

Ready for winter

Chippy prepares for health, energy & cost of living challenges

Like the rest of the UK, Chipping Norton braces itself for tough winter months. But let's not face it all alone. This month, the News points to local advice and support.

Keep healthy – Covid & Flu jabs are available in Town; the NHS wants over 40s to get free health checks; local busy GPs and Health services are striving to help.

Keep warm – Find out about Chipping Norton's 'warm spaces', such as the Leisure Centre, Library and Methodist Church, where you can go for free to work, chat or play.

Keep on top of costs – Check out energy cost saving advice, and the help from Chippy Larder, Food Bank, Citizens Advice and many local organisations.

Our County, District and Chipping Norton Town Councils are working with local groups to help. More on all this inside including our two-page Cost of Living feature: pages 16–17.

Questions for WODC!

West Oxfordshire's Leaders hold their next Cabinet meeting at 2pm on 16 November in Chippy Town Hall. Why not book a 3-minute slot to tell them what you think? See Page 2.

In this month's News

Christmas in Chippy is back on 11 December ~
Spotlight on Lawrence Home Nursing Team ~
Town Council survey supports 20 mph scheme ~
National Road Safety Week ~ Diddly Squat saga: next episode ~
New Rustic Bean café ~
107 Chippy crimes reported in one month

Plus 50 Local News stories and Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools & Letters

Chippy gets together

Thanksgiving dinner

The Town Hall saw our Ukrainian guests cooking for 100 to thank everyone for their support & kindness.

Colour feature p17.



Bumper Apple Day

There were apples galore, with dancing, singing, crafting & juicing at the Community Orchard.

See back page.

u3a shows the way

A Town Hall Open Day showcased how you can meet others to enjoy everything from languages to leisure. More in Clubs p27.





WODC Cabinet coming to Chippy

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL Have you ever wanted to give West Oxfordshire District Council a piece of your mind or urge them into action? Now's your chance – at **2pm on Wednesday 16 November come to the Lower Town Hall.** The ruling WODC Cabinet (pictured) are holding



their November meeting here in Chippy – in public. Their formal agenda is published in advance, but any local resident can request a three-minute speaking slot to ask about issues that affect the District. See www.westoxon.gov.uk. Here are some example items for which WODC is responsible which we could quiz them about:

- **Zero carbon East Chippy plan** – WODC colluded with landowner OCC to allocate 1200 homes in the 2018 Local Plan. There's still no Masterplan, no commitment to Zero Carbon by OCC, and no 5 year housing supply. Exactly how are WODC working proactively with OCC's Leader and Cabinet to sort this?
- **Getting HGVs off the A44** – WODC declared illegal pollution and an AQMA in Chippy in 2008. They were meant to ensure action. Depriming the A44 was the then solution. It hasn't happened. Are WODC still monitoring pollution (the Black Box was removed 5 years ago) and how are they lobbying OCC to act?
- **£££ for Town infrastructure** – WODC's official list of Chippy's 'infrastructure' needs is over five years out of date, unfunded, and ignores 1200 extra East Chippy homes. WODC are now consulting on 'what we want' (see right) – but how do they propose to fund it adequately, including with any proper long-shelved plans for any Community Infrastructure Levy?
- **Public sports pitch provision** – This is a disgrace, with nothing in the Local Plan to require sports pitches for the 1200 new homes or make up the existing shortfall, and failure by WODC to meet their own Open Space policy. What's the response?
- **No affordable housing** – How much new social rented housing for young Chippy working people has WODC supported in the last 10 years? What is planned for the next three years, given the huge delay at East Chipping Norton?
- **Lack of Town parking** – WODC's last parking study for Chippy was 2016 – concluding that more than 100 new town centre parking spaces were needed. What action are they planning?
- **A welcome for visitors** – WODC long ago closed our tourist centre and one stop shop. Our visitor signposting is years out of date or absent, and our street name signs need major refurbishment. WODC know all this. What plans for action are there?

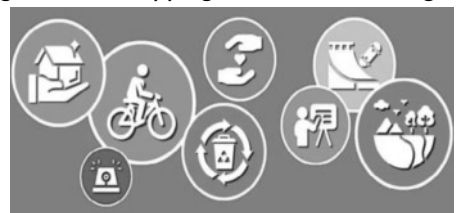
- **Chippy's aging Leisure Centre** – This was a welcome facility over 20 years ago but when are WODC going to invest in upgrade, maintenance (those leaks!) or even replacement?

Important: To speak, you must book a slot in advance via democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk, with your name and topic, by 2pm on Friday 11 November. The relevant Cabinet Member will either respond verbally or write a note for the minutes.

Chippy's 'infrastructure' needs?

What infrastructure does Chippy needs to support existing and future residents. WODC has launched a consultation about this – and it's important that our local knowledge helps WODC prioritise their 'shopping list' when negotiating financial contributions from new development. This will be key in the upcoming East Chipping Norton Strategic Development Area (1000+ homes).

Recent schemes funded by developers include the 80 affordable homes at Willow Gardens,



Evans Way playground, improvements to Over Norton play area and money towards creative educational space for The Theatre. Future projects will include a new primary school as part of the Easy Chippy development, doubling the frequency of the S3 bus service to Oxford and a changing places WC at the Leisure Centre. But what else is needed? More town centre parking? Road and traffic improvements? More sports facilities? Improvements to the library? More health facilities? Affordable housing? A bus link to Kingham station? This is your chance to say.

To make consultation more accessible, WODC has devised a website with interactive tools that are simple and fun to use. They explain what 'infrastructure' is, what 'developer contributions' are, ask us to say what is needed in our area and even to play an 'allocation game' to set priorities. The full draft consultation document is available online for those interested. Why not have a go yourself – find it at communityinfrastructure.commonplace.is. But be quick! The consultation closes on 14 November!

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Wildflower working party!



Enthusiastic volunteers joined in the wildflower project

Well done to the Town Councillors and all the other volunteers, including a couple of professional gardeners and a busload of enthusiastic students from Kingham Hill School, who turned out at Chipping Norton Cemetery on 15 October to help both tidy the cemetery but also make progress with a wildflower area project. The ground was cleared and sown with yellow rattle which is used to weaken the stranglehold of grass and encourage the growth of wildflowers and greater biodiversity. Over 30 volunteers helped out and enjoyed the usual delicious refreshments from Peta Simmons.

Christmas lights

Chipping Norton's much-loved little Christmas trees and lights will be up again around town – together with a newly refreshed array of lights being commissioned by the Town Council for the Market Square, plus hopefully a new larger Christmas tree by the Town Hall steps. Volunteers are needed to help with the little trees and lights on 27 November from 9am – see Letters page 34.

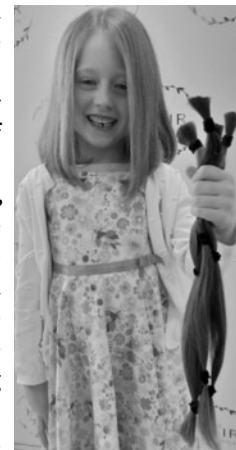
Legion's Remembrance plans

The British Legion, Chipping Norton Branch, will be marking Remembrance in early November. **Saturday 5 November** will see singer Vintage Ruby on the steps of the Town Hall (inside if wet), from 11.30am to 1pm with a 40s-style tea room inside the Town Hall and fundraising for the Poppy Appeal with poppies, poppy pins, crosses, wreaths, and more available. On **Friday 11 November** the Armistice Day

service at the town War Memorial starts at 10.45am – marking the 80th Anniversary of the 2nd Battle of El Alamein which ended on 11 November 1942 and remembering some of the Chipping Norton men who fought there. On **Sunday 13 November**, the Remembrance Sunday parade leaves Sainsbury's about 10.30am, then the Service in St Mary's Church will include tributes to the three men from the Town who died in 1942.

Martha's big hair day

Chipping Norton's six-year-old Martha had never had her red hair cut. People would often stop her in the street or in the supermarket to comment on her beautiful hair and she is very proud of how long it had grown. Having been reluctant to cut it for such a long time, Martha recently learnt about the Little Princess Trust and how she could help someone else by donating her hair to a child who is poorly (see www.littleprincesses.org.uk). So the date was set and there was no looking back, as Martha counted down the days to her first ever haircut! On 22 October and with a mixture of nerves and excitement we headed to Hair by Louise in Willow Gardens for the big chop and Martha is over the moon with her new look! Our thanks to stylist Louise Siford who donated the haircut. Martha has also set up a JustGiving page for this fantastic charity and has so far raised over £500, smashing her target of £100. For more information and to donate please visit justgiving.com/fundraising/marthasbigchop.



Martha and Amy

Progress on High St cinema

Construction and conversion work is progressing in Chipping Norton at the old Harpers department store site at 29–30 High Street. The development includes two boutique cinema screens, eight residential apartments, five serviced short-term let apartment suites, and 14 car park spaces. Earlier target dates for completion, and any cinema opening, have slipped.

Christmas in Chippy Sunday 11 December



Christmas in Chippy is back for 2022 bringing festive cheer to the town centre from 12.30pm to 5.30pm.

Featuring our wonderful Christmas Market selling local arts, crafts and foodie gifts, the street food market, plus live music, fun fair rides, a life-sized snow globe and much more.

We have a few spaces left in our market, if you'd like to have a stall or if you're a food trader please email markets.cic@gmail.com. We're also on the lookout for volunteers to help throughout the day, please email Christmasinchippy@gmail.com if you can spare a few hours.

Follow @Christmasinchippy on Facebook or Instagram for lots more information, announcements and updates. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Christmas in Chippy Team



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Alex Giacchetti, one of the scheme's backers, told the News that 'unfortunately we are not going to be able to make our Christmas target date for the cinema but are delighted to be progressing well with the holiday apartments. We are aiming to be fully open by the end of February.' Specific plans for any cinema operation have not been announced. Alex has promised the News a site visit when things are closer to completion.

MP returns to backbenches



Robert Courts pictured in Witney

Robert Courts, MP for Witney, including Chipping Norton, returned to the backbenches after Liz Truss took over as Prime Minister. Mr Courts was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Transport, with responsibility for aviation and maritime, in September 2020. After losing his current position he tweeted, 'I am sad to be leaving Government and the honour of representing our country's truly world-leading aviation and maritime sectors.'

In his leaving letter to the then Prime Minister, he mentioned tough challenges in office, including 'the almost total shutdown of parts of the sectors to protect the public' during the pandemic and 'avoiding significant airport disruption over the recent summer against a challenging global backdrop'. He rounded off saying, 'West Oxfordshire has always been my primary focus and I look forward to continuing to represent the wonderful people among whom I live, with undimmed energy, from the backbenches.' Before this recent ministerial post, Mr Courts had previously served as a PPS in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2018, a post from which he resigned so he could rebel against Theresa May's proposed 'Chequers' Brexit plan. The ministerial re-shuffle plans of the new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak are awaited at time of writing.

Grants for local businesses

Do you run a Chipping Norton business in retail, tourism, arts, culture, or heritage sectors that supports tourism? If so, you could be eligible for a grant of between £5,000 and £24,999. OxLEP (our Local Enterprise Partnership) secured Government funding for the Business Visitor Economy Grant Scheme to support re-emergence from Covid. Find out more from oxlepbusiness.co.uk/business-support But you'd better be quick, as applications must be received before 5 November. OxLEP is also inviting small and medium-sized enterprises to bid for grants of between £5,000 and £50,000. Their Go-Create Grants aim to help SMEs implement innovation projects bringing economic benefit to Oxfordshire, for example product or service development, technological and applied research, early product validation, supporting advance manufacturing capability and first production. Previous successful bidders include EcoSync, who developed a dynamic energy management system helping businesses save 50%

energy costs during the heating season, or Reward4Waste, a re-use and recycling platform that educates and incentivises people to recycle better with redeemable rewards. See www.oxlepbusiness.co.uk for guidance on submitting bids for the next round, which closes on 18 November.

Progress at The Branch

Look out for action starting by the end of November or early December on the project at 16 Market Place, 'The Branch', in Chipping Norton. Hoardings will be going up for safety throughout the build. The Branch's Emma Kennedy told the News 'we recognise that this will cause some disruption to the Town, particularly to neighbours and market traders. We apologise for this, and hope to be able to keep disruption to a minimum. Once hoardings are up, we will use this space to tell the story of The Branch, keep you informed of progress, and provide details of who to contact with questions or concerns. Thank you for bearing with us, we really hope that you look forward to late 2023 when we will be able to welcome you through the door!'

National Road Safety Week

Local communities, including Chipping Norton, are invited to take part in this year's National Road Safety Week, from 14 to 20 November. Run by BRAKE, the



road safety charity, the campaign gets schools and communities to support our right to make safe and healthy journeys every day. The theme this year is **SAFE ROADS FOR ALL** and fits Government initiatives including safe roads, safe vehicles and speeds, the new hierarchy of road users, and inclusivity to keep us all safe, no matter who we are, or how we travel. Anyone can join in – see brake.org.uk/road-safety-week/take-part. Ask your school or employer. Chipping Norton Town Council is pursuing a range of road safety issues for the Town – from 20mph limits, safe cycling and walking routes, to road junction and crossing improvements. Councillor Mark Walker said they are planning to engage with schools and other parts of the community – one focus will be on results of the 20mph survey (see article p5) and canvassing opinion on potential safe crossing routes. Watch out on their website for progress on safety and for involvement in Road Safety Week.

Katharine House fundraising

There are some great fundraising opportunities over the festive season for our local hospice. An 'Elfy' way to kick off is to join the **Santa Fun Run** on Sunday 4 December – 1.5km or 5km in Banbury. Tickets via the website. Join the **Present Wrapping Crew** volunteering on 9/10 December at Banbury Castle Quay. The annual **Lights of Love** event is on Thursday 8 December at St Mary's Church, Banbury, to remember the lives of those we have loved and lost. The **Christmas Tractor Run** is back, thanks to RC Baker, on Saturday 17 December. See website for details and route. Get your Christmas tree recycled by Katharine House and donate to them. Finally, why not become a **Village Champion** to

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spread the word where you live about the Hospice and fundraising events. Lots more at www.khh.org.uk.

Proud Town Standard Bearer



Chipping Norton's ceremonies to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth saw our Branch of the Royal British Legion take a major role, guarding the Town Hall Book of Condolence, organising the Flag service at the Millennium Garden, and proclaiming King Charles on the Town Hall steps. Our standard bearer, former RAF Corporal Tjark Andrews, took a lead part, but Tjark's 'final duty for the Queen' was the honour of travelling to London and raising the Standard at The Cenotaph (left) as one of 72

British Legion representatives at the Queen's funeral procession. Tjark had disappeared to London at the beginning of the week for practice and rehearsals, postponing his holiday. This was a great honour for him and for the Chipping Norton Royal British Legion. He was an RAF corporal and weapons engineer for 16 years until 2013 and has been a committee member of the RBL's Chipping Norton Branch for nine years – acting as its standard bearer for three Festivals of Remembrance and at the 90th Anniversary of the Great Pilgrimage in Ypres. Tjark was recently awarded a rare certificate of Appreciation for exemplary service from the Royal British Legion president (pictured above).



Planning setbacks for Chippy

As reported last month, years of delay on plans for 1000+ homes at East Chipping Norton are contributing to a big headache for our planning authority, West Oxfordshire District Council. Our County and District Cllr Geoff Saul reminded Town Councillors in October that WODC now cannot demonstrate it has an adequate supply of land available for housing, as set out in the 2018 Local Plan. This leaves the door open for developers to put forward speculative planning applications for piecemeal development of unallocated land not in the Local Plan – a potential free-for-all with no joined-up view on sustainability or much-needed infrastructure.

The other cause of WODC's big headache was a Planning Inspector rejecting WODC's policy guidance that would have required the Salt Cross Garden Village in Eynsham to be zero carbon. The Inspector said that national Government policy did not require it – the implication being that similar ambitions for East Chipping Norton, promoted by our Town Council's 'Build Chippy Better' group, would also be frustrated. WODC in September consulted voters on their

revised Eynsham Salt Cross plan – 'watered down' after the Inspector's report. This has resulted in a backlash from environmental campaigners such as CPRE, Friends of the Earth, the Town & Country Planning Association and Eynsham Parish Council, demanding that Salt Cross should maintain zero carbon standards and be a 'test case' for national Government. All this might be helped if Oxfordshire County Council, the major landowner at East Chippy, had produced a proper Masterplan and set 'zero carbon' ambitions for developments on their own land, as a responsible public authority. More to go on all this.

