

Bank Robbery

King-size car wash!



Chippy's firecrew (with Kaleb Cooper there to help!) led the way volunteering with a terrific car wash in April raising over £2000 for the Firefighters Charity.

King-size Coronation



It's time to enjoy the Coronation weekend with Chippy's 'Picnic in the Park' and why not join the 'Big Help Out' on Monday 8 May, volunteering in Chippy's local community. See page 2.

Chippy's last bank to close

When Barclay's Bank closes their High Street branch on 6 July – there will be no banks left in Chipping Norton! The bad news means HSBC, NatWest, TSB and now Barclays will all have abandoned ship – leaving the Co-op's busy Post Office counter the only place to deposit cash and cheques. Chippy's social media voiced the expected outrage, calls for a campaign, and the idea of a shared banking 'hub', a place to meet all your bankers! Story on p3

New Town Council 'elected'



Chipping Norton's new Town Council is already 'elected'! With only 14 candidates nominated for 16 places, it wasn't enough for a vote, so they're all now Councillors – the first 'non-contested' election for over 20 years. Only six former Councillors stood again and meeting attendance had dropped off recently. But a big thanks to those staying, and to 8 new members – all volunteering their time with some terrific experience to help put Chippy's best foot forward – and spend £500,000 of our money! But don't forget to vote (take your photo ID) on 4 May for Chippy's District Council seat. See pages 15-17 for candidates' profiles and new Town Councillors.

Also in this issue:

Coronation celebrations – then and now! ~ Time to nominate Chippy's sporting heroes ~ Living Room Cinema summer opening ~ Soho House investor behind Enstone plan ~ Health feature – new Women's clinic ~ Exploring Heath Farm cottages



Chippy

Artweeks

Local artists are ready to welcome visitors to studios and shows all around Chipping Norton – see Arts pages and colour centre.



The Coronation weekend 6–8 May 2023

Saturday 6 May

Chipping Norton salutes the Coronation of King Charles III & Queen Camilla. At 10am The British Legion, Chipping Norton Branch raise the Coronation Flag at the Millennium Garden. The parade through London to the Westminster Abbey service at 11am follow – live on TV

Sunday 7 May

Local community events, including street parties, are encouraged, to join in The Coronation Big Lunch. The Town Council host a free 'Picnic in the Park,' at New Street Recreation Ground, with activities from 2–7pm. See advert. The Windsor Park Celebration Concert in the evening should be a good TV watch!

Monday 8 May

Bank Holiday Big Help Out Everyone is invited to join in – volunteering locally or elsewhere – charities, churches and groups in the lead. Why not help in Chipping Norton with things like litter picking, gardening for your housebound neighbour, or even reviving a modern version of the 'Bob-a-Job' idea to raise money for charity.

Chipping Norton's
Picnic in the Park
Sunday 7 May 2–7pm

Bring picnics, chairs, blankets
Families & all ages welcome
Pop-up skate park
Free BMX's, scooters & boards
Performance space
Play area for all ages nearby
Free: just turn up at
New St Recreation Area
Young performers musicians, poets, singers welcome.

PLEASE PARK IN TOWN CAR PARKS
Info: events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk 07561 707238
Hosts Chipping Norton Town Council

Tuesday 2 June 1953 – Queen Elizabeth II crowned

How Chipping Norton celebrated

A Town Hall Coronation Ball had seen dancing to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Orchestra and 160 'old people' had watched George VI's 1937 coronation at New Street's Ritz Cinema. On the day, Mayor and Corporation paraded to a service in St Mary's Church with street parties later. Then 5.30 saw a Keep Fit display on the Town Hall steps with a Carnival Procession, Battle of Confetti and Coronation Town Hall Dance to Teddy Dix and his band – the windows were left open for outsiders to join in dancing! Sadly at 10pm, Beacon Lighting at the Grammar School by the Boy Scouts, Torchlight Procession, bonfire and fireworks were curtailed by heavy rain!

Some personal Chippy memories

Children's Coronation mementos



Chippy's schoolchildren back in 1953 were given a commemorative plastic ruler (extremely cool when most were wooden). Mayor JES Chamberlain is pictured presenting the U-5s with coronation mugs though one child was

heard to complain that it was empty while another explained that the Mayor (in his red robes) was actually Father Christmas without the beard!

A nod to Nobility Chippy resident Jenny Selby-Green, recalled waiting for an Underground train only to find the carriage full of peers in their robes! 'A friendly Duke moved up for me to sit down and explained that he'd put his sandwiches inside his coronet as he remembered being hungry at George VI's coronation. I held his train up along

the dirty platform and he hobbled in his satin buckled shoes with heels. Up the escalator each peer held the ermine and velvet train of the one in front.'



Dressed in Flying Colours Town Councillor (still!) Jo Graves told the News back in 2002: 'As a gangly little schoolgirl I remember the excitement of having a new TV – I thought we were so lucky because the screen looked pink and I thought it was colour! Our little home was packed with people from our small village street – all watching this tiny screen. I remember it being a coolish day for we had a grand

village fancy dress parade – I was dressed as "Flying Colours" and was frozen!'

Just a glimpse of a white glove

The News team's Malcolm Glenn was six – waiting with his parents at the roadside in Maida Vale as at 11am the 'Queen



would be riding by! I'd taken my 'seat' on the kerbside, to wait an eternity as the crowds towered over me. But I had the best front-row seat! Suddenly cheering broke the boredom, growing louder like a steam train. A black car with an open canopy! Reality dawned. The Queen is in the car, and they're driving on the **wrong side** of the road!! The black Rolls-Royce Phantom swept by – on the right hand side, not the left! The crowds opposite got my grandstand view of my New Queen!! But a faint glimpse of a raised white glove remains in my heart forever!'

Great Chippy Bank Robbery

Chippy's last High Street Bank branch, Barclays, has written to customers announcing closure on Thursday 6 July. All four banks open back in 2000 will then have disappeared. Barclays, following all the others, has nearly 100 further branches closing in 2023. On Barclays website each branch due to close has a little public report with the headline 'We're Closing but it's not Goodbye' (a triumph for the PR department?). They say physical visits have dropped and customers are choosing to bank a different way. 86% of customers using the Chippy branch also use other ways (phone, online) to bank and only 37 Chippy customers use the branch as their only way to bank. They say for basic counter services (ie cash and cheque banking), use Chippy Post Office or for other issues, use Barclays in Witney and Banbury. Barclays (like TSB) say that they will have a person to talk to 'in the community', at a town location initially for four days a week. One idea being rolled out in other towns where banks have closed is for a 'Community Banking Hub' where all banks could use a single space in town for talking to their customers, alongside Post Office-run counters, ATM and a cash counting machine nearby. Could that happen in Chippy? Mayor Sandra Coleman said she is keen to see what's possible.

Fantastic firecrew's car wash

The Chipping Norton Fire Service car wash on 2 April raised a fantastic £2068.09 for The Firefighters Charity. The crew reported, 'Thanks to the amazing communities in and around Chipping Norton for their generous donations. But we must extend a massive thanks to: Kaleb Cooper for once again



supporting us all day; senior managers GM Cox, SM Hollis and SM Crone, for popping in to help us with the brushes; the crew at Chipping Norton and Charlbury for their hard work; and not forgetting the family members who either helped us, fed us, or let their family member disappear off all day to scrub cars! This support is why we say the Fire Service is like a second family.'

Long standing Co-op escalator

The much-used escalators helping Chippy customers up from the High Street to the Midcounties Co-op supermarket, remained still and silent as the News went to press – except for some sighs of despair from residents seeing the lift also out of service in the run-up to Easter. Thankfully, the lift was back in operation within a day. There's still no date for replacement or repair of the escalators, with a spokesperson for Midcounties telling the News, 'We're aware of the issue with the escalators, and we're working to get them fixed as

soon as possible. However, due to the lead time on sourcing required parts, the repair works are regrettably taking longer than anticipated. We apologise to our customers and members in the meantime for any inconvenience'. The Co-op stress that customers are still able to use the escalators as stairs (carefully!) allowing access from the High Street. The lift is good for wheelchairs, prams, trolleys, etc, or you can of course brave a walk up a steep slope or steps outside.

Roll up for Lido Auction



Jeremy Clarkson all set with his gavel It's great to see the Lido open again and so many of you enjoying not only swimming, but also the extended range of classes in the lovely, fresh Chippy air. If you haven't been yet, check out chippylido.co.uk for timetables and booking info. The (in)famous Auction of Promises will take place on Friday 2 June in Chipping Norton Town Hall. Jeremy Clarkson has kindly volunteered his services as auctioneer once again and there's already a brilliant range of lots, including a week in Tenby, a tour of the Alpine Formula 1 factory and a portrait of your pet. The Lido team would love to hear from any individuals or local businesses who'd like to offer an auction lot – just contact info@chippylido.co.uk. To book tickets for what is always a highly entertaining evening, and one which helps ensure The Lido stays open for the benefit of us all, visit our website.

Claire Jarvis

Our Roman town – what next?

Last month the News reported that archaeologists had identified likely remains of a substantial Romano-British town to the east of Chipping Norton – possibly the size of up to 20 football pitches. Historic England (HE) are assessing the information and whether the site should be 'scheduled' to protect it as of national importance. WODC told the News that HE met officers in March and were also due to meet Cala Homes (the developer with significant land interests in the site involved) in April. It is understood that HE will then seek to issue a targeted consultation with WODC and other key stakeholders during May/June. This procedure is not normally a full public consultation. Then, following responses, HE will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport on whether to schedule or not, either in whole or in part. There is no right of appeal against the SoS's decision. It seems likely, therefore, that any implications on the possible future shape of Chippy will not be known till summer at least. And much may depend upon how long the paperwork stays in the Secretary of State's in-tray!



Footnote: CHARG, Chippy's local Archaeology interest group who commissioned one of the recent surveys, are planning a public meeting and talk in June about what their and other research has revealed (see Clubs page 26). Also see letter from Historian David Eddershaw on page 34.

Easter Egg rollers

Residents of Kingstone Court in Chipping Norton had fun on Easter Sunday with an annual event rolling eggs down the



sloping lawn to the finishing post at the bottom of the hill. Lorraine Staniforth painted and contributed the beautifully painted eggs for an event which was enjoyed by all. Everyone was a winner, and the Easter Egg prize was given to Lorraine for her artistry and generosity! Egg rolling in the UK goes back hundreds of years. For some Christians, the empty egg symbolises Christ's empty tomb and 'rolling' refers to the Angel rolling away the stone from his tomb. Easter Egg rolling is particularly popular in the US – President Biden was at it on Easter Monday – a tradition apparently started in 1814 by Dolley Madison, the wife of President James Madison!

'Levelling up' for Chippy?

As reported last month, West Oxfordshire District Council want to support local market towns, including Chipping Norton. First, a High Street consultant is working with WODC to look at our outdoor markets (including Chippy's Wednesday market which WODC themselves are meant to administer and promote). This has had little attention in recent years. Secondly, the Government is awarding WODC £1m of 'levelling up' money from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to spend over three years on town centres. Bids for specific projects are requested. WODC say projects are for 'building communities, supporting local businesses and improving employment and skill building opportunities'. Examples they give are 'signage and wayfinding tools,

supporting independent businesses, providing easily accessible information for visitors, public realm improvements and identifying further key constraints and opportunities'.

So could this deal with Chipping Norton's needs? WODC's Executive member Duncan Enright is initially paying a specialist consultancy, Heartflood Ltd, to find out what businesses and public think, to help ensure WODC makes the best use of resources. In fact, most money (around £800,000) isn't available until 2024/25 – then it will be shared with seven West Oxon Towns covering 100,000 residents. So Chippy's proportional share might be around £50,000 – get your bids in now! The District Council plans to invite locals to have their say via www.westoxon.gov.uk/spf – the link will go live in mid May.

Chippy's air pollution update

Over 15 years ago, Chipping Norton's town centre at Horsefair was designated as an Air Quality Management Area (with air pollution, mainly from nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), some of the worst in Oxfordshire). Heavy traffic, notably diesel, was blamed and we've been waiting for effective action to stop it



since. Now, West Oxfordshire District Council is having another look at it all and, in March, WODC's Clean Air Officer gave a Town Council meeting a sneak peek of early findings from an update study by air quality consultants T Ricardo. So, what is causing our NO₂ pollution to still exceed legal limits? The consultants, using diffusion tubes to measure pollutants, say that 90.25% of the pollution is still from vehicles using the main road – less than 10% comes from other background sources. On vehicle numbers, cars outnumber goods vehicles (both light and heavy) by 2:1 and actual HGVs are in fact less than 5% of the number. But looking at emission contribution by type shows the culprits are clear. Over 90% of total emissions are from diesel vehicles – HGVs 15%, Diesel Light Goods vehicles 43%, and diesel cars 34%.

So, what is to be done? The suggested 'Priority Action Areas' aim to reduce Nitrogen Dioxide to under the national limits. Areas for action include: improve access to alternatives to private cars (ie walking, cycling, and public transport); improve air quality around schools; and reduce emissions from freight. Admirable objectives, but haven't we heard all this before? Are we back again to getting polluting traffic away from the town centre? How will it all practically and physically be achieved? New strategies and plans will need to have specific, funded, timed commitments. What do you think? Consultants Ricardo say the Draft Action Plan (including measurement results) will 'go out to public consultation (likely Summer 2023). The final AQAP draft will be delivered the Secretary of State for final approval (likely Autumn/Winter 2023)'. *Chippy News* will report progress – but then it's down to actual action.

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Plans for new High St cinema

Work is 'well on the way' for a summer opening of the new boutique cinema in Chipping Norton's High Street, according to The Living Room Cinema's Chippy Marketing Executive, Genevieve Willis Long. Artist's impressions of the new entrance and an auditorium start to hint at what to expect at the cinema, new café, and bar. Two screens will show award-winning new releases, classics, live screenings, and – under a 'Living Room Presents' banner – documentaries, foreign language, and arthouse gems. This summer's blockbusters could include: Indiana Jones & the Dial of Destiny following its Cannes premiere next month; Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*; Tom Cruise in *Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning*; and a hotly anticipated *Barbie*. Chippy's newly appointed General Manager Lindsey Bowden (previously of Roundhouse, Riverside Studios and Assembly) looks forward to welcoming local people in the café bar and the accessible and inclusive cinema. Live screening events will include concerts from André Rieu and Coldplay, opera, ballet, and National Theatre productions. Special 'in conversation with' events will welcome celebrity and film industry guests.

The new venue's interior is being finished – with the promise of a 'stylish foyer, and versatile social space with laid



Artist's impression of the new entrance

back, modern vibe'. It will be open all day for morning coffee, lunch, or afternoon tea as a café or in the evening as a cocktail and wine bar. Pricing (not yet announced) will have standard and premium seats, and concessions. There are optional membership schemes for regular patrons from Standard (£100 to include 4 free tickets a year plus other benefits), Premium, and Corporate, to limited-edition VIP £1500 Founder Memberships, with benefits of unlimited cinema for the member and a guest, complimentary drinks, a private screening, and an invite to the launch party. For more details, watch out on www.thelivingroomcinemachippy.co.uk.

Theatre's new Cinema Pass

Chipping Norton Theatre, which already screens nearly 100 cinema shows each year, is clearly taking steps to keep up with any new cinema coming to town. They've just launched their own Premier Cinema Pass, a package which, from only £35 per year for Theatre Friends (£55 for non-Friends), gets you six free film tickets, one free live Screening, 25% off private cinema hires, and exclusive invites to free film nights throughout the year. Films coming up include Ben Affleck's *Air* with Matt Damon, and a special *Dirty Dancing* evening with Prosecco. Screenings include ROH's *Marriage of Figaro*, and Royal Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty*. More at www.chippingnortontheatre.com and see Arts page 20 for live shows coming up.

Launch of the Little Delish Deli

If you haven't spotted it, call in down the alley (next to Corbetts) off Chipping Norton's West Street and you'll find the Little Delish Deli, newly launched on 1 April in the recently arrived Pink Salt Shed. What's it all about? Kate Salter, mother of two from Long Compton, started making fresh pesto with pasta for her children. Her friends at North Cotswold Dairy started selling it and, by 2022, Kate was making nine varieties of her artisan pesto sauces, all free of artificial additives, under the Pink Salt Shed brand. From classic basil to wild rocket, wild garlic, sun dried tomato, and even an award-winning vegan pesto, she was supplying delis around the country, and ultimately outgrew her Long Compton kitchen. Kate recently set up her Pink Salt Shed 'factory' in the empty Chippy basement at 5 West Street (the old Bannor Electrical premises).



