographer Brian McCarty about children's experiences of war, expressed through unique, art-therapy-based collaborations in the field. Acting as their own art directors, children, often in refugee camps, are given the opportunity to depict real scenes from their experiences using toys and the local terrain. The resulting images are impactful and thought provoking.

The Arts Society Cotswolds. Wednesday 8 June, 11am at Warwick Hall, Burford or via Zoom. *Music in Art* with Sophie Matthews. Explore the wealth of art and music on the theme of the legendary singer Orpheus, who lost his beloved through a single glance. A rich array of paintings and musical examples from Monteverdi, Gluck and Offenbach, even taking in the Can-Can! Details and to book contact Frances Sparkes on 01993 823943, publicity@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk or theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

Charlbury Festival 10–19 June. Organised by Charlbury Arts, here is a taster of the many events: Photography competition. Adult themes: holidays, black & white, buildings and nature. Children's theme: animals. Sculpture trail.

What's On

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<p>4th June, 7.30pm 8th June, 7.30pm 9th June, 7.30pm 10th June, 7.30pm 11th June, 7.30pm 11th June, 7.30pm 17th June, 7.30pm 18th June, 7.30pm 24th June, 7.30pm 25th June, 7.30pm 26th June, 2pm 30th June, 7.30pm</p> <p>FILMS 30th May–7th June Fri 3rd June Sun 12 & Tues 14 June Sun 19, Wed 22 & Sun 26th June Mon 27th June Tues 28th June Wed 29th June Sun 3rd & Tues 5th July Sun 3rd, Wed 6th & Sun 10th July</p> <p>SCREENINGS Thu 23rd June, 7pm</p>	<p>THE RONNIE SCOTTS STORY—£24 STEVE KNIGHTLEY—£19.50 GRAEME HALL—£17.50 THE SOUNDS OF SIMON—£16.50, £14.50 concs COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS—£11 FLO AND JOAN—SOLD OUT ALFIE MOORE—£16 BALLET CENTRAL—£16, £13 under 16s PATRICK KIELTY—£23.50, £21.50 concs ANDREW PEPPER AND FRIENDS—£18, £16 concs ODDFELLOWS BRASS BAND—£15, £12.50 concs JAZZ CONCERT FOR UKRAINE—£12</p> <p>TICKETS £10, £7.50 UNDER 16S DOWNTON ABBEY: A NEW ERA (12A) MAMMA MIA WITH WINE—Tickets £25—18+ TRUE THINGS (15) BENEDICTION (15) RELAXED SCREENING: BENEDICTION (15) COMPARTMENT NO. 6 (15) BETWEEN TWO WORLDS (15) TOP GUN: MAVERICK (15) SWAN SONG (15)</p> <p>TICKETS £17.50 NORTHERN BELLET—MERLIN</p>
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THE ARTS

Sculptors have responded to the spaces around The Corner House and the Memorial Hall. Meet the artists in their studios. Trail map of studios available. Printmaking exhibition. First UK exhibition of the latest International Print Exchange Programme. More information at charlbury.info/events or charlburyarts@outlook.com

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. 18 June–9



October: Tuesday to Saturday: 10am–5pm. Sunday: 2pm–5pm. *Juxtaposition.* Objects from the Museum's prestigious modern crafts collection meet some of their historic counterparts. Enjoy the superb artistry of contemporary crafts and then contemplate

origins and synergies of similar historic items from the collections. Enjoyable, quirky and informative. The exhibition contains works from the contemporary Southern Arts Crafts collection. Objects from the historic collections were chosen to contrast these items with their unique stories, whether personal, historical or technological. Co-curated by Anne Griffiths, a local artist, who chose the exhibits and individual themes on show at the Museum over the summer.

Performance, music & cinema

Amphitheatre at Berrybank Park, Oddington, GL56 0XW. 14 June–10 September. Set on the ancient wold with an uninterrupted view over the Evenlode Valley, the grassed amphitheatre and pavilion provide a magical setting. Cotswold Comedy Festival 14–16 July. Also theatre, family events, yoga, music, outdoor cinema. Amphitheatreberrybankpark.co.uk

Adlestrop Charity Concert. Saturday 11 June, 6pm. The village's first fundraising event for this summer features the Weybridge Male Voice Choir in St Mary Magdalene Church, Adlestrop. Opera choruses and spirituals to musical show numbers, plus traditional and contemporary songs, in spine-tingling four-part harmony unique to traditional male voice choral singing. Fizz and canapes in the Village Hall. Places limited due to capacity. Tickets £25 from info@richardphillipsracing.com or 01608 658710. Proceeds to Adlestrop Church and the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Burford Singers Summer Concerts. Sunday 19 June, 7.30pm at Church of St John the Baptist, Burford and Saturday 25 June, 7.30pm at Church of St Mary, Banbury. Works by Handel, Parry, Fauré, Elgar, Bruckner and others, Conductor: Brian Kay. Tickets at burfordsingers.org.uk/events/

CRAG Sunday Tea Concerts. Sunday 26 June, 3pm at the Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Harpsichordist Alastair Ross, who will be performing Geminiani cello sonatas with his son George Ross, the prominent baroque cellist. Save the date for a lovely afternoon of baroque music by this very special duo.

Kingham Singers. Mondays, 7.30pm. Sing for pleasure at the Methodist Chapel, Churchill. Favourite music from stage and screen. If you would like to give it a try you would be made very welcome. Call Linda Sale 01608 658647 for details.

Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society. Have you ever thought about joining CHAOS? The News received the following: 'CHAOS is a very friendly group that enjoys musical theatre. Once a year we perform shows at The Theatre, usually about May. In the past few years we have had great success with *Fiddler on the Roof*, *My Fair Lady*, *High Society* and *Carousel*, to name but a few. We meet on Monday nights at Highlands Day Centre, Burford Road. We usually have one rehearsal a week up to Christmas and two a week thereafter, particularly if you are one of the principals. We welcome people of all ages and experience but we would really like people who can sing tenor or bass.' Contact court david35@gmail.com

Screen by the Green.

Saturday 11 June, 7.30pm, Churchill Village Hall – **Belfast.**

Kenneth Branagh's film is a semi-autobiographical feel-good childhood memoir of growing up in Belfast in the late 1960s when there were outbursts of sectarian violence across

Northern Ireland. Although The Troubles drive the central conflict of the film, *Belfast* is about the spirit of family, community and country, giving the idea of 'a fork in the road' while proving that no matter where you are going, you will always remember where you came from. A brilliant script by Branagh and stand out performances. Tickets £5 from 01608 659903 or at screenbythegreen@gmail.com





Garden Open



Sunday 19th June - 1.30pm to 5pm

Jim & Dominique's much-acclaimed and romantic private garden at the Pottery, together with six other gardens in Whichford & Ascott, will be open for the National Garden Scheme.