Your views on East Chippy plans

Chipping Norton Town Council's Build Chippy Better group want to make sure they have our latest views on what the 1000+ home development should bring to the Town. They have devised a simple online survey – asking how important various issues are to us, for example what type of open space, housing, community facilities, employment development are needed, how can green energy and protecting biodiversity be incorporated and what the ingredients are for a well-designed development. The results will help the Town Council stand up for what is important to the people of Chipping Norton, when it comes to a dialogue with the landowner and planning authority – something that, four years since the publication of the Local Plan, is yet to really start. When it does, the chances are pressure will be on to deliver homes on the ground very quickly. So don't say you weren't asked! Find the consultation via the QR code above, or the link: tinyurl.com/2p85t9nt. For help, contact Katherine Jang at deputyclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk. And DO respond! The Town Council is working hard to engage with local people and can only reflect the views it receives. Give it a go! And spread the word!



Positive vote for 20mph Town

Support for scheme – Oxfordshire County Council is



encouraging towns and villages to join their '20mph Scheme for Towns'. In September the News publicised the (mainly online) public survey, being

run by Chipping Norton Town Council. The results are in – with 256 responses (79% were town residents, plus visitors, school attendees and local workers). The Town population is just over 7000. The survey saw 64% of respondents 'fully supportive' of a 20mph scheme and 9% 'somewhat supportive', with 21% 'not supportive' and 6% with concerns about implementation. Supporters cite preventing accidents, pedestrian safety and pollution reduction. The full report, including respondents' comments, is on www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.

Which roads would be 20? – Some places nationally, such as Edinburgh and Wales, are going for 'blanket' reductions to 20mph on all current 30mph roads. In Chippy's survey, 64% said they wanted this. Roads past schools were highlighted in particular, but others thought that parts of main roads such as Worcester Road might remain at 30mph. In fact, the County Council doesn't propose 'blanket' coverage – they set out

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criteria and priorities – for example, in areas where safety is known to be an issue. All this will need to be looked at.

Likely practical issues – Supporters and some research say that wide 20mph coverage does change behaviour and habits, but many people add that enforcement will be needed. This could be an issue, as Thames Valley Police say they don't have resource. Neighbourhood volunteer Speedwatch schemes, with moveable cameras and flashing speeds (such as down New Street) can help, but even there, frustrated residents see hundreds of infringements that go unreported and unpunished.

When, and what will it cost? – OCC promise £3m of funding for signage and road markings over three years– but funds for a whole single town might peak at £35,000. OCC have three 'tranches' of funding, but the first two are already allocated. Chippy would have to wait until 2024/25 for 'tranche three' unless our Town Council can persuade OCC to bring that forward. County Highways authorities also say speeds on our main A roads into town are 'too high' for signage alone to work. Significant funds could be needed for road barriers such as chicanes – potentially on the London Road past Holy Trinity School, Burford Road past Chippy School, and the Worcester Road past and beyond the playground. OCC say the Town would need to find its own funding.

Town Council support – Chippy will now submit survey results to OCC and discuss next steps. Cllr Mark Walker told the News, 'I am really pleased to see such enthusiasm for 20mph, which reflects the same feelings as communities right across Oxfordshire, the UK and around the world. Almost 80 other towns and villages across Oxfordshire have already signed up for 20mph. We will continue to work with OCC to bring the signs to Chipping Norton. Meanwhile we will work

with our community to reinforce benefits of 20mph in terms of health, safety, and improved environment'.

Beech Haven update

Harvest Festival: Residents and staff of Beech Haven Care



Home celebrated Harvest Festival with a service taken by Judith Marshall of St Mary's Church. Some of the produce was handpicked by residents from the garden. During coffee time this brought back lots of memories of apple scrumping and making jams and preserves with parents and siblings for the winter months ahead. One resident shared her memory of how they could always try a little by dipping her finger into the saucer as the jam was setting.

Fun at the Fair! Residents had a thoroughly enjoyable



weekend at the annual Chippy Mop in September. Some enjoyed 'hook a duck', bacon rolls, candy floss and even a few rides! The Fair's hosts were wonderful, telling everyone how long they had been doing the Fair and introducing the visitors to family members running the different stalls. They even gave teddies and extra goes on the stalls to the residents. Beech Haven then created their own Fair back at the Home for those unable to make it to the Mop. Roll on next year!

Lisa Tanner

QD's Xmas trolley dash

If you wander, in November, around the Christmas section of Chippy's QD discount store – watch out for one lucky customer in a hurry! In October, anyone scanning their QD Reward card had the chance of winning a 60-second 'dash', filling up as many sackfuls as they could of Christmas trees, decorations, lights, gifts, food, and seasonal treats. There were 30 trolley dashes planned – one in each of QD's 30 discount stores. The QD Group is an independent, family-owned chain of retail shops specifically for market towns. The original concept was first established back in 1985 by CEO Nick Rubin's father and current Chairman, Danny. The aim was to offer customers a



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wide range of constantly changing, quality products at discounted prices, hence QD – short for Quality Discounts.

Chippy voted Best Theatre



The team at The Theatre Chipping Norton were delighted to be voted Best Theatre in Oxfordshire in October's Red Kite Day Awards. They beat other venues including Oxford's New Theatre and the Playhouse in the

final. Red Kite, a national website publicising entertainment and leisure venues and 'days out', runs an annual competition open to public voting. The winner's description by Red Kite said 'In the heart of the Cotswolds, The Theatre Chipping Norton is a mixed arts venue, hosting, co-producing and supporting some of the most exciting, accessible and entertaining culture in the region'. Yes it is! And of course now is the time to book for *Dick Whittington* on at The Theatre.

Grants for Town organisations

At a special meeting on 19 October, Chipping Norton Town Council agreed to award their planned total of £26,000 in grants from the current 2022/23 year's budget to local clubs, charities, and 'voluntary bodies', who submitted requests by last September. The larger grants were £5000 to The Lido and £3000 to the Theatre. Grants between £1000 and £2000 go to Thrive North Ox, Volunteer Link-up, CN School PTA, CN Swifts, Little Footsteps, Remix Youth Club, I-1 Mentoring (St Mary's Church), Green Gym, and CN Music Festival. Grants from £250 to £750 went to Cleanslate charity, ChipLitFest, 4Shires Swimming, Armed Forces Chipping Norton, St Mary's Minis, CN Parkrun, CN Rainbows and Community Suppers (Community Church). A total of £35235 was requested from applying organisations. A further grant of £2500 (outside the

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£26,000) had already, earlier in the year, been awarded after a special request from Chipping Norton Theatre to help continue a programme of free lunches for families in financial difficulties.

Lido and its Trustees

At The Lido's AGM in August, Trustees and supporters bade a sad farewell to Claire Williamson who stepped down as a Trustee after 11 years' sterling service. The Trustees will miss her creativity and can-do approach, as well as her fundraising acumen and marketing skills. We wish her every success in her professional and personal life, and look forward to seeing her back in the pool next season for more Artistic Swimming,



Retiring Trustee Claire in her new swim cap!

hopefully sporting her new swim cap – a small token of appreciation from her fellow Trustees. As the sun sets on the 2022 season, and with Claire's departure, the Trustees are reaching out to the community for more 'hands-on' support in keeping the pool open and further developing its role in the recreational life of the Town. We are looking for volunteer help in promotion, merchandising and maintaining the grounds, as well as potential new lifeguards and staff for the 2023 season. So if you've got skills useful to a small, local charity or are willing to weed the car park or would like to be first to hear about lifeguard training opportunities next year – please do get in touch! Our email is info@chippylido.co.uk and we'd love to hear from you.

Claire Jarvis – Lido Trustee

Pressure on Chippy's NHS

NHS With NHS waiting lists at a record high, and A&E and hospital beds at capacity, pressure on GP practices – including across Oxfordshire – remains intense. Government Health Secretary (at the time of writing) Thérèse Coffey said she was 'expecting' all GP practices to see routine patients within two weeks and on the day for emergencies. In Oxfordshire's NHS region, in July, of nearly 1 million GP appointments, around 86% were within two weeks – but that left over 100,000 taking longer. Dr Joe McManners, the Oxford GP who was chair of our Clinical Commissioning Group, said the Minister's demand was just a 'gimmicky aspiration' given the rising demand and staff shortages throughout the system.

Chipping Norton Health Centre's Patient Services Manager, Kris Chodyniecki, said routine appointment wait times for their Practice GPs were around three weeks but some earlier appointments with other qualified clinicians were possible. Kris added that the 'urgent daily' GP list is high, averaging 70 patients, with the very busy practice receiving 250–300 calls a day. From November, they are increasing the

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number of 'face-to-face' GP sessions to be 50% of the total alongside telephone appointments, The Health Centre is encouraging more patients to use the NHS App on phones for online access. For example, patients aren't usually contacted with 'normal' blood test results but you can see them yourself if you register for an online access account via access.login.nhs.uk.

Our **South Central Ambulance Service**, under pressure with increased demand, has promised local Councillors to make progress with improvements (see letters and last month's News). SCAS is also putting an emphasis on its local 'first responder' and life-saving support. New paramedic vehicles have been announced, together with better communications about CPR and defibrillators. For Chipping Norton you can download SCAS's Save a Life smartphone app for a step-by-step guide to CPR and locations of defibrillators. Also see British Heart Foundation's website www.defibfinder.uk.

Keep healthy during winter

Oxfordshire's Public Health chief, Ansaf Ashar, warns us to expect more Covid this winter, but says flu (scarce during the pandemic) could pose a greater risk, and respiratory illnesses are already rising. He urges people to get the latest vaccinations for both. **Covid-19 Autumn Boosters** are on offer for those aged 50 and over and for those vulnerable with medical conditions such as heart, kidney and diabetes issues (or their carers). Covid jabs are only bookable at Chipping Norton Health Centre if you are contacted by them – otherwise you have to book via telephoning 119 or the NHS website for an available vaccination centre.

Flu Vaccinations are being offered to qualifying Chipping Norton Health Centre patients between now and December. Please make sure CNHC has an up-to-date mobile telephone number so that they can text you. You can submit your correct number on a 'change personal details' website form, or drop a note into Reception with your mobile number, name, and date of birth. If you are 50 or over, or if you are 18–49 with a chronic condition, you are eligible for vaccination. Children aged 2 and 3 (born between 1 Sept 2018 and 31 August 2020) are eligible for the nasal flu spray. Contact the Health Centre to book an appointment if your child qualifies.

Topside Pharmacy and Boots in the High Street are also offering flu jabs. Drop in to book an appointment.



Free NHS Health Checks are offered by your GP practice every 5 years if you are aged 40-74 with no pre-existing chronic conditions. The NHS encourages you to book the 20 minute check, if you are invited. It can help to identify the warning signs of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, type 2 diabetes and some types of dementia. More information at oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthchecks.

Willow Gardens celebration

October saw a celebration at the new Willow Gardens development at Russell Way, marking a successful first six months and now 'officially' open. The £12m project is led by Housing 21, a national leading provider of Retirement Living and Extra Care. It provides much-needed accommodation for



local people over 55, offering 80 one- and two-bedroom apartments for social rent and shared ownership. Housing 21 worked in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Midlands-based Deeley Construction, and Quattro Design Architects. The scheme promotes independent living but with community facilities including gardens, restaurant, lounge, and salon – also available to the local wider community. There's an on-site Care Team available 24/7 to deliver planned extra-care packages for residents that need it.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony by Councillor Tim Bearder OCC's Cabinet member pictured above, included Bruce Moore, Housing 21's Chief Executive, Eleanor Deeley, Deeley Group's joint Managing Director, Craig Andrews from Quattro Design Architects, Deborah White, OCC's Adult Social Work Team Leader and members of the Housing 21 team. After speeches, Willow Gardens' new residents were entertained with songs from local children. Emma Taylor, Housing 21's Housing Manager said it had been 'a fantastic first six months', with residents moving in to occupy almost all the apartments, enjoying privacy and peace of mind in an

Peacock Gymnastics Academy
where kids learn to flip & fly

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GYMNASTICS FOR ALL

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LOCAL NEWS

ideal place for over 55s to live in Chipping Norton. The County Council say they want to work with similar extra care providers using Council land, grants, and private finance schemes. For more information visit www.housing21.org.uk.

All change at Flowers Etc

After 31 years at the helm, Sarah-Jayne Jacobs has handed over the secateurs at New Street florist Flowers Etc to new



owners Jordon and Hannah Brooks. Sarah-Jayne told the News, 'I've had a fabulous time flower arranging, meeting people and watching smiles on their faces when receiving flowers. This has been a dream job and although I've "retired", I won't be sitting down for long! My husband Paul and I rent out a holiday cottage, "Fred's Shed", in Hereford and are now letting "Fleur's Flat" (above Flowers Etc) through Airbnb, which will keep me busy. And I'm looking forward to spending more time with Paul and our three dogs! I am proud to hand over "my baby" to Hannah and Jordon, a wonderful, energetic young couple with so much enthusiasm. Hannah is already an experienced florist with lots of new ideas. Of course, I'm sad to say goodbye and I want to say a big "thank you" to all my customers and wonderful staff for making Flowers Etc such a success - I will miss you!'

Hannah said, 'Seeing Flowers Etc advertised for sale sent tingles of excitement through me and I knew it was a "go for it" moment! I'm a local girl and know Chipping Norton well. I have popped into the florist for years as a passer-by with a dream of having her own flower shop one day. I qualified as a florist and little did I know that my dream was going to come true in 2022! Please come and say hello and meet my family/team - my husband Jordon and my two beautiful daughters who you might see occasionally, Ella, four and Maeva, one. We can't wait to put our stamp on the shop and very much look forward to meeting all our customers. And we'd like to thank Sarah-Jayne and Paul for giving us this opportunity.'

Great Rollright Bingo

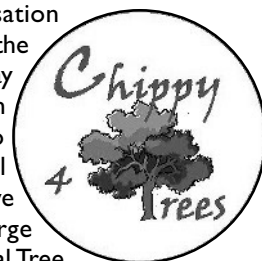
All are invited to the next Bingo night in Great Rollright on Friday 18 November in the Village Hall - a fun evening for young and old, a chance to win cash prizes, with bar and refreshments. Doors open 7pm, games start 7.30pm and it's normally finished at 9.15pm. Non-profit-making with all proceeds to local causes. Next date: 16 December Christmas Special. Eyes Down Look In! More from grrbingo@aol.com.

Daylesford 'hacked by Russians'

Lady Bamford's Daylesford Organics business hit the national press last month (well the *Mail OnLine* at least!) with news that its customer database had been hacked, apparently by a Russian-speaking gang called the 'Snatch Team'. The *Oxford Times* then reported that the gang, probably using 'ransomware' hidden in email attachments, tried to blackmail Daylesford, but the company refused to pay. Data, including customer order sheets for wealthy clients, was then uploaded to the 'dark web'. Daylesford (whose clients - the *Oxford Times* said - include the Duchess of York, Tim Henman, and Jeremy Clarkson) said no personal information had been compromised. The 'Snatch Team' allegedly hacked McDonald's earlier this year - so no class distinctions here! So it's watch out Chippy! Our town businesses, whether butchers, bakers or candlestick makers, could be next and might need to brush up on their 'spyware'!

Plant your free tree!

Local environment organisation Chippy4Trees group is promoting the Oxfordshire Garden Tree Giveway scheme, which is giving free garden trees (with cane and tree guard) to local households, with two local distribution points. You can get native trees for small, medium or large gardens - funded by the International Tree Foundation. Request trees online (up to 23 November). For details see internationaltreefoundation.org/garden-tree-



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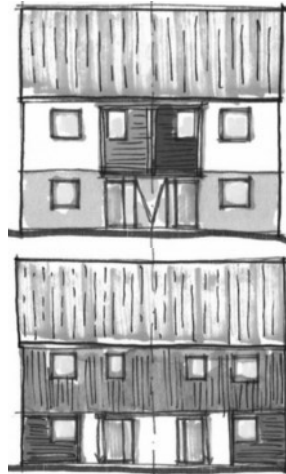
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LOCAL NEWS

giveaway. This also supports the Queen's Green Canopy scheme, which has been extended into Spring 2023.

Eight 'discounted' eco-homes

Targeted for completion in 2023, Weavers Fold, at the end of Walterbush Road, is a new development of eight zero-carbon, custom build homes, offered on a 'discount market sale' basis. In a national first, West Oxfordshire District Council, working with developer Green Axis, are planning this with their 'Net Zero Carbon Tool Kit' – using renewable energy generated on-site and natural materials with low embodied carbon. The site includes space for community activities such as growing food and composting, provision for electric vehicle charging and car club. It's



'custom build' compared to a conventional new build but more 'hands-off' than traditional self-build. Each home can be configured and personalised to match buyers' lifestyles and design preferences – e.g. choices such as two or three bedrooms, different footprints, options for ground floor or first floor, or three storey living! There are different floor plans, a range of choices on external materials, internal finishes, joinery, kitchens, and bathrooms. WODC has used Section 106 funds allowing a 20% discount on market rates, offered exclusively to local buyers who meet eligibility criteria. The agents say the 'exemplar scheme will demonstrate how zero carbon affordable homes can respond to both climate emergency and the interests of local people wishing to customise their new home'. For further details from Wallers Estate Agent visit www.weaversfold.online.