The latest venture welcomes the public in, to buy or sit and snack, as the new Little Delish deli with Food to Go. The News team joined the 1 April launch which Kate declared a great success saying 'about 300 people came, tasted, bought and celebrated with us. Many local people being delighted we're there and news is travelling fast. Our menu is simple ... we have some breakfast options, soups, sandwiches/rolls, salads and special options ... with produce for everyday home use'. Kate proudly listed the local companies supplying the deli including Otis & Belle (Moreton-in-Marsh) 'fabulous pastries, tarts, and viennoiserie'; The Cotswold Guy (Guiting Power) 'most amazing sausage rolls, vegan sausage rolls, and Scotch eggs'; Smokin' Brothers (Daylesford) 'smoked salmon that melts in your mouth'; SaltPig Curing (Chipping Norton) 'the best at cured meats'; North Cotswold Dairy (Long Compton) 'happy cow milk'; Urban Espresso (Witney) 'Solidarity range coffee'; Ceci Magee (Chadlington) 'amazing bakes'; and Cacklebean (Stow) 'wonderful eggs'.

Sewage capacity for new homes

In the ongoing battle to reduce raw sewage discharges, WODC is changing its planning regulations to take into consideration sewage capacity in new buildings. Thames Water has agreed to respond to planning applications for all (not just the larger) developments where there is insufficient capacity. WODC will also require that, for major applications (more than 10 houses) developers will have to provide a Mains Sewer Capacity Assessment before WODC will register the application. This will enable WODC to impose conditions requiring upgrades and in the knowledge that Thames Water and the developer have funding in place to pay for those upgrades. It may also be required that new homes cannot be occupied until treatment works have been upgraded. Buyers and solicitors will be made aware of such conditions upfront. District Councillors have been working with Thames Water on a range of measures to try and reduce pollution in local waterways.

Enstone plan's Soho link

Despite local objections, a revised plan for an ambitious Automotive Museum, holiday and members' complex on Enstone Airfield was given detailed planning permission by WODC in March, following the 2020 outline permission. Of some interest, it also now appears that Soho House Group's majority shareholder, US billionaire Ronald Burkle, has recently taken a majority shareholding in the Enstone project, leaving original backer, US auto enthusiast Peter Mullin with a lesser role.

More holiday homes – The project is certainly huge: the 23,000m² motor museum and 8,000m² commercial space will be housed in a large 5-storey crescent-shaped building, also containing 20 holiday homes, 4 apartments, and 42 bedrooms for members, with a top floor members' club. Elsewhere,

there'll be 56 homes, double that in the original proposal, designed as 'villas, farmsteads and lake-houses', each boasting up to 7 ensuite bedrooms, plus games room, gym, home cinema, wine cellar, sauna, and staff accommodation. The



Artist's impression of the whole Enstone development

dwellings will be sold as holiday homes to fund the museum development. The landscaped grounds include a lake and an 'exercise track' for vehicles.

Benefits and visitors – The Mullin company claim the project will bring many temporary construction jobs and between 260 and 300 permanent new jobs, and add £11.3m–12.7m annually to the local economy. One and a quarter million pounds is being offered towards off-site affordable housing and £1.7m to local community projects. The Mullins Club will cap its membership at 1,500 (Soho House reportedly has 3,000 local members) and anticipates 200,000 visitors a year (Blenheim attracts 750,000). There are other Soho links: Mullin's sole director is Guy James Williams, who was also, until 2017, a director of Soho House. The Mullin Project Director, Michael Ergatoudis, also advises Soho House.

'Morphing to a private members club' – WODC received 254 objections and 110 responses in support. Perhaps with the Soho link in mind, some objectors suggested the scheme was now less about celebrating vintage cars (with



Central exhibition area

display space now for only 18 vehicles), and more a 'playground for super-rich petrol-heads', an extension to Soho House, which lies directly adjacent. County Councillor Geoff Saul stated he felt the traffic impact had been underestimated; Enstone Parish Council voted against, mainly on

grounds of traffic and noise nuisance, but noted the development was 'morphing from a world class motor museum ... into a private members' club.' Planning Officers advised WODC Councillors that the principle of the development was clearly established by the outline permission. A refusal could only be justified if clear additional harms arose from the differences. Members voted to approve the

plans subject to 55 yet-to-be-written conditions. If the scheme goes ahead as planned, it will certainly increase the profile of, and media interest in, the area.

New Community Land Trust?

As mentioned last month, Chipping Norton Town Council's Build Chippy Better Group received more information at their March meeting about a possible Community Land Trust for sites and developments in Chipping Norton. A presentation was given by a representative from the Hook Norton Trust established several years ago. It's hoped that more BCB members will volunteer to take part in the steering group. But Community First Oxfordshire are still to complete their feasibility project, paid by the Town Council, to explore options and make recommendations. Their report will be presented to the full Council meeting on 15 May.

Second homes, holiday homes and Airbnbs

Are we squeezing out homes for local people? It looks like the Mullin holiday homes will be prevented by condition from being occupied permanently as primary residences. In planning law, existing residential property may also be let out as an 'Airbnb' without the need for planning permission. They can be run as small businesses and avoid residential Council Tax and get small business rate relief. All this has seen many homes in our local villages, and increasingly in Chippy too, bought specifically for rental as holiday homes. In established communities, this can deprive local people of the homes



Holiday homes in the Mullin plan

they need by reducing the number and pushing up prices. In the case of the Mullin project, maybe this could also create more traffic than the developers' calculations suggest? WODC are clearly interested in the second/holiday home increase – and are looking at policies such as doubling Council Tax on empty second homes. Chippy News hopes to explore these broader issues, and the impact on our community, in a future edition. Do you have any experience or opinion that you'd like to share with us? If so, do please email chippymail@aol.com.

Topside Pharmacy celebrates

On 17 May Yasin Jussab and his team at the independent Topside Pharmacy celebrate their second anniversary since taking over the High Street site. Much has changed since, including winning the Top Pharmacy in the County award, which Yasin says has contributed massively to their success. Turnover has doubled – covering increased medicine costs and of course overheads and wages for his much-valued staff. ‘Their wellbeing, and that of my customers, is my main focus’ he said. Yasin remains very community orientated, sponsoring



Yasin and the Team with their County Award

the Under 11 Chippy Swifts girls football team and Chippy's Villager Shuttle. ‘I am mindful that many of my customers rely on the bus service’, says the man who has not had a day off in two and a half years or a holiday in six years! ‘I want to guarantee the stability of the business and ensure a secure future – it has been difficult financially and it feels really good to survive.’ Big changes coming for him and his team will include providing more services that will alleviate pressure on GPs. These include travel vaccinations, weight loss programmes, treatment for ear infections and much more. More staff will be required including an Accuracy Checking Technician, aka a Dispenser who can check prescriptions. Meanwhile, Yasin's identical twin, Feroz, is giving up his day off to provide extra cover. Yasin says he perceives his role as ‘a good dopamine fix’ and says he goes home ‘fulfilled, satisfied and sleeps like a baby’!

No to Rainier without Plan

Chipping Norton Town Councillors expressed concern at their March meeting about the lack of an overall plan for the Town when discussing a new planning application from Rainier Developments Ltd for 90 homes beyond the Cricket Club off Banbury Road. Rainier seem to be taking advantage of the slow progress being made at the nearby large East Chipping Norton area which is allocated officially in WODC's Local Plan. WODC have also recently been unable to demonstrate they had an adequate supply of land for housing. Town Councillors did not dismiss the Rainier proposal out of hand but, knowing that Rainier also own adjacent land, they want to see how the whole area could be developed in relation to East Chipping Norton. Mayor Sandra Coleman stressed that provision for a new school, local centre and other facilities needed to be there as part of a cohesive plan – the Council needed to see the whole package. Councillor Mark Walker added ‘We cannot support any development in isolation of a proper strategic plan for the wider area. The onus is on WODC to take the lead in bringing this forward.’ Other Councillors agreed and voted to object to the application on those grounds.

Penhurst cycle for Parkinson's

James Parkinson's birthday on 11 April was celebrated in Chippy Co-op by Deon Pegg and Hilary Howe, who both work at Penhurst Gardens Care Home. Parkinson was an English Surgeon whose 1817 Essay on the ‘Shaking Palsy’ described the illness we now know as



Deon & Hilary pictured with Co-op Manager Dave Hughes

Parkinson's disease. The fastest growing neurological condition in the world, it causes over 40 symptoms, from familiar uncontrollable tremors to pain and anxiety. More than 200 years later, we still have no cure for this devastating disease. This is why Deon and Hilary took on a static cycling challenge of 10 miles to support Parkinson's UK, the largest charitable funder of Parkinson's research in Europe. Deon explained, ‘We see people with Parkinson's every day and want to give something back so the charity can continue its vital work for a cure or better treatments’. Kirsty Berrigan and Rebecca Landolt, from Parkinson's UK, said they were grateful to Deon and Hilary for taking up the challenge, pointing to huge Parkinson's breakthroughs in the last 50 years, but with still no cure and better treatments needed.



At the last CQC Inspection in 2018 obtained all ‘GOOD’ category, updated again in 2023

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www.thelangston.uk

LOCAL NEWS

The News team visited the pair in action – as Co-op customers helped them reach their 10 mile and £500 target! Readers can donate via justgiving.com/page/deeon-pegg-1677063497574

Rural Oscar for Bledington



Congratulations to Bledington's volunteer-run shop and café – named South West Regional Winner in the Countryside Alliance Awards. The awards 'celebrate the best of rural businesses, communities and enterprise across the UK'. A public vote promoted the shop to

regional champion. The community hub, opened by Prue Leith three years ago, is owned by more than 300 local residents. It sells local food, drinks, stationery, newspapers, and household items as well as providing tea, locally roasted coffee, cold drinks, and pastries. Open 9 till 5 (4 on Sundays, café closes one hour earlier), it's great for local people to avoid travelling to Chippy or Stow – and also for walkers, cyclists and other visitors. The visiting News team found friendly reception staff, a well-stocked shop, brightly decorated inside and outside welcoming café areas – with a great book-swap and a food donation area. It's also a great place to meet, particularly if new to the village. Shop manager Sarah Newton said, 'The award is a testament to the hard work of our team, our volunteers and the support of our community.' There's now a chance to win nationally with a ceremony at the House of Lords on 17 May.

Train times and disruption

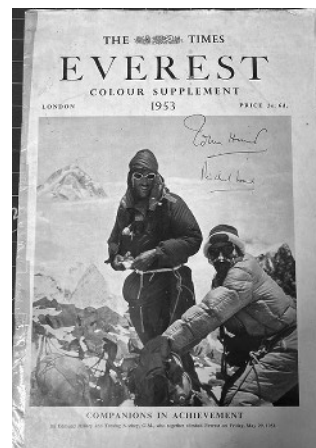
Great Western Railway timetables change on 21 May, including on 'our' North Cotswold line, partly as a consequence of the new Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) trains from Reading running right through across London. Trains from Kingham and Oxford will no longer stop at Slough en route to London but will stop at Didcot Parkway instead. Local GWR electric trains from Didcot to Paddington will run fast east of Slough – only Elizabeth Line trains will serve the intermediate stations east of Slough like Hayes and Ealing Broadway. Two evening peak trains which have recently been running fast through Reading will now stop there, making it more convenient for people who work there to get home. Full details on the National Rail and GWR websites. Work to expand Oxford Station will take a couple of years and Botley Road bridge is being rebuilt to allow standard double decker buses to pass under. Botley Road is now closed until October. Then, to make railway track changes, Oxford Station will be closed from 29 July to 6 August, affecting Great Western Railway, Chiltern Railways and Cross-Country trains. There will be some rail replacement buses but Chiltern Railways trains will run from Oxford Parkway to London Marylebone. Cross-Country trains will run north from Banbury.

STOP PRESS – On 3 April the Thames rail viaduct near Culham failed, following heavy rainfall. This meant no

passenger and freight trains could run between Oxford and Didcot Parkway. As we went to press Network Rail announced the line will be closed until at least 31 May. The new timetable will therefore only be implemented on lines other than those through Oxford. Further updates on the National Rail website.

Everest display at Oxfam

29 May this year marks the 70th anniversary of the first recorded conquest of Mount Everest by Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay. To mark this momentous achievement Chipping Norton's Oxfam Bookshop in West Street is mounting a special display of books on climbing and mountaineering. The centrepiece will be a rare copy of *The Times* supplement written by James (Jan) Morris who broke the story. This copy is signed by Sir John Hunt, the expedition's leader, and Mike Ward, their doctor. Morris, the only journalist to accompany the expedition, broke the news on the morning of 3 June, Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Day. *The Times* issued the special supplement to accompany this sensational story. All items will be for sale including *The Times* supplement so don't miss the chance to acquire this piece of history.



Liz Atkins

Spring is in
full bloom
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ARIA CARE

42nd East Bakehouse in town

If chocolate is your thing, look no further than the new café, 42nd East Bakehouse, on Chipping Norton's High Street. A News team member called in: mounds of the chocolatiest, scrummiest cookies, tarts, and cakes greet you on arrival, all made in the café's very own Stow bakery. There are healthier options too (think mushroom and avocado on toast) or an all-day breakfast including Croissant Bake with biscotti, crumb, and Nutella. Yum!



Cookies, brownies, doughnuts, pies, cakes, even sweet pizza, are on offer. No, it's not from New York! Proprietor Lee Edwards (pictured) started his business in Beverley, expanding to Scarborough and Lincoln and, more recently, Stow before opening Chippy in March. They now employ eight staff, in both Chippy and Stow, on top of 20 or so in the north.

As well as eat-in, Lee also offers take-out, order online for next day delivery across the UK, and sells wholesale to 40 plus businesses. You can buy the cookie dough and Kinder Bueno white chocolate in jars to bake at home or order a special celebration cake. Asked to name his bestseller, Lee says, 'Anything with Kinder Bueno white chocolate just flies out of the door!', but this News team member enjoyed a very gooey brownie. Lee has lots to say about bringing and sharing happiness. He runs a Good Mood Club, inviting people to come and bake for free, provides free lunches for school children during half-terms and even boxed Christmas dinners to those in need. Lee is looking for happy, smiley people to join his team. So, if this is your cup of tea, or even coffee, get in touch at 42ndeastbakehouse.com.

Springtime at Southerndown



Residents and staff at Chippy's Southerndown Care Home have been making the most of lovely spring weather and admiring wonderful spring bulbs that the Gardening Club planted back in September. The Home's Activities Co-Ordinator Stacey Davies said, 'The trough was made by our talented Head of Maintenance Steve, and bulbs were planted in a lasagne fashion. We are just thrilled with how they turned out. The Gardening Club are now excited to start their next project.'

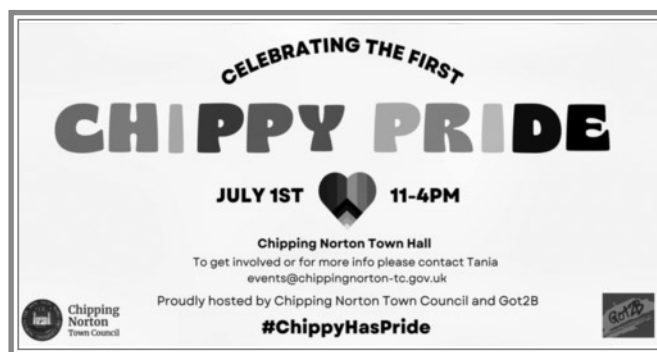
The Southerndown team also made a visit last month to Chippy's Willow Gardens to present their Barchester Healthcare/RoSPA Fall Fighters campaign to residents to increase awareness of how to prevent distress caused by falls. Stacey said, 'we had a fantastic reception, and it was lovely to meet so many new people and discuss falls prevention around the home'.

Local Beer Festivals

Prepare for summer fun for everyone at our local beer festivals! Adults can eat, drink and be merry, and children can run around with freedom. Sunshine (on order), good company, music and laughter. What more could you want? Chadlington Beer Festival is around the Memorial Hall (OX7 3NX) on Saturday 3 June, from 12 noon to 10pm. There's a wide choice of real ales, ciders, wines, gin, soft drinks and, also, jugs of Pimms. Food includes BBQ, cake stall and vans. Adult admission £15 buys a glass, two tokens and a programme. Children's tickets £4 buys access to the day's activities. For more information visit chadlingtonbeerfestival.co.uk or facebook.com/ChadlingtonBeerFestival.

On Saturday 24 June, Charlbury Beer Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary with food, drink and fun and games, plus the hosting of the 11th World Aunt Sally Singles Championship. The Festival runs from noon to 9pm.

First Chippy Pride event



Chipping Norton Town Council in association with Got2B Youth Group, is hosting the first Chippy Pride event on 1 July. Events Officer Tania Kirby said they're 'inviting the whole community to promote the wonderful inclusive nature of our Town and its people and join us in painting the Town with the LGBTQ Rainbow'. Pride Month in the UK is throughout June, then Chipping Norton ends with its own 1 July Pride Event with everyone welcome in the Town Hall. There will be entertainment throughout the day plus information and support. #ChippyHasPride2023.

