

Chipping Norton News



Issue 453

December 2022

Price 50p

Happy Christmas



It's festive greetings this year for everyone from Chippy's happy band of Explorer Scouts – snapped in a Christmas mood up at their Greystones Scout Hut. If you know anyone who would love to join them – send them along. But next for them and us it's 'Be Prepared' for 2023.

Double-month Christmas issue

Even better
cheesy Chippy
Christmas
cracker jokes

Your favourite
carols

Spot the 16
hidden elves

Churches at
Christmas

Dick's a hit!
Rave panto review

Ukrainian
Christmas
customs &
festive food

Freddy Fox's town trail riddles, What's On diary – plus all the Local News, Arts, Clubs, Sports, Schools and Letters

Pat Lake's Honorary Citizen award

In November, Chipping Norton Town Hall hosted an enjoyable celebratory evening to see the status of Honorary Citizen formally (and finally!) bestowed on longstanding resident, former Mayor, and servant of the Town, Pat Lake. The award had been agreed back in March 2020 (the last month before Covid and Lockdown!), by the then Town Council under Mayor Don Davidson. Town Councillor Mark Walker, leading the celebrations (standing in for Mayor Sandra Coleman who had Covid), thanked Pat for his many contributions over the years, including as Town Councillor for 20 years with three spells as Mayor. Around 100 guests attended, including 10 former mayors, Pat's family and representatives from local organisations linked with him. Former Mayors Davidson and Martin Hannant, and Joyce Taylor from Highlands spoke warmly about his service.

Pat, born originally in London, moved here with his family, and his work, in 1978. He eventually retired in 1999. In addition to his Council service, he has been both ambassador and servant of the Town – chairing Penhurst School Governors, as a scout leader and, since 2002, a hardworking Committee member and then longstanding Chair of Age Concern Chipping Norton which runs Highlands Community Centre, Chatterbox and CATS. He is also well known for directing CHAOS's musical performances, volunteering as front of house manager at the Theatre, and for years leading the volunteer efforts on the Town's Christmas lights.

In his speech, Pat said he was delighted and honoured with the award. He talked about his exploits in Chippy, highlighting early Council efforts to get a Leisure Centre, starting elderly day care, and his love of the theatre. It was 'all with the theme of working together' – often across different political colours – and about getting practical things done in and for the Town. He paid tribute to many who had helped him, with a fond mention of his late wife Maureen. Pat wrote afterwards to the News saying 'my thanks to the Town Hall staff and to Mark Walker who, at short notice, conducted the ceremony with dignity and such polish. To Don, Martin and Joyce for their kind words. I appreciated the Chair of the County Council being present and seeing possibly a record number of past Mayors in one place. My thanks also to my friends who came and, of course, my lovely family.'



Pat Lake pictured above with Terry Palmer, the Mayor's Sergeant & Cllr Mark Walker and below with his 'lovely' family



The idea of the Honorary Citizen title was proposed by former Mayor John Grantham (whose widow Celia was welcomed by Pat at the celebration) and agreed by the Town Council back in 2006 for 'citizens who had made a considerable contribution to the Town'. The award was to include a specially-designed certificate, official badge, and the grant for lifetime of one of the 85 Stints of the Regulated Pastures'. Pat is the eighth award-holder, following John Hannis (2007), Drs Bruce and Sheila Parker (2008), John Grantham (2011), Rob Evans (2013), Mike Howes (2013), and Betty Hicks (2014).

DIARY

See also p17 for Christmas church services, Arts ps 20 -21 for Concerts etc & Centre pages for other Christmas events

December (News out Monday 28 November)

- 1-4 **Methodist Christmas Tree Festival** - see p19
- 4th **Ramblers** meet 1.30pm New St car park p29
- 5th **Methodist crafty cuppa & chat** 10-12
CN Music Festival entries open - see p22
- 6th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p29
- 7th **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30=11.30 for Crisis at Christmas
u3a 2.30 Town Hall - see p28
Town Council: Full Council meeting 6.30pm Town Hall
NOOG 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p26
- 8th **CN Probus Christmas Lunch** - see p27
- 10th **Human Rights Flag raised & Amnesty Vigil** 4pm on Town Hall Steps - see p26
- 11th **Christmas in Chippy** 12.30-5.30 see advert p36
Cuppa, Cake & Chat 2.30-4 Methodist Church
- 12th **History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - see p26
- 14th **Horticultural Association** 7.30 Methodist Hall - see p27

- 15th **Chequers Music Session** (Goddards Lane) 8pm
- 16th **Lawrence Team's Candles of Remembrance** 7pm
Methodist Church see p12
- 17th **Farmers Market** 8.30-1.30

January (No Chipping Norton News)

- 1st **Ramblers** meet 1.30pm New St car park p29
Cuppa, Cake & Chat 2.30-4 Methodist Church
- 2nd **Chippy News planning meeting** details 01608 643219
- 4th **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30=11.30 for Chippy Shuttle bus
- 8th **Town Xmas Trees** come down 9am
- 13th **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35
- 17th **CN Probus** 11am Crown & Cushion see p27
- 18th **Town Council Community Cttee** 7.15pm
- 21st **Panto Props & Costume Sale** 12-4pm The Theatre bar - see p20
- 26th **Co-op Litter Pick** 10am - details p8
- 30th **FEBRUARY EDITION CHIPPY NEWS** comes out



A happy Chippy Christmas

The Town's Christmas lights are up, the Christmas in Chippy market is back (11 December!), there's lots going on in and around Town for the festive season – and a terrific *Dick Whittington* panto is back at The Theatre. Let's hope that, even with some tough times ahead, family and friends in Chipping Norton can meet and enjoy time together.

The enthusiastic *Chipping Norton News* team of volunteers are looking forward to these festivities – and wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – with thanks for their support in 2022. Onwards to 2023 – the next *News* issue will be for February – the Team has a month off as usual so we can all enjoy our Christmas together! Meanwhile, please chuckle at our Christmas jokes and have a good read. For anyone interested in helping to run the *Chippy News* – we'd love to hear from you.

Chipping Norton News Team

Legion's Poppy Appeal

Local members of the British Legion were out in force in the Town on Saturday 5 November ably supported by cadets and staff members of both the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps. The Legion's Chair, Steve Kingsford, said, 'We were



joined by Oxfordshire Community Fundraiser and Falkland Veteran, Yanto Evans, and were entertained by singer, Vintage Ruby, singing from the steps of the Town Hall. In the Crown & Cushion, Carol Peachey, our Puppy Appeal Organiser, and her team (pictured) ran a 1940's tearoom and a raffle in the hotel's lounge. It was a very successful day in all, raising over £3,000 for our Poppy Appeal'.



How did the Xmas trees at Gills prepare for the Crown & Cushion Ball? They got Spruced Up

Pool Meadow plan next steps

After a well-received feasibility report from experts Beaumont Rivers, Chippy Town Councillors look ready to give the green light to a major improvement project for Pool Meadow, the conservation area off Worcester Road towards the ancient Castle mound. The plan will include improvement to the wildlife habitat, re-introduction of an actual wet pool area, and better paths and accessibility. The consultant says it is likely to cost around £100,000 but there are strong

possibilities of this being met by both grant funding and match funding if the Town Council agrees to fund £25,000. In November, the Community Committee therefore proposed £25,000 from their main 2023/24 annual budget, to be agreed by full Council in December. Work could then move rapidly and be completed next year.



Why could Santa stop in Chippy's Market Square in a blizzard? It was a Snow Parking Zone

Foxy Question



A number of mysterious red foxes have started appearing in Chippy, not prowling the streets but cropping up in Banksy-style street art around town. Dotted in unassuming places – behind Sainsbury's, on London Road and on a telephone exchange cabinet in West Street, the question everyone is asking is 'who is the after-hours artist adorning our town'? Is he or she in cahoots with the yarnbomber who spreads crochet love in secret? And why a fox? Is it subliminal advertising for a well-loved Chippy pub? Could the serial stenciller be a frustrated member of the Basil Brush fan club? The symbolism associated with the fox includes intelligence, independence, playfulness, beauty, protection and good fortune – so is the stealthy painter simply reflecting all qualities of Chipping Norton residents? While speculation is rife, the artist's identity remains a mystery. We are well and truly foxed.

Chippy's Roman town?

The ancient Roman origins of Chipping Norton are set to be revealed for the first time. As reported earlier this year, it has long been suspected that an extensive Roman settlement may lie under the soil at or near the East Chipping Norton development site, which includes Tank Farm but extends round to Glyme Lane. Developers Cala Homes hired Wessex Archaeology last summer to dig evaluation trenches. A geophysical survey outlining features beneath the ground had prompted the work. Wessex Archaeology are expected to release their report in the next few weeks. How this will impact on the expected Masterplan for the East Chipping Norton project is not known.



Photo: Katherine Jang

Townpeople have long wondered whether there was a Roman settlement in this area. The stone head on display in Chipping Norton Museum, possibly of the god Jupiter (pictured), was found there. Fieldwalkers have in the past picked up pottery and coins on the site. 'Now the priority is to ensure there is protection for the Town's heritage at this important site,' said Pauline Watkins, Chipping Norton Museum curator. The next stage is for the County

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Archaeologist and Historic England to sign off the report and consider any next steps. Chipping Norton Archaeological Research Group (CHARG) is now working to gather information from maps, records and artefacts to build a detailed picture of the Town's ancient past. If you would like to be involved please contact John Dunleavy on CHARG2022@outlook.com.

What you want in Chippy

What needs, hopes and dreams do we have for Chipping Norton? A recent 'Chippy Exchange' project, funded by Town Council and S106 money, aimed to find out and help inform our decision-makers. Did you take part? Over 200 residents aged 4-80+ and 11 organisations contributed at nine organised, often fun, events late last and early this year. The research included informal conversations at Chippy Larder, Methodist Church and Highlands, and young people used art, music and mapping to express what was important to them. The final Chippy Exchange report – sent to the Town Council in October – puts as a priority safe indoor spaces for all ages to meet and chat, not affiliated to any one organisation, and particularly in the west end of town. More use of the Town Hall could also help. People also mentioned safer and secure outdoor public areas, slowing traffic, dedicated bike paths and dropped kerbs, improved footpaths and green spaces, green corridors to connect spaces, encouraging wildlife – and keeping outdoor spaces clean!

Many wanted an inclusive community with a Citizens Assembly, opportunities for mixed experiences for all ages and abilities, open clubs for people with additional needs, access to Citizens Advice, mental health support, respite for carers, and an events calendar. Young people mentioned tackling bullying in schools, more children's films, more youth-led groups and, as ever, a skate park. Interesting ideas included swap shops, shared-resource bank, repair café, plastic-free shops, and ways to connect local employers with people seeking work. Lack of affordable housing was highlighted as a real problem. Chippy Mayor, Sandra Coleman, told the News that the findings would be useful in work already under way and help prompt new projects. She said 'We are already working on better pedestrian and cycle links, extending the 20mph zone and improving Town Hall access to make it a vibrant well-used space. Now we have our own Events and Facilities Manager we can host more events and will look at putting an events calendar on our website alongside improving communications using website, newsletter and Councillor surgeries'. But it's not all down to the Town Council! These Chippy Exchange findings should feed into the



work of County, District, schools, and town organisations – and priorities for Section 106 funds coming from new housing developments.

Manor House hot spot

A potentially serious fire at The Manor House, opposite the Kings Arms in Chipping Norton's West Street, on 26 October led to several hours of nearby road closures. The fire apparently occurred in one room and the fire service reported that it was extinguished through the use of high pressure hose reels, followed by smoke removal using large fans. Fire crews from Chipping Norton, Banbury, Hook Norton, Witney and Gloucestershire attended. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service were conducting an investigation into the cause of the fire. The Grade II Listed 15th century five-bedroom detached building, complete with pool and extensive gardens has been advertised for sale for some time at £3.5m by Savills in Stow – 'extensively and carefully refurbished under the guidance of designer Nigel Daly'. In



The Manor House pictured on Savill's website

October, the house sale hit *The Sun* and the *Mail Online*, with speculation that a well known 1990s rock star and his fiancée had their eyes on it – as had, apparently, in a separate rumour, a well-known TV chat-show host. Of course, no one, notably agents Savills, confirmed anything. Interestingly, a different £3.5m listed 'Manor Farm' home is for sale at Ascott-Under-Wychwood with Strutt Parker. So who knows what is happening where!



What's the Blue Cross shop's favourite carol?
Bark the Herald Angels Sing



What wobbles in a pram outside Mr Simms sweet shop?
A jelly baby waiting for a friend

Council backs Chippy posties

At November's Community Committee meeting, Chipping Norton Town Councillors expressed their appreciation for the service given by local Royal Mail workers to the community, including during Covid. Given the current disputes at Royal Mail, the Committee passed a resolution stating that a letter be sent 'to the Royal Mail CEO and Board urging them to reach a negotiated settlement and agree change with the Communication Workers Union, rather than impose changes which will be detrimental to the public and Royal Mail workers'.

Remembrance Events

On 11 November, the Royal British Legion Chipping Norton were delighted with the great attendance at the traditional two minutes' silence and Armistice Day service at Chipping Norton War Memorial. Wreaths were laid by Oxfordshire's Deputy Lord Lieutenant Alison Derham, Town Mayor Sandra Coleman and from the British Legion, Burma Star, RAF, ATC, Ambulance



Honorary Citizen Betty Hicks with veterans Roger Miles and Alec Shepherd observed the Two Minutes Silence

Service, Masons, and Town Nursery. Father Clive from the Catholic Church (himself a Falklands War Veteran) led prayers, Legion President Linda Maia e Silva gave the readings, and Legion Chair Steve Kingsford marked the 80th Anniversary of the 2nd Battle of El Alamein, remembering Chipping Norton men who had fought there. Steve thanked all who came for the moving ceremony and Peta and Richard for the PA.



national anthem on the Town Hall steps. A reception for those attending the Parade followed in the Town Hall.

Then Sunday 13 November saw a very well attended Remembrance Parade leading to a service in St Mary's Church, with tributes to the three men who fought at El Alamein, followed by salute, Mayor's address and the

WODC quizzed on Town plans

West Oxfordshire's ruling Cabinet, as reported last month, held their 16 November monthly meeting in Chipping Norton's Town Hall – a positive attempt to engage more around the whole District. Public had to notify in advance to ask questions – and all focused on Chippy's future and WODC's commitment to sustainable investment here. This included how to get the best, ideally zero carbon growth plan at East Chippy – and infrastructure improvements such as HGV solutions, leisure centre upgrade, more sports fields, better parking, more affordable housing, plus improved visitor and street signage. On funding, WODC were asked to look at more S106 and particularly Community Infrastructure Levy contributions. They were also urged to have their and the County Council's leaders work proactively together – particularly to get OCC as landowners to commit to zero carbon policies and sustainability, perhaps using some of the potential near £100m from land sale to invest in all this. Chippy Town Council are also now writing to WODC with robust views on the infrastructure needs and funding. At their

meeting, WODC's Cabinet gave brief immediate responses, hopefully benefited from engaging with Chippy voters. Cabinet members were also available after the meeting for the public to talk informally one to one.