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

SPORTS NEWS

Chipping Norton Cricket Club

Senior Teams: The Town Mayor, perhaps on her last engagement of the civic year, popped up to the cricket ground on 13 May to present some awards. The players really appreciated the time given by Cllr Mazower, who stopped for a chat and watched some play afterwards. The Mayor is pictured presenting Captain Slamet Sami and the 2nd XI with



the league pennant for winning their league in 2021. The table in front has a display of the Club's recent Town Sports Awards which included one for Sami as Over 18 Sportsperson.

Jake Brown (in cap) next to Sami is 11-17 Sportsperson while Jake's sister Elodie who won the Olympic Legacy Under 18 Award was not present but was pictured on the front page of the April News. The Saturday 2nd XI won the Over 18 Team Award while the Club as a whole won the Over 18 Club Award.

The Club has so far played just one weekend of League cricket with both teams losing. The Season gets going properly in June with League games every Saturday.

League home fixtures for June:

- 4th 1st XI versus Horley 1st XI
- 11th 2nd XI versus Swinbrook 1st XI
- 18th 1st XI versus Oxford 2nd XI
- 25th 2nd XI versus Shipton-under-Wychwood 3rd XI

Graham Beacham

Youth Section: Grass is mowed, the BBQ is powered up but the weather needs to get warmer! Tuesday and Friday youth training sees lots of happy youngsters from 5 to 17 enjoying everything from basic bat and ball skills to honing their competitiveness for age group matches and – for those eager to progress – playing with the Seniors. We have so far played two U15's games and one U13's game – all lost to sides

fielding top-end players from each age group while we had to rely on young players who nevertheless showed great potential. This is quite normal when age group bands span two years. Both the U11's games were postponed due to their opponents' lack of players. All age groups, except the U15's, are now full. We were delighted at the success of brother and sister Jake and Elodie Brown in the Town Sports Awards – see report opposite. No training on Friday 3 June as so many are involved with either half term or Jubilee events. Fingers crossed for good weather and a few wins in the weeks ahead.

Sue Powell, Youth Coordinator

Chipping Norton Rugby Club

The Club was buzzing in April as we hosted our biggest mini rugby festival yet! Despite some enforced last minute cancellations, over 500 under 10 and 11 players representing 20 clubs from across six counties turned out for a dry and bright day of superb mini rugby. Huge thanks to all the coaches, players, referees, parents, club volunteers and sponsors who made it happen. Premiership Gloucester Rugby



player, Freddie Clarke, handed out the awards (pictured). The season concluded for our 1st XV at Oxford University's hallowed Iffley Road rugby ground, where a Covid-delayed cup final clash against Alchester promised a fitting end to the season. Sadly, that wasn't to be. The first half was a battle of attrition with Alchester on top at half time 7-3. Alchester took a further 3 points after the restart, but Chipping Norton were turning the tide when disaster struck and Fin Truelove went down with a serious leg injury. He couldn't be moved until the medical teams arrived, so the game had to be abandoned at 10-3. Our best wishes to Fin and his family for a good recovery. We were delighted that two of our senior players Sonny Rowe and Steve Nation-Grainger were selected to play for Oxfordshire County. We hope to renovate some key areas of the Club over the summer and plan a volunteering day, so keep an eye on our social media for the latest news and you can contact the Club via chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com.

Graeme Williamson

Hook Norton Tennis Club

Jubilee Diary Date: Friday 3 June 2–4 pm our courts will be open for all who wish to play.

The floodlit league matches ended with the A team 5th and the B team 4th in Division 1 while the C team came 6th in Division 3. Three teams are now competing in summer league matches. All ladder matches are under way. Members can book courts via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub> which also lists Club sessions. Coaching is available from: Marc Gilkes: 07930 406015 also Faith Heron: 07771 904905 and Steve Bone: 07850 036656. Coaching dates are 18 June to 23 July. New members welcome – contact khs.shoes@gmail.com/01608 642774 for further information.

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Indoor Bowls Awards night

At a presentation evening on 14 April, members of Chipping Norton Indoor Bowls Club celebrated both Club and individual achievements over the winter season. Guest of honour Mike Morris the Oxfordshire Indoor Bowls Association President, presented the prizes. Our ladies singles final was a close fought affair, where Julie Singer pipped Cathy Sparks 21-20. In the men's final Martin Shepherd confirmed his dominance for the past 10 years where he beat AJ Docherty.



Julie Singer & Martin Shepherd with Mike Morris

The Club is always busy in winter as local towns lack the magnificent facilities offered in Chippy so members from other outdoor clubs come to us for indoor play, before returning to their respective clubs in the summer. There are internal leagues most mornings and evenings for all to enjoy. This year the Club has been proud to supply 8 out of 24 players representing the County in national competitions, and in other inter-county indoor association games we have supplied 17 players at one time or another. Chipping Norton won the North Oxon League and came fourth in the Oxfordshire 10's. There's always a warm welcome to any new or returning bowlers either over the summer, or next September when the indoor season starts again. Just pop up the Club for a chat, or check out the website www.chippingnortonbowls.co.uk



Dave Freeman

4 Shires Swimming Club update

We had another busy meet at Oxford which produced some very good swims along with the first SER 14&U Championships weekend. Our own Club Championships were held in May which is always ideal for the Academy and Pre-Comp squads to get some times in order to enter other L4 Meets. Congratulations to Immie Lawrence and Max Hayman who have been accepted into South East Regionals 2022. Senior Swimmer of the Month is Zoe Pearson who is training really well and getting back into her racing form. Lou Berry is Junior Swimmer of the Month; she works hard at every session and we hope to see good results at the Club Champs. The Club is planning a number of events – a summer party and fun pool session with inflatables; quiz night; outing to local water park and we will be serving teas at Chastleton House in October as a fundraiser.

If you are a keen swimmer and are looking to compete or just to develop your fitness and swimming skills please book onto a Trial session, either via <http://www.4ssc.co.uk/join-us> or email membership@4ssc.co.uk for details of Trials.

Lucy Warner

New Table Tennis Club



A table tennis club has started at Chipping Norton School (OX7 5DY) sports hall. The club meets 6 to 7.30pm every Wednesday evening during term time and welcomes

players of all ages and abilities. The emphasis is on having fun and keeping fit although there is enough of a challenge for serious players as well. We have six tables in a large and well lit room. The first session is free and it costs £6 a week thereafter. So why not give it a try – it's a great way to keep fit, have fun and meet new people. You don't have to be good, you just have to be prepared to enjoy yourself. All minors and vulnerable adults must be accompanied by a responsible adult. If you are interested email tabletenniscn@gmail.com, search for us on Facebook or turn up on Wednesday evening.

