



# The Crown passes

## Chippy mourns the Queen & proclaims the King

On the death of Queen Elizabeth on 8 September, Mayor Cllr Sandra Coleman, on behalf of the people of Chipping Norton, expressed deep sadness and offered sincere condolences to the Royal Family.

A Town Hall book of condolences was guarded by the British Legion, then on Sunday 11 September King Charles III was proclaimed King from the steps of our Town Hall.

The *Chipping Norton News* Team join many in remembering the life and service of the Queen – with memories and some tributes included on pages 2 and 3 of this edition. Long live the King.

### *Through the generations from Queen to King*



*'May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest'*  
King Charles' farewell to his mother at the end of his first speech as Monarch



Lowering the flag in the Millennium Garden  
Mayor signs book of condolence  
Proclaiming King Charles at Town Hall



#### News in this issue

- Could Town Hall become a winter 'warm hub'?
- Strike at Chippy's Royal Mail office
- Pool Meadow plan takes shape
- Ambulance service rated 'inadequate'

*Plus Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools and all your letters*

#### Features

- Halloween traditions
- Our missing butterflies
- Changing careers
- Chippy's baseballing women



# From QUEEN to KING

## Chipping Norton's royal connection

Seventy years ago Chipping Norton witnessed the Proclamation (pictured right) from the Town Hall steps for the young Queen Elizabeth.

The only visit the Queen made to Chippy was in 1959 – remembered in our special June Platinum Jubilee edition. Chippy resident Brenda Morris – an eyewitness on the day – recalled the car arriving, the cheering



crowds and the signing of the Town Hall visitors' book, all captured by Brenda's father Jim Shadbolt with Basil Packer from our famous local photographic firm.

## Lifelong love of horses

The Queen's great friendship with the horseracing industry was marked at Open Day on 11 September for National Racehorse Week, with events going ahead after official advice that a



respectful approach was acceptable. At Richard Phillips' nearby Adlestrop stables, 300 visitors came and joined Father Stephen Lambert and Canon Tim Sedgley for a minute's silence, the National Anthem and a joint Ecumenical service celebrating the racehorse. Canon Sedgley gave thanks for the huge enjoyment the Queen had derived from the racehorse and horseracing throughout her life.

## The Queen – meetings and memories

**Childhood glimpses** – For some News readers born in the 40s and 50s, anecdotes include glimpses of the Queen in a passing cavalcade, waving a flag in a large crowd, snatching glimpses of the 1953 Coronation on a newly rented TV, and talk of memorable Christmas Messages with 'the Queen in our living room'. Some have been luckier. Chippy's Paul Fischer, internationally famous for making musical instruments, was also a Churchill Fellow, chosen from



thousands of applicants to travel overseas and study – Paul went to Brazil to study the disappearing rainforest. He's pictured being welcomed by the Queen at Buckingham Palace at the Churchill Memorial Trust anniversary in 2015.

**Musical memories** – Dean resident and renowned opera singer Claire Bradshaw recalled singing at Prince Charles' 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party (pictured below) in 1998 at Buckingham Palace.



Claire was a soloist with the Welsh National Opera whose patron was the Prince. The Queen, the Prince and the Queen Mother all chose to watch the singing, then met Claire

and her colleagues afterwards – with the Queen saying they had been the highlight of Charles' birthday. As ever, the Queen made you feel special.

## ...and King Charles in Town!

The now King Charles III made a rare appearance in Chipping Norton in May 2005 when he came to St Mary's Church for a concert as Patron of the charity Music in Country Churches. The event coincided with the celebration that year of the Royal Charter granted to the Town by James I. The then Prince is pictured chatting to newly elected Mayor Cllr Gina Burrows and her Consort, former Mayor Cllr Rob Evans.



Another former Chippy Mayor Graham Beacham was also lucky enough to shake the hand of Prince Charles when he was Mayor during the Millennium. Graham was one of the 'chain gang' of Mayors invited to Burford to see the Prince unveil a carved stone lion in the High Street. Apparently, the mayors' 'chains' were not to be worn for meeting the Prince but were proudly displayed afterwards for this group photo. Graham is far right.







# From QUEEN to KING

## Announcement of the Queen's death

After the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 8 September, Chipping Norton Mayor Sandra Coleman expressed deepest sadness and offered sincere condolences from the Town to the Royal family. A book of Condolence in the Town Hall Council Chamber was opened from 9am on Friday 9 September for people to sign.



Within 48 hours the book had been signed by over 300 people.



Representatives of the Chipping Norton branch of the Royal British Legion provided a Guard of Honour at the Town Hall. Some are pictured here:

*Pictured l-r: Tony Tinkham, Firefighter & Army veteran; Peter Clarke, Legion Vice Chairman, Parade Marshal & RAF veteran; Gareth Preston, RAF veteran; Steve Holland, Fire Service (retired); Tjark Andrews, Legion Standard Bearer; Steve Kingsford, Legion Chairman; Carol Peachey, Poppy Appeal Organiser; Mike Dixon, Legion Secretary.*

RAF veteran Gareth Preston said of the late Queen, 'She was our boss for 22 years. It was a pleasure and honour to serve her. Our allegiance passes to the King even now, in our retirement'. The veterans and firefighters agreed, describing the Queen a 'mother figure' they were very proud to have served. All voiced great confidence in the new King.

Tjark Andrews, an RAF veteran as well as the Standard Bearer for Chipping Norton Royal British Legion, told *The News* he had been selected to take part in the Queen's funeral probably at the Cenotaph in London on 19 September.

## Proclamation of King Charles III



On Sunday 11 September, in a ceremony not seen since 1952, Mayor Cllr Sandra Coleman, flanked by representatives from the Town Council, Royal British Legion and Fire Service, read the Proclamation from the Town Hall steps announcing the accession of the new monarch, King Charles III.

A crowd of several hundred turned out to hear the historic Proclamation, which had been read first the previous day from

the balcony at St James's Palace by the Garter King of Arms. At the end, the bugles sounded and the Mayor's declaration of 'God Save the King' was echoed by the crowd, followed by a rousing verse of the national anthem, sung now by many (but not all!) with the opening line, 'God Save Our Gracious King'. The solemn ritual finished with an enthusiastic three cheers for His Majesty the King.

After the ceremony, the parties moved to the Millennium Garden to lower the Union Flag back to half-mast – it had been at full height for the Proclamation event. A dedicated area was provided to those wishing to pay their respects and leave flowers. Attendees at the Proclamation included Mayor Cllr Coleman, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Martin Fiennes and representatives from Royal British Legion, Fire Service, Churches, current Councillors and former Mayors.



## Town pays tribute

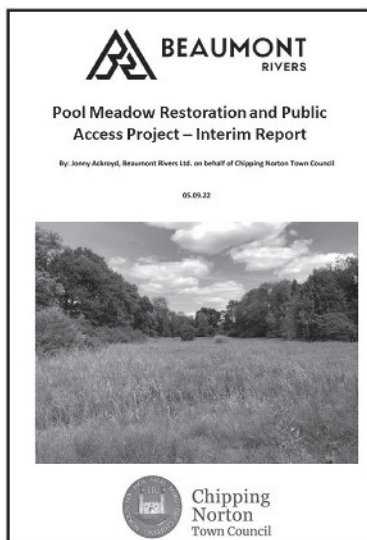
The days following the Queen's death saw Chipping Norton pay its respects in many ways. The Church service at St Mary's was changed and included a slideshow of images of the Queen, the vicar's address talked about her faith, and God Save the King was sung. The Theatre invited audiences 10 minutes early before shows for quiet meditation. Many shop and business windows displayed pictures and messages.



Residents from Beech Haven Care Home watched the 96-gun salute to the Queen the day after her death. As with many others in Chippy, they sat reflecting on the life of Her Majesty and sharing memories. Lisa Tanner told *The News* that one resident, then 25, worked in a training centre in Scotland and every year the Queen would visit to award prizes for new apprentices – he was lucky enough to shake her hand. Another resident remembered the day after the Coronation which was her 13th birthday. She and all her friends dressed as the Queen. Another memory was catching a glimpse of the Queen getting into her carriage at Royal Ascot. Thanks to Beech Haven for these memories.



## Pool Meadow project



An interim feasibility report on plans for improving Pool Meadow has been submitted to the Town Council by Jonny Ackroyd from Beaumont Rivers. The report can be viewed in the public papers for the 7 September Community Committee meeting on the Council website. In summary, in the report, the project proposes to:

- reconnect the water-course to the floodplain to create a ponded wetland area;

- bring the Equisetum (horsetail) monoculture under control throughout;
- re-plant the meadow with a floodplain adapted wildflower seed mix;
- improve 285m of existing footpath surface to include wheelchair/pushchair accessibility;
- instal two information boards to educate people about the history and ecology of the site;
- as a possible optional extra item, provide a picnic area with associated waste bin, and, depending on funding, possibly formalise the path that runs the rest of the way around the back of the pool site (a further 163m).

The report says that all this would improve water quality and biodiversity to support downstream populations, including endangered species. Floodplain storage would improve, as well as public access and safety with more community involvement, education and field trips. There would be improved care and maintenance for a nationally significant archaeological site.

Councillors, and residents (according to the report), have responded to the ideas and proposals positively. Beaumont Rivers have secured funding to cover the cost of the planning stage which will need liaison with, and approvals from, various bodies. The Town Council are sending a letter of support also saying that they will, as landowner, take responsibility for the management of the project. This is needed to access funding and to proceed to the next stage.

## Warm spaces for winter

With the cost-of-living and energy prices rising, ideas are starting to be pursued for providing some 'warm spaces' during the day in various town centre locations where residents and their families might go to spend time and keep warm this winter. A 'warm spaces' network of locations taking it turns to help might be one idea – using places such as church halls, the Library, lower and upper Town Hall, Guildhall, and so on. All this needs organising and collaboration between Town and other Councils – plus the various building owners. The Mayor, Cllr Sandra Coleman, and Cllr Rizvana Poole are keen to try and pursue this.

At their September Community Committee meeting, Town Councillors agreed that the Town Hall might be used

for this purpose and specifically agreed to organise an initial 'cost of living' or 'winter is coming' event planned for 30 September from 10am to 2pm at the Town Hall. A small budget of £200 and a 'rent waiver' for the event were agreed but there will also be help from Chippy Larder with tea, coffee and biscuits, and activities such as board games for children. For more information on all this, contact Cllr Poole (Rizvana.Poole@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk) or the Town Clerk Luci Ashbourne (01608 642341).

## Wild flowers at the Cemetery

Chippy Mayor Sandra Coleman is after some help on Saturday 15 October. It's not only the day for the regular volunteer team 'Cemetery clear up' morning, but you can also join in and help with a new scheme to encourage a wild flower area there. For some years now, the Town Council have set aside an unused area at the end of the cemetery where the grass is mown less regularly to encourage wild flowers and insects. The Mayor wrote to the News saying they would now like to introduce some yellow rattle, an attractive plant that helps improve conditions for the wild flowers they want to encourage. Part of the wild area has been set aside for preparation and planting during the regular Autumn Cemetery Clear Up morning. Sandra said 'Once the yellow rattle is well established – which may take two years – we will see what other wild flowers appear and could encourage this using suitable wild flower seed mix'.

Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*; also known as hay rattle) is an attractive plant that often grows in wild flower meadows. The name derives from the sound made by the dry seeds inside their ripe seed pods. Yellow rattle is semi-parasitic on grasses – where yellow rattle grows the vigour of the grass is diminished, and other flowering plants are better able to grow, with less competition from the grasses. Sandra said 'If you would like to be part of this interesting project please come along to help us on Saturday 15 October between 9.30 and 12 noon. You will need to bring a garden rake! We will also be carrying out the usual weeding and cutting back so other garden tools would also be useful!'





## Chippy support for postal strike

In August and September, postal workers at Chipping Norton's main Royal Mail delivery office were out on strike joining 170,000 Communication Workers Union (CWU) members nationally across Royal Mail, BT group and Openreach. On the first of four strike days (26 August) CWU members were joined in a protest outside the Station Yard depot by supporters and Chippy Labour party members, led



by their local Chair, Steve Akers – with Matt Hayden, CWU representative, reporting that the strike was 100% solid with not a single postal worker at work. The second strike day (31 August) saw breakfast provided by supporters including Sharon Akers who is from the Oxfordshire Health Services Branch of UNISON who themselves will be balloting over pay in October.



Labour's Steve Akers addressed the postal workers at their protests, supporting the strike action, saying 'Your fight is to maintain Royal Mail as an essential public service. We stand with you to defend your working conditions and for a decent pay rise to match inflation. With inflation now at 10.4% workers need a pay packet which keeps pace'. He later said 'The imposition of a 2% pay award, without negotiation with your union is deplorable. . . . It is totally wrong for Royal Mail Group senior executives, who award themselves huge pay rises and bonuses, to treat you in this way'. In a tribute to Chipping Norton's radical Trades Union history, the postal workers held aloft a replica banner from the Bliss Mill Strike of 1913–14. The Royal Mail CWU workers' ballot saw 98% of a 77% turnout vote to strike.

Royal Mail say, 'the company is currently losing £1m per day as parcel volumes fall and efforts to modernise the business stall'. They say they face competitors with more flexible working, particularly in the growing small parcels business. 'We are disappointed that CWU members have voted in favour of industrial action. We offered a deal worth up to 5.5% for CWU grade colleagues, the biggest increase we have offered for many years, which the CWU rejected. The CWU action . . . is putting jobs at risk, and making pay rises less affordable, making Royal Mail's future more uncertain than at any time in its long history.'

## Ambulance service 'inadequate'

The South Central Ambulance Service, which provides the 999 and Urgent Care service for Chipping Norton, has been given a rating of 'Inadequate' by the Care Quality Commission – and asked to make some urgent improvements. SCAS, like many ambulance teams across the country, has



been under increasing pressure with record levels of demand. In July, a 'critical incident' state was declared partly because of problems of getting ambulances unloaded at the hospitals such as the JR – with NHS beds and A&E units at capacity. The CQC's report, published in August, in fact praised the effectiveness and caring nature of staff – once the ambulances reached patients. However, responsiveness (including meeting target times) was rated as 'requires improvement' with 'frequent and long delays in reaching people who had requested emergency assistance'. Rural areas, such as Chipping Norton and West Oxfordshire, have always had lower performance for response times than city areas.

But more critically, the Trust was given 'inadequate' ratings for safeguarding people and for the leadership of the whole service. The CQC was particularly critical of failure to learn from serious incidents and the 'dismissive' and sometimes 'bullying' attitude of management in dealing with concerns being raised by staff. The 74-page report is public on the CQC's website. SCAS's Chair, Professor Sir Keith Willett, who was appointed only in the Spring, said the Board took responsibility and would work with colleagues and partners to put things right. Chief Executive Will Hancock said they had an extensive improvement plan and were committed to making things better. Mr Hancock, back in 2006, led the merger of four services to create SCAS and has been in charge for 17 years. He will be handing over to a new CEO in 2023.



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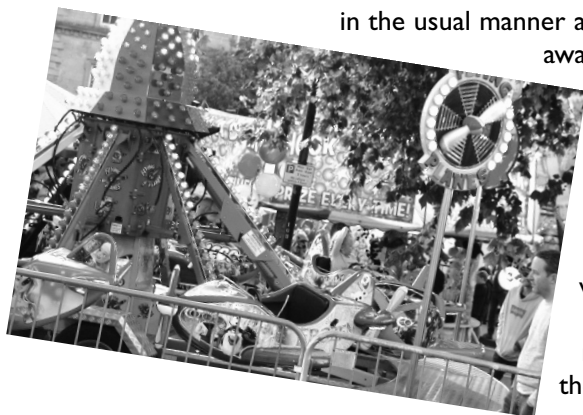
## Chippy Mop back again!