The around 20 or so Chippy public attendees were unexpectedly joined by at least a dozen vociferous protesters campaigning against new environmental car-driving restrictions for residents in Oxford being imposed by OCC and Oxford City Council. This was nothing to do with this meeting – but WODC's Cabinet Member Duncan Enright also happens to be in charge of OCC transport actions such as the Oxford scheme. WODC had decided to use the Lower Town Hall which was very crowded and somewhat intimidating for Chippy residents to be surrounded closely in the Hall by angry protesters.



What magazine did Chippy Green Gymmers get for Christmas?
Weeders Digest

Chippy's Living Room Cinema



There could be an opening date soon for the new 'boutique' cinema screen rooms planned for 29–30 High Street, Chipping Norton (which was the old Harpers store). The development includes eight residential apartments, plus five serviced short-term-let apartments, and 14 car

park spaces. Last month the News reported slippage of completion to 'February' with little information about the cinema. But now The Living Room Cinema, the intended operators, have given more information about their plans. Last year they launched their first boutique membership-based cinema in Liphook, Hampshire which is pictured above – see www.thelivingroomcinema.co.uk. The new company, founded by Claire Beswick (previously with Odeon Cinemas Group and others) who lives in Liphook, presented the proposal for a Chipping Norton cinema over two years back to our Town Council.

A new Facebook page for 'The Living Room Cinema Chipping Norton', has a job advert for a Marketing and Membership Executive for Chipping Norton, salary up to £30,000 per year. It describes a 'brand-new independent cinema opening in Chipping Norton in 2023. A welcoming home from home at the heart of the community, we are local cinema like you've never experienced before'. The Facebook page also asks for prospective punters to sign up for Founders Membership for Chipping Norton 'for Spring 2023'. A Liphook basic annual membership is £85 which includes four free shows and discounts. A limited 'Founders' membership there (costing £1500) offered unlimited cinema for two, a complimentary



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drink each visit, launch party invitation, private screening of a film of your choice, priority booking and more. Asa Brennan, the General Manager at Liphook told the News that details about Chipping Norton, including opening dates, pricing and membership details, would be available very shortly.

Pink Salt Shed in Chippy



Fans of that delicious combination of basil, parmesan and pine nuts the Italians call pesto may find themselves gravitating to the basement of the former Bannor Electrical at 5 West Street, where Kate Salter has just installed her business, Pink Salt Shed. Kate (pictured), a mother of two from Long Compton, started making fresh pesto with pasta for her now teenage children when they were little. By chance, in April 2021, she made too much of the green stuff so took it to her friends at North Cotswold Dairy who sold it in their shop. Fast forward to 2022 and Kate now makes ten varieties of her artisan pesto sauces, all free of artificial additives and preservatives. Ranging from the classic basil to wild rocket, wild garlic, sun dried tomato and even an award-winning vegan pesto, she now supplies delis around the country. A serious foodie, self-taught cook Kate explains, 'I don't eat to live, I live to eat. Friends and family started saying, "you should sell this stuff", which is how I just fell into it.'

Now that the business has outgrown her home premises, Kate is delighted to have found the perfect location here in Chippy for her expanding team of cooks. Alongside pesto, they now make an array of seasonings including Asian, Indian, Moroccan and Lebanese, as well as a tempting range of chutneys such as Christmassy-sounding Port and Cranberry Infused with Thyme and a Double Stout Caramelised Onion Marmalade made with Hook Norton beer. At the moment, anyone wanting to try Pink Salt Shed goodies can buy them locally at Daylesford and Diddly Squat. However, Kate has plans in the next couple of months to offer take-away soup and bread as well as pasta and pesto and, in due course, hopes to open her own Pink Salt Shed deli, all in her new Chippy premises. Find out more at www.pinksaltshed.com where Kate also posts recipes, or follow her @pinksaltshed on Instagram.

Latest on sewage dumping!

Campaign group, Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP), are still investigating pollution in the rivers around the Chipping Norton area. One recent study found problems at the Woodstock sewage treatment works – revealing 363 hours of spillage in 2020 into the River Glyme to Blenheim Park. Thames Water had told the Environment Agency there was none. WASP offered evidence that the water companies could not be trusted to report accurately, even with proper monitors fitted. With regulation suspect, WASP, with legal organisation Wild Justice, filed a legal claim against Ofwat for failing in their job – but a judicial review was refused. Campaigners are appealing. Ofwat did announce that most water companies will be hit by financial penalties because of missed targets. Thames Water, designated a 'poor performing'

company, faces big penalties because of missed targets on treatment works compliance, pollution incidents and internal sewer flooding across 2021/22, and will have to reduce customer bills later in 2023/4 accordingly. Of course, they are allowed to implement inflation rises, so householders will probably see little difference.



What goes red-white-red-white OUCH at 21mph?
Santa rolling too fast down New St

Actions on traffic and safety

Chipping Norton Town Council is actively pressing ahead with ideas for a safer Town – especially for pedestrians and cyclists. In November Town Councillors received a comprehensive report from Transition Chipping Norton, also co-authored by three Councillors. It includes ideas for improving junctions at the top of New Street and Albion Street/London Road with re-designed layout and new crossings. Actions for other crossings and increasing the width of dangerous town centre pavements were included, along with ideas for better cycling and walking routes through town. Outline costs were included. Any action will need Oxfordshire County Council resources and funding. Town Councillors formally moved that the proposals be sent to OCC for consideration, including for their Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Transition Chipping Norton will also continue scoping a proposal for a nearby new cyclocross course.



Cllr Steve Akers pictured during Road Safety Week

Also on the agenda for November's Town Councillors' meeting was an update from OCC on work looking at the 'A44 Corridor Strategy', which is key to reducing HGV traffic through Chipping Norton. However, neither an OCC officer nor a report appeared. The News understands work is progressing but, as many know, an 'A44' downgrade strategy has been in previous County 'Transport Plans' for nearly 20 years – and will require considerable funding and collaboration with other counties.

Bell Lane housing objections

Meetings of the Chipping Norton Council's Planning Sub-Committee are generally sedate and brief, but November's meeting was packed, taking Councillors (and one Councillor's dog) by surprise! A dozen irate neighbours attended the meeting to ensure that the Town Council was left in absolutely no doubt as to their strong objection to a planning application for two new houses. The site, on Bell Lane between West Street and Burford Road and originally part of gardens to several West Street properties, was refused planning permission for one home in 2018 after neighbours objected. But WODC's decision was overturned by a Planning Inspector on appeal. The site was then sold on with the benefit of planning consent and the new owner is seeking permission for two semi-detached homes, substantially taller

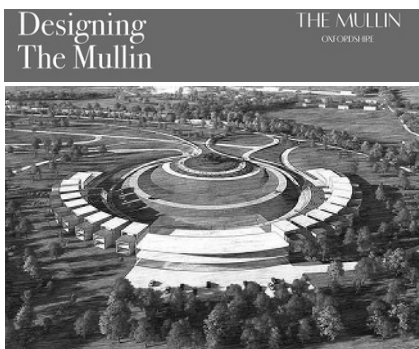


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and closer to existing homes. Locals are again up in arms, with 16 writing to WODC to strongly object, citing loss of privacy, loss of daylight, danger to pedestrians and inability to access or construct due to Bell Lane being privately owned. In an uncharacteristically detailed objection, the Town Council recommended that WODC refuse the application on several grounds, asking Uplands Committee and Oxfordshire Highways (who had not objected) to visit the site to properly appreciate the area's complexity, highway safety and effect on neighbours' amenity.

Major Enstone car museum

The ambitious proposal for a classic-car museum complex and holiday homes at Enstone Airfield is being updated as part of a forthcoming application – likely in early December – for detailed planning permission. The Mullin Project had



Designing The Mullin

THE MULLIN OXFORDSHIRE



Top: the proposed complex
Left: philanthropist and classic car enthusiast Peter Mullin

gained outline permission in May 2020 for three floors of exhibition space, café, restaurant, gift shop, members' club, corporate entertainment pavilions, demonstration track,

storage, workshops and 28 holiday homes in a parkland setting. The Mullin Project team held exhibitions in October at Middle Barton and Enstone explaining the new proposals. The overall area for development has been reduced, but within that, the number of holiday homes has doubled to 56 and the museum space itself has increased. Chair of Enstone Parish Council, Nikki Knott, told the News the local exhibitions had been well attended with some local people in support and others against. The main concern was impact of traffic on the local minor roads. She felt the Traffic Management Plan needed to be updated, given the changes, and the Parish Council would need assurances about traffic generated by proposed one-off events and special exhibitions.

WODC's full Planning Committee approved the original application by a majority vote, saying it would bring investment of £250m to the District, after initial deferral and much debate, the number of holiday homes having been particularly controversial. The Mullin team will aim to convince WODC of the merits of their revised plans. The team is being fronted by Michael Ergatoudis, who also lists Soho Farmhouse, the Beckhams and George Clooney as his clients. Enstone Parish Council will hold a public meeting,

once a new Application is submitted, to hear local people's opinions. The Mullin team told the News that, with possible approval in March, construction could start later in 2023. Meanwhile, visit www.themullinproject.co.uk to find out more.

Chippy to vote for Banbury



Victoria Prentis currently MP for Cherwell

Chipping Norton and Charlbury are moving to Banbury! In November, the Government announced that long-awaited Parliamentary constituency boundary changes will be agreed in July 2023, to even up numbers of voters across the country, and they should be in place for the next General Election. In our patch, population growth will see a totally new Bicester and Woodstock constituency formed – so our Witney MP Robert Courts, who lives near Woodstock will be faced with either fighting that seat or staying with the revised, smaller Witney seat. Cherwell, held now by Tory MP Victoria Prentis, and which currently includes the Bicester population, will be renamed Banbury, but takes over both Chipping Norton and Charlbury to make up the numbers. So Chippy's 'Parliamentary' allegiance will be there, in spite of staying under the West Oxfordshire District Council as its local authority. So, for example, to complain to your MP about WODC's housing policy, you'll probably have to talk to Victoria Prentis – unless she loses to Labour in what

Whistlers

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What was the pianist doing in the Co-op arcade on Xmas Eve?
Starting his Christmas Chopin

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will become quite a marginal seat. All clear eh?

Meanwhile, a newly formed political party, the True and Fair Party, announced they would fight the Witney seat, citing Mr Courts as one of nine Tory MPs they want to challenge for 'propping up an embarrassment of a government'. Gina Miller, who famously defeated the Government for unlawful attempts to override Parliament after the post Brexit vote, is behind the new party – campaigning against political corruption. Andrew Cook, a computer science expert who lives locally, will be standing in Witney.

Millie's Kyrgyzstan Expedition

17-year-old local A level student, Millie Chettleborough, needs your help fundraising for the British Exploring Society – a charity supporting disadvantaged young people to explore the great outdoors. Here's a quote that inspired Millie: *I throw back my head, and, feeling free as the wind, breathe in the fresh mountain air. Although I am heavy-hearted, my spirits are rising. To walk in nature is always good medicine.*

(Jean Craighead George, *On the Far Side of the Mountain*)



Millie told the News, 'In the chaos of A levels, I find that I've lost time to get outside and disconnect from the stress of life for any long period'. As a result, Millie applied to a British Exploring Society expedition to Kyrgyzstan for five weeks next summer. Getting a place offer was an amazing surprise. She says 'the expedition promises to be life-changing – the biggest challenge I've ever set myself'. She will be able to work on science and media projects alongside research organisations – and with her base camp hosts, nomadic Kyrgyz herders, learn to understand their culture. In exchange, in the lead up, Millie has committed to fundraising £4000 for The British Exploring Society, which was set up in 1932 to support young people to develop 'skills, resilience and determination to make lasting positive decisions in their own lives' and to deliver community and environmental benefits. All money she raises will be used by BES for this. To donate directly, visit www.gofundme.com/f/millies-kyrgyzstan-expedition-2023. For more, see www.britishexploring.org.

Try some voluntary 'work'



Chipping Norton Co-op held its first 'Join in Event' at The Chequers on 1 November. The first speaker was Laura Price, Chief Executive of Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action, who support and empower volunteers, networks, partnerships and non-profit organisations big and small. This is certainly the 'go to' organisation for those looking for volunteers or wanting to take up voluntary work: ocva.org.uk. A volunteer for North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank emphasised the importance of providing food



What is Nash's Bakery's favourite Xmas film?
Loaf Actually

parcels to people in Kidlington, Woodstock, Chipping Norton and Charlbury areas. Donations of food – particularly tins of fruit, sweetcorn, carrots, peas, potatoes, UHT milk are very welcome – see northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk. The meeting ended with volunteers from the Co-op, Birmingham, talking about their own volunteering and the 'feel good factor' for volunteers themselves. A win-win. Looking to do something for Chipping Norton itself? Why not join the next Litter Pick? Meet at the Co-op rear entrance, 10am, Thursday 26 January. High viz jacket and pickers provided.

Beech Haven's jam session

Last month residents and staff at Beech Haven were very busy making their own jam and chutney. The residents had been involved through the whole process, from picking the fruit off apple trees in the care home garden to making jam and chutney for Christmas gifts. Lisa Tanner told the News, 'It has been a team effort and we're looking forward to tasting the results'.



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Thyme for your festive food!

Go on, admit it, you've already started planning festive Christmas food. The visitor numbers for your spare room are already going up, and you're thinking of ordered your turkey. If you're also wondering whether you can manage another mince pie and more festive 'left over'



sarnies, the answer could lie in a Take Me Home offering from Wild Thyme. Founders Nick and Sally Pullen are gearing up for the festive and New Year season with anything but ordinary menus – think venison, partridge, truffle mash and even tapas. Nick (pictured) is also collaborating with Ben Dulley, from SaltPig

Curing, to add charcuterie to some of the menus.

Wild Thyme – weren't they the restaurant on New Street? Yes, that's them – only now, they're all about a home delivery service. Take Me Home began in lockdown, when Wild Thyme, like all shops and restaurants, had to close its doors. The team started Take Me Home, a three-course meal they'd deliver to your door, for you to heat when you were ready. 'The USP is that we don't have the urgency of a takeaway,' Sally told the *Chippy News*. 'It's a finish at home meal, as near to restaurant style as possible.' Post lockdown, Sally and Nick realised that the Take Me Home offering appealed to people at different stages of life, from new parents who wanted a treat but didn't want to go out or find a babysitter, to elderly couples or individuals wanting restaurant food experience but unable to leave home.

With the festive season underway, they're here to help with those 'I don't want to cook ... again!' feelings. The New Year's menu is still under wraps, but promises to be as mouth-watering as December menus – something special to see in

2023 without spending the whole evening in the kitchen. Take Me Home costs £30 per person, for three courses and the final one in December is the 16th. Then they will be focusing on Private Chef services led by Nick and a Friday Take Me Home dinner service. For all details, including menus, see www.wildthymorestaurant.co.uk and sign up to the newsletter to get all the news first!



How did Scrooge score a goal for the Chippy Swifts?
The Ghost of Christmas passed

Better to give than to receive?