Nick Bowman

The Vintage Sports-Car Club

The VSCC has had a fantastic start to the Race and Speed season. The first Race Meeting of the year was held at Cadwell Park at Easter and the spring sun was certainly fitting for the VSCC'S Spring start. The day featured a fantastic line up of races and awards including: two invited grids for the F3 500s, an under 30s Race, which is a wonderful celebration of the youth involvement in the Club, and the presentation of the Seaman and Len Thompson Trophies. This was followed swiftly by the Club's opening round of the VSCC Speed Championship at Curborough. The Sprint, as always, offered the perfect opening round for a more relaxed re-introduction to ease competitors back in with its short, flat track, with plenty of run off space. It was a pleasure to see many new faces amongst the usual competitors; a pleasant start to the championship with a number of Young and Junior



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SPORTS NEWS

members making their sprinting debut. Visit www.vsc.co.uk for more information on this year's Race and Speed events or pop into our HQ on West Street to say hello.

Shannon Hunt

Chippy Indoor Hockey Team

A huge thank you to all our backers, and especially to Cllr Geoff Saul and Matt Simmons and other WODC colleagues and the team at GLL for helping us get back to playing on a full-sized hockey pitch in the sports hall on Sunday mornings. We have recently welcomed several new players – whole families, teenagers and men and women of all ages and abilities



and fitness levels. This is the perfect time to come and join. There's a very relaxed, supportive and friendly environment with lots of laughs. So come and introduce yourselves and we'll explain the simple rules and lend you sticks or shin pads, if needed. No weekly commitment necessary! For further information just call or message Sharon Truelove (email: sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk) or 01608 730546 / 07722 603207).

Chippy Swifts

The Swifts' football season officially ends on 15 May. It's been a wonderful campaign on and off the field – our teams have enjoyed promotion, long cup runs and witnessed the incredible progress of our all-girl sides. Summer 6-a-side tournaments will now bookend the year before a well earned break (and perhaps a little cricket?).

At our annual awards day on 12 June we will celebrate the season and share with parents the feedback from our recent Voice of the Player survey, where individuals could have a say on how the Club is run and how we can improve. Everyone is welcome to watch all our teams in exhibition matches at the Rugby Club from noon-4pm. The bar will be open, the BBQ lit and ice creams and confectionary available.

We are still recruiting girls to join our U10 (year 5) team next season. Please contact Chris Snell if you have a girl looking to join a friendly team – chris.mark.snell@gmail.com

Finally, many thanks to all our generous sponsors for their continued support. AL Sole & Son, RM Painting & Decorating, Clews Landscape Architecture, Topiarus Horticulture, The Co-op Store, North Cotswold Dairy Co, BPD Joinery and Carpentry, Chipping Norton Physio, Thompson Heating and Plumbing, Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe, The Old Mill Coffee House & Bistro, Chipping Norton Opticians, Wheelers and The Armed Forces Trust. And of course a big thank you to the *Chippy News* for the lovely coverage they give us.

Martyn Walsh

Racing greens at Hooky Harriers

The green stripes of Hook Norton Harriers' race vests have been out and about recently. The summer Mota-vation series, organised by Kidlington AC, is underway and its post-Covid return has been welcomed. We had lots of runners at the first race at Charlton-on-Otmoor in April. Donna Allen and Richard Hart were our first female and male Harriers – it was Richard's first entry in the series.

Elsewhere, three Harriers have completed marathons: Ian Malcolm got a personal best in Manchester; Vince Blake ran the Shakespeare Marathon and met the Mayor of Stratford to boot (pictured), while Royston Williams completed the Milton Keynes Marathon despite injury – well done to all. We've also taken part in the White Horse Half Marathon, the Stratford Half Marathon, the Regency 10k, Worthing 10k and Hawkshead 10k among other races.



Entries open for Hooky 6 The Hooky 6 is the Harriers' annual summer race. This popular six mile road course around Hook Norton is on Sunday 7 August at 10am (with a fun run starting at 10.30) and although we can't guarantee sunshine, you'll definitely have a good time supported by our happy marshals and even some cake! Further information at: www.hooknortonharriers.org.uk/our-races/hooky-6, and you will need to register your entry on www.runbritain.com.

Nell Darby

Blocked Ears?



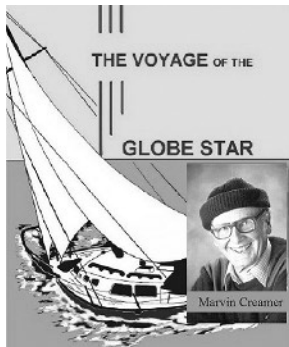
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The Voyage of the Globe Star



In an incredibly well-researched and well-illustrated talk Ex-Commodore Frances Miller told us about Marvin Creamer who, in the early 80s, sailed around the world without compass, sextant, clock, watch or any electronic navigation aid – a unique and extraordinary feat. We'd assumed this was a mad-cap exercise but, as Frances explained, it was well planned. Creamer carried

modern navigational and communication kit in a sealed bag (never opened) for emergency use and their position was covertly transmitted back home. So how was this done? Their principal source of positional information was star charts as knowing the star directly overhead indicates where you are on the globe's surface. Not easy to observe from a small and heaving boat deck, and impossible under cloud cover, but you don't need to know exactly where you are in open ocean. They knew about currents and prevailing winds, had good charts, could estimate how far they'd sailed each day, and kept an eye open for other clues, for example a land bird, or cloud formations on the horizon. A great story, well told.

For our future programme visit cnyc.co.uk. If not a member you are most welcome to come and meet us.

Roger Backhaus

New Community Archaeology Group

Chipping Norton is a town with a rich history, dating back to ancient times. Many archaeologists have suspected that a sizeable Roman settlement may have existed here but, as yet, there is little concrete evidence to confirm this. Much of this history may still lie underground, undisturbed and waiting to be discovered. As development is on the increase, the need to protect the Town's heritage is real. That is why we have formed the Chipping Norton Archaeological Research Group (CHARG).

We are local residents with an enthusiasm for archaeology. While the preservation of the Town's heritage is a key aim, we are also keen to add to the sum of information

about the Town's ancient past. Over the last two years, we have instigated some exciting projects, including geophysical surveys of potential sites of archaeological interest and supporting a study of Roman pottery finds, organised by our local museum. We have also forged firm links with Oxfordshire County Council's archaeology unit, West Oxfordshire District Council and Historic England. This is particularly important now that archaeological activity at the site for housing in East Chipping Norton has become more visible. CHARG can act as a vital point of contact for the public if discoveries are made.

