

## Romans hit town



### ‘Substantial settlement’ found near new housing site

Two professional archaeology reports, now public, show evidence of a likely ‘Romano-British town’ bordering Glyme Lane. There are possible signs of temples, burial grounds and many buildings potentially extending to the size of 20 football pitches.

A Town Hall talk by a Roman Archaeology expert, planned for 20 June, will present this – and it could be one of the most significant recent finds of its kind, which Oxfordshire’s County Archaeologist calls ‘of high significance’ and ‘national importance’. It could reshape the history of both Chipping Norton and Roman Oxfordshire.

Historic England are considering whether and, if so, how the site should be protected. This has delayed masterplanning the proposed East Chipping Norton housing development, but seems unlikely to put a stop long term to Town housing growth, with plenty of other land north and east of the Town not affected by archaeology – see more inside.

## New Town Council



Mayor Sandra Coleman and new Deputy Mayor Steve Akers (pictured with Mayor’s Sergeant Terry Palmer), were elected by a new Chipping Norton Town Council – with eight new members and a

busy year ahead, including a ‘Keep Chippy Beautiful’ campaign. See Pages 6-7 for more on the Town Council.

## Celebration time

Chipping Norton was out in style last month



*Chippy celebrated the coronation with street parties and a successful Picnic in the Park*

*A colourful Town Hall saw the Eid festival celebrations*



*The now traditional Community Orchard Blossom Day was fun for all*

*See inside, centre and back pages for reports and more pictures*

## Yarn Bomber vacancy

There’s a job going in the crochet department as Chippy’s secret yarn bomber finally hangs up her needles.



## Also in this issue:

Traffic & air pollution update ~ Plans for play at Cotswold Crescent ~ Domino’s Pizzas coming to town ~ Ascott Martyrs’ 150 year anniversary ~ Don’t miss the Lido Auction ~ Jennie Nolan gets MBE from Prince William ~ June’s fetes, festivals and open gardens

## All to play for at Cotswold Crescent

**An often-neglected large open green play area, hidden away inside Chipping Norton's Cotswold Crescent housing estate, is coming back to life. Local youngsters, the Town Council, nearby families, local organisations, and some enthusiastic supporters, are all involved. Here's an update.**



**Responding to local teenagers** – Has anyone in Chippy noticed a change in teenagers since the pandemic, and maybe grumbled about this generation always being on their phones, appearing disengaged and unmotivated. Well, there are both youngsters who want to do something. and some passionate individuals around town who want to help. Up at Cotswold Crescent, the News Team talked to local mother of three Cara Hedges – who retrained as a youth worker during the pandemic, as she felt teenagers' needs had slipped to the bottom of the pile. Cara has been setting up youth activities in the Cotswold Crescent Play Area in response to local teenagers pointing out how rundown this space had become. With an initiative called Learn2Sustain, she's been working under the umbrella of Transition Chipping Norton (now formed as a local charity) and wants to help teenagers regain their enthusiasm for getting out and helping shape the environment to suit them.

**Bushcraft, BMX, cooking, & a rage room!** – Cara



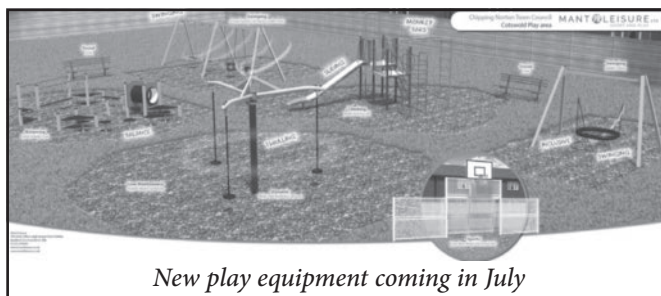
explains: 'We run activities linked to improving their environment, being eco-friendly, and above all having fun! We are led by them. They wanted a Chippy BMX track so we brought equipment to try out bike obstacle courses. They wanted bushcraft skills, and have enjoyed

whittling, campfire cooking, dissecting owl pellets! To help release strong emotions, we raided the Orinoco Scrap Store in Banbury for scrap items and used the derelict swing frame to create a mini 'rage room' experience. We challenged youngsters to create an 'indestructible piñata', choosing what items to hang up, and what to bash them with. A few safety words, and they were good to go! They even cleared up afterwards. Now in May we're planning making rhubarb crumble and ice cream at the park (we heard an ice cream van passing but had no money!)



**Council support and new equipment** – With derelict equipment long useless, Chipping Norton Town Councillors have got involved, including joining youngsters and supporters round the fire pit to hear their views! They have looked at what is possible here (a skatepark could appear elsewhere now in town). Then in April, Councillors approved a new play park installation from Mant Leisure costing £60,000 – to be finished in July! There's a £10,000 National Lottery Grant and

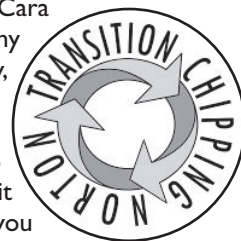
£26,500 Section 106 money to help – and more from the Town Council's reserves. There's a green light to get on with it all. Cara Hedges added, 'It has been great to have such a positive response from Councillors, and know that they are listening to the next generation. As Chipping Norton inevitably grows, it is vital young people's needs are also taken into account – making their views heard in a positive way will benefit everyone.' Chippy Mayor Sandra Coleman, said, 'It has been fantastic to see Learn2Sustain meet with young people and enjoy using the space. It will be great to see the completed project later this year!'



*New play equipment coming in July*

**Summer activities...and more** – As well all this, there looks like there'll be even more happening at the Crescent this summer. This could include a Play in the Park Day organised by Oxfordshire Play Association with Chippy Theatre joining in a Summer Fun Day in the holidays. Cara tells us an informal group called Chippy Creatives hosted at The Theatre, has been getting together to see how best to work together to support vulnerable groups in Chippy. One recent meeting saw over a dozen different groups represented including The Theatre, the Lido, Chippy Larder, Cottsway, OPA, Got2Be, Family Support from Chippy School, Primary School outreach and more ... all looking at helping families and young people.

**Transition Chipping Norton** – As Cara told us, TCN, who are supporting many activities, is now a registered charity, aiming to support local sustainable and environmental projects. They are looking for young Trustees to help shape the organisation and ensure it grows with youth needs in mind. If you know a teenager who might be interested, contact Cara [cara@learn2sustain.org.uk](mailto:cara@learn2sustain.org.uk). TCN is funded entirely by grants and individual giving. To help, see [fb.com/TransitionChippingNorton](https://fb.com/TransitionChippingNorton) or email Cara.



**The next sessions at Cotswold Crescent will be Saturday 10 June & 1 July 1–4pm at Cotswold Crescent Open to all teenagers. Check out our facebook page to see what's coming up: [fb.com/Learn2Sustain.org.uk](https://fb.com/Learn2Sustain.org.uk)**

## Impact of Chippy's Roman town

As reported in recent News editions, work on a Masterplan for a large expansion of Chipping Norton east of the town around and beyond Tank Farm, to include 1000+ homes, primary school, employment land, community facilities and green space, was put on hold over 12 months ago. The County Archaeologist had asked for investigations of potential Roman and other archaeological remains at the Glyme Lane end of the Strategic Development Area. Oxfordshire County Council is the main landowner, with other land owned by Cala Homes and the Field Reeves.

It is now public news that two expert surveys, one commissioned by Cala Homes on their land and one by a local group CHARG on land not allocated for development, have identified remains of a probable substantial Romano-British town in the area bordering Glyme Lane (see box below). The main Roman settlement, CHARG suggest, may be as big as 15–20 hectares (1 hectare is 100x100 metres). A recommendation is still awaited from Historic England (HE) on whether the site should be protected – perhaps scheduled as an ancient monument. HE were due to consult local bodies such as WODC in May or June. Ultimately, the decision lies with the Secretary of State for DCMS. So, all this could still take months.

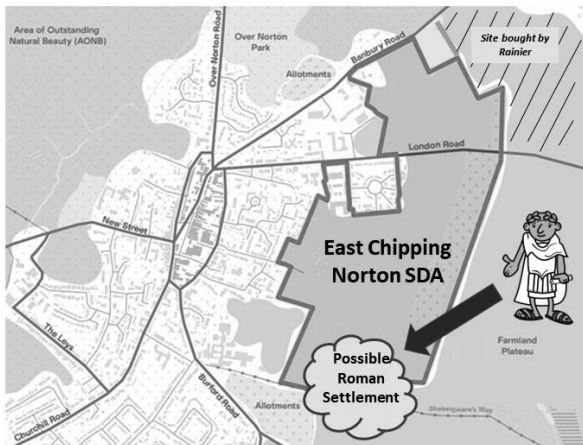
Meanwhile, talk around Chippy has focused on how this might affect plans for the proposed 1000+ homes at East Chipping Norton. Some thoughts: firstly, the East Chippy site

allocated in WODC's Local Plan stretches a long way, right across London Road to Banbury Road, including plenty of land that is not of particular archaeological interest. The whole site is approaching 100 hectares. The precise layout of the development has not been finalised, so there could still be scope to allocate land with archaeological interest as open space, albeit probably not for sports pitches or tree planting. Cala Homes, the landowner most likely affected, will doubtless be discussing options with Planning Authority WODC.

Secondly, WODC have already started reviewing their Local Plan, so the various options for housing and land use might be reconsidered. For example, they could shift the development focus towards the Banbury Road end of the allocated site. But Chippy still needs a sensible plan for more houses, especially affordable homes – and there will still be pressure on WODC to

ensure that any developments integrate properly with the current town, fund sufficient infrastructure, and avoid piecemeal planning applications. The recent application by Rainier beyond the Cricket Club comes with these questions.

Thirdly, the new administration at WODC apparently favours more dispersed allocations for new homes, rather than these large housing allocations. Perhaps the number of homes for Chippy could decrease? Much debate is likely here when WODC consult with us later this year on its Local Plan Review. The News will aim to keep an eye on progress.



The possible historic settlement lies close to the 'Roman Building' long identified on WODC's 2018 Local Plan

## Chippy's Roman discoveries – Town Hall talk

**The County's most significant Roman find in decades has been discovered right here in Chipping Norton – and now the public is being invited to come to a talk to hear all about it. Jane Beaufoy from CHARG sent this.**

On 20 June, the Chipping Norton Archaeological Research Group (CHARG) will host a presentation about the recent archaeological investigations east of the Town. A large settlement consisting of buildings, enclosures, burials and possible temples has been revealed through geophysical survey and trial trenches. Considerable quantities of coins and pottery were discovered, indicating that this ancient site may have been occupied from the Iron Age through to the last stage of the Roman occupation of Britain in the fourth century CE (AD). The evening's speaker is the archaeologist Paul Booth, who will be interpreting the findings and setting them in the wider context of Oxfordshire in the Roman period. Paul is an expert in the Romano-British presence in the County having worked in the field for more than 30 years. He co-wrote with Martin Henig the authoritative *Roman Oxfordshire*. Paul is currently working on a report on excavations at Dorchester-on-Thames, where for ten years he directed the Oxford University student training dig.

**'New Roman Discoveries in Chipping Norton' is at 7.30pm in the Upper Town Hall. Tickets cost £5 and are available from Chipping Norton Museum or via [charg@btinternet.com](mailto:charg@btinternet.com), tel 07768 504926. The News hopes to publish a major feature shortly on this.**

### NEW ROMAN DISCOVERIES IN CHIPPING NORTON



A TALK BY  
PAUL BOOTH  
20 JUNE 2023  
7.30PM  
UPPER TOWN HALL  
CHIPPING NORTON

Chipping Norton Archaeological Research Group (CHARG) presents a talk given by archaeologist and expert on Roman Britain Paul Booth on recent discoveries in the town.

Tickets £5 from Chipping Norton Museum, or contact [charg@btinternet.com](mailto:charg@btinternet.com) tel 07768 504926

## Local election results

Local District Elections on 4 May followed national trends with Conservatives losing more seats overall. They no longer have control in any of the five Oxfordshire Districts – this time losing overall control (and 6 seats) in Cherwell, with another Lib Dem/Labour/Green Alliance expecting to take over. Lib Dems also gained seats and have overall majorities in both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, where the Greens made gains as well. There were no elections in Oxford City where Labour are firmly in control and Conservatives have no seats.



In our District (West Oxfordshire), Conservatives lost 3 seats, and Lib Dem gains make them now the largest party with 18 seats, Conservatives 17, Labour 10 and Greens 3. The Lib Dem/Labour/Green Alliance remains in control. In Chipping Norton ward, the sitting councillor Mike Cahill (who won as Labour in 2019, but is now Independent) stood again with an active publicity campaign including flyposting round the Town, but Labour and Co-operative's nominated candidate Mark Walker won the seat with 39% of the votes. Results were:

Mark Walker, Labour & Co-operative	672
Peter Burns, Conservative	393
Mike Cahill, Independent	370
Arron Baker, Green	181
Ivan Aguado, Liberal Democrat	113

Turnout was 30.68% of an electorate of 5662. Chipping Norton's other two District Councillors are also currently Labour (Rizvana Poole and Geoff Saul). As reported last month, there was no election for the Chipping Norton Town Council as there were only 14 nominations for the 16 seats (see page 7).

## Town centre crime issues

At their April meeting, Chipping Norton Town Councillors discussed some of the recent concerns about both shoplifting and anti-social behaviour in and around the shopping centre. As discussed previously in the *Chippy News*, shoplifting has increased nationally, particularly in supermarkets and shops selling consumer goods. Links to the cost of living crisis have been suggested. In the last few months, Chippy's local shop traders, have formed a WhatsApp group and have met to discuss their increased shoplifting issues; local Councillors Mike Cahill and Sharon Wheaton have been helping and liaising with them. The Cotswold Newsagents, Boots, WH Smith and town supermarkets are among those affected. Councillors heard that the Town has been targeted recently by organised gangs from outside – shoplifting and pickpocketing. Particular groups of local teenagers have also been causing issues.

The shops have been introducing more surveillance and prevention – but they and Councillors want more investment in CCTV for the town centre – Witney has a scheme, with significant funding from West Oxfordshire District Council. There is some CCTV around our Town Hall, but some years ago Chipping Norton Town Council declined to provide funding for more extensive Town Centre coverage – suggesting that WODC should be the main provider. Police

are involved, but there is little visible town centre presence. Everyone is urged to report crimes and get crime reference numbers – otherwise Chippy will continue to be called 'no or low crime' territory. Town Councillors will be looking more at all this – as well as trying to see if empty shop properties can be occupied faster and their appearance cleaned up.

## Roll up for Lido Auction



*Jeremy Clarkson in action auctioning last year's top lot – a tractor lesson with Kaleb Cooper*

The Lido's Auction of Promises is on Friday 2 June – not only a brilliant night out, but also a vital opportunity to support the pool. Built thanks to public fundraising throughout the 1960s and now run by volunteers for the past two decades, The Lido relies on the community it serves to help it survive season by season. The Auction is your chance to show The Lido some love while bidding for amazing promises. This year there are chances to get away from it all in near and far-flung destinations, delicious food in lovely locations, the chance to get behind the scenes at Alpine F1, Charlie Longsdon Racing and the Chippy Flower Farm, and much, much more. The Lido team hope to see you at 7pm, Friday 2 June in the Town Hall. Tickets are on sale at [chippylido.co.uk](http://chippylido.co.uk)

**Claire Jarvis**

## CCC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As reported last month, it's the 10 year anniversary for Care, Compassion and Conversation – the local home care company set up by two friends and colleagues who used to work at Penhurst. They promised balloons all around town, and so in May the News snapped Sharon and Hannah handing them out (for those of you reading in black and white the balloons are pink!). Congratulations to the CCC team.



## Time's up for escalator

The latest news on Chipping Norton Coop's broken escalator can be read on a new notice at the top – work is planned to start on the repairs around 26 June. An optimistic notice has been there for some time which apologised and suggested a wait of '5–6 weeks' – but it did not initially say from when! Anyway, hopefully shoppers will see the popular moving stairs back soon.