The 'Chippy Mop' funfair was back in the Town Centre on 15–17 September – with the atmosphere perhaps a little dampened by the anticipation of the Queen's funeral on the 19<sup>th</sup>. But lots of local families and



children ventured back to enjoy the traditional stalls and rides. The weather stayed kind, the traffic was diverted in the usual manner around the Town, and lots of HGVs stayed away! The fair has also been



back in Oxford and around and about. Hopefully, the good fun, clearly had by so many, was a welcome relief from both national mourning as well as the looming energy and cost-of-living crisis.



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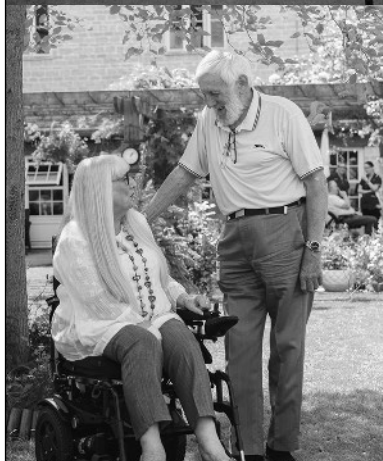
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## Housing 'free for all' coming?



Could eager housing developers now start proposing housing on many more 'unallocated' Chipping Norton sites? That prospect came a step closer in September when the Planning Inspectorate ruled there was not enough 'housing supply' coming forward to meet housing targets set in West Oxfordshire's adopted Local Plan and encouraged by Oxfordshire County

Council. That 2018 Plan allocated 1200 homes at East Chipping Norton (Tank Farm) rather than the 600 previously proposed – a pro-rata increase across the District, which, in Chippy, was supported by the County who are the major landowner at East Chipping Norton. Councils, including WODC, must always show there is enough land allocated within their existing Local Plan to cater for the required number of new homes over the next five years. If not, legislation states 'a presumption in favour of sustainable development will apply', meaning developers have scope to build on land that is not allocated for housing in the Local Plan. In the latest ruling, the Inspectorate agreed with developers that only 3.68 years of housing supply was available within WODC's area, so opening the doors to speculative development on unallocated sites.

This gives WODC, as planning authority, a problem. In Chippy, it is already known that developers have land (or options) on new greenfield sites not in the local plan, such as that past the cricket club. There have been previous attempts to develop on open land opposite the Rugby Club, along Churchill Road, up at the Golf Club, and along Worcester Road. In Chippy it doesn't help that there have been years of delay and false

starts, particularly by landowner OCC, with no planning application at all yet for the East Chippy site – and brownfield sites such as the old hospital remain derelict after more than 10 years when there had been applications for housing approved! WODC will have to determine any applications that might come forward. Reasons for refusal can still include the impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Conservation Areas, but the pressure to approve will be on.

This latest setback follows a recent separate Inspectorate decision, reported last month in the News, to reject WODC's environmentally-ambitious planning guidance for Eynsham's large new housing development. It all puts at risk the 'Build Chippy Better' vision – supported by Chipping Norton Town Council – for appropriate and eco-friendly housing development that integrates with a sustainable Chippy. Could it mean a further influx of standard houses, not meeting the needs of local people, increasing growth well above the additional third proposed at East Chipping Norton, and with few adequate plans for better health, road, parking, sewerage and other infrastructure? Can any more pressure on District, County, and central Government help – for example, forcing developers to fully develop sites with planning permission within a specific time scale? The new Prime Minister has also suggested limiting the Planning Inspectorate's powers to overrule local Councils.

## The Whispering Willows Bistro

Long-time Enstone resident Katy Vennell has taken over the bistro at Willow Gardens, the new independent living development opposite the Health Centre. The 'Whispering Willows Bistro' is open to the public as well as residents and visitors. 'We're already seeing people coming in for tea or coffee after their appointments,' said Katy, 'it's very good value'. People can drop in during the day, from Monday to Saturday, for tea and coffee, all-day breakfasts, light meals and snacks. Katy says it's best to book for the popular Sunday lunches (12–2pm), though.



*Katy Vennell pictured recently in the new Whispering Willows bistro at Willow Gardens*

Katy is well known in the area, having been a chef since the age of 16 and having worked all over the UK. In recent years she's run the Harrow in Enstone, and then after a series of life changing events, wanted to take a break from catering and work in the NHS. 'Eventually I became Assistant Care Manager here at Willow Gardens, and when the opportunity to run the Bistro came up, I thought it was the perfect blend of cooking and caring,' said Katy. 'I want it to be a place where people can come in for a rest, a chat and drink, whether they're residents or not.' By the time you read this, the Bistro should be open for evenings in the week as well. Go to the Whispering Willows Bistro Facebook page for up-to-date opening times, and to see menus and special offers.

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## Covid Autumn Booster Jobs



With Covid Booster vaccinations restarting in earnest during September, volunteers are still needed to help up at Chipping Norton Health Centre – as they did valiantly over the past two years of special campaigns. Booster vaccinations will be for those eligible. You will be

contacted when it's your turn. Boosters will help to limit the severity of symptoms if you do catch the virus, but hopefully will also reduce its spread this winter. The Health Centre is responsible for offering vaccinations across the area covered by the local network of practices, which will therefore entail vaccinating tens of thousands of patients this Autumn. Volunteers are needed at each session to assist the Health Centre staff and help patients to feel at ease, understand what is needed and where to go. Peter Branson, who helped coordinate volunteer support before – is still in the driving seat, pointing out how volunteers over the last two years have been amazing, offering their services at every call. He thanked them for doing this so efficiently and with such good humour. If you can offer some time, Peter would be pleased to hear from you by email. The sessions are normally two in the weekday evenings, from 5.30 to 9.30pm and Saturdays from 8am to 1.30pm, with volunteers most likely doing just one session a week. There is no formal training. Peter can give you a better idea of what happens if you need it, otherwise you learn the ropes as you volunteer. Email [ptr.branson@gmail.com](mailto:ptr.branson@gmail.com) for details.

## Update on The Branch

The redevelopment of The Branch at 16 Market Place (the old NatWest Bank building) into a community hub was meant to start in September. However, Emma Kennedy on behalf of The Branch Trust provided a short update saying 'unfortunately,

whilst we get the last few permissions in place, we have had to delay the start – but we hope to have news next month. Please accept our sincere apologies for any nuisance this delay might have on you or your business'.

## WODC's Cabinet in Chippy

Folk in Chipping Norton have often commented that things get decided in Witney by West Oxfordshire's 'powers that be' – 'out of site and out of sound' of us in Chippy. Well, in August the main ruling body, WODC's Cabinet, decided to take some of their monthly public decision-making meetings 'on tour',



*WODC's Cabinet – Chippy's Geoff Saul second from right*

they say 'to help improve engagement with the local public and make Cabinet and decision-making more accessible for residents'. The first of these meetings was set for 21 September in Charlbury's Community Centre, aiming to attract some local citizens to listen and also ask questions in a public Q&A session and the next 'on tour' meeting is scheduled for 16 November in Chipping Norton Town Hall at 2pm – put the date in the diary and be ready both to be enlightened and listened to. But please note, if you want to speak you have to register your desire in advance. Email [democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk) or ask via 01993 861000 at least two days in advance. If you have any questions about all this why not contact any of our three District Councillors – Geoff Saul, Mike Cahill, or Rizvana Poole. Their phone and email contacts are public on the District website: [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk). Cllr Saul is also himself on the Cabinet responsible for housing and social welfare.

## Council meetings postponed

Following The Queen's death and the announcement of a national period of mourning, Chipping Norton Town Council decided not to go ahead with planned council meetings. The following meetings were cancelled: Staffing Sub-Committee, 14 September; Strategic Planning, 14 September; Traffic Advisory Sub-Committee, 21 September; and Finance and Resources, 21 September. See Council website for any rearranged dates and other October and November meetings but it is expected that most of this lost business will be discussed at the main Full Council meeting scheduled for 6.30 on Wednesday 5 October 2022.



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## That sewage in our local rivers

Sick of the flood of Sewage Pollution news? Did you visit the coast this summer and find your beach polluted? Turn your concern into action! Write to your local MP, Robert Courts, to express your views. Government statements (from the Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs) point



*Testing the water quality of the nearby River Evenlode*

to the ageing Victorian sewerage infrastructure for sewage that is discharged into our rivers and seas. But, in fact, monitoring by the Environment Agency has reduced considerably over the years – and a quarter of sewage overflow pipes at popular beach resorts have either no or faulty monitors. Hence, according to local group, Wild Oxfordshire, the need for, and rise of, citizen scientists.

# Wild Oxfordshire

Very local to Chipping Norton, and led by Earthwatch, the latest 'Evenlode WaterBlitz' is taking place from 30

September to 3 October. This should give an accurate and comparable snapshot of water health in our own area, monitoring phosphate and nitrate levels. The Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) is led by Wild Oxfordshire and brings together partners from across the catchment, including members of the Evenlode community, Thames Water Utilities, the Environment Agency and Earthwatch Europe – all working towards improving the catchment for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Our rivers are facing significant challenges from pollution, physical modification, climate and over-abstraction, and the local river Evenlode is no exception. However, there is some good news as some streams are improving; tributaries like the Hanborough stream and the brooks running through the Cornwell estate, including Cornwell Brook, have shown reductions in phosphate concentrations over time. In general, the Glyme River has maintained low concentrations of phosphate (Evenlode Catchment Water Quality and Monitoring Strategy Report, March 2022). These sites allow insight into what water quality should be like and any lessons that can be learnt from water and land management at these particular locations which can then be applied to other areas in the catchment. Look out for news of the next WaterBlitz and take part. See [freshwaterwatch.thewaterhub.org](http://freshwaterwatch.thewaterhub.org).

## Chippy hosepipe ban

On 24 August Thames Water imposed a hosepipe ban on us all due to the drought. After the driest July on record and below average rainfall in previous months, water levels in our rivers and reservoirs are much lower than usual. Thames Water's creaking infrastructure loses 635 million litres in leaks every single day, enough to fill eight million baths! Thames Water say that they are fixing 1,100 leaks every week and have met their leakage reduction targets for the past three years, reducing leaks by 10%. Even though it has started raining now, do remember that the ban is still in place. Customers should not use a hosepipe to water gardens, clean vehicles or windows, patios, etc. There are some exceptions to the rules, especially if you have mobility issues and are a Blue Badge holder. For further information see [www.thameswater.co.uk](http://www.thameswater.co.uk).

## Worth's Coaches are 100

Worth's Motor Services of Enstone, the local family-owned coach operator, whose motto is 'A Rattling Good Ride', must be congratulated on celebrating their hundredth anniversary this year. The business was founded back in 1922 at a time when many commercial vehicles had come on to the UK's roads after service during the First World War.



*Managing Director Richard & Director Paul Worth pictured with 65-year-old 'Mabel', a 1957 Bedford SB bus*

As well as providing coach hire for local organisations (they have vehicles suitable for the London Ultra Low Emission Zone for trips to the Capital), Worth's also operate many services to local schools.



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## Stones as perfect backdrop



Successful late Summer events at the Rollright Stones

The weather gods looked kindly over the Rollright Stones to

allow both of the end-of-season events to go ahead successfully. On August Bank Holiday Monday, the Family Fun Day attracted over 300 people who gathered at the monuments to be entertained by a variety of exhibitions and demonstrations which included pole lathing and Saxon food-making. A major highlight was three low passes by the BBMF Lancaster bomber. On 3 September, The Theatre took over the site to present two performances of the children's show *Arbor the Tree*, Arbor himself being a 17-foot puppet on national tour. Arbor was a great success especially in the setting of the stone circle and surrounding ash and larch trees.



The Rollright Trust's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event will be at the Theatre on Saturday 15 October with a combination of exhibition and archaeological talks – a great day in prospect

but please book early – more on p22. A busy Autumn programme is about to get going including ongoing clearance work in both copses, planting of native shrubs and bulbs, and progress in investigating the buried cold war Observer Corps bunker. We are always looking for volunteers to help take care of these unique and fascinating monuments, so please get in touch via our website: [rollrightstones.co.uk](http://rollrightstones.co.uk).

**Robin Smitten**, Trustee and Site Manager

## Chippy's musical secret?

Making music together is good for the mind and the soul, but finding opportunities for doing so in Chippy isn't always easy. But there is a solution: The Chequers' Session, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Few people know about it (although there will be considerably more now!). One of the



organisers, Jane Lewis, said, 'It's an acoustic join-in jam session. Unlike an open mic or some other sessions where everyone takes it in turns, we sing and play together. It's a small space, so you can afford to be brave, and it's a genuinely supportive, encouraging group. If you have always wanted to sing or play with other people, but never dared try, this is your opportunity. The musicians who come along range from professional to never having performed in public before. We play folk, blues, jazz, gospel, skiffle, music hall, country, bluegrass and more. We've even played along to the spoken word and performance poets'. From time to time there is a chance for the odd solo, perhaps because no-one else knows the tune or the words or maybe because it is in an awkward key for the other musicians! And sometimes because it's just good to hear a good solo singer, player or other performer. Whether you want to stretch your musical wings, or just jam with other people, come along. The session starts around 8pm and finishes around 10.30. It's the room on the left as you go into The Chequers. Audience members are also welcome, but space is limited, so you might be asked to give up your seat for a musician. Next session is Thursday 20 October. To avoid confusion, it's The Chequers in Chipping Norton, on Goddards Lane. To get on the mailing list, email Jane Lewis on [jalemail27@gmail.com](mailto:jalemail27@gmail.com).

## Methodist Church news

We celebrate harvest at the end of September, with a service, lunch and auction of fresh produce with the proceeds going to the Methodist charity 'All we can' and tinned goods sent to the food bank. We are well on the way to organising the Christmas Tree Festival running 1–4 December. As usual there will be decorated trees in the church, and sales tables and refreshments in the hall. We aim to end the Festival with a church service at 4pm on the 4<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow next month. Wednesday 5 October's 'cuppa and chat' will raise money for Chippy Larder Christmas gifts. The Autumn sale on Saturday 15 October (10.30–12 noon) is for church funds.

**Elaine Parsons**



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Summer fun at Henry Cornish

Henry Cornish Care Centre, sited along the London Road, recently held a lovely Summer Barbecue with the residents and their families. They were joined by entertainer Doug Loveridge and enjoyed a visit from Mr Fuddles, the Shetland pony (pictured). Everyone had such a lovely afternoon and the sun even came out for us. Thank you to all who came along.



Tina Brain

## Chequers drinks for Ukraine!



When the conflict in Ukraine started, Darren Gillett landlord of The Chequers in Chipping Norton grouped together with some other local publicans to buy the stock from a Ukrainian brewery. The brewery would otherwise have lost everything. The stock purchased from the Var Var Brewery was then totally donated by the wholesaler Euroboozer who also transported it free of charge over to the UK! The Chequers has raised an additional £3149.77 through the sale of the beer and a Special Board item Chicken Kyiv. It looks like the whole scheme, with donations locally and centrally through the distributor and Brewery, may see over £100,000 on the way to help Ukraine's Humanitarian Appeal. Darren told the News, 'our donation will go to United with Ukraine – a charity which helps supply medicine to places that can't get it.' At time of writing, there's still time to call in and sample some of the ales of the Ukrainian list at the bar. Cheers!

## Hook Norton Craft Fair

St Peter's Church are again hosting the Hook Norton Craft Fair – this year on Saturday 5 November 10am–5pm. As always at this popular event there will be a huge variety of wonderful work from crafters both local and from across the Cotswolds, exhibiting 40 crafts. Several new artists and craftspeople from Chipping Norton and surrounding villages are attending this year. Refreshments will be available all day

with delicious freshly made sandwiches, savouries, and of course, fabulous cakes! The St Peter's Grand Draw, with a super first prize of £150, and dozens of other fabulous prizes will take place at the fair. Do come along and start your Christmas shopping; buy original well-designed well-made work, and support your local craftspeople.