Update on work at The Branch

Building work at The Branch, the new community hub in Chippy's Market Place, continues with updates now posted monthly on hoardings out front. During March, the last of the demolition work was completed at the rear. Extensive groundworks in the basement strengthened foundations (underpinning internal and external walls, building retaining walls, etc) allowing the floor to be lowered in places. In April, the groundworkers will be auger-piling the floor area for the new Community Hall at the rear and establishing the new drainage 'runs' for the whole building. The Branch team were thrilled to welcome Knight Frank as their first Corporate Sponsor. These sponsorship packages link directly to an aspect of The Branch, so companies can join in the legacy for the Town. The Branch Campaign Director, Georgina Orchard, said 'Sponsors get access to our extensive networks and exposure in all our marketing; sponsorship benefits include access to apprenticeships, team building/volunteering opportunities, and a share in our transformative impact story. Packages start

LOCAL NEWS

from as little as £500'. For more information visit thebranchtrust.org/corporate-sponsorship or email campaign@thebranchtrust.org about tailoring a package to suit your business.

Nurture nature & 'Let it grow'!



A new Nurture Gardening group at Chipping Norton's St Mary's Primary School is leading the way in showing us how working with nature – in this case planting seeds – can also provide a great nurturing experience. Group leaders Harriet Charles and Carol Spring report that the six

children from Years 3 & 4 say how enthusiastic and keen they are to get stuck in with the activities. 'They really enjoyed looking at the shapes of the seeds they were sowing and imagining what sort of flowers the seeds might grow into,' Harriet said. 'One of the children imagined a sunflower and drew a picture of one, also spontaneously drawing in and talking about the things plants need to grow: the sun shining and water flowing next to his flower.'

With that great Chippy example, the BBC launched a new initiative, 'Let It Grow!' The idea is to get everyone growing – any small space, even a container on a windowsill, will do. You don't need a garden; containers are fine – old buckets, recycled pots, tin cans, anything that could hold soil. With just a windowsill, what about cress or herbs like basil or thyme? A small patch of soil outside is ideal to see how just a couple of seeds grow. Share a packet of seeds with a friend or neighbour. Sunflowers, nasturtiums or marigolds are easy and you can keep seeds for next year. Potatoes do well in larger containers. Experiment and have fun. Good for bees,

butterflies and our own mental health. Let's get Chipping Norton looking colourful with lots of flowers around town. For information – including for children – see bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/bp-let-it-grow. More reports on the Nurture Group plants welcome!

What's on at FarmED

Lively and varied events continue at nearby FarmED throughout May. Set up to explore and promote sustainable farming and food systems, the programme will appeal far beyond the farming community to anyone who delights in, and would like to gain a deeper understanding of



the countryside. In addition to regular **Friday Farm Walks**, on 9 May is the torch-lit **Dawn Chorus Walk** led by conservationist Nick Patel, followed by a delicious breakfast. There are various tempting **workshops**: local artist Jill Colchester teaches how to draw birds quickly at a 12 May workshop. Other workshops include an Artist's Book Workshop (Ruth Shaw-Williams, 19 May), making natural paints from soil and plants (Carol Harvey, 20 May), creating a wild flower drypoint etching using recycled Tetra-Paks (Judith Yarrow, 22 May) and, surely one for all keen gardeners, Bioindicators (Dr Chris Maughan, 30 May) is a practical workshop to learn what weeds that thrive in our soil can teach us about the soil's health and how better to manage it. Finally, the **Farm and Food Literature Festival** on Saturday 13 May promises to be a truly rewarding event with a great list of contributing experts. Further details for all events: www.farm-ed.co.uk or email hello@farm-ed.co.uk or 01993 402403.

Withers Court: A Passageway to the Past

A passageway, mews or courtyard often holds a piece of history within it. This is certainly true of Withers Court, the arcade below the 1890's renaissance revival facade on Chipping Norton's High Street, with lavish scrollwork and cherubs hovering between Nash's and QD, luring one into the Midcounties Co-op supermarket. Who better to tell the the story than Charlie Withers, lifelong Chippy resident, and son of the man for whom the arcade was named. Charlie is pictured with the plaque in the arcade which remembers his father. 'You could write a novel about Withers Court' said Charlie. 'In the days when my father was Regional Grocery Manager, the Co-op also owned a butcher shop, fishmonger's, a draper, hardware and furnishings, bank and confectionery. My father was always "of the people and for the people". He never rested, and when he wasn't working, he was right in there with the community, playing cricket, football or baseball.'



of the Bench and served on 42 committees. Charlie continued, 'I remember when he heard about a poverty-stricken family whose 16-year-old daughter wanted to work at the Co-op, but couldn't because the older daughters, who worked at Bliss Mill, had to wear what



Photo: CN Museum

clothes there were available in the family. He kitted the girl out with a set of clothes free of charge, and she went to work at the grocery first thing on Monday morning. That's the sort of man he was'. In the early days, Withers Court was a hive of activity with charity events and the Silver 'Temperance' Band (pictured) playing regularly beside the flower sellers' stalls. When our

community piano was installed last April, it seemed to hint at a revival of this useful space. Might the 'Keep Chippy Beautiful' campaign breathe even more life into our historic passageway?

Anyone for Campanology?

In the local Chippy area, a plea last month sought more bellringers to Ring for the King over the Coronation weekend (see Chippy News April letters). Chris Harris, an experienced local ringer, said there's a national shortage of people keeping the traditional art of church bell ringing going and more ringers are needed. According to Wikipedia, campanology is 'the scientific and musical study of bells'. Bellringing is an art, a science, a team activity and excellent physical and challenging mental exercise. How do you learn? First, contact local branch ringing master David Salter at brm@chippy.odg.org.uk, to go along to training sessions at Chippy's St Mary's Church! At first, controlling the bell can seem difficult but it only takes a few sessions with an experienced ringer to learn. You can start to ring your bell as



A recent practice session at St Mary's Church

a member of the ringing band in a simple sequence. You can ring at other towers on their practice night or a Sunday. You don't need to be especially strong – it's a technique rather like riding a bike. Unlike riding a bike, accidents are rare and you'll get safety advice. Bellringing can be simple or increasingly complicated as more sequences or methods (patterns of ringing) are learnt. But there's also the satisfaction of knowing that you are part of a team keeping one of England's great traditions alive. Why not give it a try?

Great Rollright Bingo

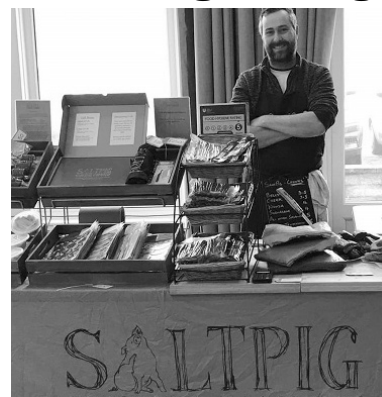
The next Bingo night at Great Rollright Village Hall is on Friday 26 May. All are invited! It's a fun evening for young and old and a chance to win cash prizes! Doors open 7pm, games start 7.30pm and it's normally finished at 9.15pm. Bar and refreshments. A non-profit making event with all proceeds going towards local causes. Next date: 15 September. Eyes Down Look In! For further info, email: grrbingo@aol.com.

Daylesford's summer festival

Daylesford's organic farm and shop host a two-day summer festival to celebrate their 20th anniversary on 17–18 June, 10am–5pm both days. Visitors can go behind the scenes at one of the UK's most sustainable farms and enjoy an array of organic food and drink. The farm promises a jam-packed weekend for families, friends and foodies. There are hot air balloon rides, banquets, classic fairground rides, games, live music, Bamford holistic workshops, JCB Dancing Diggers, cooking demonstrations, tent and dog show, alongside an array of delicious organic food and drink. Adult day tickets £25 (child £5), weekend tickets £45 (child £8.50). Kids under 12 go free. Tickets on Eventbrite. See www.daylesford.com.

Gifts for Dad at SaltPig Curing

If you're planning a Father's Day gift for a meat-loving Dad, Chippy's SaltPig Curing business is already taking orders (yep, you'll get bonus points for being so organised!). Father's Day is on 18 June, but you can order your gift for Dad (or Grandad) as the products last for up to three months in their packaging. Owner and Founder, Ben Dulley (pictured), curates the boxes with mixtures of cured meats, salamis and even a special 'Bolognese Booster'. He says 'Gift boxes begin at £29.50, up to £57.50 for a picnic box complete with an Opinel knife corkscrew. Personalised messages can be added, and you can have boxes delivered or collect from our unit on the Worcester Road Industrial Estate'. www.saltpigcuring.co.uk



Non-household waste charges

Charges rose on 1 April for DIY and non-household waste at the Oxfordshire Waste recycling centres. Basic load £1.50 fees have increased to £2, plasterboard bags from £2.50 to £3.50, tyres from £5 to £6. You need 'cards not cash' to pay. For larger waste amounts use local skip services or other commercial organisations. Don't forget waste is deemed 'commercial' when it's from a 'man with a van', household

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clearance, landlords bringing tenanted waste or other business sources. Make sure when employing somebody to take away your waste they have legal permission. Let's hope all this doesn't increase flytipping. You can still dispose of all household waste free at any County household waste recycling centre.

Methodist Church update



Banbury charity Dogs for Good was given the spotlight last month at the Methodist Church cuppa and chat coffee morning. Two charity members came along – and a local lady who has one of their dogs. Our group learnt about how the dogs help out in the home. The next Cuppa and Chat is on Wednesday 3 May in support of Christian Aid, then there's a Crafty

Cuppa & Chat On Monday 15 May (10am to 12 noon).

Elaine Parsons

Churchill Teas on the Green

Why not pop along to a special 'Teas on the Village Green' in Churchill on Coronation Weekend, on Monday 8 May from 2 to 4pm? There's tea and cakes, beer and bubbly, plant stall and more – plus a chance to win a £100 voucher for a meal at The Chequers in Churchill. Meet up with friends on this celebratory weekend! Then don't forget that **The Café at Churchill & Sarsden Village Hall** is open on Tuesdays 10am–12noon with quality coffee and teas, delicious homemade cakes and a warm welcome. Do call in – it's the place to meet!



Library marks Ascott Martyrs

May sees the 150th anniversary of the 'Chipping Norton Incident' – when the Ascott Martyrs were imprisoned for supporting striking farm workers in Ascott-under-Wychwood. The women appeared before Chipping Norton magistrates on 21 May 1873. The traumatic event led to riots and a reprieve from Queen Victoria. Their legacy is that picketing was legalised and local religious leaders no longer became magistrates. To mark this, the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust have a programme of local events, including a small exhibition in Chipping Norton Library from end of May to end of June.

Chippy library's regular events include **Rhymetime** for pre-schoolers every Monday (except bank holidays) at 10.30am. There's **Saturday Storytime** on the first Saturday every month at 11am, suitable for children aged 3 to 6. We've just started **Origami Time** on the second Saturday each month at 11am to 12pm – an origami workshop for all abilities and ages. Last but not least, our **Coffee Morning** with Age UK (with home-made cake thanks to Madeleine!) is on the third Tuesday every month from 10am to 11.30am. All events are free with no booking required. The Library is closed for the Coronation on Saturday 6 May. The next Origami Time is on 10 June.

Sally Moore – Library Manager

Ascott Martyrs Conference

Among other events marking the 150th anniversary of the Ascott Martyrs, an educational conference is being held on



16 June at FarmED near Shipton-under-Wychwood. The event examines why the 'rural establishment' imprisoned 16 women and two babies picketing 'illegally' in 1873 in support of their striking menfolk – an event rivalling the impact of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. Nationally recognised authors and local historians from the recently published book, *The Ascott Martyrs*, (available at Jaffé & Neale) will throw light on appalling living conditions, the influence of the Established Church (one of the Clerical Magistrates was even a farmer), rise of the Union supported by the Methodists, and the massive emigration from this area, sometimes 25% of the population. A registration fee of £50 includes conference, lunch, cocktails and an evening BBQ with Folk music from Mark Pidgeon of the Wychwood Folk Club. 50% discount for students and descendants. For information see <https://eur.cvent.me/7q3dR> or call Paul Jackson, Founder of Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust, 01608 811370.

Blocked Ears?



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Lawrence Team's spring news

Spring is here and there's something for everyone to enjoy while helping the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. **Two Open Gardens** for 2023 are in South Newington, each offering at least 30 minutes of varied interest. They're opposite one another and are open by appointment Monday to Saturday until end-November. Groups, individuals and families are all welcome. Refreshments available and plant sales. Call Claire Swan to make an appointment 07711 720135 or email claire_ainley@hotmail.com.

Cwmdare Voices, Welsh Choir perform on Saturday 3 June at Chipping Norton Town Hall from 7pm. Tickets £7.50 cash only on the door or in advance from the Methodist Church Wednesday or Sunday mornings. Proceeds to LHNT.



Proms, Picnic and Fireworks takes place at Chivel Farm near Heythrop on Saturday 8 July. Imagine a warm dusky evening filled with melodious sounds of The Salomon Brass with their guest soprano, completed by a burst of glorious fireworks. Pick your spot, unpack your picnic, pop the fizz and enjoy an evening's spectacular entertainment! Tickets £25 per adult if booked before 2 July. Children free if accompanied by a fee-paying parent/guardian. To book tickets please email fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org. Thanks to our sponsors, Wise Funds and Wheelers Chipping Norton. Outdoor bar provided by Potted Goose Catering.

Verity Fifer

Katharine House fundraising

With the lighter evenings and warmer weather, it's time to get outside and also help our local Hospice. Sign up for the movie-themed **Moonlight**



Walk, with friends and family for a fun-filled six-mile or ten-mile walk under the stars on Saturday 20 May. Dress to impress. Tickets at www.khh.org.uk/moonlight. **A Rose to Remember** invites you to purchase a hand-crafted metal rose for a loved one as part of a stunning installation at Sulgrave Manor, from Monday 5 June until Sunday 18 June. See www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember. The **Oxford Half Marathon** is back on 15 October! Join the Hospice team at www.khh.org.uk/oxford. **Open Garden** events are on throughout spring and summer in local villages. See full list at www.khh.org.uk/gardens. Think about becoming a **Community Ambassador** for the Katharine House and sign up for a regular newsletter – more at www.khh.org.uk.

Farewell Old Friends

Jane Cannon 1953–2023

Jane passed away peacefully at Katharine House Hospice on 31 January, aged 69. A devoted nurse for 50 years, loving mother, grandmother and friend to many, she will be sadly missed by all that knew her. The number at Jane's funeral was a testament to the many lives she touched. Her family would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and kindness at this difficult time.



Returning from Singapore with her family, Jane resumed her nursing career in Chipping Norton at the Hospital, meeting many great colleagues and making lifelong friends. She then became a Practice Nurse at the Doctors' Surgery in Stow-on-the-Wold where she worked for 25 years until retirement in 2016. However, being the ever proficient and committed nurse that she was, local GP surgeries soon discovered her availability and asked her to help at Hook Norton, Chipping Norton, Wychwood, Sibford and Bloxham. She was far from being retired and continued to nurse right through the pandemic injecting many doses of the Covid vaccine to grateful local people. Jane was a well-known and much-loved character in the community, always going out of her way to listen and help others. She had a passion for life with a wonderful sense of humour, endearing her to everyone she came in contact with. She was kind, fun-loving and set a great example by being upbeat and positive. Jane leaves us in her favourite time of year with Spring bulbs pushing through ready to open their colours fully, a time for new beginnings.

'The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.' Harriet Ann Jacobs

Ruth Llamas (Jane's daughter)

Maggie Watson

Miss Margaret Elizabeth Watson, MBE, (Maggie, to all who knew her), died on Friday 31 March, aged 94. Her long career in nursing started at Leeds General Infirmary in October 1948, specialising in children's thoracic conditions. Maggie moved south to a position at the Radcliffe Infirmary with world-renowned thoracic surgeon Professor Phillip Allison, until his death in 1974. Further posts, notably at St Thomas' Hospital as Senior Nursing Officer, broadened her career until she eventually made her home in Chipping Norton after leaving as Matron of the National Westminster Bank's nearby Heythrop Park training college. Maggie was an active and enthusiastic member of the Methodist Church and a Celebration of her Life was organised on 26 April, after a cremation at Banbury Crematorium. Donations may be made to Chipping Norton Methodist Church through Funeral Directors, A L Sole & Son.

(With thanks to Maggie's family & Martin Hannant)

HEALTH & WELLBEING FEATURE

10 years caring in Chipping Norton



Chippy-based Care, Compassion & Conversation this May celebrate 10 years in the home care business! They've come a long way since Dawn Pratley and Liesl Guy, colleagues back at Penhurst School, sat in The Fox coming up with plans to change the face of adult social care locally. But they couldn't have

made it this far without all of the great staff, clients and families they've worked with. CC&C provide care at your home – flexible and aimed at helping clients stay independent. Services range from a cup of tea and a chat weekly, to daily visits, respite care or support after hospital. Hannah Guy from CC&C told the News, 'We are big on supporting our community and loving local, so we provide support not only in the Town but also surrounding villages. We've recently had a website and social media facelift; check us out at www.carecc.co.uk or Facebook and Instagram. You'll find posts ranging from Meet the Team to our FAQ questions and answers on the most common topics. We are so proud of our team and what we do that we want to shout about it and encourage the community to help out too!' Keep your eyes peeled in May for the CC&C team around town, balloons in tow, celebrating a fantastic 10 years past and promising another 10 years to come! To wish them a Happy Birthday, or for more information, please call 01608 656188.

