

Chipping Norton News



Issue 459

July/August 2023



Fun for Summer



Time to enjoy Chipping Norton and the glorious Cotswolds

Our friendly Town is a great place to be over summer – whether visiting or living here. As well as all the regular news from our busy town, this bumper double month edition of the *News* is full of places to go, plus things to see and do.

July kicks off on the 1st with the first Chippy Pride event. Whether it's a town trail, shopping, outdoor swimming at The Lido, or taking in our 'Café Society', there's a great welcome in the Town this summer. The *News* is packed with information on a wonderful mix of music events, theatre shows, films, festivals, fetes, and kids activities – with a centre feature on trips out, animal magic, flower farms and gardens.

Sixth Form Farewell

It's good luck in exams and goodbye – to Chipping Norton School's Year 13 students



Welcome to Chippy!



New town resident, baby Willa, was proudly pictured with dad, Chipping Norton's Kaleb Cooper, mum Taya, and two-year-old brother Oscar – alongside the delighted Cotswold Birth Centre team. Congratulations all.

NB Next Open Evening at the Birth Centre: 6–8pm 13 July

News in this issue

Roman reveal at packed Town Hall ~ Keep Chippy Beautiful campaign ~ Town Council's action agenda
New Cinema bookings start ~ Abbeyfield home closure shock ~ Jeremy's Lido auction success ~ Diddly Squat's parking relief ~ Latest air pollution plan
Health & Wellbeing for summer

Plus the latest Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools and Letters

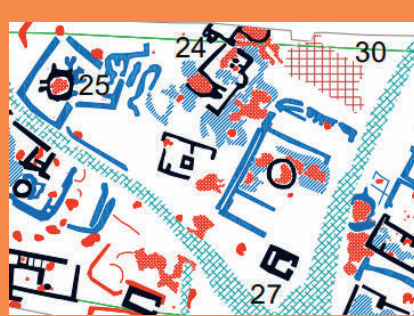
Chipping Norton's Roman Discoveries

Nearby Roman discoveries have sparked considerable public interest. Jane Beaufoy from Chipping Norton Archaeology Research Group (CHARG) provided this report from a packed Town Hall meeting

The Roman occupation has left its mark all over the country, from Hadrian's Wall in the north to Fishbourne Roman Palace in the south. The archaeological record is rich with dwellings and artefacts showing the life of the privileged few, whose homes were sophisticated villas with mosaic floors and underfloor heating. We have glimpses of what life was like for a Roman soldier at Hadrian's Wall; but what was life like for the average working person in civilian lowland Britain?

This is why the discovery of a Roman settlement in Chipping Norton is so important. In a fascinating talk held in the upper Town hall, archaeologist and Roman Oxfordshire expert Paul Booth revealed how the find contained a wealth of features consistent with a large Romano-British settlement. It has at least 26 stone buildings, walled enclosures and trackways, possible shrines and a bath house, and at least one cemetery. 'Roman Chipping Norton can be viewed as a local market centre providing for the surrounding agricultural communities,' he said.

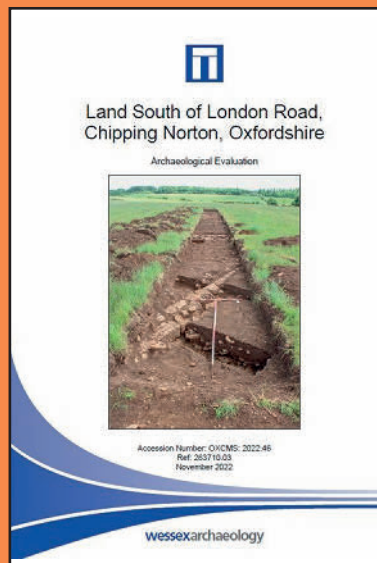
He illustrated his talk with details from two major reports: the first was the geophysical survey commissioned by a member of Chipping Norton Archaeological Research Group (CHARG), the second was a similar survey and subsequent archaeological evaluation carried out by Wessex Archaeology for developer CALA Homes. He gave credit to CHARG, whose initial report in 2021 confirmed the Roman activity that had long been suspected in the area close to the Glyme. Sharing its find with the County Archaeologist, the Group set in train the developer's surveys which now shows the staggering extent and level of preservation of the settlement. 'Without this early initiative by residents of the Town who cared about preserving its heritage we would not be where we are now,' said Paul.



Detail from CHARG's geophysical survey.
No24 probably a bath house



Copper coin or nummus. Constantine II
c330AD Cashmore Collecton



Wessex Archaeology report –
commissioned by CALA Homes

Paul broadened his talk to take in north Oxfordshire sites, setting Roman Chipping Norton in context by looking at archaeological evidence for the wider area. This included a quick tour of villas that have been excavated, including North Leigh, Broughton, Tackley, Shakenoak near Witney and Wigginton. 'In contrast, there is almost no evidence of smaller rural dwellings,' he said. 'Chipping Norton tells us that there's no reason why there isn't a network of rural farmsteads as well as villas, but we know almost nothing about them because development-led archaeology work has been minimal.'