## Kevin's rapid recycling bin!

Chippy News readers should be familiar with the sight of the world's fastest shed passing through our town centre. Great



Rollright's Kevin Nicks constructed the motorised shed some years back – and successively broke the Guinness Book of Records' time for fastest shed, the latest being 106.123 mph

over a standing mile at the Straightliners event held at the Elvington airfield in North Yorkshire on 27 September 2020. Apparently, he recently ran into trouble when he took the shed to Jeremy Clarkson's Diddy Squat Farm Shop – and couldn't find anywhere to park. Kevin has also had a go at the fastest wheelbarrow, the fastest motorised BMX bike, and the longest mobility scooter (measuring six metres).



Now Kevin's latest venture, according to the *Witney Gazette*, is a motorised domestic blue wheelie bin. Kevin was quoted as saying it was the only wheelie bin in the world that's taxed – with a 'very green' electric motor. These latest antics have also gained Kevin a shoutout on TV's *Have I got News for You*. Keep a lookout around town.

## Banking Hub in town?

With news that Barclays, the last bank in town, will close in July, the idea of Chipping Norton having a 'banking hub' has been suggested. This idea, promoted by charities such as Age UK and potentially supported by the financial services company Link, would see the major banks share space in a single community hub location with private space to talk to their customers. Where banking hubs have so far been opened, in 'branchless' towns, the hub is co-located with some counter services, usually run by the Post Office. Age UK say that 27% of over 65s and 58% of over 85s rely on face-to-face banking. Charities and consumer groups have called for an acceleration in the introduction of banking hubs, when all branches have closed in an area. Apparently around 50 new hubs have been agreed but only four are in action so far.

Chippy, of course, already has an increasingly busy Post Office counter in the Co-op supermarket, but Link say that the Town could perhaps justify having more substantial 'cash deposit' arrangements, for example to handle and/or count large amounts of cash. Some Chippy shops could well

consider going 'card-only' if there are no facilities for large cash and coin withdrawal and deposits. Chippy's Mayor Cllr Sandra Coleman is keen to try and take all this further but it will need cooperation and support from the Co-op/Post Office, from a core of the High Street banks (most of which left Chippy some time back), Link, and potentially a property owner! Meanwhile, Barclays are negotiating temporary space in the Town Hall for customer meetings.

**Footnote:** Barclays just posted first-quarter (Jan to March) profits of £2.6bn, a record for the bank since 2011 when the new accounting standards were introduced.

## Christmas lights in Chippy

Chipping Norton Town Council have been looking at plans for the 2023 Christmas lights around Town. Councillors, at their last Finance Committee meeting, said that last year's 2022 lights had been received positively. This included the upgraded displays for the Town Hall and the large trees. The management of the display of nearly 100 little trees on brackets on town centre properties, previously done with the help of volunteers, has now been taken 'in house' by the Town Council – and quotes were obtained for different commercial installation options. The Council have decided that because of the negative carbon impact of using many real small cut Christmas trees, the option of a small artificial trees made of recycled plastic, that could be reused each year, will be pursued. At April's full Town Council meeting it was agreed to pay an initial annual hiring cost of £2760 plus £3960 for an annual installation fee. These plans will be revisited the next year following public feedback.

## Town's Fire Station award

Oxfordshire firefighters – including from Chipping Norton – were honoured at a special ceremony at Blenheim Palace in April. Eleven firefighters who have served for a combined total of nearly 240 years were presented with the Queen's long service and good conduct medals for 20 years' service. It was still called the Queen's award as most of the service was during her reign! At the same event, the team from Chipping Norton were delighted to receive the **Fire Station of the Year Award** (see picture). Awards were presented by Oxfordshire's Lord Lieutenant, Marjorie Glasgow. Rob MacDougall, Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Fire Officer, said, 'To preside over the awards evening is a real privilege. The County Council's community safety teams are here to protect our communities, reduce harm and save lives. It is impossible to walk away from the night without an overwhelming feeling of pride and gratitude'.



*Chipping Norton wins Fire Station of the Year. Pictured are Rob MacDougall (Chief Fire Officer) – top left – with Dave Cuthbert, James Smith, Sam Cleaver, Clare Jarratt, Harvey O'Brien*

## Keep Chippy Beautiful

**How can we get everyone – from citizens and visitors, to our local councils and businesses – to join together to ‘Keep Chippy Beautiful’?**

**Let’s all Keep Chippy Beautiful** – Our Annual Town Meeting in March saw scores of people raise issues – from bins, litter, and graffiti to empty shop fronts, street furniture, potholes, overgrown pavements, rusty out of date broken signage and more. Chipping Norton Town Council were listening – and in April, with a proposal put by Cllr Steve Akers, Mayor Sandra Coleman and Councillors launched a town-wide initiative called KEEP CHIPPY BEAUTIFUL. Our volunteer Town Councillors want everybody joining in – and watch out for some ‘big clean up’ events that can make a difference. The Mayor would like your ideas as well – perhaps with another Town Hall meeting. To get involved or with ideas see [www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/keep-chippy-beautiful](http://www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/keep-chippy-beautiful), call 01608 642341 or chat to any of our town councillors.



**Being proud of the Town** – To make our town the best for residents and visitors there’s much more we can do ourselves, but it needs more commitment and money from other bodies – notably West Oxfordshire District and Oxfordshire County Councils who are responsible for everything from bins and cleaning to roads and pavements. There’s much more to do – visitor signage, information and facilities, safer roads and pavements, helping independent businesses, CCTV reducing shoplifting and antisocial behaviour, attracting new businesses, better community advice, maybe a banking hub, sorting parking, and supporting and promoting more outdoor markets. WODC are putting ideas together to improve our market towns – and there are some limited central Government ‘Prosperity Funds’ to help. Tell your ideas to our Town and three District Councillors (Cllrs Poole, Saul and Walker) and see [www.westoxon.gov.uk/spf](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/spf)



OCC – ‘Levelling up’ needed! Bodged tarmac job. Why not a raised green bed?



Royal Mail – can we clean and paint your filthy post box for you?



WODC – unsightly litter and bins – action from UBICO and public?

### We can do better!

**All these were spotted on a quick walk round town**



WODC – shameful street name signs (over 30 round town), where’s the pride?



WODC – Useless signage – CAB, VIC & One-stop-shop closed years back. How about signs to The Lido and the Recreation Ground and decent maps in car parks?



OCC – blocked drains and flooding surges down New Street (+London Road and more)



OCC – neck-breaking potholes, this one outside the Town Hall.



Restorative justice needed – not all graffiti is public art!

## Our new Town Council

**Chipping Norton Town Council started a new 4-year term with its formal 'Annual Council Meeting' on 15 May – with all 14 candidates who had put themselves forward for election becoming councillors without a vote, leaving two vacancies still unfilled.**

**Mayor, Deputy and new Committees** – In front of public and invited guests in the Upper Town Hall, Cllr Sandra Coleman was re-elected as Mayor, with Cllr Steve Akers as her Deputy. In the meeting, the Mayor thanked everyone for their support and looked forward to working with eight new councillors who had volunteered to serve the Town – joining the six who had stood again. Members signed up to Committees, and formally approved standing orders and regulations. The May Chippy News included all the profiles, but see [www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk) for names and contact details. You can email individual councillors directly.



*Mayor, Deputy, and Town Councillors*

**A busy year ahead** – The Council starts the year with a full action plan already on the table. There are major projects on Town Hall and Pool Meadow restoration, Recreation Play Area upgrades, Cemetery work and Grants for local bodies. But there is also much attention on East Chipping Norton, WODC's new Local Plan, new action on Air Pollution, town traffic/cycling and safety, town centre improvements, and more – with an important role to influence, and work with, both County and District Authorities.

**Significant budget spending** – This financial year (2023/24) Town Councillors will be managing the spending of nearly £800,000. Roughly £440,000 is for normal items covered largely by our Council Tax, but a further £350,000 could be spent from Council's reserves that have been saved over several years. Major spending on Town Hall restoration accounts for much of this. Reserves are still healthy (and there's no Council Tax rise for us this year), and in fact the Council will have underspent in the financial year just ended.

**Engaging with the Community** – Our Town Council has always taken a role in supporting town events, festivals, and community projects. A strong recent priority has been better use of the Town Hall and communication through social media, newsletters, and monthly surgeries. One aim, particularly with new councillors from the wider community, is to get the public more engaged in town activities and the Council's work. Public are welcome at Council meetings – held each month dealing with different issues. See [www.chippingnorton-tc.org.uk](http://www.chippingnorton-tc.org.uk) for the calendar (and our diary on page 36), Council contacts and news.

**Still time to join the Council!** – There remain two vacancies for volunteer Town Councillors – with only 14 so far. The Council needs to try and co-opt members. If you want to make a difference, meet criteria and have something to offer, find out more from [chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/town-council-vacancies](http://chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/town-council-vacancies) and send an application by Monday 12 June. Feel free to chat to our Town Clerk or Mayor.

**Apply for Community Grants** – It's time to ask for a Town Grant! The Town Council has around £28,000 to award this year (2023/4) for local not-for-profit organisations. The 'Community Grants' (previously called Grants to Voluntary Bodies) this year will be awarded in two 'tranches' by the Finance Committee at their meetings on 17 July 2023 and then 5 February 2024. For the first, you must get your application in by 3 July to The Guildhall. The Town Council's new policy says that Grants will be limited to £2000 for projects, activities or

running costs, but you must demonstrate 'improved physical, mental, emotional health, and environmental or economic outcomes', and direct positive impact for Chipping Norton residents. You must have a bank account and constitution, such as for a charity, club or similar community body. Full details and application forms at [www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk) or via the Guildhall. Call 01608 642341.

## Thanks to retiring Councillors

**At the final meeting of the last Town Council in April, Mayor Coleman acknowledged contributions of eight Councillors standing down. Councillors offer their time free and many work hard to give valuable service to the Town**

**Chris Butterworth**, the longest serving Town Councillor



standing down, was elected in 2007 after retiring from teaching in Radley, moving with his wife Sue to Chippy in 2004. Chris was 'new' to Chippy but in fact his great-great-grandfather had been manager of the Bliss Mills and the first president of the Chipping

Norton Co-op Society in 1866! Chris served as Deputy then Mayor, led the work on the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan, and did sterling committee work including on Finance, Planning and Town Hall Committees. On a lighter note, many remember Chris's dogged campaign to get our post boxes repainted (we need that again!) and his magnificent appearance in full Mayoral regalia riding on a camel at the Christmas shopping evening.

Next longest service was from **David Heyes** leaving after 12 years, which included determined work recently on the Town Council's vision for East Chipping Norton. The Mayor also mentioned recent councillor, **Georgia Mazower** for her work as Mayor, with particular attention to brightening up the town centre, and **Rizvana Poole**, who has led the Chippy Larder, worked hard on help for the vulnerable & young people, and continues to represent us as a District Councillor.

## More pizzas arriving in Chippy



It looks like **Domino's** pizza business is coming to Chipping Norton. A

planning application was filed on behalf of the UK's Domino Pizza company to set up in the old Kopyrite premises in the Worcester Road trading estate. WODC have approved the change of use to a 'food preparation and delivery unit', with both



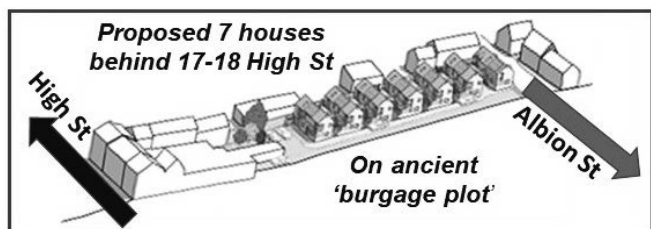
full and part-time jobs on offer. NB: this does not appear to be a retail or 'collect' store. The leading global brand (now called just Domino's because they do more than pizzas) was started in Michigan in 1960 – and currently has over 15,000 stores worldwide. The UK 'Master Franchise' is in fact contracted to a separate UK-quoted FTSE 250 company, Domino Pizza Group Ltd, who then set up franchise outlets regionally. There are local collect and delivery stores in Banbury, Witney, Oxford, Bicester and Kidlington – but, as yet, no deliveries for Chippy.

This will all mean more local competition, including for our two current pizza joints – **Mario's Pizza** in Middle Row and **Express Kebab and Pizza** in Horsefair, both of which do collections and deliveries. Domino's have always done delivery – and pioneered the use of phone Apps very early taking a market lead. Recently they've had extra competition from specialist companies such as **Deliveroo** and **Just Eat**. Watch out for Chippy Pizza Wars from the Domino effect!

### ... or more fish & chips!

Never mind the pizzas, having started mid-May and visiting every fortnight, a new fish and chip van has come to town and tours around lots of stops in various Chippy streets. Howe & Co 66 Frankly Fish & Chips do regular trips to different local towns, and in Chippy have started with stops in the west end of town in places such as Hailey Road, Walterbush Road and Cotswold Crescent. For latest times and more, see [www.facebook.com/howeandco66](http://www.facebook.com/howeandco66).

## Seven homes behind Boots?



One of the last historic burgage plots, behind Chipping Norton's High Street, could be redeveloped if a recent planning application by developer Wychwood Homes is approved. The mediaeval plots originally ran all along the High Street properties, extending right up to Albion Street and were used for a variety of mainly commercial purposes. Many have now been lost to development, including the Co-op store and, more recently, the soon-to-be-opened cinema. This

one – behind 17–18 High Street (the shop is occupied by Boots Chemist) – is next door to White Hart Mews developed some 20 years ago behind the former coaching inn.

The proposal is for seven, two-storey, two-bedroom homes, each with a parking space, arranged in a terrace climbing the slope (see picture). Access would be from Albion Street. The applicant says that the plan has been amended from a 2021 pre-application draft which had proposed 10 properties including three-storeys. The Design and Access statement suggests this change was partly to meet concerns raised by a Design and Conservation Officer. Chipping Norton Town Council has formally objected to the planning application, being concerned about overdevelopment, traffic congestion along Albion Street and water runoff through the site. If approved, this would leave only two historic burgage plots undeveloped – either side of the 'Ropewalk' alley alongside Gill's hardware store. The plots, along with the associated High St shops, are still locally owned. WODC will determine this latest application in due course.

## Chippy Yarn Bomber casts off

For twenty years, whenever Chipping Norton has had a special event, the town centre has been decorated with colourful bunting and woolly panels, knitted and crocheted solely and anonymously by the Town's unofficial Yarn Bomber. She has recently told the *Chippy News* that the time has now come to step down. She sincerely hopes this will be



picked up by another person or organisation. Thousands of woolly flowers, hearts and a variety of flags, spiders, butterflies, bees and bookworms have been put in prominent places at appropriate times of each year. These Town events include the ChipLitFest, Remembrance Day (with those beautiful poppies in red and purple) and various Royal celebrations. And let's not forget St Valentine's Day with hearts all over the Town. The Lawrence Home Nursing Team, the NHS, Dementia Awareness and other organisations have had their causes highlighted by her eye-catching designs. Everyone agrees that our Yarn Bomber's work definitely brightens up the Town. If you think you can help, please contact the *Chipping Norton News* who will forward your email or letter to her. She has an attic somewhere in Town with bags full of yarn bombing that will be donated to you for your displays!

## Yoga summer school returns

Yoga Summer School has been running for nearly 30 years at Tiddy Hall, Ascot under Wychwood on Wednesday evenings 7–8.30pm. Starting on 26 July, running for six weeks until 30 August, it's an opportunity to explore different styles of yoga teachings from very experienced and knowledgeable teachers in the area during the summer holidays with Nikki Jackson of Yoga Focus in Chipping Norton. For information contact Nikki on [admin@yogafocus.co.uk](mailto:admin@yogafocus.co.uk)



## Blossom Day stays fine!

April 22 and 24 saw rainy days but, sandwiched between, 23 April was dry and sunny for Blossom Day. Chipping Norton's



Community Orchard sported pear and plum blossom but the delicate pink from the apples was only just peeping. The first poetic entry in the Visitor's Book says, 'The trees were



coming into leaf and flower like something almost being said.' A goodly crowd enjoyed music from the St Andrew's Players and children sported flowery headdresses as they hung ribbons on the trees. Phil with pole lathe and Jim with hand-made walking sticks added a rural flavour and Mayor Sandra Coleman wrote of 'events that celebrate our history and natural environment'. Scrumptious refreshments literally added the icing on the cake. Watch out for Blossom Day in May next year – royal events permitting – and Apple Day this year will be 24 September.