Fairytale Farm illuminations

Illuminated Evenings return for Christmas at the family attraction, Fairytale Farm, outside Chipping Norton – on Saturdays and Sundays through to 27 November, with new attractions and eco-friendly lights. New this year are a Musical House, a creature rising from an illuminated pond and a huge T-Rex! Fairytale Farm's illuminations are the original Oxfordshire light show, started in 2013 and designed by former Blackpool Illuminations boss, Richard Ryan. With the current energy crisis, owner Nick Laister has invested in energy-saving lights – using LED bulbs, which are also brighter and more colourful. There's also the regular Giant's Camera, Extinct Band, Giant Party Poppers, Tunnel of Light and Dancing Water Fountains. Snow White's Castle and the Seven Dwarfs' house will also be illuminated – as will Jack's Beanstalk rising into the night sky. But watch out for the dinosaur in the pond. Daytime farm visitors can stay on free for the evening lights. Plus, there's reduced admission after 3pm. The animal areas close at dusk as the lights come on. The Beanstalk Café is open throughout and there's an 'Illuminations and Supper Deal' every weekend from 3pm for £9.75 per adult and £8.75 per child, with a last-minute entry to the Farm, a new choice of hot food and a drink in the Beanstalk Café, then illuminations afterwards. Information and tickets from www.fairytalefarm.co.uk.

Methodist Xmas Tree Festival

After 11 very successful Christmas Tree Festivals, it's time once again to get into the festive spirit and celebrate the 12th Chipping Norton, Churchill and Wigginton Methodist Churches Christmas Tree Festival. All trees this year will be based in the church. Fifty Christmas trees have already been ordered for groups and organisations. The task is to come along and decorate them in an innovative and possibly humorous way. To book a tree for £22.50 please contact Maggie Hannant at martinhannant27@gmail.com or on 01608 643653. Bookings have been going fast but a few trees are still available. The opening ceremony is on Thursday 1 December at 6pm (open to 8pm), then the event continues Friday 2 December (2–6pm), Saturday 3 December (11am–6pm) and Sunday 3 December (11am–3pm). The Festival ends in a service of celebration on the Sunday at 4pm. Any profits from the weekend will support Chipping Norton, Churchill and Wigginton Methodist churches. Tea and coffee, light refreshments, cakes and craft stalls will be available, for a wonderful Festival and early opportunity to get into the festive spirit. Entrance free and all are welcome.



Methodist warmth & cuppa



Chippy's Methodist community are offering 'warm spaces' this winter by encouraging everyone to make use of their regular cuppa and chat mornings every Wednesday from 9.30 to 11.30, where for many years there has already been a warm welcome, friendship, and the cheapest cuppas in town! Elaine Parsons reminds everyone there is also a monthly crafty cuppa and chat on the first Monday of the month and WOWI hold a free cuppa and chat on the first Sunday the month from 2.30-4pm in the Methodist Hall. There's also a very warm welcome to everyone at the regular Sunday service, with a variety of preachers – doors open from 10.30 for an 11am service followed by refreshments and fellowship, except on communion Sundays. Check the Church noticeboard or the website for more information.

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More ding-dong at Diddly

Jeremy Clarkson's planning battle with WODC has entered a new round of what's becoming a marathon Ding-Dong. Here's a quick reminder and an update:



- **DING!** WODC refuse permission in January for a café/restaurant in a defunct lambing shed next to Diddly Squat Farm Shop.
- **DONG!** Jeremy Clarkson announces he's discovered a 'cunning planning loophole', shop and café continue, but added are three-course meals also being served in a further separate barn and even a pizza place popping up.
- **DING!** WODC serves an Enforcement Notice in August against a 'mixed agricultural and leisure attraction' of café, restaurant, gift/farm shop, parking, and lavatory facilities. The Notice requires: the café/restaurant and sale of food and drink to stop; the sale of goods in the farm shop produced beyond 16 miles to stop; landscaping at the further barn, lavatories, tables, chairs, parasols and units for preparing food or drink to be removed. And within 6 weeks. This doesn't happen. The reason?
- **DONG!** Another cunning planning loophole? Consultants lodge an Appeal against the Enforcement Notice, claiming that planning permission should be granted, it is not a mixed agriculture and leisure attraction, there is no breach of planning because it is Permitted Development, the

Enforcement Notice was not correctly served, the steps required go beyond what is lawful and, anyway, six weeks is too short a time. Whilst waiting for a Planning Inspector to decide the Appeal, the activities can continue.

So, this Ding-Dong looks set to carry on for quite some time; other Appeals in the area are still waiting to be heard by an Inspector three years after being lodged. Some might treat this as just a game, but it is a game at the expense of WODC council tax payers, and that's all of us!

Penhurst's Bake Off fans



Residents at Penhurst Gardens Care Home in Chipping Norton have always enjoyed watching The Great British Bake Off and decided to get into action themselves. Client Services Manager, Deonn

Pegg, told the News that Penhurst had been very fortunate to have been visited on many occasions by Bake Off veteran, Dame Prue Leith – a very special friend to the home during the Pandemic. So, in September, some of the residents got into the competitive spirit and enjoyed baking chocolate cupcakes (see picture).



Rustic Bean comes to Chippy

November sees the opening of The Rustic Bean coffee house – next door to The Fox Inn in the formerly empty No 1 Market Place (vacated by Mash Pantry). A News team member caught up with the entrepreneur behind it – Stacy Parsons (pictured below) – at his current 'Rustic Bean' in Banbury.

With winter fast approaching, we can be tempted by the aroma of steaming coffee, hot chocolate, baked goods, and a warm and welcoming place to set up a laptop or meet friends. The opening of The Rustic Bean in Chippy will complete a trio of cafes created by Stacy Parsons, a man who knows how to brew a cup with a difference, his coffee machines being identical to that used at the World Barista Championships. 'Our coffee beans come from Square Mile Coffee Roasters in London,' Stacy explains. 'Every shot of coffee is weighed and then precisely extracted to make the perfect coffee. If it isn't to our standard it's simply thrown away and made again. You can also buy resale coffee beans to take home.'



Before he opened his first café, Stacy made his living as a soul singer, which kept him busy most nights! 'It wasn't something I felt I would do forever' Stacy smiled. 'I love people, and enjoyed meeting friends in coffee shops in London. I often thought it would be fun to open one.' He said the experience with his first Rustic Bean taught him to use space effectively, instinctively creating the ambiance for well-being of both customers and staff behind the counter. 'After I opened The Rustic Bean on Banbury's Parsons Street, the creators of Lock 29 asked if I would like to open another

coffee shop there, so I designed it during lockdown and built the premises with my uncle. I've always loved design and branding from working as a graphic designer in my twenties.'

The Chippy branch (pictured below) should radiate the same warmth and cosiness as the Banbury Rustic Bean, with Stacy's signature reclaimed vintage Singer sewing machine tables. But he also hinted at a few surprises. Look out for a



homey and welcoming atmosphere, a mixed playlist of relaxing background music, enticing food, and the now famous Rustic Bean coffee – aiming to be one of Chippy's favourite meeting places. Also

planned are fresh smoothies, similar to those at 'The Rustic Bean Juice'd' in Lock 29 in Banbury's Castle Quay, plus gluten free/vegan cakes and tray bakes made by Paul from 'Cotswold Baking' just outside Chipping Norton. In February, Stacy will add cooked breakfasts and brunches. Stacy brings an independent mind, eye for rustic charm, and vision for well-being, saying 'It's always been about my brand – customer service, ambiance and quality of coffee'.

Amnesty gets flags flying

Chipping Norton Amnesty Group are delighted that Chippy's new flagpole in the Millennium Garden will be flying two new flags: one celebrating the United Nations and the other Human Rights! Chippy Amnesty are pictured raising the the



UN flag on Monday 24 October, to mark United Nations Day. The flag flew for 24 hours to remind us of the world-wide co-operation and

community that the UN strives to create. The flag celebrates all the UN's work, including political efforts to bring peace and justice to war-torn countries like Ukraine and Yemen, and humanitarian initiatives to deliver aid, food and medical care to the world's most vulnerable people in sites of conflict or natural disaster. The UN also works to protect human rights and uphold international law, and leads projects on climate crisis and sustainability. Long live the UN!

Next, look out for the Human Rights Flag on Saturday 10 December, celebrating International Human Rights Day. This flag was commissioned in 2018 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of



Human Rights at the UN on 10 December 1948. As a joint venture between various arts organisations and human rights groups, Amnesty produced a beautiful flag designed by Chinese conceptual artist and human rights activist Ai Weiwei – inviting people across the UK to come together to 'fly the flag' for human rights! Annually, communities both celebrate our human rights and remember those whose rights are being violated. The flag is a colourful reminder that human rights are for everyone, every day and symbolises Amnesty's vital work to protect human rights both here in the UK – such as tackling homelessness, safeguarding the right to protest, and campaigning against the Government's overhaul of our Human Rights Act – and globally, particularly on the rights of women, refugees,

migrants and civilians trapped in war zones. The flag is both a symbol of hope, reminding us of our shared humanity, and shines a light on those currently suffering human rights abuse.

Penny James

From Mash ... to Hyde & Home

In September Chipping Norton coffee lovers were sad to see the closure of the Mash Home and Pantry shop and café next to The Fox Inn. Trading and staffing difficulties, particularly through Covid, had made it difficult to continue and the Mash Lifestyle Ltd company, which also ran the nearby lifestyle gift shop, has now stopped trading. The main shop at 9 High Street is now operating under a new name and company, Hyde & Home Ltd, selling a similar eclectic lifestyle collection of gifts and stylish items, with a good range on offer in the lead-up to Christmas. Justin Alderslade, who founded Mash back in 2013, told the News about his passion for his business and his support for independent shops in Chipping Norton's town centre. But he said that recent times, particularly with Covid and restrictions, had been very stressful for him and also for small businesses in Chippy. He hoped very much that people in the Town and visitors would keep up their support for our small businesses or they would disappear.

The old Pantry premises is being taken over by a completely separate café operator, Stacy Parsons, who will open 'The Rustic Bean' in November – he currently runs a similar café in Banbury (see separate article page 11).

Enstone pub taken over

Local village pub, The Crown at Church Enstone, was bought in September by Matt and Katie Beamish, who also run the The Kingham Plough and The Hare at Milton-under-Wychwood. They had been on the lookout for a third local pub for some time, and are thrilled to be taking on The Crown. The Inn reopens on 1 November. Expect some great food offerings – with a refurbished bar and dining rooms, with vintaged furnishings, fireplace, oak beams, stone walls and a new garden room, There are five ensuite bedrooms – it's another of those places where Charles I is said to have stayed on his Oxfordshire travels!



photo: Ben Nicholson

Power of Attorney seminar

Following October's talk on Dementia Friends, Penhurst Gardens Care Home is hosting another free, informative seminar about Lasting Power of Attorney. The talk, on Thursday 3 November from 4 to 6pm, will cover why and how LPA can help for those who wish to nominate others to help look after their affairs in a responsible way. The specialist guest speakers, Sharon Whitehead and Andrew Brown, with their legal experience, will also answer informal questions. To book your place or for information please contact Deonn.Pegg@Porthaven.co.uk or call 01608 698100.

A reminder that a Friendship Café – offering friendly chat and refreshments – is run from 2 to 4pm every last Wednesday of the month at Penhurst for those living with dementia and their carers. All are welcome, there's plenty of room and it's free with cake and coffee for all.



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Beckham's security warning



Could securing your Chipping Norton home be on your mind – especially as the nights get darker? Local celebrity couple in Tew, David and Victoria Beckham, hit the news with plans for a 'security cabin' at their grand mansion. Local village residents wrote to WODC in support, one telling the press 'during these troubled times, I feel that any extra-security measures are welcome and will deter undesirable elements from venturing into our lovely little village'. So should we be worried in Chipping Norton? Well, in fact, Thames Valley police have been highlighting more criminal damage and theft recently – and over August there were 107 recorded crimes of which 30 were all forms of theft, burglary and criminal damage around Chippy (see below for Latest crime in Chipping Norton).

Now, not many of us will be able to commission a specialised cabin, but there's lots of advice on making your own home more secure, especially with double locks, windows locks, and alarms. Here are three other suggestions. First, invest in a parcel delivery box. The Beckham's cabin helps 'monitor deliveries' but for the more ordinary folk around here, this could be a parcel delivery box. These are large waterproof boxes which have codes on them, for deliveries to be stored in safely. Second, fix your outdoor lights, ideally with timers and sensors, and make sure the bulbs are working. Thirdly, be careful when posting on social media. Adding a location to your posts shows eagle-eyed tech-savvy thieves that you're either at home or not. Even the Beckhams are known to post on social media 'from the Cotswolds'. Make your social media settings private if you are away! More advice at www.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/.

Latest crime in Chippy

At October's Town Council meeting, Chippy Councillors told the visiting police officer that they weren't given regular crime statistics. In fact, latest data for the Chipping Norton area on crimes and outcomes is readily available on the police.uk website, and the *Chippy News* regularly reports it. For example, 107 crimes were recorded for August, including:

• Violence and sexual offences	34
• Burglaries, robberies & all thefts	21
• Public order	17
• Antisocial behaviour	14
• Criminal damage and arson	9
• Vehicle crime	6
• Drugs	2
• Other	4

Police told Councillors they had dealt recently with particular incidents of underage drinking and antisocial behaviour. However, the stubbornly highest category (violence & sexual offences) is mainly crime 'hidden indoors' with domestic abuse. The Government is also shining a light on burglaries, getting police chiefs to promise that all break-ins will get a police visit. Only 5% of burglaries nationally result in criminal charges. In the last three years in Chipping Norton around 65% of all crimes resulted in no prosecution or no suspect identified; many others still remain 'under investigation'.

The Shack is back

Chipping Norton's Indra Hopcraft is now offering delicious breakfast baps, toasted sandwiches, homemade soup and Scotch Eggs, together with tea and coffee, at the newly renovated Shack at The Red Lion, Albion Street. Scotch Egg lunchboxes are also available. Take-away or outside seating. Everything freshly prepared to order. Monday–Friday, 9am–3pm.



Why not try origami?



Last month included a feature on Origami, encouraging anyone interested to try it out – and an origami workshop, run by local Chippy enthusiast Yen Yang Co, was held at the Library in October following the first successful workshop in July. Yen Yang is eager to hear from anyone who might like to start a local Origami Club – his correct telephone number is 01608 645133 and you can email him at yyy.10cn@yahoo.com.

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Tall Trees
CARING HOMES

Leisure Centre's warm welcome

12 November sees the opening, at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre, of a long-wanted new **Soft Play** area. Centre manager Lewis Brain told the News it will be in the existing reception area as a safe space for young children to come and have heaps of fun. Book your space to ensure you don't miss out – at the Centre, online using the website, or via the BetterUK app.



Hot drinks & a warm welcome on offer at the Leisure Centre

The Centre is also joining in the new **Warm Spaces** initiative across town, offering space there on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9–12pm. Lewis promises tea/coffee and biscuits plus other refreshments to keep you warm during the colder months. This coincides with various other activities such as senior and inclusive swim sessions, so be sure to make the most of a nice warm cuppa after going for a swim as well.

New Fitness Classes have been launched at the Centre. **Tai-Chi** is a series of low impact activities/movements to reduce stress and anxiety – originally developed as a form of self-defence back in ancient China but has now evolved into a controlled meditative exercise routine. **Spinning and YOGA** have returned on Saturday mornings, so come and join in with Spin from 8am. Call in or see the website.

Charity Bingo at Rugby Club

Why not come along and join in a charity Bingo evening on Friday 9 December at Chipping Norton Rugby Club? Open from 6.30pm, Eyes Down 7pm. Open bar and hot drinks. It's all in aid of award-winning children's charity, SpecialEffect, headquartered in Charlbury, that is transforming the lives of people with physical challenges right across the world through the innovative use of technology. See www.specialeffect.org.uk.



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Chastleton's 1960s Christmas

The National Trust's Chastleton House is offering visitors the experience of a nostalgic 1960s Country Christmas in the style of the House's last owners, Barbara and Alan Clutton-Brock. Saturday 26 November to Sunday 11 December, the House is open 11am–3pm (last entry 2.15pm). Details and directions at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton.

Stories & warmth at Library!

Chipping Norton Library invites you to the new **Warm Space Friday**, every Friday afternoon. Stay warm and enjoy a chat in a friendly, welcoming environment. The Library is here for everyone and you don't have to be a member. Bring a friend, bring your knitting, craft project, a game or homework! Use the computers or bring your own laptop and use our Wi-Fi. And there's always the books, lots of books, and magazine swap box! **Saturday Storytime** has now started



on the first Saturday each month at 11am. The next one is on 5 November. Suitable for ages 3–6, there's no need to book – places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Huge thanks to superstar volunteer, Ellie – pictured above at last month's Hallowe'en event – for making them so much fun.