Chipping Norton does, however, fit in to a pattern of settlement recognised across a large part of Roman Britain. It is one of 12 or so comparable sites in Oxfordshire, substantial centres of population, mostly situated on the main Roman roads in the region. It has oddities, though: its elevation, for a start. Situated on a hill with a commanding view over the valley, it is 50 metres higher than others. With Chippy's church and castle on the valley edge, the location is a puzzle. Using the evidence available he identified four possible reasons: that it was built on the site of an earlier Iron Age settlement; that it was good for communications by road; there were springs nearby; and that those springs probably had religious significance. There are two possible shrines on the site and the carved head of Jupiter on show in the Museum was almost certainly from one of them. He then drew on his extensive knowledge of Roman pottery and coinage to talk through the types found, saying the quantities of these were consistent with other settlement sites of a similar size. He also described the evidence of a possible substantial cemetery as 'potentially very important'. Such a cemetery would provide very significant evidence about the site's inhabitants.

The future of the settlement and possibility of excavation are uncertain as we await the decision from Historic England over protecting the site – and further information about the development plans for housing east of the Town. Until these questions are answered, Roman Chipping Norton may keep its secrets buried for many years to come.

Images from one survey report © Wessex Archaeology – public on Oxfordshire HER for research & planning purposes



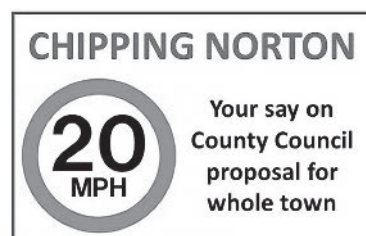
Mayor's tribute to Firefighters

Town Mayor Sandra Coleman led the way at an event to mark the retirement of On-call Crew Manager Russell Pratt at Chipping Norton Fire Station on 31 May. Russell was hanging up his helmet after 17½ years of service. Following a request from the Station Officer, Mayor Coleman, pictured with Cllr



Jo Graves alongside Russell, presented a certificate of thanks, and, as is tradition, Russell also received a mounted fire axe with a 'tally' stating his dates of service. Russell was thanked for everything he had done for the crew and the Town, nearly 18 years of loyalty and service; he will be greatly missed. Councillors also congratulated the team becoming Oxfordshire's Fire Station of the Year. Chipping Norton's crew have taken part in many community activities including for Children in Need, raising over £1000. They attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade and the proclamation of King Charles with the Town Council and British Legion. At Christmas and in local school visits they raised vital fire safety awareness. The Fire Service planned a 'Have a go day', for potential new recruits as they are always looking for more firefighters. The Station's Award was presented at an April Blenheim Palace ceremony where 11 Oxfordshire long-serving firefighters were also presented with the Queen's long service and good conduct medals for 20 years' service.

20mph for all of Chippy?



Oxfordshire County Council want to go ahead with the plan for 20 mph speed limits throughout Chipping Norton, replacing the majority of existing 30mph limits. They are asking for public objections or comments by 30 June before going ahead – the implementation likely in 2024. The overall plan was requested and is supported by Chipping Norton Town Council. OCC are implementing similar schemes across the County in a £8m scheme. The 20mph limits will go much further than the current limited scheme. It will be on all minor town residential roads, and be extended on the Town's main roads as follows: Burford Road up to the Charlbury turn, up London Road to Russell Way, Banbury Road past Aldi, Over Norton Road past Park Road, and Churchill Road past Walterbush Road. Hence all roads outside our schools will have 20mph limits. Visit letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chippingnorton_20

mph2023 to see the full survey. A formal final meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways, with an opportunity for the public to speak will be held later in the year.

Town's Civic Service

After a gap of many years, including through Covid, a public Civic Service is being held this year in St Mary's Church in Chipping Norton at 10.30am, on Sunday 9 July. The Mayor and Councillors will assemble on the steps of the Town Hall at 10am to walk to the Church together. All are welcome. Refreshments are being served in the Church after the service. A Civic Service is traditionally an opportunity to give thanks to everyone who are in public and voluntary service for the Community.

From Music Festival to FA Cup!



Local FA Cup Final watchers will have spotted some home-grown talent in action! British Iranian soprano, Jasmine Faulkner, grew up in Hook Norton and once graced the stage at Chipping Norton Music Festival. But more recently she's hit the talent headlines as a rising star – and had the honour of singing the National Anthem this year at both the Women's and Men's FA Cup Finals. Jasmine is pictured at the latter in June, in a stunning metallic dress designed by Australian fashion designer, Jason Grech. Jasmine also performed with the British Legion on Coronation Day and at Windsor Castle. Watch out for her debut solo single.

Dates for Councillor 'drop-ins'

Chippy's Councillors are restarting regular informal 'drop in' sessions in July. Why not call in on Wednesday 12 July, 10am–12noon at The Old Mill or Saturday 22 July 10am–12noon at Chippy Larder at The Guildhall. A couple of our Town, District or County Councillors will be there to talk about anything of concern. Similar dates will follow each month. Public are also welcome at all Full Council and Committee meetings in the Town Hall (see Diary p35 and Town Council website).

New Council's busy agenda

Chipping Town's newly elected Town Council is now complete with 16 members – after two new co-opted members were selected from four candidates at June's Council meeting. Joining is Milly Weaver, a long-term teacher at St Mary's, heavily involved in Chiplitfest, member of CHAOS, and archaeology fan. There's also Tom Festa, in the town 28 years, a Chartered Engineer, long-term BMW Mini project leader (on their electric car!) – and passionate about sustainability.