Jan Hughes

## War Memorial damage

The stonework at Chipping Norton's War Memorial has seen continuing damage, notably to the coping stones and their surfaces which protrude around the wall (see picture). Town



Councillors, at their September meeting, looking at the options to repair all this, were faced with a potential bill of around £4600 for a full replacement of these stones with similar but smaller limestone stones. The available budget this year for all work on the War Memorial is only £500. Councillors have now looked at a cheaper option, at roughly half the cost, of using imitation stone concrete similar to that used on walls outside the Co-op supermarket. The Council will discuss and agree the way forward with the British Legion.

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## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

It is that time of year again – time to get involved in the Shoebox Appeal as part of Teams4U. It's a charity already very



supported by many people in our town but maybe this year you would like to be part of it. Last year we sent 71 boxes from Chipping Norton. It is very simple: choose an empty shoebox and cover it in Christmas wrapping paper. Decide whether you want to choose small gifts for a girl or boy and which age (3–5 years, 6–11 or 12+). Or choose to do a home box for a family. Fill your shoebox with suitable small items. Suggestions are given in a leaflet. Examples might be small toys (cars, yo-yo, a ball, teddy bear, etc); educational supplies like pens, crayons, paper, etc; hygiene items like soap, toothbrush, flannel, etc; or a hat, gloves, scarf, necklace, etc. Any sweets or chocolate need a sell-by date of at least March 2023. Don't add anything war-related, fragile or dangerous. Books are not a good idea as many children cannot read English. Please also donate a minimum of £3 towards delivery.

More guidance is given in leaflets obtainable from Martin Hannant, 72 Churchill Road CN, 01608 643653 or martinhannant27@gmail.com or from CN Library or the Methodist Church. Boxes need to be delivered by Friday 11 November – dropped off at CN Methodist Church at a Wednesday coffee morning (9.30–11.30am) or Sunday morning (10.30am–12.30pm). Martin will also collect, if asked. Last year over 50,000 shoeboxes were sent from Teams4U from UK to children and families in Eastern Europe – often the only Christmas gift they got. Why not help and make a contribution and make a child really happy. It shows the child that someone really cares. See more about the charity at [www.teams4u.com](http://www.teams4u.com). Thank you so much for all your help.

**Martin Hannant**

## Beekind Autumn Ball

Chipping Norton Town Hall at 6.30pm on Saturday 1 October is the venue for a grand charity Autumn Beekind Ball. It's a charity event with dinner, drinks, raffle, auction, live music and dancing. Tickets are £110 from [Eventbrite.co.uk](http://Eventbrite.co.uk). The Ball is to



support the charity POPYRUS (Prevention of Young Suicide) which exists to reduce the number of young people who take their own lives, by shattering the stigma surrounding suicide and equipping young people and their communities with the skills to recognise and respond to emotional distress. POPYRUS believes that no young person should have to struggle alone with thoughts of suicide. More at [www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)

## Town Hall upgrade and usage

Chipping Norton Town Councillors discussed, at their September Community Committee meeting, the starting in earnest of work to keep the Town Hall properly up to date and in good order – following the 2021 Quinquennial review and 5-year outline plan for improvements. Completion of the measured survey, full drawings and an asbestos survey should now enable tendering to start for a programme of work. Early items will be window and outside surface repairs – and a new heating boiler, for which sustainability and eco-standards will be important. Roofing and damp-proofing work will then be a priority. Councillors wanted also to avoid 'quick fixes', if longer-term more substantial work was needed later, on the same items at the Town Hall. The Council will be exploring potential support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Making more community use of the Town Hall remains a priority – and Councillors will be interviewing, hopefully at the end of September, a shortlist of candidates who have applied for a new Events and Facilities Officer post as part of the Guildhall team to help promote and develop Town Hall use and other town events.



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## WODC say ‘your voice counts’



Did you know West Oxfordshire District Council want your views on what should happen in Chippy and West Oxfordshire – and what kind of Council they should be? Long-suffering Chippy residents will have followed the ‘consultations’ and the saga that led to WODC putting 1200 new homes at East Chipping Norton (Tank Farm) into their ‘Local Plan’. After four years of to-ing and fro-ing, that was finally adopted in 2018 – but, five years later, there is still no specific planning application for things to happen, and a real danger of a ‘free for all’ with speculative developers putting forward new Chippy sites (see earlier article).

Meanwhile, the new WODC Cabinet have decided it’s time for a new Local Plan – which will go up to 2041 and which could look at land sites in Chippy all over again. But this Plan could take at least two years to put together, leaving an opportunity for that ‘free for all’. Local Chipping Norton residents will want to know if their views will be taken into account this time? The new WODC Cabinet say they want to – but you may not have noticed that the first ‘consultation’ on all this, asking for your views, has already been and gone. It was announced in August by WODC’s Cabinet and ran (only

online) from 24 August to 21 September. The Chippy News has had no press releases about it – and hadn’t heard anything from our District Councillors.

Also coming up is a new WODC ‘supplementary planning document’ on that difficult issue of how to fund ‘infrastructure’ with Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy payments from developers. That was ‘put



on ice’ back in 2020 but is about to be revived. We should also be interested in all this as it affects Chippy’s growth and how to fund it sustainably. The Chippy News will try and keep you up to date but keep an eye on WODC’s news website <https://yourvoicecounts.commonplace.is/news>. Finally, if you want to say something direct to our WODC Cabinet – come to Chippy Town Hall at 2pm on 16 November! See earlier article on p8.

## Life as a new District Councillor

**Rizvana Poole was elected as a West Oxfordshire District Councillor for Chipping Norton in May. She lives near the town centre with husband Tom and their two boys who both go to Chippy schools. The Chippy News talked to her about her experience so far.**

Since 2019, and through the pandemic, Rizvana was already a Town Councillor but alongside, she started community lunches at the Baptist Church and then put her commitment into building the Chippy Larder to aid many families needing help. She stood for election to the District, feeling that Chipping Norton was being overlooked. In her new WODC role, she said ‘I am keen to build on work of my predecessors and ensure that Chipping Norton and its needs are prominent in the mind of WODC. I want to use my experience, particularly with the Larder, in guiding the Council towards helping more with food and community aid’.



So what is on her agenda now? Rizvana is particularly keen to give help and advice to those in Chipping Norton who need it, with the recent pandemic, looming cost-of-living crisis and household energy issues at the forefront. She said, ‘I am very keen to set up a Citizen’s Advice outlet again in the Town. There is an increasing need for impartial advice whether financial, legal or practical. I am currently in negotiations and hope to give more detail soon’. With winter on the way, she also sees a real, imminent, need for warm spaces and hubs in the Town – somewhere dry, warm and safe where people will be welcomed and experience intergenerational socialising. She explained, ‘my idea is for a different venue everyday – possible locations include the Leisure Centre, Rugby Club, Methodist Church, the Larder and the Town Hall. I know the Mayor, Sandra Coleman, has put this to the Town Council’s Community Committee. It

would be great if people are able to volunteer’, she added.

Rizvana wants to support and expand local businesses and markets and make the countryside more accessible for everyone. Then on one further issue she said, ‘I want to develop mental health support for our young people. My aim is to create a group of people who could work alongside the schools, Health Centre, Theatre and Leisure Centre’. Getting involved with a larger local authority sometimes frustrates new councillors who face time-consuming procedures and find sometimes politics ‘getting in the way’. But Rizvana says, ‘I want people to know that, as your District Councillors (our other two are Geoff Saul and Mike Cahill), we will advocate on your behalf. Things don’t happen quickly – but anyone can email me at [rizvana.poole@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:rizvana.poole@westoxon.gov.uk)) or come to the Larder on Thursdays between 1–6pm and see me. More than ever, we need to make it easy for people to access support and remove barriers’, she explained. Rizvana also encourages people to come and see councillors in action. In fact, West Oxfordshire District Council’s Cabinet is on tour for some of its future monthly meetings: on 16 November at 2pm they will be in Chippy Town Hall.

Our new District Councillor is clearly a busy mother, Town and District Councillor, and community volunteer but she hopes that others with busy lives can also come forward and help the community in similar ways – with whatever skills they have.

## New Chair for Lawrence Team



The Lawrence Home Nursing Team is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Greaves as the new Chair of the Charity. Richard is a familiar face in the community, Chairing Chipping Norton Theatre as well as being a school governor. The whole team would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Chair Tony Yarrow for his years of dedication and service to the charity and steering the ship and our finances during the difficult years of the pandemic. The Lawrence Home Nursing Team is pleased to be organising a series of coffee mornings at the Highlands Centre on the Burford Road commencing with a coffee and Christmas card sale on Thursday 17 November from 10am until midday. Transport is being organised from the villages so you can email fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org or call 01608 684477 for more information. Please visit the website for details of a musical evening at Kirtlington Park on Friday 18 November. Tickets will be limited and will include canapés and a glass of fizz.

**Verity Fifer**

## Planning updates around town

Not much to report this month. In the latest from West Oxfordshire District Council, a holiday let application at Westfield Farm and an extension at a property in Cox's Lane have been refused permission. Applicants aiming to convert another of the old Heythrop Hunt buildings off Worcester Road lost their appeal against the Refusal for residential use. Uplands Committee also heard that, after an enforcement visit to the Beeches site in Chipping Norton, no breaches

were found, but other issues are being looked at. As many know, an enforcement notice was served in August about changes at the Diddly Squat Farm Shop. No appeal has been lodged to date – but of course the shop has had its busy summer season anyway.

Long awaited are two appeals hearings, first on the Gypsy caravan site now along the Over Norton Road and, secondly, about the refusal of a further major holiday/residential development up at the Cotswold Hotel and Golf Club.

## Teddy Bears at Tall Trees

When you go down to the woods to play, what do you find? On 23 August, Tall Trees Care Centre in Shipton-under-Wychwood hosted a Teddy Bears' Picnic for the children of Cherubs Nursery from Milton-under-Wychwood. As they walked from the nursery to Tall Trees, residents and staff could hear them before seeing them! Everyone was super excited as they made their way around the cricket field. (Gates were kindly opened by Tim to allow access through to the grounds). As the children and staff of the Nursery settled down to play outdoor



games, the fire engine arrived from Oxford Fire Rescue Service, Station 3, Chipping Norton. The Nursery children had great fun climbing in and out of the fire engine and



finding out how all the equipment worked. As the rain started, everyone had to move indoors for the Teddy Bears' Picnic (thank you, chef for making this so special). Each little person was given a gift of a new teddy bear to sit with them and then take home.

After lunch there was a visit by Lollypop Ponies – Lollypop and Moomin. The children and adults loved brushing the miniature Shetland ponies and decorating them with ribbons and bows, then taking turns to walk and feed the

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# LOCAL NEWS

ponies. Moomin decided to head inside the Home and meet some residents. She even took the lift to the second floor! Thank you Cherubs for coming to visit us – we hope you had as much fun as we did, and we will see you all again soon.

**Lilian Harmer and Aldrin Vasquez**

## Lido's scorching summer



It's been a scorcher at The Lido this summer. With the pandemic restrictions finally lifted and the extended heatwave, the team anticipate totting up record numbers of visitors by the end of the season. The season ended with a doggy flourish with a traditional last swim for Lido enthusiasts and their pooches of all shapes and sizes (pictured left).

One regular swimmer could be spotted clocking up the lengths in her

signature pink flowery swim cap during July and August. Congratulations and thanks to Camilla Notman who completed her return journey across the Channel, an epic 32km, and raised over £400 for The Lido.

This year, swimmers were offered an even wider range of sessions aimed at different audiences, from early years families through to the over-60s. In addition to an expanded programme of swimming, lessons and water-based fitness classes, the Lido provided a growing number of land-based activities such as yoga, Tai Chi and a new HIIT class. With funding from Sport England, the Lido was able to offer low-cost and, thanks to Wise Investment, some free swimming sessions to families through the You Move initiative. During the holidays, youngsters on the Holiday Activities & Food programme swam, built rafts and even created a jelly Lido. Working with The Theatre on this programme made for excellent use not only of the pool, but also the lawns and café.

Thank you to the amazing team of lifeguards, café, and office staff once again led by Liz Cooke and to everyone who visited this year. We re-open next April – see you then!

**Claire Jarvis**



*Camilla Notman after completing her epic swim. Photo taken by Peter Notman, 11, who accompanied his mother on many of her swims.*

## Prue's best pie and salad!



Celebrity Chef and *Bake Off* Judge Prue Leith – who lives locally – gave the Town a mention in the 'My Saturday' column in the *Daily Telegraph* in September. She said '2pm – maybe a late lunch with friends. I rely on the wonderful Rogér's fishmonger in Chipping Norton, which produces the best Salad Niçoise you'll ever eat. Or I buy old-fashioned pies from the Mighty Pie Company'. Eat your heart out Daylesford!

## Towards a Chippy Christmas!

Autumn is here and Christmas is coming – so get ready to enjoy another Chippy Christmas. In September, the Town Council agreed a contract for the Christmas lights on the Town Hall and in the main square (this year being done by Millennium Quest) and the little trees and lights, hopefully helped again by volunteers, will be back.

Also, a town centre Christmas market with stalls is currently being planned for Sunday 11 December, organised by volunteers from some of the Town's businesses. More details next month. The Methodist Church will be back with their Christmas tree displays – and don't forget the Shoebox Appeal (see page 12).

## Cemetery & churchyard work

At the main Town Cemetery on Worcester Road, as well as work on wildflower areas and cemetery clear up (see article page 4), Town Councillors have been commissioning 'memorial testing' work. This is mainly to look at the safety of upright gravestones and memorials, and, if necessary, arrange for dismantling. In fact, after testing 574 memorials in the first areas of the cemetery, only 16 failed the test and signs have been attached for potential action. Monitoring and testing will continue.

Meanwhile, work is needed at the Closed Churchyard (the graveyard surrounding St Mary's Church which is also the responsibility of Chipping Norton Town Council). The car parking area and the paths through the churchyard in



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# LOCAL NEWS

many places are dangerous – a contract with a quote of £3600 has been agreed to level surfaces, align edges and resurface with tarmac. Final details with the contractor are to be agreed.

## Library's half term events



We have extra events happening in the library for half-term! Mindset Coach Nicola Ménage will be giving an interactive talk called 'Back to School: Is your Child Anxious?' Nicola (pictured) is a motivational mindset coach, a qualified hypnotherapist, NLP practitioner and published author. The talk is designed to help parents and carers recognise and help when their child or teen is feeling anxious. Nicola will focus in particular on anxiety around school life. The talk is on Tuesday 25 October, 7.30pm to 9pm. This is a free event but booking is essential.

Back by popular demand, we have an Origami Workshop for children aged 5+. Thursday 27 October from 2pm to 3pm (see full feature on page 20) Children must be accompanied by an adult and booking is essential this time. Please book your place on these events by phone 01608 643559, or email: [chippingnorton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:chippingnorton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

**Sally Moore** – Library Manager

## Katharine House update

As we move into Autumn, there are plenty of ways to support Katharine House Hospice through a programme of events running up to Christmas. The Santa Fun Run takes place on 4 December at Spiceball Park in Banbury and you can choose between a 1.5 km route or the full 5 km. Appropriate seasonal dress is encouraged. The School Santa Run



is school-based for pupils and teachers alike. Last year, more than 10,000 tots, children and staff took part. If you know of a nursery, primary school or secondary school which might like to take part, let them know. The Light of Love event at St Mary's Church, Banbury, on Thursday 8 December celebrates the lives of those we have loved and lost. The R C Baker Tractor Run will be bringing a fleet of fairy-lit tractors around local villages, raising funds for the Hospice. As usual, a selection of cards will be available in the shops as well as online at the hospice ebay shop. The Autumn issue of the supporter magazine, *The Rose*, with stories of Katharine House services, is also available online.