**Heather Leonard**, Orchard Group

## Quiet Woman diner approved

A planning application to return The Quiet Woman Antiques Centre on the A44 at Southcombe to the hospitality business has been approved by West Oxfordshire District Council. Bamford Property Ltd aim to convert the building to a restaurant. Plans include eating space for 44 people, two outdoor terraces, a small shop, small first floor event or meeting room, and parking for up to 32 vehicles. The floor

plan suggests a 'diner-style' experience – referred to in the planning application as 'Southcombe Restaurant'. Timing is not yet known. The Quiet Woman began trading as a public house around 1870 – acquiring its name supposedly because the publican's wife refused to speak to customers! The original stone building was demolished in 1959, and a replacement building became a Happy Easter in the 1970s and 80s.

## Ascott Martyrs – 150 years

June sees exhibitions and talks across Oxfordshire with a story unfolding relayed on Facebook – in celebrations marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Chipping Norton Incident' that saw 16 women (two with babies), protesting about their men's low wages, imprisoned with hard labour in Oxford Gaol in the spring of 1873. Here are some highlights.



**Anniversary Conference** Friday 16 June at FarmED near Ascott-under-Wychwood. For further information and tickets see <https://eur.cvent.me/7q3dR>. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to school students via their history teacher. More information at [www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk) or call 01608 811370.

**Free Family/Local History Afternoon** Saturday 17 June, 1.30–2.30pm – Tiddy Hall, Ascott-under-Wychwood. Learn more about tracing your family history. View the amazing 11-metre Martyrs Family Tree with more than 2,500 names. Meet Beverley McCombs, author of *The Ascott Martyrs*. Discover more about resources such as the Oxfordshire Family History Society, Ancestry and FindMyPast websites, and the Wychwoods Local History Society. Bring your old photographs along to share. Tea/coffee/biscuits available. A free Martyrs pin badge for the first 50 Martyrs' descendants. All welcome.

**Three Acres and a Cow** – Saturday 24 June, 7pm in Tiddy Hall. Nationally acclaimed touring show is part 'TED talk', part folk club sing-along, featuring additional material to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Martyrs. Bar, raffle and onsite parking. Tickets (subsidised by the Trust) £10 in advance, £12 on the door. Tickets [www.wegotickets.com/event/568374](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/568374) or email [ascottmartyrsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ascottmartyrsinfo@gmail.com).

**An English village Sunday afternoon** – Sunday 25 June. Cricket match: Ascott under Wychwood XI – representing Martyrs and including some descendants, versus the Establishment XI, a team representing the landowners and the

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government. Visit the Parish Church: Martyrs and their families were baptised, married and eventually buried here, and see the magnificent commemorative textile. Tea and cake 3–5pm. Village trail leaflet to explore the Martyrs' story.

See [www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk) for all details – thanks to the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust.

## Roll up for a 'seedling social'!

If you haven't tried it, why not think of getting a town allotment – for a healthier life, fresh food, enjoyment and a chance to meet some fellow enthusiasts for a chat? The Town's main allotments alongside Chipping Norton School and Glyme Lane, are run by the William Fowler Trust charity and can be rented annually very cheaply. One allotment user, Natascha Cavers, sent the News an update from their first



'seedling social' of the season on Coronation Bank Holiday 8 May (pictured). These events are very popular round the nation's allotments – all about sharing and socialising. Natascha reported a 'fantastic turnout, despite the drizzly weather, for the first Allotment Seedling Social. New acquaintances made and tips exchanged over free tea and coffee. We saw a large variety of seedlings to swap, from broad beans and broccoli to raspberry canes and strawberries, as well as flowers and some unusual varieties such as the luffa.' Pictured are some of the participants. If you are interested in having an allotment plot, contact Chipping Norton Town Council at the Guildhall. The Councillors act as Trustees of the charity.

## Caravan site Appeal allowed

A long-awaited decision has been made about the small residential caravan site that was established in late 2020 along the Over Norton Road – just inside the parish of Over Norton at the edge of Chipping Norton. The site owner had set up hard standing and caravans for four gypsy or traveller families, who had sought local space away from the overcrowded Beeches site on the Old London Road. A planning application for the caravans was refused by WODC in April 2021 and an Enforcement Notice was served. Tyson Shepherd, owner and member of the one of the families, appealed against the refusal and the Enforcement Notice, and an Informal Hearing was held earlier this year. The reasons for refusal had cited environmental concerns, including an impact on Over Norton conservation area, but the Inspector found these were not significant, because of the secluded valley location. During the Appeal process, references were also made to WODC's lack of five-year land supply, and lack of suitable other local traveller or gypsy sites. The Inspector

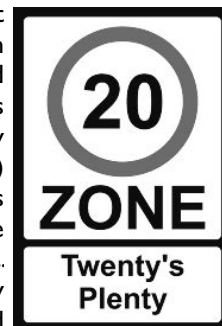
concluded that the proposal did not conflict with the overall Development Plan for the area and granted planning permission subject to conditions.

## Slow progress on traffic plans

April's Traffic Advisory Committee heard an update on Chipping Norton's road safety and transport issues. Fifteen months ago, the County Council's transport Cabinet Member Duncan Enright heard a large Town Hall audience of Chippy residents raise longstanding concerns about HGVs, pedestrian safety (after a tragic fatality at the top of New Street), speeding and more. So how is progress?

**Dangerous crossings:** County officers have apparently assessed improvements for the top of New Street but 'pressures on staff' meant further work was unlikely this financial year, so any implementation would at earliest be 2024/5. Work on an agreed scheme for the Albion St/London Road junction is progressing to costings. We are third on OCC's list of such works for this year. Fingers crossed!

**Town 20 and 30mph speed limits:** It is hoped that the agreed 20mph town schemes for Chippy, Woodstock and Enstone will be implemented later this financial year (2023/4). Plans are ready for using a Speed Indicating Device (SID) on Churchill Road but councillors agreed to check that local residents are happy with proposed locations first. These SIDs (such as the one already down New Street) can in fact be moved around town. Meanwhile, committee members want the '30' roundels on road surfaces to be maintained better – apparently OCC are 'working around the District', currently in Witney.



**HGVs and the A44:** Any long-awaited relief from heavy traffic through town (the Air Quality Action Plan is now 15 years old), is now awaiting new 'Area/Corridor' plans being looked at for the County's main freight routes. Consultants' proposals on these plans were expected by the end of April but are apparently behind schedule. The associated report on weight restrictions was scheduled for the end of May. Chippy's

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local HGV working group has to await all these plans. Meanwhile WODC are working on a new Air Quality Plan (see later article).

**Use our buses!** Since this meeting, the Government has now announced that the temporary post-Covid '£2 maximum' single fares will be extended to the end of October and £2.50 after that. . Passenger loads are at 85% of pre-Covid – but only at 75% for concessionary users. Come on free bus-pass holders – use our buses! There are also Section 106 agreements proposing possible new transport schemes in the pipeline.

**Cycling and walking:** The Town Council is keen to pursue short term ideas with schools to increase confidence and take up of cycling. Watch out for an autumn Walk to School week, with, it is hoped, schools taking part. It is also hoped that the new cycle repair stands will have been installed by the end of May outside Nash's Bakery on the High Street and at the Leisure Centre, demonstrating the Town Council's commitment to encouraging more cycling – more information in the next issue.

## Chippy parking chaos ahead?



The sun is shining, visitors are coming, Diddy Squat's back in action – so are we heading for another summer of parking woes in Chipping Norton? In busy times, motorists drive in circles waiting for parking in New Street and Market Place. Walking and buses are encouraged, but most visitors to our rural town will rely on cars. But watch out – our parking supremo Councils could be on the march with tougher enforcement.

**OCC taking over** – First, from 1 April Oxfordshire County Council took over the policing of our street parking (including Market Place). West Oxfordshire District Council did it before, but enforcement officer visits were infrequent. Occasional penalty notices punished 'overstaying' 30-minute limits and 'yellow line' High Street infringements. But WODC's officers didn't hang around long enough to clock the two-hour limits in the main Market Place. That encourages all day parking and less spare space. The County Council may well get tougher – and are also now introducing meter parking and residents permits costing over £100 a year for nearby Woodstock streets. One rumour (apparently spread by a District parking officer), suggesting the County might do this in Chippy was fended off by OCC's Press Office telling the News 'Currently there are no plans to introduce initiatives such as controlled parking zones or more on-street parking charges to Chipping Norton'. Well not 'currently' anyway!

**Car park 'free for all'** – Second, tightening up on-street parking will make even more visitors head for Albion St and New St long-term free car parks, still owned and run by

WODC (who say they still believe in free parking). But both car parks are often quickly filled. They also used by 'commuters' using buses to Oxford, as well as by nearby town residents with no other convenient parking. There is in fact a 12-hour limit (and WODC could well reduce that) but for years, WODC has not enforced this – partly, it seems, through some kind of informal 'concession' to local residents. The News asked Chippy's Councillor Geoff Saul about all this. He is fact both a County and District Councillor keeping an eye on it all. He told the News he would resist any action by WODC to penalise residents for overstaying time limits. So prepare for things just to get worse this summer ... and watch out when our new Cinema opens ... and a boutique hotel and The Branch Hub on lower Market Place!

## Can you help Thrive North Ox?



Local Chipping Norton charity Thrive North Ox was set up in 2016 by a local group after learning about the extent of local



hidden poverty. A team of Fundraising to support children in North Oxfordshire six, all volunteers, have [www.thrive-northox.co.uk](http://www.thrive-northox.co.uk) Registered Charity Number 1175353 been doing some significant work, including through Covid and now the cost of living crisis – to offer emergency help to local children and teenagers living in the OX7 area. Thrive works directly to help with desperate needs, taking referrals about children from professionals such as health visitors, school pupil support advisors and social workers. Thrive has

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helped with things such as buying school uniform, shoes, beds, mattresses, toiletries, swimming lessons, a food voucher, new baby items, or help towards funding a school trip. However, the need can be as simple as not being able to afford a new pencil case or water bottle for school. Organiser Andrea Ratcliffe explained that they rely solely on donations and grants to keep them going – including from many people and organisations in Chipping Norton and the Town Council. Leading the way for the past seven years, with Thrive as their charity partner, has been Midcounties Co-op. Andrea said, ‘a massive thanks to all the management and staff who have been exceptional in providing grants, groceries for fundraising baking, donations, amazing hampers (special thanks to Kristel!) and PR opportunities in their community area to spread the word about our work in the community.’ But now it’s time for the Co-op to find another lead partner – and Andrea and the team would love new support – perhaps the owner or manager of a local business would like to adopt Thrive North Ox as their fundraising charity partner – or individuals could take on a fundraising challenge. Contact Andrea and colleagues at [contact@thrive-northox.co.uk](mailto:contact@thrive-northox.co.uk). To find out more or to donate to make a difference for a local child in need – see [www.thrive-northox.co.uk](http://www.thrive-northox.co.uk).

### Talking grief at Jaffé & Neale



After a sell-out appearance at Chip Lit Fest, local author Lizzie Pickering will be at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop on 29 June at 7pm for the Chippy launch of her book, *When Grief equals Love, Long-term Perspectives on Grief*. Tickets are free, available via the shop’s Eventbrite page – to stay in the know, go to [lizziepickering.com](http://lizziepickering.com). As well as being an author, Lizzie is a speaker, grief investigator, film

and podcast producer. When her young son Harry died in 2000, she set out on a journey to understand how she could survive her grief and learn to live with it. In *When Grief Equals Love*, she details the lessons she’s learned from her own experiences and those of others, who share their thoughts in this moving and tender book. Lizzie opens her diaries, written in the early years after Harry’s death, revealing her observations on the grief of his siblings and family, what helped and what hurt. Revisiting those diaries, she reflects on time passing, and what has changed for her and her family since. She includes interviews with bereaved friends, who share their own insights, and she provides a toolkit based on what has helped her and what she recommends to those she now helps with grief guidance. The book is hopefully helpful for those going through grief and anyone who might need to support them. There are no easy answers, but nobody should have to cope alone.

### Bingo buzz in Town Hall

Get ready to shout ‘Bingo!’ and show off your daubing skills for a great cause. The Chipping Norton Business Buzz networking group is inviting everyone to their charity bingo night on Tuesday, 27 June at Chipping Norton Town Hall. Eyes down at 7! The event isn’t just for the regular business

networkers – it’s for everyone in Chippy to come and join in! Lisa-Marie from Business Buzz said, ‘Help us as we rally to support our local Helen & Douglas House children’s hospice. For £8 per person, you’ll have a ball with all the games as you compete for prizes.’ Thanks to the support of Bloxham Mill, Azets Accountancy, and Akoca SEO, the team hope the event will be a smashing success. Their sponsorship means more funds for the Hospice and more chances for you to win! Mark your calendars and grab your bingo buddies for a night of laughter and camaraderie. Visit [www.business-buzz.org/Oxfordshire](http://www.business-buzz.org/Oxfordshire) for the details, or email [oxfordshire@business-buzz.org](mailto:oxfordshire@business-buzz.org). Let’s make a difference together.

### OurBus Bartons Ukrainian trips

OurBus Bartons, one of the rural buses run by villagers and provided by West Oxfordshire Community Transport, organised some great trips out in April for our local Ukrainian



Refugee families. But the OurBus team are calling on the Government to focus on ‘forgotten’ rural communities. The OurBus volunteer-run service was set up in 2016 after Middle Barton had its public transport cut – and is still the only operation of its kind in Oxfordshire. OurBus management team chair, Ken Caldwell, said, ‘Asylum seekers receive very little support after their arrival, so we wanted to help. We applied for funds from Community First Oxfordshire to support Ukrainian refugees. We reached out to Asylum Welcome and offered our services. Pretty soon we had potential trips to Windsor Castle and Cotswold Wildlife Park organised. Volunteer Andy Barry offered to take both trips saying, ‘They were both places I went to with my children so knew them well, especially the Windsor trip. It was so good to enable these families who have been through so much to get together in a safe space’.

OurBus Trustees Chair Richard Brown said, ‘we are increasingly alarmed by the unmet needs of the community. We feel forgotten about. Rural communities like ours need urgent support from the Government’.

### ... and OurBus goes electric!

The Bartons OurBus also looks like clocking up a first with the news that, backed by the National Lottery Community Fund, it will be the first community bus of its kind to go electric this Summer! While bigger main bus routes will see 159 new buses this summer, the smaller village service missed out, hence a bid to the National Lottery for help. A ‘Going Green’ campaign was launched in February 2022. Pupils at the Primary School did some great artwork to support the bid –

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and an upgraded proposal asked for two fully accessible electric buses and a new depot. Richard Brown, Chair of Trustees of OurBus Bartons, explained the long and complex process but said it had all been worth it – their bid was accepted and they were awarded the £175,000 they asked for. All hope this will make a big difference to people in Middle Barton and will help protect the environment and strengthen communities. On 7 June the community will celebrate back at the School and receive the cheque.

### Oxfordshire Care Awards



Two Chipping Norton care organisations were pleased to be in the spotlight at the 2023 Annual Oxfordshire Care Awards ceremony in Oxford on 24 April. These Awards recognise and celebrate individuals, organisations and companies who have demonstrated excellence within the care sector in Oxfordshire. Chippy's home-grown care team – Care, Compassion and Conversation Ltd – were Highly Commended for The Care Employer Award for all of Oxfordshire. This award is for the whole organisation and 'acknowledges and celebrates an employer's commitment to care and how this is achieving success in delivering an excellent service'. Pictured are CC&C's Hannah Guy with support worker Karen Murgatroyd at the ceremony. Hannah told the News, 'We would like to say a huge thank you to all our fantastic team members and lovely clients, past and present! We wouldn't be the company we are today without all of you'.