The new Council has an updated, packed, action agenda – with big projects at the Town Hall, Cotswold Crescent and Pool

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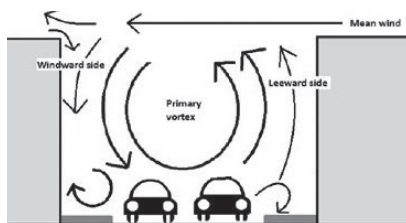
Meadow and a continued focus on East Chippy plans. But Community initiatives are a real priority, including: better community use of the Town Hall, supporting young people, Keep Chippy Beautiful, Town Sports Awards, community grants and awards, and new skateboard park. Our busy Events and Facilities Officer, Tania Kirby, is moving to being full time. Partnership working is another theme: collaboration with The Theatre and The Branch Hub (perhaps even for a School of Rock!). Town centre appearance, traffic, safety and cycling remain prominent.

New Air Quality Plan



As reported in May, for the first time since 2008, West Oxfordshire District Council is developing a new Air Quality Action Plan for Chipping Norton's town centre. It is WODC's legal duty to monitor and set a plan to deal with unacceptable levels of town centre pollution, caused by heavy traffic and other emissions. There has been frustration because of the little action from the 2008 AQAP. WODC has now published a new draft AQAP plan after

detailed work – and want public comments in a survey open until 14 July. The full report and appendices stretch to 106 pages, still showing pollution affecting the town centre – particularly through the narrow Horsefair and High Street areas with more intense levels of pollution: see diagram right. Interestingly, levels have dropped a little in recent years, and might soon not meet the criteria needed for an AQMA designation – and of course vehicle technology is gradually improving.



A canyon effect in town centre traps air pollution

However, the consultants and WODC continue to cite the risks to public health, and a plan has to be put in place, plus many town centre users raise concerns about noise, traffic volumes, safety, and access. But on the main AQAP pollution issues, this report lists 36 different 'mitigation measures' to try and make a difference. Those listed as 'high impact' – such as dealing with the A44 main road 'corridor' and the heavy traffic and HGVs through town – are, as ever, beyond the power of WODC to implement. Other considerations, such as encouraging less car usage and more walking, cycling, and public transport, are in play, but these have only a low or medium impact – and again require actions not just by the District Council. There seems to have been little analysis of the impact of potential town growth including 1000+ new homes proposed at East Chipping Norton. The consultants also say that quantifying the actual likely impact of any measures is challenging.

What do you think about the proposed measures? Are there others that should be considered? The WODC survey

and the draft AQAP can both be found at yourvoice.westoxon.gov.uk/projects/air-quality-action-plan-for-chipping-norton-and-witney. WODC says copies of the new plan can also be reviewed at The Guildhall office in Chipping Norton.

Nathan's Lido swimathon

Swimming chef Nathan Phelps of Whistler's Restaurant achieved the remarkable feat of swimming 10km to raise over £2,000 for The Lido on a sunny Sunday in May. Nathan clocked up 400 lengths without stopping, while other swimmers young and old swam lengths alongside him to achieve a collective community marathon. 'We're so grateful to Nathan for his amazing efforts' said Lido Trustee Claire Jarvis. 'He overcame many setbacks, not least a stay in hospital in January which knocked him out of training for a month, but he stuck with it and powered on to reach his goal. Watching Nathan swim, you would never guess that he learnt his technique by watching YouTube videos!'



Photo: Ed Nix

Town Council's healthy finances

Chipping Norton Town Council ended their financial year on 31 March 2023 and the accounts were reported to the new Finance & Resources Committee in June. Finances seem in good health. Expenditure last year for 2022/23 of £476k against income of £451k meant a deficit of around £25k; however, this was less than planned and includes spending during the year on projects such as Town Hall and Recreation which used earmarked reserves. The independent auditors gave a positive report on the Council's financial processes. At 31 March 2023, the Council had £621k in total in their reserves – with £380k of this earmarked for special projects including considerable spending on the Town Hall repairs and refurbishment. Much of this 'earmarked' project spending is planned in the current year (2023/24) with a budgeted expenditure of £787k exceeding income of £425k by over £362k. A priority for the new Town Council will be to complete all this new work successfully alongside a busy year of other work across the board.

New style community awards

Chipping Norton Town Councillors are developing ideas for how better to recognise and celebrate achievement within the Community. An initial discussion at June's Finance Committee heard ideas such as special awards and ceremonies; perhaps for 'above and beyond' contributions from young people, voluntary organisations, businesses, public service and more. This could incorporate the existing Sports Awards and there might also be a top award to replace the Honorary Citizen Award. The Councillors' discussion also considered recognising service when a resident dies. Memorial benches have always been popular but they require maintenance and we now have quite a few. One suggestion is to plant more commemorative trees in designated locations around town and in the cemetery. Councillors agreed these

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ideas in principle but more work is needed on specific proposals and these need to be put to a future meeting of the full Town Council.

Cycling – it's for everyone!

Chipping Norton Town Council is striving to make cycling more convenient around town – with the latest project being to install two Turvec Bike Repair Stands and Pumps, providing essential tools and equipment for repairing and adjusting different types of bicycle. Weather-resistant and durable, these stands are located opposite the Town Hall steps and at the Leisure Centre. The Town Council is actively collaborating on a range of other initiatives to



Cllr Mark Walker with cyclists at one of the new repair stations



'Bemused' in Chipping Norton

sufficient interest, training in bike maintenance could also be organised.