## Great Rollright Bingo

A reminder that the next Bingo night in Great Rollright Village Hall is on Friday 21 October. All are welcome to a fun evening for young and old and a chance to win prizes! Doors open 7pm, games start 7.30pm and it's normally finished at 9.15pm. Bar, refreshments too and cash prizes! This is a non-profit making event with all proceeds going to local causes. Next

dates: 18 November and 16 December Christmas Special. Eyes Down Look In! Information from [grrbingo@aol.com](mailto:grrbingo@aol.com)

**Duncan Midwood**

## Beer & fun at Finstock

Finstock Ale in early September was a must-visit for any real ale or cider fan – and one enthusiast from Chipping Norton called in and reported back. There was a large and carefully chosen selection of beers at £3 a pint (and you get to keep



the glass that comes as part of your £5 entry fee). What's not to like? The programme and tasting notes are highly entertaining, which was an unexpected bonus. A range of gins was offered for those who prefer it and, of course, there were soft drinks. It's an annual event and buses (the X8 service to Witney) run between Finstock and Chippy if you fancy visiting the delightful village. The Charlbury Morris side showed up, complete with man-with-cheese-on-head, and it looked like they were paid in kind! The Village Hall isn't huge, so it might be less fun if it were tipping it down with rain, but on a sunny Saturday September afternoon this was perfect.

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Tall Trees  
CARING HOMES

## Playground improvements

Town Councillors in September agreed some next steps in repairs and improvements to Chipping Norton's recreation areas under Council control. At the main Worcester Road playground, repairs to the runway under the Zip Wire have been done and Councillors agreed to spend £6600 (already budgeted) for some substantial repairs to paths and surfaces.

Separately, some much-needed and long-awaited investment could be imminent in the play area in the central Cotswold Crescent grassed area. The old equipment there is long broken and derelict. The Town Clerk and Mayor have now met a play area designer and have consulted with youth workers who have spoken to children there as to their preferences. A full report with options and costings will come to a future Community Committee meeting and it is likely a budget from next year (2023/4) will have to be allocated.

## Gemma's 2023 calendar



Celebrity photographer and Chipping Norton resident Gemma Levine has just produced her 2023 Calendar, entitled *Seasonal Greetings*, which combines beautiful photographs of nature with some famous personalities. As with many of Gemma's recent publications, all the proceeds go towards the Lymphoedema Research Fund. In this calendar the pictures include photographs of well known personalities such as

Joanna Lumley, Simon Callow, John Suchet, Baroness Joan Bakewell, Dames Judi Dench and Prue Leith – many with their poignant thoughts on lymphoedema at the foot of each calendar month, together with Professor Peter Mortimer's page on his clinical expertise and knowledge. Gemma's career as a photographer began back in 1975 and since then she has published 26 books of photographs and shown over 60

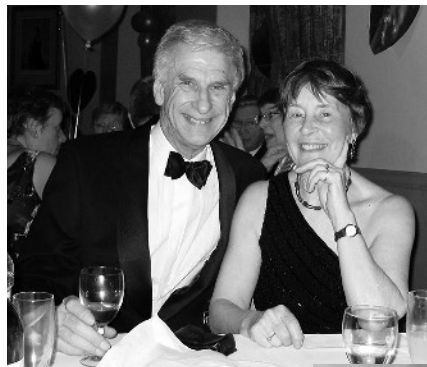


*Joanna Lumley one of the personalities whose photographs are included in Gemma Levine's calendar*

exhibitions worldwide. In September, Gemma's launch and signing event at Daylesford's Harvest Festival in September was unfortunately cancelled during the national mourning for The Queen. However, Gemma will now be at Daylesford on Saturday 8 October 11am-1pm. She promises a warm welcome to all in the Homeware Barn. The 2023 calendar are £10 (or six for £50) available via [www.sghc.org/Calendar](http://www.sghc.org/Calendar).

## Farewell Old Friends

### Terry Howes 1.3.1940 – 6.9.2022



*Terry pictured with husband Mike above and right recently with her valued carer Gogo*

A sad time, with losing two lovely ladies in one week – Mum slipped quietly away on Tuesday 6 September in Beech Haven, Chipping Norton and a funeral was held on Tuesday 27 September. Mum had a very happy



and energetic life, being able to live in her own house until the very end of July, when she moved into Beech Haven Care Home and settled quickly. She enjoyed the company of others and the care she was given, following an active and happy life in her own home, especially since we lost Dad, Mike Howes, eight years ago. The last four years have been particularly memorable for us all, when she had Gogo living in and other carers, from Helping Hands, to keep her company and care for her – amazing years, as she was able to keep her independence, being well cared for in her own home. Thank you to everyone who played a part in Mum's life – I am sure you will all have your own memories of the time spent with her. She had a perfect end to a perfect life and no doubt her smile as she entered a room will be missed for some time.

**Julie & Sarah** (Terry's daughters) and Family

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# TIME FOR HALLOWEEN



*With October coming, Chipping Norton shops turn a little orange and black with the witches outfits, masks, bats, broomsticks and pumpkins piled high, – how have we come to this?*

Halloween is in fact a real mix of the pagan, the Christian and the commercial. Older readers may remember a time when there was little or no trick-or-treating. We were saving ourselves up for Guy Fawkes Night and those 5 November Fireworks – now much in decline. Maybe we've at last stopped thinking about Catholics blowing up Parliament! You may even believe that the tricks and treats were a tradition imported from North American. But did you know that it was the other way round?



In the **Christian tradition** Halloween is an abbreviation of All Hallows' Eve. It is the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints Day) on 1 November, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> being All Souls Day.

For the Celts, this time of year saw the festival of **Samhain**. 1 November was the start of the New Year and of winter. So the end of the year was celebrated on Halloween, just as we now celebrate New

Year's Eve. It's roughly half way between the Equinox and Winter Solstice, and there is noticeably more darkness than light. In many cultures there is the myth of the Lord of the Underworld who reigns supreme through winter. The night is the time of the dead, so this is the time of ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasts. It's also seen as a time to remember the spirits of the dead, particularly loved ones and people of importance (who might just haunt you if you fail to show the appropriate level of remembrance!)



*So as you carve your swede, or bob for apples, drink your bat's blood, or stare in the mirror to see if your true love will appear, be careful! Be very, very careful...*

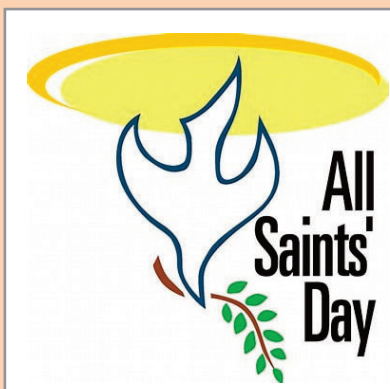


**Trick or treating** around Halloween is an old British past-time. However, in Olden days people were offered a trick (like juggling or a magic trick) or a treat (a sweet or biscuit perhaps) in return for a copper or two. In Scotland and Ireland there was guising – going from house to house and putting on a little performance in return for a treat. In mediaeval

Europe there was souling – offering to pray for the souls of the dead in return for money. The tradition travelled over to America with the early settlers, but in the 1920s a more vicious version of trick or treating emerged, so it was modified by the powers-that-be to become more family-friendly, and, indeed, more commercial. In the UK we used to hollow out turnips and swedes to make turnip lanterns. Pumpkins are a more recent import which are predicted to be in very short supply this year because of the drought.

## In and around Chipping Norton

**Christian Services** – England's Christian Churches, often mark **All Saints' Day** on 1 November, an occasion which honours all the saints in Christian history, particularly those who do not have their own special feast day. There are also often events for families and



children to enjoy on All Hallows Eve – as an alternative to the more commercial Halloween activities. St Mary's church in Chipping Norton is holding a **Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving** for those who have died at 3pm on **Sunday 30 October**. The Roman Catholic Church nationally also marks **All Souls' Day**, on 2 November, which is also known as the **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed** and is a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed. See church websites for details.

**Samhain** – the Celtic festival of Samhain will be celebrated at the Rollright Stones, 2pm on Saturday 29 October. Organisers, the Watchers of the Old Ways, told the News it will be 'family friendly as always, children and dogs welcome'.

**Halloween events** – watch out of other local events, particularly for families and children. The visitor attraction Fairytale Farm just outside Chipping Norton are running their Halloween event all through half-term 22–30 October. Called 'Scarily Ever After', the event will feature fairytale baddies, including the Sea Witch at her Enchanted Lair with her slithering eel minions companions Flotsam and Jetsam. There's a pumpkin patch, with free pumpkins for carving and



a Paint-a-Pumpkin competition in a Creepy Crafts marquee, and other spooky indoor craft activities. Anyone coming dressed for the occasion gets sweet treats! Tickets can be booked by visiting the Fairytale Farm website. [www.fairytalefarm.co.uk](http://www.fairytalefarm.co.uk). The Farm is open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.





# HELP NATURE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL



*Are we in danger of seeing nature around Chipping Norton implode before our very eyes? A letter to the News, from local resident and nature-lover Richard Dixon, prompted the News Team to ask some questions.*

## Chippy's disappearing butterflies

Richard started by asking 'Does the rape of the countryside exist just outside our front doors? Walking along the tracks through Glyme Farm (an ecological conservation area) this summer, one would have noticed how plentiful the butterflies were. Older folk will remember how many butterflies (and this is symptomatic of the well documented decline of insects in general) there were everywhere. Indeed, we called buddleia bushes butterfly bushes, as they attracted so many. Now, if you observe a buddleia in Chippy, you are lucky to view more than one butterfly, if any'.



**Buddleia used to be called 'the butterfly bush'**

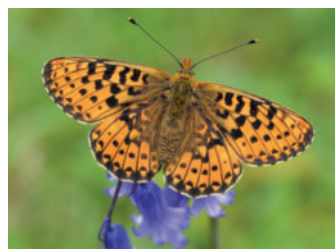


**Thriving in Gloucestershire:**

**Top: Large Blue**

**Right: Duke of Burgundy**

**Bottom: Pearl-bordered Fritillary**



Richard ponders whether this is due to pesticides and chemicals used by some farmers and gardeners, or if are there other issues. Butterfly Conservation's Head of Science, Dr Richard Fox, stresses that, shockingly, half of Britain's

remaining butterfly species are listed as threatened. He says land-use change remains the most important driver of decline but there is also evidence for the impact of climate change on butterflies.

Dr Fox says it isn't all bad news. He points to butterflies like the Large Blue, the Duke of Burgundy and the Pear-bordered Fritillary which have been subject to intense conservation work, now thriving just over the County border in Gloucestershire.

## Take conservation action

Nature may be in crisis, but now is our chance to turn that crisis into opportunity. You can get involved, whether it is with



your local Wildlife Society (BBOWT) or one of the bird or butterfly organisations. Lots of volunteering opportunities can be found by visiting the website [www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk). You can volunteer at a reserve or nearer to home. You can also support campaigns to increase wild flower areas and reduce the use of chemicals. Why not help Chipping

Norton Town Council with their wild flower areas at the cemetery (see page 4) and support a 'pesticide-free Chipping Norton' – another Council initiative similar to other towns.

## Birds in decline

Richard Dixon also highlights the serious reduction in bird populations locally – something older people notice starkly over many years. Farmland birds like the Yellow Hammer are just hanging on, whereas Corn Buntings and Grey Partridge are very scarce. On the other hand, Red Kites were reintroduced, are being conserved, and thrive on roadkill.



**Top: Yellow Hammer**



**Left: Corn Bunting**

## Look after your own back yard!

Anyone, even with a small patch of ground, can cultivate and garden with butterflies, moths and birds in mind; even a window box could help. That also means ditching the pesticides and buying peat-free composts. Grow a few nectar-rich flowers between March and November. Prolong flowering by deadheading but leave seedheads for birds later in the season. Although buddleia is a nectar source for butterflies, they need places for their caterpillars to flourish in the first place. Allow a patch of 'weeds', such as dandelion and bird's-foot-trefoil to flourish and let an area of grass grow long. Our obsession with tidiness is not helping the birds and butterflies. Make a log pile, where butterflies and moths can hibernate, and you will be helping amphibians as well.



## It's time for us to take action!

Dara McNaulty, a 18 year old environmental campaigner and author said, 'Nature is our life support system. As an autistic teenager, nature has provided a safe space which I can crawl into, rejuvenate my spirits and keep me going'. Perhaps he is not alone in this. Birds and butterflies need our help – those that are receiving intense conservation are responding well – so we all need to do our bit.

## A Fork in the Road

**Thinking about a career change? A new direction – whether through necessity or choice – can lead to exciting self-discoveries. The News Team met one local couple who took ‘a fork in the road’!**

Two years ago Chris Rowntree and Kate Scott Bolton, were busy estate agents who poured their expertise and vision into helping clients find their dream homes in the Cotswolds. Chris and Kate achieved a lifelong ambition in 2019 when they started their own estate agency, but when the world was gripped by Covid they found themselves unable to operate. Needing to find another way of supporting themselves, they met over a glass of wine and formulated a plan.

Kate had always been a keen gardener, experienced gained from watching her mother create a beautiful garden at the family home in Staffordshire. Even during her busiest time as an estate agent, Kate worked one day a week as a gardener on a country estate. 'I always found, particularly midweek, that it was nice to get my hands into the soil!' Though he'd had no formal training, Chris had always enjoyed gardening too. Inspiration struck, and they took the bold decision to become a gardening team. 'Between us, we knew so many people from our 30 years of property in The Cotswolds. Before we knew it, we had 50 clients and a thriving business.'

Kate radiates energy and optimism, and has always had a robust attitude to change, having lived in various parts of England and Australia, along with an adventure across America

*Do you have a story to tell about your own career change? The News Team would love to hear, so please write to us at [chippymail@aol.com](mailto:chippymail@aol.com)*

and Canada by bicycle before settling into life as an estate agent and busy mother. 'I've re-invented myself a number of times!' she smiles. As an estate agent, Chris had enjoyed constant promotions and ever-increasing income, but his new life has brought unexpected rewards and joys, and he's never been happier. 'We've got the best of both worlds now, as we still find ourselves very much involved in selling houses, but with the new excitement of creating and caring for gardens. We love people, and it's been a privilege to be drawn into our clients' lives in a different way, with invitations to weddings and social events a regular occurrence. Not only that but I've lost weight, and my heart rate is far healthier than ever before!'



Clients have attested to how hard Kate and Chris work in their gardens, getting far more accomplished in a single day than they ever imagined. Added to this, when they take on a house to sell, Chris and Kate offer garden make overs without charge, to maximise the property for market. When it's time for a house viewing, they often find there isn't time to change out of their gardening clothes. One can only imagine that this informality adds a wonderfully earthy charm to the experience of viewing! You can contact them at C&K Gardening. 07795 211212 or [rowntrees1@btinternet.com](mailto:rowntrees1@btinternet.com)

## The wonderful world of Origami

**Have you tried Origami – the ancient art of paper folding? Local Origami enthusiast Yen Yang Co told the News all about it. He runs an After-School Club for Chippy School students and there's a chance for others to have a go at the Library in half term.**

**Amazing models from paper** – Origami is an ancient art of paper folding, often associated with Japanese culture. It's now widely done for art and fun – by young and old, creating models from flat pieces of paper. Nowadays virtually any models can be made from a single piece of paper, and some are simply mind boggling. For example, there's a young man in Finland whose latest single-sheet project has over 5,300 folds, taking 2.5 years of preparation and over 110 hours to fold. It has become an international pursuit, with a broad appeal to scientists, mathematicians, engineers, artists, teachers, therapists, and others.



**Buzz at national convention** – I love origami and, having just attended my first convention – organised by the British Origami Society (BOS), I now love it even more! There were loads of exhibitions, talks, workshops, supplies, informal folding, and a competition. Some of the models exhibited were amazing and they have blown my mind! There were at least 100 people, young & old, attending each day. I certainly learnt a great deal and loved every minute! The next convention is next Spring in Milton Keynes – not too far from

here. I'd urge anyone with any interest in origami to attend. See [www.britishorigami.org](http://www.britishorigami.org) for more details.