The Long-Term Service Award winners were Susan Vivier and Sandra Stowe from Chippy's Beech Haven Care Home,

recognising the 'long-term outstanding contribution to a Care organisation (minimum service period ten years), who has passionately made a significant difference to the organisation'. The Awards bring together unpaid carers, the community/voluntary sector, and statutory and independent care providers. The awards are hosted by Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP), Carers Oxfordshire and Age UK Oxfordshire.

### Town Hall Oxfam Record Fair

It's time! Put Saturday 17 June from 10am to 4pm in the diary. Everyone at Chipping Norton's Oxfam Bookshop is getting excited about their second Record Fair. With the Oxfam Team's own stall and 15 local record traders crowding the Town Hall with their stalls, there will be treasures to be found and perhaps bargains to be had for anyone interested in



*Oxfam volunteer Dave, pictured recently with just some of Chippy Oxfam's fabulous selection of vinyl*

recorded music of all types. There will be vinyl in abundance as well as CDs, sheet music and music books. There will also be refreshments in the Lower Town Hall. Entry is free so come along and enjoy the hunt. If you have any vinyl records lurking in the attic please think about donating them either before or after the event – call in at the Oxfam Bookshop in West Street anytime it is open for a chat. For further information contact Dave, [oxfamshopf3734@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:oxfamshopf3734@oxfam.org.uk).

**Liz Atkins**

### Plans for a greener town centre?

Could there be some more radical and much more sustainable solutions for our town centre currently full of cars, heavy traffic, air pollution and noise? WODC have had an 'Air Quality Action Plan for 15 years (AQAP) – its main 'solution' was to divert HGVs and heavy traffic – but it was never funded properly by the County Council. The District Council has a legal responsibility to make something happen – so, alongside the HGV A44 Corridor work (see earlier article), WODC and their consultants are now working on a new updated AQAP with other wider actions to stop town centre air pollution. New Government guidance is holding local councils more accountable for action, so WODC have taken up the challenge. Chippy Town and District Councillors are involved – with public consultation on a new plan in the summer. As well as action on main road traffic, this might include more parking – but perhaps it could be at the edge of town? Maybe we could have a greener, more open Market Place, better junctions and crossings, more community space

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and activity, less pollution – and a nicer place for visitors to join the fun! Money and commitment will be needed. WODC should have a Plan for consultation in the summer.

## Mentoring for young people

Could you or your business help young people with mental health problems – by providing some funding for 1–1 mentoring sessions for them? Got2B is the Community Interest Company that is helping with mentoring and youth activities for young people in West Oxfordshire including in Chipping Norton. Waiting

times for mental health help for young people, via the NHS, have increased in the past few years, with referrals doubling since the pandemic. Got2B have qualified youth workers and have been offering Teen Mentoring for some time. The Mentors all are educated to degree-level in either Youth Work or Mental Health and every Got2B staff member has completed a Mental Health First Aid course. Got2B say they can work with those waiting for NHS help and, if needed, are in a position to contact CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) immediately and notify parents to hopefully speed up the CAMHS referral process. For young people who may not be able to access CAMHS and need some short-term intervention, Got2B say their Mentoring service is ideal.

Got2B founder, Marion Harley, wants to open up the mentoring to more families with young people looking for help. It costs around £638 to provide a block of 12 mentoring sessions – families try and make a contribution but usually cannot find more than 25%. So Got2B are fundraising for more sponsorship – which they started during National Mental Health Awareness Week from 15–21 May. If your business can help, then for information and fundraising kits contact Natasha Harris, Events & Fundraising Manager on: 07888 672817 [natasha@got2b.org.uk](mailto:natasha@got2b.org.uk).

## Long Compton events in June

Long Compton looks forward to welcoming everyone to a range of events on Saturday 24 June. The Village Fete is from 2–5pm and includes an RAF flypast from a Spitfire and a Hurricane. In the Chapel in Butlers Lane at 11am, a 'Go Flower Arranging' challenge has the theme of 'A Summer Garden'. There's an 'All My Own Work' art competition with anything artistic to do with Long Compton from 11am (Two Categories – Primary School and Adult), and a Car Boot Sale 1–5pm. Then on Friday 30 June there is a Shipston Proms

event in Long Compton Chapel – 'Mona and the Reverend Doctor' – 300 years of popular music, 7–10.30pm. For all events contact [longcomchapel@hotmail.com](mailto:longcomchapel@hotmail.com).

## No to Hotel holiday homes

In April, a Planning Inspector rejected an Appeal by Chipping Norton's Cotswold Hotel & Spa owner Glucka Wijesuriya, who wanted to build 73 holiday homes on land next to the current site near Southcombe. WODC had refused outline planning permission in June 2020 – citing threats to biodiversity, drainage and flood issues and impact on the Glyme Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest. After hearing the Appeal, the Inspector, Helen O'Connor, acknowledged that some of these concerns had been addressed by the Appellant but, agreeing with continued issues raised by the BBOWT (Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust), she said the SSSI impact remained a major reason for refusal. The Applicant had made a strong case that there would be a positive impact on the local economy, and on the viability of the existing Hotel and Golf business. However, the Inspector said development at this particular site, extending into the countryside, was harmful to the character of the area and not appropriate. It was not in line with the overall Development Plan.

## Chippy's eco-friendly paint shop

It's time to paint the town green! In another boost for Chipping Norton's High Street, local painter and decorator, Dale Hanbury, is opening a new shop. Cotswold Paint and



Paper will be located in the long-empty former takeaway food shop at 2 Horsefair, next door to Café Le Raj. Local resident Dale's thriving business has seen him focusing on painting and decorating period homes in the area. Fed up with traipsing to stockists in Witney and Banbury for specialist paints, and encouraged by his customers, Dale identified a gap in the market for a new DIY shop in town. According to Dale, who moved to Chippy from Cheltenham two and a half years ago, this will be a 'one-stop shop for all your decorating needs'.

Stocking heritage paints along with all the tools of the trade, Dale is determined to keep things eco-friendly and says he will only sell water-based paints which, as well as being more environmentally friendly, are more suitable than vinyl-based paints for older houses. And he plans to keep things as plastic-free as possible, selling lambswool rollers and natural bristle brushes. As part of his family-run business, Dale is also offering a spot for a startup interior designer in the shop – anyone interested can get in touch with him on 07376 236028 or via [Cotswoldppltd@yahoo.com](mailto:Cotswoldppltd@yahoo.com). Dale hopes the shop will be open by the end of June, 7am–6pm Monday to Saturday and 10am–4pm on Sundays. Anyone wanting to talk decorating will be welcome to pop into the shop for a coffee and a chat.

[www.cotswoldpaintandpaper.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldpaintandpaper.co.uk)

## Library's historic photo

Sally Moore, who runs Chipping Norton's Library, recently received an email from The Oxfordshire History Centre with this photograph of the Library on its opening day, on 9 March 1956 – linked with an *Oxford Times* article covering the event.



Sally asks, 'does anyone recognise any of the group? From left to right: Miss Stanley Smith, Mr G G Burkitt (Clerk to the Oxfordshire County Council), Lady Susan Tweedsmuir, Mr. J Patrick Early (Chairman of the County Library Board), Lady Hills (M R Ashton), Roger Lancelyn Green and Cllr Mrs C King (Mayor of Chipping Norton). The Oxfordshire History Centre has made available historic images of Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley in the Picture Oxon online image library. You can help Picture Oxon by donating images or providing information'. The original Packer photograph is online at Picture Oxon [heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk /images/POX0188769](https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk/images/POX0188769). Pick up a Picture Oxon information leaflet in the local studies area of the Library!

## Join Chippy Pride on 1 July

Chipping Norton Town Council, in association with Got2B Youth Group, are proud to be hosting the very first Chippy Pride event on Saturday 1 July in the Town Hall. The Council's



Events officer, Tania Kirby, said 'the whole community are invited to promote the inclusive nature of our community and join in painting the Town with the LGBTQ Rainbow'. Pride Month in the UK is throughout June, with the Chippy final event on 1 July. Connect with #ChippyHasPride 2023. If you would like to be involved in this event, please get in contact using the form via [www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk).

## Farmers' Market disappears

Chipping Norton users of the monthly Farmers' Market – normally run on the third Saturday of the month – found no stalls there in May despite the organiser's website (Thames Valley Farmers' Markets) still listing it. It had dwindled to a single stall recently. After a query from a customer – TVFM said that, apparently, they had suspended the market for the moment because of the 'works in the town' (the building project at the old NatWest Bank which is blocking some of the Market Place). In fact our regular Wednesday Market is still operating in the reduced space – albeit with fewer stalls. TVFM say the Market will resume in the future, but there is no definite plan.

Meanwhile, West Oxfordshire District Council (who are responsible for licences for markets and street trading and who are meant to promote and organise the weekly Wednesday market) – are paying for a short study on the future of all the outdoor markets in Chipping Norton and their other market towns. Results and recommendations are awaited.

## Your chance to be a Pippin!

Chipping Norton Theatre are on the look out for their next group of budding young actors to join this year's Pantomime, *Cinderella*! As a Pippin you get to experience working with professional actors and creative teams, appearing in over 30 performances with the support of an amazing chaperone team. It wouldn't be Chippy Panto without the Pippins! Auditions are for 9–15 year olds, to include some games, acting, singing and dancing on Tuesday 27 and Friday 30 June from 4–7pm at the Theatre. To sign up for an audition, please call the Box Office on 01608 642350



## Theatre's community grant

Chipping Norton Theatre, particularly through Covid and the recent cost of living crisis, has stepped up its community work – particularly for families struggling with low incomes and children on free school meals. Part of this has also given The Theatre a chance to welcome local people who may not have been inside The Theatre before, for activities, workshops, films and free lunches. 2022/23 has already seen them give 45 free holiday workshop places, free film shows, art packs, bursaries for youth theatre places, and over 9000 free lunches for targeted families. Chipping Norton Town Council and local businesses such as Wise Investments have been offering financial support to help with all of this.

The Theatre's Take Part director, Clare O'Hara, gave the Town Council's Community Committee an enthusiastic presentation earlier this year on what had been achieved and how all this work might be continued for the coming year 2023/24. For the Council's April meeting, Clare set out a written proposal. The core holiday free lunches for local children with family needs will continue – supported by private donors and local companies. But The Theatre wants to do more to get the families involved in cultural activities and

# LOCAL NEWS

break down barriers. This would include: free arts and crafts packs for up to 160 young people, four free family film shows, two free arts and crafts workshops, a family summer fun day up at Cotswold Crescent, and four free taster performance workshops next February half term. The hope is that this can provide life-changing, long-term impact on the confidence, self-esteem, creativity and self-image of some of the most vulnerable young people in Town. The Town Council welcomed the proposal and have awarded a grant of £3120 to the Theatre to support this 2023/24 work. This is from the Council's £28,000 'Community Grants' budget as an exceptional request outside the normal timetable.

## Knitting for the King

A Monday morning in May saw a group of knitters from Chipping Norton Methodist Church finishing off their knitting



in time for the Coronation, as well as knitting scarfs, hats and baby clothes. The group meets once a month and shares ideas, chatter as well as crafting. The next meeting is Monday 12 June from 10am–12 noon. Everyone is welcome. The next

Cuppa and Chat this month will be on Wednesday 7 June, 9.30–11.30am, raising funds for the Lela Initiative.

Elaine Parsons

## Lawrence Team news



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

Open in 2023 to support LHNT are two varied gardens in South Newington. The gardens are opposite one another and are open by appointment, Monday to Saturday, until the end of November. Groups are welcome as well as individuals and families. Refreshments are available and there are plants for sale. Please call Claire Swan to make an appointment, 07711 720135 or email [claire\\_ainley@hotmail.com](mailto:claire_ainley@hotmail.com).

Verity Fifer

See Letters p34 for letter and photo with Jenny Nolan's account of receiving her MBE for services to the Charity, at Windsor Castle in May – Ed

## Katharine House news

Chipping Norton supporters of our local Hospice have some attractive options over the summer. Top of the list must be a visit to the **Open Gardens** – dates and locations all on the main website. Then the **Accumulator Challenge** is back! Do you watch *The Apprentice*, convinced you could do a better job than the candidates? Local businesses, schools and community groups can put their entrepreneurial and fundraising skills to the test by raising the most money from a starting pot of £50. Hurry – there are only 20 places available, so you need to sign up quickly to guarantee your space. Or why not try a **Walking Challenge** this year – either the Thames Path Challenge on 9 September or Halloween Walk on 28 October.

If you fancy fundraising in general you can download a **Supporter Kit** from the website – it's all about organising your own events or campaigns for the Hospice. There's also a new resource centre on the website for End-of-life and Palliative Care (EpiC). Finally, sign up for the **Digital monthly newsletter** for all the latest Hospice news. All at [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk).

## Blocked Ears?



**EAR WAX** can be troublesome and cause sudden loss of hearing, feel uncomfortable and itchy – but it can be easily removed at our clinic in Blockley.

# The Willows

**NORTH COTSWOLDS EAR HYGIENE CENTRE**  
Unit 47, Northwick Business Centre,  
Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 9RF

Book Online: [www.earhygienist.co.uk](http://www.earhygienist.co.uk)  
Or contact Issy today: 01386 701650  
[issy@earhygienist.co.uk](mailto:issy@earhygienist.co.uk)



## Murray Melvin, 1932–2023



Much admired British stage and film actor, Murray Melvin – who made his name in a ground-breaking 1950s play (and later film) *A Taste of Honey* with Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop company in London's East End – has died aged 90. Murray went on to a distinguished career, but for lovers of Chipping Norton's former Salvation Army Citadel Theatre, it was his

lifelong friendship with our Theatre's founder, Tamara Malcolm, and his work and support for Tamara's amazing Chippy adventure, that makes his contribution important for us here. Tamara wrote this for the *Chippy News*:

'Actor, director, archivist, my mentor and my friend – In 1979 Murray was introduced to The Theatre Chipping Norton and myself by Dudley Sutton, both long-time stalwarts from Joan Littlewood. A decade later Murray had directed six pantos and three in-house/touring productions (*Quack Quack*, Dudley Sutton; *Don't Touch Him*, Henry Livings; and *Sweet Liberty*, Jeff Clarke) for Chippy's theatre. He brought style, inspiration, sensitivity and kindness, yet was most demanding of what the best theatre can give; production standards and skills expected of Covent Garden or the Paris Opera were only just good enough for The Theatre Chipping Norton. Our work together enriched all that theatre has to



For Chipping Norton Theatre's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1985, Director Murray Melvin (right) cuts the cake with Mayor Tom Stroud, joined by actor John Hurt and ex-Goodie Graeme Garden – both also keen supporters of the Theatre

give, we worked together as the closest of allies and remained the closest of friends where he played a significant role within my family until his final exit on 14 April. Our last telephone call being a very jolly chat the week before.'

Murray worked with some of the great creatives of his age, including Ken Russell and Stanley Kubrick and in films such as *Alfie*, *The Boy Friend*, *Barry Lyndon*, *The Devils*, and even *The Phantom of the Opera*. But it was that sensitive, sympathetic portrayal as a gay friend of *Taste of Honey*'s single mother (winning him best actor in the Cannes Film Festival playing opposite Rita Tushingham) that made his name – in a role where he said he 'made a difference', adding 'I was gay pride of 1958'. He called Littlewood's Theatre Workshop 'the Trojan Horse that brought modern theatre into Britain'. Murray will be missed by his huge circle of friends and admirers, and remembered fondly in Chipping Norton.

## Maurice Wallington 1937–2023

Maurice passed away at home in Salford just before his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. Born in the village, he lived – except for a short period – his whole life there. A true country gentleman, he was a skilled man who, as well as working, kept a smallholding at Elms Farm. He restored his land, laying hedges and building drystone walls still standing. As a young man he had been a farm labourer – so he kept a variety of animals including rabbits, pigs, sheep and goats, remaining self-sufficient from his garden, orchard and livestock. He knew Oxfordshire's roads and countryside well from his job as a drayman for Mitchell & Butler's Brewery – and later as a Council roadman and snowplough driver.