Sally Moore – Library Manager

Swalcliffe's Community Hall

The local village of Swalcliffe has reopened its newly refurbished Village Hall for business – after extensive modernisation over the summer, with new insulation, heating, decoration and new toilet facilities. The Hall can again be booked for meetings, functions and children's parties at £12 per hour or part thereof, (£10 for villagers) including all services and amenities. It accommodates up to 80 people seated and 100 people for gatherings or parties and has a projector, DVD and sound system. The kitchen has been partially modernised, awaiting more, but is fully equipped. Local in-house catering contacts are available. The Hall is keen to attract local teachers of various classes, so if you know someone who would like to run a class in the Hall, please contact me by email tracylean@gmail.com or phone 01295 780710.



Tracy Lean

Xmas coming at Glyme Hall!

To get in the Christmas mood you might want to join in some pre-Christmas events being led by Karen Biles up at Chipping Norton's community venue, Glyme Hall. They include:

- 25 November, 7pm–8pm: Candlelit Yoga session, £12
- 3 December, 2pm–4.30pm: Christmas card Block Printing and wrapping techniques, £25. This includes all materials and refreshments
- 9 December, 7pm–8.30pm: Candlelit Relaxation, Mulled wine and mince pies, £15

Call Karen 07919 123046 for more information and to book your place.

Karen and Heidi Davies, the manager at Glyme Hall, also thank everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee morning they hosted on 6 October, (pictured) which raised £150. Glyme Hall, owned by the County Council, is run by a charity as a venue for community use. Every month there is a whole range of events including Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, Posturecise, Meditation, Body Conditioning, Adult Ballet, Monkey Music for 0–3s, and Children's Dance. There are also meetings of the Monday Club for over 60s, the Trefoil Guild, and Remix Youth Club. To find out more about what's on each week or to hire the Hall, see www.glymehall.co.uk for more details or contact Heidi at glymehall@gmail.com or call 01608 238037.



S3 bus via Charlbury



Regular users of the excellent S3 bus to Oxford should note that Stagecoach have announced a minor change to the S3 timetable with effect from 30 October. The Mon–Fri 16.53 departure from Oxford Railway Station (17.10 from Magdalen Street) will now run via Charlbury, arriving at Chipping Norton at 18.27. The complete S3 timetable (and a photo of what the buses really look like!) is available on the Stagecoach website.

Restoring the 4 Shire Stone

If you drive from Chippy to Moreton, watch out on the right to see the now restored ancient Four Shire Stone, which is said to have inspired The Lord of the Rings author, J.R.R. Tolkien. The News covered the story a few months back – after James Hayman-Joyce, a local semi-retired chartered surveyor led the campaign to raise £20,000 for the restoration. The 15ft high pillar, around a mile and a half from Moreton in Marsh, marked the ancient convergence of the counties of Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and Worcestershire until a government reorganisation of the county boundaries in 1931. Mystery surrounds the exact date the stone was built – possibly around 1741. It had a colourful history and was a well-known meeting point and a venue for illegal prize fights in the 1800s. A frequent visitor locally, Tolkien may have used it as inspiration for the Three Farthing Stone of the Shire. Details www.fourshirestone.org.uk.

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COST OF LIVING FEATURE

Help this winter

As the cost of living soars and winter looms, there's no doubt that this is a worrying time for us all. The Government's energy schemes have started, Oxfordshire County Council has announced £2m for local support, working with District Councils. Chipping Norton Town Council is asking higher authorities to help freeze social rents, and stop any evictions or energy disconnections through lack of funds. Many community organisations are helping. Here are some pointers for Chipping Norton's hard up households.

HELP IN TROUBLED TIMES

Cost of Living Support Event 4 November. Organised



by The Chippy Larder and the Town Council – this is to be held from 10am to 12.30pm at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. Do call in for a chat and the chance

to meet representatives from all sorts of organisations offering advice. Here's a round-up of what was on offer at a similar Town Hall event in September, pictured above.

Housing, Tax & benefit support West Oxfordshire District Council, based in Witney, can help with claims for discretionary housing payment if Housing Benefit or Universal Credit doesn't cover your rent. You may also be eligible for Council Tax Support. Call 01993 861000 or visit westoxon.gov.uk. For Household Support Fund Vouchers call 01993 892063 to check your eligibility. Now is also a good time to check your benefits entitlement. You can ring the Pension Service who can check your eligibility for Pension Credit over the phone on 0800 99 1234.

Age UK community help Cost of living payments are



available to many, and most are paid automatically. But it's worth checking eligibility for financial assistance – for example with the pensioner

cost of living grant, Council Tax rebate, disability cost of living payment and the household support fund. Contact Age UK Oxfordshire Advice Line on 0345 450 1278 or visit www.ageuk.org.uk

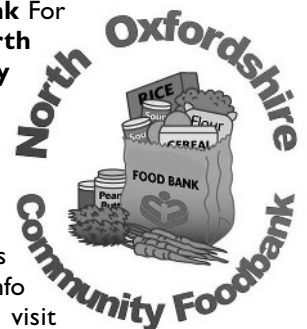
Help for all at Citizens Advice A good place to start if you are struggling, Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire has trained volunteers offering free, confidential and independent advice. They help people overcome their problems with debt, housing and much more. They can point you in the right direction, advocate on your behalf if you need them to, and help with vouchers to pay for things like food and utilities, and with school costs such as uniform and transport. There's no face-to-face presence currently in Chipping Norton, but please call the West Oxon advice line on 0808 278 7908 or visit www.caox.org.uk

Funding for local schemes If you have new ideas for small projects that can directly benefit Chippy's community, you can apply to **Cottsway Community Fund**. Local housing association Cottsway give away £30,000 in grants each year.

They offer £250 to Cottsway customers to support learning and skills development; £500 for projects directly benefitting Cottsway residents and up to £5,000 for bigger projects that are accessible to Cottsway residents. Call 01993 890 000 or visit www.cottsway.co.uk/comminunity-fund for help.

Sign up for Chippy Larder This popular, low cost, environmentally friendly food initiative has members paying around £3.50 a week for a bundle of food items including fresh fruit and veg which they select and pick up every Thursday afternoon at Chipping Norton Guildhall. It's amazing value, and this SOFEA (South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance) initiative prevents surplus food going to landfill. Visit sofea.com and select 'Chipping Norton', email thechippylarder@gmail.com or call 07890 394297 for details.

Our emergency local foodbank For emergency supplies **North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank** has a base at the Baptist Church down New Street offering emergency food parcels on Mondays between 11.30am and 1pm. Anyone in need can request vouchers from St Mary's Church Parish Room. For more info call 07908 114144 or visit northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk



Free Vitamins from Healthy Start If you're pregnant or have a child under four years old, you may be able to get free vitamins and Healthy Start vouchers for milk, fruit, veg and infant formula milk. Call 0300 330 7010 or visit www.healthystart.nhs.uk/

Apply for Free School Meals If you or your child receive certain benefits you can apply for free school meals from Year 3 and above. Visit oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/school/school-meals

Free holiday lunch packs The Theatre in Chipping Norton will have Free School Meal lunch packages available for the Christmas holidays for all families who need them on Thursday 22 December 10am–12noon. There will be free tea and coffee and children's Christmas craft activities on offer as well. The parcels should last children for lunches through the holidays. For further information and offers of help email Clare at takepart@chippingnortontheatre.com.



YouMove – get moving for less This new public health initiative is offered to families on benefits related to free school meals. Membership offers families access to reduced

COST OF LIVING FEATURE

cost or free leisure and sport activities. Call 01993 861561 or visit getoxfordshireactive.org/you-move



Budgeting skills with CAP Christians Against Poverty offer courses in Chipping Norton with life skills advice from cooking to household budgeting. Email Hannah.charles@stmaryscnorton.com for further details.

Important Wellbeing Support If you're finding it hard to cope, you can try talking to someone you trust. Anyone looking for mental health support can also visit oxfordshiremind.org.uk or call 01865 247 788.

WARM SPACES

For those who don't want to switch on their heating during the day, many local communities are rallying round to provide warm spaces to spend time, work, or maybe chat over a coffee.

The Chippy Larder's Rizvana Poole, who is also a District and Town Councillor, has been encouraging a **Warm Spaces** initiative for local places to be open at different times. Organisations signing up so far include:



Chipping Norton Leisure Centre welcomes all for tea, coffee and biscuits on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am-12noon.

Chipping Norton Library invites everyone to their warm space every Friday 2-5pm. Bring a project, browse magazines, chat, use the Library's or your own computer.

St Mary's Church's weekly Connect Café is in the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays from 1-2.45pm (term time only).

Chippy Methodist Church welcomes people every Wednesday from 9.30-11.30am for a Cuppa and a Chat, as they have done for the past 37 years!

A current list of venues and times will be posted on town notice boards and Town Council website, so keep checking.

WELFARE AND ENERGY HELP

Oxfordshire County Council are pointing the way to both welfare and energy costs savings, although they admit this is a challenge. OCC are mobilisation funds of £500,000 per year with an **Emergency Welfare Scheme** run through their customer services team – funded largely by central Government's Household Support Fund. Some funding also goes to local **Warm Spaces** initiatives including by businesses.

The **Government's Energy Bills Support Scheme** has started, including £400 automatically off each household bill and price rate caps. The County Council is also supporting more schemes to help local residents reduce bills by making household and energy efficiency improvements. The **Better**



Housing Better Health programme aims particularly to reach fuel poor households with advice on reducing energy costs. You can phone 0800 107 0044 to arrange an assessment at your home. There are also **Sustainable Warmth Fund grants**, offering free financial help for improvements such as loft and floor insulation. Finally, ask your energy supplier, such as **British Gas** about help with payments and grants.

OCC also points to local organisations you can talk to – particularly if you have mental health and anxiety issues – including **Oxfordshire Safe Haven, Connection Support** and **Mind**. See www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs for lots more information.

COULD YOU VOLUNTEER & HELP?

Many local Chipping Norton people volunteer to help both in normal times and times of crisis. For example, Citizens Advice are always looking for volunteers from all kinds of backgrounds. To find out more and apply, visit citizensadvicewestoxon.org



To volunteer at The Chippy Larder contact them at thechippylarder@gmail.com. If are



the chippy larder

able to donate to the Foodbank, why not pop an item into the collection points in the Co-op, Sainsbury's or

QD next time you're shopping or leave your donations at St Mary's Church or the Baptist Church. Or contact any of the organisations mentioned here and ask about volunteering.



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The local family run, professional skip company



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Chippy's Ukrainian Thanksgiving “В гостях у українських друзів”

Since April, The Branch & St Mary's Church in Chipping Norton have been working with about 25 Ukrainian families (and it's ever-growing) providing language lessons, fun activities and practical support. Emma Kennedy reports also on how the families organized a wonderful evening in the Town Hall to thank their hosts.

A welcome with practical support – Each Tuesday we host a café with a translator and Asylum Welcome Worker to welcome new guests and help with all the practical questions. We have also worked with various businesses and hosted

interviews, helping 10 into employment, and we have supported two young people into College or University places – navigating the world of fees, transport



and student loans from a refugee's perspective. It has been such a joy to welcome these families. They are so grateful for the welcome they have received from their hosts, the schools and all those who have supported them.

Town Hall evening takes shape – Asked if they they would like to share a meal together, they leapt at the chance! In their own words, 'On behalf of all Ukrainians once again we would like to say thank you to the Chipping Norton community and all the hosts for your warm welcome and your solidarity! There is no possibility that evil will win over good. Thank you so much for a wonderful evening.' We thought it would be a simple affair, each family bringing a dish, but it soon became very apparent that they were planning a feast! So we moved the location from the Parish Rooms to the Town Hall, booked the kitchen to start cooking two days in advance, and by Wednesday morning the aroma of mushroom dumplings was wafting from the kitchen.

Wonderful food, guests and thanks – There was real therapy. Women, displaced from homes, and their families,

If you are hosting, or know Ukrainians in the area, Emma suggests pointing them towards The Branch (www.thebranchtrust.org) or the Connect Café in the Parish Rooms on a Tuesday 1–2.45pm during term time. They can be helped to connect with other Ukrainians and further support.

had arrived in Chippy with little more than a suitcase, but came together to share their traditions, with laughter and tears. The food was incredible, from Borscht (Beetroot Soup) to Varenyky (Dumplings), all beautifully displayed, with a description and a history of each dish and its ingredients.

Thanks to all those allotment holders who donated produce, to Steve on the market for sunflowers, Chippy Larder and the Town Council – families invited the Mayor along to 'formally' thank the Town. Guests came from Bicester and Bourton, but the majority were from within seven miles of Chippy. Over 20 children enjoyed themselves,

and several in their early 20s met up with other Ukrainians of their own age for the first time. All the Chippy hosts just loved the Ukrainian cuisine – very different from our own.



Busy preparing the Town Hall feast – pictured below



After a moving minute's silence to remember those left defending Ukraine, we finished the evening with a shot of delicious Ukrainian vodka.

Looking to Christmas – In this week's language classes there were already plans afoot



for a Christmas gathering, and the ladies are keen to have a stall at the Christmas in Chippy evening and to share Ukrainian Christmas specialities with the Town – so do come and have a taster. The guests and The Branch would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have volunteered your time, translated, donated clothes, run language or art classes, given lifts, the Lido for a swim session and, of course, to the hosts. Chippy at its best!



Spotlight on

The Lawrence Home Nursing Team

Since formation in 1999, The Lawrence Home Nursing Home Team has provided palliative care for many in and around Chipping Norton. This month Charity Directors, Jo Cowley and Cathy Elliott, pay tribute to lead nurse Jenny Nolan, after the Team held a retirement party for her in the Town Hall. Verity Fifer updates us on fundraising.



Jenny Nolan's retirement

After 23 years of leading the Lawrence Home Nursing Team Jenny has decided to retire. This remarkable, inspiring and self-effacing woman has led the Team in providing high quality nursing care for more than a thousand patients wishing to die at home. The service was first set up by District Nurse Jane Phillips (Jenny's great friend who died in 2011), Dr Martin Lawrence (who was terminally ill himself) and Jenny. Jenny started 'on call' 24 hours every weekday while looking after three children and working at Chippy Hospital! Coverage has now expanded to surgeries in Deddington, Bloxham, Hook Norton, the Wychwoods and Charlbury as well as Chippy, but Jenny and the Team have never lost their focus on patients and their families despite very challenging situations – including the pandemic. Typical positive feedback recently in September from one family said, 'The Lawrence Team were amazing from our very first contact right through to the end. Always warm and caring as well as professional and reassuring. We are so grateful for their help, guidance and care.'

Many local families and healthcare providers owe a great debt to Jenny. We wish Jenny a very happy and well-deserved retirement with her husband Tim, family and camper van. We do hope to see her back in Chippy between trips as we are going to miss her a



Jenny with husband Tim at the retirement party

great deal. Thank you so much Jenny. The Team are delighted that Michele Booth, who has worked as a senior member of LHNT over the past year, has agreed to become the new Registered Manager for the service. Michele was previously Director of Patient and Family Care at Katharine House Hospice. She said 'I look forward to ensuring a smooth transition from Jenny who has done so much for the charity, including ensuring that the high clinical standards the service is renowned for are future-proofed for the local community'.

Could you be a Lawrence nurse?

Are you a Registered Nurse and would like to be part of this dedicated Team. Here's what one nurse Sarah Bryson said, 'I gain a great deal from being part of a small team of highly skilled experienced nurses coming together in unified purpose, with an ethos which echoes my own ethos. We all work within our clear professional boundaries ... all want to provide a high standard of care ... to enable patients to die in their own homes in a supported way ... individual members are valued for the particular skills they bring and we learn a great deal from one another.' For an informal discussion about a substantive or Bank contract role, please call Michele Booth, Registered Manager or Sam Dulley, Operations Manager on 01608 641549.

Team Fundraising events

Highlands coffee and cards! Thursday, 17 November (10am to noon) at



Highlands Community Centre on the Burford Road – come along for a coffee morning and Christmas card sale. There is transport to the event available on the Villager bus but just give us a call if you need us to organise a direct lift (01608 684477). This year's Christmas cards are by local artist, Anuk Naumann and are also on sale around Chipping Norton, including at Bippitty Boo, Jaffé & Neale Bookshop, the Post Office at the Co-op in the Town itself, and Chadlington Quality Foods.



Christmas Light & Brightly shone the moon: Christmas cards pictured

Kirtlington Park musical evening Friday 18 November, in the state rooms. Canapés, welcome drink, entertainment – see advert for details.