If you feel you can make a contribution to CHARG and would like to join us, please email CHARG2022@outlook.com.

Jane Beaufoy

Burford & Kingham Rotary

Recent social events have included supper with an excellent trip to Chippy Theatre and a bluebell walk through Cornbury Park followed by a pub lunch. We also ran Chastleton Teas on Easter Sunday and raised over £600. Thanks to Mike Clarke for organising and all the Rotarians who gave up their day and brought family including grand children to help. We were pleased to give the Laurence Home Nursing



Team a projector and screen to promote their work in the community. We will be supporting their open air Opera Evening in Enstone on 17 June. We are also providing Fancy Dress Competition prizes for Burford's Jubilee Celebrations.

Meetings at Burford Golf Club are on Monday evenings. We have an Open Evening on 30 May for anyone interested in joining us. If you would enjoy our social events, meeting new people and helping local & international Charities, please contact our Secretary John Smith tel: 07717 883182 email: jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk for details of the evening. Or give me a ring for an informal chat (01608 643844 /07702 135731).

Ros Richardson

Visit Chippy Amnesty at Town Festival

Last month we were in The Theatre foyer promoting Amnesty International during the powerful production of *The Mountaintop* about Martin Luther King Jr, whose thoughts continue to inspire us. Thanks to The Theatre for this opportunity to connect with theatre-goers. At our May meeting we Wrote for Rights, writing individually to those in authority in countries where prisoners of conscience are held or being persecuted. We know from past experience that informing these leaders that we know of their atrocities can help those being persecuted. We hope you will visit our stall on at the Jubilee Festival on 5 June – there will be a Lucky Dip for children and the opportunity to meet us and find out what we do as a local Amnesty Group.

Next meeting: 7.30pm, Thursday 9 June, Lower Town Hall. AIUK's Economic Affairs Programme Director of Amnesty International UK will talk about Business and Human Rights. All are welcome; no fee. For details: call Val on 01608 645036.

Kaye Freeman

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CLUB NEWS

Explorer Scouts win Jamboree trip

Think Big, Dream Wild, Act Together On a sunny Saturday in February, three Chipping Norton Explorer Scouts (pictured) set off to Hill End to join 180 others from across the County



Natasha Denton, Florence Pearce and Annabel Davis

to compete for 36 places representing Oxfordshire at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea next summer. We were split into groups with people we'd never met and faced with many challenges through two gruelling days, being marked by assessors from across the country

on everything, including, as we later found out, our breaks!

Two nerve-wracking weeks later, envelopes slipped through letter boxes defining our fates for the next 18 months. 'You are in – CONGRATULATIONS!' Amazingly, all three of us got in, proving what an adventurous bunch we are! 519 days to go and lots of money to raise. Just one week later we had our first fundraising meeting and another week later – our first camp together!

Over the next year and a half, we will be busy baking, selling, car washing, dog walking, litter picking, bag packing and much more to raise the funds we need. If we can help you in any way, we will try to do so (for a small donation!). Please contact us via our parents (Tash 07740 862749, Florence 07990 633108 and Annabel 07526 795097). You can support us via Easy Fundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/3p69wu/>) or Wonderful Charity Giving (<https://wonderful.co.uk/pay?ref=291693>) to donate to 'Oxfordshire Scouts Jamboree Unit Korea 2023'.

We look forward to updating you after this once-in-a-lifetime adventure with 45,000 Scouts from all over the globe!

Florence Pearce

Railway Club ride the Bluebell Line

The Railway Club met in the Upper Town Hall on Tuesday 3 May when one of our members, Jim Portlock gave an interesting talk on the German Railway and Tram Systems. Over forty members went on a trip to The Bluebell Line in Sussex on Saturday 7 May. The weather stayed fine and it was a pleasant day out with the swathes of bluebells out all along the line. Our next speaker at 7.30pm on 7 June in the Town

Hall, is Lawrence Waters with a talk on Great Western Engine Sheds. All are welcome. We send get well wishes to Alan and Estelle Brain who have both been unwell recently.

Cicely Maunder

NOOG visits veg box scheme

On Wednesday 1 June, we make a return visit to North Aston Organics, near Deddington, a highly successful vegetable box scheme now in its 25th year. Our tour will cover the various growing areas and techniques they use to provide fresh organic



vegetables and herbs for customers in northern Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties. The visit starts at 7pm and non-members are welcome. For info about N Oxon Organic Gardeners, please contact Tracy Lean, tracylean@gmail.com, 01295 780710, www.noog.org.uk.

Successful Horticultural quiz night

The final meeting of the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association's winter season was a very successful evening. Numbers were a little low but those who came thoroughly enjoyed the quiz led by our chairman Paul Embden. We held a Plant Sale at the end of April and were delighted with the lovely sunny weather, the quality of plants and the amount we

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Chipping Norton Scout Group – adult helpers needed

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CLUB NEWS

raised. Thanks to all who donated or bought plants. The summer days out are now planned. The trip to the NEC Birmingham for *Gardener's World Live* is now full but there are still places in July for the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas and September to RHS Wisley. Visit www.cnha.uk or call the secretary Eileen Forse on 01608 643275 for details.

Green Gym in Chippy Orchard

By the time you read this Blossom Day at the Community Orchard will have happened (see p19 for report and colour photos). This year the blossom has been terrific and of course the trees are quite mature: most of them are ten years old. So we have spent two sessions scything the grass and generally tidying up. We have also worked in Fitzalan Wood, near Travis Perkins, tidied our tool store, and continued to open up the path round Pool Meadow. But do go up to the orchard at any time: there are plenty of seats where you can enjoy the view and even have a picnic. Soon there will be soft fruit to pick and of course apples, pears and plums in the autumn. It is there for everyone to enjoy at any time of the year.



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

Jenny Harrington

Chippy Ramblers on a local circuit

The rain on Sunday morning stopped in time for the ramblers to have a dry walk. Six of us and a dog walked through the beechwoods just off the Banbury Road and headed for Over Norton, carefully avoiding a herd of cattle (no bull!). We came across some wild garlic leaves, picked en-route, to add flavour to salads. We then continued along the Saltway and on to the Community Orchard, where the blossom was much admired. Finally, through the play area, and back to New Street car park; an enjoyable walk in affable company was at an end. Our walks are always on the first Sunday of the month; for more details, contact Heather Leonard on 01608 643691.

Jill Megson

Chippy Folk back in action!