What is a better doctrine, especially this time of year, than to give? Some of us have more time than others so here's a suggestion! The Banbury depot for Ukraine is desperate for volunteers. The



entire ground floor of the old Debenhams store has been transformed into an Aladdin's Cave of donated items some of which are pictured above. Contents range from clothing to household goods to medicines and medical equipment. The majority will go to Ukraine whilst some will help families arriving in our country with nothing. As they set up their own homes, start working, and enrol in schools, the depot provides them with vital commodities. And this is where you come in! Silver (bus) surfers can travel direct on the 488 from Chippy to Banbury bus station right by the depot. You will be welcomed with open arms by co-ordinator, Magda, who will 'show you the ropes'. Come alone or with a friend and join a team of dedicated volunteers sorting and packing, all knowing that the recipients will be beyond grateful for your labours. Youngsters on holiday from uni and school, Duke of Edinburgh participants and work experience students can all benefit from time at the depot. What a great thing to have on your CV! Contact Magda on 07395 072380 or email banburyforukraine@gmail.com and make a difference this Christmas!

"Delicious food as always - the Take Me Home service is a wonderful treat and all courses were the usual first class standard!"

Wild Thyme

UPGRADE YOUR FRIDAY TAKEAWAY WITH A WILD THYME TAKE ME HOME

A restaurant meal to enjoy in the comfort of your own home
Oven ready within 30 minutes

3-COURSES - £30 PER HEAD

COLLECTION FROM CHIPPING NORTON OR DELIVERY EVERY FRIDAY

For upcoming menus visit www.wildthymorestaurant.co.uk or scan the QR code
To book email enquiries@wildthymorestaurant.co.uk

Health news updates

Get your shingles jab – Chipping Norton Health Centre staff are encouraging patients aged 70–80 to get vaccinated against Shingles. It affects 1 in 4 people, predominantly those over 70, and can last 3–5 weeks with a rash or blisters on one side of the body, burning or shooting pain, itching, fever, fatigue and headache. Vaccination can reduce and shorten the illness. Contact the Health Centre for an appointment if you are the right age and have never had the vaccine.

NHS Healthcheck support – The NHS encourages everyone between 40 and 74 to get a health check, to reduce the chance of a heart attack, stroke or developing some forms of dementia. It assesses risks of non-communicable disease and recommends changes of lifestyle, behaviour and, where

LOCAL NEWS

appropriate, pharmacological treatment. Our GPs are in the lead on this – they will contact you. Oxfordshire County Council have also announced some extra capacity to help (from 1 January) provided in community clinics by private company ICE (see icecreates.com) who also operate Oxfordshire's Stop Smoking Service 'Stop for Life'. Watch out for details.



How was your hospital care? – Healthwatch Oxfordshire want to know if you have visited or been treated at a hospital in Oxfordshire recently. If so, what was it like? Healthwatch's Feedback Centre allows you to leave reviews of local hospitals. It only takes a few minutes to do and is completely anonymous. All reviews are sent to service providers to ensure your feedback is heard by those delivering your care. See healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

Do you have a health query? – Healthwatch Oxfordshire is our publicly funded independent champion for people using health and social care services, including in Chipping Norton. They can help if you are looking for information or advice on health or social care services in Oxfordshire. Get in touch by calling 01865 520520 or alternatively by emailing hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk. You can complete a research survey or leave a review of local services, including GPs, hospitals, pharmacies, dentists and care homes.

Energy and cost of living

A quick top 10 checklist

Emma Kennedy from The Branch and St Mary's Church offers this useful checklist. She urges anyone who needs help to drop into the weekly Connect Café for a chat and more details.



1. Don't panic, you're not alone – everyone's affected. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help or to chat
2. Contact your energy suppliers – tell them you're struggling; there are discounts and help with payments
3. Ask about water bills – Thames Water also have a discount scheme and financial help
4. Get all your Benefits – use the online benefits checker – gov.uk/benefits-calculators
5. Save electricity & water – thermostat down, wear jumpers, turn off lights, use slow cookers – check out energysavingtrust.org.uk
6. Warm home discounts – or Cold Weather Payments – see gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme
7. Help with debt – don't ignore it – many charities give free advice. CAP have a Chippy debt centre – call 0800 328 0006
8. Budgets and meal planning – see online recipes and meal planners – plus packs at the Connect Café
9. Warm welcome round town – make use of the warm spaces appearing around Chippy
10. Neighbourliness – look out for neighbours, especially those elderly or alone. Invite them to a warm space – pass on this checklist!

Connect Café, 1–2.30pm every Tuesday in term-time at St Mary's Parish Church Rooms, OX7 5NT. Craft, games, coffee, chat, signposting – or email Hannah.charles@thebranchtrust.org

What's On

THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON PANTOMIME



LIVE

1st Dec, 7.30pm
2nd Dec, 7.30pm

JOE STILGOE: 100 YEARS OF THEATRE—£19.50, £15.50 concs
ELIZA CARTHY AND THE RESTITUTION @ THE TOWN HALL - £23.50

FILMS

29th & 30th Nov, 7.30pm
4th & 5th Dec, 7.30pm
6th Dec, 7.30pm
8th Dec 7.30pm
11th & 19th Dec, 7.30pm
13th & 14th Dec, 7.30pm
4th & 8th Jan, 7.30pm
9th & 10th Jan, 7.30pm
11th Jan, 7.30pm
9th & 10th Jan, 7.30pm
20th Jan 7.30pm &
22nd Jan, 4pm
21st Jan, 10.30am
21st Jan, 7.30pm
22nd Jan, 7.30pm

TICKETS £11, £8 UNDER 16S (unless otherwise stated)
AMSTERDAM (12A)
THE LOST KING (12A)
THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN (15)
LOVE ACTUALLY WITH WINE—£25 (Over 18s only)
EMILY (15)
LIVING (12A)
SHE SAID (12A)
MATILDA THE MUSICAL (PG)
IN FROM THE SIDE (15) - £7.50
THE SILENT TWINS (15) - Friends 2 for 1/half price

ARMAGEDDON TIME (12A)
STRANGE WORLD (PG) - £5
BONES AND ALL (15)
THE MENU (15) - Friends 2 for 1/half price

SCREENINGS

18th Dec, 7.30pm
2nd Feb, 7pm

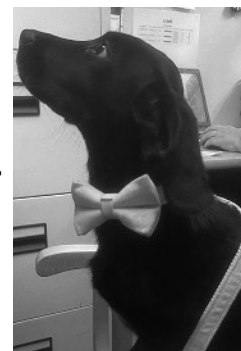
TICKETS £17.50, £12.50 concs
THE NUTCRACKER (12A)
THE CRUCIBLE (12A)

BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 www.chippingnortontheatre.com

Martha's mission for care

Beech Haven Care Home in Chipping Norton proudly announced they now have a puppy in training as a therapy dog – a Labrador crossed with a Sprocker Spaniel – currently 12 weeks old. Residents have all taken to her, and named her Martha. She has been visiting them in their rooms, playing fetch with them in the garden and is settling in very well. Watch this space for updates on Martha's progress!

Lisa Tanner



What do Santa's helpers have to wait two weeks for?
Their Elf check with their GP



New Daylesford plans



Readers will have watched the growth of the Daylesford Organics shops and related hospitality businesses. Last year, the owners added a refurbished Fox Inn in Lower Oddington to already successful ventures such as the Wild Rabbit in Kingham. The longstanding plan to redevelop Kingham's Mill House Hotel site is being revived with the submission of a revised planning application. Then the latest venture has seen founder Lady Carole Bamford (pictured) invite you to register your interest in membership

of The Club by Bamford at Daylesford where you can 'indulge in a 360-degree wellness experience incorporating health, fitness and holistic well-being'. Her letter of introduction on www.Bamford.com, describes the ethos as 'B.Well, B.Wild and B.You'. The Club opens in 2023.

You can also indulge in Daylesford's Christmas fare – including hampers delivered to your door, exotic gift shopping, and events such as visiting Father Christmas, plus cooking and wreath-making workshops. The hospitality businesses could also be expanding, with rumours of another new restaurant venture and possibly more staff accommodation in or very near Chipping Norton. One other Daylesford-related story made the national press in October after Boris Johnson was in Chippy while visiting the area. Mr Johnson's entries in

the public Parliamentary register of MPs interests showed donations in kind from Lord and Lady Bamford in July of £24,000 for his wedding celebration held at Daylesford in July, then more, valued at £23,500, for 'accommodation for him and his family' during September and October.



Why did the rude Chippy teenager not believe in Santa?
He was a Rebel without a Claus

Town Council grants review

As reported in November, Chipping Norton Town Councillors met in October to decide how to allocate the £26,000 budgeted for grants to local voluntary organisations. Twenty had applied, with requests totalling around £35,000. Councillors traditionally carry out this process once annually – with a single discussion weighing up the different needs for a fair allocation under the Council's Grants policy. This year a Community Committee meeting with four members present completed the task. Councillors are now to review the process. Questions include: how to ensure grants best benefit Chippy; how to deal with urgent applications during the year while remaining fair to everyone else applying for a finite sum; ensuring recipients have safeguarding policies for young and vulnerable people; and whether large organisations can apply for multiple grants for different activities. A task force of Cllrs Jo Graves, Sandra Coleman and Steve Akers has been asked to report back. Contact Councillors or the Town Clerk with any views.

HO! HO! HO!



SALE!

SALE!

SALE!

ON MANY OF
OUR FAB ITEMS,
FROM
THE 1ST DEC
THROUGHOUT
THE FESTIVE
SEASON

MERRY XMAS
FROM THE
COTSWOLDS
GEM

WE WANT YOUR VINTAGE
HANDBAGS, CLOTHES, SHOES ETC
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QUIRKY * FUN * CUTE

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ANTIQUES & BOUTIQUE

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10 LOGS FOR £5 – STOCK UP FOR WINTER

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Remembering loved ones



Lawrence Team's Louise Blackler receiving a cheque for £3,750 from Barry Yates and Richard Pineo who, with Five Star Events, a group of local supporters, fundraised this summer.

Please join the Lawrence Home Nursing Team on Friday 16 December for their annual Candles of Remembrance Service (starts 7pm) at Chipping Norton Methodist Church (see page 18 for more). It will also be 'live streamed'. Please visit www.lawrencehomenursing.org and click the link which will be published on the day to join the service. Please email fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org if you wish to send a photo and a dedication in memory of a loved one for display on our memory wall. We are also very happy to remember loved ones we have not cared for. A small donation will be gratefully received but is entirely optional.

This time of year, we would like to acknowledge the entire community's continued support for LHNT. Without your support we would not be able to provide free, end of life nursing care at home. To date in 2022 the nurses have cared for 90 patients at home and provided over 3,000 hours of nursing care. Tickets will go on sale in the middle of January for *An Evening of Conversation and Laughter* with Miriam Margolyes and Graeme Garden at The Theatre, Chipping Norton. Please save the date of Thursday 20 April and buy February's Chippy News for details! Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year!

Verity Fifer

Cotswold Crescent play park

After some years of neglect, the large recreation area in the centre of Chipping Norton's Cotswold Crescent looks set for a major boost with completely new equipment and other potential play facilities for nearby local people. At their November Community Committee meeting, Town Councillors proposed that £60,000 of their existing reserves be earmarked for spending as soon as practicable. There could also be some grant money available. All this spending is subject to Full Council agreement next month, but Councillors want to get on with action – working with local young people and residents, using professional recreation experts. Councillors also agreed to fund a new noticeboard there for Council information and local posters.



What's round, furry and minty and up at Heythrop Zoo?
A polo bear



What did the Snowman have for breakfast at The Premier Inn?
Ice Krispies

Big thanks from the Library

Chipping Norton Library has held more free events than ever this year – possible through the kindness and generosity of volunteers and supporters. To mention a few, there's Sarah, our Digital Helper Volunteer we are so lucky to have, and Nicola Menage, who gave a fantastic interactive talk for parents about anxiety in children. A big thank you to all of the amazing Home Library Service volunteers! This important service couldn't run without you. Thank you Ellie, for all the children's events and stickers. Bring your 3- to 6-year-olds to the Saturday Storytime Christmas Special on 3 December at 11am. No need to book. Places are allocated on a first-come,



Examples of origami hanging from the Library ceiling

first served basis. Thanks to Yen Yang Co for introducing everyone to the world of origami! His third origami workshop is on 8 December at 1.30pm – with a Christmas theme – adults included. There are limited places available; to book a place, please telephone 01608 643559 or email chippingnorton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Last, but definitely not least, thank you Madeleine for the delicious cakes you make for the monthly coffee mornings with AgeUK. The next ones are Tuesday 20 December and Tuesday 17 January. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Sally, Ceri, Kate and Kaye!

Sally Moore – Library Manager

**Surinderpal
Singh, LL.M TEP
Solicitor**
Wills, Trusts, Probate,
Capacity Advice & Mediation
Tel: 00 352 661 892 290
amrittrust@iamlaw.co.uk

Chipping Norton Town Council – The Guildhall Team

Have you signed up to our Town Council's latest newsletter? Would you like to chat to our councillors informally over a monthly cuppa? Our Town Council team in the Guildhall are now at full strength – and are eager to help the Mayor and Councillors encourage everyone to enjoy living here or visiting – using all our town facilities. Here's an update from the Guildhall's two latest staff members.

Deputy Clerk Katherine Jang has lived in Chippy for five years and has really enjoyed getting to know the community. She said, 'I'm passionate about architectural heritage and archaeology, having just finished a DPhil in biogeomorphology and heritage science at the University of Oxford. If you have any questions about the East Chipping Norton development (Build Chippy Better working group), Pool Meadow, or anything else, please stop by my office at the Guildhall any time Mon-Fri between 9am-1pm or email me and I would be happy to help.'



Tania Kirby, Facility and Events Officer joined in October from a background of live events, theatre production, and fundraising for community charities. She said 'You will often see me with my family dog and best friend, Indy Anna Bones in the Town Hall. Chipping Norton is a gorgeous town, with a fantastic community and I've felt very welcomed. The Town Hall is an iconic building in the heart of the Town and I am proud that my role will be helping maximise its potential particularly for community events that appeal to all. Inclusivity and diversity are my passion and hopefully built into everything we do.'

How can we ensure our Town Hall is used by the whole community? Our Town Council are starting on a £250,000 multi-year upgrade and want to make it more accessible. They are looking right now at providing a more relaxing meeting space in the Lower Hall, including for young people, buying a Yamaha keyboard for the sound system; and planning more events. Contact Tania with your ideas. And for all the latest news, councillors' surgeries and future meetings visit the Town Council website: www.chippingnortontowncouncil.co.uk

A Cotswold Serenade

Recent Chippy resident, Angela Ewing, was born in Leicester but lived 60 years in Oregon USA, as a travel writer and novelist. She wrote to the News about discovering the historical and modern-day charm of Chipping Norton: Bliss Mill, Jacobean buildings, old pubs, and not least, interesting and talented personalities around town! She told us about two who'd caught her eye – at the arcade piano off Chippy's High Street.

Two musicians will remind you of past times when good old music hall singalongs accompanied on a piano were popular. To sample those bygone days, sit for a moment and listen to pianist Ruth Dale and tenor Gwynford Osborne. A little class among the mundane, and away from insistent pub background music that drown out conversation. I'm not sure everyone appreciates pianist, Ruth, who accompanies Gwyn on an old upright piano on Wednesdays in Withers Court covered walkway, but I do. The piano, unusual in a public arcade and donated by a generous local lady, was installed by the then Mayor Georgia Mazower to encourage anyone to use or practise.

