



Births are back!

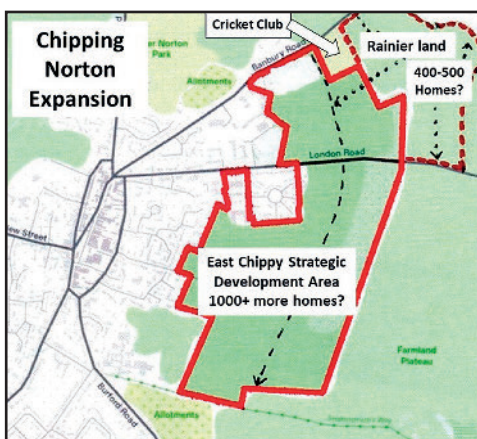
'Brilliant news' as Chippy's Cotswold Birth Centre reopens

Everyone – from eager mums-to-be, to our wonderful midwives – was delighted to see our gold standard, midwife-led Cotswold Birth Centre re-start births in January. Clinics have continued but for 17 months the birthing unit itself has been closed due to county-wide staffing issues. Hospital League of Friends Chair Jo Graves said, 'totally brilliant news! What a great, uplifting and positive way to start the New Year for our mums-to-be'.



17 January saw the Centre's first arrival of 2023 – baby Lily to mum Beatriz Morgado Malcolm and partner Tom. Beatriz said, 'a huge thank you to the incredible Miranda, Jade and Lesley for their care and support – I couldn't have done it without these lovely ladies. So happy for all the other women who will have the privilege to deliver their babies in Chippy soon'. Congratulations to Beatriz and her family on the birth of the lovely Lily. Full story on p5.

New housing shock



January saw a surprise proposal for 90 new homes on part of a possible new Chippy site not in our Local Plan. The land-owner Rainier Developments, say there could be 400–500 homes in total

later. Meanwhile, long awaited plans for 1000+ new homes on the 'official' East Chippy (Tank Farm) site have stalled. The Town asks: where's our 'sustainable growth' and what are our local County and District Councils doing about it?

Highlights in this issue

Top class! – Plaudits for two proud Chippy students in West Oxfordshire Youth Awards.

Love music – Romantic tunes for Valentines – some Chippy choices inside

Chippy's market decline – Can we revive our 'market town' heritage?

Pubs on the up – A round-up of new investments in our local village pubs

£100 more Council Tax – but Town Council freezes their share

Diddy Squat saga – March date for Appeal against WODC planners' actions

Chippy's Baseball story – were they *really* the champions?

I will ... oh yes, I will – Chippy Panto Dame helps couple get engaged

2023/4 Council tax rises



Chipping Norton Town Council are not increasing their share of our Council Taxes this year but already hard-pressed householders will have to find another £100 for 2023/4 from April because of rises by the larger

County, District and Police authorities. That's if final budget proposals are agreed in February. It's a lot from your pocket, but a rise of 4.8% is less than inflation!

Proposed Council Tax for Band D taxpayers

	2022/23	2023/24	% rise
Ox County Council	£1651.6	£1734.2	5.0%
Thames Valley Police	£241.3	£255.3	5.8%
Chipping Norton Town	£120.8	£120.8	0.0%
West Oxon District	£114.4	£119.4	4.4%
TOTAL	£2128.1	£2229.7	4.8%

The County Council, limited to a 5% increase by the Chancellor, is our main spender and is severely stretched with big demands in social care, child services and education. **West Oxfordshire**, providing refuse collection, planning, tourism and other services, also has big cost pressures. **Thames Valley Police** say they need the money to preserve local resourcing. **Chipping Norton Town Council** at their December full Town Council meeting, agreed to make no increase per household – after a 5% rise last year. Mayor Sandra Coleman told the News that committees had in-depth and careful discussions adding, 'All councillors are very aware of the cost-of-living pressures faced by residents, and as the Council's finances are in a healthy position, we were very pleased to agree a budget that meets the needs of the Town without increasing the portion of residents' Council Tax paid to the Town Council'. The Town Council are, however now making significant transfers from reserves for major expenditure.

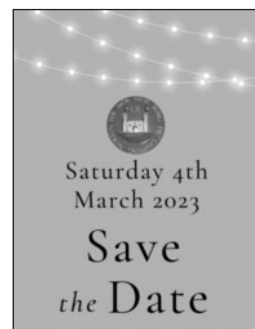
Town Meeting & Elections

Chipping Norton's Annual Town Meeting is set for **Monday 6 March**, 7pm in the Town Hall. It's open to all town citizens, organised by the Town Council (who present their annual report and take questions), and is an opportunity to discuss town issues. Second, **Thursday 4 May** will see local elections, with all 16 Chipping Norton Town Council seats contested for a four-year term. Would you like to stand and help the Town? Find out more by asking current councillors and see www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk. One WODC district seat for Chippy will also be up for election. Current incumbent Mike Cahill hopes to stand again.

NB Don't forget that for these elections, you must have an **acceptable photo ID** with you to vote in person. If you don't have one (eg Passport, Driving Licence etc), you can apply for a free ID by filling in a form from WODC or online via gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

Mayor's fundraiser 4 March

Chipping Norton Mayor's Annual Fundraising Ball will take place on 4 March in the Town Hall from 7:30pm! Tania Kirby our Town Council's Facilities and Events officer told the News, 'Keep an eye out on Social Media for more information about this fabulous event. It's going to be the most Charitable of Charity Balls – and it's Dress Up, but with a Twist which we're sure you will love!'



Help with Town events?

Tania Kirby would love to find helpful friends of the Town Hall who'd like to volunteer to help at Town Events in 2023. The first half of 2023 sees: the Mayor's Charity fundraiser in March, local elections and The Coronation in May, the annual sports awards likely in July, and probably more! If you would like to help in any capacity, please do contact Tania via email at taniajkirby@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk or alternatively call her on 07561 707238.

Town Council invests in the future

Chipping Norton Town Council is a 'third tier' parish council with few statutory duties, but as a Town, rather than a small village, it looks after important community assets such as Greystones sports grounds, the Town Hall, Pool Meadow, Recreation Grounds and the Cemetery. Partly because of this, it has one of the highest Council Tax rates out of 81 parish and towns in West Oxfordshire. The Town Council's 2023/4 ongoing spending budget of around £440,000 will be covered by £345,000 of Council Tax, income from Town Hall lettings and elsewhere, and a small transfer from General Reserves.

In fact, around £650,000 sits in Reserves – much of it accumulated deliberately over more than 10 years, by previous Councillors raising the Council Tax, to meet future



extraordinary needs, notably Town Hall repairs. The current Town Council, in place since 2019, has also underspent annual budgets, partly because of Covid and delays to projects. The Town Council, has, however, now formally earmarked around £350,000 from Reserves for additional spending, beyond the normal budget, starting this year. This includes £250,000 for Town Hall upgrade and maintenance, £60,000 for recreation ground upgrades (notably at Cotswold Crescent), and £25,000 towards a major Pool Meadow restoration project (which should also receive large external grants). Investment in Chippy's street scene continues and, with a new Events Officer, the Council wants to increase community use of the Town Hall and to engage more with the Town.



Greetings from the News Team

The News Team are back after its Christmas break and sends all our readers good wishes for the New Year. We'll do our best to keep you informed and entertained throughout 2023!

A cracking Chippy Christmas

After a challenging 2022, and in a chilly December, Chipping Norton raised its spirits heartily for some terrific Christmas celebrations. On 4 December, volunteers led by the valiant Pat Lake (for his last time!) – put lights on over 60 little Christmas trees, installed, as is the custom, high on the walls of town centre properties. The Town Council's other main lights and a new larger Christmas tree all helped turn Chippy into a twinkling wonderland.



With Chippy's range of shops, it's possible to buy all the food, drink, decorations, and presents for the big day without leaving town. Then, for more inspiration, on 11 December there was the return of the splendid Christmas in Chippy event. The weather was challenging – snow to put us all in the mood which maybe even encouraged Chippy folk and many visitors, who bought gifts in town shops and the Christmas market, listened to the performers on stage, filled charity buckets, and then grabbed all the seats to be had in our cosy pubs and cafés to round off the afternoon with a glass or cup of something. Mayor Sandra Coleman ended the day thanking everyone. Well done: to Team Christmas in Chippy – Nic, Julia, Dom and Lisa; to Tania and the Guildhall team; and to all sponsors, parking space providers, stallholders, and volunteers who turned up and joined in, from the schools' Town Hall market to the Shuttle Bus in action.

Chipping Norton also stepped up to the true to the spirit of 'Goodwill to all Men'. St Mary's Church asked for donations of toys and gifts and distributed them to local families. The Branch Trust reached nearly 700 individuals, helping over 200 families. Chippy Larder collected and gave out food hampers, the Food Bank continued its excellent work, and the Shoebox Appeal was a great success. Worth a shoutout were the wonderful Methodist Church's Christmas Tree Festival, all the carol and music concerts, and well attended Church services in the Town and local villages. Thanks to everyone who helped – you know who you are! It's on to 2023 – let's keep up that community spirit!

MBE for Lawrence's Jenny

Big congratulations to Chippy resident Jenny Nolan – awarded a very well deserved MBE in the New Year's Honours List. The News recently featured Jenny on her retirement after 23 years working as the Registered Nurse Manager of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team since it started – providing home nursing care to terminally ill



Jenny pictured at her retirement party with husband Tim

patients in Chippy and surrounding communities. Jenny said she found the nomination 'slightly unreal and a huge honour' and paid tribute to the support she had received, adding that she was 'so grateful to have worked within such a fantastic community'. Richard Greaves, chair of the Lawrence Team, said this was a 'richly deserved award, a national recognition of a local hero'. The Team continues to provide compassionate, free care and is very glad that Jenny intends to carry on supporting them with a special interest in how people can have discussions about end of life care and what their wishes would be. She recommends listening to Dr Kathryn Mannix who talks passionately about end of life care in her YouTube video, 'Dying is not as bad as you think'. For more information about the LHNT (or to make a donation) please visit lawrencehomenursing.org.

A hunting they go – well, some!



Tradition was kept up in Chipping Norton on a brisk but dry Boxing Day morning, with the Heythrop Hunt Meet in the Market Square outside The Fox Hotel. As ever the enthusiasts and sightseers were out, with no sign of any



Photos: Lisa Paget

Boxing Day hunters snapped trotting briskly out of town or taking a stroll down Glyme Lane 'sabs', and slightly fewer horses than in the past with riders enjoying a warming stirrup cup from the pub. Pictured are some of the riders, and also a small breakaway member – Sally Last with daughter Camilla (age 6) on her Shetland pony Teddy, who went for stroll down Glyme Lane. Local foxes decided to enjoy a lie-in.

Mud & fun at Gt Brook Run

To work off some of those Christmas calories, 27 December saw over a hundred hardy souls join in the annual – now traditional – Great Brook Run, a charity fun run hosted by the Tite Inn in Chadlington. Runners of all ages, some in very silly fancy dress, splashed through mud and more mud over the first half of the race, then ran upstream along the brook negotiating weeds, brambles, stiles and a very low tunnel before ploughing up the hill to the Tite to collect (muddy, wet and shivering) their hard-earned medal. Every year, hundreds of pounds are raised for Charity. Well done the runners, the Tite, and all the organisers.



Pictured proudly clutching their medals are cousins of all ages from the local Pauling and Murphy dynasties

But sewage stops Xmas swims

Chadlington's Great Brook Runners might have been deterred by news that local traditional Christmas swims were cancelled after more raw sewage was discharged by Thames Water into the Thames and rivers near Chippy. Five discharges into the Windrush in Witney, and a storm overflow in Church Harborough, saw Oxford's festive swim cancelled. There was a discharge for over five hours on 4 January into Chippy's Blue Brook. On 7 January there was discharge into Chadlington Stream, Littlestock Brook, Milton-under-Wychwood, and Bledington Brook. This evidence is public, thanks to Thames Water's New Year gift of an interactive, real-time map showing local raw sewage discharge. See www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map. Their spokesperson said, 'Putting untreated sewage into rivers is unacceptable, but after heavy rain it's sometimes necessary and permitted. This prevents flooding homes, gardens, streets. We are currently increasing sewage treatment capacity at a number of our sewage works.' Local campaign group, Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP), say regulation is weak, plants operate illegally, and 30 tonnes of sewage wastewater per day are added with every 100 new houses built. They want a 'Grampian condition' applied by our planning authorities saying any approved new development (eg at East Chippy) cannot start until local sewage capacity is upgraded.

Theatre's Christmas meals

After offering a range of support to local families during 2022, Chipping Norton Theatre distributed food and home supply packs over the festive season to families with children eligible for free school meals. This was helped considerably by a donation of almost 1300 meals provided free by the Aldi supermarket in the Town. John Richardson, Aldi's regional manager, explained, 'We know a lot of families will be

struggling this winter and that is why we are making this additional donation to help the local community this December'. With demand for support increasing this year, The Theatre's Clare O'Hara said the donations made all the difference and they were very grateful for the support so that they, as a charity, could do more to help.

Re-refresh for Leisure Centre

Chippy's Leisure Centre manager, Lewis Brain, was delighted to tell the News that, in partnership with WODC, work has finally begun on repairing the (leaking!) roof and ceiling. Gym dry-changing rooms are also being updated and brand new poolside showers have been installed.

Maybe it's time to give your child some valuable swimming lessons to help them to be 'water safe' and enjoy the pool. Lewis and the team have launched a new promotion for those starting lessons: 25% off their first payment – use the code TREAT25 to be used in the promo box at checkout. They've also relaunched the birthday party packages which can now include the brand new soft play area. Call in at the Centre to look around or to discuss the party packages – or email chippingnorton@GLL.ORG.

Spring start for new cinema



Chipping Norton's new community boutique cinema, in the converted Harpers building in the High Street, is set to open this spring. The Living Room Cinema team (who opened their first boutique cinema last year in Liphook) say they will offer 'quality, hand-picked films from latest blockbusters (on release date!) to classics'. The Cinema will 'have a homely feel, furnished with a touch of countryside elegance and luxury.' They will offer two screens showing films, a weekly kids' club, and a host of events including special screenings, Q&As, and presentations from filmmakers and actors – all using their extensive network of filmmaker connections.

A new marketing manager for the Chippy venture, Genevieve Willis, is publicising the Living Room and its membership options. Alongside films she promises a 'beautiful bar area with comfy sofas, stylish decor and a laid-back, modern vibe. Our relaxed, warm all day café will be serving drinks and light bites – then transform into a vibrant, stylish evening cocktail and wine bar.' There are a variety of membership options, from limited edition Founding Membership to Standard Membership, although non-members can visit or buy cinema tickets. Gift vouchers are also available. The Living Room is keen to hear from local businesses wanting Corporate Memberships for staff, and you can 'Sponsor a Seat' with your name, logo, or message on show. For more information about memberships contact genevieve.willis@thelivingroomcinema.co.uk or follow [@thelivingroomcinemachippy](https://www.facebook.com/thelivingroomcinemachippy) on Facebook or Instagram.

Chippy's birth unit back open



Baby Lily was born on 17 January at the re-opened birth centre

Chipping Norton's Cotswold Birth Centre, our much-valued midwife-led maternity unit, reopened for local births on 9 January – after 17 months of closure due to staffing difficulties, particularly at the main units in Oxford and Banbury. Chippy's midwives had found themselves reassigned to Oxford's JR Hospital to help there. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, who run all the units, were criticised by the Care Quality Commission – with safety and staffing an issue. Catherine Greenwood, the Trust's Clinical Director for Maternity, acknowledged the long closure and apologised to families impacted. Chipping Norton has been favoured by many local families as a quiet, safe, and friendly place to for low-risk births.

The Centre was soon back in action! Pictured above are baby Lily born on 17 January, with happy parents Beatriz Morgado Malcolm and her partner, Tom. The reaction to the reopening has been very positive, with pregnant mothers (past, present and future!) all saying they welcome the popular Chippy unit being fully back in action. Local MP Robert Courts told the News he welcomed the reopening as 'fantastic news, giving greater and more local choices' for parents. He hopes to come and visit soon. Maternity staffing remains a local and national issue – and that there will no doubt be future challenges.