**Meeting friends and enthusiasts** – BOS is 55 years old this year, run by volunteers, and members can join and meet other enthusiasts – from beginners to experts – at national and local meetings. BOS produces a bi-monthly newsletter I very much enjoy reading (like the *Chippy News*!) as well as learning new folds. Joining BOS also provides opportunities to meet new friends. The next local meeting is in Solihull on 22 October. I would be happy to give you a lift from Chippy!

**Plans for meetings in Chippy** – Sally Moore, our ever friendly and hard working librarian, hosted my first origami workshop at the Library in July, which went really well. The next is in half term on 27 October from 2–3pm. There's limited space – see Library report (p16) for booking information. As you can see, I'm passionate about origami. I'd love to get the whole town paper folding! If anyone is interested in helping me to form an Origami Club, contact me on 01608 646133 or [yyy.10cn@yahoo.com](mailto:yyy.10cn@yahoo.com). I have just learnt how to make an angel and Santa on his sledge, so why not origami for Christmas?

# THE ARTS

## The Theatre

### Murder at The Theatre



Spring Street residents had an exciting week at the beginning of September. No, not a real murder, but the BBC filming at The Theatre – aka The Great Slaughter Theatre – for an episode of *The Sister Boniface Mysteries*, a series set in the Cotswolds.

### Live shows

**Peter Firman** Saturday 1 October, 7.30pm. Age: 14+. One of the UK's most popular magicians performs laugh-out-loud comedy and jaw-dropping magic. £17.50, £14 concs.

**Rise and Fall** Sunday 2 October, 11am & 2pm. A poetic and intriguing performance featuring balloons. For young audiences aged 2 upwards. £9.50.

**Crimes on Centre Court** Friday 7 October, 7.30pm, Saturday 8 October, 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Award-winning New Old Friends are back with more mirth, murder and mayhem, this time with a side of tennis. A cast of four play countless characters with quick-fire changes. £17, £13 concs, £7.50 under 26s.

**Adolf and Winston** Thursday 13 October, 7.30pm. Age: 16+. Living Spit's Howard and Stu are back walking the tightrope of taste and decency with another slice of poorly researched history. £16, £12 concs, £7.50 under 26s.

**The Head Gardener** Friday 14 October, 7.30pm. Brothers Jake and Warren Oldershaw design and bring to life a unique garden, sharing stories of plants and tales of why gardening is so important for mental health. £16, £12 concs, £7.50 under 26s.

**The Rollright [Stones] Trust 25th Anniversary** Saturday 15 October, from 11am running throughout the day. Talks by leading historians and archaeologists, information, exhibitions and questions. Free event. Booking essential. (See also p22)

**Dillie Keane – Songs My Mother Would Have Hated** Tuesday 18 October, 7.30pm. Age: 14+. Back with a new(ish) collection of songs culled from various sources, Dillie Keane continues to behave badly and sing about it. £21.50.

**Chris McCausland: Speaky Blinder** Wednesday 19 October. Age: 14+. One of the UK's top stand-ups, Chris McCausland is on tour with a show about life, family and other nonsense. £21.50, £18.50 concs.

**Twelfth Night** Friday 21 October, 7.30pm & Saturday 22 October 2.30pm & 7.30pm. The Handlebards are back, with Shakespeare's much-loved tale, with drunkenness, frivolity and cross-dressing aplenty. £17, £13 concs.

## ChipLitFest Events at The Theatre

An Evening with Prue Leith Wednesday 5 October at 7.30pm. Join the inimitable Prue Leith, restaurateur, chef, novelist, Bake Off judge, and ChipLitFest patron giving an exclusive Chippy preview of her latest cookbook, *Bliss on Toast*, and her updated memoir, *I'll Try Anything Once*. Dame Prue will talk about her extraordinary life and career. £15 including sample snacks from the book.



**Brian Bilston** Tuesday 11 October at 7.30pm. Social media poet Brian Bilston brings his own brand of humour as he previews his new book *Days Like These*. An alternative guide to the year in 366 poems, its verse for every day of the year is inspired by curious events, from Open an Umbrella Indoors Day to the first appearance of the phrase 'the best thing since sliced bread'.



**Manni & Reuben Coe** Thursday 20 October at 7.30pm. Join brothers Manni and Reuben Coe to find out what happened after Reuben, 38, who has Down's syndrome and had retreated into silence in his care home, texted Manni to ask, 'brother. do. you. love. me'. Manni took them both to a country cottage in the depths of winter, where, by walking, talking and drawing, they gradually rebuilt the bonds of brotherhood.

### What's On

## THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

#### LIVE @ THE THEATRE

29th Sept, 7.30pm  
30th Sept, 7.30pm  
1st Oct, 7.30pm  
5th Oct, 7.30pm  
7th & 8th Oct  
11th Oct, 7.30pm  
13th Oct, 7.30pm  
14th Oct, 7.30pm

15th Oct  
18th Oct, 7.30pm  
19th Oct, 7.30pm  
20th Oct, 7.30pm  
21st and 22nd Oct

#### FILMS

29th Sept, 10.30am  
2nd Oct, 4pm & 7.30pm  
4th Oct, 7.30pm  
9th & 12th Oct, 7.30pm  
16th Oct, 7.30pm  
17th Oct, 7.30pm  
20th Oct, 10.30am

#### SCREENINGS

Tues 27th Sept, 7.15pm  
Thu 6th Oct, 7pm  
Sun 16th Oct, 2pm

#### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

2nd Oct, 11am & 2pm

SUZI RUFFELL: SNAPPY—£16.50

THE THINKING DRINKERS PUB QUIZ—£18—18+

PETE FIRMAN: BAG OF TRICKS—£17.50, £14 concs

CHIPLITFEST: AN EVENING WITH PRUE LEITH—£15

CRIMES ON CENTRE COURT—£17, £13 concs, £7.50 u26s

CHIPLITFEST: DAYS LIKE THESE—£12

ADOLF AND WINSTON—£16, £12 concs, £7.50 u26s

THE HEAD GARDENER—£16, £12 concs, £7.50 u26s

Friends 2 for 1/half price

ROLLRIGHT STONES 25th ANNIVERSARY

DILLIE KEANE—£21.50

CHRIS MCCAUSLAND (SOLD OUT)

CHIPLITFEST: BROTHER DO YOU LOVE ME—£12

TWELFTH NIGHT—£17, £13 concs,

#### TICKETS £10, £7.50 UNDER 16S

CINEMA BAMBINO: FISHERMAN'S FIRNEDS (12A)

IT SNOWS IN BENIDORM (15)

OFFICIAL COMPETITION (15)

THE FORGIVEN (18)

LOVE AROUND THE WORLD (12A)

BOTH SIDES OF THE BLADE (15)—£7.50

CINEMA BAMBINO: THE FORGIVEN (18)

#### TICKETS £17.50 (unless otherwise stated)

MADAMA BUTTERFLY (12A)

JACK ABSOLUTE FLIES AGAIN (12A) - £17.50/£12.50 concs

AIDA

RISE AND FALL—£9.50

#### COMING SOON

CHIPPING NORTON 2022/23 PANTO—DICK WHITTINGTON

16TH NOVEMBER - 15TH JANUARY

BOX OFFICE 01608 642350

www.chippingnortontheatre.com



# THE ARTS

## Art, lectures & exhibitions



**Stamp of Approval** Chippy resident **Andrew Wildman**, comic book and storyboard artist, has been working for many years on projects including *Transformers*, *Spider-Man*, *Doctor Who* and *Luther*. He illustrated the UK and US Marvel Transformers comics back in the late 80s. Then, 'One day,' said Andrew, 'an email popped up with a very interesting proposal'. Once he had signed a non-disclosure agreement, he found out that The Royal Mail wanted him to illustrate some Transformers stamps, as a recognition of how much British writers and artists have contributed to Transformers. Andrew said, 'The challenge was to create a design that took into account the graphics, price and Queen's head which needed to be included on each one'. After a lengthy process of approval, the finished stamps were signed off by the Queen herself and were released on 1 September. More at [apwildman.com](http://apwildman.com) / [wildideas.tv](http://wildideas.tv)

**The Arts Society Cotswolds** Wednesday 12 October, 11am at Warwick Hall, Burford or via Zoom. *The Car in Art and the Car as Art*. Lecturer: Julian Richards. This lecture will celebrate the dynamic, creative and sometimes unsettling relationship between cars and art – a symbol in avant-garde art; car/coach builders in the Art Deco period; the romance of speed. Details [theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk](http://theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk)

**The Oxfordshire Museum**, Woodstock Saturday 22 October–Sunday 13 November, 10am–5pm Tuesday–Saturday and 2pm–3pm Sundays. The Jewellery and Silversmith Society of Oxford. Jewellery and silverwork created by the highly skilled members of this group. Many items for sale. Visit the Museum's website: [oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/museums/oxfordshire-museum](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/museums/oxfordshire-museum) for details.

**Zuleika Gallery**. Woodstock River Notes by Rachel Gracey until 10 October. A quartet of prints inspired by the River Thames at Port Meadow in Oxford, the River Cherwell in North Oxford, the River Helford in Cornwall, and the River Stour in Dorset.

Opening times: [zuleikagallery.com/exhibitions](http://zuleikagallery.com/exhibitions).

**Dar-le and The Bear**, Woodstock, The Firehouse Gallery. *Landscapes Within* – KV Duong, Justine Formentelli and Jeb Gash, 22 October–20 November. This exhibition brings together three artists whose distinctive painting practices find common ground in their use of landscape as a vastly diverse territory to process and give form to their inner thoughts, past experiences, and reflections on human behaviour and psychology.

Opening times: [darleandthebear.co.uk/exhibitions](http://darleandthebear.co.uk/exhibitions).

## Music

**Holistic Singing Workshop** Friday 11 November, 9.30am–1.30pm at Asthall Manor, Burford. The Joy of Singing: breathwork, posture and vocal techniques to sing for health, wellbeing and joy. English song and choral music guided by vocal coach and opera singer Claire Bradshaw GRNCM. Everyone welcome; no experience of singing needed but places are limited. £48 including coffee and pastries. Booking details: [clairebradshawmezzo@gmail.com](mailto:clairebradshawmezzo@gmail.com) or 07721 869361.

**Burford Singers** Sunday 27 November, 7.30pm Burford Parish Church. A concert celebrating the music of John Rutter (pictured) including his *Gloria*; *Feel the Spirit*; *Suite for strings*; *Distant Land* plus a selection of Christmas carols. Conductor Brian Kay with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra and mezzo soprano Melanie Marshall.



Photo: Nick Rutter

Booking details: [burfordsingers.org.uk/events/](http://burfordsingers.org.uk/events/)

**The Cotswold Stage School** West End star Sophie Camble is giving a Musical Theatre workshop in October, fresh from Lloyd Webber's cast of *Cinderella*. Also this term two new Scholarship pupils will be attending the Stage School, kindly supported by Sir Tony and Rita Gallagher offering a place to children who might not normally be able to attend. Free taster sessions on Saturday afternoons. Booking details: [info@cotswoldstageschool.com](mailto:info@cotswoldstageschool.com).

## The Rollright Trust Silver Jubilee

2022 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Rollright Trust, the charity which owns and manages the Rollright Stones. To celebrate 25 years of volunteer dedication to preserving the Stones and their environment, join the Trustees at The Theatre on Saturday 15 October 11am onwards for a day of talks, chat, information, exhibitions, and questions.

Hear leading historians and archaeologists share their knowledge about the people and environment present before the Rollright Stones were erected. Learn about some of the beliefs and traditions which may have been part of the reasons for the erection of the monuments.



Find out the latest scientific news from the most exciting discovery so far – The Saxon Lady. Hear about the Trust's plans for more investigations at the monument site. Prepare

to be uplifted by the wonder of the Dark Skies above the Rollright Stones.

The Rollright Trust's **Anniversary Exhibition** will be in the Owen Mumford Gallery during October, displaying images and information alongside works of art by local artists inspired by the Rollright Stones – some for sale. The winning

entries to the **Anniversary Summer Children's Art Competition** will be on display. Refreshments will be available for purchase from the bar. Booking essential on 01608 642350 or at [chippingortontheatre.com](http://chippingortontheatre.com).

## Women's Sporting Legacy

*Inspired by the recent sporting triumph of England's women's football and hockey teams, Sports Editor Graham Beacham asked for this month's reports to highlight local sporting opportunities for women players. And below there's a look back to some Chippy women pioneers.*

### Chipping Norton Bowls Club



*Cathy Sparks & Roberta Jarvie, Club Women's Singles finalists*

A busy outdoor season came to an end last weekend with the club competition finals. During the Summer, players enjoyed a number of friendly matches as well as national and county competitions. The men's triples team of Tony Smith, Mick Boobyer and Dave Lattimore made it to the quarter finals of the county competition before being beaten by the eventual winners, Headington. The men's team also reached the semi final of the Oxfordshire

League Cup when unfortunately they were again beaten by Headington.

Although the Club has fewer women than men, the female players took on Witney Mills, Bloxham and Banbury Borough ladies teams, both home and away, and played in mixed matches throughout the summer against neighbouring clubs. In total the Club had more than 30 mixed games on the calendar including the hard fought West Oxfordshire League Games where Chipping Norton finished fourth overall.

Club competitions were well supported. They included men's and women's singles, two wood singles, over 60's singles, the never won singles, drawn open pairs, married pairs, drawn men's pairs, drawn women's pairs and the John Quinn Trophy. Reintroduced this year were the John Benfield Triples and the Barley Hill Fours both of which were very popular. The Club women's singles finalists were Roberta Jarvie and Cathy Sparks. The winner, Cathy Sparks, will now go on to play

in the Oxfordshire round of the Champion of Champions trophy. Men's singles winner Mick Boobyer will play the men's equivalent competition.

The Club is now getting ready to move inside for the Winter. Bowlers will notice some positive changes in the bowling hall as many of the breeze block sections of wall have been insulated and redecorated. New members are always welcome. Visit [www.chippingnortonbowls.co.uk](http://www.chippingnortonbowls.co.uk) for details.

Ann Lattimore

### A busy spell for Hooky Harriers

A gang of Harriers took part in the Cotswold Classic in September – three of whom are pictured here. This 10 miler in Witney is known for its hills, but that didn't faze our hardcore runners, and they were still smiling at the end! A



special well done to Richard, who despite having only recently recovered from Covid, managed a PB on the day. Well done as well to other runners who have been racing, with a special mention to Suzie Field, who was third in her age group at the Mapledurham trail half marathon.

We also had our summer social event – a fun afternoon of games and very tasty food and drink for Harriers and their families, and thank you to Anwen for organising the event.

Races continue, and we're also looking forward to the start of cross-country racing later in the autumn, along with our annual Harriers-only trail half, and hopefully to be joined this year by some other distances, so that members can take part even if they don't feel a full 13.1 miles is for them.

Our Club is always wanting to help other runners, and both Bethan and Anwen are qualified run leaders with England Athletics. Now, Nell has qualified as an England Athletics guide runner, enabling her to run with blind and visually impaired runners. Harriers also organised a club first aid session in September, in response to requests from members, which showed us how to deal with running-related emergencies, including use of the defibrillator.

We are an inclusive club, aiming to offer a warm welcome and support for all runners, regardless of where they are in

## Chipping Norton Baseball Club's women pioneers

Local residents of Chipping Norton are likely to be familiar with the Town's links with Baseball as former Town Mayor and Scout Master, Fred Lewis, introduced the sport to Chippy scouts in the early 1900s and subsequently set up a club in 1920, which went on to become 'unofficial' English Champions in 1926 and 1927!