He and his wife brought up three children – Diane, Sue and James, and when his wife died in 1991 Maurice gave up work to look after James. He could be seen helping, with James, at Chipping Norton Albion Centre's allotment up at Glyme Lane. When Maurice's health deteriorated, James was settled in Chipping Norton and is still a regular at the Albion Centre. Maurice will be sadly missed by all his family. His daughter Sue gave heartfelt thanks to their aunt Josephine who stepped in to care for Maurice until his passing, to Maurice's brother and sister-in-law for their support, and to the Albion Centre staff, Lewis Road staff, and the Care, Compassion & Conversation care workers. Maurice's funeral will be at 2pm on Monday 5 June at Salford Church. Donations for the Albion Centre run by Guideposts Trust charity welcome.

With thanks to Sue Williams (Maurice's daughter)

### What's On

## THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

#### LIVE

Fri 9th June, 7.30pm  
Wed 14th June, 8pm

Sat 17th June, 7.30pm  
Wed 21st June, 7.30pm  
Fri 23rd June, 7.30pm  
Sat 1st July, 7.30pm

#### FILMS

31st May & 1st June  
2nd June  
4th & 8th June  
7th June  
14th June  
18th & 22nd June  
24th & 25th June  
26th June  
29th June  
29th June

#### LIVE FAMILY AND CHILDRENS

3rd June, 2pm & 4pm

#### SCREENINGS

Sun 4th June, 2pm  
Tues 13th June, 7pm  
Fri 16th June, 7pm  
Sun 18th June, 2pm  
Wed 28th June, 7pm  
Sun 2nd July, 2pm

THE UPBEAT BEATLES—£24  
THE EUROPEAN JAZZ QUARTET @ MERRISCOURT—  
£23

BALLET CENTRAL—£18, £15 concs  
SPIERS AND BODEN—£23  
THE MAGIC FLUTE—£20, £16 concs  
ASHLEY HUTCHINGS—£19

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

A CLEVER WOMAN (15) - £8  
DIRTY DANCING WITH PROSECCO—£27 (18+ only)  
GOD'S CHILDREN (15) - Friends 2 for 1/half price  
PREMIERE CINEMA PASS: THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)  
CAIRO CONSPIRACY (15) - £8  
ARE YOU THERE GOD IT'S ME MARGARET (PG)  
THE LITTLE MERMAID (12A)  
RELAXED SCREENING: THE LITTLE MERMAID (12A)  
CINEMA BAMBINO: ARE YOU THERE GOD IT'S ME  
MARGARET (PG)  
THE BLUE CAFTAN (12A) - £8

YOU CHOOSE—£13.50, £11.50 under 16s

NT LIVE: BEST OF ENEMIES (15)  
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE: IL TROVATORE (12A)  
NT LIVE: FLEABAG (15)  
NT LIVE: FLEABAG (15)  
MATTHEW BOURNE'S SLEEPING BEAUTY (12A)  
MATTHEW BOURNE'S SLEEPING BEAUTY (12A)

BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 [www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com)

# AROUND THE TOWN

There was every excuse to have a party – mainly on Coronation Sunday when the weather was a little kinder! The congregation at St Mary's gathered outside Church after morning service and set off for a lunch on the Recreation Ground.

Pop-up street parties around Chipping Norton all got into the mood – with snaps here from The Leys, Church Street, Hill Lawn Court, Shepard Way, Burford Road and finally Lords Piece Road, who braved the rainy elements on the Coronation Day itself. Bravo!

Our care homes also joined in. Over the weekend, residents at Penhurst Gardens had a wonderful time celebrating with friends and family. There was a magnificent feast of English classics – enjoyed while watching the Coronation – followed by fun, games and some memories sparked from 1953. Penhurst's Clarissa Ellis thanked everyone and sent congratulations to the new King and Queen.

Meanwhile at Beech Haven, residents had a party 'fit for a King'. Staff enjoyed watching the King's Coronation with the 123 residents followed by a lovely meal including jacket potatoes with Coronation Chicken, with everyone saying, **'Long live the King!'**



# THE King's Coronation 2023

*THERE WERE PARTIES celebrated the crowning of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. It was like the last time in 1953. We had a good time. Thanks for the photographs – especially for the snaps from the Picnic in*



Gathering at St Mary's Church



Flying the Flag!



Shepard Way's Sumptuous Lunch



Picnic Cakes!



Beech Haven's Coronation feast



Church Street's Party under a car port



Burford Road jollity



A bird's eye view of Hill Lawn Court



St Mary's picnic lunch



Braving the rain in Lords Piece Road



# King's Anniversary 23

*& FUN as Chipping Norton  
celebrates the  
Anniversary of King Charles III  
despite a little damp on the day –  
but Chippy was still up  
and about to everyone for sending  
them all to Pictures by Jude  
at the Town Council's  
Picnic in the Park.*

## PICNIC IN THE PARK

Over 400 people enjoyed a hugely successful Picnic in the Park, hosted by Chipping Norton Town Council down at the New Street Recreation Ground. One big attraction was the pop-up skate park from Rollback World – with skateboarding, scootering and BMXing for all ages.

Performance Gazebo saw young people from around town showcasing their talents. The Theatre team's crown-making was a hit, Tremendously Wild offered outdoor activities and families got the chance to make festival flags with the Dreamer Streamer.

The sun came out to brighten up the family picnics – and no rubbish was left on site!

Mayor Sandra Coleman was thrilled with the turnout – particularly with all the young people who came along to perform and have fun.

A fantastic day for all and a great way to bring the community together.

Thanks to Tania Kirby, the Council's Events Officer for all her hard work – and to all the volunteers who helped, including those at the Villager Shuttle Bus which was used as a safe space for first aid!



Sheila and Sheila at Penhurst Gardens



People at The Leys



# JUNE JOLLITY



## June – fetes, festivals, fayres and gardens

*From open gardens, pony rides and animal petting to bouncy castles, dancing diggers, spitfire flypasts and celebrity guests – there's a whole host of fun around the Chipping Norton area in June. Here are some to try out.*

**Chadlington Beer Festival** – 3 June. Noon–10pm – around the Memorial Hall. Real ales, ciders, wines, gin, soft drinks, jugs of Pimms, BBQ, cake stall & vans. Childrens activities. Adults £15 buys a glass, two tokens and a programme.

**Bledington Fete** – 10 June. 1pm opening with a mystery celebrity guest! Enjoy live music, a dog show, maypole dancing, and grab yourself some plants and cakes to take home. Choose from Pimm's, a visit to the Beer Tent, or the hog roast to refuel.

**Ramsden Summer Fete** – 10 June. Noon to 4pm. Fifty craft and food stalls, adventure playground and a brass band. You'll be spoilt for choice! Grab a Pimm's and watch a Spitfire flypast, or enter your dog in the Pedigree and Novelty show classes. Free parking.

**Holy Trinity School Summer Fete** – 11 June noon–3pm. Everyone welcome at the PTA summer fete. BBQ from noon, bouncy castle, tombola, book sale, traditional games, raffle, local stalls – West End's Jodie Nolan guest singing! London Road, Chipping Norton.

**Churchill Open Gardens** – 11 June. 2–5pm. A dozen gardens all types and sizes. Splendid vistas. Village Hall Tea & cakes. £5 covers all gardens. U14s free – Tickets on the day, in advance at the Tuesday Café, or alternatively email [churchillandsarsdenhall@gmail.com](mailto:churchillandsarsdenhall@gmail.com). Funds to Village Hall.

**St Mary's School summer event** – 16 June 7–9pm. Everyone is welcome to 'Picnic on The Green' hosted by The Friends of St Mary's Primary School in Chipping Norton. Bring your own food, drink, blankets & chairs. Ice cream van. Inflatable slide. Music from The Above Average Weight Band. Cash only tickets at gate £4 adults, £2.50 children. U3s free.

**Daylesford 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival** – 17–18 June. 10am–5pm. Day ticket £25 – Children go free. JCB dancing diggers top the bill, live music, cooking demos and hands-on creative workshops over two days. Add in organic food and drink and some special guests!

**Whichford & Ascott Open Gardens** – 18 June 1.30–5pm. Nine wonderful gardens open in the National Garden Scheme – including Jim & Dominique Keeling's much acclaimed romantic private garden at Whichford Pottery. £7 covers all. Details [findagarden.ngs.org.uk](http://findagarden.ngs.org.uk). Refreshments.

**Long Compton Village Fete** – 24 June. 2–5pm. Another exciting fly past, this time with a Spitfire and Hurricane! So much to see from classic cars and craft stalls to Shipston Town Band, all alongside a cream tea. Family ticket £10 Adults £4 Children over 5yrs £2

**Hook Norton School Fete** – 24 June. 3–6pm. With animals to cuddle from Fairytale Farm, a showcase of children talents and a bouncy castle, you'll want a sit down in the tea tent! £1 entrance, under 12s free.

**Charlbury Beer Festival** – 24 June. Noon–9pm. Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with food, drink and fun and games, plus hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> World Aunt Sally Championship.



**Music at the Crossroads 2023** 30 June–2 July. In its 25<sup>th</sup> year at Hook Norton Brewery, the 'best little festival' sees 2000 people enjoy three days of live music – for mods, rockers, ska and blues fans, country, folk and acousticana and solo singer songwriters! Beer, food, quiet nearby campsite.

**Chippy Pride** 1 July. The Town's first Pride festival event – painting the Town with the LGBTQ rainbow. See article p15 for details – also Town Council and Got2B social media. Connect with #ChippyHasPride2023.

**Other music events** – For information on Bledington Music Festival (6–8 June), Dean & Chadlington Music Festival (30 June–2 July), Adderbury Ensemble and other local concerts see Arts pages ps 21–22).

**Watch out for our double month summer edition (out 26 June) with events into September.**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1.30pm to 5pm

## Whichford & Ascott Open Gardens



Jim & Dominique's much-acclaimed and romantic private garden at the Pottery, together with eight other gardens in Whichford & Ascott, will be open for the National Garden Scheme.

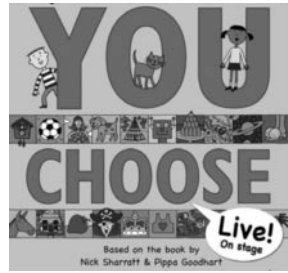
Whichford Pottery, Whichford, Nr. Shipston-on-Stour, Warks, CV36 5PG. Tel: 01608 684416 [www.whichfordpottery.com](http://www.whichfordpottery.com)

# THE ARTS

## The Theatre

### Live shows

**You Choose Stage Show**, 3 June, 2 & 4pm. Age 2+. Based on the much-loved picture book by Pippa Goodhart & Nick Sharratt, Nonsense Room Productions present their new interactive musical show for all the family where YOU CHOOSE what happens. £13.50, £11.50 u16s



**The Upbeat Beatles**, 9 June, 7.30pm. A two-hour tribute show dedicated to the Beatles' entire career from the early days of Beatlemania to the Summer of Love. £24

**The European Jazz Quartet @ Merriscourt**, 14 June, 8pm. Paying homage to the Kings of Jazz, this show features singer and trumpeter Jerome Etcheberry and his quartet. £24

**Ballet Central**, 17 June, 7.30pm. A showcase performance by the renowned Central School of Ballet, including choreography from the likes of Sir Frederick Ashton and Darsha Singh Bhuller, and featuring local performer Dan Chambers (see box). £18, £15 concs

**Spiers and Boden**, 21 June, 7.30pm. The award-winning folk duo best known as part of Bellowhead are back in Chippy as part of their summer tour. £23

**The Magic Flute**, 23 June, 7.30pm. Opera Anywhere's production tells the story of a young man with a passion for reading who discovers a book about a fantastical world in which darkness is defeated by light. £20, £16 concs

### Ballet Boy returns!



Dan Chambers, born and raised in Chippy, is dancing with Ballet Central on 17 June. His first taste of ballet was at Chipping Norton School of Dance aged three, and he went on to join Chippy Theatre's Youth Theatre group, so is no stranger to performing here in the Town. 'Returning to Chippy to perform with Central School of Ballet really is a dream come true,' says Dan. 'It is going to be a very special performance for me, and a way to share my progress and thank all the people who enabled me to fulfil my dream of becoming a dancer.'

## Music and Local Events

**Adderbury Ensemble** – Concerts in Chipping Norton Town Hall at 7.30pm. 1 June: Britten Simple Symphony, Beethoven String Quartet op.18 no.5, Borodin String Quartet no.2. 30 June: Haydn String Quartet op.64 no.6, Dvorak String Quartet op.34. Tickets £15, full time students free. Further information and tickets on 07711 606996; also available on the door – adderburyensemble.co.uk

**Cwmdare Voices** – 5 June 7pm. Welsh Male Voice Choir in Chipping Norton Town Hall. Tickets £7.50 from CN

Methodist Church on Wednesday or Sunday mornings or email martinhannant27@gmail.com. Or buy tickets on the door, cash only. Proceeds shared between CN Methodist Church and Lawrence Home Nursing Team.

**Bledington Music Festival** – 6–8 June, 7.30pm. 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 bledingtonmusicfestival.co.uk or Kingham Stores, Bledington Community Shop, King's Head, Bledington and others.

**The Arts Society Cotswolds** – 14 June 11am. Warwick Hall, Burford, and by Zoom.



David by Donatello

*Donatello and the Sculpture of the Renaissance*, speaker Jo Walton. Born in Florence over 600 years ago, Donatello's sculpture is so powerful that it still speaks directly to us today. He was a pioneer of the Renaissance and helped to change how people viewed the world. The lecture looks at his huge range of sculpture, setting it against the vivid and colourful background of Italian politics during the Renaissance. Visit [theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk](http://theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk) for details and to book.

**Chipping Norton Choral Society** – 17 June 7.30pm. St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton. *Summer Concert: Summer is icumen in – Part Songs and Madrigals*. Perfect entertainment for a summer evening with traditional folk songs, delightful madrigals and well-known part-songs, including works by Elgar, Mozart, Bruckner and Morley. Picnics and Pimms in the churchyard. Conductor: Benedict Goodall. [cnsc.org.uk/future-events/](http://cnsc.org.uk/future-events/)

**Kingham Singers** – 17 June 7pm. Summer concert at All Saints Church, Churchill. Refreshments. Tickets £5 from Linda Sale 01608 658647, Kingham Village Shop and on the door.

**Burford Singers** – 25 June 7.30pm. Church of St John the Baptist, Burford. *The Magic of Mozart: Regina Coeli K276, Horn Concerto No 3, and Requiem*. Cotswold Chamber Orchestra, Leader: Kate Bailey, featuring Ben Goldscheider, Horn. Soprano: Lucy Knight, Mezzo: Angharad Lyddon, Tenor: Peter Martin, Bass: Freddy Long. Conductor: Brian Kay. Tickets reserved at £25, £20, £15, unreserved £10 at [burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/](http://burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/) or in person (unreserved only) at Madhatter Bookshop, Burford, and on the door.

**Dean & Chadlington Music Festival** – 30 June–2 July. Favourite formats, delightful venues and world-class artists make this a summer highlight. Opera for Everyone concert – 30 June (Bruern); Desert Island Discs with Charlie Ross and classical Gala Concert – 1 July (St Mary's Church, CN); Singing Competition, Piano Recital (Kingham Lodge) and Craig Ogden concert (Spelsbury Church) – 2 July. [www.chadlingtonfestival.org.uk](http://www.chadlingtonfestival.org.uk) Box Office Clare Martin [boxoffice@chadlingtonfestival.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@chadlingtonfestival.org.uk)

**Cherwell Choral Society** – 8 July 7.30pm. Deddington Parish Church. *Americana*: featuring the music of Copland, Whittaker and Thompson. Tickets £15 from Hamptons, Deddington, 01295 367441 or at [cherwellchoral.org](http://cherwellchoral.org).