All change for our MPs

In case you missed it, for the next UK General Election, Chipping Norton will probably be electing a Banbury MP, not one for Witney. The wider area's increased housing, (particularly in nearby Bicester), justifies creating a new Bicester and Woodstock seat which will 'steal' voters from both current Banbury and Witney seats – which then have to make up their numbers. So Chipping Norton and Charlbury 'move' to Banbury, and Witney 'acquires' villages towards Oxford. All this is after the UK Boundary Commission review, with changes planned to happen by 2024. Current MPs have to decide which new seat to fight. Banbury's incumbent, Conservative Victoria Prentis, says she will stay based in Banbury. Witney's MP, Conservative Robert Courts, according to his office, stays to defend the 'new' Witney seat, even though his home (near Woodstock) now comes under Bicester.

Based on the 2019 voting pattern, both current Tory MPs are predicted to hold their 'reorganised' seats, but, based on current opinion polls, pollsters Electoralcalculus suggest Labour would have a 10% lead in Banbury and a 4% lead in Witney. Lib Dems would also probably fight Witney confidently. Labour and Lib Dem parties will no doubt be announcing their candidates soon. Meanwhile in Witney, a local campaign group, 'RobertCourtWatch.com' took to the

streets at Christmas – pressing our MP to do more on climate change. They are publicising his speeches and voting record on key environmental issues. Mr Courts was quoted saying, 'I am proud of the actions taken by the Government to tackle climate change.'

So we now need one extra local MP, in what has been safe Tory territory. Could this entice some still-ambitious current Conservative MPs, for example with marginal London seats at risk in the next election, to call into the pubs of Burford, Charlbury or Woodstock (to be based in the three different constituencies!) to drum up some support?

90 new homes – not in Plan!



Rainier's new site which could see 400-500 more houses up the Banbury road – not in WODC's Local Plan

At least 90 new Chippy homes could be coming, on land beyond the Cricket Club, which is not in the much-discussed East Chippy/Tank Farm site, nor in our Local Plan – and gives our Town and West Oxfordshire District Councils some interesting questions. The land, between Banbury and London Road, was bought by Henley-in-Arden development company Rainier – who plan to submit a planning application for outline consent for up to 90 homes immediately to the east of the cricket pitch, as a first phase of a much larger aspiration, which their website says could be 400-500 new homes. They are meeting the Town Council and Cricket Club – and ran an online consultation for the public from 10–25 January. *Chippy News* and the Town Council posted this online, but no doubt many people missed it! Rainier say their plans provide 40% affordable homes and additional open space, but early public responses raise concerns about inadequate, already struggling, infrastructure such as sewers, Health Centre, and town car parking.

With this site not in the current Local Plan, Rainier are likely to be doing this now because East Chippy's development has stalled, for a variety of reasons, including recent archaeological interest. This leaves WODC unable to prove it has sufficient development land coming forward to meet housing targets. So, the planning process requires other sites to be considered. Regrettably, this is likely to be on a piecemeal basis, making the provision of infrastructure such as new primary school, health, sports, traffic relief, and town parking much harder to secure. For further information see www.banburyroadconsultation.co.uk and contact Rainier via contact@banburyroadconsultation.co.uk or on 0808 1688

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296. Rainier told the News they will continue taking feedback after 25 January as they finalise their application. Watch out in the *Chippy News* or on WODC's website for news on the planning application and normal public consultation.

Awards for Chippy youngsters

The first ever West Oxfordshire Youth Awards (WOYAs), to celebrate the achievements of local Young People, was held at a black-tie Gala Dinner at The Langdale Hall, Witney, in December. Devised by Carterton-based Got2B, a not-for-profit community-interest company that provides youth clubs and youth services across West Oxfordshire, including Chippy. The Awards were to recognise the achievements of young people aged from 13 to 17 years in six categories.



Recipients included Chipping Norton School's Shannon Probitts (pictured here far right) who won the Young Artist category and also

fellow Chippy School student Harriet Pike (pictured far left) who was runner-up in the Young Activist category. Daniel Lynch of Carterton Community College was the overall



Got2B Award winner while Burford School's Luka McInstry won the Young Phoenix category and Luke Butler of Henry Box School was named Young Sportsperson. For more information and details of next year's awards contact: Info@got2b.org.uk.

New Chippy LGBTQ+ group

Youth Service provider Got2B has launched a new LGBTQ+ Group for Young People aged 13–17 in Chipping Norton. The group, named Hexagon Chippy, meet every Wednesday at a town centre location. The group is hoping to stage Chipping Norton's first Pride event on Saturday 24 June – and are looking for volunteers from the local LGBTQ+ community who would like to get involved. For details of where Hexagon meets, or to volunteer to help organise the Chipping Norton Pride event, please contact Got2B via their Facebook or Instagram pages. Their email is info@got2b.org.uk.

£2 fares for local bus rides

Stagecoach have volunteered to take part in a Deptment for Transport scheme running until the end of March limiting single bus fares (including child and student tickets) to a maximum of £2. This should help people to leave the car at home at this time of high petrol and diesel prices and restore bus usage post-pandemic. The scheme applies to the S3/NS3

to Oxford, 488/489 to Banbury and 50 to Stratford. It does not apply to the X9 to Charlbury and Witney as Pulhams have decided to only apply the scheme to their route 51 between Stratford and Moreton.

Top dogs at Henry Cornish

Before Christmas, Chippy's Henry Cornish Care Centre hosted its first dog show fundraiser! The Centre, managed by



The Orders of St John Care Trust (OSJCT), was raising funds for interactive digital devices which will support residents' wellbeing through play. The show was open to all, and contestants included residents' carers, friends and families with their canine companions. The winners, judged by a residents' panel, were: Maeve for Agility; Harley for Cutest Dog; Benji for Most Obedient Dog; and Peggy for Best Trick. Second and third in Best Trick were Dodger, who 'sang' opera with owner Barbara Ingham, daughter of resident Dorothy Hewitt, and Macca, a polite little pooch owned by visitor Angela Gaydon. The Home's chef, Satoko Bagnall, made a special cake, decorated with a dog's head. Roger Tyrell, whose mother Joyce lives at the Home said, 'The dog show was a lovely event; everyone and particularly mum really enjoyed it'. Organiser Tina Brain, the Care Centre's Activities Co-ordinator, said, 'Well done to all our winners and runners-up. Thanks to everyone who helped organise and came – we can't wait until next year's show'!

Hailey Ave affordable homes

Twelve new affordable homes are to be built in Chipping Norton on Hailey Avenue by Cottsway Housing Association, if the planning application is approved. The proposal is to demolish 20 existing substandard flats in the interlinked Bliss, Brassey, and Wilkins Houses, replacing them with four 1-bedroomed flats, four 2-bedroomed flats, two 2-bedroomed houses and two 3-bedroomed houses. These would be affordable or social rented homes allocated according to local need from WODC's Housing Need Register. Having written to 85 local residents last June about this, Cottsway received responses supporting the site redevelopment and the higher energy standard proposed. But it also heard concerns from neighbours about lack of information about levels and about being overlooked from the flats. One neighbour told the News, 'These plans don't take into account that Chipping Norton is on a hill and our homes are lower, so with such an imposing new building, so much nearer than the existing buildings and with so many new windows looking directly over us, it will be like living in a goldfish bowl! We explained all of this to Cottsway back in June, but they've not listened and have gone ahead for planning permission anyway'. The Town Council raised no objection but asked if flats could be

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for people to sit in the summer while they have food and a glass of our own beer from the mobile van'. So, he still wants to serve food and drink at the shop for customers to consume in the adjacent lambing shed. He just no longer wants to run the more recent venture – a separate restaurant, in the middle of a field, accessed only by tractor.

So, Mr Clarkson's Appeal against WODC's Enforcement Notice is still going ahead. As is his Appeal against refusal of permission for an enlarged car park. The Farm Shop was closed after Christmas until 10 February. The new season of *Clarkson's Farm* airs on Amazon Prime on, guess when, 10 February! The News asked Mr Clarkson's PA for comment, which is awaited. He has chosen, perhaps uncharacteristically, a non-confrontational process known as an Informal Hearing – which normally takes the form of a quiet conversation, a form of mediation between Appellant and Local Planning Authority, sitting in a room with a Planning Inspector. Normally, no other people are involved – no objectors, no supporters, no neighbours, no press, certainly no film crew. But followers of this saga will recall the crowds and media, including Amazon TV, that flocked to WODC's Council Chamber to witness the determination of the Diddy Squat planning applications. A WODC spokesperson told the News they are discussing potential venues with the Planning Inspectorate, where security can be controlled, and expect to announce the venue by the end of January. It is unlikely to be a quiet affair. You can follow the appeal via <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> by searching under appeal reference APP/D3125/W/22/3308506.

MP's Dementia Friendly event

Local MP Robert Courts told the News about a Dementia Friends training session he held at Chipping Norton's Penhurst Gardens Care Home last October. He said 'I have long been passionate about ensuring communities understand more about the effects of dementia and the actions that we can take, big or small, to help those around us that live with this terrible disease. I have for many years now been a Dementia Friends Champion. I am proud that in my time as a Dementia Friends Champion I have now trained over a hundred people to become Dementia Friends'. The Penhurst session is linked with the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme, the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia, and these sessions aim to transform the way local communities think, act and talk about the condition. The MP, with the Penhurst team, ran activities to demonstrate how dementia can affect everyday activities and is looking forward to similar events in 2023. For information about local coffee and discussion sessions about dementia you can contact the client services manager at Penhurst – deon.pegg@porthaven.co.uk.



MP Robert Courts pictured with Chippy's community phone box

Chippy woman saved by King

A new book reveals the story of a young 18th century Chipping Norton wife sentenced to death but reprieved by the King! The book – *The Butcher, The Tailor, The Picture-Frame Maker ... Stories of Middle Way* – tells of people linked with author Gareth Winrow's home road in Summertown, Oxford. Previously a professor of international relations, Gareth now researches family, social, and local history.



Life saver: The King's mistress the Countess of Yarmouth

In the book, Gareth tells the story of Elizabeth Wisdome (née Buswell) born 1725 into a well-to-do, God-fearing family who lived in Chipping Norton. It seems her family had some claim on land in Summertown. She had married Thomas Rose Wisdome, a grocer from Chipping Norton; he was well-known in the Town and his mother was a Norgrove, another

famous Chippy family who owned the Town's two largest tanyards. But in 1749, newly-wed Elizabeth was convicted for jealously murdering her housemaid Grace Hall, by poisoning a pudding! Her case attracted national publicity. Sentenced to death, Elizabeth had received the last rites, but was saved in the nick of time by the intervention of King George II. Lady Susan Keck, daughter of the Duke of Hamilton, was convinced Elizabeth was innocent and contacted the Countess of Yarmouth, the King's mistress – pictured above. She apparently persuaded the King to pardon Elizabeth, who survived many years, had several children and remarried a Mr Slatter (another well-known local name!) after Thomas died. Author Gareth contacted the News after finding very few references to all this in our Town histories. The book is out on 28 February, £8.99 from Amazon or The Book Guild.

Lawrence Team fundraising

The Team was obviously thrilled with the MBE awarded to Jenny Nolan (see *article p 3*), and now for 2023 has a busy programme of fundraising events planned. Diary dates include: 20 April – **Graeme Garden in Conversation with Miriam Margolyes** at Chippy Theatre. Tickets on sale now via the Box Office; 20 May – **Clay Pigeon Shoot** at The Oxfordshire Shooting School, Enstone; 8 July – **Proms, Picnic and Fireworks** at Chivel Farm, Heythrop; 16 July – **The Dent Cup** at Kirtlington Polo Club; 3 September – **The John Barrows Memorial Cricket Match** at Sandford St Martin Cricket Club. Please visit lawrencehomenursing.org for sponsorship opportunities and ticket information. The Team will be writing to local businesses to ask them to consider offering the team of fantastic nurses a discount or some other benefit. If you think your business can help, please email Verity Fifer at fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org or call 07990 882233. Your generosity will be recognised on the website, social media platforms and in the annual newsletter.

New plan for Mill House Hotel

The Daylesford Estate is having a second attempt to bring the Mill House Hotel, Kingham, vacant since December 2017,



Artist's impression of the proposed cottages fronting Station Road with the restored Mill House Hotel in the background

back to life. Three years ago, the planning application for a 33-bedroom hotel was withdrawn just as it was about to be refused. A new application, with a totally revamped design, shows the former mid-C18th grain mill being restored and extended to create a restaurant, ale house, reception, bakehouse, and demonstration barn. 38 bedrooms will be arranged in semi-detached thatched cottages fronting Station Road, inspired by estate cottages around the country. The mill leat and public right of way will be retained and improved, and grounds landscaped to include cottage gardens producing food and fruit for the restaurant and Farm Shop. An electric shuttle bus will ferry visitors between station, hotel, village, and Daylesford Organics, and supplies will be shuttled from Farm Shop to Hotel by buggy. Architect Ben Pentreath, who counts the King and Duchess of Cambridge as clients, held a consultation with local residents last September, reporting positive feedback. There seems less public protest than with the earlier application. The Parish Council is in support. If approved, this would bring Daylesford's investment in the local hospitality industry to four establishments: Daylesford Organic Farm Shop and Bamford Wellness Spa, The Wild Rabbit, The Fox at Oddington, and now the Mill House Hotel – plus numerous cottages to let around Kingham.

Enstone car museum plan

Following local public exhibitions (see December's News), a detailed planning application was submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council for a major classic car museum and holiday home complex at Enstone Airfield aiming to bring visitors and significant economic benefits to the area. This is the brainchild of American millionaire and classic car enthusiast, Peter Mullin. Outline planning permission was granted in 2020 for a development, but a new application was needed because of changes to the plan, including adding more temporary exhibition space, increasing the holiday home numbers, but reducing the overall development area. Pre-application discussions and local exhibitions heard concerns raised again about traffic generation and questions on how the local community will benefit. WODC Councillors are to consider the application after another formal consultation.

Gypsy site Appeal Hearing

A planning Appeal against the refusal of permission for a caravan site to house a Gypsy or Traveller extended family off the Over Norton Road will be heard at an Informal Hearing in West Oxfordshire District Council Chamber, Wood Green, Witney at 10am on 7 February. WODC say they are sending letters to interested parties who have previously commented on the application.

Boost for The Branch hub

Building work started in earnest just before Christmas at the old NatWest Bank building in Chipping Norton's Market Square. This is for a new community hub to be run by The Branch charity, set up by supporters at St Mary's Church. With space for community use, The Branch will include helping



WODC's Cllr Joy Altman, pictured with Emma Kennedy of The Branch, on a recent visit to Chippy

people access skill and courses. The charity has been busy fundraising for the project, and received a boost in December when West Oxfordshire District Council approved a £50,000 grant particularly to help with a community hall. This is from WODC's Community Facilities Grant Scheme – which has provided nearly £500,000 recently to local community groups. On a visit to Chippy, Cllr Joy Altman, WODC's Cabinet member for stronger healthy communities, was pictured outside the building with The Branch's Emma Kennedy. The project builders, Savvy, are now fully engaged on site – one of their first tasks was to remove a massive bank safe from the basement. The builders' compound to receive and store materials, surrounded by hoardings, has to be at the front as there is no rear access. Emma told the News that graphic designs for the hoarding are underway, to include update information panels and the story of The Branch. Contractors are trying to minimise disruption for others, using the New Street car park, not the Market Place, for their vehicles.

Meditation at Batsford

If you fancy trying some relaxing meditation to help with the stresses of life in 2023, why not book in for a new workshop at Batsford Arboretum Education Centre. Tina Burnett is running the session on Saturday 11 March at 10.30am for around 90 minutes. For both beginners and folk more familiar with meditation practices, the session introduces a few easy methods that can be practised at home, which aim to offer a sense of wellbeing and peace of mind. Tea and cake in the café

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afterwards. Contact Tina on 07743 467714 or email tburnett888@gmail.com.