Pianist Ruth tells me she started piano lessons at seven in Surrey, continuing until she was 18. She's certainly no slouch, though never felt quite good enough for her audience playing hymns. 'I didn't want to let them down,' she says. Now in retirement, she accompanies Gwynford, singing an assortment of old songs like *O Sole Mio*, the Glen Miller song *I Know Why, A Nightingale Sang in*

Berkeley Square, and many 40's radio favourites popularised by Gracie Fields and Vera Lynn. Ruth loves the informality, people sitting nearby to listen, and the joy of a real piano 'with a pedal, the soul of the piano'.



Ruth met singing partner Gwynford while accompanying the Male Voice Choir many years ago. He can still hit top C and has the flourish of a showman. Now 86, he decided to have formal lessons in his 70s! He remembers WWII and air-raid shelters, no doubt singing to keep up morale. A shy boy, he sang in chapels for weddings and funerals, and singing here in public must be good for his soul! I witnessed one extra charming interlude recently. A tall good looking young man joined in *O Sole Mio* with his wonderful opera-trained voice. Gwynford lifted his hands, sang in tune, came alive and I'm sure enjoyed the applause. Just a classical moment in a mundane world. If you visit Chipping Norton, call in the arcade on Wednesday from 11 to noon for a singing journey from yesteryear.



Be a Friend of The Branch

This month sees the start of renovation of the old NatWest Bank as The Branch – to create a community hub to service the Town and surrounding villages. For everyone excited by the vision, now is the chance to join in! The new Branch Trust charity has launched a ‘Friends’ scheme – a simple way for us to invest personally to help create and run The Branch and bring down barriers to unlock potential in the Town. For the

£10 pays for someone struggling with debt to attend a Life Skills course, sharing budgeting & cookery skills

£25 enables one young person to attend a Branch Out & Cook course, building new skills and self esteem

£50 covers the cost of a full programme of mentoring and nurture using art as therapy to help a child recover from trauma

£100 enables us to train a Domestic Abuse Coach to start preventative work with the younger generation

price of a weekly cup of coffee, you could help transform local lives now and for generations. The Branch’s Georgina Orchard told the News that in the last year, 18 local families have been supported by The Branch’s Debt Centre – with half now living debt-free, a transformational experience for a family. Each term, over 60 children are mentored in local schools with mental health support, building self-esteem, improving attendance, and opening career chances. To date, 30 families have started recovering from domestic abuse – with advocacy, empowerment, retraining, and employment. To become a Friend visit thebranchtrust.org/support-us or contact Georgina on 07879 62854 who said, ‘we would love to hear from you, your support means a huge amount and we are excited about more people joining us on this journey.’ And, as building work starts, watch out for temporary, then more attractive hoardings that will display monthly updates about what is happening. For any questions or concerns on the building work, email build@thebranchtrust.org

Why did Santa’s helpers fail their Top School GCSEs
They forgot to do their Gnomework

Xmas shopping: for The Lido!

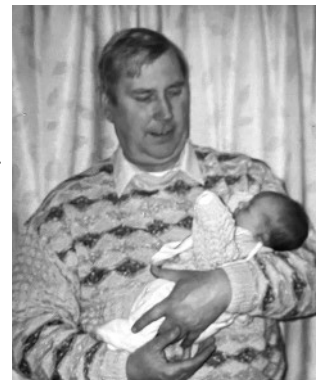
Did you know you can help keep Chipping Norton’s Lido in action when you’re shopping online with many major retailers, including Amazon? It costs you nothing, but the retailer donates a percentage of your spend to us and over time these small contributions all add up and provide us with vital additional income. So, if you’re shopping with Amazon, just visit smile.amazon.co.uk and sign in to your existing Amazon account. You’ll be able to select The Lido as your chosen charity and carry on with your shopping as usual. If you’re shopping elsewhere, you can also support us through giveasyoulive.com and easyfundraising.org.uk – again, once you’ve registered, you’ll be able to choose to support us whenever you’re shopping with brands like John Lewis, Asos and many many others. With many thanks to all those whose continued support is keeping The Lido open for us all.

Claire Jarvis

Farewell old friend

Peter Linnington

Peter, known to his family and friends as Pete, sadly passed away on 8 October. Pete was born in Wootton, Abingdon on 26 June 1944 before moving to Chippy when he was 15. Despite not being born here, he always considered himself to be a true Chippy man. Pete had worked on a farm in Abingdon before moving to Chippy and attended an Agricultural College for a while before becoming a milkman. Pete met Ann (née Morris) when they were 15 and 19, and they married when they were 19 and 23 in 1968. They enjoyed 54 years of happy marriage together. Pete became a part-time retained firefighter in Chippy which he did for 21 years. He left his milk round in 1970 and became a bus driver until his retirement, when he took on a paper round to keep him active. Pete had three children – John, Neil and Kay. He also had one grandchild, Hannah. Pete was a larger-than-life character – a friendly, happy go lucky man who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



Kay Linnington

Deadline for the February News

Friday 13 January – no January Chippy News

Christmas Shopping
at Whichford Pottery is a festive treat...

- The Octagon stocked full of the very best handmade gifts.
- Full range of our handmade, frostproof flowerpots.
- The Straw Kitchen serving homemade winter warmers.

Ceramics, textiles, jewellery, tools, candles, cosmetics & more...

We look forward to welcoming you!

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



FESTIVE FOOD NEAR & FAR

A Ukrainian Christmas

Two of Chippy's Ukrainian guests – Olena Morrow and Lyudmila Kristska – shared some of their Christmas traditions with News readers

Traditionally, Ukrainian Christmas festivities start on



Christmas Eve, celebrated on 6 January according to the Julian calendar – but in fact many more Ukrainians now also like to celebrate Christmas on the Gregorian 25 December date!

Sviata Vecheria (Christmas Eve Holy Supper) brings the family together to enjoy festive food and start the holiday with many customs and traditions dating from antiquity. A **Didukh** (meaning 'grandfather'), a sheaf of wheat or mixed grain stalks, is put in the place of honour, with stalks of grain symbolising all the family ancestors.

Traditionally, the family sits down to a twelve-course meatless supper. The first course is always **Kutia**, sweet wheat grains (wheatberry) pudding with fruit and nuts. The big Kutia pot sits in the centre of the table and the first tablespoon is taken by the head of the family. Then may come **Borsch** (beet soup), followed by a variety of fish – baked, fried, cold in aspic or marinated (herring). Then **Varenyky** (boiled dumplings filled with mushrooms or potatoes) and **Holubtsi** (stuffed cabbage rolls). The supper ends with **Uzvar**, a compote of

dried apples or pears, water and sugar.

Peaceful family festivities at home are followed by street celebrations. Young people, with joyful traditional Christmas carolling, entertain everyone in exchange for sweet gifts and tips. They present a short humorous skit, more like a folk opera, usually involving a character dressed as a goat, which in pagan times represented the god of fertility. The more carollers come to the house, the more fortune and wealth will come to the family the following year!

Merry Christmas!
Щасливого Різдва!
(shchaslyvoho Rizdva)

A pot of Kutia!

Ingredients: Wheat grains (wheatberries) 1 cup; poppy seeds 1/2 cup; water; honey 1/2 cup; chopped walnuts 1/2 cup; dried fruits (raisins, chopped apricots, prunes or cranberries). **To prepare:** Soak wheat grains overnight, rinse thoroughly and drain. Add 3 1/2 cups water and boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer until wheat grains soften, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, bring poppy seeds and 2 cups water to simmer, turn heat off, cover and rest for 30 minutes. Drain poppy seeds. Mix all ingredients! Add more or less water and honey to taste. Serve and enjoy!



Some British Christmas delights

And here are some local Chippy suggestions for food and drink gifts. Thanks to everyone!

Seeded Stilton Biscuits – An ideal gift in Kilner jars or ready-made box. 150gm plain flour, 80gm of crumbled Stilton cheese, 100gm unsalted butter, one egg yolk, 4 tsp sesame seeds, 1/2 tsp sea salt. Mix flour, salt, cheese, egg yolk and butter by hand or processor until a dough is formed. Divide in two, roll to shaped rolls. Roll in sausage shapes in the sesame seeds. Chill, slice into rounds and bake for 12–14 minutes on 160°C or gas mark 4.

A Healthy Christmas Pudding – One from Estelle Brain with no added fat, flour or sugar! Place 24 ozs of chopped mixed dried fruit (eg raisins, sultanas, dried apricots, dates, pineapple, crystallised ginger) in a large bowl. Add small grated apple, tbsp each of grated orange and lemon zest, juice of small orange and 1/4 pt fortified wine, eg Madeira, Marsala or sweet sherry. Stir well, rest for an hour or overnight. Meanwhile, mix 4oz white breadcrumbs with 1–2 tsp mixed spice. Beat 2 medium eggs and add, with breadcrumbs, to main mixture. Stir well, cover and again leave overnight. Steam 5 hours in greased pudding basin (clingfilm on top), or for 6/8 hours in slow cooker. Reheat on Christmas Day using the Slow timer.



Apple Brandy Liquor – 'Mary's Christmas Tipple' (pictured left) is a tribute from residents and staff at Beech Haven Care

Home to founder Mary Whitehead. They picked 6 apples, then produced and named their own Apple Brandy. One recipe suggests dissolving 2oz of sugar with boiling water, then add it and a bottle of brandy (and maybe cloves and cinnamon) to a bowl of chopped apples. Cover, leave for two weeks then strain into a bottle. Simply delicious!



Pickled Pears – Another great present. 125gm sugar, 500ml cider, 1 1/2 kg small pears, some cloves and small cinnamon pieces. Starting with the syrup, mix sugar & cider bringing to the boil. Remove from heat and add spices. Peel pears, leaving stalks on, cut in half, stud with some cloves, and pack tightly into jars covered with the syrup. Fit lids loosely and place in oven for an hour on 150°C or gas mark 2. Whilst warm, place jars on a towel and tighten lids. Label and add decorations!

CHIPPY'S FAVOURITE CAROLS



Your Favourite Carols

In the spirit of Christmas, we asked Chippy's musicians, performers and carol enthusiasts to tell us their favourites. A huge thanks to everyone.

Melodywise I love **The Coventry Carol**: an ancient tune in a sad minor key. Words wise **Good King Wenceslas** – it tells of the rich and powerful showing compassion to those in need...ah!...if only, if only! *Pete Mona – Musician (The Chequers Music Session)*

Probably **Ding Dong Merrily on High**, with that glorious 'Gloria...Hosanna in Excelsis' chorus. I like it because I sang it with a full choir at school after lots of rehearsals. We could sing our hearts out in the chorus! *Francis Coates – Junk & Disorderly (local band)*

I might have to say **The Little Drummer Boy**, conjuring up my early memories of drumming in Christmas shows with a Brass Band. However, my favourite would be **Joy to the World**, making me feel Christmassy with a lovely melody too. I also like Sufjan Steven's more sombre rendition with its harmonies. *Dan England – Panto Drummer*

A pre-Christmas Advent carol **Lo! He comes with clouds descending** – such joyful and optimistic melody, and exciting descriptive text! The final verse, with David Willcocks's fabulous descant, stirs memories singing it with my church choir growing up. *Ben Goodall – Musical Director CN Choral Society*

The old carol **O little town of Bethlehem**, to the tune of Forest Green, was favourite of *Ben Waddilove – Worship Leader, St Mary's*, particularly the last verse that encapsulates the Christian message 'O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today'. *Rachel Chai, of Chippy Folk Club* also loves all its words. She mentioned 'the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight' bringing a sense of peace – and 'yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light....' singing outside around frosty Chippy!

My personal favourite – **Hark the Herald Angels Sing!** Firstly, I love the tune; secondly, it takes me straight to my childhood, inseparable from earliest and joyful recollections of Christmas; and thirdly, lyrics rejoicing in the good news of Jesus coming to a broken world bringing peace, mercy and reconciliation – between God, world and nations. Beautiful! *James Kennedy, St Mary's Church*

Difficult to choose but John Rutter's modern one **The Nativity Carol** with meaningful words telling the story and incredibly beautiful tune for choirs in harmony. The closing lyrics give us so much hope in a troubled world 'Love in that stable was born, into our hearts to flow. Innocent dreaming babe,

make me thy love to know.' Peter Williams – Organist St Mary's

One favourite is **The Boar's Head Carol**. Not necessarily for Christmas, but I heard Steel Eye Span play it years back and it has stayed with me. Another folk version of a carol I love is great guitarist Bert Jansch's **In The Bleak Mid-Winter**. *Ian Hall – Chequers Music Session*

O Holy Night! Beautiful, spell binding – it touches me whenever and wherever I hear it. And now real sentimental value. In Lockdown I sang it solo to my Grandparents as a surprise. A surreal but simple moment, of music, mulled wine and precious time with family – all socially distanced. It reminds me what Christmas is all about. *Evie James – Cast Member, Chippy Panto*

In The Bleak Mid Winter. It's bleak, and I'm Welsh! It evokes that winter cold on a frosty morning, and that feeling of 'hang on in there, we will get out the other side.' *Sian Thrasher – North Cotswold vChamber Choir*

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear – a beautiful carol, less hackneyed than many. I love the vision of angels over the earth, and it talks of peace and hope for mankind. *Annabel Beach – North Cotswold Chamber Carol*

As a bell-ringer, it has to be **Ding Dong Merrily On High**. Heavenly bells! *David Salter – CN Branch Ringing Master*

I love the Swingle Singers doing **See Amid The Winter Snow**. Beautiful harmonies, and

that calm, peaceful feeling of a landscape of fresh snow. *Nick Watkins – 8 In A Bar (local acapella group)*

My favourite by far – **O Come O Come Emmanuel**. I love its antiquity (monastic plainsong sung in Latin 1,200 years ago) its minor tonality, and that unexpected tierce de Picardie with a final major chord. It typifies the coming of Christmas – but without the schmaltz! *Rowena Gibbons – Accompanist CN Choral Society*

I'm saying **Away in a Manger!** I live in a small rural village, and we sing this carol every Christmas Eve by candlelight as we gather with Christingles. It's loved by people of all ages and gives a real sense of community Christmas spirit to start the festival. *Rebecca Applin – Chippy Panto*





CHURCHES AT CHRISTMAS



The Churches in Chipping Norton wish you a
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and welcome you to their services of worship

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Whatever shape they might take in your homes, Christmas is a time when traditions come to the fore... mince pies (for me at least!), lights, baubles, trees, carols, parties, Bing Crosby dreaming of a White Christmas! And while some of them may evolve over time – many of us will hear a King's Speech this year for the first time in living memory – tradition actually does something essential: It anchors us. It shapes us and reminds us of our place in a bigger story.

So many contemporary voices and pressures clamour to tell us to reinvent ourselves, saying we'd all be better off – free – if only we could create our own new identities and realities (and some traditions and past experiences, for sure, can be less than helpful), but the reality is that the more we cut ourselves off from the positive influences that have shaped us, the more isolated, lost and insecure we end up.