The Town Clerk was alerted to the plight of one bemused young cyclist (pictured) looking for instructions – you need to tug open the magnetic door, the tools and pumps are inside, and bikes can be lifted on to the machine's arms for repairs. Signage is being planned – Ed

Black Horse's summer opening

Some months back, local pubs group Lionhearth, which runs The Chequers in Churchill and The Swan in Ascott-under-Wychwood, bought the closed Salford Inn – just a 40-minute stroll over the fields from Chipping Norton. The News had been told it would open after Easter, revived with the old name of The Black Horse. But refurbishments were started, including providing more sheltered permanent space for dining at the back. Lionhearth's latest statement says 'opening late summer'. They promise 'rustic dining', and there's a one-bedroom cottage to rent nearby. Lionhearth also announced new three bedrooms of accommodation at The Swan in a nearby building called The Chapel. Four newly refurbished cottages are promised later this year in Kingham and, finally,

The Cock pub at Combe (at the back of Blenheim Park) is also now in the portfolio and due to reopen.

New cinema to start in July?

Watch out for the new boutique 'Living Room Cinema' opening at the redeveloped Harpers store at 29–30 High Street in Chipping Norton. The website went live in early June and is selling tickets for film shows starting from mid-July. Early films include *Asteroid City*, *Indiana Jones*, and *The Little Mermaid*. There are two small comfortable cinema rooms and a café bar. Tickets are priced initially at £16.50 but a multi-tiered membership scheme is being promoted starting with a standard subscription of £100 per year to include four free films, plus ticket and café/bar discounts, and other benefits. For details see thelivingroomcinemachippy.co.uk

Abbeyfield closure shock

Eleven residents – and their families – at the much-liked Abbeyfield supported home for elderly at The Old Bakehouse in Chadlington, received shock news in May that their home is targeted for potential closure by the charity that runs it. The Abbeyfield 'family', started 60 years ago, comprises over 140 member charities running internationally



over 400 local supported living houses and some full care homes. The majority are in the UK and over 100 sites, including Chadlington, are owned and run directly by the largest and main charity – Abbeyfield Society UK. That main charity also provides overall direction for the rest. Even more upsetting, according to families involved, was how representatives from Abbeyfield Society's HQ, at a meeting at The Old Bakehouse called at short notice, read a letter to staff, residents, and families to 'begin consultation on a closure' – citing costs needed to update and maintain the property to 'standards required' (see letters page). The formal consultation period is 45 days for staff, after which it seems the elderly residents, many of whom are frail, will have to seek alternative accommodation. Few questions were answered at the meeting. For many, this has been their safe and sociable home, with helpful staff and regular meals, in a wonderful village setting.

The story goes wider. One report suggests more than 40 of the Abbeyfield Society's houses are on a UK closure list. Similar 'announcement' meetings and letters were reported in Cornwall, Devon, and Wiltshire. Abbeyfield's Stow on the Wold and Banbury houses are also threatened. It seems the properties, many in desirable areas, are likely to be sold. Paul Tennant, the UK CEO, was quoted saying the decision was 'not one we wanted to make' but reflected the huge 'unprecedented pressure' facing social housing providers. The Abbeyfield Society filed annual accounts to March 2022 with a significant deficit of £15.1m on turnover of only £47m. The

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deficit included a major £11m provision ('impairment') for a failed construction project in Plymouth. By early 2022, a new Chair and CEO had been appointed – with a number of Board changes.

Relatives of Abbeyfield residents in Chadlington, and also from homes elsewhere, are robustly engaging with the charity to oppose the closures which, they say, would be a disaster both personally and more widely when elderly care nationally is in such crisis. Houses such as The Old Bakehouse, while not full care homes, provide wonderful, good value, supported living to preserve residents' independence. Families insist there are viable options to keep places such as The Old Bakehouse in use. Abbeyfield say that they will listen to those consulted on 'thoughts, ideas and any proposals...before a final decision is made.' A wider petition has also been launched.

Possible Skateboard park

After over 15 years of proposals and surveys – could Chipping Norton now be getting a skateboard park? Past efforts have stalled, both from lack of support and a suitable location. Another recent enthusiastic plea from local youngsters saw Town Councillors revisit the issue. In May Councillors discussed (with the public excluded) a confidential report from the Town Clerk after feasibility discussions with Skateboard GB and other skate park and wheeled sports companies. A public report is awaited, but, based on experience elsewhere, costs for suitable skateparks (for boards, bikes, skates, etc.) could range from £100,000 to over £300,000. Funding typically comes from grants, developers' Section 106 contributions, and possibly parish, District, and County Councils. Local community fundraising can help to find matched funding. In Chipping Norton, a site would need landowner agreement – for example down New Street (The Field Reeves), Cotswold Crescent (Cottsway Housing), Greystones (with land owned both by District and Town Councils) or of course from private landowners alongside other developments. News on all this – including a possible meeting about suitable locations – is awaited from the Town Council.

Keep Chippy Beautiful



Calling all hands! MP Robert Courts litter picking in Brize Norton on the Coronation Bank Holiday's Big Help Out

for dates for a possible community meeting and Big Clean Up events – perhaps alongside the current litter pick up days run by Co-op staff. Posters for the whole initiative are planned and a small budget has been agreed for equipment, hi-vis jackets – and perhaps some visible branding such as T-shirts! A big clean up could extend beyond tidying and litter picking to weeding, clearing overgrown paths, and cleaning signs. The Council's Maintenance Operative Paolo Oliveri has been attacking town centre weeds – starting at the War Memorial and making his way through town. Previous clean-ups have also looked at things such as repainting railings and noticeboards. A wider 'Keep Chippy Beautiful' efforts will have to include working with both County and District Councils who are responsible for things such as rubbish collection, road signs and street furniture, better visitor signage, potholes, pavement repairs, and overall town appearance.