Katharine House plans

Latest news on how to support our local hospice includes the **Moonlight Walk**, the annual flagship fundraising walk, on Saturday 20 May at Easington Sports Football Club – so get



The KFS team present £2708 to the Hospice – after their fairy-lit tractor Christmas fundraiser

the date in your diaries now and don't forget to tell friends and family! There's a range of **Challenge Events** lined up: Ride London – 28 May, Abseil – 17 June, Bike Oxford – 25 June, Skydive – 9 September, Thames Path Walk – 9 September, Oxford Half Marathon – 15 October, Halloween Walk – 28 October. Plus many more! **Open Gardens** are back; last year's raised £7000. Would you like to open your garden for charity? The Fundraising team are on hand to offer support and guidance to help make sure your event is blooming marvellous. If you have some charity shop treasures in your unwanted seasonal gifts – drop them in to your local KHH Chipping Norton shop. And sign up to the Digital Monthly Newsletter. More on all this at www.khh.org.uk.

Town traffic & safety update

Updates at Chippy Town Council's January Traffic Advisory Committee include:

Albion Street crossing – a draft design from Oxfordshire County Council for the London Road junction, to improve pedestrian safety, was recommended for approval. OCC will need to do a detailed design with construction possible during the next financial year. OCC are also meant to be looking at New Street crossings and junction improvements, but no news yet!

County Transport priorities – Next year's OCC's transport budget will prioritise walking, cycling, and public transport. The current parking and bus fare deal at the Park & Rides will extend into the new year. Seedcorn funding will help develop a freight strategy, key for the 'A44 corridor' study to impact HGVs through Chippy.

Town cycling, walking and public transport – The Town's cycling group already has a map of potential out of town cycle paths. They've also contributed to an OCC study into a strategic logistics hub with routes to Charlbury and Hanborough. The Committee stressed the importance of walking, cycling, and public transport routes in and from our new housing developments – from The Pillars (already built)

and potential new housing sites such as the Rainier site beyond the Cricket Club.

Speeding and safety – Measures to reduce Churchill Road speeding, and clearance of leaves from key footpaths, will be looked at urgently. The light-controlled crossing from The Pillars across Banbury Road is still not switched on, and OCC officers will chase developers. With snow still likely, the Committee was reminded that salt bins are regularly checked – and additional bins have been provided at the Health Centre.

Hooky's shire horse celebrated

Hook Norton Brewery have just launched a special brew which they've named **Command & Conquer** to celebrate their late much-loved Shire Horse, Commander.

Memories, memories! School pupils 70 years back were still instructed in the industrial specialities of the country's locations: Northampton shoes; Lancashire cotton; Birmingham, workshop of the world; and Burton-on-Trent, the beer town. Sadly, those vast Burton breweries have diminished, along with the magnificent Shire Horses employed in distributing the product and manipulating trucks in the railway sidings and over the innumerable (and frustrating!) level crossings. Happily though, the association of Shire Horses with traditional brewing has continued elsewhere. The Hook Norton Brewery Shire Horse trio are regularly seen making deliveries around the Town as full members of the brewery workforce – they also enjoy a bottle of the stuff! His passion for the Shire also has Brewery Managing Director, James Clarke, as a trustee for the Shire Horse Society. Throughout summer, horses and horsebox tour the country visiting local and national shows for demonstrations and competitions.



The new special-edition premium ale, **Command & Conquer**, was brewed with the help of Head Coachman Nick Carter and Groom Alyster. Nick called it, 'a fitting tribute to a noble horse and friend. He was a loyal colleague of the brewery for

the last four years of his life, a steady hand with a larger-than-life character'. The beer is available in the brewery shop, online at www.hooky.co.uk and at selected Hook Norton pubs. A donation from sales goes to The War Horse Memorial, which honours the service of animals in war and supports animals in need. As an aside, in 1930, 66-year-old champion walker George Cummings walked from London to Burton-

LOCAL NEWS

on-Trent consuming only beer, at the rate of 100 miles to the gallon. To compare this with Commander's consumption, do bear in mind that George was not pulling a loaded dray.

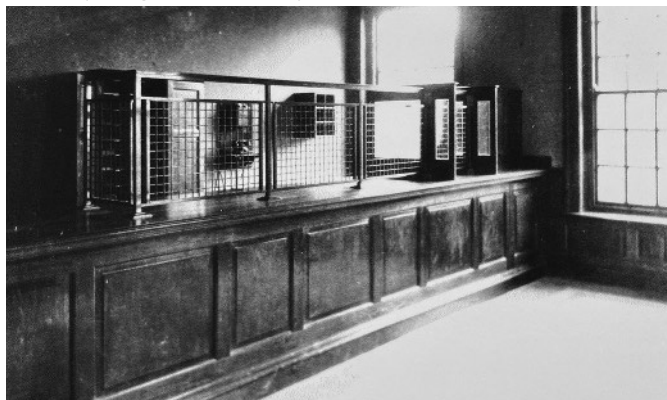
Old Post Office for sale

One of Chipping Norton's most prominent buildings, the former Post Office along West Street at Burford Road, is up



Opened in 1931 by Mayor G H Hannis, the neo-Georgian-style stone building cost £7,000

for sale. The Vintage Sports-Car Club has occupied the basement and ground floor since buying the property in 1998. Tania Brown, Club Secretary, told the News, 'The Old Post Office (fondly called TOPO) has served our needs well for 25



The original Post Office Counter, which many people may still remember

years, but The Board took the decision that the Club needed to consider a more suitable home, to act as a destination for our members. The Old Post Office has limited parking and is not a true clubhouse or venue for Club activities in the way many members would like'. There's no decision yet on any new home.

Opened in 1931 by Mayor G H Hannis, the neo-Georgian-style stone building cost £7,000 and received much acclaim in local press. Described as 'of admirable design, probably one of the most up to date [Post Offices] in the country', stores and an engineering workshop were in its basement, staff accommodation on the first floor and wood-pannelled Public Office, Sorting Office and Telephone Exchange on the ground floor. It even boasted an all-night telephone, accessible from outside! The technology may have changed, but the building has stood the test of time and, almost a century later, is still a good-looking solid property, listed as a

building of Local Interest by WODC. Fischer German, estate agents, told the News that open days in January had attracted a lot of interest. They were now only accepting unconditional offers over £650,000 (ie not subject to planning permission). They suggested new owners would convert the entire building to residential, with the property expected to change hands soon.

Lisa snapped the winner!

Chippy resident and enthusiastic photographer Lisa Paget was one of the proud winners before Christmas of WODC's Photo Competition – which attracted over 180 entries all aimed at 'showcasing' the District. Lisa is pictured collecting her prize – an image of her winning picture *Mill Field in Chipping Norton* –



from Witney. WODC are using the winning pictures to show off our local area on social media and in their own offices. Lisa told the *Chippy News* that after spotting a post about the competition, she found some photos she had taken on her iPhone 'while out and about in our beloved Chipping Norton'. She said the picture of Bliss Mill, fluffy clouds and cows enjoying the sunshine on a summer's day after harvest, was perfect for her. It also has special memories: Lisa's late mum, Denise Paget (née Clapton), played on the mill field as a girl, and in her teens got a job at the Mill working on the looms, always talking fondly of her time there. Lisa thought her mum would be excited and proud about the prize and seeing her eldest daughter in the *Chippy News*. Well done, Lisa – and many thanks for the Heythrop Hunt pics on page 3!

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Business Buzzing at The Fox



Business Buzz's Emma McGregor and Dale Mitchell

Norton, that meets monthly in the Fox and celebrates its third birthday this March. Host Emma McGregor and sponsor Dale Mitchell explained that meetings are informal, with a friendly and 'fluff-free' approach. Arrive anytime from 10am, grab a coffee or cuppa (and biscuit), with a goal of talking to three new people during the morning!

'It's perfect for anyone who isn't keen on Apprentice-style intros and handshakes', says Emma, 'We break at 11am for introductions but they're just seven seconds, so people don't have to prepare big presentations about themselves! It's about relationships, not sales.' The group launched just one week before lockdown, and went online, but is happy to be back and thriving in person – arguably how best connections are made. Dale, a partner in Azets Accountants, added, 'Buzz is about making connections, rather than the sometimes dreaded 'sell' of networking. We welcome anyone! Already this year we've had a first-time freelancer alongside established SME owners. We encourage local shop owners, business owners, and entrepreneurs to come along and say hello.' The next event is Tuesday 14 February, 10am–12 noon at The Fox. Tickets £8 via the Business Buzz website, App, or on the door. business-buzz.org/oxfordshire/chipping-norton/

Great Rollright Bingo

All are invited to the next Bingo night on Friday 24 February in Great Rollright Village Hall. Doors open 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm, finishes around 9.15. A fun evening for young and old with cash prizes! Bar and refreshments. Non-profit making event and all proceeds go towards local causes. Following

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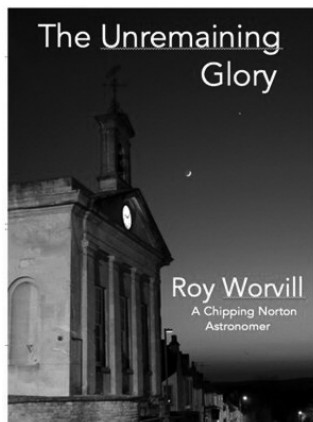
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dates: 24 March and 21 April. Eyes Down Look In! For further info, email: grrbingo@aol.com.

Chippy astronomer's memoirs



A new book, the *Unremaining Glory: Roy Worvill – Chipping Norton Astronomer*, tells the story of this interesting local man through his childhood memoirs from 1920s Chipping Norton. They evoke a vivid picture of life in the Town at that time. They are enhanced by contemporary images from Chipping Norton Museum's vast Picture Collection, taken by Frank Packer. Roy's son,

Kevin, has written an introduction with some biographical information about his father and his lifelong passion for astronomy. Roy was born in 1914, taught at local secondary schools and



wrote many guides for amateur astronomers and lectured widely. He wrote *The Sky at Night* column for the *Oxford Mail* for 20 years (1957–77), and became well known with his *Look Aloft* night-sky features for the *Eagle* comic, and a whole *Ladybird* series on astronomy and space in the 1960s and 70s. In 2019, Virgin Galactic's test pilot took a copy of Roy's *Ladybird* book, *Exploring Space*, with him because it had inspired him to become an astronaut. The Museum's new book is £8 – available from Pauline Watkins (07977 059527 paulinewatkins58@icloud.com) or Jan Cliffe (07938 682674 jan@thecliffefamily.co.uk).

Events at Chippy Library

Cold and windy? Try taking refuge at the Library in the warm! Here's a round-up of events: **Rhymetime** for pre-schoolers 10.30am is every Monday. **'Chatterbox' Coffee Morning** with Age UK is the third Tuesday each month 10 to 11.30am. **Saturday Storytime** (for ages 3–6) is the first Saturday every month at 11am. Stay warm and enjoy a chat and a cuppa at **Warm Space Friday** open to everyone (membership not needed) every Friday 2–5pm. Bring a friend, bring your knitting/craft project/homework/game, browse magazines and books, use the computers or bring your own device and use the wi-fi. A Cost of Living Support Event on Thursday 2 February will have professional information and support available on mental health, housing, benefits and food provision, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Half-term has some extra children's events. An **Origami Workshop** for kids aged 8+ is on Thursday 16 February 11am to 12 noon. For younger children, aged 4+, there's a fun **Storytime with Craft** at 2pm (children must be accompanied by an adult). Places limited so please contact the Library by email chippingnorton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 01608 643559 or to book.

Sally Moore – Library Manager

Alfie the Alpaca's World Cup



How refreshing to encounter Chipping Norton Fairytale Farm's Alfie, the psychic alpaca! During the recent World Cup football frenzy he made national Breakfast TV, demonstrating his decisive match predictions. Faced with two food tubs

representing competing teams, with unerring precision he chose the flag of the next winner – pictured above is Alfie in action. It is not particularly unusual for us to consult our pets on matters of national importance; the tricky bit is interpreting their response. 'Well Huggy, what do you think of the England batting then?' is not satisfactorily answered by the python snuggling more firmly around your waist. At least with 'Hey Tom, I asked who is going to win the boat race!' there is clarity about the cat's opinion as he stalks off with disdainfully erect tail.

So Alfie's confidence was a real game changer. Until, that is, it wasn't. The quarter finals proved his downfall and Alfie was left with his reputation in tatters. Fortunately, he is still a much loved member of the Fairytale Farm community – with no recriminations for failure. Rabio the Octopus, who enjoyed

similar TV attention in Japan during the last World Cup, found his next public appearance was as an item on the restaurant menu. Still, maybe Alfie needs to refine his technique. When Julius Caesar consulted the Oracle about his next political move, the enigmatic response was 'Beware the Ides of March'. So Julius was none the wiser but subsequent events greatly enhanced the Oracle's reputation for profundity. Perhaps, instead of being too decisive, Alfie could be a bit more nuanced – chew thoughtfully on a mouthful of hay whilst exhibiting a knowing look in his eye. In any event Alfie, along with all of his friendly companions, can be visited every day at Fairytale Farm.

Marathon swim for The Lido



Lido lover Nathan Phelps of Whistler's Restaurant in Chipping Norton is a man on a mission ... training to swim a marathon (400 lengths without stopping!) to raise valuable funds in aid of The Lido, Chippy's open-air pool run by a charity. 'We fell in love with Chippy and we feel Chippy loves us right back,' says Nathan. 'So I decided to challenge myself and raise funds for our much-loved Lido, which is such an important place in our community.' Nathan's big swim takes place on Sunday 28 May. The Lido opens again for 2023 at the end of April so in the meantime he's training early every morning at the Leisure Centre. If you see him, give him an encouraging wave or thumbs up. All support for Nathan will be very much appreciated – his fundraising page can be found at totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/NathansMarathonSwim.

Claire Jarvis

Whistlers

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Fatal accidents inquests

A formal Inquest was held before Christmas concerning the fatal accident, early in 2022, on the A44 at the top of New Street in Chipping Norton, which resulted in the death of a pedestrian, Derek Thornton. It heard that the driver of the vehicle involved had just waved another pedestrian across the road, but didn't see Mr Thornton, who, he later believed, had stepped into his blind spot. Another driver desperately tried to warn the truck, by sounding their horn, but the truck driver wasn't sure what was wrong, thinking his truck was possibly obstructing the other driver. The truck driver involved passed all the usual drug, alcohol, and eyesight tests, and the truck was relatively new (2016). The Inquest recorded a conclusion of a road traffic collision-related death. No criminal charges are being brought against the truck driver, who was in tears as he spoke at the inquest.

More recently, Dylan Moyce, another Chipping Norton resident, died in an accident on the A44 at Cross Hands (near the Greedy Goose). The circumstances are unclear. What is

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known is that Mr Moyce was driving a silver Audi TT which came off the road around 7.50am on Sunday 20 November. He died of severe head trauma and the Inquest will be held on 5 April. Police have appealed for witnesses, particularly from motorists with dash-cams who might have been passing shortly before the crash, or who saw the crash itself.

From Christmas to crafting



Carol singing at Southerndown

Everyone at Chipping Norton Methodist Church was thrilled over the Christmas celebrations to raise funds for Crisis at Christmas and the Lawrence Team as well as church funds. The New Year then saw a charity cuppa and chat for the Chippy Shuttle Bus and usual cuppa and chat for church funds. The next cuppa and chat on 1 February is for church flower funds. The Church Singing Group not only entertained everyone during various services but also spent a lovely time carol singing with Southerndown residents. We also look forward to crafting with friends at a meeting on 13 February

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between 10 and 12; new crafters are always very welcome, meetings are on the second Monday of the month.

Elaine Parsons

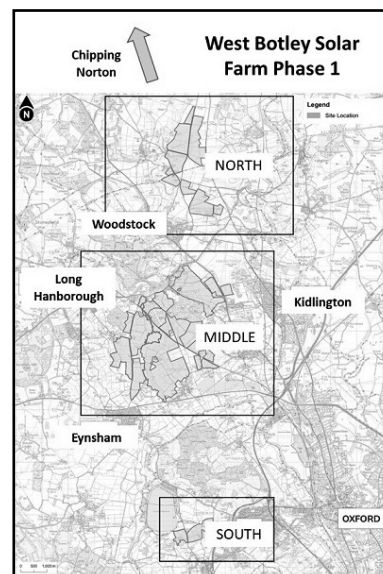
Beech Haven visit the Panto

Residents from Beech Haven Care Home had a lovely treat on their annual trip to Chipping Norton Theatre for the Panto, *Dick Whittington*. They thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful performances and even got splashed with water and managed to catch some of the sweets thrown out by the cast.