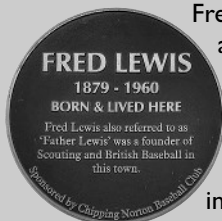
Fred's contribution is commemorated in Chippy by the Green Plaque at his birthplace in Market Street, Lewis Road and the permanent display in The Local History Museum. What is less well known however, is that Chipping Norton Baseball Club also pioneered women's participation in the sport! This photograph from *The Daily Mirror* of September 1920 is the earliest example of Mixed Baseball in the UK. Mixed competitions did not appear in other parts of the country until the late 1920s, when various theatre troupes from London's West End, under the auspices of The Anglo-American Baseball Association, competed in the capital. Women's participation in Baseball in the UK really took off in the 1930s, but it appears that Chipping Norton Baseball Club were the pioneers!

### MIXED BASEBALL IN ENGLAND



Caption: 'A new baseball league has been started at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. It is composed of mixed teams of men and women players, and the latter are becoming particularly proficient. One of them makes a useful stroke.'

Bill Williams



their running journey. If you'd like to know more, drop us an email at [info@hooknortonharriers.org.uk](mailto:info@hooknortonharriers.org.uk) or see our website at [www.hooknortonharriers.org.uk](http://www.hooknortonharriers.org.uk) for further information.

Nell Darby

## Hook Norton Tennis Club



Fun Tennis Tournaments: one on August Bank Holiday Monday was organised by Nick Adams. The winners (pictured) were Peter Morrissey from Brailes and Lizzi Findlay from Chipping Norton. Neil Spokes from Hook Norton won a special booby prize of organic free range eggs.

Another event is planned for mid September.

Winter Floodlit League matches have begun and, within the Club, 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 (coaching dates 5 September–22 October & 31 October–26 November) Contact Faith Heron: 07771 904905 or Steve Bone: 07850 036656 for their coaching dates. New members are welcome – to find out more please contact Kate, the membership secretary [khs.shoes@gmail.com](mailto:khs.shoes@gmail.com) or 01608 642774.

Elaine Priestley

## Blocked Ears?



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# The Willows

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## Pick up a hockey stick!

Were you inspired by watching England win a hockey gold medal at the Commonwealth Games? Are you looking for a new team sport to try or would you like to get back to playing hockey? If so, why not come along to Chipping Norton Leisure Centre on a Sunday morning at 10 am for a game of hockey. It's suitable for women / men / boys / girls (over 11 years). Don't worry if you are a little apprehensive, unsure of the rules or worried that you won't know anyone. You will be guided through the session by an established team member. A hockey stick can be provided but it's advisable to wear sturdy trainers, gum shield and shin pads. We play a match amongst ourselves; it's a great way of developing your sporting skills and fitness whilst having fun.

Contact Sharon on 01608 730546 / 07722 603207 email [sjtuelove@hotmail.com](mailto:sjtuelove@hotmail.com) if you would like further information.

Jill Berry

## Chipping Norton Rugby Club

The new season is under way and we would love to welcome new players across all our age groups, from Under



**Senior Home BBO Rugby Fixtures Sep-Dec 2022**

- 24 Sep – 1st XV v Amersham & Chiltern II
- 15 Oct – 1st XV v Chesham
- 05 Nov – 1st XV v Witney II (Club lunch)
- 26 Nov – 1st XV v Oxford
- 10 Dec – 1st XV v Didcot

All Saturday afternoon fixtures KO either 2:30 Or 3:00pm  
Spectators welcome and free!

Contact: [chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com](mailto:chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com)  
or see our website: <https://chippingnorton.ru.club>

6 to Senior, just come along to the Club on Sunday mornings at 10am to try rugby and to become a member. Our 1st XV has had a slightly disjointed start to their campaign in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon league, with a loss at Oxford Harlequins followed by a postponed home game against Wheatley. There are four home games scheduled between now and December and we'd love to welcome more of you at the Club to cheer the lads on. Spectating is free and the bar is always open with coffee and great food too. The home game against Witney on 5 November will include a club lunch. Don't forget you can hire the clubhouse for your own event. To find out more contact the Club at [chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com](mailto:chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com), check our website, or follow us on facebook, Instagram, twitter and linkedin.

Graeme Williamson

## 4 Shires Swimming Club update

The Autumn term sees our first set of Galas. These are a great way of engaging in the competitive spirit to see how our swimmers' times have improved and are a potential gateway to achieving qualifying times for the County Championships. We also have our Club Champs scheduled for 15 and 16 October.

If you are a keen swimmer and are looking to compete or simply to develop your fitness and swimming skills then please book onto one of our Trial sessions which are held on Saturday mornings at Kingham Hill School. We have six squads – Academy, Pre-Comp, Competition, County, Regional and



# SPORTS NEWS

Masters. Book a trial via website – <http://www.4ssc.co.uk/join-us> or alternatively just email us at [membership@4ssc.co.uk](mailto:membership@4ssc.co.uk)  
Lucy Warner

## Chipping Norton Cricket Club

The 2022 Season has finished – another good one for the Club. The Second XI (pictured) finished runners up in their



division, their second promotion in two years. The First XI have retained their position in Division 3B, for next year. We have a Senior Presentation Night in October. We have a good diversity in the Club, however we currently have no women's team but a couple of female players have played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

### Individual performances for 2022

**Bowling** (5 or more wickets in a single innings): Nathan 5-25, Darren 5-34 and 5-49, Zain 5-45.

**Batting** (50 or more runs in a single innings): Darren 105 not out and 50, Jahangir 103 and 60, Jake 102, Imran 90 and 67, Banaras 84, Danyal 75, Riasat 66 not out, 65 and 57 not out, Sami 60, Ali 60 and 53, Michael 51.

Graham Beacham

**Youth Cricket:** This was the first season for many years with no cancellation of training due to bad weather which left us with some difficult decisions for the Awards Evening. Some of the Award winners are pictured. The Evening was supported



by a very good turnout and also raised funds for the coming year.

### Award Winners

**U8s:** Most Improved Girl – Verity Lewis, Best Girl – Rosa-Grace Stevens, Star Girl – Eliza Longheed-Eldrid, Most Improved Boy – Charlie Wood, Best Boy – Bradley de Bruyn, Star Boy – Jack Tinkham

**U9s:** Star Players – Isaac Brook/Kingsley McGeown, Most Improved – Claudia Gormley/Walter Keenan

**U11s Super 8 Team:** Star Players – Ethan Brook/Tommy Price, Most Improved – Harry & Freddie Bond Jones

**U11s:** Manager's Player of the Year – Sonny McGeown, Bowler of the Year – Jack de Bruyn/Edward Hare, Batsman of the Year – Sam Stafford/Angus Snyman, Most Improved with Bat – Seb Hubbard, Most Improved with Ball – Seb Hunt, Rising Star – Gordy Jones, Most Talented Leader & Clubman – Ned Jackman

**U13s:** Player of the Year – Stan Jackman, Batsman of the Year – Keiran Mulhern, Bowler of the Year – Isaac Kedward, Most Improved Player – Daniel Foy/Ollie Dangerfield,

**U15s:** Player of the Year – Elliot Wiseman, Batsman of the Year – Jacob Kedward, Bowler of the Year – Elodie Brown, Most Improved Player – Finn Jackman,

Overall U7–U11's Trophy – Ned Jackman,

Anthony Powell Young Player of the Year – Stan Jackman.

Thank you to all the coaches, officials, volunteers this year and we look forward to even more help next year with people volunteering for courses etc. Registration Day will be in March 2023. Contact Sue Powell by emailing [bloxhamsue@aol.com](mailto:bloxhamsue@aol.com) if you have any questions.

## Walking Football

After an enjoyable but at times hot season playing outside on the all-weather pitch at Chippy leisure centre, walking football moves back into the sports hall on Monday 3 October. Sessions run from 5 to 6.30pm and are open to players of all abilities aged 50 or over. New players are always welcome on Monday evenings. If you are interested and would like more information, please see our website:- [shilsons.co.uk/cnwf.html](http://shilsons.co.uk/cnwf.html).

Derek Dickinson

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## In Touch With Talent

### Jacob Turner Makes His Mark

**Chipping Norton News spoke to former Chipping Norton School pupil, Jacob Turner, to find out about what he has been up to – notably his Rugby exploits – since leaving school in 2014.**

Jacob started playing rugby during Year 7 at Chippy School. Soon becoming Captain of the school team, playing number 8, Jacob led the team to win the Stowe Cup twice. With his love of rugby firmly established, Jacob joined Chipping Norton Rugby Club. An ambitious player, Jacob then joined Banbury Rugby Club at 14, continuing as number 8. Winning the league for the team's age group every year he was there, Jacob proved he was a talented and dedicated asset to both team and club. Scouted by both Northampton and Wasps Youth Academies, he decided to join Wasps. He moved from Chipping Norton School to Henley College for sixth form, to be closer to the Wasps training ground. At Wasps, Jacob won Clubman of the Year in 2016, praised for his dedication to his team and sport. Staying until he was 18, he captained the team, played at Twickenham stadium against Gloucester and in the finals day at Allianz Park, Saracens' home ground. Playing alongside elite level sportsmen and England internationals, Alfie Barbeary and Jack Willis, Jacob proved himself as a strategic player, with exceptional tactical awareness. After completing Wasps Youth

Academy, Jacob joined Bedford Blues. His success continued, as his team won the Hertfordshire County Cup. During his time there, he was loaned to Bishop's Stortford, where his team were the National League 2 South champions.



Dedicated to his studies as well as his sport, Jacob attended Nottingham Trent University to study Journalism. Of course, he made time for rugby, playing for the University's team. Now a Publicist at award-winning specialist franchise PR and content agency, Rev PR, Jacob lives near Chipping Norton. Making a striking return to Banbury Rugby Club, he was an integral player in a team that secured promotion from a regional league to a national one. Appointed Captain ahead of this year's season, Jacob is set to make his mark

on the aspiring team. Jacob told the *Chippy News*, 'I can't wait for the new season to get underway. We've got some demanding games ahead but our team is full of talented players, and we're ready for the challenge.' Entry to Banbury Rugby Club on match days is free of charge, and Jacob looks forward to lots of fellow Chipping Norton folk being there to cheer him on!

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# CLUB NEWS

## Explorer Scouts camp in the Alps



This August after a year's delay due to Covid, 16 Scouts and Explorer Scouts from Chippy ESU, 6<sup>th</sup> Chipping Norton Scout Group and 1<sup>st</sup> Bartons Scout Group, plus six adults, finally got to Kandersteg an international scout camp site in The Alps near Berne. Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour was the site of the first ever scout camp organised by Baden Powell and after the WWI he wanted an international site that would be open all year

so that scouts from all over the world could get to know each other and hopefully prevent further atrocities like WWI. It is a beautiful site and, as well as meeting international scouts, we hiked up to a mountain hut and slept over. The next morning we invested our two newest Explorers Jacob and Henry (pictured). Certainly, for me it will be the most memorable investiture I have ever done. We also did rafting, zip wires and swam in a beautiful alpine lake and went in a cable car to a summer sled run.

Back in Chippy, we have resumed our weekly meetings and will be soon heading off to camp again – this time closer to home at Youlbury near Oxford for a Hallowe'en camp.

We are a thriving Explorer Unit with over 25 young people boys and girls aged 14–18. We have two Leaders, but are looking for more adults to join the team. You don't need to have any experience of Scouting but just enjoy working with Explorers and be enthusiastic about supporting them with a wide variety of activities. Please contact us if you are interested and have any questions or visit [scouts.org.uk](https://scouts.org.uk) for more information. Email address [chippyesu@gmail.com](mailto:chippyesu@gmail.com).

Jill Elliot

## Chipping Norton Railway Club

At the meeting on 6 September, the speaker was Bill Rogerson, a cancellation from last year. He and his wife travelled from Holyhead to entertain us and enjoy a short break in Chippy. For 51 years Bill was a serving Officer in the British Transport Police, the BTP, one of the oldest forces in the country, with origins in 1825. It was also the first Police Force to recruit women, in 1917. In WWI hundreds of Officers joined the colours, with at least 135 killed in action, women officers were very necessary at this time. The Force now uses a variety of sniffer dogs, including German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and English Springer Spaniels.

Alas... we are still struggling with the membership. Understandable of course in these troubled times. The meetings are now held in the Lower Room of the Town Hall. However, we need to keep steaming on!! The Club is approaching 50 years in March 2024. The meeting on 4 October will see our ever-popular speaker Mike Clemens return with more archive Railway films. So former members... get out of those armchairs and come along to rejoin this most popular Club. You'll receive a warm welcome!

Estelle Brain

## u3a's Town Hall Open Day

Out of respect for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a monarch whose Coronation is remembered by many of our members, Chipping Norton u3a have decided to postpone their Open Day celebrations until Friday 7 October in the Town Hall from 11am–3pm.

We will also have a stall in Chipping Norton Co-op on Tuesday 4 October with photos and information about our different Groups and activities. So, if you've finished working full time, come and find out how you can make new friends, take up new interests and enjoy life with u3a!

The day before the news of the Queen's death, we had a very entertaining talk in the Town Hall, given by Alan Copeland. His photos of the curious structures hidden away in the nearby Cotswold villages were every bit as good as we had hoped. His questions about the stories behind them challenged even some lifelong residents of the area.

Our next Speaker will be Kindra Jones, talking about 1000 Years of Fashion on Wednesday 5 October at 2.30pm in the Town Hall, when members and visitors will be most welcome

Chris Clinch

## Chippy Ramblers on a circuit

The showers forecast for their September walk did not deter the 13 walkers who turned up at 2pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. Two cars left from New Street car park, and we were joined at Great Tew by four more walkers. The thatched buildings were greatly admired; also a stag-headed oak tree acting as a landmark. As we approached the Great Tew boundary, I pointed out that the ha-ha had replaced a tumbledown Cotswold dry-stone wall, as a barrier for the sheep. However four agile sheep had still managed to jump over it!! It was nice

join us for  
Chipping Norton  
u3a openday

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Chipping Norton &  
Area



# CLUB NEWS

to end up at the Falkland Arms and have a rewarding drink. We were pleased to have two newcomers with us who thoroughly enjoyed the walk and the views. New faces are always welcome.

These walks are always on the first Sunday of the month; for more details, contact Heather Leonard on 01608 643691.

Jill Megson

## Secrets of compost with NOOG



What makes a good compost? What are the things to avoid? Home-produced vs bought? All of this is up for discussion at NOOG's next meeting on Wednesday 5 October. After a short AGM, we'll be sharing views on Peat-free Composts – members are invited to bring samples of both commercial and home-

produced composts to compare and contrast.

Looking ahead to November, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Paul Embden, former senior technician in Oxford University's Botany Department, will give an overview of the wildlife to be found in our gardens.

Meetings are held in the Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, starting at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome (members: £1, visitors: £3). For more info about N. Oxon Organic Gardeners, please contact Tracy Lean, [tracylean@gmail.com](mailto:tracylean@gmail.com), 01295 780710, [www.noog.org.uk](http://www.noog.org.uk).

## History Society Meeting

Chipping Norton History Society will be meeting on Monday 10 October at 2pm in the Lower Hall at the Methodist Church, West Street. Local Historian and regular speaker, Liz Woolley will give a talk about *Kingerlee: The story of the Oxfordshire family and building firm*. Visitors welcome £3.

Janis Paxton

## Probus Club of Chipping Norton

Probus members enjoyed a visit to Morgan Cars in Malvern in September, re-arranged a couple of times due to Covid. It was well worth the wait, to see the production of this well known car marque, where there is still a high percentage of hand work completed on the manufacturing line and due to demand there's still a long wait for delivery! We are looking forward to hearing two interesting speakers in the next couple of months. At the October meeting on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup>, Katie Bellamy, niece of the late David Bellamy, will talk about the *Delights of Lost Memory*, which promises to be of great interest to more senior listeners! Then on 15 November Tim Barney will talk on *Defford Airfield and the Story of Airborne Radar*. This should again be a fascinating talk.