Candles of Remembrance Friday, 16 December annual service at Chipping Norton Methodist Church. Doors open 6.30pm with a short service starting at 7pm. Refreshments. All are welcome, with live streaming for those unable to attend. More details on www.lawrencehomenursing.org. To send a photo and a dedication in memory of a loved one for our memory wall email fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org. We are very happy to remember loved ones whom we have not cared for. A small donation is welcome but entirely optional.

A MUSICAL EVENING AT KIRTLINGTON PARK

Friday 18th November 2022 - 7 pm till 10:30 pm



Join us for a celebratory evening of music at Kirtlington Park, a Palladian House set in stunning gardens and Capability Brown parkland.

The first half's performance is by piano and vocal duo, Jess and Ben Waddilove. The second half of the evening features Gracenotes, a 4 piece 'A Capella' group of singers who will perform a selection of traditional and contemporary songs.

Tickets are £50 each. A Friends and Family ticket for groups of 4 is available at a discounted price of £160 (£40 a ticket). All tickets include delicious canapés served upon arrival plus guests can enjoy a complimentary welcome glass of fizz, Buck's fizz or a soft drink courtesy of Zurich Community Trust. The bar will be open during the interval.

Tickets available from our website.

For more info contact Verity Fifer, Head of Fundraising
Email: fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org

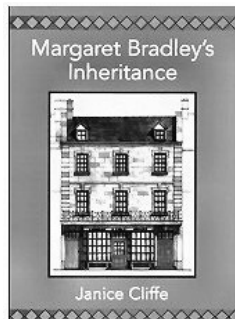
Registered Charity No. 1189565 Company No. 12460725

www.lawrencehomenursing.org

Spotlight on Local Authors

Here's a selection of some interesting new books out last month from a wide range of local writing talent!

Chippy's 18th century inheritance

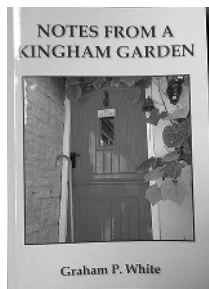


Local historian Jan Cliffe has published her sixth book about Chipping Norton which started as a 'lockdown' project inspired by transcribing an C18th will and inventory. **Margaret Bradley's Inheritance** is an account of a shop-keeping family in our town. Thomas Bradley arrived in Chipping Norton with his wife in 1702 and soon established himself as a tallow chandler with a house and shop on High Street,

becoming a burgess in the borough corporation. When his spinster daughter Margaret died in 1775 her estate was valued for probate at £16,800, a surprisingly large sum worth over £2 million today. Her inventory contained detailed information about the contents of the house, shop and a vast property portfolio. Using other contemporary historical documents, Jan describes the way of life led by this family in a rural market town in the Georgian era. The book can be bought for £8 from Jaffé & Neale Bookshop or contact Jan on 07938 682674, 01608 641057 or jan@thecliffefamily.co.uk

Kingham Gardener in print

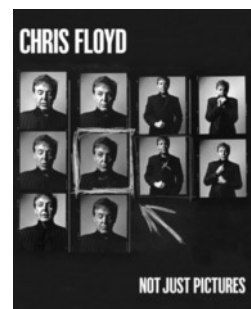
Keen local gardener Graham White, who has written many articles for both the *Kingham Newsletter* and the *Chippy News*, has now put them all into a book called **Notes from a Kingham Gardener**. It's not a 'how to' book, but shares some history as well as giving advice on gardening locally, which is so different from the national newspaper weekend supplements. The book is available locally, from Jaffé & Neale Bookshop or direct from gwhitegardens@gmail.com



Not Just Pictures!

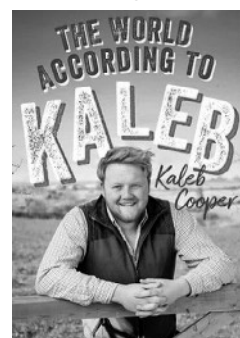
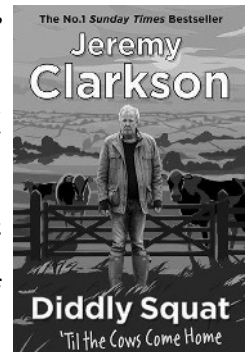
A new book called **Not Just Pictures**, by local Tew resident Chris Floyd, a top professional photographer and filmmaker, was launched in October at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop and then in New York the following week! Chris's 30-year career has included work in publications such as *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, and *Esquire*. In April 2021, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge invited him to

Kensington Palace to record their tenth wedding anniversary. His 'coffee table monograph' features over 200 photographs, including sessions with Paul McCartney, David Attenborough, Debbie Harry, David Hockney, David Bowie, Marcus Rashford, Cate Blanchett, Oasis, Iggy Pop and many more. Chris's favourite career moments are accompanied by stories that paint a deeper, more insightful and sometimes funnier picture of it all. More at www.chrisfloyd.com



New books from the Diddy Duo

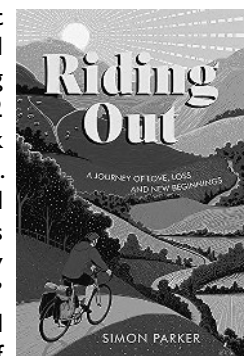
Our two local farming celebrities, Jeremy Clarkson and Chippy's own Kaleb Cooper, have new books and held separate book signings at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop. On 30 September Clarkson's **Diddly Squat: 'Til The Cows Come Home** was trailed as 'another riotous trip to Diddly Squat Farm' for the second year of tales. And 'while he's mastered the art of moaning about everything, attributes for successful farming remain a challenge.' There are dangerous cows, grain trailers to be loaded, and that 'local planning department and the red trouser brigade determined to frustrate his schemes.'



15 October saw Jaffé & Neale launch Cooper's first book, **The World According to Kaleb**, with a different publisher and agent from the Clarkson steamroller. This was trailed as 'worldly wisdom on life's big issues, from the difference between straw and hay to the importance of having a hair perm' and 'strong views on lots of things: sheep (suicidal morons), goats (proper good clear-up animals, they eat everything – no wonder they taste horrible), New York (if it's like London, where there are no tractors, that's no good)'. Kaleb reveals his 'loveable, funny and down-to-earth self, with deadpan gags and unique observations that will have you crying with laughter.'

Travelling Simon Parker's Final Stop

Those who missed his ChipLitFest appearance in April can catch local travel writer Simon Parker completing his 70-night UK tour on Saturday 12 November at The Woodstock Bookshop, near where he now lives. With short films, photographs and anecdotes, Simon recounts his adventures cycling an extraordinary 3,427 miles around 'Pandemic Britain' during 2020 and 2021, all documented in his book, **Riding Out**. By the age of 35, the former Chippy School student had reported from over 100 countries for the BBC, *Daily Telegraph* and Amazon Prime. When Covid stopped his globetrotting, Simon got on his bike and cycled to the farthest corners of Britain, including Shetland, Scilly, the Highlands and North York Moors, to find out how the pandemic was affecting people everywhere. Simon explains his epic journey and this resulting 'ground level portrait of Britain', with encounters with farmers and fishermen, artists and musicians. Simon is then off writing his next book. For further information and tickets, please visit www.simonwparker.co.uk/books



THE ARTS

The Theatre

Dick Whittington 16 November 2022–15 January 2023.



Panto is back this year with the much-loved tale of Dick and his cat who set out on a globetrotting adventure full of original music and general mayhem. Written by The Theatre's Artistic Director John Terry, the show is set in the chaotic streets of Victorian London

and in magical lands and features the 'first female explorer' as well as 'the world's worst cook'. Expect a new twist on this traditional tale from the national home of family panto, with sing-alongs and sweets, and starring Chippy favourite Andrew Pepper as the Dame. Tickets £19-£34.

The real Dick Whittington The story of Dick Whittington, already mentioned by Samuel Pepys in his diary in 1668, is of course a fabrication. Oh yes it is! The real Richard Whittington – who died in 1423 – was not as lowly a person as portrayed. The son of a Gloucestershire landowner, he made his fortune as a mercer, trading in wool and other luxury fabrics. Apparently he was well in with Richard II, Henry IV and Henry V by lending them money and was Mayor of London three times. It does seem that he was a thoroughly nice person: after his death, his vast fortune was used to fund philanthropic projects, including an almshouse, a prison refurbishment and a block of public lavatories! Most shocking of all, he probably didn't own a cat.

Also, this month look out for the Royal Ballet screening of their Diamond Celebration on 20 November and the NT Live screening of The Seagull on 22 November. Looking ahead, the exceptionally talented folk musician Eliza Carthy and her band The Restitution are performing at the Town Hall on 2 December, tickets £23.50.

www.chippingnortontheatre.com Box Office: 01608 642350

Panto Fun Run

On 25 September participants ran or walked across the countryside to raise money for The Theatre. Costumes included cops and robbers (pictured right), Goldilocks and the Three Bears (below),



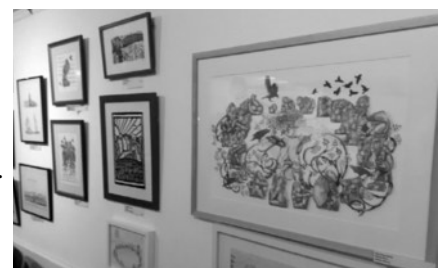
Scrooge, Snow White, cats, a rat and more! The Fun Run raised over £1,500. The Theatre's Fundraising Officer Sophie Harvey thanked everyone who took part or donated, the Town Council, Run sponsor, Owen Mumford and the many local businesses who did so much to help to make the event possible. Next year's provisional date is Sunday 24 September – put it in your Diary!

STOP PRESS: Chippy was voted **Best Theatre in Oxfordshire** in the Red Kite Day Awards 2022. See article p7.

Owen Mumford Gallery

Rollright Trust's 25 years The charity set up to own and run the historic Rollright Stones, this year celebrates 25 years of guardianship and management of the neolithic site. *Robin Smitten, Trustee and Site Manager sent this report:*

October saw the Trust celebrate in style with a month-long exhibition in the Owen Mumford Gallery at The Theatre. Featured were fascinating and skilful art works relating to



the monuments by highly talented local artists, many as submissions to the art competition for our open day at the end of August. There was a gala day of archaeology and related presentations on Saturday 15 October covering the monuments and their history, latest news on the Saxon burial and other subjects relevant to the monument and its location. The exhibition displayed the ancient and modern history of the site and Trustees were on hand to answer questions. Attracting 30,000 visitors in the past year, the Rollright Stones are an integral part of the fabric and history of Chipping Norton and, with a global reputation, the Rollright Trust is determined to ensure that the site retains its tranquil setting for the enjoyment of many generations local, national and international visitors. Grateful thanks to The Theatre for their invaluable assistance.

What's On **THE THEATRE**
CHIPPING NORTON

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON PANTOMIME

16 NOVEMBER 2022
– 15 JANUARY 2023

<p>LIVE</p> <p>1st Dec, 7.30pm 2nd Dec, 7.30pm</p> <p>FILMS</p> <p>21st & 23rd Nov, 7.30pm 24th, 27th & 28th Nov, 7.30pm 28th Nov, 10.30am 29th & 30th Nov, 7.30pm 4th & 5th Dec, 7.30pm</p> <p>SCREENINGS</p> <p>Sun 20th Nov, 2pm Tues 22nd Nov, 7pm</p>	<p>JOE STILGOE: 100 YEARS OF THEATRE—£19.50, £15.50 concs ELIZA CARTHY AND THE RESTITUTION @ THE TOWN HALL - £23.50</p> <p>TICKETS £11, £8 UNDER 16S SEE HOW THEY RUN (12A) MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS (PG) RELAXED SCREENING: MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS—£5 AMSTERDAM (12A) THE LOST KING (12A)</p> <p>TICKETS £17.50 (unless otherwise stated) THE ROYAL BALLET DIAMOND CELEBRATION (12A) THE SEAGULL (12A)</p>
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BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 www.chippingnortontheatre.com

Books, Lectures & Art

Short Story Book Launch Every year since 2016 the



Festival Director, Jenny Dee with Trustee Catherine Evans at the short story book launch

Chipping Norton Literary Festival has held a short story competition, which has attracted hundreds of entries from far and wide. Inkspot Publishing has released a collection of the 21 winning stories from the past seven years and held a launch party at Jaffé & Neale bookshop on 1 October. Festival organisers, publishers, authors, friends and families met to celebrate the new book. Entitled *The One About the Sheep And Other Stories*, it includes a wide variety of thoroughly enjoyable short stories of different genres. This is the first adult book launch for ChipLitFest, who have only published children's work in the past. Catherine Evans, local resident and trustee of the Literary Festival, who organises the annual ChipLitFest Short Story competition and set up the publishers Inkspot with Jurcell Virginia, told *The News*, 'We have borne all costs of publishing the book and all profits will go to ChipLitFest. The Festival is a registered charity which does valuable work in promoting literacy to children and vulnerable teens'. Available for sale at Jaffé & Neale for £9.99 and as an e-book for £1.99 on amazon.co.uk/One-About-Sheep-Other-Stories-ebook/dp/B0BDXBC7J. 'It will make a perfect Christmas present for anyone who appreciates a good read' promises Catherine. Inkspot Publishing is a new local imprint which is launching seven books in its first year, including the short story collection. Further details: inkspotpublishing.com or chiplitfest.com

Poetry book bonanza at Oxfam: *Oxfam's Liz Atkins reports:*

The Oxfam Books & Music shop in Chipping Norton is delighted to have received an amazing donation of titles that were submitted for this year's Forward Prize for Poetry. The shop has 135 titles and these will go on sale on Monday 28 November. They are all recently published and in very good condition. This is the largest single donation of Modern Poetry that the Oxfam shop has ever received and thanks go to the donor for this wonderful selection. So, if you are looking for some excellent new Poetry for the Christmas season, drop into the shop early on the 28th!



The Arts Society Cotswolds Wednesday 9 November, I am in person at The Warwick Hall, Burford and by Zoom. *The History of Great Exhibitions, Expos and World Fairs, 1851 to the Present* In his talk Michael Denney will consider the most important exhibitions, such as London 1851, Paris 1900 and 1925, Brussels 1958 and New York 1964. Bookings at theartssocietycotswolds.org. Visitors are welcome, space permitting – suggested donation £10. Contact 01993 823943 or publicity@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk for details.

The Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre Monday 14 November at Churchill Village Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm. A

fascinating talk on a local historical event, now largely forgotten. In May 1846 a Prize Fight took place on the edge of the Wychwood Forest at White Oak Green in front of an audience of 1,000 people. Tony Cooper, a local historian and detectorist, has used contemporary newspaper accounts, census returns, maps and local records to bring the event alive once more. He will give an illustrated detailed account, concentrating on the life of one of the combatants and what happened to him on the day in question. Many local characters are involved in the story, which gives a vibrant picture of village life in those days. £8 to include a glass of wine. Contact janie.hextall@btinternet.com/01608 658278 for further information.



Zuleika Gallery Woodstock. 11 November–9 December. *The Brave Truth* – new works by painter Frances Aviva Blane and ceramicist Marice Cumber. woodstock@zuleikagallery.com

Oxfordshire Artweeks Saturday 19 and Sunday 20



November, 10am–5pm at 8 Cross Leys, CN OX7 5HG. Judith Yarrow and Rosie Colvin will be having an informal Christmas Open Studio. Unique, high quality local gift ideas – prints, original art works, jewellery, artist's books, cards, honey. Glyme Lane and FarmED work on view. Other times available by appointment:

07969 039204. Details at judithyarrow.com or rosiecolvin.com

Music & Films

Crag Sunday Tea Concerts 6 November – Beethoven and Brahms violin sonatas with Bradley Creswick, violin, Margaret Fingerhut, piano. 4 December – *The Dawn of Grace: Music for Advent* with Somerville College Choir. Sundays at 3pm, one hour with complimentary tea and cake, Memorial Hall, Charlbury. £15 (£5 for u15s) from Cotswold Frames, Charlbury. Limited tickets on the door; season tickets available. Contact: nick.parker@cooptel.net or 01608 811558. A generous donation by The Evenlode Foundation means that all ticket money will go directly to refugee relief.

Chippy Jazz Jam A great opportunity to hone your singing and instrumental skills with a quartet of local professionals at The Crown & Cushion, usually the second Sunday of the month. Saxophonist Andy Hooley, bass player Paul Jefferies, guitarist Tristan Watson and drummer Murry Burnett are offering the chance to aspiring singers and musicians to have a go and jam with them. Andy told *The News*, 'We wanted the chance to give something back to our local community and hope to do so with Chippy Jazz Jam. We will be playing from 6pm for about an hour and then opening up the floor for the

THE ARTS

jamming session'. The inaugural Jazz Jam on 9 October proved very popular. Due to Remembrance Day the next session is on 6 November. Call Andy on 07786 078336 for details.