Chipping Norton Town Councillors want to step up the community support for help with a 'Keep Chippy Beautiful' campaign. Some local citizens have regularly, and without fuss, adopted a 'let's just do it' approach to tidying up the Town. Now, following an appeal by the Town Council on social media, more volunteers have started coming forward. Watch out on



Overflowing bin at New St recreation ground in June

Chippy Clean Ups in action

Recent years have seen a range of community-led initiatives to keep Chipping Norton looking good. See below:



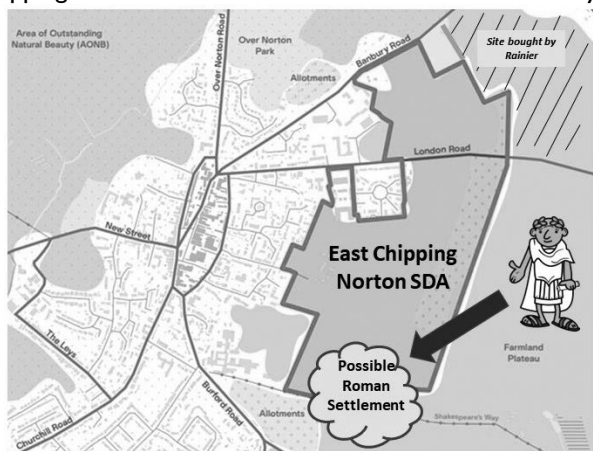
In 2016 a Big Chippy Clean Up monthly effort was restarted by Experience Chipping Norton, a group of local town businesses with the community joining in. Other actions included Councillors repainting railings and Cubs cleaning street signs. A Chippy in Bloom idea was mooted but not pursued.



A 2011 volunteer team ready for action complete with T-shirts. There was a regular monthly clean up – first started by former Mayor the late Gina Burrows on 'the Ides' (the 15th) of each month. The Mayor at the time, Cllr Chris Butterworth, is pictured top right joining in.

East Chippy, Romans & delays

Planning work for 1000+ new homes and a school at East Chipping Norton has now been on hold for over a year.



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

Despite the site being allocated in WODC's 2018 Local Plan, there is still no masterplan. Delays have been caused by poor priorities, Covid, disagreements on process between landowners and planning authority WODC and ... last but not least ... a requirement over 12 months ago for an archaeological survey on part of the site. As recent readers know, confirmation of a possible 'significant' Roman settlement has caused further delay while Historic England consider whether to recommend protection, perhaps as a scheduled ancient monument. At June's meeting of Chipping Norton Town Council's Strategic Planning Committee, members welcomed an interim report from Historic England which sets out much of the survey's findings but draws no conclusion yet on any recommendations. HE's work continues and their report to the Secretary of State for DCMS for a decision is due later this year.

All this leaves great uncertainty over the East Chippy site, but there is plenty of space there and nearby where homes could be built on land with little archaeological interest. Landowners such as Cala Homes and the County Council (also Rainier – see next article), will be looking at this. But a big concern, shared by The Town Council, is that piecemeal developments will put at risk a sustainable integrated plan for town growth supported by the appropriate level of infrastructure investment. The Town Council's 'Build Chippy Better' group had been focusing on this – but their work has also inevitably stalled as well. Our Councillors, on our behalf, and of course the *Chippy News*, will all need to keep a close watching brief on all this.

WODC's housing dilemma

With East Chippy 'stalled', will developer Rainier be given planning permission for 90 new homes on land off the Banbury Road beyond the Cricket Club? The site is some way out of Chippy, not in the East Chippy site, and not allocated. WODC have until 27 June to 'determine' the planning application. Chipping Norton Town Council had objected saying what was needed was 'a strategic development plan for the entirety of the land in Rainier's ownership to address the pressure on already stressed infrastructure – including increased healthcare provision, water and sewage infrastructure upgrades, parking, and sports facilities.' Rainier simply responded that the company is promoting the wider site, (which could see 400 or more new homes), through the review of the Local Plan. WODC has conflicting considerations to weigh up. They don't have enough housing coming forward to meet their 5-year supply, and development at East Chipping Norton and elsewhere is stalled, so there should be a 'presumption in favour of approval' and WODC considers additional homes could be 'helpful'. But the site is unallocated and does not adjoin the built-up area, so needs to be considered as development in open countryside and it doesn't comply with relevant policy requirements. Planning Policy Officers have to consider whether the harm caused by this proposal 'significantly and demonstrably' outweighs benefits – such as meeting housing needs, affordable housing, green infrastructure, and economic benefits. Potential harms include impact on landscape, distance from town services and facilities, increased car use, and implications on local infrastructure, including the water network. WODC Councillors were expected to consider the application at the Uplands meeting on 26 June.

Welcome grants from our Co-op



Midcounties Co-op, who run Chippy's town supermarket and travel shop, are launching a new year of grants up to £500 to local community organisations. Awarded every three

months, the first phase is due to begin in July. If you're a local group or charity in need of funds to support your neighbourhood projects, the Co-op's Your Community Fund is a great way to get some financial support to help you succeed. Anyone can apply as long as your project is people-led and helps to build strong, diverse communities. Your group has to have been established for at least three months. Visit

The Langston Nursing Home offers Day Care, Palliative, Short/Long Term Respite, Dementia, Nursing & Residential Care. We are proud of the varied activities daily.