Lisa Tanner

Major local solar farm plan



Map showing the extent of the proposed Botley West solar farm

With climate change and energy prices on our minds, a planning application for a very large local (1000 hectare) solar farm, called Botley West, has hit the headlines. According to the developers Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP), the 840MW of new green energy could power 330,000 Oxfordshire homes. However, campaign group CPRE has raised concern over lack of information. They say it will significantly impact Tackley, Wootton, Glympton, Bladon, Woodstock, Long Hanborough, Church Hanborough, Rousham, Eynsham, and Cassington in West Oxfordshire, just by the sheer scale of the development, approximately 2600 football pitches in size. The cumulative impact could reduce agricultural land and 'industrialise' the rural area. Chipping Norton MP Robert Courts has questioned the scale of the proposal – starting his own survey of local residents' views so he can 'reflect the strength of local feeling'.

The Botley West proposal is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). It bypasses the usual planning process run by District Councils. Instead, a six-stage process must follow. The first phase consultation was from 3 November to 22 December when developers provided the initial proposal, but without full details. All the feedback is now being considered by the project team to help shape detailed proposals. For further information see www.botleywest.co.uk, contacts include Witney MP Robert Courts at robert@robertcourts.co.uk or the campaign group CPRE at campaign@cprexon.org.

Are we still a Market Town?

Time for a market debate? – Not long ago, Chippy had three thriving markets, but it seems, no longer. The weekly Saturday Lower Town Hall Country Market (originally started by the WI) stopped and the monthly privately run Farmers Market was down to one stall in December. The main weekly Wednesday Market on the lower marketplace, organised and run by West Oxfordshire District Council, was down to half a dozen stalls. It recently had space for 16 pitches, and there was a time when traders had to join a waiting list. What's happening and can anything be done?



Chipping Norton's market heritage – for over 800 years the Town has been a natural hub for trading, with markets evolving through the medieval wool boom and beyond. WODC describe Chippy and Witney as 'Charter Markets' but there is in fact no record of any Charter specifically given for a weekly market here. The Town was given a springboard by Lord of the Manor William Fitzalan who was granted a Charter by King John in 1204 for an annual 'Fair' lasting four days – basically a holiday where much trading did in fact go on. Fitzalan laid out the marketplace and invested much in the Town. Previously called just 'Norton', an added prefix (originally meaning 'good bargain') became 'Chepyngnorton' and Fitzalan started 'extracting tolls' from traders. King John got his share. The weekly markets evolved. Much later in 1606/7 King James granted Chippy's 'Town Charter' – as a Borough to run its own affairs. In time it took over running the weekly market. However, the 1974 local government changes saw the 'Borough' disbanded – and affairs, including the Wednesday Market and its income, passed to the new West Oxfordshire District Council.



Recent challenges and uncertainty – The Wednesday Market has had tough times – a review by WODC in 2019 took stock, noting reduced nearby footfall (particularly with the closure of HSBC and NatWest) and out-of-town developments such as Aldi and the M&S retail park – with shops like Mountain Warehouse and Pets Corner competing with traditional market stalls. WODC also cite untidiness and the sloping site which hamper any development. WODC's report looked at

options such as finding a private operator but nothing was done – it was still (to quote) 'a useful source of revenue for the Council'. Covid then hit, and now there is a 12 month period with disruption from the hoardings outside the old bank redevelopment, cutting the market in two. Traders also complain about parked cars left there – with no WODC traffic wardens early on a Wednesday morning to police it.

What do stallholders think?

– A quick survey of stallholders last month saw mixed views. Nigel Price (household goods and basic clothing) – pictured – and the card stall holder both hung up their Chipping Norton hats on 21 December. Mick (Isla Bakery) said Chippy had his lowest footfall – and he takes more unsold goods home. Mike (woven baskets) has more of a 'things come, things go' attitude. Trading for many years, he loves doing it (he is worth a chat!). Mark (green groceries) says change is inevitable, but is optimistic that the market will continue. Costs are another challenge – traders work markets far apart, including in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Fuel prices take their toll. For some, Chipping Norton is the most expensive, and for several, the least rewarding.



Great value, great bargains – In the end, survival (or not) will depend on us, the punters. Mark's fruit and veg stall has excellent quality produce, unusual items, and seemingly long-lasting veggies. Similarly Ali's nuts, olive and Middle Eastern delicacies stand has the best hummus for miles around. Steve, the flower man, has a wide choice of cut flowers and cheap plants, John and Martin's fish van has a wide range of fresh fish, and Mick has an agreement with Nash's bakery on Topside to slice his loaves for free. You can buy outdoor wear on the clothes stall, and beautiful woven baskets from Mike. Many items are as cheap, cheaper, or better quality than you can find in large stores.

Time for some action? – Traders say that, in spite of taking income and expensive rents, WODC have made little effort to promote or invest in Chippy's Wednesday Market – particularly since Covid and with the current disruptions. WODC are currently trumpeting a move to become more flexible on pavement trading by shops, but what could be done with this market, such as using other streets, investing in attractive stalls and attracting more local suppliers? There has been little sign of marketing, public investment or proactive management. The success of this year's Christmas in Chippy outdoor market showed how both suppliers and punters want to trade in Chippy. Perhaps more could be done?

Michael Fletcher 1944–2022

Chipping Norton's Michael Fletcher, former Personnel Manager of Parker Knoll, distinguished Town Clerk, and valued member of our Methodist Church died just before Christmas, aged 78.



Life and career in Chippy – Michael was born at the War Memorial Hospital in 1944, attended school in Church Street and the Grammar School, and started work in the Borough Council offices at the Guildhall in 1961 gaining further qualifications at Banbury and Oxford FE colleges. In 1971, he began a 25-year career at Parker Knoll's furniture factory as Cost Office Manager, later becoming Personnel Manager. He formed friendships, and his accumulated local knowledge made him an ideal candidate for the role of Town Clerk for the Town Council – starting in 1997, retiring in 2004 but returning in 2006 to help for 10 years as Deputy Clerk. Michael took on many voluntary roles in Chipping Norton, with the Hospital League of Friends, the Volunteer Fire Brigade Trust and Chipping Norton School Governors. He was also a member of the Bliss Probus Group.

A tribute for Town service – Former Mayor, long-serving



Cllr Graham Beacham is congratulated by Michael, then Town Clerk, at his Mayormaking in 2000

Town Councillor and Chair of the Hospital League of Friends, Jo Graves, said: 'I was very privileged as a "novice" councillor to have the wise counsel and guidance of Michael Fletcher as Town Clerk. A true gentleman in every sense, he encapsulated fully the seven principles of Public life namely: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Openness, Honesty, Accountability and Leadership. His quiet, respectful style as the Officer of the Town

Council reassured me during my terms of office as Chairman of the Town Council and Town Mayor. He was the fount of all knowledge in dealing with protocol and always available to give advice and guidance – always ready to listen. As a longstanding fellow Committee member of the League of Friends, his knowledge as a son of Chipping Norton would come into play as the League navigated all the changes to Primary Healthcare over the decades. Michael will be missed and I shall remember him with affection and respect'.

Friendship, worship and music – Michael met Freda when he worked at the Guildhall in the 1960s and they were married at Chipping Norton Methodist Church in 1969. It was through Freda that Michael became involved with the Methodist Church, initially through the Young People's Group. They both became valued members of the congregation and Michael took on many roles, including leading services. Later he became the Church pianist and then organist, playing every Sunday, and for weddings and funerals. Michael had a natural musical ability that was evident when he played, and he could both read music and play by ear. In 1980, Michael took part in *Songs of Praise* which was broadcast from Chipping Norton: he talked about his role at Parker Knoll, the certainty of numbers, and his faith. In 2009, Michael and Freda celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Michael's Methodist community – Former Mayor, Methodist Senior Steward and longstanding friend, Martin Hannant, said: 'Michael has been a part of Chipping Norton Methodist Church as long as anyone can remember. So many different roles, so many different hats, so many years that it is difficult to remember all. He has been a vital and consistent cog in the running of our Church for over 50 years. His faith shone through his eyes and was carried through by his heart. There is a Michael-shaped hole in the heart of our Church. That hole will surely and slowly over time be filled but his mark will always be left on the Church. Nobody can ever forget Michael, his great faith, his sense of humour, his love and his smile. We are so blessed to have had him as part of our lives and as part of our church. It is a great tribute to Michael and Freda that our Church is still flourishing when so many are having to close. God bless you, Michael'.

Kindness and warmth remembered – Michael always took an interest in people and met them with a smile and warm greeting. It was through his friends in the Walking Group that Michael would make his second national television appearance, in a brief cameo on Clarkson's Farm (Series 1, Episode 5)! He would always find time to chat and would offer to help people when he could. Michael lived his whole life in Chipping Norton and although he enjoyed visiting other places, Chipping Norton was definitely his home. He was a familiar face in the Town and he will be missed not only by his family, but by many more. He is survived by his wife Freda, three children and six grandchildren.

Michael was diagnosed with cancer in September 2021 and died on 17 December 2022. His memorial service on 16 January saw a full and overflowing Methodist Church, followed by a reception in the Town Hall for representatives of the Town, family and friends to celebrate his friendship and service.

Robin Howard – 1928–2023

The News Team was sad to hear, just before going to press, of the death of Chipping Norton resident Robert Weston (Robin) Howard, at the age of 94½. Robin had a long and distinguished career serving the Church, and was featured with a profile in the *Chipping Norton News* some years ago. It is hoped to publish a full tribute in a future issue. Our thoughts are with all his friends and family.

Rachel Foakes 1969–2022



The Mayor and Chipping Norton's community shared a deep sadness at the news of the sudden death in November, aged 53, of Rachel Foakes. She was a valued Town Councillor and Deputy Mayor, as well as an inspirational, caring, practical, much-loved daughter, mother, wife, neighbour, advocate, writer

and friend to very many. Rachel, husband Andrew and their family moved to Chipping Norton in 2016 (something Rachel 'just made happen') partly to be with a caring community and schools that could do the best for her children – Grace, Frank and Anna, who suffered from debilitating epilepsy. Rachel had a busy professional, home and lately community life, but also fought passionately for the best for her family and others, particularly those needing similar special help.

After early life near Watford, Rachel studied modern history in Oxford, living life to the full and making many lifelong friends. From her childhood, writing was a passion. She edited *Cherwell*, the University newspaper, and took up writing professionally, under her name Rachel Bladon, becoming a prolific and talented writer of educational books, including most recently working as Series Editor for OUP's successful Oxford Bookworms series. One legacy is hundreds of books and thousands of new enthusiastic readers. A varied career also saw her working in publishing in Hong Kong for three years where her husband Andrew was teaching in an international school. She loved living in Hong Kong and had many friends from her time and travels there. Tributes from her many friends called her kind, caring, deeply committed, taking on all (sometimes too many) challenges and 'just getting on with it'. She knew for herself what was right – and believed in making the most of life. She made friends wherever she went. In Chippy, when Covid hit, she started a 'help your neighbour' scheme in The Leys (a road she loved to call home) with a friend, volunteered as a vaccinator – and latterly has been teaching English to local Ukrainian families.

In 2021, a neighbour (and an article in the Chippy News!) gave her the idea of joining the Town Council, as she said, 'to make our beautiful town an even better place to live and work'. Mayor Sandra Coleman found her an energetic friend and ally saying 'she was a committed, kind and dedicated Council member. I loved working with Rachel because she had a real knack of identifying what needed to be done – and finding a way to facilitate change, taking others with her. She was keen on strong communication, introduced our regular Council Newsletter and set up Saturday surgeries for local residents to meet Councillors. Rachel was also helping lead on making the Town pedestrian-friendly and pesticide-free. I will always remember Rachel's smile, her ability to ask the right questions (and ensure she got an answer!), her honesty and willingness to get on with the task in hand. I was honoured to have her as my Deputy Mayor.'

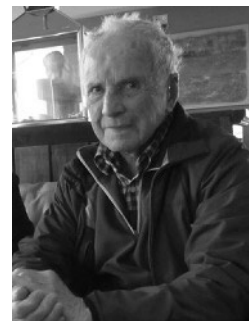
Rachel loved the outdoors, was an energetic tennis player, a recent enthusiastic sailor, loved walking around town chatting, and in the countryside with beloved dog Otto. She

will be missed by so many. As her Uncle Bob, the celebrant at her funeral, said: 'Rachel did friendship beautifully – always kind, gentle and wise, offering support and advice. She was selfless, thoughtful, compassionate, warm hearted and gave so much to everyone – never complaining or putting herself first ... she was unstoppable!' In December, friends and family celebrated Rachel's life, fittingly, at Chippy's centre in the Town Hall. Donations in Rachel's memory towards Epilepsy Research UK can be made via Sole & Co or at rachelfoakes.muchloved.com. Andrew, Anna, Grace and Frank thank everyone for their words, cards, messages and support. Rachel's love remains with all of them, her friends, her home and her community.

(with thanks to Andrew Foakes and Sandra Coleman)

Hywel Davies 1925–2022

Hywel and his wife Carol moved to Chippy 23 years ago. Born in South Wales, Hywel spoke Welsh until he started school. At 14 he was working in the local coal mine. After the war he began a successful career in teaching, becoming headmaster of a large new primary school in a deprived area in Oxfordshire, adored by children and staff alike. Hywel passed away peacefully aged 97. His family and many friends here will miss his kindness, wicked sense of humour and passion for life.





Join Our Team

Could you be our new Responsible Finance Officer and Estates Manager?
Salary: SCP J8 24-28; £31,099–£34,723 FTE
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Part time post: 30 hours per week, to include evening meetings



Are you a highly skilled administrator, with experience in finance and management?
Are you looking for a role that supports the community?

We would love to hear from you!

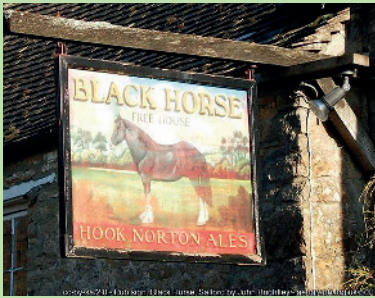


For more details and how to apply:
www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/we-are-recruiting!

PUBS ON THE UP!

Hospitality has had a hard time recently – but for 2023 some pubs around Chipping Norton are making the news for good reasons. Here are some highlights.

Black Horse is back! First, there's great news that Salford's village pub – only a two-mile scenic cross country stroll from Chipping Norton – will be reopening this year under its old local name, **The Black Horse** (pictured is the old sign). New boss there Alex Daly told the News he and the team were looking forward to welcoming food and drink enthusiasts this summer for both inside and alfresco dining in the garden. Alex is part of the team at the entrepreneurial Lionhearth Group, who run the popular foodie pubs **The Chequers in Churchill** and **The Swan at Ascott-under-Wychwood**. They are also looking at other possible new sites.



Cooking the Goose Up the road from Salford, exciting plans for **The Greedy Goose**, closed since 2021, are afoot. Tom Hartley Jnr (pictured) well known as a classic car collector but a newcomer to hospitality, bought the site as a venture back in 2021's lockdown. He now has planning permission for 10 new luxury holiday lodges in the grounds and told the News he's working on a complete redesign for the pub, with excellent site parking space. He's been watching other local pub moves enthusiastically, says the redevelopment could be done in 12 months, and he's looking forward to trying his hand at hospitality. Tom's passion for classic cars also fits well locally with the big new Mullin automotive museum planned at Enstone.



Village ventures

Late 2022 saw changes in nearby villages. **The Crown at Church Enstone** is now run by food enthusiasts Matt and Katie Beamish, who also run the popular dining pubs **The Kingham Plough** and **The Hare at Milton-under-Wychwood**. Then, what was 'the Artyard Café in Enstone has new leaseholders, Ben and Hannah Nunesvaz. **The Harrow Inn** (pictured) has reverted to its old name – with a makeover and complete new food offer – including using meat from Chippy butcher Trev Beadle. Not to be outdone, Chippy's even closer neighbouring village, **Over Norton**, is restarting its **pop-up pub** in the Village Hall in Choice Hill Road – aiming for the last Friday each month. It starts at 7pm – bring your own booze, nibbles and glasses!