Holistic singing workshop Friday 11 November 9.30am–1.30pm, Astall Manor, Burford. English song and choral music, no experience needed. Places limited. Guided by opera singer Claire Bradshaw. £48 including refreshments. clairebradshawmezzo@gmail.com 07721 869361.

The Denotones Friday 25 November 7.30pm, Chipping Norton Town Hall. The Denotones 60's Experience is a fully



live, five-piece band with all members also adding vocals, playing the best of 1950s–1960s. Hits from Elvis, The Beatles, Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons, The Drifters, The Small Faces, Buddy Holly, and many more. Tickets £12 from ticketsource.co.uk/cotswoldevents.

Burford Singers celebrate the music of John Rutter Sunday 27 November, 7.30pm, Burford Parish Church. Conductor Brian Kay with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra and mezzo soprano Melanie Marshall. For details and booking arrangements visit burfordsingers.org.uk/events/.

Cherwell Choral Society 3 December 7.30pm, Deddington Church. 50th anniversary concert: Handel's *O* conducted by Dr Paul Hedley, with the Adderbury Ensemble.

Soloists: Ella Bodeker, Daniel Collins, Martin Quinn, James Sherwood. tickets £15 (children u16 free) can be obtained in person from Hamptons in Deddington, or via the website cherwellchoral.org.

Chipping Norton Music Festival 10–25 March 2023



Organisers of CNMF are once again looking for musicians, singers and performers to prepare for live performances covering

piano, woodwind, strings, speech & drama, vocals, choirs and many more disciplines. Syllabuses will be available from November with entries opening online on the website www.cnmf.org.uk from December. Updates and details of concerts will also be available via the website once they have been confirmed. Contact Sarah Cobb chairman@cnmf.org.uk for more information contact.

Screen by the Green Movies in Churchill Saturday 12 November, 7.30pm – *The Outfit*. A gripping and masterful thriller in which the incomparable Mark Rylance stars as Leonard, a Savile Row trained tailor who finds himself in 1950s Chicago quietly cutting suits for a bunch of gangsters. They are led by ageing boss Roy Boyle (William Russell Beale) and a treacherous deputy (Johnny Flynn). Rylance gives a typical cool, calm and quietly spoken performance, finding time to show a fatherly concern for his secretary and assistant, Mabel, nicely played by Zoey Deutche. A whodunit with a difference and, like the well-made suits that it features, it's a classic. Tickets: £5. Booking on 01608 659903 or email screenbythegreen@gmail.com



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Town Sports Awards 2023

In November, the Town Council's Community Committee will discuss a date for next year's Town Sports Awards to reward sporting success in 2022. Watch this space.

Chipping Norton Cricket Club



The Club held its Senior Presentation Night in October and handed out a number of awards. The Ivor Nurden Trophy was presented for the first time, in memory of Ivor, a former member. Ivor's family were there to see the trophy handed over, as were some of John Esson's family to see the John Esson Award presented.

Pictured is Darren receiving the Ivor Nurden Trophy.

Awards for 2022

The Ivor Nurden Trophy (Bowler with most wickets): Darren, *The John Esson Trophy* (Batter with most runs): Riasat, *Most Improved Player*: Jacob, *1st XI Captain's players award*: Riasat, *2nd XI Best Bowler*: Nathan, *2nd XI Best Batter*: Sami, *2nd XI Captain's Player*: Joe, *Performance of the Season Moment*: Riasat & Jacob, *Most Ducks*: Laurie, *Club Stirrer*: Joe

The Presentation Night concluded the 2022 Season with the Club AGM being held on 5 December when those elected will start planning for the 2023 Season.

Graham Beacham

4 Shires Swimming Club

We took 15 swimmers to the Coventry Long Course Sprint Meet. Congratulations to Ben Warner and Liam Kay for making the Individual Medley finals and to Liberty Bennett and Ben Price for individual event wins. Attention now turns to our Autumn Club Champs where swimmers will hope to improve their all-important registered times on Swim England Rankings which can be used for the County Championships in early 2023. We were thrilled to welcome James Gibson (former GB and England swimmer who was World, European and Commonwealth 50m Breaststroke Champion) who joined us for a drills and skills lesson, followed by a question and answer session. Swimmers of the Month were Ayan Varia and Jamie Brosnan who are working hard in both training and competing.

We have six squads: Academy, Pre-Comp, Competition, County, Regional and Masters. If you are a keen swimmer wanting to compete or are simply aiming to develop your current level of fitness and swimming skills, please book on to one of our Trial sessions. These are held on Saturday mornings at Kingham Hill School. Visit www.4ssc.co.uk/join-us or email membership@4ssc.co.uk to book your place at a session.

Lucy Warner

Vintage Sports-Car Club

Shannon Hunt reports: Having won two Club of the Year awards in 2021, the VSCC hasn't let complacency creep in, and has once again been shortlisted for Club of the Year with the Octane Historic Motoring Awards! The VSCC has also been shortlisted for Motorsport Event of the Year for its Herefordshire Trial in March when we were joined by the *Top Gear* trio: Paddy McGuinness, Freddie Flintoff and Chris Harris. There was the usual bonkers but brilliant ethos and inclusivity – with members as young as 14 able to drive – plus some much needed exposure, reaching a massive worldwide audience, to prove that vintage cars and motorsport are not a thing of the past but very much a way forward. Visit vscc.co.uk for details of all the excitement on offer at the VSCC.

Profile of VSCC Club Member Rebecca Smith

Rebecca became a member of the Vintage Sports-Car Club (VSCC) in 2014 and wasted no time in getting involved, marshalling our Lakeland Trial and competing in the Cotswold Trial. She has been a familiar and bright presence ever since and regularly competes across a range of events, recently taking the top step of the podium for the Allcomers Fast Handicap Race at the VSCC Mallory Park Race Meeting. Not only is Becky an avid competitor but she is also a great promoter of the Club and motorsport in general with special emphasis on youth involvement. In 2021, she contributed to the Club's online International Women's Day and continues to ensure that the voices of the Club's young women are heard, representing many views in her Sub-Committee roles.

Becky is a wonderful example of a 'Young Achiever' thanks to her competition, character and commitment. The future of historic motorsport relies on the enthusiasm and dedication of younger members and with individuals like Becky involved there seems very little cause for concern. She is living, breathing girl power!



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SPORTS NEWS

Everyone can play Indoor Hockey!

Friendly Indoor Hockey every Sunday for all the family – Sundays 10–11am at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. No regular commitment necessary, just turn up and we have kit to borrow if needed. £5.40 adults/£3 juniors. Ask at Reception or contact Sharon Truelove for more information (sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk 01608 730546 / 07722 603207).



There aren't many sports that everyone in the family can play together but our indoor hockey team really is open to everyone! We have youngsters from about 11, college and university students, and men and women of all levels of fitness and ability. Some are in their 50s and 60s, and grandparents and even octogenarians have played regularly. We play indoors against each other and we are happy to take people who haven't ever played before or who are returning after many years. We try to adapt the way we play, to the level of the players. We even have a few really good players who play for other local teams (or have in the past) such as Banbury, Witney or Abingdon, but they like to play with other family members or just for a bit of fun and fitness on a Sunday.

Sharon Truelove

Hook Norton Tennis Club

October's Fun Tournament was held on Saturday 29th – results in next month's News. Our three teams in the Banbury Summer League have done well: the A team are hoping to get 3rd place in Division 1, the B team were 3rd in Division 2 and the C team were 5th in a very tight finish in Division 4. Within the Club, ladder matches continue. 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 31 October–26 November) Contact Faith Heron: 07771 904905 or Steve Bone: 07850 036656 for their coaching dates. New members are welcome – contact Kate, the membership secretary, by emailing khs.shoes@gmail.com or call 01608 642774.

Elaine Priestley

Get into Golf this winter

PGA Professionals at Cotswolds Hotel & Spa are on the lookout for newcomers to the game who would be interested in both Men's and Ladies' Group sessions, Junior classes and 1-to-1 beginner coaching this winter in an effort to grow the game and continue Golf's upward trend in participation which saw a huge boom during the Covid pandemic. The Hotel boasts great practice facilities, an indoor Golf Studio which uses top of the range technology and, most of all, a friendly and relaxed environment for lessons. No equipment or particular dress code is required to start learning the game. If you would like some more information on what is available,

then please contact Head Professional Danny Phillips, at cngolfacademy@gmail.com or on 07581 097746 to arrange an initial appointment.

Motor racing update

Alice Powell, a female trailblazer and a local racing car driver, has been pursuing her career in motorsport. She's been busy as a media and television presenter, as well with as motor racing itself. Alice finished second in the all-women W Series last year. She was lying third this year, with three races remaining, and was very frustrated when the season was cut short. The organisers said this decision was to encourage more funding for 2023 and beyond.



Chippy Squash Leagues

Squash is a great game for developing fitness, speed and for burning calories! It's also good fun. Chippy Squash play at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre with players ranging from excellent club standard to beginners – all are welcome. We have up to six leagues which are updated every month, usually with five or six players in each league. Most players join Better Sports on one of their membership levels to get a discount on squash court costs. We also hold a Mix-in evening on the first Tuesday of the month where players enter a round-robin which is great for meeting other players of differing standards; you can play as few or as many games as you can manage! To find out more, please contact League Organiser Colin Little via colin.r.little@btinternet.com or call/text 07855 473572..



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CLUB NEWS

CHARG's Archaeological Finds Day

Roman coins, buckles and pottery were among the fascinating objects brought in by local residents for the Archaeological Finds Day in Chipping Norton Museum on 8 October.

Organised by the Museum and Chipping Norton Archaeological Research Group (CHARG) this was a great opportunity for anyone interested in ancient history to discover more about the objects



they'd found in their gardens or local fields. The Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Oxfordshire, Edward Caswell, who represents the nationwide Portable Antiquities Scheme is pictured above helping to identify artefacts. He was joined by archaeologist Paul Booth who specialises in Roman pottery and the County Archaeologist Richard Oram, who has been supporting CHARG for the last three years.

Among the objects identified were: a 15th Century scatter gun shot from the Civil War, a coin dating to the reign of Henry III, a small Roman brooch, a 16th Century scabbard fixing, and a Roman coin or nummus from 307–351AD.

The aim of the Day was to gather information about the Town's past which is particularly relevant in the light of recent discoveries at the East Chipping Norton Development Site. The report of archaeologists employed by developers Cala Homes is not yet published but it is likely to indicate that a substantial Roman settlement once occupied the site.

Edward Caswell was enthusiastic about the day: 'It's been really rewarding. The objects have been brilliant, but the gold is that CHARG has drummed up so much support from local people who are interested in their historic past.' Following this success, another Finds Day is to be held soon.

Jane Beaufoy

History Society learn about GIs

The Chipping Norton History Society will be meeting on Monday 14 November at 2pm in the Lower Hall at the Methodist Church, West Street. Alasdair Brown will be telling us about the Black American GIs in Britain and the 'riot' in Hook Norton in 1944. Visitors are welcome £3

Janis Paxton

Ramblers ponder treachery & traders

Chippy Ramblers' walk on 2 October started at Traitor's Ford, took in Whichford Mill and finished with a beer in the Norman Knight. Why is Traitor's Ford so named? Perhaps a traitor was hanged there following the Civil War Battle of Edgehill when several local Parliamentarian sympathisers were executed by Royalists. Or maybe it marks where Traitor's Ford Lane meets Ditchedge Lane on an ancient trading route and should be 'Trader's Ford'. The jury's out. Untroubled by this murky history, a small group of ramblers enjoyed a sunny afternoon walking mainly on traffic-free lanes. We admired the conversion of Whichford Mill to a private house with its feel of bygone days without begrudging a diverted footpath to avoid walking through the garden. A

beautiful late summer walk; we reminded each other that by November the clocks will have gone back, and the walk will begin at 1.30. Meet at the New Street Car Park on Sunday, 6 November at 1.30pm for a walk of about four miles, possibly ending at a hostelry. For details, email Jenny Harrington (jennyharrington@btinternet.com) or call me (01608 643691).

Heather Leonard

Popular cine films at Railway Club

We were delighted to see an increase of loyal members on 4 October to support our speaker, an old friend Mike Clemens. Mike has been a most welcome visitor, travelling from Pershore for many years now to entertain us with his archive cine films, taken in the 50s and 60s by his father Jim. An opening shot of Chippy Station always raises a cheer! Cine films are always popular and he didn't disappoint. A new venture for us was 'Iberian Railway Holiday', travelling around Spain and Portugal between 1965 and 1969. Undoubtedly though, the star of the show was a ride on Scotland's West Highland Line, from Fort William to Mallaig. Mike is in great demand for his cine films, very often by the BBC and other television companies. If steam train footage is required, then Mike Clemens is your man! At the meeting on 1 November, the speaker will be Tony Condor with 'Canals and Railways', discussing the relationship and battle between the two. Do come along and join us, as a member or an occasional visitor. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the interval. You will receive a warm welcome with plenty of chat and banter.

Estelle Brain

Yacht Club encounter deep waters

We were delighted to be back at our old pre-Covid haunt, the Wychwood Golf Club in September. It has been refurbished and the food moved up a notch. Felt really positive.

Rob White, Vice President of the HMS Hood Association, had the floor. Known as The Mighty Hood, HMS Hood was a British warship sunk by the German battleship Bismarck in the Denmark Strait on 24 May 1941. Tragically, only three of



the 1,418 hands were saved, making it the worst loss of life from a single British warship. A ship's bell is symbolic of the vessel and is at the heart of the workings of the watches that set the rhythm of life afloat. In 2012 there was a failed attempt to recover HMS Hood's bell from the deep water where she lay; a later attempt, with more modern equipment, succeeded. The bell was unveiled at an emotional ceremony by the Princess Royal in 2015 and is now on display at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth.

Two heroes had saved the day when a laptop glitch could have scuppered the whole meeting: speaker Rob had brought his guitar and entertained with songs while member Dave dashed home to fetch another laptop ... with few spotting anything amiss!

Visit CNYC.co.uk for details of our programme, to join, or to arrange to come along to test the water.

Roger Backhaus

CLUB NEWS



Girlguiding opportunities

In Girlguiding Chipping Norton District there are units in Chipping Norton, Enstone and Kingham with places available:

Rainbows 4–7 yrs old: CN District Rainbows (Tuesdays)

Brownies 7–10 yrs old: in Chipping Norton (Tuesdays), Kingham (Mondays) & Enstone (Thursdays)

Guides 10–14 yrs old: in Kingham (Thursdays)

To register for a place visit: <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/>

Unfortunately, Chipping Norton Guides have not been able to meet since before Covid. We would like to restart the unit and although we have a couple of volunteer helpers, we need someone to lead the unit. To register to volunteer: <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-volunteer/> For further information, please contact Alison Dunbar by email: chippygirlguiding@gmail.com or telephone: 07785 384461.

Alison Dunbar

u3a showcase at Open Day

We celebrated National u3a Week at the beginning of October (delayed by the Queen's Funeral), starting with a stall at the Co-op on the Tuesday. A colourful display showed our activities since lockdown and we were able to invite shoppers to our Speakers Meeting and our Open Day. On Wednesday 5th, we enjoyed a talk which was both educational and entertaining by historian and writer Kindra Jones. Her subject was 1000 years of Fashion from the Normans to the Victorians. As well as beautiful pictures, she also had some stunning examples of period costumes which she modelled herself. The Friday then saw us back in the Town Hall for our

Open Day (pictured) Leaders and members of our Interest Groups each set up a display to showcase their activities and talked to visitors. Once again, the Painting display was impressive, as was the range on the Crafts and Knitting Groups table. The Languages, Architecture, Garden Visits, Walking, Table Tennis,



Pickleball, Reading and Playreading Groups all attracted lots of attention. It was encouraging to listen to the buzz of conversation in the hall, fuelled by free tea, coffee & delicious home-made cake.



Our next Meeting in the Town Hall is on 2 November, when Pete Ellis will tell us what it was like to climb Everest. Visit u3asites.org.uk/chipping-norton for further details.

Christine Clinch

Horticultural evenings

The middle of October saw the start of the autumn/winter season for the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association. There was an extremely good turn out, with new members and visitors. It was good to meet together again after a rather frustrating summer, when crops were poor because of the dry

Spotlight on Horticulture

If you have a love of gardening, why not come and share an enjoyable evening with the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association? This month, members shine a spotlight on this longstanding club.



We are one of the oldest associations in the Town and recently become affiliated with the Royal Horticultural Association (RHS). Meetings are held during the winter months on each 3rd Wednesday in the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Over around 156 years since forming, the Association has had several name changes, was suspended in 1940, and reformed after WWII in 1948 and encouraged to support the 'surplus crop scheme' – no more details available. Meetings and local shows continued until 1996 but shows then stopped through lack of support and financial losses.