- latest CQC grading is overall '**Good**' and in all aspects of inspection
- recently, we have also been awarded '**Gold Standard Framework for End of Life Care**'
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midcounties.coop/our-communities/funding/your-community-fund/.

Farewell to Lady Grey

There was sad news from Hook Norton Brewery at the end of May when they had to announce the passing of their beautiful shire horse mare, Lady Grey. In the short time that she had been in the Brewery team, Lady Grey had become a much-loved addition to the Hook Norton community and she will be greatly missed in the village. She was a remarkable horse, a beautiful, bold Shire who would pull anything, anywhere. Her CV ranged from filming 'Good Morning Britain' live, to Pantomime, Showing, Santa deliveries and, of late, her horse-drawn deliveries. She adored her driving work and excelled under saddle. Unfortunately, she was born with a slight heart murmur, which was closely monitored. A sudden and unexpected deterioration in her condition and a diagnosis of heart failure led to the difficult decision to say goodbye.

In happier news, four-year-old Balmoral, the Brewery's latest purchase, took first prize in his very first show. He competed against nine other horses at the West Oxfordshire Riding Club show and behaved impeccably. All this whilst in an indoor arena next to RAF Brize Norton to the sound of military jets landing and taking off. He's clearly destined to become a high flier! The whole team will be kept busy over the summer and can be seen at many venues, as listed on hooky.co.uk/hooky-shire-horses/.



Twilight Café at Town Hall?



What to do and where to get together in the afternoon after school hours? Chipping Norton's Town Hall steps have, for decades, been a place to 'rest awhile and chat' – for visitors and citizens of all ages! So, how about a simple 'Twilight Café' facility at the steps and inside the Upper Hall for those who might drop by. In May Town Councillors heard an outline idea from Rizvana Poole (one of our District Councillors) who also runs the Chippy Larder, for something to be provided – particularly with younger people in mind. The Chippy Larder might provide food and refreshments, including coffee, at a cheap or subsidised rate, with volunteers or staff to help. After a discussion, including about DBS checks and safeguarding, Councillors warmly welcomed the idea. Rizvana and the Chippy Larder will now talk to other organisations and youth groups, scope out the ideas, and come up with a three-month pilot plan. Hopefully something might start over the summer or this autumn.

Loads of lots for Lido!



Auctioneer Jeremy Clarkson pictured with fellow farmer Kaleb Cooper and Lido Life Guards

A packed Town Hall of Lido lovers helped Jeremy Clarkson raise over £13,000 for the Town's popular outdoor pool, which is run by a Charity with much help from the community. The enthusiastic auctioneer was ably supported by Kaleb Cooper whose promise of a personal tractor lesson (in Jeremy's Lamborghini) was the highest ticket of the night. Huge thanks to all the local businesses and individuals who supported The Lido so generously by donating lots, and to everyone in the audience for making it such an excellent evening's entertainment and the biggest fundraiser of the year. The Lido pool receives no public funding other than its Town Council grant, so it's only through events like this one that The Lido can continue to expand its offering and to survive the current energy crisis. Thanks are also due to our inimitable auctioneer Jeremy Clarkson and to his co-host, former trustee Ken Norman, who was successfully lured away from his new life on the UK waterways to help out hosting the event.

Claire Jarvis – Lido Trustee

 INDEPENDENT RESTAURANT
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CONSISTENTLY GOOD FOOD Packed full of flavour! GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY
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Kaleb Cooper 'breaks out'

Chippy's home-grown farmer and Amazon Prime celeb Kaleb Cooper is 'breaking out' – both from the Clarkson show and from Chipping Norton – in a well-publicised career



Kaleb Cooper with PM Rishi Sunak at the Farm to Fork Summit

shift. Given his often-quoted aversion to travelling outside Chippy, it's hardly surprising there was much banter about his 'first encounter' with a revolving door on a recent trip to London. But clearly, as a fast learner, he's grasped the concept of the 'revolving door' in his latest career moves. First, he is off on a one-man tour.TV fame as Jeremy Clarkson's farm assistant demonstrated Kaleb's capacity for outspoken commentary in his views on the boss's agricultural acumen. So now, after a successful book launch, he is honing his 'tongue in cheek' delivery and ready humour for a one man show of *The World According To Kaleb – Kaleb Goes On Tour*. Promised are his unique views on many things – including sheep, Jeremy Clarkson, goats ('they're a proper good clear-up animal, they eat everything; no wonder they taste horrible'), New York ('if it's like London where there are no tractors, that's no good'), famous people, why farming is the best job in the world and, crucially, sartorial matters such as hairstyles – especially his own!

More seriously, with a spotlight on the industry, Kaleb will be highlighting the many challenges that British farmers face. And he is serious. He may have compared hairstyles with Prime Minister Sunak at the recent No.10 Farm to Fork Summit, but they also discussed farming concerns, particularly getting young people into farming. Kaleb himself came from a non-agricultural background but is passionate about all things farming, and about encouraging others to work in agriculture. He recently joined forces with the Royal Agricultural University at Cirencester to launch a new student bursary, which will contribute £3,000 to a successful applicant – supplemented by a placement with Kaleb and/or his industry partners during the University course or as a gap placement. Email scholarships@rau.ac.uk for further information. Finally,

congratulations to Kaleb and his fiancée Taya on the birth of daughter Willa, a sister to two-year-old Oscar.