Christmas helps us to keep our perspectives clear, reminding us of, perhaps, the most positive influence we'll ever know: Against a backdrop of war, Christmas tells the bigger story of how God's son – the Prince of Peace – came to lead us to eternal peace. Against the backdrop of cold dark evenings in an energy crisis, Christmas tells us of the 'Sun of Righteousness' – the one who will ultimately set all things right. Against the backdrop of the chaos and confusion of political disarray, Christmas reminds us that we find truth and hope in the 'Wonderful Counsellor' who was born in a stable, laid in a manger and grew up to give himself up for our good.

Whatever else you're doing this Christmas, I pray that you will be able to stop and rejoice as you reconnect with the story that continues, throughout the centuries, to bring immeasurable light and life and love.

James Kennedy
Vicar of St Mary's
Chipping Norton



Community Church

Sunday 4 December

10.30am in the Town Hall – Looking Forward to What is Coming

Sunday 11 December

10.30am in Glyme Hall – What does the incarnation mean?

Sunday 18 December

4pm in the Town Hall Carol Service

Holy Trinity Church (Roman Catholic)

Christmas Eve

5pm – Vigil Mass

11.30pm – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

11am – Christmas Day Mass

Methodist Church

Sunday 11 December

11am – Junior Church Christmas Family Service

Wednesday 14 December

11am – Market Day Carol Service

Sunday 18 December

6pm – Candlelight Carol Service

Christmas Day

10am – Family Service

St Mary's Church (Anglican)

Sunday 18 December

6pm – Carols by Candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve

4pm – Christingle Service

11.30pm – Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8am – BCP Holy Communion

10.30am – Family Service

Baptist Church

Sunday 4 December

3pm – Christingle Service

Sunday 18 December

4pm – Carol Service

Christmas Day

10am – Christmas Service

Sunday 28 December

3pm – Messy Church

Here are some of the many things to do and places
and a Quiz from the News Team to

Perfect Blenheim Christmas

This year has a new spectacular hour-long light trail through palace gardens – and a new themed Snow Queen Palace interior at Blenheim in Woodstock. One of the highlights of the UK’s festive calendar:



glittering tunnels of light, dancing lakeside reflections, trees drenched in jewel-like colour and a glimpse of Father Christmas. Street food along the trail, including winter warmer and hot chocolate. Christmas Market in the Great Court – and Ice Kingdom themed afternoon teas. Through December to early January. Bookings via www.blenheimpalace.com.

Rollright Christmas Services

St Andrew’s Church, Great Rollright shares Christmas with other parishes. Carols By Candlelight 6pm on Sunday 11 December followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Then Sunday 18 December 10am Holy Communion, Christmas Eve 3pm Crib Service especially for children, on Christmas Day Holy Communion at 10am. New Year’s Day St Andrew’s hosts the single shared service at 10am. Everyone welcome to the village and the church (see p17 for Chippy services)

Cotswold Farm Park

Santa is also calling at the Cotswold Farm Park just beyond Stow, joining in the all their Christmas celebrations surrounded by donkey foals, lambs and greedy goats! Visit Santa’s Grotto and the enchanted light trail. Make a bear, with the helpful elves, try festive gingerbread decorating, get a magical token to spend in the shop. Bookings and details at cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk.



Christingle Nativity Service



Yes it’s back at St Mary’s Church by popular demand. ‘Fear not said he’, a great traditional start to the festivities returns at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

‘Glad tidings’ will come to all who make their way down Church Street. Take the family and dress as your favourite Nativity character so that you can really join in. Get there early for a good seat!

Festive Xmas Tractors!

If you fancy a quirky evening to support Katharine House, go and watch festive fleets of fairy-lit tractors drive around local villages. The KFS fairy-lit Tractor will be in Chadlington and



at Chippy in Christmas on 11 December (12.30). Then RC Baker’s colourful fleet will be around Barford St Michael, South Newington, Bloxham then Banbury from 5pm on 17 December. Our local hospice also has Christmas Cards and calendars for sale, and is recycling your Xmas trees. You can also be a festive volunteer at other Christmas events. More at www.khh.org.uk or drop in the Chippy shop.

Oxfam gifts for the world

No need to be stuck for present ideas – call in Chippy’s Oxfam Bookshop for some Oxfam Unwrap-



ped gift cards. Each (from £10 to £50) supports one of three life-saving projects: building Stronger Communities in conflict and emergencies; supporting fairness, dignity and safety with Women at Work; and renewable energy to help Climate Justice. There are many more Christmas ideas, cards, advent calendars and diaries.

Christmas in C

On Sunday 11 December (12.30–5.30) Chippy Town Centre will be transformed into a Christmas Market with market stalls selling local crafts, food, and even a giant Christmas Snow Globe! Take the whole family. Live music, children’s lantern parade and lots of local town organisations will also be there – and the Town Hall which is open books on Chippy for sale. See

A Christmas

1. Which Cambridge Christmas Eve
2. Which English poet ‘In the Bleak
3. We sing ‘Good King did he h
4. Which famous diar Christmas
5. Which World War Christmas descript
6. What nationality Moore, who wrote ‘T Christ
7. Poet Benjamin Zeph to which part of ou
8. Which riverside sardine and were sere field mice at
9. What was the title Christmas
10. What kind of Chr sing a
11. Which Pre-Rapha nativity with Jesus, Ma
12. Which ballet is tr around Chr

Answers

Candles of Remem



and live streaming for those un
www.lawrencehomenursing.org

AT CHRISTMAS

to go around Chipping Norton at Christmas –
to test your festive knowledge



Chippy is back!



drop in the Museum opposite
12.30–4pm, free, with lots of
advert on back page.

mas Quiz

College broadcasts a
carol service?
t wrote the words for
'Midwinter'?

g Wenceslas' – where
ail from?

rist gave his account of
Day 1662?

I poet gives a vibrant
ion in 'The Gypsy'?

was Clement Clark
was the Night Before
mas'?

maniah wrote a homage
r Christmas dinner?

inhabitants dined on
naded by carol-singing
t Christmas?

of the 1984 Band Aid
smash hit ?

istmas did Bing Crosby
about?

elite artist painted the
ary, animals and angel?

aditionally performed
istmas time?

s on p35

brance

ll welcome on Friday, 16
December for this annual
service to remember loved
nes, with Lawrence Home
ursing Team at Chipping
orton Methodist Church.
doors open 6.30pm, short
service at 7pm. Refreshments
able to attend. More details on
g. (More on page 12.)

Christmas Tree Festival

Call in Chipping Norton Methodist Church and see 50 festive trees decorated in all kinds of wonderful fashions by local town organisations. The 12th Christmas Tree Festival has the opening ceremony on Thursday 1 December at 6pm (open to 8pm). The event continues Friday 2 December (2–6pm), Saturday 3 December (11am–6pm) and Sunday 4 December (11am–3pm), ending with a service of celebration on the Sunday at 4pm. Any profits support local Methodist churches. Tea, coffee, light refreshments, cakes and craft stalls. Entrance free.



Children's family service



Chipping Norton Methodists Junior Church are planning an adventree for the Tree Festival and will use it as the theme at the Junior Church family service at 11am on Sunday 11

December, which is planned and organised by the children. Julie Biggs, the new minister's wife, will lead the service. Families welcome, refreshments afterwards. See CNMC website for events and all services.

Shopping over the Christmas holiday

Need to buy some milk, bread or loo roll on Christmas Day and Boxing Day? You can still pop in to the town centre Londis at the Esso Garage, and for a full shop call in to Costcutter, Chippy's Convenience Store at 4 Hailey Road, OX75JB. Owner Sam Singh will give you a festive welcome. The shop is open 7am to 10pm Christmas Eve, 8am to 9pm on Christmas Day, and 7am to 9pm other days.

Rollright Christmas Bingo

Call in to Great Rollright Village Hall on Friday 16 December. Christmas attire encouraged, prize raffle, free mince pies, and more. Doors open 7pm and games start 7.30, all family friendly. Bar and refreshments. Eyes Down Look In for local causes. Next New Year date 24 February.



Christmas at Chastleton

Why not make a festive visit to the National Trust's Chastleton House – open every day from 26 November to 11 December. They are hosting a 1960s Christmas in the style of Chastleton's last owners, Alan and Barbara Clutton-Brock. The Jacobean interiors will be splashed with 60s colour, from Twister in the Great Chamber, pink towels in the guest bathrooms to empty champagne bottles littering the Great Hall. See many a familiar Christmas scene, and perhaps one or two familiar 60s items. House and wilderness walk open 11am–3pm, last entry 2.15pm. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton.



A festive Fairytale Farm



Book your tickets for this year's Christmas Fairytale events at the family attraction with the extra animal park (open during daylight) and illuminated walks near Chipping Norton – on from 3 to 24 December. This year's magic includes Fairytale Castle, interactive dancing penguins, the Toymaker in his cosy log cabin and Santa's sleigh. Visit Santa in his Grotto to get a present for your children. Oh, and a great café and indoor activities and Elf training for kids. See www.fairytalefarm.co.uk for prices, tickets and details.

A very Rollright Christmas

Pop along to Great Rollright for some great Christmas events. The Village School host a **Christmas Wreath Workshop** with Sarah Hutchinson-Jarman in the Village Hall, 7.30 on Thursday 8 December. £25 includes all materials, mulled wine and mince pies email greatrollrightfriends@gmail.com to book.



Great Rollright Christmas Market on Saturday 3 December 11am–2pm is in the village hall. Locally made gifts, craft corner for children, games, mulled wine and hot chocolate. Hot food by Copper Pot Catering.



The Theatre

Dick Whittington



Dick Whittington is the main event and continues through December until 15 January. Tickets £19–£34. Fundraising Officer Sophie Harvey reminds us that, 'It's been 50 years of the Chippy Panto! That's 50 years of rooting for Panto

heroes, booing at villains, and cheering for dames. Fifty years are behind us, but what's in front of us? Hopefully more years of fun! You are invited to be a part of that by donating any amount, whether £5 or £500. Visit: justgiving.com/campaign/fiftyforfifty to make a donation. Every penny will help The Theatre for years to come'.

Panto exhibition In celebration of the 50th pantomime in the Owen Mumford Gallery, displaying old posters, costumes and props. Open pre-performance and in the interval.

Panto Props & Costume Sale Saturday 21 January 12–4pm in the Theatre Bar. The now traditional sale of costumes, props & memorabilia from this and other recent pantomimes. Ideal for amateur companies, schools and those in search of unusual souvenir.

Live shows

Joe Stilgoe – 100 Years of Theatre, Thursday 1 December, 7.30pm. Joe and his band celebrate music of the theatre from Kurt Weill and Cole Porter to Rodgers & Hammerstein and Lerner & Lowe. £19.50, £15.50 concs.

Eliza Carthy and The Restitution at The Town Hall, Friday 2 December, 7.30pm. Celebrating her 30 year career,

outstanding English folk musician Eliza Carthy is coming to Chippy with her band playing songs from her new album *Queen Of The Whirl*, featuring re-recordings of some of her greatest hits. £23.50.

Love Actually With Wine, Thursday 8 December, 7.30pm. Age 18+. Richard Curtis's *Love Actually*, accompanied by a festive wine tasting experience, with wine geek Tony Elvin. £26

Chris McCausland: Speaker Blinder, Monday 12 December, 7.30pm. Age 14+. The rescheduled stand-up show from this always-funny star. Sold out.

Films

As well as being the Town's main venue for live performance, The Theatre is also currently Chippy's only cinema! Showing over the next few weeks are new releases including *The Banshees of Inisherin*, *Emily*, *Matilda the Musical*, *Armageddon Time*, *She Said* and *Strange World*, as well as a screening of the Royal Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, filmed at the Royal Opera House.

Pick up a brochure or see Theatre advert p10 for listings. Book tickets via chippingnortontheatre.com or call the Box Office 01608 642350.

Music, Museums & Exhibitions

Cherwell Choral Society 3 December 7.30, Deddington Church. 50th anniversary concert: Handel's *Messiah* conducted by Dr Paul Hedley, with the Adderbury Ensemble. Soloists: Ella Bodeker, Daniel Collins, Martin Quinn, James Sherwood. £15 (children under 16 free) from Hamptons, Deddington, or cherwellchoral.org.

North Cotswold Chamber Choir 3 December 4.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Chadlington. *Sweet was the Song*: Carols, wassail songs and Christmas lullabies for choir and audience.

A welcome return for Dick & his cat

News Team member Deborah Siepman brings a fresh eye to Chippy's panto this year – hailing from America, she had never seen a pantomime – until now! Here's her take on our treasured traditions, with this year's panto the first to be written by Theatre Director John Terry himself!

My first panto? Oh yes, it really was! Growing up in America, I'd only vaguely heard of this mysterious entertainment. Decades later, my moment of discovery had arrived, as if written in the stars as I walked into England's favourite 'home of panto', celebrating its 50th year.

With the shimmering poet Fairy Fee looking after good natured Dick and his feline sidekick, how can things go wrong? The snarling entrance of Queen Rat and her highly impressive pack of Pippins (too endearing for their own good) spelled trouble, but who could guess that such inventive twists would unfold along the way.

From start to finish we were treated to brilliantly witty dialogue, sets and costumes bursting with imagination and colour, with intricate movement and choreography that never missed an opportunity to fill the stage with energy, whether in the London streets or aboard ship. The music carried us through a range of emotion, from the clever

take on *My Way*, revealing a subtler side of the villainous Rat, to an utterly magical rendition of the Bow Bells ringing out the promise of good fortune to Dick. The loveable Alice and Dick sang an inspiring message 'the adventure starts today', though it might be the bubble tune that we'll be humming (and jiving to) from the scene that had the whole audience laughing and bouncing in their seats – and out of them! And what a Dame. She commanded the stage with her camp delivery, groaning puns, and fetching wardrobe.

My squeamish reservations about the cooking scene were more than redeemed by the glitter, warmth and creativity of this delightful production.

I discovered that panto, with its formulas, stock characters and traditional lines, offers a unique reassurance and feeling of belonging, along with fun and laughter for every member of the family. What else can give us all that? I'm hooked!



Photo: Josh Tomalin

Good natured Dick and his (mostly) silent sidekick Whittington

THE ARTS

Conductor: Sarah Tenant-Flowers. Piano: Bernard West. Tickets £12, u18s £8. Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/4e9dekdv>

CRAG Sunday Tea Concerts 4 December – *The Dawn of Grace*: Music for Advent. The Somerville College Choir perform a festive and seasonal mix by a wide variety of composers. 5 February – **Maggie Cole and friends**: Sarah Thurlow – clarinet, and Richard Tunnicliffe – cello, playing Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, and Beethoven's trio and cello sonata. 3pm, Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Tickets £15 (£5 under 15s) from Cotswold Frames. Limited tickets on the door. Details: 01608 811558 or email nick.parker@cooptel.net.

Oxfordshire Craft Guild Winter Exhibition Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock 6–16 December, 9 January–16 February 2023, Tuesday to Saturday 10am–4.45pm; Sundays 2–4.45pm.



Artisan crafts from 25 local makers including jewellery, glass, ceramics, textiles and sculpture. The Craft Guild promote quality of making and design and members have had to go through a fairly rigorous selection process. Those looking for unique Christmas gifts will find a wealth of beautiful objects to choose from.