Around then, it was relaunched as the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association, more as a gardening club, and grew from strength to strength. By 2020 there were 90 paid-up members but then Covid hit the world and, like many other organisations, numbers declined and now stand at around 50/60. As well as holding interesting discussions and trips away, CNHA has supported 'open gardens' days in the Town for the Lawrence Home Nursing Team, held plant stalls at the Town Festival, helped with care home gardens and supported the Methodist Christmas Tree Festival. Visiting places of

interest was encouraged by the late Dr Bruce Parker and in 2004 and 2010 we visited Highgrove, the private home of our present King Charles III. Many other large and small houses and gardens have been visited, some of which being quite far afield, usually with members travelling by coach.

To quote our past Chairman, the late John Grantham, at the 2002 AGM: 'The Association has had many ups and downs' but as it was one of the oldest organisations in Chipping Norton, he hoped it would continue. We may be an 'old' organisation but strive not to be old-fashioned, always looking for new ideas and members. We usually have refreshments after each talk where members and guests can



interact with their friends and the speaker to discuss horticultural issues and techniques so why not come and join us for a colourful, informative and relaxing evening. Full details on our website www.cnha.uk or call Secretary Eileen Forse on 01608 643275 or contact Chairman Paul Embden on 07792 257164 or via paulemdben@gmail.com.

CLUB NEWS

weather. A return visit of Timothy Walker formerly from the Oxford Botanic Gardens, gave a varied and interesting talk, with ideas on how to plan and maintain the borders through the seasons.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 16 November in the Methodist Church hall starting at 7.15 with a short AGM followed by a local speaker, Clive Rand who will speak on the work of Chipping Norton Green Gym.

All details can be found on our website www.cnha.uk or by phoning the secretary Eileen Forse on 01608 643275

Probus Club encounter cars & kings



Members enjoyed a very successful visit to Morgan Cars in Malvern in September where they enjoyed admiring this exclusive car marque including the sporty 3-wheeler pictured.

On Tuesday, 20th, the day after the Queen's funeral, members joined in

remem-bering her life and the many events of her long reign. When arranging the speaker some months earlier, we could not have realised how significant a talk on the life and times of King George III would be. Our speaker Dr Javad Hashemi described how the monarchy developed during King George's long reign and how many ancient aspects of royalty and of state still feature today.

A Zoom meeting of Probus Global on 22 September was followed by a celebration of Probus Day on 1 October which highlighted the worldwide extent of the Probus family, .

Guests are welcome at our speaker meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Crown & Cushion Hotel. On 15 November, Tim Barney will talk on Defford Airfield and the Story of Airborne Radar. Please contact our secretary, John Roxby on 01993 831743 for more information.

Martin Williams

Write for Rights with Amnesty!

Chipping Norton Amnesty Group continues to work on behalf of various prisoners of conscience and also has plans for a local campaign to investigate the link between business and human rights. Chippy Amnesty is supporting the national campaign to stop the Government's attempts to 'overhaul' The Human Rights Act, which safeguards our rights in the UK and is currently under threat (to sign the petition, please visit <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/save-our-rights>).

In addition to these broader campaigns, Chippy Amnesty is busy preparing for events leading up to International Human Rights Day on 10 December. We have booked the Chippy Phone Box (turned art venue!) from 1-13 December for a display of Amnesty's human rights work and to spotlight some of our group's individual prisoners of conscience. Look out for us on 19 November at the Christmas Card event in Charlbury's Memorial Hall (10am-noon), and on 10 December pop by the Millennium Garden on West Street to see our Human Rights Flag flying (see article on p12). Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 10 November in the Lower Town Hall, when we will be taking part in Write for Rights, the world's biggest human rights event, writing letters

and cards for Amnesty's prisoners of conscience. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries to Val on 01608 645036.

Penny James

Chipping Norton Folk Club

People travel great distances to attend a folk club. In October, John and Margaret came all the way from Doncaster to give a galloping rendition of Christy Moore's Ride On. They claimed they were cat-sitting, though there was no sign of a cat. Rashide travelled miles from Bedford to play blistering versions of *Telstar* and a very obscure Status Quo number. Most of us guitarists require frets to get our fingers in the right place but not Tash. She played some impressive clawhammer on a fretless banjo. Sylvia read some Pam Ayres' poems (good job we looked after our teeth), and Ian broadened the eclectic mix of instruments by playing a bouzouki. Colin summed up modern times with Dylan's *Things Have Changed* and the old Depression years' classic, *Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out*. Music pulls people together and clearly 'things have changed'.

Next meeting Monday 14 November 7.45pm, The Artyard Café, Enstone OX7 4NF, sing, play, recite or just listen. Free entry. More info at chippingnortonfolk.org.uk/

Dave Oakley

Green Gym flourishes

In the last month we have gained six new volunteers! We were already getting record attendance at our sessions so we can get an amazing amount done every Wednesday morning.

Here is a photo of a group of us before the latest session which was clearing more vegetation to create a circular path around Pool Meadow. We



have also spent time in the Community Orchard, preparing for Apple Day (see back page) which was a great success. Ongoing maintenance at other local sites include the William Fowler Wood (beyond the allotments), Fitzalan Wood (near Travis Perkins), Pool Meadow (below the New St playing field) and, of course the Health Centre. If you would like to join us on Wednesday mornings, working in the fresh air on environmental projects in good company, visit www.chippygreengym.org and then contact me at jennyharrington@btinternet.com or phone 01608 643269. Everyone welcome! A variety of jobs for all!

Jenny Harrington

Burford and Kingham Rotary

Recent activities have included help with marshalling at a local charity ploughing match, a very successful walk round Cornbury Park followed by lunch at the Plough in Finstock, an excellent evening at Chippy Theatre with a delicious supper in The Gallery and our last stint providing teas at Chastleton – we have raised nearly £2,500 for local charities and Chastleton Church. Finally, we plan to plant crocuses in

CLUB NEWS

Burford to promote the Eradication of Polio Campaign. November events include a Charity Bridge Drive on the 11th in Broadwell Village Hall. 11.15 for 11.45 start; cost: £15 incl delicious lunch. Call 07946 253203 for details. In aid of Rotary Charities and The British Heart Foundation. The speaker on the 28th is from The Paul Strickland Scanner Centre. Prostate Cancer was one of our charities last year.

So you can see how much you could enjoy fellowship and Charity work as a member of Rotary. Do come along for a taster meeting – we would love to see you. Just email our secretary, John Smith jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk for details. We meet on Monday evenings at Burford Golf Club.

Ros Richardson 01608 643844

Garden wildlife at NOOG



Paul Embden, beekeeper and former senior technician in Oxford University's Botany Department, who some years ago revealed to us the amazing variety of insect activity to be found in our gardens, returns on

Wednesday 2 November to give us an overview, this time, of the range of wildlife we can expect to discover in our gardens and local areas.

And we end our year on Wednesday 7 December with our traditional 'eating meeting' – a special one this time as it'll be the opportunity to celebrate North Oxfordshire Organic Gardeners' 30th Anniversary.

Meetings are held in the Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, starting at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome (members: free; visitors: £3). For more information about N Oxon

Organic Gardeners, please contact Tracy Lean, tracylean@gmail.com, 01295 780710, www.noog.org.uk.

WOWI's Christmas plans

West Oxfordshire WI had a very entertaining evening in September when we welcomed the Launton Handbell Ringers. They brought a great many bells with them, explained their history and how to hold and play them. We were a bit mystified by the music that they followed as it looked like a lot of coloured squares. Some of our members had a five-minute crash course and then played a piece of music. They got resounding applause from the rest of us as we managed to recognise what they were playing!! At this meeting we also had a minute's silence to reflect on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.



We are already making Christmas plans. We hope to go out for a Christmas meal and will enjoy mulled wine and mince pies at our December meeting. The speaker, Jackie Loring, is an authority on the Japanese Kimono and will give us a chance to wear some of them. Please come and visit us, you are sure of a warm welcome. We meet at St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7.30pm. Contact: wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Hilary Dix 01608 646228

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Chipping Norton School



Enriching lives through Archery:

We are working with True Aim Archery to deliver an initiative set up by the Youth Sport Trust to bring Archery into schools. The purpose is to teach new skills, increase participation levels, foster a sense of belonging between peers and develop resilience and patience while learning a new skill. The boys participating have learned new techniques for shooting, using specialised equipment including bows and bolts. They have had great

fun working individually and in teams. It has been a pleasure to witness how well the year groups have integrated and how the Year 9's in particular have supported the year 7's.

Geography Department News: GCSE Geography students recently visited Swanage to complete three different data collection methods to help answer their fieldwork questions: Are the groynes at Swanage effective? We had wonderful weather and the students worked hard and enjoyed their ice cream after completing the fieldwork. Each month Mr Hood devises a set of Geography-related questions on the display board for KS3 students to answer. Last month's challenge was about Human Geography. The joint winners Joseph Daymond and Owen Banyard correctly identified the most populated countries in South America and favelas in Rio de Janeiro, and named the capital of Brazil. This month's challenge is Physical Geography, where students are asked to identify landforms and natural resources.

Sports News: Fixtures against other schools are now in full swing. Lunchtime and after school clubs have been well attended and students have been a credit to themselves and the School. Some highlights include:

- Our Senior Rugby team started their season with wins against two good sides,
- Year 11 boys' Football team won 6-0 in the first round of the cup.
- The Year 7 and 8 girls' Hockey teams recently played their first match
- Year 10/11 girls' Hockey won 1-0 against Burford in their first game of the season.



We look forward to taking 50 students to Twickenham in November for the England Rugby International v Japan and hope to take 32 students to Edinburgh on our next sports tour at Easter 2023. We are currently exploring sponsorship opportunities so please email Mr Thomas on jthomas@chippingnortonschool.org with any ideas or offers of help.

Science Department News: Miss Smith has been very impressed with Anton in Year 9, who is compiling a Scientific Dictionary of Elements. Anton will include information about their properties, history, and uses plus a section on 'fun facts'. 'Creativity' and 'curiosity' are two of our key school values, and Anton definitely exemplifies these!

CNPS News: Many events so far this Term for our Partnership Primary schools have included:

- A training session for the next set of young leaders, to encourage them to increase activity levels amongst their peers.
- U11 Football tournament led by our CNS Sports Leaders. Congratulations to Kingham who won both Big Schools tournaments and also to the Small Schools winners – Enstone (girls), and Great Rollright (boys).
- A Year 3 Dance Workshop at St Mary's School led by our Yr12 Sports Leaders.
- An after school Maths club for budding mathematicians led by Mr Thrower and the CNS Maths team.



- A music workshop and performance led by Mr Brown and the CNS Concert Band.
- A Family Focus week for Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils and their parents.
- A Boccia tournament designed for children on the SEN register.
- An AIM Design & Technology Workshop to make working torch keyrings.

Sixth Form Open Evening: We will welcome prospective students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 10 November, 5-8pm. Our Sixth Form department offers outstanding provision and outcomes and we are confident that our guests will be impressed by what they see at the Open Evening. Visit our website for details.



CHIPPING NORTON
SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2022. 5PM TO 8PM.

5:00pm, 6:00pm and 7:00pm
Welcome presentations from Mr Ward, Head of Sixth Form.

7:30pm
Welcome briefing with external students.

From 5:00pm till 8:00pm
Drop-in subject presentations from individual subjects in classrooms.

'All students are encouraged and supported to achieve their aspirations. Students benefit greatly from very high-quality teaching, learning and assessment. As a result of the excellent experience they have in the sixth form, students are very well prepared for their futures.' *Ofsted November 2017. 16-19 provision graded Outstanding.*

To find out more about life at Chipping Norton School then visit our website (left hand QR code), look at our prospectus (right hand QR code), or arrange to visit our school during normal school hours.

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SIXTH FORM WEBPAGE





PROSPECTUS



SCHOOLS NEWS

St Mary's Primary

Headteacher appointment: *Headteacher Mrs Stallwood-Barnes writes:* The Chair of Governors has announced the successful appointment of a new Headteacher, when I retire in January. I would like to add my own congratulations to Mrs Christine McQueen and wish her a successful and happy Headship. If she is as happy with the children as I have been over so many years she will be a lucky lady. Mrs McQueen will visit the school in October, and I look forward to introducing her to the children and handing over information for a smooth transition. I know that you will give her a warm St Mary's welcome when she arrives.

Music ensemble at CNS: Congratulations to Year 5/6 children who attended the Able, Interested and Motivated music ensemble and performance at Chipping Norton School. The



children thoroughly enjoyed their experience as did the parents who watched the final performance. Many thanks to the staff at Chipping Norton School for organising this event.

Games Crew training: Congratulations to children in Year 5/6 who did the Games Crew training at Chipping Norton School. They came back full of enthusiasm and will be starting some coaching at lunchtimes after half term and will supervise younger children. Ms Smales said she was delighted with their positive attitude and is very much looking forward to seeing them use the training in school with the younger children.

Friendship Pals: A huge thank you to our group of Year 5/6 children who have re-formed this initiative (Harvey McCallum, Heidi Wickham, Faye Williams, Molly Raemisch, Isla Snell and Jools Williams). They have been truly amazing in their attitude and skill set in setting up and planning their activities. The children use some of their breaktimes to plan games for younger children and then spend lunchtimes organising play activities for children who are feeling lonely or in need of support. One of their proposed activities is for wet playtimes and they are looking for parents and children to donate board games in good condition and with all the pieces in place. We are looking for games suitable for 4 to 11 year olds.

Open Morning: Prospective parents came to our open morning and enjoyed seeing the School and children in action. We always like to share our love of learning. A special thank you to the very talented ambassadors in Year 5/6 who were congratulated by several visitors for their skill in promoting the School and for their ability to impart useful information.

Under 11 football tournament: Our U11 football squad did us proud at the Chipping Norton Partnership tournament. The team included Rowan Golding, James Johnson, Cameron Gill, Dylan Demczak-Ball, Luke Box, Oscar Nelson, Riley Clandfield, Jacob Corbett and Bobby Bunce.

Harvest Festival: Thank you to all parents who joined us for the Harvest Festival; it really was a special event in our Church School calendar. The children delighted us with their singing, actions and prayers and Reverend Kennedy reminded



us how time was one of the most special gifts we can give to others. The Harvest display of fresh fruit and vegetables and non-perishable food will be donated along with your monetary gifts to the North Oxfordshire Food Bank. These generous donations will make such a difference.

Our Foundation class had lots of fun, celebrating harvest. We thought about being thankful for our food and about people who do not have enough. We read the story of *The Little Red Hen* and learnt to retell it with actions. This led to lots of discussion about helping our friends. Pictured are some of the children with the amazing contributions from Parents.



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Holy Trinity Primary

Year 1 had a wonderful trip to the Chipping Norton Theatre to see a live performance of Michael Rosen's *Bear Hunt*. The children were enthralled by the show; Jessica (Year 1) said 'It was really funny! I liked it when the bear chased everyone'. They are now writing their own *Bear Hunt* stories.

Year 6 have had a busy few weeks. In an exciting trip linked to their topic of WWII, they visited the *We'll Meet Again*



event at the Steam Museum in Swindon. They experienced a taste of life during wartime, learning about evacuation, family life, the importance of the railways, the roles of women in wartime and what it was like in an air-raid shelter. The class looked fantastic in their 1940s outfits and remembered to carry their gas mask boxes and identity cards!

Year 6 have participated in a Bikeability course, learning practical cycling skills and understanding how to cycle safely on the road. All of the children who participated passed the course and are more confident and responsible cyclists.

Further developing their life skills, they attended a Junior Citizen event run by the Oxfordshire emergency services. The event puts the children in a series of scenarios where they have to deal with emergency situations. The children got an opportunity to practise making a 999 call as well as working together to deal with the situations. Staff leading the event were impressed by the children's knowledge and responses as well as their excellent behaviour.

The whole school enjoyed celebrating Harvest this October. We joined in worship for a joyful Harvest Mass at church. The children sang beautifully and we are grateful for all the generous donations from our children and families that have now been donated to the Chippy Foodbank. Key Stage 1

enjoyed their own Harvest Supper; Year 1 made vegetable soup and Year 2 baked bread rolls, then they all came together to share the wonderful results. The verdict = 'very yummy'.

We are very proud of our Year 5 and 6 representatives who took part in the partnership football tournament at Chipping Norton School. Both the boys' team and the girls' team played very well, demonstrating resolve and great teamwork as well as good footballing skills. Both teams finished in third, winning at least one match each.

Excitement was in the air for the first PTA event of the year: our Welcome Disco. A big thank you to our PTA for organising the event, it was greatly enjoyed by all the children.