Daylesford diners Local hospitality ventures linked with Daylesford Organics continue to flourish – with **The Wild Rabbit in Kingham** achieving a Top 50 Boutique Hotel rating judged by 100 people in the hospitality industry. Many of its food ingredients come from the Daylesford market garden. An associated company has now submitted a new planning application to rebuild Kingham's Mill House Hotel (see page 9). The Daylesford portfolio also includes the upgraded **Fox Inn at Lower Oddington** (pictured), reopened in



2022, which received a pre-Christmas favourable restaurant review by critic Giles Coren in *The Times*. Forbes magazine called Daylesford's Lady Carole Bamford 'The Cotswolds Queen' and recommended trying The Fox's *Punchy Fox* cocktail, made with pineapple rum, cane rum and Daylesford limoncello – as well as local gins and wines crafted at Daylesford's sister estate Château Léoube in the South of France. Watch out for other new local Bamford dining ventures near Chippy soon.



Plaudits & Awards

The Fox in Lower Oddington was also one of the local village gastropubs mentioned in the *The Sunday Times* list of 100 Best Places to Stay in Britain for 2023. Others included **The Royal Oak Ramsden**, a coaching inn and public house for almost 250 years, marked up after a sympathetic facelift when it was bought by locals *Notting Hill* film producer Tim Bevan and artist Amy Gadney, two years ago. *Sunday Times* reviewers called the refurbished interiors as 'effortlessly alluring as Julia Roberts!' The 17th century **George Inn at Barford St Michael**, is praised for its 'fabulous' food and 'boutique' bedrooms but considered 'suspiciously cheap'! It was restored by owners wine merchant Louis Holtzhausen and his wife Laura. Finally, **The Lamb Inn in Shipton-under-Wychwood** was named Best Pub in the *GQ Food & Drink Awards 2022*, with reviewer Susan d'Arcy praising the 'dashing respectability' of quirky photography and mounted butterflies and flying insects, but noting a 'frisson of dissolute intention' hanging over the bar in what she calls 'a proper boozier'. Co-owners Tom Noest and Peter Creed (pictured), both Cotswolds born and bred, also operate **The Little Bell** within **Soho Farmhouse**.



The Chippy News team hopes to be out and about sampling some of these establishments so watch out for future reviews ...and readers' contributions welcome

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE ...

Love comes in many forms and for Valentine's we salute the music that evokes it. Do you have a favourite piece? Some locals told us theirs!

Enchantment, love and dreams!

'My favourite love music is **Amazing** by George Michael. It reminds me of my wife and our love. It embodies what Valentine's day is for me:- we should "celebrate the love of the one you're with". Urooj has been with me 16 years and she truly is the reason for where I am today. Pure unconditional love and support, She's AMAZING!!!' – *Yasin Jussab, Topside Pharmacy, pictured with the amazing Urooj on their wedding day.*



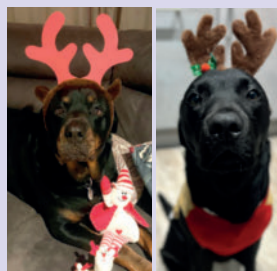
'**Some Enchanted Evening** from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, is sung by a French plantation owner to an American nurse falling in love during WWII. We can all do with a little enchantment in our lives!' – *Nancy Whitfield*



now back here!' – *Jo (& Reg) Gandy, married for 68 years*

'**I Dreamed a Dream** and **On my Own** from *Les Misérables* represent the pinnacle of songs about love. Both pieces start small and intimate in character with delicate, sublime accompaniments. They grow into the heights of passion, as characters sing of their love and happier times' – *Claire Bradshaw, mezzo soprano*

Puppy Love



Henry & Buster – much loved pets

'My favourite love song, **All I Want for Christmas is You** by Mariah Carey, reminds me of collecting my black lab Henry for the first time' – *Nurse Jess Boyce at Chippy Vets.*

'Buster always makes me smile, even during the dark days, so my favourite is **You are My Sunshine** by Christina Perri.' – *Vet Nurse Abbie Blaik*

'**Everlasting Love** by Love Affair. Its ending "never be denied everlasting love", bring out the best in any hopeless romantic and sends out hope. Celine Dion's **How Does a Moment Last Forever** reminds me that love never dies, keeps the world turning, with no conditions.' – *Alice Receptionist at Chippy Vets.*

Young love – sweet memories!

'My husband's sweet memory is **Sugar Sugar** by the Archies. It reminds him of his first kiss aged nine (!) with April Tyrell!' – *Nicola Hogan at Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe – husband Chris says April was just a passing crush!*



'My favourite is **I Love You** by **Fontaines D.C.** The title is on the nose, it's about the band's love for their home country while still utilising their energetic, dark style. To me, it means stumbling home after one too many; belting the lyrics out with my best mates, displaying our love for their music – and each other. **21-year-old ex-Chippy School student and budding rock legend Harvey Sivell**



Harvey and Basic State Band – their new release is out now!

'My wife Gilly and I chose Lionel Rand and Ian Grant's **Let There be Love**, which says it all. Our favourite recording brings together the singer Nat King Cole and the George Shearing Quintet. George was a regular visitor to our home in the Cotswolds over many years and his partnership with us has a magic all of its own.' – *Brian Kay, Burford Singers' conductor, radio broadcaster and former King's Singer.*

Love is all around

'My favourite is **It Must Be Love** by Madness. As a wannabe saxophonist, I've always enjoyed singing along to Madness. It's not a faith-based song, but as I believe that God is Love, their lyrics. when they tell us "Love is the best!", certainly hit the mark.' – *James Kennedy, Rector, St Mary's Church*



Ukrainian friends celebrate love of country with St Mary's

'Rachmaninov's **Prelude in D op 23 no 4** and the **Largo from Concerto for Two Violins** by J.S. Bach are rapturous pieces of love music, with intertwining, sensuous melodies and sublime harmonies. The feeling of oneness that is created resonates not only with lovers; the music reaches out with a message of universal connection.' – *News Team's Deborah Siepmann*

A Chippy family that made their mark!

The story of Laban Betterton and George Sewell

Ex-Chippy girl Jane Leahy (née Sewell), now in her 70s living with husband Peter in Worcester, has been researching her family history for 15 years – and told the News her own history, and the story of two ancestors – one the first to be buried in the ‘new’ Worcester Road Cemetery, and the other, one of the last laid to rest in St Mary’s Churchyard.

I was born in the War Memorial Hospital in 1951, attended New Street Infants, St Mary’s Junior Girls’ School in Burford Road and Chipping Norton School – then teacher training in London. I met my husband Peter (from Heythrop) at school and we later married in 1973 at Holy Trinity Church. This picture was taken by Frank Griffiths, manager of Hartwells hardware shop on High Street, our neighbour in The Leys. We moved to Redditch where I taught. I think my father and aunt (out of 11) were the last Sewells to live in Chipping Norton, but over 100 years, Sewells lived in London Road, Bolton’s Yard, Spring Street, Church Lane, West End, Diston’s Lane, The Leys and Dunstan Avenue. They worked in chairmaking, glovemaking, at Bliss Tweed Mill and the building trade.



Laban Betterton

One of the last graves at St Mary’s Churchyard



My Great, Great Grandfather, Laban Betterton was born in 1809 in Over Norton, married Charlotte Keen in 1833 and by 1841 was recorded as living in West End, Chipping Norton. The 1871 census, records him as an agricultural worker with eight children. He was clearly not a wealthy man and at one time he was convicted of stealing turnips to feed his family. There is nothing to suggest his finances improved

over the years, so it may puzzle some that his grave is marked with a headstone (pictured above).

Laban’s headstone reads: IN MEMORY OF LABAN BETTERTON WHO DIED OCTOBER 28th 1875 AGED 66 YEARS BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH DIE IN THE LORD ERECTED BY HIS SISTER MARY ANN ALLEN

The Mary Allen (née Betterton) mentioned was Laban’s younger sister, who married William Allen (1814–1892)

recorded in several censuses as a baker. In later life, William owned several cottages and the Newmarket Inn (then next door to the Fox Hotel). Perhaps Mary had access to funds allowing her to erect her brother’s headstone. We have to thank her for that, as many graves of the labouring classes were unmarked.

George Sewell

First burial at Worcester Road

My Great, Great Uncle, George Sewell is also commemorated with the dubious honour of being the first Chipping Norton citizen buried in the new Worcester Road cemetery – opened because St Mary’s churchyard was considered full. He was in the first family of Sewells to arrive in Chipping Norton. William, the family head was a chairmaker from High Wycombe. Although married in Chipping Norton in 1815, he did not move to the Town with his large family until the late 1830s. The 1841 census records him as living at New Chapel and in 1851 his family home was a London Road cottage. At age 18, George was still living with the family – listed as a chair-maker. By 1861, still a chair-maker he was married to Jane Harris, living in Bolton’s Yard (off Goddard’s Lane) with his wife and two daughters. George’s brother Arthur and his wife Elizabeth (my Great Grandparents) also lived in Bolton’s Yard.



George’s memorial is inscribed: ‘By Public Subscription to record the first interment in this cemetery on the 17th May 1882. In Memory of George Sewell Who died 13th May 1882 Aged 50 years. Also of Jane wife of George Sewell, Who died 2nd August 1901 Aged 67 years’

I feel fortunate that in one case, someone felt strongly that a burial place should be marked with a headstone and in another the death coincided with the opening of the new cemetery. These two events helped me update my family tree with a little about the circumstances surrounding their deaths. And in their own way, both Laban and George have made their mark on the Town – albeit unknown to them!

Jane and Peter celebrate their Golden Wedding in 2023. Congratulations and thanks to Jane and to a relative of Mary Allen, who confirmed some of the information in Jane’s article. Other contributions on interesting Chippy ancestors welcome!

THE ARTS

The Theatre

Live shows

David Gibb's Family Jukebox 2–4 February, 11.30am. Age 3+. David and his magical jukebox take audiences on a surreal and hilarious journey where wolves roam school corridors and teddy bears disco dance the night away. £11



Looking for Me Friend: The Music of Victoria Wood 9 February, 7.30pm. Age 12+. A celebration of the late comedy genius and national treasure Victoria Wood, written and performed by Paulus of BBC's *All Together Now*. £19

Merry Opera: Cinderella 10 February, 7.30pm. An evening of love, laughter and classic musical favourites from the last three centuries. £18.50, £15.50 concs

Tweedy's Musical Mayhem: 11 February. SOLD OUT

Sounds of the 80s: 17 February, 7.30pm. Classic pop, power ballads and party anthems from Wham, The Jam, Queen, Bon Jovi, Michael Jackson, Madness and more, all performed by The Zoots. £20

Rich Hall: Shot from Cannons 24 February. SOLD OUT

An Evening Without Kate Bush: 25 February, 7.30pm. Age 12+. Sarah-Louise Young and co-creator Russell Lucas pay glorious homage to one of British music's most influential voices. £20

Kate Mosse: Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries 2 March, 7.30pm. Bestselling author Kate Mosse celebrates trail-blazing and inspirational women throughout history, from mothers of invention and pirate queens to unsung heroines of medicine and those who dazzled on the big screen. £26

Daliso Chavonda: Apocalypse Not Now 3 March, 7.30pm. Age 14+. A new show from master of satire and star of BBC Radio 4's *Citizen of Nowhere*. £16.50

Fairytale Engagement

Dame Sal M'nella turned matchmaker at a Chippy Panto



performance when Sam King wrote her marriage proposal to partner Thom on the glittery shoutout clipboard. Aided and abetted by children Perdy and Pixie, Thom had no idea that Sam, (to whom he had proposed several times previously and been told 'Yes, one day'), had decided The Theatre was the perfect place for her to pop the question. The audience cheered when Thom accepted. 'We felt magical and still do' said Sam. 'It was an amazing start to our future. I can't thank Chippy and (Dame) Andrew Pepper enough'. Maybe a stage wedding in the future? 'We would love to marry in The Theatre, yes' said Sam, 'We shall see.'

Pick A Price

The Theatre believe that theatre should be for everyone and are launching a new programme of **Pick A Price** events in the Spring. Cost can be a barrier for some, especially in the current economic climate. The **Pick A Price** model offers people who can afford to pay the recommended price, or more, the chance to support others who can't. Tickets start at £5 then, £10, £15 and £25. Pick A Price and come along to some excellent theatre: *Nothing Happens (Twice)*, 1 April or *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 23 May at 7.30pm.

Half Term Theatre Workshops

Play in two days
Two days of practical workshops, where you participate in drama games, and improvisations and then devise a play. Learn how a performance is devised from



scratch and experience the excitement of performing on a professional stage to an audience of family and friends. 13-14 February, 10am–4pm: 8–12 years, £55, performance 3.45pm, 14 February. 16–17 February, 10am–1pm: 5–7 years, £45, performance at 12.45pm, 17 February.

Book The Theatre events in person at the Box Office in Goddards Lane, on 01608 642350 or at chippingnortontheatre.com

What's On

THE THEATRE
CHIPPING NORTON
2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

LIVE

9th Feb, 7.30pm

10th Feb 7.30pm

17th Feb 7.30pm

24th Feb 7.30pm

25th Feb 7.30pm

2nd Mar 7.30pm

3rd Mar 7.30pm

LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND: THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD—£19

MERRY OPERA: CINDERELLA—£18.50, £15.50 concs

SOUNDS OF THE 80S—£20

RICH HALL—SOLD OUT

AN EVENING WITHOUT KATE BUSH—£20

KATE MOSSE OBE—£26

DALISO CHAPONDA—£16.50

FILMS

30th & 31st Jan

& 1st Feb

3rd, 4th 5th & 7th Feb

12th & 14th Feb

16th & 18th Feb

19th 21st, 22nd, 26th

& 28th Feb

1st Mar

TICKETS £11, £8 UNDER 16S (unless otherwise stated)

A MAN CALLED OTTO (12A)

EMPIRE OF LIGHT (15)

TAR (15)

BABYLON (18)

THE FABELMANS (12A)

TILL (12A) - Friends 2 for 1/half price

LIVE

4th Feb, 11.30am

11th Feb, 2.30pm & 6pm

DAVID GIBB'S FAMILY JUKEBOX—£11

TWEEDY'S MUSICAL MAYHEM—SOLD OUT

SCREENINGS

2nd Feb, 7pm

15th Feb, 7pm

23rd Feb, 7pm

THE CRUCIBLE (12A) - £17.50, £12.50 concs

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (12A) - £17.50

OTHELLO (12A) - £17.50, £12.50 concs

BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 www.chippingnortontheatre.com

THE ARTS

Lectures, music & events

Chipping Norton Choral Society has returned to its 'spiritual home', the Town Hall, for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, 150 years after its formation in May 1872. *The*



Oxfordshire Weekly News at that time reported, '...in accordance with the announcement made in our issue last week, many lovers of vocal music assembled to hold a preliminary meeting on the evening of the 6th May, when *The Chipping Norton Choral Society and Singing Club* was duly formed. The society, therefore, beg to intimate this Wednesday evening as their first practice, to commence at 7.30 at *The Town Hall* and invite all friends of music to attend. This movement is calculated to supply a want long needed and we cordially wish it success'. The earliest known image is of the triumphant group pictured outside the Town Hall having been crowned Winners in 1912 at *The Stour Choral Union*, the forerunner of *The Chipping Norton Music Festival*. The choir has grown somewhat since those early days and now boasts a membership of over 100, under the watchful eye of Musical Director, Benedict Goodall. They will be performing Brahms' *German Requiem* in *St Mary's Church* in *Banbury* on 26 March. Further details: cncs.org.uk

CHIPPING NORTON MUSIC FESTIVAL
10–25 March 2023

Chipping Norton Music Festival 10–25 March The deadline for entries was 3 February. The organisers look forward to an enjoyable in-person Festival. Alongside the main classes is a series of concerts and events, including: school workshop, Can Sing choir session, recital evening in memory of Shauni McGregor, Folk night at *The Chequers*, *The Acafellas* performing their unique brand of barbershop and acapella numbers, and two *Adderbury Ensemble* concerts. The popular Jazz challenge opens the Festival on 10 March. Details of classes, events and concerts at cnmf.org.uk

CRAG Sunday Tea Concerts 5 February: Sarah Thurlow – clarinet, Richard Tunnicliffe – cello, Maggie Cole – piano. Music by Schumann and Beethoven. 5 March: Rachel Beckett – flute and recorder, Alison Bury – violin, Alastair Ross – harpsichord. Baroque music by Bach, Handel, Telemann and Leclair. Both concerts at 3pm Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Tickets £15 (£5 for under 16s) from *Cotswold Frames* Charlbury. Limited tickets available at the door. Free tea and homemade cake. Details: nick.parker@cooptel.net or 01608 811558.