The Arts Society Cotswolds Wednesday 14 December *Singe we Yule – A Musical Portrait of a Medieval Christmas* with Sarah Deere-Jones. Illustrations from illuminated manuscripts, readings from literature and contemporary accounts, and songs, carols and tunes of medieval England, bringing alive the spirit of a Medieval Christmas. Wednesday 11 January 2023 *Posters of the Belle Epoque: The Great Age of the Poster* with Charles Harris – how technical innovation combined with creative genius and craftsmanship enabled posters to become the first effective method of mass communication, 11am at Warwick Hall, Burford and by Zoom. Visitors: £10, space permitting; details: publicity@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk or 01993 823943; bookings: theartssocietycotswolds.org.

Chipping Norton Choral Society: 17 December 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton. **Christmas Choral Cheer**: Vaughan Williams: *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and

Ronald Corp: *A Christmas Mass*. Carols for everyone to sing. Mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets are £12 from tickets@cncs.org.uk or £15 on the door (U16s are free).

St Kenelm's Concerts 15 January, 6pm at St Kenelm's Church, Church Enstone: internationally renowned violinist Kathy Gowers and pianist Simon Crawford-Phillips, play works by Ravel, Franck and Bloch. Tickets £10/£15 on the door. All proceeds to Crisis Skylight, Oxford. Wine and refreshments available. Details: philippaibbotson@gmail.com

Royal Photographic Society, Visual Art Group Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock 6–16 December, 9 January–16 February 2023, Tuesday to Saturday 11am–5pm, Sundays 2–5pm.



All types and styles of photography, and a wide variety of subject matter from still-life, landscape and architecture to portraiture and macro, with or without in-camera techniques and post processing. Admission prices apply (entry fee includes all museum galleries and exhibitions). Details: sofo.org.uk

MASKS ON, GLOVES OFF!
Marie-Ange Bouchard ARPS

Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society are now in rehearsal for next year's production, *Me and My Girl*. The show is directed by Pat Lake, with Catrin Russ as musical director and Fiona Bates as choreographer. 11 and 12 May at 7.30pm, 13 May at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Tickets £15 +£1.50 booking fee for 7.30pm performances and £13.00 +£1.50 booking fee for 2.30pm matinee from The Theatre at chippingnortontheatre.com or 01608 642350.

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock **Create and come together** ongoing to 31 December. A celebration of all things handmade and sustainable: family fun following the Twelve Days of Christmas i-spy trail of handmade items; Christmas crafting, seasonal storytelling (15 and 22 December at 11.30 and 2.30pm) and the Museum's first **Festive Late** (8 December at 5.30–8.30pm), featuring a performance from the Bicester Rock Choir in the illuminated garden. Details: oxfordshire.gov.uk/Oxfordshiremuseum, Entry and activities free.

Local events 2023

Chipping Norton Music Festival, 10–25 March. Opening date for entries: Monday 5 December; closing date: Friday 3 February. Details of all classes at cnmf.org.uk (See page22)

Chiplitfest 27–30 April. The annual Short Story Competition is open for entries. Judge: literary agent, Antony Harwood; sponsor: HW Fisher. Word Limit: 2,500 (£8) 5,000 (£10). Free entries available for writers on low incomes. Closing date: midnight Sunday 5 February. Details: chiplitfest.com

Under Chippy Woods A new drama group in Chipping Norton, sponsored by the Nortonians, perform *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas at the end of April 2023. Contact Sian O'Neill on 01993 831961 for more details.

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MUSIC FESTIVAL



Chipping Norton Music Festival

10–25 March 2023



Now is your chance to sign up to join in Chipping Norton Music Festival, one of the oldest festivals of its kind in the UK. It has been promoting music-making in Chipping Norton since 1904 and celebrates its 111th festival in 2023.

The heart of the Festival

During a two-week period in March each year, some 1000 participants – entrants, parents, grandparents, music teachers, volunteers and adjudicators – are involved. At the heart of the Festival is a wide range of adjudicated classes, where performers receive constructive feedback from a team of professional adjudicators. This is a friendly and a non-competitive Festival, which aims to promote confidence through performance regardless of age or ability – it really is about taking part! The participatory classes are accompanied by a series of professional concerts, and the culmination of the Festival is a concert presenting the highlights, where various trophies are awarded for outstanding performances from musicians and performers of all ages.

The joy of taking part

The News received the following thoughts on the value of the Festival and the sheer pleasure in taking part:

Musician, Emily Chambers 'I've played in a wide range of different classes and workshops every year since I was six (on Zoom during Covid). I've also had the opportunity to play in the End of Festival Concert – a brilliant experience and really inspiring. ... It's played a really important part in helping me to develop performance skills in a friendly and supportive environment. Now I'm a more experienced player, it's a safe place to help me prepare for bigger events and auditions. Each year there are many 'returners' and it's lovely to see how everyone is progressing. It brings live music to the Town, including high quality performances from professional musicians. Don't be scared: there's a class for everyone and, unlike lots of other festivals, it isn't competitive.'



Recorder and flute tutor, Heidi Fardell 'I teach 20 children locally and I've been encouraging my students to participate in the Festival for a number of years. It was clear from the start that this is a supportive and non-competitive music and drama festival that aims to encourage children and adults to have a go at performing and all my students wanted to return the following year. I feel strongly about keeping volunteer-run organisations alive. They provide a valuable space for people to perform in a nurturing and inclusive environment – there's space for everyone,



with specialist adjudicators coming to provide positive feedback for each performance. If you're thinking of entering yourself or a student, please go for it – the whole festival has a lovely atmosphere with a great ethos.'

Performer, volunteer and organiser, Rosemary Wilson

'The Town Hall provides a superb performance space dominated by the grand piano. It could all seem intimidating but the recurring word to describe this Chippy Festival is friendly. It is not about winning trophies but how well you connect with the audience whilst demonstrating skills appropriate to the class entered. There is a sense of history too: this Festival has been running for over 100 years. It is a tribute to those who had a clear vision about the importance of music-making in the locality and to those who continue with that vision.'



Piano teacher, Helen Porter 'I have been entering my pupils and my own children since they were very young in piano, woodwind, strings, and have accompanied brass players and singers. It is such a friendly festival with top class adjudicators. I recently found a leaving card from one of my pupils now at university in which she said how taking her out of her comfort zone into performing at the Festival had given her pride and confidence in herself. The final concert is always of an amazing standard.'

Volunteer and steward, Bob Forster 'I love music. I'm not much good at it, so it is quite simply inspiring to see and listen to performances at all ages and all abilities. My particular pleasure is being present when the choirs are performing, a time when small individual mistakes simply don't matter: raised voices and multiple smiles fill the hall and volunteering becomes a sheer pleasure. Success is measured in those smiles, a sure sign that music can be enjoyed by all.'



Key diary dates

Monday 5 December – opening date for entries.

Friday 3 February – closing date for entries.

Friday 10 March – Jazz Night opens Festival.

Saturday 25 March – Concert closes Festival.

See www.cnmf.org.uk for details of all classes

SPORTS NEWS

From the Sports Editor's Desk:



Plans for 2023 Sports Awards – Chippy Town Council's Community Committee have agreed to support and fund the Town Sports Awards again for next year – but they propose running the Town Hall event on a Friday in the better weather after Easter. I will be working with Tania Kirby, the Council's new Events Officer to plan it all. More in the New Year.

Hopes for better sports facilities – Our growing town needs better facilities and I remain frustrated that, so far, the known plans for the East Chippy 1000+ homes development fall short of giving the Town the sports provision that we need. I know that young people must also be disappointed, particularly after their views were canvassed in a recent Town Council survey, about the lack of a possible wheeled sports park, with no site in prospect for skateboarding or other wheeled equipment. Charlbury have a very good one! How about some progress on all this in the New Year?

Making Chippy cycling friendly – After the terrific summer National Women's cycling event in the Town, we still need a cycling boost in the Town. Town Councillor Mark Walker updated me recently on hopes for cycling friendly initiatives and routes – and suggests more cycling training will help to encourage uptake. Mark has promised me an interview with a trainer to publicise this.

My personal thanks to all – I've personally emailed and thanked all my Club reporters but I wish to record my thanks here to all my sports contacts for their reports throughout the year. Also, a big thank you to the *Chippy News* Team for their help in producing the sports pages and keeping us 'in the news'. Finally, thanks to everyone young and old who play and support sport in the Town. Well done Chippy!

Graham Beacham

Chippy Trixsters

We are a welcoming club, open to children of all abilities who want to try out roller hockey. We train at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre on Saturdays, including a beginner session



open to all from 12–1pm. All the kit can be borrowed. Email chippytrixsters.info@gmail.com or message us on Facebook for details. Our u13 team recently attended the BISHA (British In-line Skater Hockey Association) National finals in Market Drayton where they were placed fourth. An added bonus was that two of the team were voted into the tournament 'Dream Team'. Everyone had a great day and we are really proud of them. Join us at our Christmas-themed roller disco on Saturday 17 December 1.45–3.45pm. Entry: £6, skates for hire: £1. We run monthly roller discos at the Leisure Centre usually on the last Saturday of the month.

Emma Vickers

Chippy Squash Leagues

October was a record-breaking month for the squash leagues, with five out of six leagues achieving 100% of matches played. Congratulations to league winners Nick Ghosh, Peter Jenkins, Stuart Bissett, Harvey Monk, James Virgin and Bryce Wilkinson. We are currently running six leagues at the Better

Bliss's Misses blaze a trail

Following his October article about Chippy's pioneering female baseball players, local sports enthusiast Bill Williams sent this account of a trailblazing women's football team – readers may have their own memories – the News would love to hear.

Sixty years ago this year, a women's football team from Bliss Mill known as 'Bliss's Misses', were prevented from affiliating to the Oxfordshire Football Association because the game was considered to be 'unsuitable' for females! The application had been made by team captain Mrs Joan Dix in September 1962, but she was told, 'Football is unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged'. Undaunted, the team did play a series of friendly matches often against local men's teams, proving that they were more than capable of playing the game and that the views of the authorities were outdated and insulting.

This ruling was very much the line taken by the Football Association across the country at that time, as women had been banned from playing matches at affiliated football grounds as far back as

1921 and it was not until 1969 that the Women's Football Association was formed. In 1972 the first official Women's



Ladies Football Team 1963

Back Row: Elaine Knight, Vivien Campbell, Eileen Burman, Trixy Yates, Margaret Timms, Jenny Turner; Front Row: Noreen Benfield, Freda Watkins, Joan Dix (capt), Christine Smith & Jenny Legge

International match took place near Glasgow between Scotland and England and later this month the FA will distribute bespoke 'caps' for the original Lionesses and subsequent teams. This year, of course, the current Lionesses made history by beating Germany in front of 90,000 fans at Wembley in the final of The European Championships and, interestingly, The Oxfordshire FA website now boasts that, 'with almost 3 million active females playing, football is now the biggest women's team sport in England'.

All the women and girls who have played or who are currently playing Football owe a great deal to teams like Bliss's Misses who blazed a trail for women's sport in the UK.

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Centre but may have to move to seven in December as we have four new members this month. It is great to see the leagues growing. Squash is a fast, fun game. We welcome players of all abilities from beginners to county level. If you would like to join the leagues, contact Colin Little – colin.r.little@btinternet.com. We run a Drop-in evening from 7–9.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month: it's a mix-in session where all-comers can join in. Hope to see you there!
Colin Little

Hook Norton Tennis Club

October's Fun Tournament was held on Saturday 29th.



Congratulations to winners Peter Morrissey of Brailes and Sue Roberts from Great Rollright and thanks to organisers Stuart and Kate Hopkins. Our three teams in the Banbury summer league have done well – the A team achieved 3rd place in Division 1, the B team were 3rd in Division 2 and the C team were 5th in Division 4. Winter Floodlit teams' current positions:

A team – 1st in Division 1; B team 7th in Division 1; C team 3rd in Division 4 and the D team 6th in Division 4.

Within the Club, all ladder matches and Club Sessions are under way. Members can book courts via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub>. Coaching is available from Marc Gilkes: 07930 406015 (4 January–11 February). Contact Faith Heron: 07771 904905 or Steve Bone: 07850 036656 for their coaching dates. New

members are welcome – contact Kate, the membership secretary, khs.shoes@gmail.com or 01608 642774.

Elaine Priestley

Sunday mornings are for hockey!

Every 10–11am on a Sunday, in Chippy Leisure Centre's sports hall, our indoor hockey team invites players of all ages and genders for a game of fun and friendly hockey! Each week sees a different array of faces, promising both the youthful energy of our youngsters and some great experience from our older players. Our games are always played in an inclusive and accommodating spirit which results in an enjoyable hour's fitness for families and individuals alike. Beginners are welcomed and with a true range of abilities every week, our team is a great opportunity to learn more about the sport, or simply to have a bit of fun on a Sunday morning.



Friendly Indoor Hockey every Sunday for all the family – Sundays 10–11am at Chippy Leisure centre. No regular commitment necessary, just turn up when you feel like it and we have kit to loan if you need it. £5.40 adults/juniors £3). Ask at reception or contact Sharon Truelove for more information (sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk 01608 730546 / 07722 603207).

George Tuckwell

4 Shires Swimming Club

We have seen good attendance in galas with a fabulous weekend at our club champs producing some excellent swims, some first-time official timed swims for our Academy members and lots of personal bests. Our busy schedule takes us to Oxford for our final chances for County qualifying. Swimmers of the month were Gethin Collins, who has been with us for a while, producing very good times and training

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SPORTS NEWS

really well, and Arthur Walker who has only been with the Club for six months yet has progressed so well we have moved him into the Competition Squad. We have plenty of social events planned in December – a Bingo night, a Christmas party, Wreath making and a Fun Swim on Christmas Eve.

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 fitness and swimming skills, please book a Trial session on Saturday mornings at Kingham Hill School, via our website www.4ssc.co.uk/join-us or email membership@4ssc.co.uk.

Lucy Warner

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contact Club Professional, Danny Phillips by calling him on 07581 097746 or by email proshop@cotswoldsclub.co.uk.

Danny Phillips

Cross-country fun in the rain



We're now into cross-country season, and at the time of writing, Hook Norton Harriers have survived the first fixture of the Oxfordshire Cross-County League – a very wet and windy race at Newbury Showground! Both our men (pictured) and women's teams were fantastic, and we also have to give a special thanks to

Royston, who got rather wet when he volunteered for some hardcore marshalling duties.

We are also getting ready for our annual Christmas Canter race, which sold out within a couple of days! It's always a highlight of our year and has a really festive feel, with many runners dressing up – we're looking forward to seeing this year's outfits. On a sadder note, local photographer Barry Cornelius, who photographs Oxfordshire races and lets us have photos of us racing for free, has announced his retirement from local race photography. Many thanks to him for all the work he's done over the past eight years.