Menofit women's health & fitness

Local Chipping Norton fitness practitioner Karen Biles is now offering Menofit, a nationwide, holistic health & fitness programme for women living with menopause or perimenopause. Six one-hour sessions empower women to begin taking control of their symptoms and cover mid-section weight gain, hormones, anxiety, fitness, nutrition, pelvic health and supplements. Karen says, 'Menofit is for all women regardless of age, symptoms, fitness levels or weight. It will be fun, interactive and confidential.' Karen also offers 1-1 appointments to discuss symptoms and their management. Business and corporate training are also available. Contact Karen (07919 123046/bileskaren@aol.com) for details.



New Chippy Women's Health clinic

A new private clinic offering local Women's Health services is now available, operating in rented space at Chipping Norton's War Memorial Community Hospital in Russell Way. Oxona Healthcare started as Oxford Skincare Clinic over 10 years ago, set



up by local GP Dr Angie Anderson. The private clinic was set up to meet demand from patients for dermatological procedures no longer offered on the NHS.



Then, in the past few years, Angie and her team have seen an increasing demand for Women's Health services. Oxona director Megan Hickman told the News, 'The NHS, particularly in Chipping Norton, has many fabulous GPs experienced in Women's Health, but

appointments are in high demand and waiting lists long. With separate experience as local NHS GPs themselves, Oxona doctors are acutely aware of pressure on local services. Oxona hope to support local surgeries in reducing waiting lists and freeing up appointments by offering accessible and reasonably priced treatments and procedures at a community level. Oxona Healthcare are pleased to be able to rent rooms from the local hospital, perfectly suited to the clinic's needs.'

Oxona Healthcare are running private clinics both in Oxford and fortnightly in Chipping Norton. Their Women's Health service offers perimenopause and menopause consultations 30 minutes long. Oxona say this provides plenty of time for patients to understand their choices and options, whilst leaving time to ask questions. Primary care, including treatments and help for common gynaecology matters will be offered, as well as contraceptive advice and procedures, in particular coil and implant fits/ removals. Oxona say they can usually get patients booked in for their first appointment within a week or two. Oxona Healthcare currently run Dermatology clinics in Oxford and Didcot, and Women's Health clinics in Oxford and Chipping Norton. The registered business name (with both Companies House and Care Quality Commission) is Oxford Independent Health Ltd. All appointments can be booked online at www.oxonahealth.co.uk or by calling their own reception on 01865 965027.

Healthwatch Trustees needed

Do you care how health and social care services are run in Oxfordshire?

healthwatch
Oxfordshire

Would you like to help make these services better for all? Healthwatch Oxfordshire is the county's independent health and social care watchdog. They listen to people's local service experiences and work with commissioners and providers on improvements. Trustees are volunteers – but only 20 hours a year are involved. All ages and experiences are welcome. Full induction and support is given; expenses covered. For further information visit healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk, or contact hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk / 01865 520520.



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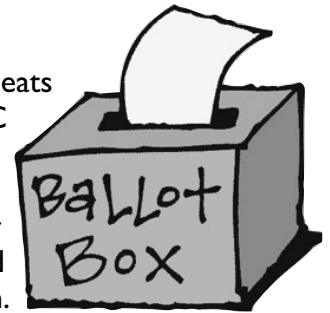
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LOCAL ELECTION – DISTRICT

District Local Elections – vote on 4 May

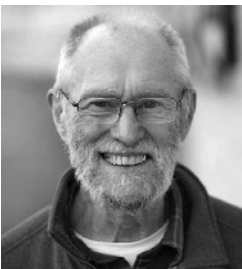
There are important local elections on 4 May. One of the three Chipping Norton seats on West Oxfordshire District Council is due for election (every 4 years). WODC is responsible for all planning issues (including the important East Chippy expansion plan), waste collection and recycling, litter bins, housing, economic development, community safety, environment, sports and leisure facilities, our car parks and more. Voting is at the Town Hall – don't forget you need to take valid photo ID such as passport, driving licence or senior bus pass to vote in person. The five candidates are as follows:



Arron Baker – Green I've lived in Chipping Norton for over 18 years working in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Currently I work for a modern Trade Union as a Negotiations Officer supporting employees in the workplace to improve their pay, terms and conditions. My role also includes supporting employees who find themselves in challenging situations. This has developed my skills in active listening through an empathetic approach to assist in identifying key issues and finding resolution. I would like to focus on air pollution, sustainable house building, protecting our green spaces, enhancing rural biodiversity and having the right support for our local businesses. I believe my negotiation skills and pragmatic mindset will assist in getting the right outcomes for residents through a solution-based approach to councillor work. I love our town and welcome voters' support to help Chippy be the best it can be.



Peter Burns – Conservative Peter has lived and worked in West Oxfordshire for 40 years. He now lives in Salford with his wife. His current interests include music, history and local history. He worked in industry at General Foods and British Alcan in Banbury, has taught in a Banbury School and worked in the NHS in Oxford, as well as being now a retired scientist from Oxford University. He understands well the challenges that students and teachers are facing. Peter cares avidly about Chipping Norton and local issues such as keeping Free Parking and protecting the environment. He has been a volunteer at Cottsway Housing Scrutiny Panel, fighting for local people's housing rights and is very passionate about giving Chipping Norton the best quality housing possible. Peter says 'A local candidate for local issues'.



Mike Cahill – Independent It has been frustrating at times but a pleasure to have worked as one of your District Councillors for the last four years. The experience I've gained in how to get things done will be very useful as we continue to cope with the cost-of-living crisis and do our bit to deal with the climate emergency. No less important is our continuing battle to improve the Town's facilities – already stretched and facing an increased population. I want to continue to campaign for things such as a Skate Park and reducing air pollution, as well as helping residents with housing problems. That is why I am seeking re-election. I live in the Town and am both recognisable and approachable. Having spent most of my life teaching, I believe passionately in the potential for good in all our young people. We must work together to ensure they inherit a world we have made 'fit for purpose'.



Ivan Aguado Melet – Liberal Democrat The candidate for the Chipping Norton Ward West Oxfordshire District Council seat for the Liberal Democrat Party will be Ivan Aguado Melet. Ivan is a 47-year-old horse trainer and equestrian, working nearby in Churchill where he lives. He believes passionately in animal welfare and environmental issues. He has lived in the area for seven years and supports the Chipping Norton Theatre and supports local independent shops, restaurants and cafés as the heart of the local economy. He is a keen gardener too and believes we should support sustainable farming and the promotion of local produce. Ivan will work to support young people and welcomes the youth service coming back this year. Ivan is engaging and easy to talk to, a great listener and willing to act to get things done on behalf of all residents.

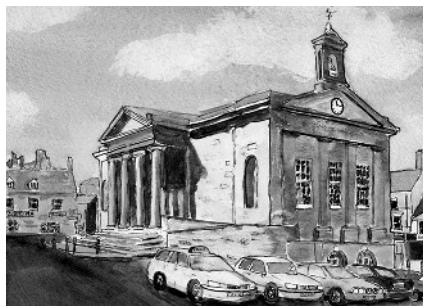


Mark Walker – Labour Housing is a hot topic in Chippy! Too much or too little, not affordable enough or being bought up for short-term lets. Whatever your view, we need more houses and the District have an obligation to build a thousand homes by 2031. We have developed local plans to show what kind of a town we want. We have waited too long for OCC and WODC to develop a master plan and despite the discovery of a Roman archaeological site we need a plan moving forward. Otherwise, we will be overrun by smaller developments popping up on the edge of town. As your District Councillor, I will work with my fellow Councillors to make sure that housing for Chippy is prioritised and that any new development comes with the proper infrastructure to support it, including easy access by walking or cycling, and improved health services.



Chippy's Town Council 'elected' by default

This year was also the turn for all 16 seats on Chipping Norton Town Council to be contested again. Only six of the previous 16 Town Councillors stood again, and, in spite of considerable efforts to publicise the Election (including by the Chippy News), a total of only 14 candidates put themselves forward and were nominated – not enough therefore for an election to be contested. In this situation, all 14 are deemed to 'have been elected' and will form the new Town Council, which uses your council tax to look after the Town Hall, recreation grounds, cemeteries, Pool Meadow and Greystones. The Council gives grants to local bodies, is taking on more services,



©Richard Simmons

represents the Town on major issues such as planning and traffic, and will have substantial control over 'infrastructure' spending with new housing. The Town Council can also play a major role in promoting the Town, festivals, facilities and giving a welcome to new businesses. Our Town Council has been keen to connect with the whole community, and, as volunteers, rely on the help and support from all of us in Chipping Norton to make the Town a great place to live, visit and work. The public are welcome at meetings and Councillors hold regular informal 'surgeries'.

The new Town Councillors are as follows:



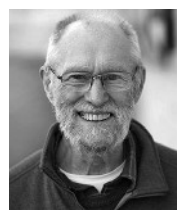
Steve Akers – Labour Since being elected to Town Council last year, I have worked hard on getting road safety improvements and championed Road Safety Week. I supported substantial investment in preserving our iconic Grade II* listed Town Hall and was proud to initiate the installation of the memorial bench to our Councillor for more than 40 years, Eve Coles. I have also been very active in supporting our local nurses, paramedics, posties and other workers in our community fighting for fair pay and better working conditions.



Rachel Andrews – Labour As a mature law student at Oxford Brookes University I've been fortunate to participate in pro bono work around Chippy. I've become passionate about protecting families and their children against poverty, especially with the current financial climate. Participation in Cost of Living events has given me an appreciation of the warm togetherness of Chipping Norton which I admire. Raising a family as a young woman, I can empathise with the concerns and proudly advocate for those who do not feel represented or heard. As a firm believer in Chippy's growth, I know communication between Council and community is crucial to future success.



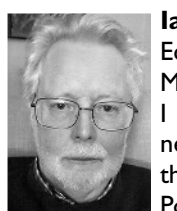
Ben Bibby – Labour I have lived in Chipping Norton for two years, having moved here from a farm in rural Cambridgeshire. My background is in mental health, having worked as a wellbeing practitioner for Mind and most recently working in an inpatient adolescent unit in Oxford. In my short time here, I have been heavily involved with Chippy Larder, working to nourish, empower and connect the people of Chipping Norton and the surrounding villages. As a councillor, I will work with the Town Council to support local groups and the community, ensuring that everyone in Chippy has their voice heard.



Mike Cahill – Independent Having been one of your District Councillors for the past four years, I know how important it is for Councillors at Town, District and County levels to work together to improve the quality of life for everybody in Chippy. The Town Council does not 'do potholes' and cannot sort out the air pollution problem on its own but can pass requests or complaints on to the appropriate bigger Council. In the past, people like Eve Coles, Laetisia Carter and Rizvana Poole were great at liaising between Town and District, and I will do the same if I am re-elected to the District.



Sandra Coleman – Independent I have served as Town Councillor for four years, chaired Finance and Communities Committee and am serving as Mayor. I encouraged the Council to declare a Climate Emergency and worked with staff to reduce the use of chemicals wherever possible and planted a wildflower area at the cemetery. I am leading work to ensure much needed repairs are made to our Town Hall and that the best use is made of this beautiful building, and am liaising with Officers to improve walking routes and traffic crossings. I am always ready to listen and use what I hear to improve our town.



Ian Finney – Labour After a degree in Economics from the University of Exeter, an MBA and a career in accountancy and industry, I retired and moved to Chippy in 2018 to be nearer my family. For 2 years I volunteered as the debt centre manager for Christians Against Poverty (CAP) where I became aware of the very varied economic circumstances faced by residents of Chippy. With my past experience, being a councillor will offer the opportunity, in the relevant committees, to enhance the Town's appeal to residents and visitors. Everyone should have a stake, a voice and representation.

LOCAL ELECTION – TOWN COUNCIL



Jo Graves – Independent I have had the privilege to serve the people of Chippy for 28 years. Chippy has been my home for over 40 years and in that time, I taught at St Mary's Primary School, where I am still a Governor, and am involved in the community as a member of St Mary's Church. I am a Trustee for Home-Start Banbury Bicester and Chipping Norton, and a Member of the CN Theatre Trust. I am passionate about our unique community and will fight for fairly priced mixed housing as our town expands, ensuring that our infrastructure and facilities support a growing population.



Dominic Rickard – Labour As someone who grew up and has lived in Chippy for many years, I stood for Town Councillor as I want to make a difference to the people living in our community. The local area is incredibly important to me, and I will strive to keep what makes this such a wonderful town to live in. I want to positively influence the state of our amenities, activities available to our young people, services available to our older citizens and bring positive influence wherever I can to the underlying infrastructure at a time when the Town is changing so rapidly.



Michael Rowe – Independent My wife and I moved to Chippy last year, felt 'at home' incredibly quickly and now love the Town and its people, receiving numerous spontaneous kind acts. I am a retired Chartered Electrical Engineer with very wide experience and have been involved with 'public service' activities for most of my life. Just started a local tinnitus support group. Both of us have mobility problems, my wife being in a wheelchair, which have shown up numerous problems locally due to poor pavement maintenance and difficult accesses. I will be working to improve the lives of people with disabilities of all sorts.



Sharon Wheaton – Labour I am enjoying being your town councillor and care very much about the community that inhabits this great town of ours. Last year, after being freshly elected, my priority was to identify and support those who needed help and advice on the ongoing cost of living crisis. Recently, I have taken a special interest in supporting the businesses on our High Street. Together we are tackling and facing up to the rise in shoplifting and working for a greater provision of CCTV along the High Street to make it a safer and cleaner place for all.



Alex Keyser – Labour With my strong family links I have been visiting/staying in Chippy for the last 22 years and have lived here since 2016. (My strong connections to Chipping Norton include performing a piano recital at Chippy School aged 11, and recording Gold album in Chipping Norton recording studio in 1993.) My aim is to represent the Town I love, listen to the opinions of every resident, and help to make Chipping Norton the best town in the country.



Athos Ritsperis – Independent Athos and family relocated to Chipping Norton in 2021; they are part of the congregation at St Mary's Church where Athos serves on the Parochial Church Council. He also serves as a Magistrate, an Armed Forces Reservist, and a pension trustee of the Royal Aeronautical Society. Athos works as a programme manager at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, undertaking research into the military applications of Space. During his tenure, Athos is keen to ensure that local initiatives, such as The Branch community hub, are fully integrated into the Council's strategic plans and optimised to meet local needs.



Mark Walker – Labour I love that Chippy has kept its character as a Cotswold working town with a centre close enough to walk or cycle to from wherever you live. Of course, the challenge for us all is too much traffic and not enough safe places to cross, so it's not surprising we choose to drive instead. As your Town Councillor I've been working closely with fellow Councillors, County officers and County Councillor Geoff Saul on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to improve life for people who walk and cycle. My vision is a greener and safer town for everyone to enjoy.



Natasha Whitmill – Independent Over the past two years, it has been a pleasure to work alongside an inspiring team of councillors and officers – all of whom bring a different skill, experience or talent to the table. I have learnt a great deal and hope to have contributed in a meaningful way so far. There is always more work to be done, especially as Chippy continues to grow. If given the opportunity, I will help to progress some vital Town Council projects including a potential skate park for the tremendous benefit of the young people of our town and wider community.

New Town Council meets 15 May

The newly 'elected' Chipping Norton Town Council will meet for the first time at 6.30 on Monday 15 May – where they formally elect a Mayor and Deputy to hold office for the coming year. The Mayor is traditionally sworn in, wearing the chain of office. Committees for the coming year, made up from the new councillors, will be appointed. The public are welcome at this occasion in the main Town Hall – which will also be a 'normal' Council meeting – with one agenda item being a report on setting up a possible Community Land Trust for the Town.

OXFORDSHIRE

art

WEEKS

Oxfordshire Artweeks, the UK's biggest free artist open studios and pop-up exhibition event, takes place from **6-29 May**. Venues in South Oxfordshire **6-14 May**; North & West Oxfordshire **13-21 May**; Oxford City **20-29 May**.

Artweeks IN CHIPPING NORTON

Highlighted here are some examples of the amazing work on display in various media, including paintings, textiles, jewellery, ceramics, sculpture, glass art, woodworking, photography, printing. Check opening times and full details in the brochure, available at libraries and other local information points, on-line at artweeks.org/festivalguide or at artist's website.

Further details of some North and West Oxfordshire venues on page 21.