Burford Singers 2 April 7.30pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Burford. Classic Choral Favourites: Fauré's *Requiem*

and Haydn's *Nelson Mass* with the *Cotswold Chamber Orchestra*, conductor Brian Kay. Book tickets from 12 February to 31 March – online (reserved £25, £20, £15 via burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets), or in person (unreserved £10 from *The Madhatter Bookshop*, Burford).

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock Lectures: 1 February – Geoffrey Tyack, Kellogg College: *The Historic Heart of Oxford University*. 1 March – Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe, Archivist, Hereford Cathedral: *Mappa Mundi*. 7.30pm in the Coach House and by Zoom. Contact@FriendsOfTom.org.uk

Exhibition: ongoing until 5 March – *Bird Photographer of the Year: 81 captivating photographs*. Photographers worldwide entered more than 20,000 images into the competition, each eyeing the £5,000 grand prize.

Family activities: half term w/c 13 February. Free craft sessions, including *Feathers and Fun* and Valentine card making. Details: oxfordshire.gov.uk/events

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum In Woodstock 25



February–7 May: *The Art of World War II*. Curated from John Noott's personal collection of work, gathered during his 40-year career as art collector and dealer, the pieces themselves form a history in pictures of the Second World War, but give incredibly personal perspectives reflecting a varied range of experiences before, during, and after the conflict. Details: sofo.org.uk

The Arts Society Cotswolds 8 February: Lois Oliver – *Berthe Morisot: 'Une Finesse Fragonardienne'*.

Impressionist Berthe Morisot is known for her wonderfully light-filled canvases which portray afternoons boating on a lake, young women in ballgowns and children playing. This



lecture traces her engagement with 18th century art and culture, highlighting what distinguishes her work from her predecessors. I am at *Warwick Hall*, Burford and via Zoom. Non-members welcome, space permitting, for £10 suggested donation. Zoom invitations sent via newsletter and to those who book at theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

22 February – **Special Interest Day: Ghastly Good Taste: Highs and Lows of British Interior Design, 1880–1980** with Matthew Williams. This light-hearted but informative study day examines the enormous changes in our homes over a hundred-year period. It encompasses aspects of middle-class household taste – from Victorian clutter to 1970s psychedelic 'throw away' furnishings. 10am–3pm at *Warwick Hall*, Burford, £38 (£40 for non-members) including a light lunch and refreshments. Book at theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk or on 07918180895.

Under Chippy Woods are performing *Under Milk Wood*, on 28 and 29 April at *Glyme Hall*, Chipping Norton. Sponsored by *The Nortonians*, tickets are £10 adult, £5 per child. Further details: Sian O'Neill on 01993 831961.

SPORTS NEWS

Town Sports Awards



I recently held the first of many meetings to plan the next Town Sports Awards with Tania Kirby the Town Council's new Events and Facilities Officer who has lots of new ideas. However, due to the volume of events in the Town and Town Hall, the earliest provisional date for the Awards Evening is 7 July. Updates will follow.

Graham Beacham

Chippy Squash Club



We are running six leagues in January 2023. Membership is strong and with really encouraging attendance at our monthly Drop-in Mix-in evening 7–9.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. Pictured are players at the January Drop-in. For more information or if you would like to join the squash leagues, contact Colin Little at colin.r.little@btinternet.com or on 07855 473572.

Colin Little

Hook Harriers

On 18 December, after a spell of freezing temperatures, snow, frost and icy rain, a group of intrepid runners gathered at Hook Norton Sports and Social club for the Hook Norton Harriers' annual Christmas Canter race. A 7-ish mile jaunt



Photo: Bethan Dennick

across (and up and down) the countryside in and around Hook Norton, this is a popular way for local runners to wind up their running year and places for the race sold out in just a couple of days! The event was fantastic, featuring mulled wine at the half-way point, a brilliant group of volunteers organising and marshalling the route, and a plethora of fabulous fancy dress costumes (pictured). Favourites included a group of pigs in blankets and a gaggle of Christmas puddings!!

With the cost of living crisis in mind we asked runners to bring donations for two local food banks. We were absolutely blown away by the response. Our wonderful runners donated over 180 items which were shared between food banks in Banbury and Chipping Norton. The Harriers are making a donation of £250 to both food banks which will hopefully

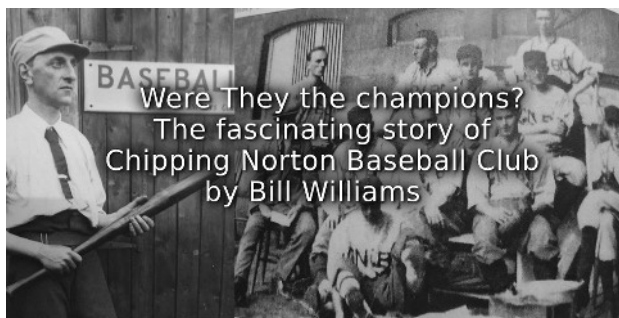
Chippy's Baseball – were they the champions?

Bill Williams summarises his longer fascinating article about Chipping Norton Baseball Club – with a debate on whether they really were the champions!

Many people in the Town have long held the belief that Chippy Baseball Club were at one time, British Champions! Introduced by Scout leader, Fred Lewis, in 1907 to his scouts, the game had no strict rules or full equipment until the outbreak of WWI, but from then its popularity soared in the Town and local area and the Baseball Club was formed in 1920. An independent league was established and matches between Chippy and some Oxford Colleges and London clubs became a regular occurrence. At one time the Club fielded five teams, including what many believe to be the earliest example of a 'mixed team', which was reported in *The Daily Mirror*, so it appears that Chippy also blazed a trail for women's participation in sport at this time!

There was no National Governing Body for Baseball between 1912 and 1933 and therefore unfortunately, NO

British championships officially took place during that period. But in 1926 the Club was invited to play against an 'all star' team from London for what *The Daily Mail* considered to be, 'The British Championship', at Stamford Bridge. Chippy won 13–12, but due to the lack of an organising body, they were NOT recorded as Champions, nor in the following year when they beat St Joseph's College 9–5 at the same venue! However, Andrew Taylor, a leading authority on British Baseball believes 'that now we have access to online resources,



Pictured: Fred Lewis and the so called 'champions' in 1926

such as *The British Newspaper Archive*, we are starting to uncover more fascinating stories from Baseball's history, so I am hoping to challenge and rewrite the record to acknowledge the "champions" in the 1920's of whom Chipping Norton are worthy members!' Nearly 100 years later, it would be great to set the record straight!

You can read the full version of this story – with more pictures – on the *Playing Pasts' Sports History Website* www.playingpasts.co.uk. Local resident, Bill Williams was Head of Physical Education and Sport at Burford School from 1987 to 2019. Since retiring in 2019, he has spent time researching the sporting history of the School and beyond.

SPORTS NEWS

help during these challenging times. The male winner was Henry Sleight of Cherwell Runners and Joggers, and first female was Charlotte Everard of Spa Striders. Huge thanks to everyone who helped on the day. See you all at the next one!

Bethan Greenaway

New Year New Sport? Indoor Hockey

We've enjoyed a brilliant year of fun and friendly hockey, and



recently gained loads of new players. So if you have resolved to try a new sport or get more fit, in the New Year, come and join us!

We play on Sundays, 10-11am at the Chipping Norton

Leisure Centre. No regular commitment necessary, just turn up – we have kit to borrow if you need it. £5.40 adults/juniors £3). Email sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk or alternatively call 01608 730546 / 07722 603207 for further information.

Sharon Truelove

Hook Norton Tennis Club

Winter Floodlit teams' current positions: A team 3rd in Division 1; B team 7th in Division 1; C team 3rd in Division 4 and the D team 5th in Division 4.

Following a member collapsing on court last year, the Club is holding a series of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training courses. All ladder matches and Club sessions are under way. Members can book courts via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub>. The cost of floodlights on non-club nights is £8 per hour per court. Coaching is available from Marc Gilkes: 07930 406015 (coaching dates 21 February–1 April) Contact Faith Heron: 07771 904905 or Steve Bone: 07850 036656 for their coaching dates. New members welcome: contact Membership Secretary, Kate, khs.shoes@gmail.com or 01608 642774.

Elaine Priestley

Grants for sports clubs available

Chippy's Walking Football group recently received a welcome £300 grant from the Chipping Norton & District Volunteer Fire Brigade Fund Charity (see report opposite). The Charity still has funds available for other local sports clubs – for further information contact the Chairman, Martin Jarratt via martjar@hotmail.com

Chipping Norton Rugby Club

As we hit mid-season, the 1st XV started the new year on a high, with a really close and well deserved 25–24 win over Banbury. Come and cheer them on at the three home games in February listed below. February also sees the start of the Six Nations and we'll be showing all the games on the big

Senior Home Fixtures February 2023

- 4 Feb 1st XV v Didcot (+ [Logos])
- 18 Feb 1st XV v Faringdon
- 25 Feb 1st XV v Amersham (+ Club lunch)

All Saturday afternoon fixtures KO at 2:00 or 2:30 pm
Spectators welcome and free!

screen in the clubhouse, so come and join us for a great match day atmosphere, food and drinks. Looking further ahead, our second Chipping Norton Rugby Festival is on 23 April, with sixty U10 and U11 teams joining us from Oxfordshire and surrounding counties, along with Gloucester Rugby, Jack FM and special guests. Mini and Junior rugby continues on Sunday mornings from 10am, with new players always welcome. To find out more contact the club at chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com, check our website, or follow us on facebook, Instagram, twitter and LinkedIn.

Graeme Williamson

Chipping Norton Cricket Club

Youth Cricket We are preparing for the new season with the usual age groups from Year 1, U7's up to the U19's with competitions for most players. Coaches are busy getting qualifications and Volunteers qualifying as Assistants. We do need Team Managers especially in the U11 age groups so that they can play matches on Sunday mornings. Without Managers who must be ECB DBS certified, these things won't happen. Safety is, of course, a major consideration in all youth sport.

Diary Date: Registration Day on Saturday, 18 March, 10am–4pm at the Clubhouse on Banbury Road. Membership Forms will be available from mid February from Youth Coordinator Sue Powell, email bloxhamsue@aol.com. Those registered before 18 March are guaranteed a place. Thereafter places are dependent on the ratios specified by the ECB for the number of Coaches and Volunteers available. We look forward to another warm successful season again. Any questions please contact Youth Coordinator.

Seniors: The 2023 Cherwell League Cricket Season starts on 6 May. A lot of hard work needs to be done to get the Club ready before that and we're hoping to have another good

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SPORTS NEWS

season. We have a new First XI Captain in Andrew – the Club wishes him well. We have been advised that the Club may receive a very nice donation – more news next time.

Graham Beacham

Walking Football



Presentation of the cheque for £300 by Martin Jarratt Chair of the Volunteer Fire Brigade Fund Charity

Walking Football continues to be popular at our regular Monday evening sessions at the Leisure Centre. Recently, as so many players have been coming along that we now form three teams of six a side – six being the optimum number. We play multiple ten-minute games against each other over the 90 minute session which gives everyone equal playing time. We were recently awarded a grant of £300 by Chipping Norton Fire Brigade Charity for which we are very grateful. The photo shows our Treasurer, Pete Scott, being presented with a cheque by the Chairman of the Trustees of the Charity, Martin Jarratt, at our Christmas meal at The Fox. New players aged 50+, of all abilities, are always welcome on Monday evenings. If you are interested and would like to know more, please see our website at shilsons.co.uk/cnwf.html

Derek Dickinson

An alkylate first for the VSCC

On Saturday 3 December the Vintage Sports-Car Club provided alkylate fuel for 10 competitors at their Winter Driving Tests at Bicester Heritage.

Club Secretary, Tania Brown,

competed in the family Austin 7, using alkylate. She said, 'This is a really exciting opportunity to make a difference. It is not going to be the final answer but it is an interesting step along the journey to alternatives that are more environmentally responsible.'

Alkylate is a specially produced petrol component formed from excess gases produced in the oil distillation process and is one of the cleanest petroleum products. In terms of renewable credentials, E10 petrol has the edge as 10% of the fuel is renewable, but the lower emissions of alkylate are particularly attractive alongside its greater storage potential. The Club is proud of the historic motorsport community's willingness to try alternative technologies, which Club members embraced with gusto. The Club is committed to investigating the use of fully synthetic fuel to find ways of making historic motorsport more accessible to Club members and competitors.

Tania Brown



A vintage car fuelled by alkylate at the VSCC Winter Driving Tests

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CLUB NEWS

WOWI's year kicks off with Zumba

Happy New Year everyone. West Oxfordshire WI is planning an exciting year of interesting speakers plus fun at Craft, Book, Saturday Lunch groups and, when the weather gets better, a walking group can start. Come and find out more about us. We are a friendly group who will always make visitors welcome. We meet at 7.30pm at St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NT.



In December we had a wonderful Christmas meal at Whistlers restaurant. Nathan and Kerry looked after us very well and the food was delicious. Our meeting in December was quite unusual as we were asked if we would have it in the Church, as St Mary's were packing Community Christmas Hampers in the Hall. We still managed to set things up to have mulled wine and mince pies. Pam Vanheems won our bumper Christmas Hamper in the raffle. Jackie Loring gave a very interesting talk about the history of the Japanese Kimono. It was fascinating to hear about the many different sorts, when they were worn and by whom. Jackie brought some examples and encouraged us to try them on. In an attempt to get rid of some of the excesses of Christmas, Thea Rogers came to our January meeting for a 'Chair Zumba' session which certainly got us moving. Do come along to a meeting at the Parish Rooms and give us a try. Contact wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
Hilary Dix

Convivial time at the Railway Club

Chipping Norton Railway Club's Festive Gathering took place on 6 December in the Lower Town Hall with a good attendance of both members and friends all enjoying convivial wine and mince pies. Speaker Jonathan Perks entertained us, with slides and a review during the past year of 'The Little Trains of Wales!'. All 'narrow gauge'... with the exception of the only broad gauge line in Wales, Llangollen.

The new season's programme is being finalised – more details next month. As the days lengthen and summer finally arrives, do come along and join our popular Club. We celebrate 49 years this March! Members will meet in the Lower Town Hall at 7.30pm on 7 February for our AGM.

Estelle Brain

Horticultural planning

The Chipping Norton Horticultural Association were delighted to welcome a very good number of members, new members and visitors to their January meeting on a rather cold evening. The speaker, Nick Mottram was very well received as he spoke on Planning for Nature. He outlined how Oxfordshire is involved in planning for the future and how the different areas involved have to work together for the future of our area and the planet. This theme will be continued at

our meeting on Wednesday 15 February at 7.30 in the Chipping Norton Methodist Hall, when local resident Craig Blackwell will talk about Flowers of the Cotswolds. Visitors welcome – £5 per head. All details can be found on our website www.cnha.uk or from the secretary Eileen Forse 01608 643275.

Origami Convention

Following a series of successful Origami Workshops led by Yen Yang Co at Chipping Norton Library there is a growing local interest in this ancient skill. There's another planned for children in half term (see p12) and booking is now open for the Spring Convention of the British Origami Society in Milton Keynes, which runs from 31 March to 2 April. See www.britishorigami.org for details or contact Penny Groom, 0116 2773870, penny.groom@btinternet.com. If you are interested in sharing a lift from Chippy, please contact Yen Yang Co on 01608 645133 or y.y.10cn@yahoo.com.

Join the Army Cadets



Chipping Norton Army Cadet Force are looking for new recruits! The Army Cadet Force is a national youth organisation for boys and girls aged 12–18. They offer unparalleled opportunities for you to try new activities, learn valuable skills and make some of the best friends you'll ever have! Many camps and trips

are run throughout the year, with a minimum of five weekends away, a summer camp and many more! For a £10 enrolment fee and then £2 a month, you can gain memories, qualifications and skills for life! Why not visit <https://armycadets.com/cadet-more-info?unitId=1252> to register your interest!