Nell Darby

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CLUB NEWS

Grateful Green Gym

Last month I reported that we were delighted to gain even more volunteers and record attendance at our sessions. And now more good news! The Town Council has renewed its annual grant to us – this time £1000. Thank you! Our expenses include buying tools and equipment, rent for the tool store, insurance to cover volunteers and members of the public visiting our sites, publicity material, training and of course young trees and plants. Once a year we clean and check our tools (pictured). And last year we bought another bench for the Community Orchard. We continue working on all six Chippy sites, two of which we lease from the Field Reeves and the rest are also public sites such as Pool Meadow and 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

Amnesty around town

Chippy's Amnesty International Group will often be visible in the centre of town this month. From 1 to 13 December, the Chippy Phone Box will display some of Amnesty International's work preventing human rights abuse worldwide and its campaigns to support prisoners of conscience. Human Rights Day on 10 December will be marked by the flag flying on the Town Council's flag pole and a vigil on the steps of the Town Hall – everyone is welcome to join us from 4pm. On the 11th we will join the Christmas in Chippy event in the centre of town. Our stall in the Withers Court arcade will hopefully coax you to buy a raffle ticket and some of our Amnesty Christmas cards. Our Amnestree, in the children's play area on the Common, will be decorated throughout the Festive Season.

Our Write for Rights campaign, started at our November meeting, continues until 31 December; the link for on-line action is www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights. Enquiries about current and future activities to Val on 01608 645036.

Kaye Freeman

Chipping Norton Labour Party

The Chippy Quiz has been a regular feature for very many years. We last held one in February 2020 but then Covid struck and social gatherings were not allowed. Last month we resumed with a very successful Quiz in The Chequers. We not only filled The Barn there but sadly had to turn people away.

This month we will resume our annual Christmas Dinner for the whole constituency party, not held since 2019. Chipping Norton branch has hosted this event for many years. This may be the last, following the recommendations of the Boundary Commission that Chipping Norton become part of the Banbury constituency.

Have you thought of being a Town Councillor? In May 2023 there will be an election for all 16 places on the Town Council. If you would like to know what is involved

and how much time it takes, please contact any councillor. You can find out who we are on the Town Council's new website <https://www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk>

David Heyes

History Society – Mitfords & Romans

Chipping Norton History Society meets on Monday 12 December when speaker Christopher Norridge's subject is *The Mitford Sisters*; then on 13 February Marie Louise Kerr's talk is on *the Romans in Oxfordshire*. The Society meets at 2pm in the Methodist Hall, West Street. Visitors are welcome, £3.

Janis Paxton

NOOG's 30th anniversary

North Oxfordshire Organic Gardeners celebrates 30 years of activity on Wednesday 7 December at 7.30pm, in the Parish Rooms in Chipping Norton. The group originally started as a forum for like-minded residents of Little Tew to share ideas and tips about approaches to gardening organically, something that was far less widely understood at that time. Gradually, more and more people expressed an interest in taking part and the meetings in Little Tew's charming Timberyard Room expanded to accommodate enthusiasts from all over Oxfordshire. More recently, when those cosy facilities reached full capacity, NOOG relocated to the Parish Rooms in Chippy where the organisation has gone from strength to strength.

Do join us at our celebratory 'eating meeting' – members are invited to bring food or drink to share, and any photographs you may like to show, as well as spare seeds to swap. Non-members are welcome (no charge for those contributing to the meal). For more info about NOOG, please

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CLUB NEWS

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

Rotary update

Members of Burford & Kingham Rotary are pictured planting crocus bulbs in Burford one chilly morning to raise awareness for a major Rotary project: the eradication of polio. We had, however, the warmest welcome from people walking past who said how much they enjoyed the crocus flowers in the Spring. Thanks to all who came to the Bridge Drive in Broadwell which raised money for the British Heart Foundation and Rotary Charities. In December we look forward to welcoming Burford Town Mayor and his wife to our Christmas Dinner at Burford Golf Club on the 2nd and members will attend the Civic Carol Service in Burford on the 4th.



Why not think of doing something new in the New Year? You could join us for fun, 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. Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Ros Richardson 01608 643844

Horticultural Waterperry wonders

The November meeting of the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association was a very wet evening but we were heartened that so many came along to attend our AGM. All officers and committee members were re-appointed for another year. Clive Rand was the speaker after the AGM with a talk entitled *The work of the Chipping Norton Green Gym*. Showing pictures of some of the work of the group in several areas in and around the Town, he outlined the problems they encounter and emphasised that they would love to see more people join the team.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 December at 7.30 in the Methodist Church Hall. We welcome a return visit of Rob Jacobs of Chipping Norton with a talk on *A year behind the scenes at Waterperry Gardens* followed by Christmas refreshments. For more details see our website www.cnha.uk or from the secretary Eileen Forse 643275.

Acoustic action at The Harrow

Well, that was another great musical evening for The Chipping Norton Folk & Acoustic Club held in The Harrow at Enstone. We had several talented singer song writers in our midst plus other singers and musicians performing covers, also the spoken word by Sylvia and Cathy. Altogether there were seventeen performances throughout the evening which was MC'd by Colin Greenway who kept the pace lively, introducing each act to the stage. There was music from Bob Dylan to traditional folk, Battlefield to Seashore, love songs to blues – in fact a good eclectic mix of generic songs! People travel far and wide to come to this popular club so do join with our regulars, guests and audience for music making, fun

and friendship on the 2nd Monday of each month at The Harrow Inn Enstone OX7 4NF. Sing, play, recite or just listen. Free entry. More info at chippingnortonfolk.org.uk/

Jean Greenway

Probus Club of Chipping Norton

A joint meeting with Bliss Probus in October gave all members the opportunity to hear a fascinating talk by Dr Katy Bellamy on *The Joy of False Memory*. In the early 20th century, psychologists at Cambridge University challenged the idea that memories are always an accurate representation of the facts. Many stories when retold became different, even distorted, by our recollections and beliefs. How often have we found ourselves elaborating on the truth, making subtle changes to the facts? Our memories are known to be fallible, with some saying that we forget about half of what we hear immediately and then as the day progresses the percentage of our recollections lessens to as little as twenty per cent. Katy illustrated her talk by asking members for their memorable recollections, such as the time when President Kennedy was shot and the tragic day of 9/11. Many felt they were able to recall quite accurately where they were and what they were doing. The benefits of all the scientific work into how our brains, and thus, our memories function include many advances in the understanding of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Members from both Clubs will no doubt be able to recall every detail of this fascinating talk!

Guests are welcome at our meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at the Crown & Cushion; please call our secretary John Roxby on 01993 831743 for details.

Martin Williams

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CLUB NEWS

u3a welcome new members

University of the Third Age belongs to and is run by its volunteer members. As a result of our very successful October Open Day, we were delighted to welcome 15 new members. We hope they will enjoy our monthly talks as well as joining their chosen interest groups or even starting new subject groups of their own.



On Wednesday 2 November, we had a very interesting talk by Pete Ellis about climbing Everest, which is the final stage of The Seven Summits challenge. The climb was from the north, through Tibet, the route originally taken

by Mallory and Irvine in the 1920s. It was a personal tale of an amazing trip, illustrated with many photographs.

Our next meeting will be in the Town Hall at 2.30pm on Wednesday 7 December for a talk on *Christmas in the Cotswolds*. Qualified Blue Badge tourist guide and Hook Norton resident Sean Callery will explain many Christmas customs from Advent to Yule logs; Cards, Carols and Crackers; Mince pies, Mistletoe and Mulled Wine; and Thanksgiving, Turkey and Twelfth Night. See our website for details of all activities u3asites.org.uk/chipping-norton.

Yvonne Beaumont

Local Multiple Sclerosis support

West Oxfordshire MS Group is part of the MS Society of the UK and is run entirely by volunteers, funded by local fundraising to help anyone affected by MS within this area. We hold street collections in the area including in Chipping Norton, usually in June. We mainly meet in Witney as it is the most populated and central town in the District, holding Pilates and yoga classes which are also available on Zoom. We have recently reintroduced massage availability and have started having a reflexologist as well. Other events organised are: lunches, teas and an annual group visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park. If anyone is interested in finding out more,

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either to get support or to offer some help, then please contact me. (peter.branson@groups.mssociety.org.uk / 01608 645988) If we can, we would like to set up a local Chipping Norton social group for those with MS or their families. Again, please contact me if this would suit you. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to a more positive 2023.

Peter Branson

WOWI celebrates its 11th birthday!

West Oxfordshire Women's Institute wishes all Chipping Norton News readers a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. We will be having our own Christmas celebration at Whistlers where I'm sure Nathan and Kerry will look after us well. Before that, we will celebrate our 11th birthday in November when we will have a cake, of course, and welcome Carol MacKay from the Oxford Emergency and Resilience team. She will tell us about the knock-on effect countrywide if the A34 or M40 get closed and how the County deals with flooding, etc. Have you ever wondered how a Japanese lady wears her kimono? In December Jackie Loring is going to tell us and we look forward to seeing her dressed up and hope that some of our members will get a chance to try one on. At these meetings we will collect non-perishable food and toiletries for the local Food Bank.

Come and visit us – we meet in St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm. In addition, we have a Book Club, a Saturday lunch club and hope to re-start our Craft Club. Please do come, you'd be made very welcome. Contact wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Hilary Dix



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CLUB NEWS

Railway Club's festive get-together

At the meeting on 1 November, our speaker was a newcomer to the Club, Tony Condor, who had travelled from Gloucester. Once again, an increase in numbers! Tony's very interesting talk was entitled Canals and Railways, discussing the battle between the two. Canals were far more expensive to build and railways were more popular with passengers and could link up more successfully with ports, coal mines and factories. Coastal shipping lost out to the railways, as trains were not affected by tides and delays due to storms. On 6 December we will have our jolly Festive get-together with wine and mince pies. Jonathan Perks will entertain with a review of the past year. No meeting in January. We meet again on 7 February for our AGM. We meet at 7.30 in the Lower Town Hall.

The Committee wish all Members and Friends of the Club a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Estelle Brain

National Trust Association update

Membership is open to all National Trust members and volunteers. If you are interested in making the most of your National Trust membership, why not join your local supporter group to enjoy talks and lectures, visits and coach outings, special events and fund raising. We have a vibrant team and a strong membership. Any surplus funds raised go to assist local National Trust properties in conservation, improving our heritage and looking after the environment.

Diary dates: 7 December – Christmas Lunch at Wychwood Golf Club. 2023 meetings: 19 January, 16 February, 16 March and 20 April – all at 2pm in Broadwell Village Hall. Please visit



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Rees Jenkins

CN Yacht Club – Greenland

Our last event featured a presentation on Greenland by



member Hugh Woodsend. Hugh is a professional and relaxed presenter who brought his own high-tech AV kit, and we enjoyed a crisp and fascinating show, partly about a cruise he and his wife had taken, but also covering Greenland's geology, history, politics, demography and economy. Greenland is a third the size of Australia comprising (approximately) 3 islands fused together by thick ice and hundreds of (now retreating) glaciers which, if they all melted, would raise the world's sea level by a stonking 7 metres. The population, today around 56,000, never recovered after the 1550 plague before which it exceeded 300,000. A self-governing part of Denmark, Greenland has a rich history from its founding by Erik the Red (according to the sagas) over a thousand years ago. During WW2 the country's economy was massively boosted by the refuelling of thousands of aircraft being ferried from Canada and the US to Europe. Hugh, a former test pilot, had personal experience of flying this route. With retreating ice, the viability of the elusive North West Passage is being tested and though not easy, it could well put Greenland back on the map.

For our programme, to enquire about membership or arrange to come along to test the water as a guest, please visit the Yacht Club's website cnyc.co.uk. No boat needed!

Roger Backhaus

Chippy Ramblers explore the Glyme

After much hesitation and discussion we set out for our monthly walk on a very damp dark day. But we were so glad that we didn't cancel it because the skies lightened and there was even a glimpse of the sun and blue sky. We started from the Almshouses in Glympton, walking through the Glympton estate, enjoying the view down to the river Glyme, across fields and through woodland to Kiddington. Here we went up the drive, past the tiny church and down to another stretch of the Glyme and a magnificent view of the 18th century Kiddington Hall. And back to Glympton, with a glimpse of a red kite overhead and a rabbit amongst the bushes. Indeed, one lucky person saw a deer cross the path in front of her.

If you too would like to enjoy the countryside in good company, join us on the first Sunday of every month. We meet in New St car park at 1.30pm (2pm after the clocks change) and walk for about two hours at a leisurely pace – a different walk each time! Lifts will be available. Contact Heather Leonard (01608 643691 or rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk) or me and we will put you on the list!

Jenny Harrington 01608 643269

Chipping Norton School

House News: This term we announced our new House



Captains. Congratulations to Ella Dawson, Isla Bowman, Evie Duff, Will Porter, Charlize Sproat, Charlie Chadwick, Heidi Rowsell, and Thomas Adnams. These Sixth Form students have the challenge of drumming up support for the various house competitions and fundraising activities each term.

Last term our students donated over £745 for Thrive and this term we will be raising funds for Aspire. We also look forward to Rugby and Hockey house matches, a Sixth Form vs Staff Curry and Quiz night, a Humanities competition and the highlight of the term, our annual Santa Run.

Everybody Reading: Year 7 & 8 students loved meeting

author Stewart Foster when he visited to talk about his award winning books. He talked about his own writing process, his books and some of the issues that affect young children's lives



today. Many students then spoke to Stewart at a very successful book signing session.



Students from Years 8 and 9 visited Magdalen College School to celebrate the presentation of this year's Oxfordshire Book Awards. The students had read and discussed the shortlisted books at their Chippy Chapters reading club and voted for their

favourites. They listened to a series of short talks by the attending authors and were able to mingle with the authors at the end of the ceremony. The students particularly enjoyed meeting Onjali Q Raúf, author of *The Night Bus Hero* and *The Boy at the Back of the Class*.

Extra Time: Our new ExtraTime club, 'Creative Writing' has students writing novels during November for National Novel Writing month under the guidance of Miss Skill. We are very much looking forward to reading them! Our new Pottery Club starts soon. We were extremely grateful and excited to be able to buy a pottery wheel for the club with financial help from Sculpture at Kingham Lodge and CNS PTA.

Sixth Form News: On 10 November we welcomed over 150 families from CNS and other schools in the area to view our Sixth Form facilities and see A level activities in all subject departments. Our current Sixth Form students were on hand to act as tour guides and help in subject departments. Visitors were treated to samples of food from our school canteen. If you were unable to attend but would like information about applying to our Sixth Form for September 2023, then please contact Clare Davison at cdavison@chippingnortonschool.org or call the School on 01608 642007.

CNPS News: In mid October our 10 partnership primary schools competed in an U11 Hockey tournament at Chipping Norton School.



Congratulations to Kingham and Holy Trinity who came first in the 'big schools' girls and boys sections respectively, and to Great Tew (girls) and Great Rollright (boys) who won the 'small schools' category. This month primary schools are being visited by Jenai from Step2Dance who will lead the Year 5/6 children in a streetdance workshop.

Sports News: On Saturday 12 November five teachers and 47 very excited students made the annual trip to Twickenham to watch the England v Japan Autumn International Rugby match. A great match with a crowd of over 80,000. England scored 7 tries to win 52-13. An excellent trip – well done to



all involved. Violet in Year 10 said, 'It was a very good match and I'm very grateful for the opportunity we got to see some great tries – my favourite was the one by Marcus Smith'.