As part of our catholic life, the children have been looking at how they can make a difference, locally, nationally and globally. All members of our school, staff and children, have been thinking about what thoughtful act they can do for others. This could be for a single person or a group, a one-off act or a repeated undertaking. Once children chose their altruistic action, they each planted a bulb in our new woodland area (pictured here) and will complete their chosen action before the bulbs flower in spring.



Year 1 and the Key Stage 2 choir enjoyed visiting Willow Gardens to help celebrate their official opening. The Year Ones performed harvest poems and songs about creation. The choir entertained with harmonious renditions of *Sing* by Gary Barlow and *How Far I'll Go* from the Moana soundtrack. The residents were very welcoming and enjoyed the performances. We look forward to building on our new friendship with the Willow Gardens community.

Chadlington Primary

We Are Historians: The Wizards enjoyed a trip to the Roman Baths in Bath in September. As part of a trip to Eskdale, Dragons visited Hardknott Roman fort. Pixies have been working on their own timelines using family photos, and also a timeline of the school now and a hundred years ago using archive photos.

Media Mornings: The school radio station, Golden Acorn Radio, is being even more integrated into the curriculum and learning with media mornings every Thursday.

Harvest Festival: Pixies and Elves celebrated Harvest Festival by peeling and chopping vegetables for the soup which was served to parents while the children sang songs. A collection was started for the North Oxfordshire Food Bank, based at Chipping Norton Baptist Church.

Ofsted: Chadlington C of E Primary remains a 'Good' School: We were visited by Ofsted inspectors in the last week of term in July with the report published early in October. We are very proud to share these quotes; 'Pupils enjoy school because of the exciting way the curriculum is taught [...]. Pupils love the different opportunities that challenge them to develop their broader skills. This includes working on the school radio to broadcast live shows. Pupils enjoy a range of trips,

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SCHOOLS NEWS

clubs and experiences. Pupils say that this helps them to learn more in different subjects. They talk enthusiastically about being able to be part of the active school parliament.'

Great Rollright Primary

Older children helping younger ones has always been a huge part of our ethos here at Great Rollright. But for the last few years, Covid bubbles made this difficult. So this year we're making it more of a priority than ever. At lunchtime, older children are laying tables, delivering food to the younger children, and helping them cut things up (pictured). Then once outside, other older children are working as Play Leaders organising energetic activities for small groups. Meanwhile our 'anti-bullying ambassadors' are on patrol, offering support to anyone who feels lonely or unsure.



Reading Info evening: We invited parents of our younger children into school for a well-attended session on how we teach phonics and reading and how parents can help.

Football success: Our boys' team were the winners in the small schools section of the latest CN Partnership football tournament, while our girls' team were highly commended.

With school selection time approaching, parents and carers are strongly encouraged to join one of our small-group tours to learn more about what we offer – including our free bus to Chipping Norton. Please call us on 01608 737202 to book.

Kingham Primary

WWII Evacuation: Last month, Year 5 students experienced what it might have been like to be evacuated during WWII. For this great adventure, students went along to Winchcombe Station. Dressed as children from the 1940s, they went back through the time-travel gate, meeting their guide, Farmer Watts, into a building full of fascinating artefacts such as gas masks, clothing rations and even a Mickey Mouse teddy. Soon, the air raid sirens started up. Everyone had to rush into the shelter. After experiencing this terrifying air raid, Year 5 watched a clip inside a carriage about real evacuees, before catching a steam train to Cheltenham. The best part was Miss Brooker apprehending a spy walking through her carriage. The adventure gave students a glimpse into wartime life. *Jemima and Jolyon, Year 5*



Under 11 Football Champions: Last month, a group of Year 5/6 pupils took part in a tournament at Chipping Norton School. They played several matches – fun and exciting, but very intense! Kingham showed determination, resilience and

great sportsmanship (whilst having fun), proudly taking home trophies for both boys and girls! Congratulations to all the talented players, they certainly did their best and it paid off! *William, Jadon and Annabel, Year 6*

Bledington Primary

Isla G, Isla M, Ellie & Charlie report: Our European Languages day was fun and helped us to celebrate the differences and similarities in the way we speak. We started the day by answering the register in German, *Guten morgen!* We coloured in the cover of our Passports and set off for Assembly. We were welcomed by Mme Ziebeck in French and German, by Mrs Logue in Welsh and by Ms Kewley in Irish Gaelic. After Mme Ziebeck had explained our tasks we were split into groups so that we could travel around Europe. Each classroom had become a country!

When we went to Spain we played *Pato, pato, ganso* which is the same as Duck, duck, goose and then *Las frutas* and *Mar*



y tierra games to learn fruits and directions. In Greece we practised writing letters and words using the Greek alphabet – so different from our alphabet. When we got to Sweden we did a quiz matching phrases to answers and in Germany we had to work out what we thought certain words meant. Some of them were easy but others were very strange! Once we had all our stamps on our passports (pictured above) the day was over. We really enjoyed trying out different languages in such a fun way and want to do more activities like this!

Town Nursery

The arrival of autumn has been our focus here at The Town Nursery this month. We are so lucky to spend every Monday morning doing Cloud Yoga with the incredible Lucy. There are huge benefits that the children get each week from her sessions and we are lucky to witness them. The children are particularly loving 'toega' (picking conkers up with their toes). The whole Town Nursery benefits from her brilliant and well planned sessions, which are not only seasonal but also educationally suitable within the statutory EYFS. The children adore Lucy and her sessions and it is magnificent to see their progress each week. Yoga and mindfulness is such an important part of our children's emotional and mental health, and we are incredibly lucky to have Lucy as part of our team. Please give The Town Nursery Facebook and thetown-nursery, Instagram along with Lucy @cloudyoga Facebook and Instagram a like and see what we get up to!

LETTERS

Christmas tree volunteers!

I will be organising the preparation of the small Christmas trees and their distribution around the Town Centre once again this year. The event very much relies on you wonderful volunteers to fix the lights on the trees before they go up on the shops and houses. We will meet at 9am on Sunday 27 November at the Town Hall, it will take us about 2½ hours, and then the Town Council's contractor will erect the trees on the same day. The trees will come down on Sunday 8 January 2023 and help is again needed to collect the trees, take them to the Town Hall and take off the lights. Please help us as without the help of volunteers the trees do not go up!

Pat Lake

Nobility at the (last) Coronation

Older readers (of *Chippy News*) may have memories of the Queen's Coronation in 1953. I recall waiting for an Underground train only to find the carriage full of the nobility in their robes, as central London roads were still closed. A friendly Duke moved up for me to sit down and explained that he'd had to put his sandwiches inside his coronet as he remembered being hungry at George VI's coronation. I held his train up while we walked along the dirty platform and he hobbled in his satin buckled shoes with heels. I will never forget the sight of the up escalator, with each peer holding the ermine and velvet train of the one in front. A long and exotic caterpillar. Perhaps that is why Paddington put his marmalade sandwiches in his hat and the Queen used her handbag!

Jenny Selby-Green

(Thanks to Jenny, whose memories were also printed in the Daily Telegraph back in June and again in This Week – Ed)

Ambulances had better days

You say that 'rural areas . . . have always had lower performance for response times' etc. ('Ambulance Services inadequate' – p5 October News). It was not always thus. Prior to Trust status, Oxfordshire Ambulance service had ten stations around the County, of which Chipping Norton was one. The response time target for rural areas was 20 minutes, in a time with no Satnav and before the M40 was opened. With seven paramedics and one long-serving technician, we met that target. We had emergency cover for the area from 0700–2300hrs, plus an overlap crew 0900–1700. Even when the A44 Chipping Norton to Woodstock stretch was deemed to be one of the most dangerous roads in the region, with a serious collision most weeks, we saved many lives. In 1996, I was named UK paramedic of the Year for my part in one such incident. When the idea of closing stations was first proposed, I challenged management, as it didn't take a genius to work out that an ambulance from a centralised station in Kidlington was NEVER going to meet the 20-minute target. As a result, management destroyed my career, and much besides, for daring to speak out. It seems that in the intervening years, NOTHING has been learned. Those managers and politicians who have brought about an ambulance service that is failing and putting lives at risk should hang their heads in shame. They won't of course – they will simply spout more meaningless rhetoric.

Graham White

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.

Former Mayor Albert Swann



Mr David Nobbs of Chipping Norton Museum suggested that your readers might assist me with my research on Albert Swann, Bandmaster and Mayor of Chipping Norton. I am constructing a biography, having recently become the custodian of his military medals, and also wish to understand the environment in which he and his family lived. I understand Albert was a native of Chipping Norton, leaving the Town aged 17 to join the army in 1893. He had by all accounts a colourful yet challenging life, serving in the Durham Light Infantry in the Boer War and with the Indian Volunteer Artillery Company in Mesopotamia during the Great War. He subsequently forged a musical career in India serving in the Governor of Bombay's Band as a Sergeant Bandmaster and thereafter as Bandmaster at the Lawrence RM School in India. On his army retirement, he returned to Chipping Norton, c1926, and became active in the Town initially becoming conductor of the Brotherhood Orchestra and then forming the Chipping Norton Borough Band as Director. Living at the Mason Hall, he was elected to the Town's Council and was Mayor on three separate occasions, the last in 1946.

I haven't to date found a picture of Albert with the bands he created in Chipping Norton nor much as to his character, hence my asking about his involvement in local government and the Town's musical development. Essential details might include his date of death, an obituary or where he and his wife are buried. I can be reached via rd_edwards@icloud.com or phone 0049 170 7688127 (please note I live in Germany).

Douglas Edwards – Hessen, Germany

(The News has, electronically, a copy of a draft profile of Albert Swann that Mr Edwards has created – Ed)

The fate of Chippy's butterflies

As an ex-Chippy man, I was fascinated to read your note from Richard Dixon (October News) about the lack of butterflies in Chipping Norton. In the 1950s and early 1960s, I was one of a small group who studied butterflies and moths in the area. Our main haunts were Glyme Lane, Old Chalford area and Sarsgrove Woods, and we did indeed have the Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillaries mentioned in your



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LETTERS

article. There were also Dark-green and Silver-washed Fritillary, Small Blue, Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper and Wall Brown. These species had died out by the time I moved away in the late 1960s and in every case the cause was either habitat destruction or climate change – for example by a new conifer plantation replacing the habitat (several species), an unimproved field ploughed (dark Green Fritillary), a quarry filled in (Small Blue) or global warming (Wall Brown).

It's not all bad news though. I live in the Stroud area where all the species mentioned (except Wall Brown) still flourish. From my window, I can see one of the Large Blue reintroduction habitats, a species I helped to reintroduce. Residents can make a huge difference by letting an area of their lawn grow throughout the summer. Many wild flowers will soon establish themselves, followed quite soon by butterflies such as the Meadow Brown. Most species actually feed on grass – simply cut it at the end of the summer and remove the clippings. I have recorded 33 species of butterfly in our garden. You CAN make a difference. We need to get out of the habit of pouring chemicals on to our lawns and cutting the grass to within a millimetre of its life. Our garden is a blaze of colour, buzzing with wildlife throughout the summer. I call it our tidy wild garden. (from a longer letter)

Peter Hugo – Branch Contact, Butterfly Conservation, Gloucestershire

Looking after our birds

As a local birder and representative for the British Trust for Ornithology, can I send a reminder regarding bird-feeding hygiene? As the weather turns colder, many of us put out treats for the birds and, being more confined to the indoors, it is great to see our colourful visitors. It is best to put out purpose-bought seeds or peanuts rather than food waste which might attract the wrong sort of visitor. The BTO has reminded us that with avian diseases around we should be extra careful to keep the bird-feeding stations clean. If possible, relocate feeders and wash feeders in warm soapy water regularly. Even if you don't feed, a suitable container for water is appreciated but again, clean regularly and refresh daily. If you do see sick or dead garden wildlife, you can report it to

www.gardenwildlifehealth.org who are doing research into the health of garden birds. It is best not to touch dead birds and always wash your hands after feeding your garden birds.

Frances Buckel

Terry Howes – family thanks



On behalf of the family, we would like to thank the people of Chipping Norton and the surrounding villages for the support that they have given us and Mum (Terry Howes), particularly in the last 8½ years since we lost Dad (Michael Howes). We would like to thank you for the continued friendship and support you gave Mum – you are the best! Mum was extremely popular and she will definitely be missed but please be thankful that you were a big part of her life and a very special life too. Mum had a perfect end to a perfect life and will be missed by us all. Thank you to all those who attended Mum's funeral (in person, or virtually) to help give her the send-off she deserved. If you would like to make a donation to the local charities, please see the following link: <http://www.terryhowes.muchloved.com/> Many thanks.

Julie Wood & Sarah Taylor – Terry's daughters

PS Mum's carer Gogo would like to thank the people of Chipping Norton for all the love and support you gave her and Terry – it made the four years very special.

Management of Glyme Hall

Note from the editorial team – Readers will have seen the September letter from Gordon Brown raising questions about Glyme Hall, followed in October by an extensive reply by Chair of Trustees Don Davidson. This month the News received a further letter with questions and a desire to connect with Mr Davidson. Rather than continue exchanges here, readers may note that public information about Glyme Hall Ltd, the charity that runs the Hall, ref 1147379, including aims, list of trustees, and annual return, is readily available on the Charity Commission website. The Trustees can be contacted via glymehall@gmail.com.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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December deadline: Friday 11 Nov

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Chippy celebrates Apple Day

Lucky with the weather again, Chipping Norton's Community Orchard, off the Worcester Road, hosted a goodly crowd to celebrate a bumper apple harvest on Sunday 25 September.

Heather Leonard reports:

Two presses were in continuous use spewing out pure juice and 'help yourselves' encouraged boxes of unspoilt apples and pears to be carried home. Jim with his hand-made walking sticks and Phil the Bodger with his pole lathe represented rural crafts. The ancient custom of Wassailing was honoured when children hung cider-soaked toast on the trees, the crowd made a huge noise with bells, whistles and voice to drive out any evil spirits and, assisted by the Morris Men, voices sang the Gloucestershire Wassail Song.

Our Chippy Yarn Bomber came out of hiding armed with delicious little knitted apples and skeins of wool which magically became crocheted head bands decorated with white and pink woolly blossoms. Plain masks were provided – and kids did the rest with paints, sequins, ribbons, knitted apples and greenery.

The children's tent was soon adorned with paintings and apple prints, whilst masked goblins and Green Men darted between trees or picnicked on the grass. The sound of tinkling bells, clatter of sticks and three accordions accompanied the Morris – the dancers found the 'Munchies for Minstrels' tent to replenish their energy. Visitors tucked into bread and cheese, cakes and puddings washing all down with spiced apple juice – dropping thank you donations in the buckets or little wellies.



Well done to the Orchard Group and the Green Gym who would welcome help keep the Orchard going. Email rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk

DIARY

November (News out Monday 31 October)

- 1st **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p26
- 2nd **Methodist Coffee Morning** for Methodist World Missions 9.30-11.30am in the Hall - see p10
- u3a** 2.30pm Town Hall - see p27
- NOOG** 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p29
- 5th **Vintage Ruby** Town Hall steps 11.30am-1pm see p3
- Saturday Storytime** in The Library - 11am see p14
- Hook Norton Craft Fair** St Peter's Church 10am-5pm
- 6th **Ramblers** meet 1.30pm New St car park (note time) p26
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4 Methodist Church
- 7th **Methodist crafty cuppa and chat** 10-12 - see p10
- 10th **Amnesty** - 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p28
- 11th **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35
- Two Minutes' Silence** 10.45 Town War Memorial - see p3
- 12th **Screen By the Green, Churchill** - *The Outfit* 7.30 see p23
- 13th **Remembrance Day Parade & Service** Service starts 10.45 St Mary's Church - see p3
- 14-20 **National Road Safety Week** - see p4

- 14th **History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - details p26
- The Great Prize Fight at White Oak Green, 1846** 7.30 talk in Churchill by Tony Cooper - details p22
- Folk Club** 7.45 Artyard Café Enstone - see p28
- 15th **CN Probus** 11am Crown & Cushion - details p28
- 16th **WODC Cabinet Meeting in Chippy** 2pm Lower Town Hall see p2
- Horticultural Assoc** 7.15pm Methodist Hall - see p27
- 19th **Farmers' Market** 8.30am-1.30pm
- 21st **West Ox WI** 7.30pm Parish Rooms - see p29
- 25th **Candlelit Yoga** Glyme Hall 7-8pm see p15
- 27th **Little Christmas Lights** volunteers needed to put lights on the trees meet 9am Town Hall - see Letter p34

December (News out Monday 28 November)

- 1-3 **Methodist Christmas Tree Festival** - see p10
- 3rd **Ramblers** meet 1.30pm New St car park (note time) p26
- Xmas Card block printing** Glyme Hall 2-4.30pm - see p15
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4 Methodist Church
- 7th **Town Council: Full Council meeting** 6.30pm Town Hall
- NOOG** 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p29
- 10th **Human Rights Flag raised** - see p12