History Society on local Romans

The Chipping Norton History Society will be meeting on Monday 13 February at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall on West Street. Marie Louise Kerr will be telling us about the Romans in Oxfordshire. Visitors are welcome £3

Janis Paxton

NOOG's Spring programme

North Oxfordshire Organic Gardeners have some interesting talks arranged for the Spring. On 1 February we will hear all about the reserves around Dean, Charlbury and Witney that are managed by the Wychwood Forest Trust. Our talk on 1 March will be from the organiser of the Heritage Seed Library of Garden Organic, which aims to conserve heirloom vegetable varieties that are not widely available and on 5 April an expert from the Cotswold Fungi Group will enlighten us on the importance, beauty and just plain kookiness of this fascinating and little understood kingdom. The talks are in St Mary's Parish Rooms at the bottom of Church Street and start at 7.30pm. We are a friendly group of gardeners who are also interested in wildlife and the environment. Visitors (£3) and new members are always welcome. For details please visit our website: www.noog.org.uk or 01295 780710.

Tracy Lean

CLUB NEWS

Universal Rights: Local Action

Chippy Amnesty enjoyed a variety of events in December, commemorating Human Rights Day by flying the Human Rights flag and holding a vigil on the Town Hall steps, highlighting human rights concerns in the Chippy Phone Box



and at our stall at Christmas in Chippy (pictured above), and hanging decorations on our Amnestrree on the Common.

2023 started with our AGM and marks our 30th year of standing up, and taking action, for human rights. We plan to extend our outreach work to encourage others to take steps to protect these rights which belong to us all, as humans, both here at home and around the world. Amnesty knows that the simple act of writing a letter, sending a tweet, or signing a petition can save lives.

Our next meeting is on 9 February, 7.30 Lower Town Hall. New members welcome! Enquiries to Val on 01608 645036.

Kate Ward

Interested in Sailing?

Did you know that Chipping Norton has a Yacht Club? We are now welcoming new members with no joining fee. No sailing knowledge needed, just a love of the sea and an interest in boats of all kind. Join us at a regular meeting and hear speakers talk of their boating experiences. We are a friendly bunch so why not come a join us. For further information visit www.CNYC.co.uk, or contact Clive Keeble, Membership Secretary on clivekeeble@btinternet.com

Clive Keeble

Labour looks towards May elections

2022 certainly went out with a flourish. The Christmas Dinner, not held since 2019, was fully subscribed with guests from across the constituency. It gave us an opportunity to remember the three councillors, both former and current, who died during the year.

For 2023 we look forward to the elections in May. This year we not only have a District Council election but the whole Town Council too. At our January meeting we began the process of selecting our candidates. At the last full Town Council election in 2019 the Council became much more representative of the population, with many much younger councillors and an equal number of men and women. It has been a difficult four years with Covid making our work particularly difficult; despite this, much has been achieved and we are in a much better position moving forward. Please look at the new Town Council website to see the breadth of our

work and, if you are interested in becoming a councillor, contact one of us. <https://www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/>

David Heyes

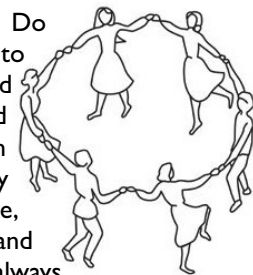
Gutsy voices at the Chequers

We had some great musical moments at The Chequers in November and December. It's so good to see young, gutsy-voiced female singer like Freya belting out numbers by Tom Waits, Bad Voodoo Daddy and Alicia Keyes. It's always exciting when the Panto is in town and Matthew (Panto Musical Director) gave us great support at the packed-out carol singing session. We were also joined by Greg (actor and guitarist at the Panto), Francis (mandolin) on Spanish drum, and our usual crew of Pete, Ian and Colin on guitars, mandolins and more. We meet on the 3rd Thursday in the month. Details via jalemail27@gmail.com or 07977 445910.

Jane Lewis

World Dancing

Do you love a wide range of music? Do you enjoy dancing? Would you like to dance to music from around the world in friendly company? Then do come and join us in either Swalcliffe or South Newington. We dance mostly traditional folk dances from Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, South America and more. In these countries they have always danced at gatherings to celebrate times of the year such as in Spring to bless the crops and at harvests to offer thanks, as well as at christenings, birthdays, weddings, and funerals. Some of the dances are lively and a fun way to exercise, others are relaxing and meditative and give us a chance to relax and forget the worries of the day. You don't need a partner as the dances are danced in a circle. No experience is necessary as each dance is patiently taught before the music starts and there will be other experienced dancers there to help you along. Just wear soft-soled shoes and loose fitting clothes to help you move with ease.



Sessions in Swalcliffe Village Hall are on the second Thursday of each month from 2–4pm, and at South Newington Village Hall on the fourth Thursday each month from 7.30–9pm. The cost for either is £5. For full details please call 01295 780710 or email tracylean@gmail.com.

Tracy Lean

Chipping Norton Folk & Acoustic Club

Appropriately themed 'Friendship' the evening was cheered – on a gloomy January night – by nearly thirty folkies filling up our old venue in Enstone, which now sports a new look. There were three ukeleles, several guitars, trad unaccompanied folk singing, poetry reading and – never to be missed – a solo Kazoo! Colin Pitts (from Evesham!) kicked off with one of his own songs and we went from there to some winter themed songs and across the water with a smattering of Bob Dylan and Loudon Wainwright, ending the first half with a rousing version of *Come all without, come all within ... you'll not see nothing like the Mighty Quinn*. Chips were a very welcome addition while everyone topped up their drinks and energy for the second half. No-one left. The friendship theme continued with a huge variety of interpretations such as McTell's *From Clare to here* and finishing the whole set with an

CLUB NEWS

afterthought from MC Patrick with *Picture in a Frame* (Tom Waites). We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 for 7.45 start. Next Meeting at The Harrow Inn, Enstone is on 13 February. All welcome. Theme Jigs and Reels; Food and Drink Details: <http://www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk/>

Mandy Cooper

Green Gym despite the weather!



As you all know, the last two months have been rather wet! But we have usually managed to carry on, though on at least one occasion we gave up half way through the session. At the William Fowler Wood (beyond the allotments) we have spread chippings on the muddy path and continued coppicing the hazel bushes: there are bundles of sticks near the

gate which are available for anyone to help themselves. We have also continued to work on Pool Meadow, Fitzalan Wood (near Travis Perkins), and Hawkyard Common. And further afield we have cut back the invasive blackthorn in the Glyme Valley nature reserve which is managed by BBOWT (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust).

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 our Membership Secretary at rmccubbin33@gmail.com. Everyone welcome! A variety of jobs for all!

Burford and Kingham Rotary

Happy New Year from us all. We ended 2022 on a high, being able to give £1500 to Bridewell Mental Health Recovery Gardens plus a donation of £2000 to Ukraine in conjunction with our District Appeal to provide generators. Christmas events included a successful Christmas Dinner attended by the Mayor of Burford, the lovely Burford Civic Carol Service and our current and former Presidents attending a Burford

Town Council drinks party – a great chance to build connections with the community.

We are delighted to have two new members and would love to welcome more. Why not think of doing something new in the New Year by joining in Rotary's fun and fellowship? Fundraising is enjoyable and can really make a difference locally and internationally. Do come along for a taster meeting: just email our secretary, John Smith jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk or call me on 01608 643844 /077002 135731. We meet at Burford Golf Club on Monday evenings.

Ros Richardson

u3a bounce back

Chippy u3a were pleased to finish 2022 back at the same membership level as they'd had pre-Covid. Interest Groups have continued to be active. Some, such as Italian, still use Zoom but most have accepted the risks of flu and Covid and returned to enjoying each other's company face to face.

They celebrated the New Year with their Annual Lunch in the Town Hall. Out of consideration for the financial



Mr Punch coming to town!

climate, the usual carvery was replaced with an amazing finger buffet provided by Mrs Teas of Adderbury. The mini chocolate tarts were to die for! A new member afterwards emailed, 'I wanted to thank all those involved in organising the event, the food was excellent and the atmosphere so friendly and relaxed.' If you are recently retired, why not give us a try?

In the meantime, the programme will continue on 1 February with a meeting in the Town Hall at 2.30pm when Peter Barratt, aka Professor Diamond will explore the 350-year history of Mr Punch in a talk entitled *The Art of Punch & Judy*, after which he will perform a show from his traditionally designed booth. Members and visitors are all welcome to relive their childhood memories of seaside holidays!

Christine Clinch

A warm welcome at CN Probus

With the Probus Club year nearing completion with the AGM and Presidential handover on 21 February, members can look back on a successful and enjoyable time, meeting for fellowship and fun. The stimulating speaker programme included the history of George III, British Battles through the centuries and the challenge of recognising the Joy of False Memory! Members and their partners were able to enjoy the New President's lunch in April, and our Christmas lunch at the Wychwood Golf Club. It was good to be back there after almost a two year absence. Members enjoyed a very successful outing to Morgan Cars, Malvern in September, which we hope will mark a return to regular Club outings.

Our membership has changed during the year with the sad loss of two members and others absent due to finding it difficult to attend meetings. We still have a healthy membership, however with room to welcome more. Do contact membership secretary, Simon Bucknall on 01993 830760 or simon.bucknall@talk21.com for details.

Martin Williams



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SCHOOLS NEWS

Chipping Norton School

Magical *Matilda!*

December saw the eagerly awaited return of the School opening its doors to an audience, to enjoy a production of Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin's musical, *Matilda*. The students involved worked incredibly hard, dedicating three nights a week to learning songs, choreography and theatrical blocking to create one of the most enjoyable shows CNS have produced. The matinee performance to some local primary schools and the three show nights went as perfectly as we could have wished for. The students gave everything to each performance and the rapturous applause received every night was a testament to that.



The money from the ticket sales will be used to develop our future performance capability. For this production we begged and borrowed equipment – from the head mics to the wood for the set. We now hope to purchase our own set of radio mics and a new lighting desk.

House News: In December students completed a 5km



Santa Fun Run in their PE lessons, raising money for Katharine House Hospice, and they all received house points for participation. The day may have been cold, but it was great fun too and the School raised over £750 for an excellent cause.



Students also raised over £1500 for Aspire, a local charity that empowers people facing homelessness, poverty and disadvantage. £900 was raised by creating Christmassy coin sculptures with £600 also raised from the Christmas Jumper/Non-uniform Day.

Sixth Form News: The Sixth Form and Staff Curry and Quiz Night was a really enjoyable way for students to socialise within the school community, giving the Sixth form students the opportunity to test their knowledge against the staffing body, and eat great food provided by Café Le Raj at the same time! The students were ultimately victorious, with

Fred Hammond's team besting Mr Baker's in a close run race. The night was a great success, and we are sure that staff and students alike can't wait to sign up for next year's event!

Modern Foreign Languages News: Having been unable to travel to Germany since 2019, we were very excited to return this year to the Christmas markets in Cologne. Such was the demand that we decided to run two trips, giving 100 students the chance to sample this festive cultural experience. As well as sampling the Christmas markets, the students visited the world-famous Cologne Cathedral, and enjoyed a guided tour of the Lindt chocolate museum. In the evening, they visited Aqualand – a highlight of the trip for many. After the pool disco and laser show, they spent time on the many slides and whirlpools.



CNPS News: Year 5 and 6 pupils from the CNPS primary schools visited our school library for a Literary Quiz. It was a very close competition, with all schools scoring over 50%! The winning team, for the second year in a row, was Kingham who won a cup, a box of books for the school and a book each to read at home.



Over the Autumn Term we have held three workshops for pupils, nominated by their primary school, who are Able, Interested and Motivated in various subjects. Mrs Duffy based

the English workshop pictured here, on *The Tempest*. The pupils looked at how theatre companies create effective settings and costumes, and how to use Shakespeare's language. At the Design Technology workshop, students made their own LED torch 'Mr Brown' and the CNS Concert Band hosted an afternoon of music making for pupils who play an instrument, culminating in a concert for their families.



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Holy Trinity Primary

Christmas celebrations: The Key Stage 2 children performed their Carol Concert to a packed church. It was a performance of nine Bible lessons with accompanying carols. The children sang angelically and received great praise from an enraptured audience.

The Year 3 children hosted their class assembly and explained all about the symbolism and history of the Christingle. It was a beautiful sight to see all the Christingles lit and was a wonderful beginning to our festive celebrations.

Reception and Key Stage 1 worked hard on their Nativity plays, which were absolutely fantastic.



KS2's much praised Carol Concert in Holy Trinity Church

money for the School. Thank you to everyone involved and to those who supported the event by coming along.

In other news:

Library visit: Years 1 & 2 visited the Library to look for information for our topics, Space and Materials. We were treated to a storytelling session, games and the chance to browse the shelves for books that tickled our fancy. We hope to visit the Library many times during the year and thank you to the library staff for creating such a fun, engaging and informative visit.

Athletics event: Some children from Years 5 and 6

attended this event at Top School. They had the opportunity to take part in lots of different activities with children from all the partnership schools. A great time was had by all.

Dance Festival: Year 3 received a personalised dance festival hosted by the Sports Leaders of CNS on Wednesday 7 December. The children were encouraged to think about the four seasons and the actions they could associate with each season and how they could use a range of movements to signify the change of seasons and then create a mini dance sequence which they shared with one another. Thank you to Chipping Norton School Partnership for hosting this opportunity for our children.



The Key Stage 1 production (pictured above) was the *Innspectors* while Reception's play (pictured left) was called *Shepherd Little*. They all acted their socks off and sang their hearts out to packed houses of parents and grandparents. Well done, everyone!

Years 1 and 2 performed their Nativity songs to the residents at Willow Gardens opposite the Health Centre. It was a very festive affair and an extremely receptive and enthusiastic audience certainly built the children's confidence for their performances back at school. The Key Stage 2 choir were invited to sing a selection of carols and Christmas songs to the residents at Watson Place.

We all enjoyed a fantastic trip to Chipping Norton Theatre to see *Dick Whittington* (oh yes we did!) It was a fun and action-packed performance with plenty of audience participation. Thank you to our wonderful PTA for funding the trip. And speaking of the PTA...

Wreath Night was a great success with over 20 attendees. The group crafted their wreaths to festive songs under the expert tuition of Sarah Jarman. It was wonderful to see some new faces at this event.

The PTA also organized some fantastic stalls and activities in the Town Hall during Christmas in Chippy, raising lots of

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St Mary's Primary

FSU Nativity: This year, we definitely have some budding stars of the future. Apple Class sang, danced, and acted



throughout our version of the Nativity. From beautiful angels to mischievous sheep, everybody played their part brilliantly and, I am sure, created some great memories. Well done, Apple Class!

Year 3/4's Stone Age Extravaganza: We arrived at school to find two time-travellers from the Stone Age 'Twig' and 'Scuff'. They had pitched a huge tent on our school field and camped overnight. We got to explore inside their tent, we sat on animal skins around a fire and learnt all about the Stone Age from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic times. We got to learn about how they survived,



what they ate and how times changed through the Stone Age. We watched a fish being cooked and then we got to try it. We learnt how to make a fire and enjoyed looking at their tools and how they evolved over time. In the classroom, we got to hold a baby mammoth's tooth, a salmon skin, and a mammoth bone before sketching them. We also had a go at painting in the style of cave men using natural colours, sticks, shells, and our hands. We had a fantastic day, even if we did smell of smoke at the end. It was a great way to finish our Stone Age topic.

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Kingham Sculpture Event: Year 1 & 2 were invited to spend the day at Oxford Brookes University with the student teachers. This was organised and funded by Kingham Lodge as part of their Community Arts initiative. The children drew action poses of each other in charcoal, made model figures using pipe cleaners and plasticine, before building dens in the arboretum during the afternoon session. They all had the most amazing time and didn't want to leave! The figures and den designs will be used as part of a sculpture to be displayed at Kingham Lodge at some point in the Spring....!



New Headteacher Mrs Christine McQueen: I write to you all to wish you a Happy New Year as the new Head Teacher of St Mary's Primary School. I have received a warm welcome from the whole school and wider community, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for that.