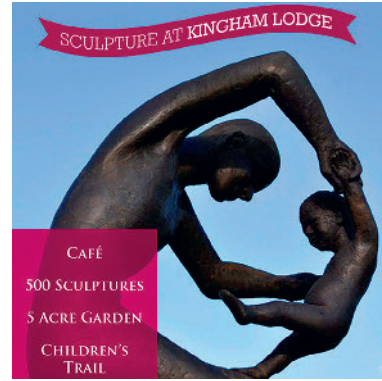
271 Oxfordshire Craft Guild
ocg.co.uk



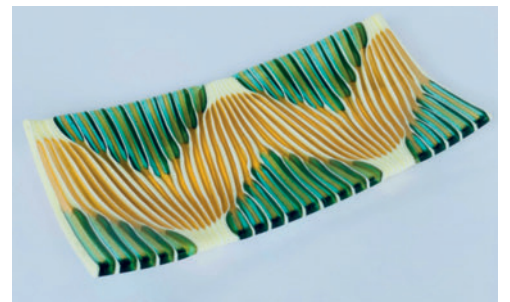
242 Elaine Kazimierczuk
elainekazimierczuk.com



259 Eleanor Clutton-Brock
eclepape@hotmail.com



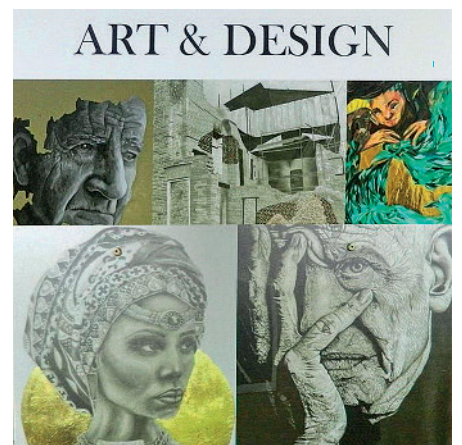
264 Sculpture
Kingham Lodge, Kingham, OX7 6YL



245 Lisa Lee cotswoldglasscreations.com



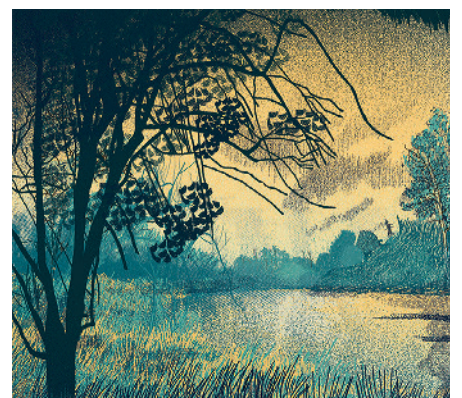
230 Martha Evans
marthaevans.me



216 Chipping Norton School
chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk



223 Vivien Sieber Vivspots.com



243 Jon Mackay jonmackay.org



233 Cathryn Jeff
cj-art.co.uk



247 Julia Ogborne
juliajaneart.com



267 Jill Colchester
jillcolchester.com



215 Douglas Tausik Ryder
douglastausikryder.com



213 Caroline Chappell
carolinechappell.co.uk



219 Rosie Colvin
rosiecolvin.com



268 Carol Harvey
carolharveyart.wordpress.com



241 Sue Rangeley
suerangeley.co.uk



270 Liz Teall
lizteallpottery.com



258 Helena Cummins
07539 961354



253 Jane Phillips
mjanephillips48@gmail.com



237 Di Gold
07891 958142



210 Anuk Naumann
anuknaumann.co.uk



218 Rosemary Atkins
rosemaryatkins.co.uk



269 Judith Yarrow
judithyarrow.com



211 Jan Wilkinson OCG
janwilkinson.com



227 Andrea Bates
andreabates.co.uk

Art for Sale
in aid of Ukraine

THE ARTS

The Theatre

Live shows

Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear 2 & 3 May, various times. Age 11+. Arthur Conan Doyle's thrilling final Sherlock Holmes novel, brought to life in a new adaptation from Blackeyed Theatre, described by *The Stage* as 'One of the most innovative audacious companies working in contemporary English Theatre'. Original live music, stylish theatricality and magical story-telling combine for an unforgettable theatrical experience. The game's afoot! £19.50, £16 concs

Dom Joly's Holiday Snaps 5 May, 7.30pm. Age 14+. The creator of Trigger Happy TV recounts his exploits as a serial globe-trotter and seeker of dangerous travel spots, including North Korea, the Congo and Chernobyl. £23



Ran Kan Kan 6 May, 7.30pm. Oxford's Cuban-style big band, includes singers Karla Peña and Melisa Akdogan with brass section, flutes, saxophones and a 5-piece rhythm section. Standing and dancing downstairs, reserved seating upstairs. £16, £13 concs

Me and My Girl 11–13 May, various times. Comedy with toe-tapping favourites including *The Lambeth Walk* and *Leaning on a Lamp Post*. £17.50 (£15.50 matinée) various times. Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS) present this classic British musical.

Talking Antiques and A Little Bit of Nonsense 14 May, 7.30pm. SOLD OUT, returns only.

The Many Voices of Debra Stephenson 19 May, 7.30pm. Age 14+. The star of *Dead Ringers* and *Spitting Image* delivers a multiverse of musical icons from Billy Holliday and Billie Eilish to Shirley Bassey and Kate Bush, alongside impressions of politicians and celebrities. £22

Griff Rhys Jones: The Cat's Pyjamas 20 May. SOLD OUT, returns only

A Midsummer Night's Dream 23 May, 7.30pm. Following the success of their *Macbeth*, Out of Chaos are back to reimagine another Shakespeare classic in their own fast, furious and funny style. £5–25 through the Pick A Price scheme.

Magical Bones 25 May, 7.30pm. Following sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Festival and across the UK, the Britain's Got Talent finalist has a brand-new show featuring awe-inspiring, high-energy magic. £19.50, £16.50 concs

The Last Dance, 26 May, 7.30pm. Crime writer Mark Billingham celebrates the launch of his new series, *The Last Dance* and talks crime writing with Mick Herron, author of the *Slow Horses* series. £15

The Fureys 29 May, 7.30pm. The legends of Irish music and song are back for another night of stories and classics such as *I Will Love You, When You Were Sweet 16* and *The Green Fields of France*. £25

Booking at the Box Office, at chippingnortontheatre.com or on 01608 642350

Music, Lectures and Events

Chipping Norton Music Festival

An impressive two weeks for this year's Music Festival: with 475 entries, 1300 performers, 1600 spectators, 17 events across 15 days and almost 3000 people involved in the Town. One of the best attended Festivals in its 111 year history. Pictured is Dan Stafford awarding Aaron Notley-Jones the inaugural Shauni McGregor Award for the most promising under-18 participant at the Festival.



Adderbury Ensemble 7.30pm, Town Hall. 1 June – Britten: Simple Symphony, Beethoven String Quartet op18 no5 and Borodin String Quartet no2. 30 June – Haydn String Quartet op54 no2, Dvorak String Quartet op34 and Beethoven op18 no1. Tickets £15 (full time student / children free) available at the door or call 07711 606996.

Welsh Male Voice Choir Cwmdare Voices 3 June 7pm, CN Town Hall. Tickets £7.50 from CN Methodist Church on a Wednesday morning or Sunday morning or by contacting Martin Hannant on martinhannant27@gmail.com. Tickets on the door cash only. Proceeds will be shared between CN Methodist Church and Lawrence Home Nursing Team.

Bledington Music Festival 7.30pm 6–8 June, St Leonard's Church. 6 June: Tamsin Waley-Cohen, violin with Cordelia Williams, piano. 7 June: Sarah Williamson, clarinet with Sam Haywood, piano. 8 June: Mark Bebbington, piano. Tickets at

What's On

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

<p>LIVE</p> <p>Tues 2nd May, 7.30pm & Wed 3rd May, 1.30pm & 7.30pm Fri 5th May, 7.30pm Sat 6th May, 7.30pm 11th–13th May Sun 14th May, 7.30pm Fri 19th May, 7.30pm Sat 20th May, 7.30pm Tues 23rd May, 7.30pm Thu 25th May, 7.30pm Fri 26th May, 7.30pm Mon 29th May, 7.30pm</p> <p>FILMS</p> <p>30th April 16th and 17th May 21st, 28th & 30th May 22nd May 25th May 31st May & 1st June 2nd June</p> <p>LIVE FAMILY AND CHILDRENS</p> <p>28th April, 1.30pm & 4pm 3rd June, 2pm & 4pm</p> <p>SCREENINGS</p> <p>Thu 4th May, 7pm Thu 18th May, 7pm Wed 24th May, 7pm Sun 4th June, 2pm</p>	<p>SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VALLEY OF FEAR—£19.50 £16 concs</p> <p>DOM JOLY'S HOLIDAY SNAPS—£23</p> <p>RAN KAN KAN—£16, £13 concs</p> <p>CHAOS: ME AND MY GIRL—£17.50, £15.50 matinee</p> <p>TALKING ANTIQUES—SOLD OUT</p> <p>THE MANY VOICES OF DEBRA STEPHENSON—£22</p> <p>GRIFF RHYS JONES—SOLD OUT</p> <p>A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM—£5-25</p> <p>MAGICAL BONES—£19.50, £16.50 concs</p> <p>CHIPLITFEST: MARK BILLINGHAM—£15</p> <p>THE FUREYS—SOLD OUT</p> <p>TICKETS £11, £8 UNDER 16S (unless otherwise stated) AIR (15)</p> <p>ONE FINE MONRING (12A) - £8</p> <p>THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY (12A)</p> <p>RELAXED SCREENING: THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY (12A) - £5</p> <p>CINEMA BAMBINO: THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY (12A) - £5</p> <p>A CLEVER WOMAN (15) - £8</p> <p>DIRTY DANCING WITH PROSECCO—£27 (18+ only)</p>
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BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 www.chippingnortontheatre.com

THE ARTS

bledingtonmusicfestival.co.uk or Kingham Stores, Bledington Community Shop, King's Head, Bledington, Borzoi Bookshop, Stow and Madhatter Bookshop, Burford.

Chipping Norton Choral Society 17 June, St Mary's Church. Summer Concert – *Summer is icumen in: Part Songs and Madrigals*. Picnics and Pimms in the churchyard. Further information in June issue of the News.

Kingham Singers 17 June 7.30pm, All Saints Church, Churchill. Summer Concert. Further information in June issue of the News.

Burford Singers with Cotswold Chamber Orchestra 25 June 7.30pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Burford. *The Magic of Mozart: Regina Coeli, Horn Concerto No 3, and Requiem*. Conductor: Brian Kay. Tickets: reserved at £25, £20, £15, unreserved £10. Online booking from 14 May (Booking fee applies) at burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/. Booking in person (unreserved tickets only) from 14 May at The Madhatter Bookshop, Burford.

Screen by the Green 20 May 7.30pm, Churchill Village Hall.



Living – Bill Nighy is outstanding as a humourless bureaucrat who's been in the same job for many years and living a very dull lifestyle. Terminal health news leads him to take stock of his life. A poignant performance by Nighy moves the film gently at first until a former colleague comes on the scene and gives meaning to his existence. Tickets £5. Advance booking preferred, please, via email: screenbythegreen@gmail.com or phone 01608 659903.



Artweeks 13–21 May, North and West Oxfordshire – Chipping Norton. So much wonderful work and such a wide variety. The centre spread of this issue pp18–19 will give you a taste of what you can feast your eyes on. The best way to locate the many Artweeks sites locally, and to check opening times is to pick up a brochure from Chippy Library or other tourist info sites in town. Meanwhile, here are the Chippy sites: Melanie Wright, 33 Spring Street; Caroline Chappell, Hardings



Melanie Wright: *Returning from the gallops*

Yard, Albion Street; Selma Stagg, 9 Rockhill Farm Court; Douglas Tausik Ryder, Rachel Pease and Tadashi Moriyama, Station Yard Industrial Estate. Other sites nearby include: The Great Barn, Chalford Park Barns; St Mary's Church, Charlbury; St Nicholas Church, Chadlington; Great Rollright Village Hall; Kingham Lodge; The Old Prebendal House, Shipton-under-Wychwood. Look out for the Artweeks flags.

Amphitheatre, Berrybank Park, Main Road, Oddington, GL56 0XW.

A summer of music, theatre and comedy in the amphitheatre or pavilion. Bring your own picnic and chairs (alcohol must be purchased from the onsite bar). Alternatively, pre-order food and drinks from website or buy from pop-up street food vendors on site. Bookings from Box Office on 01451 828105 or via amphitheatreberrybankpark.co.uk.

4 May 7.30pm Orchestra of the Swan: Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Britten and Holst

5 May 7.30pm Laugh Out Loud Comedy Night

13 May 11am Classic cars, classic films and comedy

21 May 7.30pm Berrybank Folk: Headlining – Bella Hardy

25 May 7pm Supersonic Queen Tribute

27 May 7pm Wise Owl Theatre: A Blinder of a Murder Mystery

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock on going until 3 September: *Making an Entrance – Unseen Treasures*. A showcase of the very best of the acquisitions made to the Oxfordshire Museum Service collection from the past decade. Many objects featured will never have been on public display before. Opening times at experienceoxfordshire.org/venue/the-oxfordshire-museum/

The Arts Society Cotswolds 10 May 11am, Warwick Hall, Burford and via Zoom. Amanda Harries: *Opium – Greed, Seduction and the Art Created under its Influence*. The beguiling seduction of the effects of opium led to its use throughout China and Europe to quieten troubled minds and calm the agitated. Its use led to the creation of great works of art – in music, art and literature. Social and art history meet as this lecture unfolds. Booking at theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk or on 07918 180895. Non-members: £10 suggested donation.

Nursery Days at Whichford Pottery



A great chance to buy plants and chat to these top nurseries

• Special Offers on Pots • Courtyard Garden • The Straw Kitchen



Saturday 13th May 10am - 4pm

Phoenix Perennial Plants

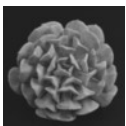
Marina Christopher will be selling a wide range of her unusual perennials.



Saturday 20th May 10am - 4pm

Hoo House Nursery and Fibrex Nurseries

Perennials, alpines, ferns and grasses, plus Fibrex's pelargoniums.



Saturday 27th May 10am - 4pm

Old Court Nurseries

Specialist grower of Michaelmas daisies and tender succulents.



Saturday 3rd June 10am - 4pm

Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants and Kitchen Garden Plant Centre

Herbaceous perennials, plus herbs and edible plants.

For full details, please see our website or call us.

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

From piggeries to posh properties...

The News Team's Angela Ewing was interested in last month's article about an 'experienced joiner wanted' at a craft workshop at nearby Heath Farm Cottages – and she called in to find out more.

My friend and I visited Heath Farm close to the small village of Swerford, just a short distance from Chipping Norton, on a cool day in March. Down the driveway, lined with snowdrops among the many trees, I expected to see holiday cottages that poet and author Patience Strong used to write about: 'What more could the heart desire, in sunshine or in rain than a little English Cottage in a little English Lane.' What I see at Heath Farm is beautifully converted stone farm buildings, bold, and sturdily built, with a Spanish flair; the influence from David Barbour's delightful wife, Nena, that adds a specialness to the place for sure. Even the courtyard in the centre of all the cottages (pictured) has a Mediterranean touch, with water feature, gardens, and colourful brick paving.



furniture, made on site, is just as sturdy and beautiful as the surroundings. Even the bathrooms are works of art with Chinese tiles. The outside is unusual with design touches influenced by Professor Robert Baker, who helped with the restoration of Wells Cathedral in the 1970's and 80's, and the use of lime mortar. There's so much more I could add about the self-contained cottages at Heath Farm, private gardens with hot tubs, a games lawn, event space, and activities lake. Beautiful gardens by Nena.

As well as these delightful holiday cottages, David Barbour Joinery is an on-going business. He and his son, Mon, and a team of



David & Nena Barbour

more about the man who owns the land and the farm with his son, Mon, who have made this resort a destination with international appeal. David spoke with authority about his love of trees. He explained that he was a tenant farmer, and he had the opportunity to buy the farm as a sitting tenant when he began to develop the 90 acres of woodlands. His knowledge of different species of trees is obvious when he names each one. I can picture the 50,000 trees he has planted on the farm in spring. What a delight.

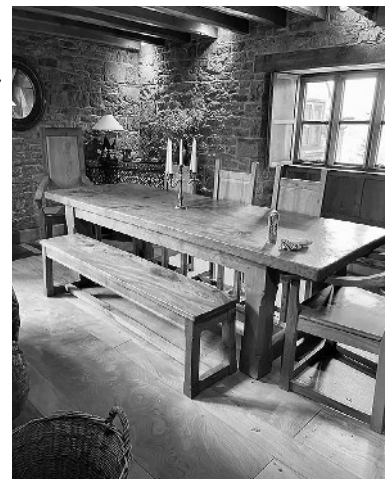
He said he began as an arable farmer with four hundred acres before entering the world of pigs in 1963–1989. When I admired the lush slopes of green fields from the windows of one of the cottages, he says, 'Yes, I had a piggery over there, but I stopped farming in 1980 – 1990 to begin converting the barns to holiday cottages. All of them are named after trees: Beechnut, Cobnut, Chestnut, Walnut and Hazelnut. The only one not named after a tree is Aslan which is a combination of Chestnut and Cobnut where the access is through a Narnia-inspired walk-through wardrobe.'