# THE ARTS

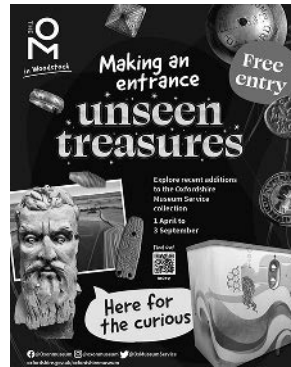
**Come and Sing Day** – 9 July. *Mozart Requiem* in memory of Shauni McGregor 9.15am–5pm, Chipping Norton Town Hall. Celebration concert 7pm, St Mary's Church. Open to anyone who fancies singing the Requiem. The day commemorates the life of local musician Shauni McGregor, and is supported by friends and professional musicians. Conducted by Peter Hunt and Ben Goodall, with accompanist Stewart Taylor. Novello edition of the Requiem (edited by W T Best). Singers are welcome to attend three Wednesday rehearsals with Chipping Norton Choral Society from 7.30–9.30pm in the Town Hall prior to the day, on 21, 28 June and 5 July. See [cnmf.org.uk/concerts](http://cnmf.org.uk/concerts)



**Wychwood Chorale** are celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Rehearsing every Tuesday evening during term time from 7.30 to 9pm, St Nicholas' Church, Chadlington. A friendly, like-minded group, from first-time singers to the more experienced. No auditions, free taster session. Contact Emma on 01608 659737 or [wychwoodchorale.org.uk](http://wychwoodchorale.org.uk). *Anniversary concert* 8 July 7.30pm in St Nicholas' Church, on the theme of Roses. Admission free – audience donations will be split between Bridewell Gardens (the mental health recovery service offering therapeutic work in the gardens) and the Church. Free drinks and nibbles after the concert. The Wychwood Chorale is seeking a Musical Director from September 2023. The ideal candidate should offer stability but also lead and inspire, introducing more a challenging repertoire as appropriate. A good sense of humour is a must, as is a willingness to work with singers with a range of experience. More at [wychwoodchorale.org.uk/workwithus](http://wychwoodchorale.org.uk/workwithus)

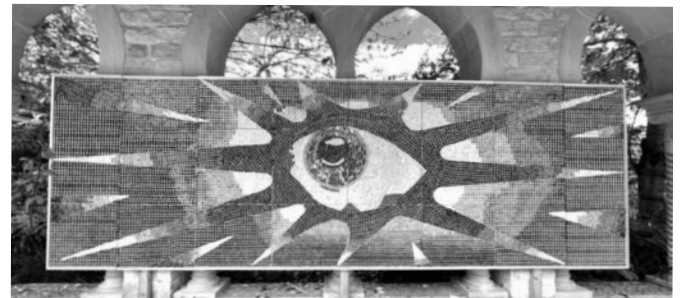


**Fosseway Chamber Orchestra** – Do you play a musical instrument? Would you love to play with others and improve your mental and physical wellbeing? The Orchestra meets Tuesday mornings 9.45 to noon in Stretton on Fosse Village Hall GL56 9QX, playing a wide variety of music. Players are mostly grade 4–7, but anyone who can play four reliable notes is welcome. String players especially welcome. The Fosseway Chamber Orchestra is part of the Shipston u3a. More information from conductor Christine on 07967 423550.



**Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock** – *Making an entrance – unseen treasures* until 3 September. From ancient Roman jewellery to Second World War toys, from neolithic axes to nuclear explosion calculators, this new exhibition – filled with favourite artefacts collected over the past ten years – has it all! Half term fun 30 May–1 June. More information and opening times at [oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiremuseum](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiremuseum)

**Kingham Lodge** – During Artweeks in May, Lord Lieutenant Marjorie Glasgow unveiled John Lennon's *The Psychedelic Eye* to visiting schoolchildren as part of the educational outreach programme of Sculpture at Kingham Lodge. In 1965 this



mosaic, designed by Lennon himself was installed as the end wall of the swimming pool at his mock Tudor mansion in Surrey. It is to be auctioned at Bonhams in November, maybe to pass into private hands, never again to be seen in public.

## Under Chippy Woods

A review of **Under Milk Wood**, by Dylan Thomas, performed at Glyme Hall in April



Narrators Marilyn Steward and Mandy Williams pictured with harpist Rosie Cherry

The original 1953 **Under Milk Wood: a Play for Voices** was written for radio but this visual reading, enhanced by costumes and props, was perfect for an audience. The cast of 14 portrayed the many characters well. Three Welsh ladies in costume, children playing timeless games and lovely but mournful singing from Lizzie Soden as Polly Garter, all

helped create the atmosphere of a day in this small Welsh town of Llareggub (say it backwards!). The three narrators had strong voices and easily tied the various scenes together. My all-time favourites were well-portrayed; Widow Mrs Ogmores Pritchard, her two hen-pecked husbands and the Rev Jenkins, whose daily prayer was read clearly for all to enjoy. The enthusiasm of the cast shone through and I was surprised to learn that, for some, their Welsh accents weren't genuine. DA IAWN, well done to the whole cast and congratulations to Siân O'Neill (pictured right) who acted in, produced and directed this enchanting work. (Kaye Freeman)



# SPORTS NEWS

## Don't forget Chippy's sporting heroes!

Have you sent your nominations in yet for Chipping Norton's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sports Awards? The ceremony will take place on the evening of Friday 7 July 2023 in Chipping Norton Town Hall. All details and how to apply (deadline Friday 16 June) are via [www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk) or email Tania at [events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk)

## Skateboard Park petition

As reported in recent *Chippy News* editions, Chipping Norton Town Councillors have responded positively to presentations and ideas from local youngsters asking for a skateboard or wheeled facility area – to avoid having to go to the nearest suitable places in Charlbury and Moreton. This is a longstanding discussion item in the Town – which has stalled



*Pop-up skatepark enjoyed during the Town's Coronation Party in the Park on 7 May*

in the past both from lack of support and lack of a suitable location. Councillors encouraged the young people to start a petition and encourage fundraising to support the case. You can sign up here. [https://www.change.org/p/build-a-skatepark-in-chipping-norton?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/build-a-skatepark-in-chipping-norton?source_location=search)

Town Councillors have also discussed the idea with WODC colleagues (who lead on leisure and sports facilities), and there are hopes that some form of practical proposal and location may come forward in the near future. The Town Council were discussing this later in May.

## Hook Norton Tennis Club



**The Fun Tournament** on 11 May was won by the organiser, Nick Adams from Adderbury with Gill Smith from Shenington and Lou Ackner from Hook Norton tying in second place. There will be a Singles Tournament on 29 May.

Winter Floodlit League final positions: A team 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 1; B team 7<sup>th</sup> in Division 1; C team 1<sup>st</sup>

in Division 4 and the D team 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 4. The Summer League is now under way.

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.

Group coaching is available for beginners and returners to tennis. New members are welcome – our Club nights are very popular and friendly sessions. Contact Kate, the membership secretary, [khs.shoes@gmail.com](mailto:khs.shoes@gmail.com) or 01608 642774.

Elaine Priestley

## Rugby Club's summer of fun



After our mini Rugby Festival success, when we welcomed local hero Kaleb Cooper to present some of the medals, Wednesday, 7 June sees the return of our popular free weekly summer community Touch Rugby sessions from 6.30–7.30pm. It's non-contact, so all ages and genders can play together making it perfect for after-school fun and fitness for all the family. We are also hoping to organise Walking Rugby for older participants, so we've got summer activity sorted for everyone. On Sunday 20 August we are partnering with Chipping Norton Theatre once again, this time to bring you live outdoor music. Prepare for a party on the pitch as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Queen recreates many of the band's best known and loved hits from Radio Ga Ga to Bohemian Rhapsody. Book your tickets online via Chippy Theatre's website or call their Box Office on 01608 642350. For everything rugby please contact the Club via [chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com](mailto:chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com), check our website and follow us on social media.

Graeme Williamson



*Photo Steve Shelley*

## Vintage Sports-Car Club

Following the Club's recent AGM, the VSCC experienced its own 'coronation' of sorts when we welcomed Simon Blakeney-Edwards to begin his tenure as President.

Shannon Hunt



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# SPORTS NEWS

## Wet start for Cricket season



I am writing these notes before the second week of league cricket which will include a double header local derby for the Club against rivals Charlbury. The wet weather has meant a frustrating start to the season as it's been hard to work on the ground and train.

The first week of the League was washed out! Here's hoping for some better weather and lots of cricket!

*June Home Fixtures:*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Witney Swifts 2<sup>nd</sup> XI
- 10<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Oxford & Bletch 2<sup>nd</sup> XI
- 17<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> XI v Great Tew 1<sup>st</sup> XI
- 24<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Cropredy 3<sup>rd</sup> XI

Graham Beacham

## Kids' Karate in Chippy

Could your children be interested in learning Karate? Oxford Sport and Traditional Martial Arts have been running classes in Chipping Norton for over 12 years. Clare Maden, from OSTMA, holds regular Friday classes at Chipping Norton 4-6.30pm in the Scout Hut up at Greystones in Burford Road. There are currently 45 minute slots in beginners, inter-mediate, and advanced classes. Also sessions at Enstone - Wednesday from 4.30. 'Sensei' Claire, who is a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan and a black belt in Karate and blue belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, works with many children



and is fully qualified, insured and police checked. She told the News, 'children learn confidence, self discipline, anti bullying and stranger-danger skills, and that fitness is fun! If you'd like to get you child active this summer, classes are FREE for 4 weeks!' For latest times and information contact Claire via [cmmartialarts@live.co.uk](mailto:cmmartialarts@live.co.uk) or call 07540 316 188.

## Indoor Hockey's first team challenge



Chippy's mixed age and gender Sunday indoor hockey team have challenged staff and students at Kingham Hill to a friendly game at Kingham Hill School on 18 May. We are hoping to attract plenty of new and old players to our first team challenge. Alternatively, join us at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre sports hall every Sunday morning! We support beginners and there is no pressure to attend every week. Everyone is friendly and welcoming of all ages, fitness levels and hockey experience. Whether you have played before or not it's a great way to keep fit and meet new people. No regular commitment necessary, just turn up - we have kit to lend if you need it. £5.40 adults/Juniors £3. Ask at reception or contact Sharon Truelove for more information [sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk) 01608 730546/07722 603207

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Claire & Daniel

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# CLUB NEWS

## Albion Centre celebrate Our Space

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.

It is a little early but we are keen to tell you all we are celebrating, in July, the first anniversary year for our social



group, Our Space. The group was set up and is organised by volunteers with support from the Albion Centre. We also have the assistance from lovely friends who can deliver a range of activities and some great music each month. Our Space is part of / overseen by Guideposts Trust and held at Highlands on the second Thursday of the month from 7–9 pm, costing £5 a session. Carers or a family member need to accompany anyone not fully independent. These evenings are client-led with members suggesting the entertainment, which can include bingo, art & craft, board games and a tuck shop. There is much singing, and dancing for those so inclined!

To celebrate this milestone, a Pop Art piece has been produced featuring the faces of those using the group. As we have between 16 and 20 people on the books, it is quite an artistic creation. A party is being planned to honour the day with food, drinks and high jinks!

One request not yet fulfilled – Line Dancing! Can anyone spare an evening to teach a willing gang the pleasures of Line Dancing? You would be most welcome. Please contact Steph by calling 01608 646131 if you'd like to find out more.

Carole Faggs

## New interest in Chippy's history

The Town Hall was packed for a sold-out meeting on 17 April to hear about the latest historical research on Chipping Norton and its environs done by the team from Victoria County History. CN Local History Society & Museum hosted this event opened by Mayor Sandra Coleman. Simon Townley and his team of Oxfordshire researchers have spent the last three years concentrating on Chipping Norton, Over Norton, Hook Norton, Great and Little Rollright, Salford and Swerford. With Covid restricting access to some records, the team were helped by the extensive archives in our local museum – and also acknowledged work done by the Chipping Norton Buildings Record and their subsequent book 'The Making of Chipping Norton' which highlighted some of the medieval structures still existing behind the street frontages,

dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The audience of nearly 150 heard some fascinating new evidence about an earlier mid-12<sup>th</sup> century date of the founding of Chipping Norton. This, and much more, is in the draft texts for the new Volume XXI of VCHs work – found online at [www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress/oxfordshire](http://www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress/oxfordshire).

The Museum could well be a place of much more new interest – with the emerging findings imminent about Roman origins – from recent archaeological surveys that have been taking place to the East of the Town. Roman coins and pottery have been found here for many years, as well as the wonderful Roman head in the Museum. It is now suggested that there may be more than just a villa, possibly a small town, and we expect more information to be forthcoming in the near future. All this will add more information to the early history of our town. The newly formed archaeological group CHARG, with lead role in the latest survey work, has been warmly welcomed as a sub-group of the Chipping Norton Local History Society & Museum. This will, we hope, generate more members for both aspects of interest, be it history or archaeology, and we look forward to meeting prospective new members when our new season of talks recommences in September'.

Jan Cliffe

*Details of The History Society programme will be in September's Chipping Norton News.*

*The Museum is on the first floor at 4 High St, opposite the Town Hall. Normal opening hours are 2–4 pm Monday to Saturday from Easter until end of October.*

## Green Gym – Spring is in the air!

In April Green Gym members took part in Chipping Norton's annual Blossom Day celebrations in the Community Orchard. Visitors were able to take part in events which ranged from rural craft demonstrations such as pole lathing to children's activities including 'make your own' crocheted May time head wreaths adorned with flowers and bees! Live folk music from St Andrew's Assembly also entertained visitors and fresh food, preserves, drinks, cakes and seasonal puddings were enjoyed by all.



At Hawkyard Copse on 30 April a special bench (pictured) in memory of John Grantham was placed overlooking the view down to Bliss Mill. John was chair of the Trustees of the Field Reeves who look after the common lands of Chipping Norton. Green Gym worked in harmony on conservation with John for many years and were very keen to express their thanks and pay tribute to him. The inscription

# CLUB NEWS

reads: *John Grantham 1937–2022 Friend of Green Gym and all Green Spaces*. All are welcome to enjoy the bench, to rest a while and admire the surrounding countryside.



*Spring planting*

Work at other sites by the Green Gym team has continued including general clearance at Kingham's Millennium Wood, weeding and maintenance at the Chipping Norton Health Centre and tidying up after some recent coppicing plus laying woodchip paths at William Fowler Wood.

If you would like to join us on Wednesday mornings, working in the fresh air on environmental projects and in good company, please visit [www.chippygreengym.org](http://www.chippygreengym.org) and then contact our Membership Secretary at [rmccubbin33@gmail.com](mailto:rmccubbin33@gmail.com)

Everyone welcome. A variety of jobs for all!

Adela Thomas

## Railway Club hear Swiss tales

Interesting visit from a new speaker on 2 May, Douglas Butler travelled from Cirencester to deliver his absorbing talk, entitled 'Old Oak Common and HS2'. On 6 June, our popular member Jim Portlock will be showing slides of his recent travels in Eastern Switzerland. Do come along and join us, new members and visitors are always most welcome.

Estelle Brain

## Bluebell walk for Chippy Ramblers

Seven of us met near Bruern and Jane took us on a walk past fields and into the BBOWT nature reserve. Foxholes is renowned for its bluebells and we caught them at their peak. The walk was on Coronation Sunday which was the one lovely sunny day of the weekend – weren't we lucky? There were several muddy patches but Jane had checked the route first and decided that this was the least muddy path. Apart from the bluebells, the highlight was a patch of orchids: I think they were the Common Spotted and the Early Purple. If you too would like to enjoy the countryside in good company, join us on the first Sunday of every month. We meet in New Street carpark at 2pm (earlier in winter) and walk for about two hours at a leisurely pace – a different walk each time! Lifts will be available. Contact Heather Leonard (01608 643691 or [rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk)) and we will put you on the list!