After a false start last month, we were really delighted to return to the ever-hospitable Crown Inn on Monday 9 May – and we had a cracking evening! Thanks to

Brock and Vixen (of Turning Signs) for MCing, and happy birthday Vixen. We had songs in English and French, accompanied on guitar, ukulele, accordion, cajon, Buddhist meditation bell AND kazoo! We enjoyed every contribution – including Cathy's wonderful poems, Patrick's yodelling and Lefty's bar chords. With the doors wide open onto the lovely pub garden, another highlight was hearing Steve accompanied by the blackbirds outside.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at The Crown Inn, Mill Lane, Church Enstone, OX7 4NN. Next meeting: Monday 13 June 7.45pm start. All welcome to play, sing, recite or just listen. More info at www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk

Rachel Chai

CN Labour Party's thanks to voters

A huge thank you to everyone in Chipping Norton who voted Labour on 5 May. In electing Rizvana Poole as District Councillor with such a large majority, you have helped make history and completely change the political landscape in West Oxfordshire. The people have spoken and the Conservatives have been ousted from control of West Oxfordshire District Council. A new Labour-Lib Dem-Green West Oxfordshire Alliance has taken over. Its priorities are tackling the climate emergency, ensuring social justice, prioritising health and wellbeing, and ending sewage pollution of our rivers – 'a Council for the people, providing high quality services based on need not greed'. This is a seismic event in the politics of West Oxfordshire. The supposed 'blue wall' Tory safe seat of Douglas Hurd and David Cameron is much less safe now. Thanks also to all who voted for our newly elected Town Councillors, Steve Akers and Sharon Wheaton. They promise to work for all Chippy residents and the good of the Town. And finally, Chippy Labour gives huge thanks to our very own Cllr Laetisia Carter for her public service as both District and Town Councillor for the last eight years. You have served our community so well. Later in May Chippy Labour supported the



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CLUB NEWS

Defend Our NHS march in Oxford on and Levellers Day in Burford. We hope to re-launch our famous Quiz & Chips in July and welcome supporters, old and new, back to The Chequers.

Steve Akers

Chipping Norton Probus Club

CN Probus Club held their new President's Lunch at the Wychwood Golf Club in April. Members and their guests always enjoy this annual event. New President Brian Simpkins had taken over from Mike Jackson who had held the office for



Incoming CN Probus President, Brian Simpkins with Bliss Probus President, Martin Jarratt

two years during the pandemic. Brian welcomed everyone and outlined his plans for the coming year. He was delighted to welcome a guest, Martin Jarratt, President of our local Bliss Probus Club, helping to maintain the happy link between the two Chipping Norton Clubs.

Recently, members enjoyed a visit to FarmED on Honeydale Farm a diverse 107-acre mixed farm near Shipton-under-Wychwood. As a not-for-profit organisation it is run as



an educational facility aiming to provide learning spaces and events that inspire, educate and connect people to build sustainable farming and food systems that nourish people and help regenerate the planet.

Chippy Probus is in good shape with several new members – all very encouraging for the future of the Club. Meetings are at the Crown & Cushion Hotel, on the third Tuesday in the month. A wide range of interesting speakers has been organised and the Club looks forward to welcoming more new members. For further information please contact secretary John Roxby on 01993 831743 or 07710 889454.

Martin Williams

WOWI offer Handbags and Gladrags

Unfortunately because of holidays, many members of West Oxon WI couldn't attend our last meeting on Easter Monday and neither could our speaker! We still had a lovely meeting with the few that were there. It's all about chatting and getting to know each other which you perhaps don't in a big crowd. April was the beginning of our subscription year and West Oxfordshire WI must be doing something right as most of our members rejoined. If you think it might be a good idea to check us out, do come and see us. We meet on the third Monday of the month in St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping

Norton at 7.30pm. We all have a summer project! All our members have been given a seed potato to plant. It will be exciting to see who grows the biggest crop.

Cuppa, Cake & Chat on 5 June will be special as it coincides with the Town Festival and we will treat the guests to a slap up Sunday Tea. This joint venture with the Methodists is in their Church Hall in West Street, 2.30–4pm. We also have a Handbags & Gladrags stall on Top Side selling good second hand clothes, jewellery and handbags. Come and talk to us about the WI or contact wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Hilary Dix 01608 646228

u3a meet fascinating famous authors

We were treated to an interesting and entertaining talk in the Town Hall by Ian Keable. Being himself a member of the Magic Circle, he was fascinated by Charles Dickens' time as a conjurer. He showed us the poster, designed by the illustrator of *Alice in Wonderland*, which Dickens used to advertise his shows. He also told of incidents in Dickens' life when he had met magicians whose tricks he then used in his books, for example, the card tricks performed in a pub in *The Old Curiosity Shop*. On 1 June, we welcome Martin Lloyd, with a talk entitled *On becoming a famous author*. This is subtitled *How I got my first book published. Discover the truth about writers, publishers and bookshops. In a step by step exposé you will learn what I had to do to get my first book published. Prepare to be shocked, amazed and amused.*

Do visit our stall in the Market Square during the Town Festival, celebrating both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the 40th Anniversary of the u3a movement in the UK.

Chris Clinch



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SCHOOLS NEWS

Chipping Norton School

House News: At the start of May we ran a House Football Tournament for the Sixth Form before they departed on



exam study leave. This year was the 10th anniversary of the tournament and every year there is always a trophy for the winning team and a wooden spoon, painted in the house colour, for the team placed 4th. The winning team this year was Glyme and Windrush collected the wooden spoon! There is always a fantastic atmosphere and the students really love taking part.

Other House Competitions this term include a poetry competition based on the theme 'Crossing Borders', a Psychology competition to create a model of a brain, and *The Great Chippy Bake Off*. We look forward to announcing the winners at the end of term.



Nearly New Uniform

Sale: As a school we want to be more creative with how we provide families with the chance to buy nearly-new items that are in perfect condition, clean and ready to be worn. Families were invited to donate any unwanted items of uniform, leaving items in a waterproof collection box outside the entrance to the old reception/main hall at the end of term. There will be a second 'drop off' week in late

June/early July. Once a term (starting this summer holiday) the PTA will set up an afterschool shop for all parents and carers to visit and make cash purchases. All stock will be cleaned and pressed, and sold at half price. All funds collected will be used by the PTA to fund additional projects that will benefit all students.

Extra Time Clubs: During last term our LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Arts) club students took their examinations. We are extremely proud of all the students who took part; they all received a Distinction. We are so grateful to our tutors, Pippa Phillips and Georgia Elvin, who have inspired our budding actors and coached them to this brilliant result.