The interior of the cottages shows stone fireplaces, warm wood cleverly used to enhance the rooms inspired by the architectural designs of William Morris. The bespoke

There's lots of information about Heath Farm on their website, but I wanted to know



highly skilled craftsmen create hand-crafted furniture to fit all tastes. During my tour of the farm, I mentioned that it's wonderful to find such an interesting and unusual resort close to Chipping Norton. David reminded us he was the first Labour County Councillor in Chipping Norton for many years. David is obviously a man of many talents, and I felt honoured to meet him and his family. Visit <https://heathfarm.com> or call: 01608 683270 for more information about Heath Farm.



Jaffé & Neale
BOOKSHOP & CAFÉ

**Join us at the
Farm & Food Lit Fest
at FarmED
Saturday 13th May**

**1 Middle Row, Chipping Norton
01608 641033 info@jaffeandneale.co.uk**

Time for Chippy's Sports Awards



It's time to nominate for the 13th Annual Chipping Norton Sports Awards – with a big July Awards Event planned. Long time organiser (and also Chippy News Sports editor!) Graham Beacham reflects on their impact:

Started in 2008, these are the 13th awards (with occasional disruptions such as Covid) – thanks to the Town Council for again funding, supporting and hosting! Looking back, 2009 was a star-studded year with Awards to two of the most successful recipients: racing driver Alice Powell and cricketer Jack Taylor. Alice has had great success in motor racing – she is still driving, mentoring younger hopefuls and now a television commentator. Jack played cricket for Chipping Norton School, Great Tew, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire – a man of the match for Gloucester in a one-day competition final and now, for the second year, captain of the Gloucester T20 team.

Awards have gone to local schools, clubs and individuals nominated by parents, schoolteachers, coaches and clubs. Anyone can nominate anyone! Nominees must live or work in the Town, play for a Town team or attend a School in Chipping Norton or CNS feeder school. Big thanks this year to the Town Council's Tania Kirby, Luci Ashbourne and the Community Committee. There's no better Awards Evening venue than the Town Hall with the Mayor presenting prizes! Thanks to Better at the Leisure Centre and Manager Lewis Brain for their renewed sponsorship of the Legacy Awards and I'm looking forward to nominations for the new Community Legend Award. More sponsorship would be most welcome to make these awards the best yet. So come on and nominate a winner for 2023!

Hook Norton Tennis Club

The results of **Easter Monday's Fun Tournament** were very close with a first place tie between Angie Hadfield from Tadmarton and Jack Roberts from Great Rollright. The event was organised by Nick Adams, pictured centre.



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 6th in Division 4.

Within the Club, all ladder matches are under way. Members can book courts via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub> which also lists Club sessions. The cost of floodlights on non-club nights is £8 per hour per court. Coaching is available from Marc Gilkes: 07930 406015, Faith Heron: 07771 904905 or Steve Bone: 07850 036656. New members are welcome – contact Kate, the membership secretary, khs.shoes@gmail.com or 01608 642774.

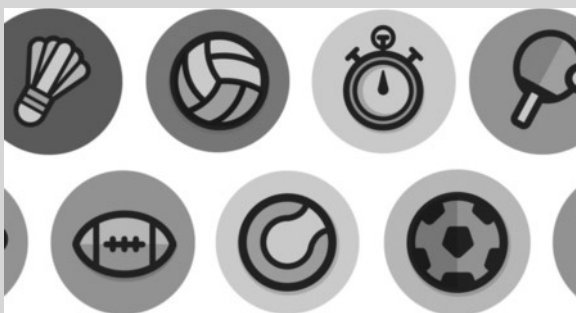
Elaine Priestley

Chippy Squash Club

The Squash Club, based at Chipping Norton's Better Leisure Centre, runs six leagues. All levels of players are welcome. Squash is a fast, fun game – a great way to burn calories and improve your reactions. If you would like to try a game, come to our friendly Drop-in Mix-in evening on the first Tuesday of every month 7–9:30pm. We are looking forward to the court refurbishments in early May – the management at Better are

Chipping Norton 13th Annual Sports Awards

This year's Sports Awards are now launched! Tania Kirby, The Town Council's Events Organiser, explains all about the Awards and wants your nominations!



SPORTS AWARDS

Nominate your local sporting heroes!

For more information and to complete a nomination form please scan the QR code or head to www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/sports-awards-2023
Closing date for nominations - 16th June 2023



We are excited to welcome nominations, starting on 1 May, for your favourite local Sports Person and Club for a Chipping Norton Sports Award. Nominations are open until 16 June – please make a note in your diary – don't let your top choice get missed off the lists!

Please see all the award categories and how to apply on our website (see advert and QR code). As well as the usual Awards for Individual, Club and Team Achievement, this year brings a change to the Olympic Legacy Award, as well as a brand-new award.

The Better Legacy Award – Inspired by the Coronation and the King's request for us all to volunteer more to support other people and the community, we've renamed the Olympic Legacy Award as the Better Legacy Award. Sponsored by BETTER Leisure, it's for anyone who has gone above and beyond in the sporting arena, for example as an administrator or sports club manager. We want nominations for those special people who have helped others, or themselves, go on to great things!

The Community Legend Award – New this year, this is for those who have done great things for charities or local organisations through their sporting endeavours. We're looking for nominations for people who've helped raise awareness for a group doing great things, or someone who has supported a charity or local organisation by raising sponsorship funds by achieving their own personal fitness goal. We expect some great nominations in this category.

SPORTS NEWS

keen to invest in squash as the courts are well used now. Details from colin.r.little@btinternet.com/07855 473572.

Colin Little

Walking Football



The regular Monday evening walking football session moves outdoors on 1 May to the all-weather pitch at the Leisure Centre for the summer. Some of us recently had the opportunity to wear our new kit, partially funded by

a grant from the Chipping Norton Fire Brigade Charity, when our recently formed over-70s team played a friendly against Bicester Fossils. We won 10-2! The photo shows our squad in the new kit but as our regular goalkeeper was unavailable, thank you to under-age Seymour for stepping in! We have players from 50 upwards and all levels of ability. If you'd like to find out more, please visit shilsons.co.uk/cnwf.html

Derek Dickinson

Chipping Norton Bowls Club

The summer season starts soon and we have 52 games on the calendar this season, men, women and mixed. There are also Club, County and Bowls England competitions so plenty of bowling for all. The Club will host the Oxfordshire under 25 team friendly against Warwickshire starting at 10.30am on Sunday 11 May with tea, coffee and bacon rolls from 8.30 and the bar is open during the day. So do come along to the Bowls Club at Greystones on the Burford Road if you want to enjoy a late breakfast with a pint of beer and watch the future of bowls.

You can try the game yourself at our annual Open Day 11am-3pm on Saturday 27 May. You'll get a warm welcome so why not come along and have a go. Whatever your fitness, physique or age, you can have fun playing bowls. It's sociable, relaxing, inexpensive, keeps you fit, but most of all it's fun. All

you need is a pair of flat shoes and the willingness to have a go. Members will be on hand to show you the game and the facilities and, of course, refreshments will be available.

Ann Lattimore

Leisure Centre news

Chipping Norton Leisure Centre has just increased its pool timetable. You can book Saturday morning swimming lessons, Toddler Splash sessions and Friday evening float sessions (now called Aqua Play on the website and app). We have also increased our fitness class timetable with the return of Pilates and we also run an additional yoga class. We now have an increased birthday party selection, with the addition of our new soft play area plus inflatable pool and float sessions for younger children, a variety of sports hall options or even a combination of all! We will close at 12pm on 6 May to honour the King's Coronation.

Ryan Shadbolt

Chipping Norton Rugby Club

The senior season is over, with the 1st XV (pictured) finishing



3rd in the league after a hard-fought campaign. Thanks to the whole squad and to Pete Papenfus, Andy Belchambers and Matt Wheeler for steering the ship. Meanwhile in the minis our Festival of Rugby welcomed 55 U10 and U11 teams and 650 players from 43 local clubs with the best of mini rugby, raising much needed funds for the Club. Huge thanks to Minis Chair, Duncan Midwood, the volunteers and to all our super sponsors, plus partners Gloucester Rugby and Get Radio for making the day such a success. Heartfelt thanks, also, to Anthony Peters, who has raised a staggering £12,000 to support our youth rugby and club facilities. We are celebrating the end of season over the Coronation weekend before work starts on the redevelopment of the outdoor patio. Look out for the return of touch and walking rugby over the summer and then, on Sunday 20 August, we are partnering with Chipping Norton Theatre for live outdoor music on the pitches as 21st Century Queen recreates many of the band's best loved hits from *Radio Ga Ga* to *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Book via The Theatre's website or Box Office on 01608 642350. For everything else email chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com, check our website and follow us on social media.

Graeme Williamson

The Vintage Sports-Car Club

The VSCC with headquarters in the Old Post Office on Chipping Norton's West Street runs events all year round, with the early months of the year largely devoted to Trialling. The prospect of wrapping up in layers, for warmth and protection from the mud, as nearly 100-year-old cars are pushed to their limits, may seem strange. But for our members, this is just an average Saturday's fun. A final event in



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SPORTS NEWS

Scotland on 1 April, brought the Trials season to a close. However, April has been a busy time for the Club with the start of the Race and Speed seasons! The Silverstone Spring Start on 22 April saw some wonderfully historic races. Then came the opening round of the VSCC Speed Championship with the Curborough Speed Trials on 30 April, followed by Round 2 on 21 May at Wiscombe Park and Round 3, the Harewood Hill Climb on 3 June. Visit www.vssc.co.uk to find out more or pop into our HQ on West St to say hello.

Shannon Hunt

Chipping Norton Cricket Club

Youth Cricket: Registration Day is over with a very good response, and everyone is looking forward to the start of the cricket season on Tuesday 18 April for U13's and for all older age groups plus Reception to Y6 meeting on Fridays. There are lots of matches planned for all ages from U9's up, though the Club still needs volunteers to support all this. If anyone has a business they would like to advertise by sponsoring an advert in the fixture book, please get in touch. Fingers crossed for good weather! Any questions please contact Youth Coordinator Sue Powell – bloxhamsue@aol.com.

Seniors: The 2023 Season starts in May. All Saturday matches in the Cherwell League start at 1pm. The First XI continue in Division 3B and the Second XI play in Division 6B, for the first time. We have a new venture this season, competing mid-week evenings in the Banbury League with home games 10, 17 and 24 May. The Club has two new captains: Andrew for the First XI and Joe for the midweek matches. We wish them both well and Sami for continuing with the Second XI.

May Fixtures

- 6th 2nd XI v Kidlington 2nd XI
- 13th 1st XI v Charlbury 1st XI
- 20th 2nd XI v Broughton 2nd XI
- 27th 1st XI v Oxford 2nd XI

Graham Beacham



4 Shires Swimming Club

The end of March saw a fabulous weekend at our Club Champs with swimmers from all our squads achieving some personal bests and new Club records. The highlight was our mixed squad fun relays and 'skins' with Ben Warner taking the boys and Liberty Bennett the girls. The 50m Freestyle Luke Jeffrey Memorial Girls' race was won by Liberty Bennett and the Boys' by Ryan Barnby with a new club record.



Swimmers of the Month were Peter Notman and Joseph Daymond. Both had very good club champs, are working well in training, are adding additional sessions, and are being moved up a squad.

The Club trains at four pools: Sibford & Kingham Hill Schools and Bourton on the Water & Chipping Norton Leisure Centres. We offer a broad range of times to suit and structure our squads to cater for individual needs. We have six squads: Academy, Pre-Comp, Competition, County, Regional and Masters. If you are a keen swimmer wanting to compete or are simply aiming to develop your fitness and swimming skills, please book a Trial session on Saturday mornings at Kingham Hill School, via our website www.4ssc.co.uk/join-us or email membership@4ssc.co.uk.

Lucy Warner

Frank Hartley – 100 Years since England Cap!

Bill Williams, local resident & ex-Head of PE & Sport at Burford School sent this article about a distinguished former pupil

10 May will mark 100 years since the first Full Football International match between England and France and starting for England that day was Frank Hartley from Shipton under Wychwood! Frank and his three brothers, attended Burford Grammar School described at the time as an 'Association Football Nursery', where he excelled at cricket and football, before joining the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars at the outbreak of WWI, seeing action at Ypres.

After the War he continued his sporting career making his only appearance for Tottenham Hotspur as an amateur against Birmingham in April 1923, before joining his local team, Oxford City, where he gained a full international cap in Paris;



England winning 4-1. Whilst at Oxford City, Frank also represented the famous amateur club, the 'Corinthians', scoring 59 goals in 87 appearances, which included 5 hat-tricks! However, to the annoyance of the Corinthians, Frank became one of the first players from the club to sign professionally, re-joining Tottenham in February 1928, on £6 per week! He made six appearances for the club between 1927 and 1929 and scored his only goal in a 3-2 defeat against Wolverhampton Wanderers in September 1928.

He was a multi-talented sportsman playing with his brothers for Oxfordshire at both Hockey and Cricket, winning the minor counties championship in 1929.

To find out more about the Hartley brothers visit <https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/author/bill-williams/page/2/> to read Bill's article 'Sporting Siblings and Brothers in Arms' about the Hartley brothers and there is an exhibition celebrating Frank's sporting career at The Tolsley Museum in Burford.

CLUB NEWS

Cubs all fired up!

The Cubs at 6th Chipping Norton Scout Group had a visit from Atlas and Odin, two police horses from the Thames Valley Police Mounted Section. The Cubs had a great evening, asking questions and



learning about the mounted section and seeing the horses. The Cubs also visited Chipping Norton fire station where they learned about

fire safety and the equipment carried on a fire engine. The visit was disrupted by a real call-out but fortunately the crew came back and the cubs watched some of the fire drills, and all had a go with the fire hose!!



A huge thanks to Thames Valley Police Mounted section and Chipping Norton Fire Station for accommodating us. The Cubs meet on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm at the Scout Hut at Greystones on Burford Road.

Archaeology Group's public meeting

An expert in Roman Oxfordshire will speak at a meeting about the recent discoveries made into Chipping Norton's Roman origins. Following the news that a sizeable Roman settlement has been found on the edge of town, Chipping Norton Archaeology Group (CHARG, contact email CHARG2022@outlook.com) are organising an event to give interested residents a chance to find out more about the site.

Paul Booth, an archaeologist, Roman pottery specialist and co-author (with Martin Henig) of 'Roman Oxfordshire', will shed light on the results of the geophysical surveys conducted by CHARG in 2021 and by Cala Homes in 2022. The surveys used magnetometry to detect ancient remains under the ground without the need for excavation. The talk will include details from the report produced by Wessex Archaeology for Cala Homes after their investigations in the summer, when they dug more than 40 trial trenches at the site with fascinating results. Paul will be able to set the site in a wider context of the known Roman archaeology in Oxfordshire. Early indications are that Roman Chipping Norton is a settlement the size of similar Romano-British sites found at Dorchester-on-Thames and Alchester. Historic England are currently considering whether to grant scheduled

monument status to the archaeological site which would give it the highest level of protection against development. The decision is expected in the summer.

The public meeting will be held in June – date and venue will be announced in next month's News. All are welcome!

Jane Beaufoy

Easter at The Albion

The Albion Centre behind The Fox in Chipping Norton is a social space for adults with learning difficulties and related conditions. Here's the latest update from the mother of a Centre user.

Easter Art is being produced by our group at an amazing rate. Eggs and rabbits of many materials and colours adorn our walls. Showing attention to detail as well as playful imagination, these pieces are a delight which leads me on to another exciting event – the Chipping Norton Theatre Great Company showcase. What an occasion! What hard work! Based loosely on the book, *Our Secret Garden*, our group, joined by others with special needs, rehearsed at The Theatre for some weeks under the tutelage of Jen, before jumping on to the stage and showcasing their results. This means they have lights and sound equipment to enhance the production. The morning of the show saw our thespians rather apprehensive, but there was a real buzz going on. All went well and afterwards Matt and Debbie said how thrilled they were to have been up on stage and how they now looked forward to the next production. The applause from us all in the audience summed up our huge appreciation for the hard work of Jen, staff and actors. Oscars all round!