Jenny Harrington

## A spoonful of herbs with u3a

On Wednesday 7 June at 2.30pm in the Town Hall Lynda Warren, Ambassador for the Herb Society UK, will be speaking on *A Spoonful of Herbs – Using Herbs for Cooking, Health and Beauty* followed by the usual tea and biscuits. Lynda will look at the general history and geography of herbs before moving on to cookery. Knowing what herbs pair with which



*Medicinal Herb Pot*

foods allow us to be flexible and creative in the kitchen and she will bring a selection of her favourite plants. The second part of the talk looks at the benefits of herbs in health, beauty and around the home including a wide selection of teas, treatments and essential oils. Our interest groups are in full swing: Chipping Norton u3a will find our website.

Yvonne Beaumont

## Chipping Norton Labour Party

On 4 May Councillor Mark Walker was elected to represent Chipping Norton on West Oxfordshire District Council. Mark joins councillors Rizvana Poole and Geoff Saul as part of the Alliance running the Council. Mark and seven other Labour members join the Town Council. It is a shame that there were insufficient candidates to fill all the places on the Council, which will be co-opting two further councillors in the coming weeks. For further details of this, contact the Town Clerk.

Following a long break due to Covid, we restarted our long-standing quiz nights last November. There seems to be an enthusiasm for socialising such that both the November quiz, and a further one in March, were oversubscribed. I am now taking entries for a quiz on Friday 16 June so contact me for further details.

We are planning regular appearances of our red gazebo in the town centre. Why not come and talk to us about the work we do locally? For more information, or if you would like to join us, please contact me at [davidheyes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidheyes@yahoo.co.uk)

David Heyes

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# CLUB NEWS

## Burford & Kingham Rotary

Club Secretary John Smith is pictured litter picking with friends in Bampton as part of The Big Help Out which aimed to encourage volunteering on the Monday after the Coronation. Other club members picked up litter and



helped at food banks and Club President Colin String-fellow helped to take down marquees and tidy the Coronation celebration site at Finstock. If you are having a Fete and would like an extra stall, please let us know. It could be beneficial to both your organisation and to Rotary Charities. Also pictured are

members blessed with fine weather on their Spring Walk which was followed by a pub lunch.

Why not think about joining Rotary? We are a small but very friendly group, with members from all the local villages. We are always looking to increase our membership. You will get a very warm welcome. We meet at Burford Golf Club on Monday evenings. Contact our Secretary John Smith email [jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk](mailto:jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk) 077178 83182. Please do give me a ring. I would love to hear from you to have an informal chat and give you more details about Rotary.

Ros Richardson 01608 643844 / 07702 135731

## Help out at the Scouts

Chipping Norton Scout Group is a growing group with a long waiting list of young people wanting to join. We offer fun and adventurous activities for young people aged 6–18 years from around the Town and surrounding villages. A couple of our key volunteers have moved away and we're looking for new volunteers to come and support the scout group. If you'd like to be part of a great team, or find out more about the volunteering opportunities available, then please let us know. We're looking for people to help with the Beavers who are aged 6–8, also the Cubs who are 8–10½ and support behind the scenes as a trustee or as support for our fantastic leaders. If you'd like to find out more please email Chris on [jointheadventure@oxonscouting.org.uk](mailto:jointheadventure@oxonscouting.org.uk)

## National Trust Association news

Membership is open to all National Trust members and volunteers. The N Cotswold Branch's programme of talks resumes in October and in the meantime there's a full summer of coach outings to: Waddesdon Manor 14 June; Lacock Abbey 13 July; The Vyne nr Basingstoke 17 August; Stourhead House & Gardens 14 September; Attingham Park 11 October and finally Bath on 9 November. Pick up points at Stow, Moreton & sometimes Chipping Norton. All are

welcome with priority given to members. Details from the numbers below.

To join NCANT, call the Membership Secretary on 01386 593085, or for more information call 01608 659215 or 01608 658157 or visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ncotswoldassoc](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ncotswoldassoc)

Rees Jenkins

## Chippy Folk Club does 'Memories'

Thanks to Steve L for MCing our May meeting with the theme of 'memories'. Great to see old and new friends – and a special welcome back to Terry who gave us a super rendition of 'Alabama Rain'. Great songs from everyone there, including Steve, Claire, Ginnie, Kim, Colin, Chrissie, Stewart, Rosie and Rachel, and a great version by Brock and Vixen of 'Time of your Life' – a country version of the Green Day classic via Jonny Cash – unmissable!

Next month's theme is 'The animal kingdom including feathered friends' (not compulsory, it's fun to find a song that fits – or make up an introduction that sounds convincing!). See you on Monday 12 June 7.45pm. Thanks to The Harrow Inn who offer such a warm and relaxed ambiance. Easy parking on site. Oxford Rd, Enstone OX7 4NF. All welcome. Free to attend. Sing, play, recite or just listen. Visit [www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk](http://www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk) for further information.

Rachel Chai

## Horticultural Association Plant Sale



In mid-May, on a rather cold but dry Saturday morning, we held a plant sale outside the Methodist Church. All the high-quality plants had been raised and collected from members and friends' gardens. They were sold at reasonable prices so the helpers ended the morning rather cold but delighted to have raised

just over £300 for Association funds. Very many thanks to them, and also the suppliers and purchasers of plants for making the Sale so successful. The autumn/winter season of the Association had concluded in April with a visit from Christine Ramsey from Icomb. Christine gave a very interesting demonstration on arranging flowers and foliage from our gardens, using any containers we have to hand.

If you have missed renewing your membership, or wish to join, please contact Emma Bayley (Membership Secretary) or Eileen Forse (Secretary 01608 643275). Next season's programme starts on Wednesday 18 October with Bob Brown from Badsey as our speaker – details [www.cnha.uk](http://www.cnha.uk).

## Chequers Music Session: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

April's session was definitely a game of two halves – the first half intimate, restrained, thoughtful. The second raucous and non-stop, courtesy of our visitors from Brackley Buckingham and elsewhere. With a set from Freya, some sing-along opportunities from the Visitors, lovely tunes from Brock & Vixen and some classics from Ian, plus Francis' rendition of 'Steal'n' a good time was had by all. We aim to be back in June. For more info contact Jane Lewis [jalemail27@gmail.com](mailto:jalemail27@gmail.com)

## Chipping Norton School

**An excellent Sports Tour in Edinburgh!** From Monday

10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 31 students and 3 members of staff flew to Edinburgh to enjoy our first Sports Tour since the pandemic and to try a new venue. We were there to play Netball and Football against both clubs and another school – South Queensferry High School, who opened



specially to welcome us during their Easter holidays! The trip was not all about sport however as we also went on organised visits to Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh Zoo, Edinburgh Castle and even a Harry Potter walking tour on the last morning. The sport itself was a great test for our students with each netball team winning 1 and losing 1 of their games and the boys' football team winning 2. Overall, it was an excellent experience and one that we will definitely repeat. Well done to all the students involved for a fantastic week.

**Candy Gourlay:** We were delighted to welcome award-



winning author, Candy Gourlay to CNS to speak with a group of Year 9 students about her excellent new book, *Wild Song*. The students loved hearing about Candy's journey from journalist to author. Thank you to the Chipping Norton Literary Festival for organising this visit.

**Careers News:** Mr Parker accompanied a group of Year 10



students to The Branch to see how this exciting project is progressing. The students met Emma Kennedy (Pro-ject Leader from St Mary's Church) and Alex Stevens (Architect from

Acanthus Clews) and were able to learn about how the old NatWest Bank is going to be converted into a multipurpose community space.

**Girls mean Business:** The second Girls mean Business event took place on 11 May. We had 12 highly motivational women who gave up their time to chat to our Year 9 girls about their careers and roles in the workplace. Our visitors



were from sectors ranging from laboratory managers and well-being managers to the performing arts and the armed forces. The KS4 dining hall was buzzing with energy as the girls and visitors shared experiences and aspirations.

**CNPS News:** During Term 4 the younger pupils from the partnership primary schools come along to some fantastic festivals led by our enthusiastic Year 12 Sports Leaders including a Dance Festival based on the book *Commotion in the Ocean*, and a Multi-skills festival. We are very proud of the Year 12 sports leaders, who made these events so much fun.

The CNS Languages department led a festival for the Year 4s this term with the assistance of some language leaders. Pupils took part in workshops to learn a little German, Dutch, and French, and were able to taste some cheeses too!

Chipping Norton Rugby Club hosted an U10 Rugby tournament for the partnership schools. The big school winner was Hook Norton and the small schools title was taken by Chadlington.

**Extra Time Clubs:** Our ExtraTime Drama students have worked very hard to prepare for their LAMDA exams this spring. The clubs are led by Pippa Phillips and Georgia Elvin who work so enthusiastically with our students. We are very proud to have just received the results – they have all passed with a distinction.



Two students, Will Abrey and Luke Bradford, from our Digital Music Production Club have been asked to perform at a couple of gigs recently, facilitated by their coach, Ben Waddilove. They did a half hour slot at the 'Time to Shine' event in Chipping Norton which was very well received.

We have welcomed some new coaches to the ExtraTime team this term. Katherine Holmes is leading a club to give our Year 12s an insight into working in Ecology, Ed Large from Excel Tennis Academy is bringing tennis back to CNS, Kevin Taylor will be taking over our very popular table-tennis club and Will Chalstrey is teaching a group all about how to build a computer.

## County's 2023 school places

Do we have enough school places in and around Chipping Norton? Did your child get into the school you wanted for the coming year? Of those starting at a state infant school in September 2023, Oxfordshire County Council said that out of 7189 children needing a school place, 93.6% were offered their first choice, up from 91.5% last year. There were 129 more children than last year needing places. For pupils moving from primary to state secondary schools, 86.7% were given their first preference for a place. Hayley Good, Oxfordshire County Council's Deputy Director of Children's Services said, 'Our school admissions team has done an excellent job in ensuring that so many parents and children have been



*Chipping Norton School takes Year 7 children from over 10 local 'feeder' primary schools*



offered their first choice'.

With Chippy in a rural area some distance from larger towns, places at our one state secondary, Chipping Norton School (rated 'Good' by Ofsted with an 'Outstanding' sixth form) are important to local people. For our primary schools, there is currently some capacity at St Mary's Primary School and village schools such as Chadlington and Hook Norton, but with housing growth continuing in and around Chippy, a new primary school is planned if the East Chipping Norton development (for 1000+ new homes) goes ahead. What is the experience of our *Chippy News* readers on choosing their preferred schools?

## St Mary's Primary

**Coronation picnic:** We celebrated the coronation in style with a crown making competition, organised by the School Council, a whole-school picnic and a Right Royal Regal Assembly where some of our brass



band played the National Anthem and the children sang the coronation song beautifully.



our own cucumber sandwiches but left the crusts on!

**FSU:** In EYFS, we celebrated the coronation of King Charles by creating our own Buckingham Palace. We held lots of tea parties and enjoyed pretending to be the soldiers, having watched footage of them. We also made

**KSI Dental Hygiene session:** Report by Jack, Jacob and Harvey. The school nurse came in to talk about brushing our teeth. The nurse showed us a lot of pictures. She was very kind and helpful.

**Yr 4 Primary Language festival at CNS:** The children were introduced to Dutch, German and French. The children were split into different groups. In Dutch the children learnt

about colours, with German it was animals and in French they learnt about monsters! It was great fun!

**Year 5/6 Author:** Author Emma Norry came to visit the children in Years 5 & 6 as part of the ChiplitFest. Teegan and Lorena report: 'We all loved when Emma came to visit us and read some of her book, *Son of the Circus*, which is the book we are reading in class. You never know if someone sitting next to you is going to become an author one day. I'm sure she will inspire lots of children to write books. It was also exciting to hear about her new book that has not been published yet – hopefully she will come back to share it with us'.



**Yr 5/6 Science Club:** As part of our Science Oxford membership, we are able to hire resources to run a science club for Year 5 and 6 this term. This subject enjoys a high profile at St Mary's (our winning Year 5/6 Big Science team made it to the finals in Oxford last year) and we were delighted by



the demand for places. The activities include: making hoop flyers, popcorn science, make-your-own-toothpaste, testing a variety of rockets and a crime scene investigation. One participant, Harvey, said after week 1, 'I think science club should continue all year because I really like doing experiments and I love science. I wanted to come because it is just so much fun and making things is the best'.

## Holy Trinity Primary

**Outstanding School 2023:** We were visited by Ofsted in April and were thrilled to maintain our 'outstanding' rating. Only 17% of schools that were rated 'outstanding' under the previous inspection framework have maintained this status, so we are very proud of our result. The outcome is testament to all the hard work of our teachers, leadership team, governors and all auxiliary staff; to our supportive and engaged parents; and, of course, to the outstanding pupils we are lucky enough to teach. Congratulations to all.



**Year 6 SATS:** We would like to say a huge 'WELL DONE' to our Year 6 students, who completed their week of SATs tests with great maturity, focus and a positive attitude. Their calm



manner is testament to all the hard work they have put in leading up to the tests. They enjoyed a celebratory afternoon of games, pizza and film on Friday while wearing their brand-new leavers' hoodies that were waiting for them when they finished.

**Coronation Party:** Along with the rest of the country, Holy Trinity enjoyed celebrating the historic event of the coronation of King Charles III. On the Friday before the coronation, children wore red, white and blue and enjoyed a



special celebration roast beef dinner with coronation cupcakes, followed by a garden party to which parents and families were invited. All the children learned a 'coronation song' which was performed with gusto, and guests were entertained by Maypole dancing from Year 6, a beautiful performance by the KS2 choir, and prayers written and read aloud by Year 1 children. The 'crowning moment' was a Parade of Crowns – each child wearing their own homemade creation. Prizes were awarded to each class and spirits were not dampened by the inclement weather! The rousing finale was a performance of 'God save the King' by the Year 5 Brass ensemble, accompanied by enthusiastic singing from the audience. A big thank you to the wonderful PTA for serving tea and cakes, and to all the families who joined in this lovely event.

**Cotswold Wildlife Park:** Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful, sunny trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park to reinforce science learning about animal classification, diet and habitats. A great time was had by all, the children behaved beautifully and were full of facts and questions. The penguins and capybaras were declared the most popular animals of the day.

**Sporting events:** Year 5 entered two teams in the



partnership U10s rugby tournament, with all players demonstrating great passion and determination in their games. They came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, a brilliant achievement.

**Modern Foreign Language festival:** Year 4 attended the Modern Foreign Languages afternoon at Chipping Norton School, learning French, German and Spanish through a series of entertaining games and activities. They particularly enjoyed the French cheese tasting! Great fun was had by all; thank you to the staff from CNS for organising the event.



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## ACE Centre

Here at the Ace Centre Nursery School, we enjoyed celebrating the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. On 5 May the children had the choice to come to school dressed in red, blue, or white. Throughout the week we offered activities themed around the Coronation. The children were busy making their own crowns, flags, painting and experimenting with royal colours, building castles, and were involved in some royal imaginative role play. The children were interested in looking at photographs of the royal family which sparked their curiosity and discussion. We also focused some of our Key vocabulary for the week around the Coronation. The words we wanted to explore with the children were – king, queen, crown, celebration, throne, palace, royal family, and coronation. To mark the special occasion the whole Centre came together to have a coronation picnic snack and to sing some nursery rhymes linked to Kings and Queens.



## Enstone Primary

The summer term at Enstone Primary School has got off to a lovely, positive start, with class topics including a study of the Anglo Saxons and Vikings, learning about contrasting localities



(Australia), as well as getting out and about in our own local area. We plan to start taking the children back to our woodland site at Henley Knapp to do their Forest Schools activities, and we will certainly be making the most of our lovely school garden and pond, and the abundance of flora and fauna to be found there. Planned outings include a trip to Westonbirt Arboretum, and for KS2 a visiting 'Anglo-Saxon' will help to bring their topic to life.

Our coronation celebrations were a great end to the week running into the bank holiday weekend. A street party-style lunch was enjoyed by staff and pupils, followed by lots of fun activities for the children, including Pin the Crown on the King, Crown Limbo, crown-making crafts and a Portrait of the King competition in association with the Parish Council, who kindly gave each pupil a special coronation coin to mark the occasion.