See front page picture – Ed.

Gill's highflying exploit

Chipping Norton resident Gill Marriott took to the skies in an extraordinary manner on 19 June at Henstridge Airfield in Dorset! Taking a deep breath, she bravely climbed onto a Boeing Stearman plane, was fixed to the top and went 'wingwalking' for charity. The plane was



Chocks Away!!

originally used to train pilots during WW2, with 65-year-old Gill telling the News 'climbing up was not much fun, but I loved the experience once I was strapped in!' It was a huge challenge, as she explained, 'I don't like heights or ladders and my balance isn't great unless both feet are firmly on the ground'. Gill was diagnosed with breast cancer in the summer of 2022 and has since had successful treatment. She wanted to raise money, partly as a thanks, for Maggie's Oxford charity at Churchill Hospital which, she said, always had a warm welcome for family and friends too as well as for patients. Maggie's offers help to patients and families including 1:1 support, counselling, workshops, help with money worries and a chance to meet others going through a similar experience. Gill's efforts have raised over £2500 so far from over 70 donations and she's still counting. You can still support her and the charity by donating at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gill-marriott1.

Tune-Up for the Summer!



Once again, Withers Court – the arcade opposite Chipping Norton's Town Hall steps – echoed to uplifting sounds emerging from the community piano during its recent retuning by Piano Tuner Extraordinaire, Robin Anderson. Originally unveiled by the then

Chippy Mayor, Georgia Mazower, in September 2021, passers-by have been treated to inspiring music by budding pianists of all levels of experience, performing impromptu renditions on this colourful piano, beautifully decorated by the talented art students of Chippy School. In recent years, particularly since the Covid outbreak, over 2000 street pianos have appeared worldwide in public places. Bringing music into your life is proven to reduce anxiety, heart and respiratory rates, cardiac complications, and to lower blood pressure and increase immune response. Playing piano has also been shown to be a great source of stress relief, and provides ample opportunities to bolster self-esteem. Our community piano can demonstrate the unique joy that self-expression through

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LOCAL NEWS

music-making and sharing can bring. It should be a strictly judgement-free zone. For 200 years, the piano has also been a staple of the home, bringing together families and friends and strengthening communities with the power of music.

Bets are on for Chad FC

Chadlington FC football team hit the headlines last month – with sponsorship and media mentions by a local TV celebrity sponsor! Here's the story. Apparently, the age of chivalry is not dead. Don Quixote, as we know, charged fearlessly at windmills in the mistaken belief that they were rampaging giants. Well, he was a rather elderly knight and spectacles then were not up to modern standards. Our local knight errant has selected a more fleshly band of giants to cut down to size. The intrepid knight is Jeremy Clarkson and Chadlington FC his chosen weapon. So where are the giants? Jeremy is understandably proud of his association with the local team and, on hearing that Hollywood-sponsored Wrexham FC has just been promoted to the Football League, he issued his challenge: 'OK Wrexham. Chadlington FC is coming for you.' A bold declaration that calls for some hefty support. The grand old Don, of course, relied on his tired and bony mount Rosinante and a lance to tilt at his opponents but a more robust medium seems to be in order here. And no, that is not likely to be an appropriate use for a



Chadlington's new replica kit, complete with Diddy Squat Tractor emblem – was sold out on the Club's website!

Lamborghini tractor. We would love to see the sceptical odds offered by Irish bookmaker Paddy Power be proved wrong but, as their spokesman said, 'At 150/1 to win, Jeremy Clarkson's Chadlington would definitely need to find their Top Gear if they're to lure Ryan Reynold's and Rob McIlhenny's Wrexham side into a challenge match.' Watch this space!

Pool Meadow restoration

Chipping Norton Town Council's Strategic Planning Committee in June heard that survey and design work is mainly complete for the agreed restoration work at Pool Meadow, below the New Street Recreation ground. Clearance work around the pool started earlier in the year, but plans for restoring the wetland pool itself, with associated works, are still awaiting consent from Historic England, as parts of the area are scheduled as a historic monument. Possible Lottery funding will then be sought. Councillors will be keeping a watching brief on the project – and concerns for monitoring wildlife protection and putting in appropriate visitor information and signage were noted.

Town benches update

Chipping Norton Town Council's programme to refurbish and add new town benches continues. At June's Strategic Planning meeting, members heard that two benches on New Street including that in memory of former Mayor Gina Burrows, were about to be reinstalled after refurbishment. Damage to the sites from parked vehicles had caused delay. Work on the new large, curved bench in Millennium Gardens was progressing (the suitable porous new base is pictured above) with a June target date. There's also been a request for a new bench along Spring Street. Contact Chipping Norton's Town Clerk at the Guildhall for any updates.



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Theatre to help Town Hall?

Let's make use of our wonderful Town Hall! Chipping Norton Town Council is working hard to get our Town Hall used as much as possible by the Community. There are already more bookings for parties, events, clubs – and latest enquiries also include a place for regular piano lessons and by Barclays possibly to run their 'customer consultations' when their branch closes in July. Councillors are looking to increase staff resources to support all this. In another positive boost for the Town Hall, in May, John Terry, the Director of Chipping Norton Theatre, presented to Councillors a detailed set of ideas for 'partnership working' between the Theatre and the Town Hall as a venue. The Theatre could use its expertise to help promote and run both their own events and other bookable events in the Hall. They could provide box office booking, marketing, help to run a bar, and support for events. Commercial arrangements would need to be worked out, but it could benefit the Theatre with income and visibility, and see the Town Hall increase its income with some economies of scale by working together. Town Councillors gave a positive

LOCAL NEWS

welcome – and a subgroup of Cllrs Keyser, Coleman, and Bibby, and the Facilities and Events Officer are to work with Chipping Norton Theatre on a full proposal to bring back to the Committee.