Carole Fagg

CRAG spotlight on refugees

Last November, Charlbury Refugee Action Group members and supporters heard Freshta Karim talk about Charmaghz, the all-woman mobile library team she set up, which took books, literacy and education to impoverished children in Kabul – until the project was suspended because of the Taliban's veto on women doing 'public' work. Last month, Churches Together put on a Lent talk in St Mary's, Charlbury, by Oxford's Asylum Welcome, featuring Ghanaian asylum seeker Gallock, who is not permitted to work but volunteers with the group, helping to provide much-needed support to vulnerable people.

Freshta and Gallock are living proof of what most people already know – that people forced out of their homes by persecution, conflict or other life-threatening events have a lot to contribute to society, wherever in the world they go. Why is this simple lesson so hard for our governments to learn? The UN High Commissioner for Refugees says that the Illegal Migration Bill, which provides for the removal of asylum seekers arriving in small boats while making no provision for them to arrive any other way, could 'topple the international refugee protection system' through a 'domino effect' among refugee-hostile countries. Already, Denmark and New Zealand's Governments are emulating British asylum policy. Under the Bill, asylum seekers (including children) will be detained for removal – and the Home Secretary, not the courts, will decide what is a 'reasonable' period of detention.

CRAG held a public meeting in Charlbury to mobilise opposition to the Bill. We all felt writing to the MP was a necessary (if frustrating) exercise, and a model letter was circulated. Alternatively or additionally, lobbying local

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authorities to pass a resolution condemning the Bill is suggested by Asylum Matters, which has produced useful resources Visit <https://asylummatters.org/> for details.

CRAG will be running a pop-up café on 13 May at Charlbury's Memorial Hall to raise funds for refugee support.
Fran Webber

Chipping Norton Railway Club

On 4 April, a good attendance of over 30 members gathered to greet Frank Banfield. With his popular Heritage Cine Films from the 1950s, Frank travelled from Tring in Hertfordshire to entertain the Club. Once again, he did us proud, with a fine selection, including the Vale of Rydal and also the Flying Scotsman – 100 years old this year! He also showed vintage footage of France and America. On a lighter note, he ended, raising laughs, with the comedian Will Hay and his *Oh Mr Porter* short film ... enjoyed by all.

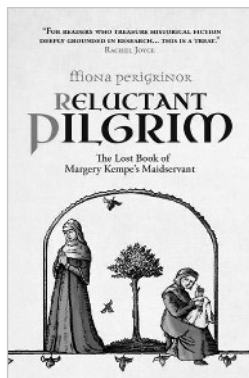
At the next meeting on 2 May, speaker Douglas Butler's talk is entitled 'Old Oak Common and HS2'. One for your diary: on 6 June, our popular member Jim Portlock will be showing slides of his recent travels in Eastern Switzerland.

Estelle Brain

Chippy u3a walks & talks

We have lots of interest groups, led by individual members, and now the weather's improving, the two walking groups are in full swing, with the Sunday garden visits not far behind. The experienced leader with local knowledge chooses a route. I'm told walks average out at about two hours at a leisurely pace. See our website u3asites.org.uk/chipping-norton for the full groups list, but 'Chipping Norton u3a' will also find us.

As usual, for members and prospective members, there's a chance to meet friends and make new ones at our monthly talk. On Wednesday 3 May at 2.30 at the Town Hall, we shall be welcoming Fiona Perigrinor, an independent scholar, novelist and Jungian psychotherapist. She has a keen interest in women's lives in the later Middle Ages and will be talking on *Two Indomitable, Independent East Anglian Ladies in the 1400s: Alice de Bryene of Acton Hall, Suffolk, and Margery Kemp of Bishop's Lynn, Norfolk.*



Yvonne Beaumont

Horticultural Association's treasures

The last meeting of the winter/spring programme of the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association took place during April but this doesn't mean that gardeners can take it easy – there will still be plenty for us all to do. With a little more sunshine, hopefully during April, and the fact that we had a fair quantity of rain during March, the gardens will be ready for us all to get busy! If you need more plants for your gardens, why not come and see what treasures you can find on our plant stall on Saturday 13 May from 9.30am to noon outside the Methodist Church in West Street, or if you should have spare plants to give away, we will be happy to take them – just contact secretary Eileen Forse 01608 643275, and we can arrange transport if necessary. Visit www.cnha.uk for details of the Association's 2023/24 programme.

Green Gym – marking milestones

The Green Gym team has continued to work across sites in all weathers with the exception of one (unexpected!) 'snow day' in March.

At the Community Orchard, hedge-laying, tidying, pruning and raspberry planting were carried out plus general weeding and maintenance at the Health Centre. Work at Hawkyard Copse included bramble clearing and creating a flower border along the fence. 26 March marked a special occasion when NOOG (North Oxfordshire Organic Gardeners) visited to plant a walnut tree on the site to mark their 30th anniversary.



25 years ago in 1998 Dr William Bird, a young GP based in Sonning, founded the Green Gym organisation. This milestone was celebrated in true Green Gym style at Burnt Platt, a Forestry England site, between Stoke Row and Sonning Common in early April. A joint work session took place with other Green Gym groups from the area and some members of our Green Gym (pictured) attended. Tasks included removing birch saplings and bramble from a heathland and building dead hedges. This hard work was followed by some very welcome Greek wraps and a special anniversary cake!

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!

Adela Thomas

Burford & Kingham Rotary roundup

I would like to applaud the power of local magazines! A gentleman contacted me after reading one of my reports in the *Chippy News* and has donated a £1,000 to Rotary's Ukraine Fund – a very generous and wonderful gesture. This has been topped up by an International Rotary charity which has enabled us to purchase an operating table and lamps for a frontline burns unit which is run by a Ukraine Surgeon who happens to be a Rotarian. What an amazing result. If you would like to donate and want to know exactly where your money is going, please let me know.

A new member Ilias recently gave an interesting talk about how he became a stockbroker and the ups and down of the markets through various recessions. This month we have a speaker relating his journey to discover his family history.

Would you like to enjoy some good speakers? Help your local communities and enhance your social life? Help to raise money to help local and international charities? A small group

CLUB NEWS

can make a difference as demonstrated above. Then join Burford and Kingham Rotary! Come along to one of our meetings at Burford Golf Club on Monday evenings. You will get a very warm welcome. Contact our Secretary John Smith, email jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk / 07717 883182. Or call me – I would love to hear from you to have an informal chat.

Ros Richardson 01608 643844 /07702 135731

History Society notice

The May meeting has had to be cancelled due to the speaker not being available. There are no meetings over the summer, the next is in September. Details in the September News.

Janis Paxton

CN Probus hear about Guide Dogs

The April visit by Tracy Jones from Guide Dogs for the Blind was made special by her dog Poppy joining her for a talk about the workings of a guide dog. Tracy is pictured receiving a donation from President Peter Miller for the Guide Dog Association.

The most popular breed of guide dog is a Labrador, with the Golden Retriever and German Shepherd also used, while Labradoodles are a common crossbreed offering less coat-shedding for owners with allergies. Guide dogs are allowed almost anywhere such as restaurants and public places. When wearing the harness, the dog knows it is working and is well behaved...quite different when the harness is off, playing and relaxing like any other family dog. A guide dog is even cleverer than you think. With their intelligence, they are trained to stop at a crossing or road junction. The owner listens for the traffic noise and judges whether it is safe to cross, because the dog can't tell if a light is red or green and then gives the instruction to walk ... but ... if the dog believes that walking would put the owner in danger, it will disobey the instruction. The dog can recognise obstructions at head height such as a low hanging branch and will guide their handler around it. This was a fascinating insight into the workings of a guide dog. We welcome guests at our monthly meetings, so please contact Simon Bucknall on 01993 830760 for more details.

Martin Williams

National Trust Association news

Membership to this N Cotswold branch is open to all National Trust members and volunteers which offers talks and coach outings, special events and fundraising. We have a vibrant team and a strong membership. Surplus funds raised assists local National Trust properties with conservation, improving our heritage and looking after the environment. Regular meetings at Broadwell Village Hall resume in October and coach outings are planned to Hanbury Hall on 11 May and Waddesdon Manor on 14 June. To join the Association, contact the Membership Secretary on 01386 593085, or for more information call 01608 659215 or 01608 658157 or visit the www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ncotswoldassoc

Rhys Jenkins

Chippy Folk & Acoustic Club

April's Easter Monday get together at The Harrow in Enstone was understandably a somewhat scaled down affair but nevertheless some really excellent contributions to the 'Songs of the Seas' theme [also embracing oceans & rivers]. Along the way we heard amongst others *Sloop John B*; *The Mingulay Boat song*; *Grace Darling*; the Cospatrick sea disaster; the shout and of an ancestor of one member who had carried Nelson's body on The Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. You can't get much more authentic than that.

Our next meeting is Monday 8 May 7.45pm with the theme Memories. We meet at The Harrow Inn Enstone OX7 4NF. Free entry – all welcome. Sing, play, recite or just listen. Visit www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk for further information

Paul Cherry

WOWI talk on Penicillin

West Oxfordshire WI had its Annual Meeting in March and a Committee was elected. We're all set for a new year with an exciting programme planned. The new subscription year starts in April so why not come as a visitor to start with and see what you think. We are a very sociable, friendly group. We meet on the third Monday of every month in St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, at 7.30pm. At our April meeting we heard about the work of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. In May we are having a speaker talking about Oxford's Penicillin – how Oxford students were at the forefront of refining the antibiotic into what it is today. For details please contact: wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Hilary Dix

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Chipping Norton School

WWI Battlefields trip: 40 History students visited the



WWI Battlefields of Belgium and France this term. They visited many of the famous sites with the highlights being the museum and memorial at Vimy Ridge, the cemeteries of Essex Farm, Tyne Cot and Landemark, preserved trenches at Sanctuary Wood, the Passchendaele Museum and the town of Ypres. It was a very moving and informative trip which the students will remember for the rest of their lives.

Careers in STEM day: Students spent a day at Rutherford



Appleton Laboratory learning about careers in STEM. Abbott Diabetes Care enabled the students to use the latest technology to test their pre-conceptions of foods and drinks most likely to lead to spikes in blood sugar. They were challenged to build a

model solar-powered car (CNS students stole the show by earning first place with their 'Strawberry Racer'). Over lunch they learnt about the many STEM opportunities there are in our local area. At the end of the day, they had a tour of the world-class facility, Diamond Light Source, a synchrotron which produces high energy X-rays used to image objects spanning from architectural artefacts to the coronavirus!

Sixth Form News: During one of our fortnightly Speaker Period sessions, Year 12 students learnt how to write a professional looking CV that showcased their individual skills, talents and interests. Emma Goodman, an experienced recruitment consultant, and regular contributor to the School's careers programme, delivered a CV Writing workshop. The students were given a resource pack of tips on writing a good CV and examples to help them. Following this session, all Year 12 students were asked to write their own CV and prizes for the 'most professional' and 'most promising' CVs will be awarded at our Interview Challenge event being held in April.

Sports News: Our Senior Football team remains unbeaten in the league and are hopeful of securing a place in the Semi Finals. Our Year 7 and 8 boys' teams have had strong seasons and wait to see where they end up in their respective leagues. The Year 7 girls' Football team got through to the quarter final of the County Cup before losing out to a strong St Helen & St Katharine team. In Netball, the Year 10 team came runners up in their tournament and the rearranged Year 8 and 9 tournament takes place before the end of term.

CNPS News: Pupils selected by their primary schools were invited to take part in Able, Interested & Motivated workshops in Art and PE during the Spring Term. In the Art workshop Mrs Dunn showed the children how to paint a work of art in the style of Marc Allante. They chose an animal to depict using paint and ink on a wooden canvas and the results were bright, imaginative and very creative. During the PE workshop, the PE department gave the children the opportunity to have a go at Lacrosse.



Performing Arts News: The Concert Band took part in the Orchestras class of the annual Chipping Norton Music Festival. The adjudicator was very positive and mentioned our trombonist and drummers as standout performers, as well as



being amazed at how well we played based on just 20 minutes rehearsal once a week. The School Brass Ensemble also took part in the Festival and gained some lovely positive feedback from the adjudicator.

Our end of term Performing Arts Showcase was a brilliant opportunity for students to demonstrate their talents for dance, drama and music with some students performing in all the disciplines!

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Academy



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Bookings & Enquiries email: flipping@peacockgymnastics.com

www.peacockgymnastics.com
Peacock Gymnastics Academy, Shipston on Stour CV36 4QZ




SCHOOLS NEWS

Holy Trinity Primary

Community Links: We were invited by the Methodist church to take part in the 2023 World Day of Prayer service. Each year the service is written by the Christian women of a different country; this year was the turn of Taiwan. The children really enjoyed participating in the service, and classes at school also joined in linked activities.

Reception class received a visit from the Chipping Norton Fire Service. They explained how they help the community by advising about fire safety and rescuing people from fires. They



had a tour of the fire truck, and the highlight was when they demonstrated the fire hose and drenched the cars in the staff car park! It was very exciting when they were called out to a blue light emergency halfway through the visit. Luckily, it was a false alarm and they returned to complete the talk a short while later. A huge thank you to all the firefighters.

Junior Leadership Team (JLT): Our Junior Leadership Team has been busy suggesting a range of activities to engage the rest of the School. At their request, we welcomed Team Rubicon into school to teach years 1–6 about scootering and skateboarding. Another initiative of theirs was to encourage the rest of the School to join in with The Great British Clean Up. The School has pledged to collect at least 50 bags of rubbish and although the weather wasn't kind to us at the end of term, nine bags were already collected by the time the holidays arrived. The children will be continuing to pick up rubbish in the local area over the school holidays in a bid to reach our target.



Sporting Achievements: Freddie from year 6 was one of four Charlbury Bowls Club and Oxfordshire junior players to represent England under-21s v Wales at Solihull. England won the match by 46 points to 34. Freddie only took up the sport in April 2021 and has rapidly developed to gain his first international appearance.

Every girl in school took part in the biggest ever football session across England as part of the FA's 'Let Girls Play' nationwide campaign.

Lent and Easter: We welcomed a representative from Father Hudson Care who spoke to the children about the 'Good Shepherd' appeal, raising money during Lent to support vulnerable people. During the last week of term, the children from Years 3 and 4 performed their Easter Production retelling the Easter Story from Jesus' entrance

into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through to his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The children retold the key events of Holy Week and highlighted the importance of this special time in the Church's calendar.

Chipping Norton Music Festival: The KS2 choir performed in the junior choir class. The adjudicator



commented on their 'sweet-toned atmospheric singing' and awarded them a distinction. They were invited back to perform at the Festival Concert where they sang confidently and were awarded the Robin Martin-Oliver trophy, donated by the Wychwood Singers. The Year 1 and Year 4 children also performed brilliantly in the speech and drama classes. The year 1 children presented *Magic Shoes* by Brian Moses and were commended for their facial play, actions and vocal expression. The year 4 children performed two poems: *Don't Be a Hard Rock* by Zoro Weil and *Wrong* by Michael Rosen. They were awarded a 'commended' grade and a 'distinction' – well done, everyone!



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St Mary's Primary

Red Nose Day: The School Council decided to celebrate Red Nose Day with a non-school uniform day. It was lovely to see so many of our children in their own clothes, expressing their unique personalities. The donations were split between Comic Relief and Unicef. The School Council thought it was important to contribute to the recent Earthquake that affected millions of people in Turkey and Syria. The total raised was £167.70.



Science Workshop: The children were visited by the Science Oxford team. They were very excited to learn that science is very much like magic but with logic. They were able to take part in many different experiments from helping 'Sally the egg' to swim, to understanding why the water stayed in the water bottle after a nail was removed from it (due to air pressure). 'It was amazing to see the water stay in the bottle, when it should have squirted out.' – Joshua G. We look forward to them applying their new scientific skills in our future learning.

Multi Skills: Year 2 and 3 spent a recent Wednesday afternoon at Chipping Norton School taking part in a Partnership event. They joined with other Partnership schools for a circuit of sporting activities. All the sessions were led by the CNS Sports' Leaders. Well done to these Leaders for preparing such well-organised events. It was a fantastic afternoon to be a part of the local community and work alongside other schools. Thank you to all those involved.



Bledington Primary

We had a week of book-related activities when the children focussed on Animals in Literature and studied texts and poems with animal characters in them. Our Bledington Big Book Quiz was a resounding success. The teams were made up of children in different year groups with older pupils supporting younger and a wide range of questions so that all ages could answer at least some questions. Team Seven won by one point and received a prize bag with scratch bookmarks and chocolate. On Friday we dressed up as our favourite



animal characters. Each class paraded around the Hall to music and showed off the costumes they had put together using a variety of materials. Mrs Edwards (Volunteer reader) and Ms Davydova (TA) had the difficult job of judging the outfits and choosing an animal from each class. Beatrix dressed as Peter Rabbit, Emily was Hedwig the Owl, Lewis was the Griffin and Isla M was The Phoenix. They each won a book token. After lunch, we had a paired reading session. Older pupils paired with younger pupils so that picture books could be shared together. This is always a special time to witness children sharing a love of books and reading.