## Great Rollright Primary

Our Yr 3s and 4s are off on an adventure this month. They'll be spending two nights camping in the woods in Blenheim Park, learning fire-making, camouflage, outdoor crafts, and other elements of bushcraft. Residential trips build independence and resilience — so we make sure every child



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# SCHOOLS NEWS

has at least two during their time with us.

*In other news:*

**Coronation:** We spent the Friday before the big event celebrating with royal-themed activities, including crown-making, baking, singing and dancing. A highlight was a rousing fanfare played by the Mountains class, who are all learning a brass instrument as part of our music curriculum. The Friends of Great Rollright provided refreshments and many parents joined us for the event.



**Author visits:** Inspiring a lifelong love of reading is our passion here at Great Rollright, so we were thrilled to have two children's authors in school recently to talk about their work – Emma Norry and Sarah Hutchinson-Jarman. We are grateful to the Chipping Norton Literary Festival for organising these events.

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.

## Chadlington Primary



The integration of sustainability into school life continues. A group of children from Dragons and Wizards attended the Chadlington Parish Council AGM and presented to the community on the threatened position of hedgehogs and how to build hedgehog highways to help protect them.

Dragons class have been designing the eco garden and also observing biodiversity in the school pond. Wizards have been working hard on SATS and also been working on the whole school end of year summer festival animation at Chippy Theatre. Pixies (EYFS) and Elves (KS1) went to Slimbridge Wetlands Centre in Gloucestershire to get close to nature

and observe wildlife. Each class participated in hands-on, engaging workshops and, as part of the wildlife tour, the children were lucky enough to observe birds close up including flamingos and nesting swans.

The school community celebrated the coronation of King Charles with a picnic lunch and tea party. A group of children from KS2 played 'God Save the King' on brass instruments and children wore red, white, and blue to school.

## Hook Norton Primary

Celebrations are always wonderful uplifting events during the school year. To celebrate May Day every year the whole school takes part in traditional country dancing. Each year group from Nursery to year 6 perform different styles of dance, from promenades to Maypole dancing. This year we were lucky that the weather was kind and all the children were able to take part without being rained off.



Another big celebration was the King's coronation. In preparation for that weekend the children were able to design and make their own crowns, some even re-created the photo on the throne with pictures of themselves holding and surrounded by objects that make them feel special. They also were comparing the differences between Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953 and King Charles's in 2023.

The children in years 1 and 2 have had a great start to the new term with a visit to the British Motor Museum in Gaydon as part of their Big Question 'Where did the wheels on the bus go?' Year 4 children have had a visit to Chipping Norton School to take part in the Schools Partnership Modern Foreign Languages Festival, where they learned all about different countries and their cultures.

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## 1953 memories – who was there?

Born and bred in Chippy, I have many happy memories



of growing up in London Road, then Rock Hill followed by Distons Lane. In 1953 my family lived with my Grandmother in her two up two down house and at the Coronation I was four and my sister six. Mum was a professional dressmaker and made me an Andy Pandy costume for the fancy dress competition. My cousin Janet Keen (now Hendy) just sent me a photo of the event, I think in the Catholic School. I'm just to the right of the word 'Day' (front left) with my sister Suzanne on my left. Janet is in the top right dressed as Queen Elizabeth I, in a tiara and ruff. She won the competition! I can't remember any of the other faces, though I probably played with them every day.



Perhaps some readers may be able to add some names? I'd like to hear from anyone who remembers me.

**Peter Keen**

*Inset: Peter & Janet at this year's Coronation party – their former selves arrowed! The News has Peter's email address – Ed*

## Keeping our pavements clear

With reference to Cllr Coleman's Letter (April issue – Keep pavement clear) I took photographs today in London Road. The overhanging vegetation is outside the Cotshill houses, presumably the responsibility of the Council (see picture). All the vegetation outside other private properties is neatly cut back. Thank goodness or it would be a very wet walk. I have also never known the grass verge be allowed to grow so long before being cut. As London Road is a main route into the Town, it seems a pity that it's not better kept. Perhaps this is something for the Council and Cllr Coleman to take up?



**Chris Carpenter**

*(The Cotshill vegetation is probably down to Housing Association owners. NB Chris is also continuing her personal efforts to keep floor and escalators in Withers Court arcade clean – including asking the Coop to look at a better floor surface – Ed)*

## Mental health support revisited

I have written before about local mental health matters but strongly feel it is worthy of reiteration. Mental Health services available here remain pretty patchy in quantity, although the limited resources we do have are of good quality if you are lucky enough to access them. Hard-pressed GPs may well 'fob off' patients with pills, when problems experienced may run much deeper. However, some problems can be hard to spot before they become critical. Medication can be part of the solution. Certainly, since the insane draconian pandemic restrictions of three years ago, mental health issues are mushrooming, both social and economic factors contributing. The jury is also still out on whether excessive internet and social media use is detrimental to mental wellbeing. Research is inadequate but I have my suspicions. Oxfordshire Mind used to have a twice weekly Chippy group –short-sightedly dropped a few years ago. I was a Trustee and service user of Oxfordshire Mind for many years, and have tried to get them to reintroduce significant services here, pointing out that Chipping Norton is geographically out on a limb. Dependent on funding this return does remain a possibility. Chippy folk might contact Mind on this matter. Personally, I have been hospitalised twice in the past three years, but the help I now get, in addition to re-evaluating my lifestyle, means my recovery (it can take a long time) is progressing well. As they say at the end of Frasier, 'Goodnight Seattle and good mental health'. If you, a friend or relative are experiencing mental distress (including serious anxiety or depression) try not to hold back in looking for support, however difficult it may feel to do.

**Richard Dixon**

*(Our thanks to Richard for sharing his experiences. For help from Oxfordshire Mind call 01865 247788, text 07451 277973 or email [info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk) – Ed)*

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ARIA CARE

# LETTERS

## Not Jenny's average Wednesday!

Jenny Nolan was awarded the MBE after years of service with the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. Congratulations from the News Team – here's her letter and family photo from the trip to Windsor!



On Wednesday 10 May we ventured out of the County and headed for Windsor Castle. With only a couple of wrong turns, we found ourselves on 'The Long Walk' with the castle basking in sunshine ahead (fortunately the downpours took place once we were safely inside!). Priority parking – just outside the castle entrance – is a definite perk of an MBE and during the short walk we saw the changing of the guards. We processed through the Castle's ornately decorated rooms, serenaded by a string orchestra. My MBE was presented by Prince William in a room seemingly dipped in gold, or so I'm told as at that point I was purely focusing on breathing! Prince William showed genuine interest in the Charity, asking its name and how it was doing financially given the current climate. Fortunately, I had three guests with me who did take the time to appreciate the gold room, and also complimented me on my backwards walk and bow! We continued celebrating with a lovely meal in Windsor with the rest of the family. The excitement of Granny receiving an MBE wasn't quite on a par with the appearance of strawberry ice cream, but it was close! I want to end by recognising the multitude of people who have played a part in Lawrence Team to date. It is only due to the supportive nature of the community and hard work of many (too many to name) dedicated people that our charity has become what it is and made today possible. Although I may be technically retired, Lawrence Home Nursing Team remains a pivotal part of my life.

**Jenny Nolan**

## Air Pollution in Chipping Norton

Your article (Chippy's Air Pollution update – May issue) is dismissive and short-sighted. Following a number of years, where air pollution has been largely ignored in Chipping Norton. A legal remedy has been produced that causes the councils and local authorities to remedy their inadequate air pollution strategies. The introduction of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) requires regular monitoring of air quality. I am advised by Senior Environmental Manager, David Rudland, there are nine monitoring points. The introduction of an AQMA requires an Air Quality Action Plan be prepared and updated regularly. This is being done for the first time in 15 years. This highlights the complete disregard of air quality responsibilities and legislation by the previous

administration. I have complained to DEFRA over recent months and was advised action was being taken to bring about an Action Plan for which the Authority can be held accountable. This is a positive move in the right direction.

**Paul Gowers**

(As reported in our May article, WODC's consultants are aiming for an updated Chipping Norton Draft Air Quality Action Plan to go out for consultation in the summer – then a final report to Ministers for approval in Autumn/Winter. Implementation, as with the previous AQAP, depends on commitments and funding by bodies – notably the County Council. Ed)

## Ukrainian Families – Urgent Request

Families in Chipping Norton and surrounding villages have amazingly hosted over 60 families from the Ukraine. The families have been so grateful for their hospitality and for support and welcome they have received in Chippy. Several families are now looking to move into Chipping Norton, in order to make reaching school and work easier. As a result, they are asking whether there are any families who would consider hosting in Chipping Norton, or any landlords who would consider letting properties to them (at market rent – mainly 1 or 2 bedroom properties needed). If you might consider either of these options, then please do contact [emma.kennedy@thebranchtrust.org](mailto:emma.kennedy@thebranchtrust.org) who will signpost you to the appropriate channels / families needing support. Thank you Chippy for being such wonderful hosts and hoping that we can continue to extend this hospitality.

**Emma Kennedy, The Branch Trust & St Mary's Church**

## Refugees – Britain can do better!

We need an effective, humane and civilised system for dealing with refugees and asylum seekers. The way our country treats them should be primarily a humanitarian issue rather than political. The right to seek asylum is a mark of a humane and civilised society. Britain was one of the key countries that developed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and we have committed under international law (the Refugee Convention 1951) to grant asylum to those with a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country. Britain has a proud record treating people fleeing persecution in other countries. But current Government legislative proposals in the Illegal Migration Bill fall well below the standard set by international norms and risk trashing the country's reputation for humanity and decency. Safe and legal routes need to be provided for genuine refugees to enter the country so that small boat crossings become a thing of the past. Automatic deportation of entrants deemed illegal, transportation to Rwanda, and removal of legal protections from people often victims of trafficking – these are not measures that are part of a humane and civilised system. Particularly when dressed up in inflammatory language, they appeal to the worst in people rather than the best. Britain can do better than this! Readers can join the efforts of ordinary people in our area to press for a better refugee and asylum system by getting in touch with us at [britaincandoabetter@gmail.com](mailto:britaincandoabetter@gmail.com)

**Ian Myson (Banbury) & John Dunleavy (Chipping Norton)**  
Amnesty International Groups



# LETTERS

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

## West Street trade disruption



Following my previous concerns about a Friday to Friday parking suspension on West Street (pictured), I went this afternoon to check the real state of affairs. There was no sign whatsoever of work having been carried out, no plant on site or workmen. I spoke to the manager of the cafe/bistro adjacent to the Methodist Church and he said there had

been some work done early on Friday but that they had packed up early. While this means that there are no problems for disabled or other people attending morning service (my first concern), my next concern is for the livelihood of small traders both sides of the street. I suspect the busiest day for the Bistro and the two charity shops on the other side is Saturday. They could have been needlessly deprived of much needed trade. For the Bistro, their running costs are much the same with customers or without. Another heavy blow for businesses already severely affected by increased energy costs and previous loss of trade. It is totally unacceptable that there should be such closures and these need to be much better planned. I shall be keeping a close eye on this and similar situations.

**Michael Rowe** – Chipping Norton Town Councillor

## The Ballad of Coopers Square

– with apologies to Walter de la Mare

'Is there anybody there?' asked the residents  
They of Coopers Square  
To come and cut our grass for us  
Council are you there?

We've sent you many emails  
To get this mowing done  
To send a team to trim our patch  
But answer came there none.

Not us, said West Oxfordshire  
District Council HQ  
Try the Oxford Contracts Manager  
That's the route for you.

'Alas!' cried the Contracts Manager  
You're just not on the list.  
The Grounds Maintenance Supervisor  
Says you simply don't exist.

It's a tragic admin oversight  
An understandable omission  
Coopers Square is not on the map  
The one that grants permission

For the cutting team to tread your square  
And power up their mower.  
Your only hope of resolution  
Is call Oxford on the blower

Ah, spake Oxford reception  
This isn't in our remit  
West Oxfordshire District Council  
They're the mowing outfit!

And so the saga ambles on  
As the grasses drop their seeds  
And the residents of Coopers Square  
Gently rustle in the breeze.

**Colin Little**

(Cllr Geoff Saul has now contacted Colin saying UBICO – under WODC – will 'put this work on their schedule'.)

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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# Chippy's community celebrates Eid

April saw Chippy's Muslim Bangladeshi community celebrate the end of the holy month of Ramadan in Chippy's Town Hall. Amongst the guests was a Chippy News Team member and this is her report:



Chipping Norton Town Hall was filled with about 160 happy people on the afternoon of Sunday 23 April as the Muslim Bangladeshi community celebrated Eid al-Fitr at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Eid al-

desserts and these in particular were truly delicious. Following the meal there were tea, coffee, speeches and singing and dancing. Children were well in evidence, dressed beautifully and taking part in the celebrations.

Among those invited were Chipping Norton Mayor Cllr Sandra



Coleman (pictured here with Salman) and her husband Geoff, plus a couple of members of the Team. Everyone was treated like honoured guests and, in particular, several speeches were made thanking Sandra for coming and the Chippy community for their support and help. In return, Sandra made a short speech and also did Chippy proud with her

Fitr (or the festival of the breaking of the fast) is one of two main Eid festivals where worshippers gather to pray, eat and exchange gifts while greeting each other with 'Eid Mubarak' or 'Happy Eid'. The festivities last up to three days for Eid al-Fitr, beginning at sunset on the night of the first sighting of the crescent moon. The other main Eid festival is Eid al-Adha (the festival of the sacrifice) and is celebrated just over two months later.



People came from as far away as London and Reading for this Oxfordshire festival which is usually held in either Chippy or Henley. The participants were dressed in beautiful clothing – in particular the women had lovely colourful embroidered dresses but the men were not far behind in the sartorial stakes (see photos). Traditionally, new clothing is worn for the Eid. In Chippy after a month of fasting during daylight hours, a wonderful feast was prepared by Salman from Chippy's Café Le Raj and his family and friends. Eid is famous for

dancing! The overall impression of the event was one of a wonderfully welcoming community coming together for a fantastic festival. Those lucky enough to be there were very grateful to have been invited to such a happy occasion.



## DIARY

See p20 for fetes, festivals, fayres & open gardens, also ps 21-22 for Arts: theatre, concerts, exhibitions etc

### June (News out TUESDAY 30 May)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Adderbury Ensemble** 7.30 Town Hall - see p21
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **NEW Choir** starts 11am Methodist Church - enquiries 01608 642792.
- Lido Auction of Promises** Town Hall see p4
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Chadlington Beer Festival** noon-10pm see p20
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Ramblers** see p26 for details
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Town Council Strategic Planning Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- Cwmdare Voices** 7pm Town Hall - see p21
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p 26
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Coffee Morning** for the Lela Initiative 9.30-11.30am - see p16
- U3A** 2.30pm in the Town Hall see p26
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Amnesty** 7.30pm Lower Town Hall Letter & card writing session for Prisoners of Conscience. All welcome! Inquiries to Val 01608 645036.
- 9<sup>th</sup> **CHIPPY NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35

- 10<sup>th</sup> **Cots Crescent Teenage Activities** 1-4pm - see p2
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Crafty Cuppa & Chat** 10-12 Meth'dist Church see p16
- Town Council Finance Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- Folk Club** 7.45 The Harrow Inn Enstone - see p27
- 15<sup>th</sup> **Chequers Music Session** 8pm Chequers Goddards Lane CN. All welcome - see p27
- 16<sup>th</sup> **Town Sports Awards** deadline for nominations - p23
- 16-25 **Ascott Martyrs' 150<sup>th</sup> Anniv events** - see p9
- 17<sup>th</sup> **Oxfam Record Fair** 10am-4pm Town Hall - see p13
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Full Town Council Meeting** 6.30pm Town Hall
- 20<sup>th</sup> **New Roman Discoveries in Chipping Norton** talk 7.30pm Town Hall tickets £5 - see p3
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Helen & Douglas House Bingo** 7pm Town Hall - see p12
- Town Council Traffic Advisory Sub-Cttee** 2pm Town Hall

### July (July/Aug double month News out Monday 26 June)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Chippy Pride** 11am-4pm Town Hall - see p15
- Cots Crescent Teenage Activities** 1-4pm - see p 2