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Holy Trinity Primary

Remembrance: The School held a special Remembrance



assembly to commemorate and reflect on the sacrifice of members of the armed forces over the years. All the classes shared special pieces of work they had focused on for the previous weeks including

prayers, poems, diary entries, letters, artworks, songs and research about family members who had served in the armed forces. It was a very moving event. Year 6 prefects organised the sale of poppies and merchandise to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you to them for their dedicated efforts and to the pupils who supported the cause.

Year 1 visit the church: Year 1 had a special visit to the church to learn all about Baptism. Father Clive engaged the children in fun and informative activities which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

Year 2 topic trip to the Fire Station: Hand in hand with their Year 5 walking partners, the Year 2s walked to the Fire Station where they were met by Harvey and Tony. As part of their topic on the Great Fire of London, they learnt about

modern fire-fighting methods. They got to sit in the fire engine, try on some equipment and finished with a very exciting competition to see who could knock over cones with a powerful water jet from the hoses. They had such an exciting and interesting time they all now want to be firefighters!

Year 6 dance workshop: Through the Chipping Norton Partnership, we were visited by a street dance teacher who led the Year 6 children in a high-energy session. By the end they were able to perform a fantastic routine in unison.

Rationing visitor: Year 6 had a visitor to talk to them about rationing in WW2, who had experienced rationing during and after the war. She showed them her rationing book and identity card, and they enjoyed learning about a Wartime Christmas.

U11 Hockey: We participated in the Chipping Norton



Partnership Hockey Tournament, with both the boys' and girls' teams putting in sterling performances and embodying the values of teamwork, persistence and sportsmanship. The boys came first place, with the girls in equal third. We are very proud of their performances and thank Chipping Norton School for hosting the event.

Children in Need: The Junior Leadership Team chose to support Children in Need this year by holding a non-uniform day with a spotty theme. They raised awareness in their classes of the good work that is done by charities who are supported by the event.

PTA Wreath Workshop: The PTA will be holding a wreath making workshop in the school hall on Wednesday 7 December from 7.30–9.30pm. Tickets are £15 per head and can be reserved at cnholytrinitypta@gmail.com

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St Mary's Primary

A farewell to Mrs Stallwood-Barnes: *Steve Nelson, Chair of Governors* – After 25 years at our school and 20 years as the Headteacher we are wishing Mrs Stallwood-Barnes a long and happy retirement at Christmas. Mrs Stallwood-Barnes has seen thousands of children through the School in her time and has given them the foundations to go on to great things in our society. I would like to say on



behalf of all the pupils past and present, parents and carers, governors and the entire community of Chipping Norton we want to thank you for what you have done for St Mary's School and Chipping Norton and wish you a long and happy retirement

Yvonne Stallwood-Barnes – As I prepare to retire from my post at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, it is with mixed emotions of excitement at the new ventures to come but sadness because of the life I will leave behind. After 25 years at the School and thirty seven years in teaching, I have been blessed to work with such amazing children. Everyday at St Mary's has given me moments of pride, witnessing the achievements of our children and the gifts they contribute to the community. I would like to say a huge thank you to our parents who have supported us over so many years and to the staff and governors, current and past whose dedication has made St Mary's the school it is today. I know that I am leaving it in safe hands with the new Headteacher Christine McQueen and I wish her the same happiness that I have

achieved over so many years. I now look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren but will always remember my time at St Mary's with gratitude and fondness.



Prayer Space: In October every child had the opportunity to visit a very special Prayer Space held in school. The space and equipment were provided by the charity *Be Space* and staffed by a brilliant



team of volunteers and staff from St Mary's Church. Prayer space gave the children the opportunity to explore different ways to reflect and pray all on the theme of Light. Parents also had the chance to come and experience Prayer Space with their families. We will be using the ideas from Prayer Space in school.

Great Rollright Primary

December is always a joyful month at our school, as we celebrate Christmas. We'll share Christmas lunch in the hall, and Christingle and carol services at St Andrew's Church next door. Yrs R-2 will perform their annual nativity play, while Yrs 3-6 will head to Stratford to see *A Christmas Carol* at the RSC. And we're expecting a special red-and-white suited visitor to drop by our new Forest School site next door!

In other news:

Museum: Our Yr 3s and 4s created a class museum about their current topic, Boudicca and Roman Britain, and invited the rest of the School to come and learn (pictured).



Hockey success: Our boys' team were the winners in the small schools section of the latest CN Partnership hockey tournament. That makes our third victory in 2022, as we had similar success in rugby and football.

Odd Sock Day: We wore mismatched socks to celebrate our differences and the need to respect them, as part of our activities for national Anti-Bullying Week.

As school selection time approaches, parents and carers are strongly encouraged to visit to see all that we offer — including a free bus to Chipping Norton. Please call us on 01608 737202 to arrange your visit.



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Bledington Primary

Aron and Macy report: All classes recently completed a watercolour art workshop with fabulous local artist Emma Cox. Emma taught us new skills and allowed us to experiment. We used different kinds of paper and a variety of brushes to play with techniques such as wet on dry, wet on wet, colour washing and colour merging. We used Autumn colours like orange, red, yellow and tried to see how long we could make a colour last for when drawing patterns and swirls. It was great fun. Everyone's finished piece is different and our work is really colourful.

Tilly and William B report: Last week we had Claire from K'nex

come into Parrot class. She talked to us about engineering and about how we do different types of engineering every day. STEM is in everyday life – that's Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. She explained how to design and build structures. We learnt

about the important things needed when thinking about building, such as, strengthening, materials and being structurally stable. Our challenge was to build a machine (using k'nex) to sort out rubbish. We had to think about hydro, solar and wind power. All our designs were good but Isla G and Teddy were picked as the winners. They will take part in the finals in Gloucester in the Spring.

Chadlington Primary

We Are Puppeteers: The new term kicked off with an exciting new topic. All children across the School are puppeteers for the foreseeable future. Traditionally-made string puppets are being made especially for Chadlington Primary, and String Theatre have been booked to deliver workshops for every year group from Early Years to Year 6 to help them learn the art of storytelling with puppets.

Wizards and Dragons (Key Stage 2) are currently studying *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and are working toward re-creating *A Christmas Carol* with the aforementioned puppets for the end of the year. Research by children in Wizards and Dragons has included going to the RSC theatre in Stratford to watch a live performance. Meanwhile, Key Stage 1 will be focussed on retelling traditional tales through the puppets. They are also working toward an end of year Christmas performance at the Memorial Hall in Chadlington. Rather than the traditional nativity, they will be performing *Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present*.

Thursday Media Mornings continue to thrive, with children now involved in recording and filming their puppeteering performances, ready for 'making of' film to share by the end of the year.

Christmas: The children are very much looking forward to Christmas parties and Christmas dinners. KS1 are lare excited bout seeing a performance of the pantomime, *Dick Whittington* at Chipping Norton Theatre.

Kingham Primary

U11s Hockey: Kingham boys' and girls' teams competed in the CNPS U11s Hockey Tournament in October. Despite a lack of recent competitive action, they came 1st and 2nd respectively! Well done to Josh, Hugo, Hannah and Amelie who also won awards for their outstanding sporting qualities.



U11s football success: Kingham's U11 girls' football team recently qualified for the West Oxfordshire Finals. Kingham girls were magnificent and after a hard-fought tournament came 3rd (missing 2nd place on goal difference). Well done!

RAF visit Kingham Infants: Year 2 had an inspiring visit from members of the RAF, based at Brize Norton. Through an engaging presentation, children saw what working on their aircraft entails and learnt lots of interesting facts. Pupils asked questions about what it's like to be a pilot in the RAF. Getting the chance to look at and try on the equipment was a hit with everyone – students even tested that the life jackets worked!

Garden Prize: Kingham students received a top prize for their garden at Moreton Show in September. The beautiful garden, nurtured by the after-school Gardening Club, was recently redesigned by children. Representatives from the Show presented 2nd prize at a school assembly in October.



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LETTERS

Human Rights – sadly the wrongs continue

With the World Cup in Qatar in progress we will hopefully be enjoying the football. However, you may have heard the



Migrant workers building a world cup stadium in Qatar

outrage about Qatar's shameful human rights record – the hundreds of people who died while constructing stadia and many who still languish in jail, denied basic human rights that we take for granted in the UK. At our Chippy Amnesty Group, we haven't forgotten their plight. Nor the plight of people in Iran (who England played on 21 November). Nor countries such as Saudi Arabia, with their own dreadful human rights record, who are also playing in the World Cup. Please visit Chippy Amnesty's Xmas stall at Christmas in Chippy on 11 December and see our display in the town centre phone box (from 1 to 13 December). Let's all enjoy the World Cup football but the task of shining a light on the darkest human rights abuses will need to go on even when the tournament has ended.

Tony Samuel – CN Amnesty Group

Chippy's Vaccine Volunteers

I would like to put into writing my sincere appreciation for all those volunteers who have been supporting our Local Primary Care Network carrying out the Covid vaccinations. We have now been doing this for two years, the first vaccinations taking place in December 2021. There has been a turnover of volunteers over time as many needed to return to employment or education, but we now have a steadfast core, always willing to be there, always helpful, cheerful and efficient, and thanks to the last Chippy News article, some new volunteers too. I co-ordinate and organise the rotas, made so easy by the willingness of all the volunteers, they are the stars, not me. I would also like to thank the staff and clinicians who also have needed to be there for the last two years. We get along with them so well – a great team – and of course the understanding of the patients arriving for yet another jab! It will be interesting to see what is required next year but before then I wish all volunteers and staff a very Happy Christmas and a more relaxed New Year.

Peter Brandon – CN Patient Participation Group

Footsteps Healthy Walking Group

Many of you will know this group who meet on Wednesday mornings. We walk for an hour and then have coffee. The group was started in 2000 by the combined surgeries and initially run by John Grantham and Wendy Lines. I took over about eight years ago. Personal circumstances have changed and I can no longer be relied upon to be at the Town Hall at 10am on a Wednesday so reluctantly I plan to relinquish

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.

responsibility beginning in the new year. If anyone feels able to take over, I'd be delighted to hear from them (Tel 01608 643377). Otherwise, I am sure that an informal group will still meet and I will be amongst them sometimes. It's been fun and interesting and I've met many happy people but now it's time to let go. Thank you all for your company over the years.

Peta Simmons

Lawrence Team thanks

I was very honoured when on Saturday 8 October I was surprised with an amazing party in the Town Hall. (*Jenny's retirement* – November issue) It was so nice to see so many faces from the past and present. I have been privileged to manage the nursing team since the launch of Lawrence Home Nursing Team in 1999. We have travelled a long way, overcoming many challenges, but at the heart are the patients and families we care for. I have been supported by too many people to mention: the Nursing Team, Trustees (now Directors), colleagues from other services and by our amazing community. Without this wonderful support, my 23 years as manager would not have been possible. I will always be grateful that in February 1999 Jane Phillips came to me with 'a little job'. She guided and supported the Team until her death in 2011. I was overwhelmed by the number of lovely cards and gifts and will forever be thankful to have worked in such a fantastic community.

Jenny Nolan

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Escalator accident and SAFE

A fairly large elderly man – about 6 feet, 16 stones – just behind his wife, steps unsteadily on to our supermarket escalator. He leans sideways, scrapes the side and starts to fall backwards, eventually landing on his back on the moving escalator. He is conscious, has not hit his head, and is able to grab the handrail. You are just behind him and watch this happening very quickly. How should you help? There is no one correct way but I was the man behind, my instinct was to help and the whole incident concluded happily in perhaps five minutes. In any incident, emergency or not, it's best to stay cool, calm and collected. One useful guide is the SAFE approach, often taught to first aiders, as follows

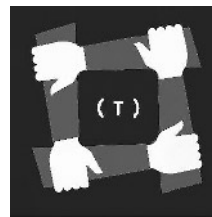
- Shout for help – I didn't have to do that, there were already people around willing to help. It's usually better to have more than one person to resolve a problem.
- Approach with care and Assess – Despite a moving escalator, I knew I could help without causing myself harm but the casualty's state of mind needs to be taken into account.
- Free from danger – Once the escalator had been stopped, it was safe to lift the man back on to his feet. As a rule, the casualty should not be moved unless in a dangerous area.
- Evaluate ABC (Airway, Breathing, Circulation) – Our man was conscious at all times, able to talk and walk. But defibrillators are quite common in public places nowadays – note their locations; one may come in handy.

I was told that accidents involving supermarket escalators happen quite frequently. So beware of them! And I learned that there are three emergency stop buttons to every escalator – at the bottom, middle and top!

Yen Yang Co

(From a much longer letter describing this incident. The SAFE approach is common in sports – see www.passport.world.rugby and www.sja.org.uk for St John's Ambulance first aid advice – Ed)

Tinnitus support group



(T)
**British Tinnitus
Association**

Do you have Tinnitus? Hyperacusis? Do you know someone with these conditions? Would you or they like to join a support group? I have just moved to this area and noted that the nearest support groups are in Oxford and Warwick. In mid Somerset, I founded and ran a support group for many years, affiliated to the British Tinnitus Association which has around 120 similar groups. This was a friendly and supportive group of 12–20 members helping many to come to terms with their condition. I was trained as a Tinnitus Adviser by the BTA and would like to see if there is sufficient local interest to start a new group based in Chippy – provisionally called Cotswold Tinnitus Self Help Group. If you are interested, please email me on cotswoldtinnitus@outlook.com.

Michael Rowe

Quiz Answers

Fox's trail answers (backpage quiz)
1. Bliss Mill – long chimney climb! 2. St Mary's Church cockerel 3. In Costa up London Road 4. Poinsettia – Mexico/Guatemala 5. The Fox's Xmas menu – £30
6. Town Centre phone box 7. 9pm on 23 December party 8. Oats next to Mr Simms olde sweet shoppe

Centre page Quiz answers
1. King's College 2. Christina Rossetti 3. Bohemia (now in Czech Republic) 4. Samuel Pepys 5. Edward Thomas 6. American 7. The turkey 8. Rat and Mole, from the Wind in the Willows 9. Do They Know It's Christmas? 10. White 11. Edward Burne Jones 12. The Nutcracker

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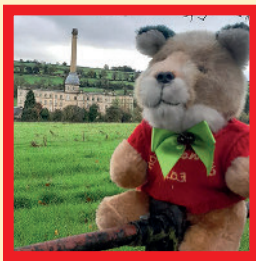
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The Chipping Norton News is printed on environmentally approved paper



1. Why did Freddy see Santa getting a fine
For parking his sleigh here too long a time!

2. To the Church Freddy hops
What's the bird on the top?

3. Freddy's favourite drink stop?
By this gingerbread coffee shop!



**Chippy's Freddy Fox is on a
Christmas trip to his
favourite places in town.
Why not wrap up warm,
and follow him round to
answer his riddles.**



8. Does Rudolph like sweets?
No, it's next door for his treats!

4. Freddy loves this flower – it's in M&S
But where is it from – can you guess?



Answers on p35



7. On Whistlers Christmas window chart
What time does the party dancing start?



6. It's Dick Whittington's cat
But just where are these rats?

5. Freddy of course eats two for his tea
What does his pub charge us for three?

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