Commencing at 11am, our meetings include a speaker and lunch at the Crown & Cushion Hotel in Chipping Norton. Guests are very welcome, please contact our secretary John Roxby on 01993 831743 for more information.

Martin Williams

## CHAOS needs you!

Looking for a society to join? CHAOS needs you! In May next year, Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society will be staging *Me And My Girl* at The Theatre, Chipping Norton, and we are looking for people to join our cast for the production. With classic musical numbers like *The Lambeth Walk* and *The Sun Has Got His Hat On*, it's set to be great fun!

Whether that's in a leading role, or in the chorus, we'd love to have you! First meeting is on Monday 17 October, 7.30pm at Highlands, Burford Road, Chipping Norton. We'll be talking about the show and the rehearsal process, and giving out material for principal auditions too. For further information please contact the Society by emailing [Chippychaos@outlook.com](mailto:Chippychaos@outlook.com) or just turn up on 17 October. We look forward to seeing some new faces very soon!

Ryan Souch

## Yachters' new season at an old haunt

As summer draws to a close and those of us with boats start planning to lay them up for the winter, our consolation is that we have a new season of Chipping Norton Yacht Club events to look forward to. We are happy, after the confusions and constraints of Covid, to be back at our old haunt, The Wychwood Golf Club, for our monthly meetings.

At the time of writing, we look forward to the first talk of the season, in September: *For Years Unseen – How HMS Hood's bell came home*, which will be about the 20-year journey of a ship's bell from a sunken Royal Navy warship,



recovered from her wreck in the Denmark Strait. On 26 October we are hoping to hear shipwright and designer Luke Powell tell us all about Pilot Cutters (pictured), a type of traditional working sailing boat that inspires great loyalty among those who know and sail them.

For our programme, to enquire about membership, or to come along to a talk as a guest, visit [CNYC.co.uk](http://CNYC.co.uk). There's no need to be a boat owner – many of us are not.

Roger Backhaus

## Full circle for Folk Club

New beginnings abound: Ministers, Monarchs and musical locations. Full circle with a return to the Artyard Café in Enstone on 12 September. And full house! The music – all about Queens, Commonwealth (well Australia), Her Majesty's ships and even classical pomp. Far too many participants to mention each but *Ain't it Sad* from Lefty was very apt, as was Kim's rendition of *Streets Of London* – those streets being rather fuller than usual. Cathy hit outgoing PM Boris's nail on the head with her poem and in that vein *The Jolly Swagman* got a mention from Strings Attached. Meanwhile Colin's cheap

# CLUB NEWS

ticket to Sweet Australian Wine kept the Antipodean flavour, although Anabel and her brother Pete, actually visiting from Australia, took us to a hotel in California! A surprise guest appearance from Alex, keeper of folk music in the Canary Islands with two cracking Spanish songs. So, a great night; the queue to play only slightly shorter than the queue for the Portaloos along The Mall. We are sure that our host, Jay, enjoyed it all enough to let us return next month! Visit [chippingnortonfolk.org.uk](http://chippingnortonfolk.org.uk) to sign up for our newsletter.

Dave Perry

## New Horticultural season starts

Chipping Norton Horticultural Association are looking forward to the autumn/winter programme beginning on Wednesday 19 October with a return visit of Tim Walker from Oxford with a talk entitled *Bordering on Insanity: creating an all-year-round border*. We meet in the Methodist Hall at 7.30. Members can still renew their membership (£15 pa) and new members are welcome, just come along to the meeting.



The weather for our September trip to RHS Wisley, started overcast but turned into a glorious, hot summer's day. Members and friends enjoyed a great day out as they toured the extensive grounds which are in perfect condition with a vast collection of trees, shrubs and flowers. A great ending to our summer season.

For details of forthcoming speakers and events plus pictures and updates of past events visit [www.cnha.uk](http://www.cnha.uk) or call the secretary Eileen Forse 01608 643275.

## Amnesty Writes for Rights

On the sad news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen, we wish to pass on our deepest condolences to her family and will remember her with gratitude.

Thanks to all who contributed to our annual Chippy Collection; we collected £195 and enjoyed interacting with people. Last month's meeting was spent planning future events, and hearing about one member's attempt to find out about an American/Eritrean girl, one of our Case Files, who has been 'disappeared' for over 10 years, meeting, however, a wall of silence from both Eritrea and the US. Some of us joined the Banbury Amnesty Group to watch *For Sama*, a Bafta winning documentary about a young couple in Aleppo which highlighted the need for help in Syria in a deeply personal way. Next two meetings at 7.30pm Lower Town Hall 13 October – We will be discussing what actions to take locally to spotlight concerns raised in recent Amnesty reports; 10 November – Our Write for Rights evening. All are welcome. Call Val on 01608 645036 for further information.

Kaye Freeman

## Green Gym and helpers!

The Health Centre now has another raised vegetable bed! We were contacted by Milestone Construction Company who had graduate trainees looking for a project to work on. So four young people turned up with all the necessary materials and very quickly and with no



fuss built another raised bed, this time at the far end of the site, beyond the gooseberries and currants. So next season, look for more veggies there and help yourself. They are intended for everyone. Meanwhile we have been preparing for Apple Day in the Orchard (see next month's news for report and pictures) and have continued to work at the new plantation at Hawkyard Copse, at the top of the Common, and at Fitzalan wood, down by Travis Perkins.

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](http://www.chippygreengym.org) and then contact me at [jennyharrington@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyharrington@btinternet.com), or phone 01608 643269. Everyone welcome! A variety of jobs for all!

Jenny Harrington



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## Chipping Norton School

**Welcoming New Students:** A record number of Year 7 students joined us this year and enjoyed having the whole school to themselves on their first day at CNS. After meeting their new classmates, all students joined in two taster sessions of our excellent programme of extracurricular activities. They were able to try a wide variety of activities including cooking, meditation, origami, art, karate, dance, drama and digital music making. In the afternoon they were challenged to complete a treasure hunt around the school campus to help them feel confident in their new surroundings. The staff at CNS are very impressed with our new students and look forward to getting to know them really well over the next few weeks.

**Welcoming New Staff:** With a growing school comes a growing staff body. With this in mind, Mrs Gascoigne and Mrs Campbell joined our superb Mathematics department, whilst Mr Stella (English) and Mrs Licence (Science) will also add even greater strength to our core teams. Ms Robbins will add to our outstanding Social Science team as the new Head of Psychology, with Mr Ward (Year 8) and Mr Goodson (Year 9) bringing their considerable experience in pastoral care into the lives of our younger students. Meanwhile, Mr Tani is our new network manager and will oversee the completion of ambitious plans that are already well underway.

**Summer Works:** The summer holiday provided an ideal opportunity to refresh, replenish and refurbish the site. Students returned to a school hall, complete with new dining tables, comfortable chairs and a cinema screen. Brand new

computer rooms have been created, alongside the installation of the first batch of digital interactive display panels.

**Sports News:** Due to extreme heat in July, we reluctantly had to postpone our annual Sports Day. We were therefore delighted to hold it on 9 September



when the weather was much more conducive to sporting excellence. In the morning, students competed in a range of field sports including long jump, triple jump, discus and high jump and also in the 400, 800 and 1500 metre races. In the afternoon, all the School went out to the running track to support those taking part in the 100 metre races and relays. The competition was fierce and Evenlode House narrowly beat Glyme House by just 31 points!



**CNPS News:** We look forward to the resumption of our wonderful Extra-time clubs this term. Our students are able to join a whole host of clubs and we are delighted to be able to offer some new clubs this term – Digital Music Production, Meditation, and Ultimate Martial Arts. We are very grateful to all of our talented coaches, both external and our own staff members, and to all the hard work that Mrs Fisher and Mrs Bissett (Community Learning) do to enable us to offer our students such a fantastic choice of clubs.

## Chippy's 'excellent' GCSE results

Headteacher Barry Doherty called 25 August 'a great day for Chipping Norton School' announcing 'exceptional' and 'excellent' GCSE and BTEC results right across the board amongst all students and subjects. Compared to 2019 – the last year of normal exams, the average grade for all students rose by more than half a grade. Headline results saw



*GCSE students pictured on 'a great day' for Chipping Norton School*

close to 40% of GCSE grades in the top 7 to 9 range – compared nationally to 26% (23% in state comprehensives). Close to 80% of students secured five or more GCSEs including both English and Mathematics. Top grades of 7 to 9 were achieved by 51% in English and 34% in Maths where 87% of Maths students gained grade 4 or better. Mr Doherty said it was 'magnificent and inspiring' to see the potential of students realised – noting particularly that progress and attainment of disadvantaged students had leapt up to be in line with all other students nationally – a tribute to working hard every day and inspirational teaching.

Assistant Headteacher for Key Stage 4 Standards, Mrs Yvette Armistead, paid tribute to students' 'energy, humour, team-spirit and willingness to work with us every single day....Whilst it would not be appropriate to list their names, there are several students whose successes have brought tears to staff eyes. Overcoming illness, personal difficulties, or other challenges, often go unnoticed....with tremendous resilience and determination to believe in themselves and their future.' Chair of the Governing Body Greg Ledgard-Hoile congratulated 'our wonderful students, Headteacher Mr Doherty, and his fantastic team at Chipping Norton School, for the truly outstanding GCSE results this year',



which followed record A level results the week before. He said the School, 'continues to outperform an ambitious school improvement and development plan, and has gone from strength to strength over the past seven years', adding, 'Our school enjoys a loyal and dedicated

body of teaching and support staff who always go the extra mile for their students. However, without the commitment and energy of those students, and their incredibly supportive parents and carers, we could not be in the happy position we find ourselves in today.'

# SCHOOLS NEWS

**Open Evening:** We are looking forward to welcoming Year 5 and Year 6 families to join us at our Open Evening on Thursday 6 October. We hope to have as many students as possible in school, acting as guides, or demonstrating their work in Design & Technology, Computing, Art, Drama, Dance and Music. Whilst the School certainly looks impressive it is the students, our greatest asset, that families want to see as they picture how their child might turn out as CNS.

## Holy Trinity Primary

**Welcome:** September was a busy but fantastic first month back after summer. All the teachers have enjoyed getting to know their new classes, including several new children throughout the School. A particular welcome to our reception class, who have settled brilliantly into their new school routines – enjoying nature walks, painting self-



portraits, learning about their class saint, St Francis and playing lots of games. We have also welcomed new members of staff – already an asset to the HT team.

**Celebrating excellent results:** the first formal assessments since pre-covid saw 89% of Year 1 children pass phonics screening, improving on previously recorded data. Y6 SATs results were outstanding, reflecting amazing efforts by students and teachers. These included Reading where 93% achieved expected levels (74% nationally), Writing 87% (69%), Maths 97% (71%), Spelling, etc 90% (72%), Combined 83% (59%).

**Congratulations:** Freddie Hergt (year 6) has made the School proud, representing Great Britain in the Lawn Bowls U21s team. A fantastic achievement. Year 6 have spent two days developing their knowledge and confidence in cycling safely on our roads. The School has also proudly achieved the national Sports Mark award for dedication to sport and active education.



**KiVa and Kindness:** the School is implementing a Finnish antibullying programme called KiVa which stands for 'against bullying' and has been shown to reduce bullying and improve wellbeing. The children have enjoyed the first lessons – all based around understanding respect in relationships, the consequences of bullying and learning ways to resist or prevent bullying. September was also a Month of Kindness building it into our daily interactions, everyone reflecting how to make it at the centre of all exchanges. Many children have been performing small and big acts of kindness.

**Music & Art:** Private Music Lessons are back after having no external teachers for two years – with new lessons such as piano, guitar and drums and a huge uptake from enthusiastic learners. The year has started with a focus on some famous artists, and children have been honing their artistic talents in learning about the artists and imitating their styles.

## St Mary's Primary

**Honouring her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth:** It was with great sadness that our school community learned of the death of our Queen on 8 September. The children were in a sombre mood as they entered school, with so many not quite knowing what to do with their feelings and for all there was an overriding sense of loss. As a school we came together in our Collective Worship session to remember our Queen and to appreciate with gratitude the magnificent job that she did in uniting the country and serving her people. We shared poems, thoughts and reflections and prayers provided by the Diocese and Church of England. The session ended with a smile for each of us as we shared the wonderful moment when our Queen and Paddington Bear shared marmalade sandwiches! Throughout the day the children were allowed to express their thoughts through artwork (such as the portrait above), writing, poems and cards and talked of being grateful for having shared her Platinum Jubilee. Thank you for everything Queen Elizabeth, we owe you so much.



**New Reception class:** We have been delighted to welcome lots of new children into Apple Class (our Reception class).



They have had a brilliant first week and have settled in amazingly quickly. We have already discovered that they are keen to read and write and are budding Mathematicians, as well as loving the garden area and getting creative with playdough. We look forward to an exciting year and sharing some of their activities with you.



**Key Stage One RE:** This term in RE we are exploring the question 'Who is special?' Yesterday, we had a Baptism in our class. The children took the roles of Vicar, Parents and Godparents. This was a great opportunity for the children to understand the meaning of Baptism in the Church.



## ACE Centre



Exciting times at The ACE Centre as we welcome our new children, their families and our returning children. We also welcome some new members of staff, including our new Head Teacher, Lynn Jenkins.

The academic year got off to a positive start with an inspiring staff development day focusing on our ACE vision and values.

Staff shared ideas and expertise on how we offer an engaging and stimulating environment for our young learners to develop to their full potential.

On visit day we welcomed our new children and their families to Pre-School and Nursery School and began the journey of getting to know each other – an important principle at ACE. We all learned lots and the children enjoyed exploring both inside and outside – the only tears came when it was time to leave, but our youngest learners will be back very soon for more fun and lots of learning.

Our returning children who started Nursery School and Pre-School last academic year now become our big boys and girls! We were thrilled to see them all again after a long summer break and were delighted with how well they settled back into the old routine and are already beginning to help show the way to our new children.

We welcome parents and carers to visit our wonderful setting to discover all that we have to offer – there are hidden surprises, with an expansive one-acre nursery school outdoor learning environment at the back! Please get in touch with Alison (centre administrator) on 01608 644440 or [office@cnacecentre.co.uk](mailto:office@cnacecentre.co.uk) to arrange a visit.

ACE Childcare: under 3 years old

ACE Pre-School: 2–3 years

ACE Nursery School: 3–4 years old

## Chadlington Primary

We are celebrating sterling SATs results from the Year 6s in July. The results were significantly above the national average. Reading = 94% (national average = 63%); Writing = 81% (average = 69%); Maths = 81% (average = 71%); Grammar = 94% (average = 72%). A huge well done to the pupils and teaching community, an achievement all the more exceptional given the significant teaching and learning challenges caused by Covid.

The new topic for the Autumn term will see children taking a deep dive into the past. KS1 children can look forward to an immersion in Victorian times, whilst KS2 will focus on The Romans. We look forward to sharing news of the school trips that help enrich the learning experience.

This year we've said goodbye to two Governing Board members and we are now looking for new community members to join us. In particular we are interested to hear from anyone with legal expertise and we have a local authority post to fill. Please email Chair of Governors Siobhann Mansel-Pleydell at [smansel-pleydell@chadsch.org](mailto:smansel-pleydell@chadsch.org).

In the Autumn term, we will also be planting a tree in the front garden in memory of the late Chris King, Chipping Norton resident and much loved Chair of Governors who died suddenly last Autumn. All who knew Chris are welcome to visit the tree.

## Great Rollright Primary

Now it's October, we know many parents of 3 and 4-year-olds are starting to think about choosing a primary school. Please visit our website (<https://great-rollright.oxon.sch.uk/>) to watch a new short video giving a flavour of what we offer here at our small, nurturing school. But an even better introduction is to visit during a normal school day – so please get in touch to book.