Included in our already busy after school club programme we are very pleased to have two new Extra Time clubs start this term – Tennis club coached by Will from Cotswold Tennis, and Ben from Community Albums has joined our team to provide a Digital Music Production club. Both new clubs have

had a good uptake and have reached capacity. Other clubs remain popular, with many of them full this term.

We are always interested in providing interesting new opportunities; if you feel that you would like to offer an after school club please contact Robyn Bissett on 01608 649416, or rbissett@chippingnortonschool.org.

Sports News: Congratulations to the U19s Football team



who enjoyed a 4-2 win against Cherwell in the County Cup semifinal. We wish the team great success in the final! This term CNS embarked on its first after school Lacrosse Club training session led by David Morris, a national level coach who has also coached the Oxford University team and is



heading to the Lacrosse World Cup in July. The 22 students at the club were taught some of the basic skills of Lacrosse and were put through their paces in some drills and mini matches. They really enjoyed the session and are super keen to return next week.

CNPS News: In early May we hosted a Modern Foreign Languages festival at Chipping Norton School for the Year 4 students from our Partnership Primary Schools. The students took part in learning activities in Italian, German, and French as well as the ever-popular cheese tasting. These activities were ably led by the team of Language Leaders from Chipping Norton School. Many thanks to those students and of course Mrs Brocklebank (Head of Languages) who coordinated the event.



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St Mary's Primary

Pebble Art: On 12 May, Years 1, 2 and 3 were lucky enough



to meet a local artist as part of the Kingham Sculptures project. The children created wonderful art pieces on canvas using pebbles, coloured stones, string and sequins before gluing them to create images. The Year 1 children really enjoyed the project and were very careful in choosing the correct size and colour of stones that would create their image.

Myron said, 'I enjoyed the sticking because you could make lots of pictures. I made a



tree with lots of wildlife around it.' Charleigh said, 'My favourite part was sticking on the butterfly sequins, I made an Alaskan Husky.' Lexi liked doing everything because drawing and gluing are her favourite activities.

A great session was had by all of the Year 1 children and they couldn't wait to take their artwork home to show their parents.

Corinium Museum Yr 3/4: The first day back of term saw Year 3/4 taking a trip to Cirencester to explore the Corinium Museum. We took the day to explore the Museum displays, developing our knowledge of Roman life and the Roman invasion of Britain. The children took part in a workshop and learnt more about how Roman towns were built in Britain as well as the clothes and crafts that the Romans brought to Britain. The day enabled the children to start to think of questions they would like answered about the Romans. We came back to school excited about this topic.



Modern Foreign Language Festival: Year 4 recently had the opportunity to go to Chipping Norton School for a partnership event. The children took part in a series of activities exploring a variety of languages with the teachers and students from the partnership. The Festival gave the children the chance to experience a new language and hopefully inspired them to want to study languages further. The children loved trying cheeses and other food from different countries. This was a great opportunity to learn about other cultures that we are sure the children will remember for years to come.

Holy Trinity Primary

The Year 6s have been celebrating this week as they have completed the first SATs tests to be held in three years! Everyone in school and at home has been so proud of the way that they took the testing in their stride. The children were pleased to be able to show what they have learnt and rounded the week off with a series of treats including receiving their leavers' hoodies and a trip to the local park.

Year 1 have recently started going to Forest School. They have been exploring the woods and learning about different types of trees, plants and animals.

Year 4 took a trip to the Living Rainforest in Berkshire to experience the sights, sounds and smells of a lush, tropical rainforest. As part of their geography project about sustainability, the children were able to see plants and animals from the rainforest including rare and endangered species.



Reception Class have also been busy with a visit to see a stage production of the much-loved picture book, *Dear Zoo* at Chipping Norton Theatre. After their visit, the children said, 'The elephant was heavy and stomped around' and 'The monkey kept frightening people which was funny!'

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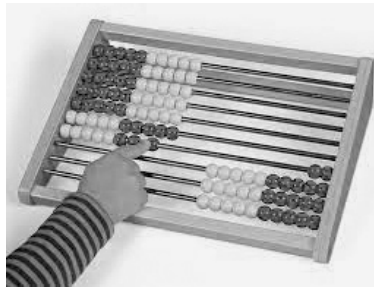


*on carpet orders over 10m²



SCHOOLS NEWS

This month, the children in KSI have begun a new maths project called 'Mastering Number'. The aim of this project is to ensure that the children have 'secure, firm foundations in the development of good number sense.' Every day, the children explore different aspects of number such as number bonds and doubles, often using the already popular



Rekenreks help children to develop numerical fluency

'Rekenreks', to build their level of fluency.

Year 3 and 4 teamed up together to put on a spectacular performance of *Resurrection Rock*, a musical retelling of the events of Holy Week leading up to the resurrection of Jesus and the disciples' first encounters with Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

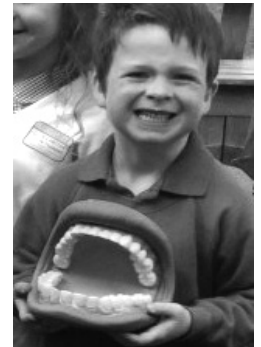
The whole school took part in a successful Science Week. The children were given free rein to pose a scientific question which they then attempted to answer through the careful planning and carrying out of a scientific experiment. Questions ranged from, 'If you are blindfolded, can you really tell the different flavours of different coloured jelly sweets?' in Year 1 to 'How many lemon batteries will it take to light a bulb?' in Year 6.

The whole school also pledged to 'Walk Against Hunger' as part of CAFOD's Lenten Appeal. Families donated to this cause, walking daily to help stamp out hunger and raise money for those less fortunate than themselves.

Great Rollright Primary

We're now a Healthy Smiles School – one of only a handful in the County. The award recognises our efforts to have tooth-friendly food policies and to help children form lasting habits to protect their teeth.

Our campaign included a visit to a local dentist for the whole Reception class – where each child had the chance to try out the dentist's chair and learn that it really wasn't scary to have their teeth examined.



Jubilee: We celebrated the Queen's reign by creating special writing and artwork, which went on display in St Andrew's Church next door for the whole village to see. We also enjoyed a picnic and games.

Happy parents: Our annual survey of parents showed widespread satisfaction – including 100 percent saying they would recommend our school to other families. We value parents' feedback and are already working on suggestions from the survey for further improvements.

Space show: Our Year 5 and 6 students created a fascinating exhibition about outer space for the rest of the school, featuring their own colourful posters and models.

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.

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SCHOOLS NEWS

Enstone Primary & Pre-School

We are already well-settled into a busy summer term. Straight after the Easter Holidays our Year 5 and 6 group set off on their residential visit to Kilvrough Manor in Swansea, where they spent an amazing five days in the sunshine enjoying a range of outdoor pursuits, even donning their swimsuits to brave a swim in the sea!