Chadlington Primary

The *We are Activists* theme continued through March with full



integration with the schools' new sustainability agenda. KS2 have been learning all about how activism has led to crucial social and environmental change. From Rosa Parks to Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough, pupils have been building an understanding of how important individual and collective action is. In KS1, art projects have integrated the impacts of plastics in the sea with plastic waste used as materials. Early Years have been looking at both the life cycle of frogs and biodiversity and are currently looking after frog spawn which will hopefully make their way into the school pond. We have also connected with the village Climate and Biodiversity Action Group, a Parish Council initiative, to see where they can join forces on specific projects such as creating Hedgehog



Chippy Swifts Join the U9 team!

For boys in Y4 in Sept 23 who'd like to play football in the team there's an

Open Training Session 10am Sat 10 June

at Greystones, Burford Road, CN.

The team play matches on Saturday mornings and train once a week.

Contact coach **Steve Butcher: styellow@sky.com** for details or to confirm attendance

SCHOOLS NEWS

Highways to help this threatened species navigate and survive the built environment in the local area. Children from the School Eco Committee will be presenting at a village event in April. KS2 also went on a school trip to see the incredible Living Rainforest in Berkshire. They encountered sloths, armadillo, snakes, lizards, exotic birds, all used for inspiration for a 3D Living Forest artwork display back at school.

Enstone Primary

March brought World Book Day which we celebrated this year by inviting West End in Schools to deliver some book-themed dance workshops based on Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. We also eagerly accepted an invitation for our Year 5/6 pupils to take part in a singing workshop as part of Chipping Norton Music Festival: a welcome return for this event following a Covid-enforced break.



The Spring Term also brought opportunities for our younger pupils to take part in some sports activities at Chipping Norton School, including a dance workshop for Years 1 and 2 and a multi-skills festival for Years 2 and 3.

Our older pupils enjoyed a visit from a pop-up planetarium in February, which helped to underpin learning in their science topic of Earth and Space as well as giving everyone a rare opportunity to sit 'under the stars' with no light pollution.

Great Rollright Primary



We're recycling more this spring, thanks to the efforts of the hardworking children on our Eco-Committee. We now have boxes in school to collect used printer cartridges, batteries, and pens from home. We also have a new plan to reduce food waste at lunch time. Green issues are close to our heart here at Great Rollright – we're proud to be in our third year as an Eco-School Green Flag school.

Easter: There was a new twist to our celebrations this year, as our Yr 3–4 class performed a wonderful musical retelling of the Easter story in St Andrew's Church next door. We also enjoyed our traditional Easter Bonnet parade around the village, Easter egg hunt, and church service.

Earthquake relief: A group of enterprising girls from our Yr 5–6 class, led by Daisy, raised over £200 in a bake sale for Red Cross work in Turkey and Syria. Our school vision is rooted in the story of the Good Shepherd, so we're always thrilled to see our children taking the initiative to help others.

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.

Hook Norton Primary

The highlight of this term has to be the year 3 and 4's Easter production of *The Three Trees* which was performed in the stunning St Peters Church in front of the rest of the School and lots of very proud family members. The children's acting and singing was absolutely magical and it was a lovely way to end the term.



We have enjoyed participating in some more wonderful activities arranged by the Chipping Norton Schools Partnership, including a Dance Festival for the year 1's where we spent the afternoon learning and choreographing dances based on the book *Commotion in the Ocean*. We really enjoyed being swordfish, octopus, jellyfish and dolphins. Year 4 and 5 children also had an enjoyable time at the PE workshop meeting new people from different schools and learning how to play Lacrosse.

Our year 5 children have had a week away at PGL Liddington and have had a fantastic time learning different skills and taking part in team building activities.

Our class sharing assemblies never fail to amaze as to how much work the children can pack into each day. One very special assembly even left the Head Teacher speechless!



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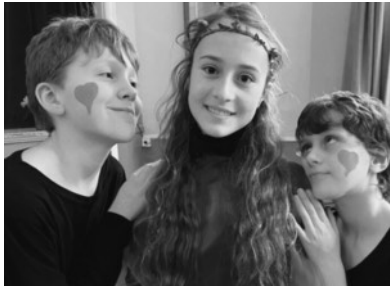
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Kingham Primary

Midsummer Magic at Music Festival: One midsummer



night, four young lovers are wrapped in the dream-like arms of an enchanted forest, where spirits lurk, and the faerie king and queen are at war. Magic really did happen this year at Chipping Norton Music Festival, when a small

group of talented Year 6 pupils from the School performed scenes from Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. A rapt audience were treated to an incredibly mature and entertaining interpretation of this hilarious masterpiece – Will Shakespeare would have surely been impressed! The appreciative adjudicator rightly awarded Kingham pupils with prestigious Outstanding and Distinction certificates. So, bravo – Amélie, Annabel, Benedict, Conolly, Esme, Evie, Honey, Kaya, Tia, Thomas and Tobi. And thank you, Mrs Harrison, for the passionate coaching and direction!

Cross-Country Finalists: Three Kingham teams qualified for the Oxfordshire County Cross-Country Finals in March. Kingham athletes were exceptional and had a muddy, fun-filled morning competing. U9 and U11 girls' teams were both placed 4th in the County and U11 boys, 6th. A special mention to Zack Glennie who came second overall in the County, after a photo finish, in the U9 boys' 1.5k race. Attitudes were awesome, as were the results. Well done all!

Sibford School

Whole School Open Morning – Friday 23 June: Year 7



entry days for those looking to join Sibford in September 2024, take place in November so this June open event offers the perfect opportunity to learn more about Sibford, talk to staff, meet current parents and take a tour of the School with student guides. Head, 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'. We encourage you to come along and learn more about what Sibford School has to offer children aged from 3 to 18. There is still time to apply to join in Reception, or Sixth Form this September. To book your place, visit www.sibfordschool.co.uk/events, or call Elspeth Dyer, Admissions Officer on 01295 781 203.

Public bouldering sessions: Join us on our climbing wall to give bouldering a go! Sessions take place on Monday evenings from 6.30–8.30pm, during term time. £10 per climber, suitable for ages 12+. Please park in our swimming pool car park and use the swimming pool entrance to access the climbing wall.

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Chipping Norton's Roman origins



Photo: Katherine Jang

Eileen Meades, who wrote her *History of Chipping Norton* in the late 1940s, began by saying that 'the origins of Chipping Norton are lost in the mists of time', but it is really great news that those mists are now being blown away by the exciting discovery of the remains of a sizeable Roman settlement on the high ground above the present town. (And even that's not the beginning of the story as there is evidence of Iron Age activity there as well.) In my much later history of the Town*, I was able to suggest that there could be some Roman presence in that area based on fragments of Roman pottery and other items picked up there through field walking, and above all the spectacular carved stone head of a Roman god, identified as Jupiter and now in the Museum (pictured above). But I never suspected anything quite as extensive and important as what is now being revealed by Wessex Archaeology and the earlier geophysical survey commissioned by CHARG. When the stone head was discovered (by George Taylor's son Graham, then at Glyme Farm), I took it to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and wrote an article about it in *Oxoniensia*, based on their identification of it as the head of Jupiter probably from the wall of a Roman villa or temple. Sure enough, the trial excavation suggests the probability of a temple on the site. We must now wait to see whether Historic England schedules the site, giving it legal protection or calls for further excavation, and how it all affects the proposed 1000 new houses planned to be built by developers including Cala Homes. Jupiter (sometimes called Jove) was a top god in Roman times who gave protection to those who worshipped him and treated him with due respect. However, he was also usually shown with a thunderbolt in one hand which he would violently hurl at anyone who angered him.

Perhaps he's just hurled it at Cala Homes?

David Eddershaw

*David's book 'Chipping Norton – The Story of a Market Town' is available from Jaffé & Neale – Ed

Sending 'political' letters

In your report of the Town Council's postal strike letter in April's edition of *Chipping Norton News*, the question was posed 'Should Parish Councils send 'political' letters?' Subsequent discussion has centred on whether the Town Council had the remit to send such a letter. On the latter point, this was of course checked by our Town Clerk before the Council wrote to Royal Mail. As your article makes clear, constitutionally, we do have such a remit. On the question of whether Parish/Town Councils should write 'political' letters, it is my firm belief that we should. Surely this should be the case when any Council feels that the actions of a government, a department of state, public body or private business is detrimental to the interests of its residents?

My motivation in bringing this issue to Town Council was to stand up for the residents of Chipping Norton in regard to

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.

the future service that we receive from Royal Mail, as well as to support our postal workers in their current dispute with Royal Mail. These concerns are not shared by me and fellow Town Councillors alone. The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee of the House of Commons recently referred Royal Mail to the OFCOM regulator because of its concerns over the actions of Royal Mail in the current dispute and concerns over the future of the Universal Service Obligation with regard to the delivery of letters. It also seems that over 100 years ago Chipping Norton Town Councillors lobbied on this issue. In January 1918 the Town Council resolved to write to Royal Mail to express their concern over delays to letter and telegram deliveries. So there is historical precedent!

Cllr Steve Akers

Art workshop for Ukrainian guests



In Easter week a local ceramicist and her Ukrainian guest, led a group of Ukrainians and their hosts in an art workshop hosted by The Branch. Children, mums and grandfathers came together to create a piece of work reflecting the peace and protection that they long for. We then enjoyed a delicious bring-and-share lunch – where

we introduced them to the English version of 'quiche' and then enjoyed a lot of Ukrainian cake! This is one small part of the support that The Branch and St Mary's Church are offering over 50 local families. We also run a weekly drop-in at Connect Café with a translator (Tuesdays 1–2.30pm in the Parish Rooms) and weekly language lessons – where there is lots of laughter as well as practical language learning! If you are hosting any Ukrainians and would like to link into the local network, then please email emma.kennedy@thebranchtrust.org.

Emma Kennedy – Community & Outreach St Mary's Church



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LETTERS

Marking end of National Service

Tuesday 16 May 2023 marks the 60th anniversary since the last serviceman was demobbed from National Service. More than two million men served during this period of conscription following the end of the Second World War and 395 National Servicemen were killed during active service. Their names are inscribed on the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, where there is also the National Service Memorial. We would like to hear the stories of anyone from Chipping Norton who undertook National Service to create a record of their service. Please mail me at stevekingsford@gmail.com or send to me at 3 Ushercombe View, Tadmarton, Oxfordshire OX15 5TF.

Steve Kingsford – Chipping Norton British Legion

Museum seeks new Treasurer

Brenda Morris has decided it is time to put down her pen and retire as Treasurer of Chipping Norton Local History Society and Museum. Brenda has been Treasurer for many years and was a founder member of both. She has agreed to carry on as a Committee Member and with her local knowledge will continue to be a great asset. Thank you, Brenda, for all your hard work. We now need a new treasurer. If you feel that this is something you could do, please contact Pauline Watkins at paulinewatkins58@icloud.com or 01608 641712 for details.

Pauline Watkins

Chippy News reader's gift!

A lovely gentleman contacted me after reading my article about Rotary's fundraising campaign to send generators to Hospitals and Care Homes in Ukraine in the March *Chippy News* and has donated £1,000. We were blown away by this very generous and wonderful gesture. This has been topped up by an International Rotary charity, enabling us to purchase an operating table and lamps for a frontline burns unit which is run by a Ukraine Surgeon who happens to be a Rotarian. What an amazing result. So, a big thanks to the *Chippy News* for your part in this – and also, of course to all those

generous people who donated to the Rotary Ukraine Fund. If any News readers would like to contribute and want to know exactly where your money is going, please let me know.

Ros Richardson – Burford & Kingham Rotary
(01608 643844 /07702 135731)

'I was there' – with The Giant Bolster!

(After last month's sporting 'I was there' at an amazing Andy Murray triumph, reader Graham White sent this story – more welcome!) As

a boy, I dreamed of riding at the Cheltenham Festival. It never happened. However, in 2010, I was there with a horse called The Giant Bolster – described by the *Racing Post* as having no chance. Badly hampered on the home turn, he ran on to finish a close fifth in the Supreme Novice Hurdle. Among those who beat him, one went on to win the Champion Stayers Hurdle the following year, while another won the Ascot Gold Cup on the Flat. In 2011, again hampered, Bolster produced a leap like a corkscrew to stay on his feet but unseated his jockey. Back again in 2012, I helped to prepare him for the Gold Cup. He started as the 50/1 outsider and finished 2nd. The only thing that beat him was a certain AP McCoy, who conjured up a leap at the last that gained his horse four lengths – he won by two! In all, The Giant Bolster raced at six successive Cheltenham festivals and finished second, third and fourth in three Gold Cups. That in itself is something of a record and an amazing training performance by David Bridgwater (one of the most underrated trainers in the Cotswolds). On the day that The Giant Bolster almost won the Gold Cup, I can say that I was there!



Graham pictured with
The Giant Bolster

Graham White, Kingham

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The Chipping Norton News is printed on environmentally approved paper

Exploring Pool Meadow

Chippy's ancient nature area, Pool Meadow, lies along the stream beyond New St recreation ground. News Team members joined an organised walk on 5 April to hear about work in progress there.

Do you remember when Pool Meadow used to hold water and froze in winter to enable ice skating? Well, that (climate change allowing) could be the future of the area, if the project commissioned by owners Chipping Norton Town Council proceeds as planned. A team, including Jonny Ackroyd from project consultants Beaumont Rivers, Everyone's Evenlode and the Green Gym, led a 'walk and talk' trip to explain the overall



one of the oldest plants on the planet, pre-dating seeds even, and, being virtually indestructible, has pushed out other species. Some will be kept through an annual management regime which will also introduce a wild flower meadow and a riparian mix of flora for the water meadow. It is likely that newts are already there and hopefully water voles will be attracted.

project – which is to restore and sustain its biodiversity, including as wetlands, but accessible for the community. Water is to be reintroduced from the existing stream, but only about 60-80 cm deep to minimise danger. A circular wheelchair and pushchair friendly footpath is being constructed, accessible from Church Lane, with interpretation boards explaining the area's ecology and history.

The Green Gym has been working hard to clear the path behind the pool – particularly overgrown laurels encroaching from The Mount next door and blackthorn. One aim is to rid the site of alien species and some of the horsetail, which has become very invasive. Great horsetail is

from Heritage Lottery, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and others. But first they need planning permission and Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, for which lots of detailed work will be required. Initial archaeology investigations suggest that the commonly-held view, that the area was the site of fishponds supplying the nearby medieval castle, is probably correct with two smallish rectangular ponds – one for breeding and one for eating! Whatever history is discovered, we are lucky to have such an interesting landscape on our doorstep, to be restored and protected for future generations.

The team explained they will be seeking funding for the project



Sampling water for nitrates and phosphates.

blackthorn. One aim is to rid the site of alien species and some of the horsetail, which has become very invasive. Great horsetail is



Examining nuts for different nibbling techniques!

DIARY

May (News out Monday 24 April)

- 2nd **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p 27
- 3rd **Methodist Coffee Morning** for Christian Aid 9.30–11.30am - see p12
- U3A** 2.30pm in the Town Hall see p27
- N Oxon Organic Gardeners** 6.30 Guided Tour of Lineover Wood - details info@noog.org.uk
- 4th **DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION** - see p15
- 6-8 **Coronation Weekend** - see p2
- 6-29 **Oxfordshire Artweeks** - See centre pages & p21
- 7th **Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church
- 8th **Teas on the Green** in Churchill 2-4pm see p12
- Folk Club** 7.45 The Harrow Inn Enstone - see p28
- 11th **Evenlode Geographical Lectures** 6-7.30pm Chadlington Mem Hall - enquiries 07495 469941
- 11-13 **Me & My Girl - CHAOS** at The Theatre - see p20
- 12th **CHIPPY NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35
- 13th **Plant Stall** Horticultural Assoc 9.30am-noon outside the Methodist Church - see p27
- FarmED Farm & Food Lit Fest** - see p10

- 15th **Crafty Cuppa & Chat** 10-12 Meth'dist Church see p12
- Mayormaking** 6.30 Town Hall - see p17
- West Oxon WI** 7.30 Parish Rooms - see p28
- 16th **CN Probus** - see p28 for details
- 18th **Chequers Music Session** 8pm Goddards Lane - Folk, blues, jazz, country, music hall and more at this join-in session. Details Jane Lewis via jalemail27@gmail.com
- 20th **Farmers Market** 8.30am-1pm
- Screen by the Green - Living** 7.30 Churchill Vill Hall see p21

June (News out TUESDAY 30 May)

- 1st **Adderbury Ensemble** 7.30 Town Hall - see p20
- 2nd **NEW Choir** starts 11am Methodist Church - enquiries 01608 642792.
- Lido Auction of Promises** Town Hall see p3
- 3rd **Chadlington Beer Festival** noon-10pm see p9
- Cwmdare Voices** 7pm Town Hall - see p20
- 4th **Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church
- 6th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p 27