Meanwhile this year's group of new Reception children are settling in well. A typical day in Reception has a balance of about half adult-led activities and half self-chosen, play-based learning. Mrs Grundy, one of the most experienced and respected Reception teachers in the county, has carefully designed our indoor and outdoor learning areas so that there are



dozens of interesting challenges and opportunities to develop skills across the curriculum, from maths and literacy to physical and social development. Much of the day in Reception is spent outside, in our partially covered outdoor learning area, or our own new Forest School site next to the school.

Please call us on 01608 737202 to book your tour and learn more – including about our free bus to Chipping Norton. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Bledington Primary

We were delighted to learn that we are the only school in the area to have been awarded a Bronze Linguamarque award – a national award recognising excellence in the teaching and learning of modern languages in Primary schools.



At Bledington, all children have an hour's French lesson every week and enjoy a range of language-inspired activities throughout the year. This year, we will be celebrating the European Day of Languages, performing French songs,

finding out about French-speaking countries and visiting our in-house French café (pictured), where pupils are encouraged to communicate only in French. Our next goal is to reach Silver status, so we are planning plenty more language fun for this year. Congratulations to all our pupils and to Mme Ziebeck who provides a rich, fun and varied language curriculum throughout the year.

After-school clubs are back with a wide variety to choose from, ranging from Sports skills to Gardening and Construction to Art club, there is something for everyone to try.

Our Open morning this year will be Tuesday 11 October from 9.30 until 11.45am. Please call the office to arrange a time to visit.

# LETTERS

## Glyme Hall – response to Gordon Brown

In his letter in September's Chipping Norton News (*Use of Glyme Hall*) Gordon Brown states that 'the charity running Glyme Hall should be ashamed'. To put the record straight the Hall is self-funded and run by a group of volunteer trustees who employ a part time Manager and has nothing to be ashamed of. He goes on to say that when he approached



Glyme Hall to use the facility to provide services for young people he was turned away apparently after receiving a reply indicating that the Trustees said that the young people would not be welcome. I'm not sure when he made the approach. After checking with the current Manager who has been in post for three years she has not been approached by Gordon Brown. I have been Chair of Trustees for a lot longer than three years and I cannot recall any previous administrators employed by the Trustees mentioning that they had been approached by Gordon Brown.

In his letter, he also suggests that Glyme Hall is failing to provide services for the wider community, something with which I must take issue. We have classes and events that include old people's clubs, mothers and toddlers' groups, ballet and yoga classes with a wide age range of members, crafting courses and meditation workshops to name some of the activities taking place. The Hall is also regularly hired for children's birthday parties, business meetings and wedding receptions; a children's street dance class is due to start in September. There is a youth club (Remix) that is open to young people in school years 7 to 9 (age range 11 to 14 year-olds). This is run by a qualified youth worker and has been in operation for the last six years. Prior to this there was also a youth group put in place when Glyme Hall was opened. Currently the Trustees are having preliminary

discussions with another organisation wishing to hire the Hall to provide services for young people. Finally, one of the reasons the Hall has been closed for a time recently is that we have had the main hall totally redecorated and the floor sanded and revarnished as part of a programme to maintain the Hall in good order as per our lease agreement with Oxfordshire County Council.

**Don Davidson** – Chair of Trustees

## Support for 20 mph proposals

As a resident on New Street and a reader of the *Chippy News* I felt compelled to write to share why a 20mph speed limit is essential and should be extended. Having lived here for many years it's fair to say I've seen an increase in traffic 'flying' up and down New Street – equally the speed of vehicles varies greatly! A recent traffic survey confirmed that 5 million vehicles a year go up and down New Street and 60% of these are actually speeding! On New Street we've got a speed sign that I assist with maintaining and operating.



The watches on the speed sign often reveals vehicles breaking the 20mph limit. Mostly, these are over 25mph and there are those which exceed 30mph. These speeds have a profound effect on the safety of pedestrians and residents of New Street. This year there have been accidents and incidents on New Street and blasting of horns at the top of New Street as cars are trying to pull out of West Street. The speed limit of 20mph does make a noticeable difference to safety and quality of life. Slower vehicles allow for enhanced response times by drivers to accommodate pedestrians crossing (with children and dogs – given the recreation ground at the lower end of New Street) and also reduce traffic noise and vibrations within the houses on and near New Street – most of which are old and don't have foundations. So what is the answer... closing the roads to vehicles through the Town or prohibiting HGVs through the town centre? – radical huh! But won't ever be achieved. Therefore, the smaller steps of the 20mph zone being increased with proactive enforcement is the only logical and reasonably practicable solution. The Town Council need to really step up their efforts to make this happen!

**Dan Pitcher** – New Street resident

## 20 mph – balance needed please!

I have always admired the *Chipping Norton News* as an impartial reporter of news and views in the Town. However, the September issue shows a marked bias over the 20mph scheme. By all means put the facts out for people to consider before they take part in the consultation (which I've already completed). You talk of Witney taking the lead – in doing so, the Liberal/Labour/Green coalition rode roughshod over the outcome of the consultation. You state that slower moving traffic doesn't increase pollution – despite campaigning for years that slow-moving traffic through Horsefair breached air pollution limits. May I suggest that you can't have it both ways. Chipping Norton is a rural market town, not a suburb of Islington – long may it remain so!

**Graham White**

*(The News does try to remain impartial in news articles. Readers' letters with all opinions are welcome. The Editorial Team did feel*



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# LETTERS

last month that we should publicise the Town Council's proposal and survey and added a box feature pointing to different arguments – including quoting MP Robert Courts' criticism of the Witney consultation and decision. Regarding HGVs in Horsefair, we understand that the WODC air quality report attributed high levels of air pollution to the volume of traffic passing down the narrow confined space, not necessarily from its low speed. Ed)

## Remembrance Day plans

The Chipping Norton Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding its Annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service on Sunday 13 November. The Service in St Mary's Church will start at 10.45am. Anyone requiring a Wreath please contact Carol Peachey on 07785 770812. On Thursday 11 November we will be holding a Two Minutes Silence at the Town War Memorial in London Road at 11am. Anyone wishing to take part please be at the War Memorial by 10.50am.

**Mike Dixon** – Secretary, RBL CN Branch

## Damage at cemetery grave

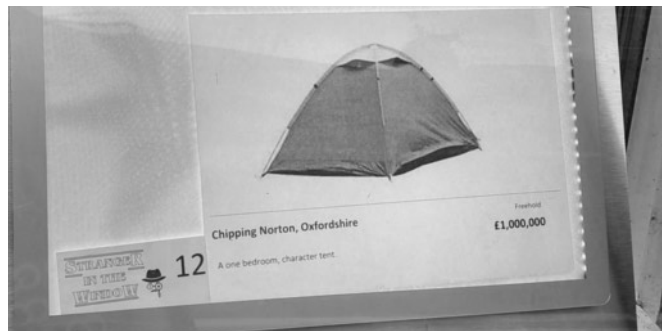
After John Grantham died, we held a family get together to remember him and fun times we all had with him. Some family members brought flowers for my wife as a thank you. Because we were shortly going on holiday, we decided to take them up to the cemetery. I put them in a stainless steel pot and clearly labelled it as in memory of John Grantham and my sister Marilyn. Within days the label had been ripped off. I have left a lot of flowers for Marilyn over the years without any problems. A couple of weeks later the pot was removed and used elsewhere. I cannot imagine what sort of person would rip personal labels off flower pots privately purchased and

dedicated to loved ones nor can I understand how anyone wishing to leave flowers for their loved ones can go to the cemetery without taking the trouble to purchase their own vase and then simply take a pot belonging to someone else. I am hoping that the person who did this will read this letter and think about what they have done and not do it again.

**Clive Hill**

## PTA's 'Stranger in the Window' quiz

Chipping Norton School PTA would like to thank all the super-sleuths and the 53 local businesses that took part in our 'Stranger in the Window' competition over the summer holiday. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did. We've



*This million pound tent was definitely a 'Stranger' in a Town estate agent's window!*

had lots of positive feedback, and lovely stories of families walking around the Town following the trail together. We hope next year to repeat the success. This year's winners are Ronnie, Stan and Charlie Wheeler: congratulations! The PTA are trying to raise £20,000 for new outdoor spaces. If you would like to support our school further, you can make a regular or one-off donation by going to our online portal at this address [chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk/parents-association/pta-donation/](http://chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk/parents-association/pta-donation/). Thank you again to all the shops and businesses, without whose support this would not have been possible.

**Teresa Casey-Palmer** – on behalf of CNS PTA

## Illegal parking at New St crossing

With reference to the letter from Pete Godfrey (*Illegal Parking – so what?*) in September's News, we too have encountered the ignorant parking by able bodied people in Chipping Norton. We were, however, delighted the other day, when returning from town and needing to cross New Street at the refuge referred to by Mr Godfrey, to find that there was a car parked, blocking the exit from the road. But, there was a parking warden looking at it. When he saw my husband, on his mobility scooter attempting to cross, he rubbed his hands in glee and took several photographs as 'evidence'. I have to defend the people parking though as, if there are vehicles parked up to the refuge both above and below it, it is not necessarily obviously a place marked out for pedestrians, though a space opposite a mid-street refuge should be recognised as such. I wonder if it is possible for our Traffic Advisory Committee to press the County Highways Authority to put yellow lines just around that reserved area. That way it should be indisputably a no parking area.

**Peta Simmons**

*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.*



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# LETTERS



## Tony's ninetieth birthday celebrations

Congratulations to Mr Tony Carter, of 1a Hailey Road!

Tony celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with wife Jean, daughter Nikki and grand daughters Ashleigh and Josie, and close friends on 21 August.

**Nikki Grant**

## Thanks for help after fall

On 30 August, I fell outside the Old Post Office in West St, knocking myself out and collecting a number of cuts. I would like to thank the gentleman and his daughter who stopped to pick me up and also the kind gentleman who came from the bus stop and called an ambulance and stopped with me until it came. I know no names but it's nice to know there are still some kind, thoughtful people about.

**Christine Whetren**

## Pool Meadow improvements

I'm very pleased to read in last month's issue about the new attempts to restore Pool Meadow. I worked with others on a project for Pool Meadow in the late 70's to restore the original lower pond, but many people rejected the idea due to concerns for children's safety so it was shelved, and this was back when health and safety wasn't as big an issue. But I hope now they can push the project forward this time around. I see so many great ideas getting such lack of support and it's such a shame.

**Leon Moody**

## Accident at top of New Street

**Editor's note:** September's letters page included thanks for help given to two pedestrians after an accident on 10 August involving them and a car at the junction of New Street and West Street. Following a question from a reader we would like to make it clear that there was no intention to apportion any blame for the accident – and the News understands that police were investigating.

## Grants for sports clubs

Chipping Norton & District Volunteer Fire Brigade Fund Charity are inviting applications for small or moderate grants to Sports Clubs and Organisations in Chipping Norton and surrounding area in accordance with the Charity's scheme. Preference will be given to Clubs most needing financial help. Please include a copy of Annual accounts. Applications by email to Martin Jarratt (Chairman) by 30 November 2022 to [martjar@hotmail.com](mailto:martjar@hotmail.com).

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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The editorial team welcomes articles & letters (names supplied please), but reserves the right to edit or cut depending on space available. While taking every care to check accuracy we cannot take responsibility for errors which might occur. Opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team. The News does not endorse or accept liability for any products or services provided by advertisers. The News is published monthly (except January & August) by the Chipping Norton News Club which is voluntary and non profit-making.

## November deadline: Friday 14 Oct

Final copy should be sent to Chipping Norton News, c/o Hill Lawn House, 22 New Street, Chipping Norton, OX7 5LJ tel 01608 643219. Items should preferably be typed or sent via email to [chippymail@aol.com](mailto:chippymail@aol.com)

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## Remembering those who served

**On the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, many recalled her support for our armed forces and their families and her own service during World War II. In August, Chipping Norton British Legion marked a tragic wartime air collision over the Town – with some of the families of those lost.**

Many Chippy people will have noticed the plaque in Church Street commemorating eight young airmen killed in a mid-air collision over our town on 21 August 1942. This tragic accident was commemorated recently on its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary by the Royal British Legion, joined by family members of pilots Ian Henderson and Stanley Downs. The Legion also wanted to remember Commando Cyril Ernest Barrett, previously a painter and decorator from Middle Row, who died two days before the collision.



In wartime blackout with no radar, an Airspeed Oxford Mark II trainer from Little Rissington collided with a Vickers Wellington Mark IC Bomber (probably painted black on its underside to avoid detection) from Harwell. The Wellington lost its right wing and engine, caught fire and skimmed rooftops before crashing into what is now Heather Cottage in Church Street. Chippy Fire Brigade and neighbouring airfield crews extinguished the fire with chemical foam – not helped by exploding ammunition from the plane. The Oxford came down near Over Norton. Sadly, there were no survivors from either plane but, miraculously, there were no civilian casualties.

*Taken from Legion Chair Steve Kingsford's summer newsletter. He thanks everyone who attended this moving event or donated to the Poppy Appeal.*



*The family of Stanley Downs at the War Memorial*

On Sunday 21 August 2022 the British Legion raised the RAF Ensign on the Town's flagpole before proceeding to the Town War Memorial. Oxfordshire's Deputy Lieutenant and members of the RAF, ATC, Town Council and British Legion listened to details of the crash and the names of those who died. They also heard the poem 'High Flight'

written by a Canadian pilot (who was a casualty of another mid-air collision) and the story of Cyril Barrett. Wreath-laying at the Memorial and in Church Street followed the last post and reveille. The family of Ian Henderson (pictured) then attended a further commemoration at Little Rissington churchyard where he is buried.



## DIARY

### October (News out WEDNESDAY 28 September)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Autumn Ball Beekind** 6.30pm Town Hall - see p12
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Ramblers** meet 2pm New St car park - see p27
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4 Methodist Church
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p27
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Coffee Morning** for Chippy Larder  
Christmas Gifts 9.30-11.30am in the Hall
- u3a** 2.30pm Town Hall - details p27
- Town Council: Full Council meeting** 6.30pm Town Hall see p8
- An Evening with Prue Leith** - ChipLitFest Event 7.30pm The Theatre - see p21
- NOOG** 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p28
- 7<sup>th</sup> **u3a** Open Day 11am-3pm Town Hall - details p27
- 10<sup>th</sup> **History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - details p28
- Folk Club** 7.30 - see p28
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Brian Bilston** - Social Media Poet - ChipLitFest Event 7.30pm The Theatre - see p21
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Arts Society Cotswolds** - lecture 11am - see p22
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Amnesty** - 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p29
- 14<sup>th</sup> **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35

- 15<sup>th</sup> **Community Wild Flower Planting** 9.30am-noon see p4
- Methodist Autumn Sale** 10.30-noon - see p10
- Rollright Trust 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event** at The Theatre - details p22
- 17<sup>th</sup> **CHAOS** first rehearsal - 7.30pm Highlands - details p28
- West Ox WI** 7.30pm Parish Rooms Thea Rogers - seated Zumba - details 01608 646228
- 18<sup>th</sup> **CN Probus** 11am Crown & Cushion - details p28
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Horticultural Assoc** 7.30pm Methodist Hall - see p29
- 20<sup>th</sup> **Manni & Reuben Coe** - ChipLitFest Event 7.30pm The Theatre - see p21
- 21<sup>st</sup> **The Chequers' Jam Session** 8pm - see p10
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Nicola Menage talk** 7.30pm The Library - see p16
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Origami Workshop** 2-3pm The Library - see p16

### November (News out Monday 31 October)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall Tony Condor - Canals and the Railway
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **NOOG** 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p28
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Hook Norton Craft Fair** 10am-5pm - see p11
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Ramblers** meet 1.30pm New St car park (note time) p27
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4 Methodist Church