In June it will be the turn of our Year 3 and 4 group to head off for their residential visit, and our younger pupils have day trips to the St John's museum and Warwick Castle to look forward to this term, in support of their topics. At this time



of year, we love to get out and about and enjoy our wonderful school garden and woodland site. Our Pre-School children are looking forward to joining Class 1 very soon on a visit to the woods. Den building is always a popular activity, as are jungle gym and bug hunting. Pictured above are some of our older pupils enjoying a campfire circle. To find out more about us, please visit our school website or arrange an in-person visit.

www.enstone.oxon.sch.uk

www.enstone.oxon.sch.uk/enstone-pre-school/

Chadlington Primary

There are times we say, 'it's been an exciting term' but we think this one really takes the cake at Chadlington!

Golden Acorn Radio, the school's radio station was



launched by the Year 6s in May. Radio broadcaster and radio learning expert Russell Prue worked with the class to set up their new Media Hub and the entire class were involved in planning and creating the content for the show. The show was broadcast live.

The new topic, *We Are Costume Designers* launched with a bang with a whole-school trip to the fantastic Giffords Circus on Thursday 12 May. The performance will inspire our own circus performance in July. The children will be performing in a musical adaptation of *Cyrano De Bergerac*, in a circus Big Top to be set up in the middle of Chadlington. With 103 costumes to design and make, Chadlington School is now full-steam ahead to ensure that this production will be the best yet.

Finally, the *We Are Space Mission Designers* topic concludes this term with a visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester. The Children will take part in three workshops - How to be an astronaut Finding out about Space Rocks How to build a Mars Rover and culminating in a visit to the Planetarium. We look forward to sharing more about their experience in the next edition.

Hook Norton Primary

New Jubilee Wall unveiled: Developed by a fantastic team of adult and child volunteers from across the village, Hook Norton Primary School revealed the new school Jubilee Wall on May Day. The mural celebrates Hook Norton village, featuring the much loved Hook Norton Brewery horses, St Peter's Church, the fantastic library, the viaducts and even the Primary School owls, Tawney, Snowy, Barn and Elf. Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers involved for all their hard work

Over the Easter holidays, 10 volunteers, led by Fay Jephcott, spent a total of nearly 1000 hours cleaning, prepping, designing, painting and varnishing the new wall. You



Hook Norton Primary School's new Jubilee Wall celebrates aspects of village life

are all invited to come and admire the wonderful new mural at the School Summer Fair 3-6pm on Saturday, 25 June, where you will also have the chance to enjoy delicious

afternoon teas, and play Jubilee themed games! (see p13 for more information).

If you would like to support Hook Norton Primary School and our commitment to enhancing the education of all our pupils, please

visit www.justgiving.com/fohns and if you shop via Amazon please use <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and select Hook Norton Primary School as your chosen charity, funds are always needed to ensure we can provide the best possible education to pupils.

LETTERS

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.

Legion's Jubilee parade

Everyone interested in joining our Jubilee parade on Sunday 5 June is invited to assemble outside Sainsbury's at 9.45am. The Battle of Britain Memorial Spitfire flypast will take place at 1.58pm. The Royal British Legion will have a stall outside the Crown & Cushion during the Town Festival. A special Chipping Norton Jubilee lapel pin will be available along with the Royal British Legion Jubilee Poppy pin badge and other RBL merchandise for sale by donation.

Steve Kingsford – British Legion CN Branch Chairman

East Chippy plan – 'a complete farce'

With reference to the proposed new housing development in East Chippy (around the back of Tank Farm and out around to the Charlbury Road), 1000 new houses over 15 years implies up to 3000 extra people. This is a more than significant lump of bodies for the Town. Only lip service has been paid to the actual impact of this on the infrastructure of the Town. This needs to be sorted out and planned properly before the houses are built...if they are built! In addition, if you wander along Charlbury Road there is actually nowhere a new road can safely come out. Talk of a 'relief' road there is simply gibberish. All in all, the whole housing plan is a complete farce – and I use that word carefully in order to refrain from the expletives I have in mind.

Richard Dixon

County's threat to our parking

I read, with concern, that Oxfordshire County Council is likely to take over our 'on-street' parking. My concern levels rose significantly when I read that Cllr Tim Bearder is involved. From listening to his frequent interviews on local radio, it would appear that he has a pathological hatred of cars and motorists, combined with a belief that the bicycle is a panacea for all our problems – it is NOT. Having previously, by necessity, cycled from Kingham daily for five years, in all weathers, I can state without fear of contradiction that it is a miserable alternative to the car. I'm sure that in flat cities such

as Amsterdam it's wonderful – but at 6am in freezing rain, the climb to Chipping Norton is a different proposition. Personally, I've never found a problem parking, even at busy times, it's quite possible to park a little way from the town centre and walk for a few minutes. Shopping in the market early on a Wednesday poses no problem and the supermarkets usually have spaces if one shops at a sensible time. Giving OCC any chance to raise revenue from parking in Chipping Norton would, I feel, be a very bad move.

Graham White

(Cllr Tim Bearder was the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highway Management at the time this letter was written – Ed)

Election thanks from Councillors

I would like to say a huge thank you to my supporters following my election as your representative from Chipping Norton to sit on West Oxfordshire District Council. I am looking forward to taking up my seat on the Council and continuing with Laetisia Carter's excellent work to ensure the best for the people of my town. I have greatly enjoyed and benefitted from speaking to residents whilst knocking on doors during the campaign and I aim to continue interacting with all in the Town during my term as councillor. I am told that I am easy to talk to and I do hope with all of my heart that everyone in our community will feel able to approach me with any Council-related issues that they may have – whether you voted for me or not. Look out for a drop-in Clinic coming soon. Unconnected to the election, although answering one of the questions most asked of me in the past few weeks – Yes, I will continue to run The Chippy Larder and there are plans afoot to make our services bigger, better and more widely accessible to the whole of Chipping Norton.

Rizvana Poole

May I through your pages thank all those Chipping Norton residents that voted for me – and my Labour colleagues, Rizvana Poole and Sharon Wheaton – in the local elections on 5 May. I feel privileged and somewhat humbled to have topped the poll in the election for Town Council and to have received such strong endorsement from fellow residents. I promise to do my utmost to implement the programme that I stood on: defence of our NHS; reduce inequality; reduce pollution – for a greener Chippy; preserve Chippy's radical culture and heritage, improve facilities for re-using and recycling. Thanks to everyone who voted in the election. I will seek to serve all of the residents of our beautiful town.