I am looking forward to working with everyone over the coming months and years by developing the work already started at the School by Mrs Stallwood-Barnes. She was a big part of this School for many years, but I know she is already enjoying her retirement and is looking forward to seeing how the School moves forward on the next part of its journey.

I am originally from the seaside town of South Shields in the North East of England, where I lived for much of my childhood. I started work at an early age, serving ice-cream and hiring out deckchairs at the weekends – I still love a knickerbocker glory! My profession as a teacher has been extremely varied and I have met some of the most talented colleagues and hardworking children along the way, who have taught me so much. I know how much a good teacher can inspire a young mind and pave the way for a positive future. My job has taken me to small rural schools, to large inner-city academies in the UK as well as teaching for several years in Europe and I have embraced every minute of my journey.

For St Mary's, I want the best for every child and staff member who walks through its doors. I have high expectations for and of the children and I have seen in the short time I have been here that the possibilities for us, as a school, are endless. I look forward to welcoming you to our school as you join us on our journey to success.

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SCHOOLS NEWS

Great Rollright Primary

The race is on to see which of our 4 classes – Meadow, Woodland, Ocean and Mountain – can keep the tidiest classroom this spring! Autumn's winners were Ocean, our Yr 3-4 class. Their reward was to choose a new piece of rainy-day playtime equipment, which was presented to them at a Celebration Assembly last month. Their choice: this new Tabletop Football set!



In other news:

Homework Museum: Our Yr 5s and 6s hosted a class museum to share their amazing work on Mountains, Earthquakes and Volcanoes. The rest of the School learned a lot from seeing and hearing about their creations, which included models, posters, and even some time-lapse videos.

Friends: Our brilliant PTA group the Friends of Great Rollright are unusually busy this month. They're hosting two events at the Village Hall: a comedy night on Saturday 4th, and a half-term crafts morning on Thursday 16th. All the money raised will go to their Pounds for the Playground campaign. For more details and to purchase tickets, please email greatrollrightfriends@gmail.com.

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.

Hook Norton Primary



What a fantastic start we have had to 2023. Especially our year 5's and 6's who not only had the opportunity to take part in Young Voices, a concert held in Birmingham, known as 'The world's largest children's choir' where up to 6000 children from hundreds of primary schools come together to perform to a packed audience. To kick start their project on Space with a bang they have also had a Planetarium visit in school, where they learned all about space, the stars and planets in our solar system

from a real astronomer. Year 3 and 4 have also hit the new term running by starting their new science Big Question *Why do humans have skeletons and muscles?* using our very own skeleton Mr Bones (pictured) to help them. Year 1 and 2 have completed a two-day Winter project by disassembling, designing and making winter moving pictures with levers or sliders. Reception have been learning to be thankful for the little things in life like ladybirds, rainbows and great tasting ice-cream.

Considering the children have only been in school for a short time, they have packed in a lot of activities.

Bledington Primary

Reporter for The Bledington News: Tamsin

A crime struck Bledington Primary School this week. The Headteacher, Ms Kewley, had her phone stolen! The Police were immediately called to the crime scene and searched every nook and cranny of the School. All pupils were called to the Assembly Hall to discuss what had been found: a stain of lipstick on a mug, a fingerprint on a cupboard and a footprint on what was thought to be the escape route. Also discovered at the scene was a hair sample and the scent of perfume in the area that the phone was last seen in! The children agreed to help the Police uncover the truth. None of them had been in the building after school hours so it had to be a member of staff who had done the dirty deed!

Pupils interviewed staff, checking their perfumes, lipsticks and shoe prints! A Y4 boy said, 'So far we suspect the Y5/6 teacher as she is acting incredibly suspiciously'. Once all the evidence had been examined by the pupils, it was agreed that the Year 6 teacher had been the culprit. She protested her innocence but then, upon retracing her steps, she discovered the phone in a box that she had put into the cupboard the previous evening! 'I am so sorry,' she said. 'I must have picked it up by accident and put it away in that box. I can only apologise for all the trouble it has caused!' Luckily the mystery was solved and the phone was returned to a very relieved Headteacher!





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ACE Centre



At the ACE Centre Nursery School, we start the year at Forest School by teaching all our new children how to look after themselves at the top of the garden. We focus on how to get changed and discuss what we will be doing. During the session children check if they are hungry or thirsty and we negotiate when to have

snacks. When children have felt involved in managing their own needs successfully, they feel well, safe and free. On our bug hunt we used reference books and charts to see the types of insects we might find. We ticked off beetles, woodlice, worms, spiders, and some very fierce looking beetle larvae. We also made clay tiles (pictured) at forest school to explore creative design and mark making. We used twigs, shells, stones and leaves to make imprints in the clay. Then put the first letter of our name on the back of the tile. Forest School is a valued part of our curriculum which all our children love coming to each week. Its impact on each child's resilience and confidence is heart-warming.

The Town Nursery



We had a busy winter morning in December, with snow on the ground and a brilliant learning opportunity courtesy of Treotech Arb Services Ltd. They very generously brought us an apple tree and came to help us plant it in the garden. Ben showed the children how to grow a tree with the help of Tom. First the children had to put mud in the pot, then water it then use a torch to provide it

with light/sun. Much to the children's delight the tree (Tom) started to grow up out of the giant pot. The children were very excited about digging the hole and more so when Beatrice found a worm, taking it in turns with Ben to look after it when digging.

The tree is called Albert and later in the year we are hoping to enjoy harvesting the apples for snack time. The tree is planted next to our other fruit trees, so during our Forest School sessions we will be making a sign and small fence for our new orchard area. This will be an area where we can make insect houses and provide different habitats for the wildlife that visits.

Treotech gave the children a book too, *The LORAX* by Dr Seuss which we have really enjoyed reading. The book is about the importance of being environmentally conscious. A huge thank you to Ben and Tom from all the children, staff, and families at The Town Nursery. We are looking forward to working with you again in the future.

Sibford School

Sibford School Open Events offer the opportunity to talk to staff, meet current parents and take a tour of the School and its facilities with student guides.



Head Teacher, Toby Spence, explains, 'At Sibford, we value holistic education where the happiness and well-being of pupils is paramount. We encourage pupils to live adventurously, and foster resilience and we look for the unique talents in every individual that comes to the School'.

Sibford School is set on a 50-acre campus that offers a junior school with Early Years department, a senior school with excellent teachers and facilities and a newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre with expansive A Level/vocational options. Sibford has a dedicated Forest School, a state-of-the-art climbing wall and a 25 metre swimming pool.

The School offers a gifted and talented programme for the most able pupils, a wide range of sporting opportunities and an excellent learning development centre to support those students with additional learning requirements.

Scholarships and bursaries are also available. To book visit www.sibfordschool.co.uk/events, call Elspeth Dyer on 01295 781203 or email admissions@sibfordschool.co.uk.

2023 OPEN EVENTS

Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 9 February 6pm-8pm

Whole School Open Morning – Friday 28 April 9.30am-12pm

Whole School Celebration Day – Saturday 17 June all day



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LETTERS

A welcome at the Albion Centre

The Albion Centre, located centrally in Chipping Norton in Albion Market up from The Fox, is a day centre run – as part of the Guideposts Trust – for the use of adults with special needs. As the mother of a very happy Centre user I know it deserves to have its profile raised – and I would like to invite everyone to future coffee mornings and other events so you may get to know us better.



The building is compact, slightly tucked away, but run by a team of dedicated, friendly staff who are very capable of helping these adults achieve a great many activities including, art, woodwork,

pamper sessions, PC, advocacy, swimming, gym, cooking, plus much singing and movement led by a very talented Dan with his guitar, all this takes place over the course of the week. The close simplicity of this building is very helpful – everyone can be connected but not dauntingly so. Our escorted trips, both far and near are much enjoyed. We use the bus for bowling in Banbury and a client group regularly steps across to Chippy Theatre to take part in a drama group. In August 2022 an evening social club Our Space was started on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 7–9pm. Again it has some fabulous activities including music, games and art and is run by a group of dedicated volunteers with Albion Staff helping out. We sell kindling wood, this is produced by Anthony our able service user and woodworker, he dismantles and chops pallets for sale as kindling, please pop in to buy some.

I will endeavour to keep you all updated, including through the Chippy News, on our escapades – as well as open coffee mornings. Our centre is so important to us and it is important that our special needs adults are an integral part of the wonderful Chipping Norton community.

Carole Fagg – for the Albion Centre

(Watch out in the News for future events and see guideposts.org.uk/services/the-albion – Ed)

An alert to all apple lovers!

The King has caused the date for Chipping Norton's Blossom Day 2023 to be shifted! Owing to the Coronation on 6 May, and an extra Bank Holiday on Monday 8th, Blossom Day at the Community Orchard will be on Sunday, 23 April, 12 noon–3pm, with or without blossom! More details in the next edition. Meanwhile, would you like to make your own tree? The Green Gym are running an Apple Grafting Course at Over Norton Village Hall on Saturday 18 February 11.30am–3.30pm. A baked potato lunch, tea and coffee provided. £15 with a deposit of £5 on booking. Go home with your own tree and donate one to the Community. For more details contact Hilary on 07858 630775 hilsandpeter@hotmail.co.uk

Heather Leonard

That Walterbush Rd bus shelter

I am writing once again to complain. While waiting for a bus to go to the JR Eye Hospital, I was soaking wet again and I had no way of drying out. This has happened before. Where is the rest of our shelter? It's four years we have waited and it's not good enough! And why those four large flower pots? We can't shelter under them!

Rita Heritage



(The Town Council's January Action Plan has a 'completion date' target of April 2023 for this – with a quote for £1800 to 'retrofit' sides and a bench at Rita's rainswept shelter being considered. Action is waited. Ed)

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LETTERS

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

Amnesty petition to JCB owners



Members of Amnesty Chipping Norton pictured at a recent meeting with a cardboard cut-out JCB digger

Amnesty Chipping Norton, in support of an Amnesty International UK-wide campaign, are calling on JCB, through its Chairman, Lord Bamford, to ensure its equipment is not used to demolish Palestinian homes. For over 55 years, Israel has been displacing Palestinians, demolishing their homes, destroying their livelihoods and seizing their land for Israeli settlers. This is a breach of the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit an occupying power from transferring its own civilians into the territory it occupies. For many years, JCB's machinery has been used by the Israeli authorities to demolish Palestinian homes and construct illegal Israeli settlements on the seized Palestinian land. JCB has not taken steps within the company's means to prevent its machinery from being used for these purposes although it possesses the necessary technology to pinpoint the use of its products anywhere in the world. Identifying this involvement and the means of preventing harm is a necessary and essential aspect of the international standard of human rights due diligence. JCB's failure to conduct proper human rights due diligence on the end uses of its products represents a failure to respect human rights. This is something a company must do at all times in line with international human rights standards for business, regardless

of business opportunity or expediency. For full information, see Amnesty International's report, published in November 2021, 'JCB Off Track, evading responsibility for human rights violations committed with JCB machines in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.'

Isobelle Jaques – Chipping Norton Amnesty

Care Unit unsung heroes

It's almost the end of 2022, and here I am sitting in a room at Chippy's Intermediate Care Unit (up next to Chippy Hospital) keeping my friend Alan company. The room is nice, of good size and airy. He's been here for a month, and is well looked after. Well, things could have been better, because he would prefer to be at home but can't due to his weakness and other reasons. However, he is getting better, and his wife and Pippa, their lovely dog, visit him as often as possible. The Unit, perhaps like many others, may be short of staff, but they are kind and friendly. They, and many others, are the unsung heroes of Chippy, which, partly due to its modest size, still has a strong community spirit. Perhaps most of them would prefer it that way, doing their jobs and helping others quietly and anonymously. Long may that last!

Yen Yang Co

Successful Shoebox Appeal

Very many thanks to all who donated shoeboxes and money in this year's Christmas appeal. We had very good support from the Town. We delivered 51 boxes, 2 bags full of knitted hats, scarves and gloves from our excellent Methodist knit and natter group plus £50 in donations to the Evesham warehouse.



This shoebox from the Evesham depot was received in Romania on 30 December

Martin Hannant – Chipping Norton Methodist Church

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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Items should preferably be typed or sent via email to chippymail@aol.com

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The Chipping Norton News is printed on environmentally approved paper

CHIPPY LARDER IN ACTION

Throughout 2022, The Chippy Larder continued its valued weekly food service. Organiser Rizvana Poole describes the range of other projects delivered – and looks forward to 2023

Help for Ukraine

In March our community asked us to support the people of Ukraine. Within days we organised a drop-off point for much needed donations of first aid, food, clothes and bedding. We co-ordinated with Chippy School, charities and local people, filled a 7.5 tonne lorry and set off on a 4-day journey to deliver both donations and messages of love and support to the people of Ukraine.



offering practical support, including CAB, MIND, Cottsway Housing, Age UK, WODC, YouMove, the Benefits team and more. Sessions are open to all – the next is on Thursday 2 February at Chippy Library, 10am–12.30pm.

Christmas support – For Christmas this year we focussed on those most in need in our community, Christmas Delivered was a project with Chippy's very own Ross and Ross Events. They created a magical Ultimate Christmas meal using the best locally sourced ingredients providing everything, from the main event with sumptuous sides to Sticky Toffee pudding ensuring a celebratory meal without the cost, struggle and resulting food waste!

Stepping up to School – In the summer we turned to Chippy's young people about to embark on the step up from Primary to Secondary school. We gave each child a Secondary School Stationery Starter Set which included scientific calculator, Maths set, English and French dictionaries – ensuring everyone started Secondary school with the right tools for success!

Finding local jobs – In July we hosted a recruitment event at The Larder with the reopened Heythrop Park team, who came to tell Chippy about their vast range of job opportunities. Watch out on social media for another Heythrop Park recruitment event soon.

Cost of living help – Since October we're hosting a monthly Cost of Living Support Event – with organisations



Soft play in Warm Space! – We are excited to introduce The Chippy Larder Stay & Soft Play at the Leisure Centre. Every Friday from 9–11am, January to end-March, there's free (funded by Chippy Larder) soft play for pre-school aged children. This coincides with the Warm Space session so adults can enjoy free hot drinks and biscuits whilst children have fun. Booking essential with spaces limited; email thechippylarder@gmail.com

In 2023 The Larder, a Community Interest Company, will continue to Nourish, Empower and Connect our community without prejudice or agenda.

DIARY

February (News out Monday 30 January)

- 1st **Methodist Coffee Morning** in aid of Church Flower Funds 9.30-11.30am - see p14
- U3A** 2.30pm in the Town Hall - details p28
- North Oxon Organic Gardeners** 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p26
- 2nd **Cost of Living Support Event** 10am-12.30pm in Chippy Library (Goddards Lane) - details above
- 4th **Mum2Mum Market** (nearly new sale) 2-4pm Glyme Hall
- 5th **Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church
- CN Ramblers** meet 1.30pm New St car park details 01608 643269
- 7th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p26
- 9th **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p27
- 10th **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** - see p34
- 13th **Methodist Crafty, Cuppa & Chat** 10am - see p14
- History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - see p26
- Folk Club** 7.30 The Harrow Inn Enstone - see p28
- 14th **Business Buzz** 10am-2noon The Fox - see p12
- 16th **Horticultural Assoc** 7.30 Methodist Hall - see p26

- 16th **Chequers Music Session** (Chequers Goddards Lane) 8pm onward - see p27
- 18th **Farmers Market** 8.30am-1pm
- Apple Grafting Course** 11.30am-3.30pm Over Norton Village Hall - see Letter p34
- 21st **CN Probus AGM** 11am Crown & Cushion see p28
- 22nd **Full Town Council Meeting** 6.30 Town Hall
- 24th **Great Rollright Bingo** 7pm Village Hall - see p12
- 25th **Mind Body Spirit Wellbeing Show** 11am-5pm Glyme Hall
- 30th **Chipping Norton News Team Meeting** 7.15 - call 01608 643219 for details

March (News out Monday 27 February)

- 1st **North Oxon Organic Gardeners** 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p26
- 4th **Mayor's Charity Ball** 7.30 Town Hall - see p2
- 5th **CN Ramblers** meet 1.30pm New St car park details 01608 643269
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church
- 6th **Annual Town Meeting** 7pm Town Hall - see p2