Steve Akers

I am humbled, happy, and proud to have been elected to the Town Council to represent you and your views. During the weeks leading up to Election Day, I met many of you while introducing myself and hearing about your hopes for the future and your concerns for the Town. Thank you for your welcome, I hope that you will continue to find me approachable. I take my new role very seriously and promise to act on your behalf – a special thanks to all of you who voted for me.

Sharon Wheaton

Election – Polling Day musings

It is always a great pleasure doing election day as presiding officer in Chippy Town Hall and this year was no exception. There was one WODC seat up for election and two Town Council seats. The weather was sunny and dry which always is a bonus particularly if you are on the Town Hall steps. The



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LETTERS

Labour Party had someone on sentry duty every hour from 7am to 10pm. Scott Fisher was also much in attendance. One great improvement for voters was that this year they weren't pestered by those on the Town Hall steps asking for their numbers! People also felt they were reasonably informed about the candidates thanks to excellent CN News coverage and Conservative, Labour and Scott's leaflets.

One misunderstanding surrounds polling cards. You do not need to have your polling card to be able to vote. It does often help if you bring it, but you can vote without it. However, you do need to register to vote. If your name is not on the register then 999 times out of 1,000 it is because you didn't register. Go on to the WODC website and register if needed. At Chipping Norton this year there were, as usual three stations. Station 20 (for roads from A to E), 21 (F to P) and 22 (P to Z). We ask where you live, to point you to the right voting station.

We arrive at the Town Hall at 6am to set up, open up at 7am, close at 10pm and then deliver the boxes to Witney. It is a very long day but it is what we signed up for and we met some lovely people which makes it all worthwhile.

Martin Hannant Presiding Officer

(Thanks for Martin and all the officers for supporting our democratic process – Ed)

John Grantham – family thanks

On behalf of John's family I should like to thank Chippy News for their tribute to John and all his ex-colleagues and our many friends who braved snow, rain and sun to join us in Church to remember him and afterwards to chat in the Town Hall. I have been overwhelmed with the letters and messages I have received and thank all those who took the time to write and call. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Celia Grantham

DIARY

See also p 13 for listings of local Fetes & Festivals

June (News out Monday 30 May)

- 1st **Methodist Coffee Morning** for Lawrence Home Nursing Team 9.30-11.30am in the Hall
- U3A** 2.30pm Town Hall - details p29
- NOOG** visit N Aston Organics - see p26
- 3rd **Right Royal Quiz** Royal British Legion 7.30pm - Crown & Cushion - book via 07785 770812
- 5th **Town Festival** - see advert on back page
- CN Ramblers** meet 2pm New St car park see p28
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat Special** 2.30-4 Methodist Church - see P29
- 7th **Railway Club** 7.30pm Upper Town Hall - see p27
- 7-9 **Bledington Music Festival** - bledingtonmusicfestival.co.uk
- 8th **Arts Society Cotswolds** 11am - *Muse in Art* see p21
- Town Council: Strategic Planning Cttee** 6.30pm Town Hall
- 9th **Amnesty** - 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p26
- 10th **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35
- 10-19 **Charlbury Festival** details p21
- 11th **2022 Women's Cycle Tour – Final Stage** 11am Market Square - details (also of town centre closure & cycle-related activities) see p7

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Chipping Norton News Club

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July/Aug deadline: Friday 10 June

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- 11th **CN Choral Soc Concert** *Pomp & Pimms* 7.30 St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton tickets: cncs.org.uk
- Screen by the Green** 7.30pm Churchill Vg Hall - see p22
- Adlestrop Charity Concert** - Weybridge Male Voice Choir 6pm Adlestrop Church - see p22
- 13th **Folk Club** 7.45 Crown Church Enstone - see p28
- 15-17 **Blue Cross Bake Sale** at the West St shop - see p13
- 15th **Town Council: Finance & Resources Cttee** 6.30pm Town Hall
- 17th **A Summer's Evening of Opera** in aid of Lawrence Home Nursing Team - see p15
- 18th **Farmers Market** 8.30am-1pm
- 20th **West Ox WI** 7.30pm Parish Rooms - see p29
- 22nd **Town Council: full council meeting** 6.30pm Town Hall
- 25th **Oxfam Record Fair** 10am-4pm Town Hall - see p5
- 26th **CRAG Sunday Tea Concert** 3pm - see p22
- 29th **Town Council: Community Cttee** 6.30pm Town Hall
- 30th **Indoor Jubilee Street Party** 2-4pm Highlands Community Centre - see p14

July/Aug (News out Monday 27 June)

- 3rd **Jane Phillips Memorial Cricket Day** in aid of Lawrence Home Nursing Team details p15



Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee



The Chippy News Team hopes everyone enjoys the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Huge thanks to the Festival Committee – don't forget to buy their programme! Here are some memories from the 50 and 60 year Jubilees!!



Gold 2002 Our Special gold-edged edition featured the 'Soper Girls' wearing Jubilee T-shirts on the Town Hall steps. 250,000 coins were laid out as an enormous Queen's head at Top School – snapped in glory from a helicopter. Street parties, a mile of bunting and Chippy in Bloom, culminated in Monday 3 June's town centre celebration, led by Mayor Jo Graves – with 2000 Jubilee fairy cakes, 1610 teabags, a hog roast and 1000 bales of straw for seating. The day ended with music on stage from the Retros (Paul and the gang will be back in July – see ad p6), Fairport and a flaming Town beacon.



Diamond 2012 The Jubilee News featured MP David Cameron at The Lido swamped by union jacks! Chippyfolk turned out in their hundreds for a joyful Sunday 3 June – despite wind and rain. A short Churches Together service was followed by an amazing array of staged music and dance with local performers (yes, those Retros were back!) alongside a terrific 'Big Lunch' in a long tent with tables right in the middle of the A44 through the Town Centre – a Jubilee Street Party hosted by Mayor Martin Jarratt and Town Councillors. The Town Hall housed an Exhibition of Royal Memorabilia.



Chipping Norton
TOWN FESTIVAL

Sunday 5th June 2022

It's nearly here! Looking forward to a great day together at this year's Town Festival which is part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Programmes and raffle tickets will be on sale at The Co-op from Saturday 21st May.

The day will include a parade by the British Legion, an official opening by Chippy's very own Kaleb Cooper, a great line up of local bands and choirs, food, stalls, children's rides, a spitfire flyover and much more. This is a free event and any proceeds made go back into the Town to support local charities and organisations.

See our Facebook page for further details @chippingnortontownfestival.

For any further enquiries, please email cntownfestival@gmail.com.