Chippy Shuttle needs drivers

Who could have imagined 40 years ago that when three people got together to purchase a Dormobile with wooden seats to help villagers reach local towns, it would expand to the lifeline services provided by The Villager Bus Company today? Over those years an amazing 500,000 passengers have



Topside Pharmacy is the latest business whose very welcome sponsorship is celebrated here by chairman Keith Gowing and Topside's Yasin Jussab.

used the service. Now communities are served by six buses running 13 routes and carrying 500 passengers a week, 200 of whom are on the Chippy Shuttle. Anyone can use the services, paying with cash or by bus pass. And this month The Villager Bus Company celebrates its Ruby anniversary. Look out for the 40 Years logo on their buses!

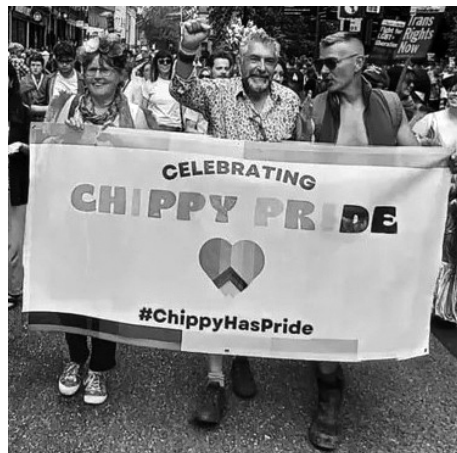
Over the 40 years, about 150 volunteer drivers from all walks of life have helped the team to drive the buses on country routes and the popular Chippy Shuttle. But people retire or move on to other activities and the company (which is totally managed and run by volunteers) is seeking reinforcements, particularly for the Shuttle. If you are under 70 and have a clean licence, you will be warmly welcomed – once a fortnight is the minimum commitment, but more is appreciated. Contact Keith Gowing on 01608 811617 or kcgowing@btinternet.com. And services could not run without donations and the financial support of our County Council and local businesses. Details of services are on the website villagerbus.co.uk.

New Visitor Info Centre?

There was another positive suggestion from Chipping Norton Theatre to Town Councillors at their May meeting. West Oxfordshire District Council, which is responsible for promoting local tourism, closed Chipping Norton's Visitor Information Centre over 15 years ago. Apart from a Saturday morning desk by local volunteers in the Town Hall (now ended), it hasn't been replaced. Now the Theatre's John Terry is suggesting they might use space within the Theatre Box Office (in Goddards Lane opposite the Library) to provide visitor information. Arrangements and resources need working through – but Town Councillors were enthusiastic. The Theatre and Councillors will no doubt be talking to WODC about getting both financial and other resources to help. Could something be up and running for the summer tourist season?

Chippy Pride at Town Hall

Chippy locals are encouraged to drop in to the Town Hall from 10.30am on 1 July and join in the first Chippy Pride celebration hosted by the Town Council in association with Got2B Youth Group. June 2023 is Pride Month in the UK – and a group from the



Town were invited to attend the Oxford Pride event at the beginning of June – flying the Chippy Pride banner alongside everyone supporting the LGBTQ+ community (see picture). Around town in Chipping Norton, businesses have been encouraged to decorate their shop fronts with the LGBT Rainbow – with awards for the best dressed shop window being presented on 1 July. The event in the Town Hall sees doors open at 10.30am, a formal opening by Mayor Sandra Coleman at 11, then live music and talks throughout the day through to 4pm, hosted by Oxfordshire's performance artist, Lady B, who attended Chipping Norton School, and headlining at the end of the day. Follow the @chippypride group on Instagram to keep up to date with the Chippy Pride event on 1 July.

Got2B, based in Carterton, are now coming to the end of their two years specially funded work with Chippy's young people – The Town Council host a farewell party for them from 6.30–8.30pm on 6 July in the Town Hall. All welcome

Super Hero Holiday Club

Chipping Norton's Community Church are running a free Holiday Club for primary school children on 24, 25, 26 and 30 July, in the Town Hall from 10am to 12.30pm. It's for Reception to Year 6s (in their last primary school year). There's music, games, snacks, drinks, fun and crafts. Reserve a place via Kath Room at cnccholidayclub2023@gmail.com



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Running for fun – and funds!

Team Rollright Runners took part in a Fun Run at Blenheim Palace on Sunday 21 May to raise money for Great Rollright Primary School.



Well done to all Great Rollright School runners: pupils and parents

Amy Spicer from the Friends of Great Rollright PTA said, 'It was a vision of red T-shirts at the front as they set off on the one-mile run. Isaac and Otto

crossed the finish line first of our younger Rollright Runners in an impressive time of 8.02 – overall placed 31st and 32nd out of 266 runners. All children crossed the finish line in fantastic times, and all received a medal.' In the 7k race, Tim, a parent at the School, was first with a fantastic time of 31.29, coming 5th overall in the race. The children were waiting at the finish cheering on all the runners. Amy added, 'We would like to thank Chipping Norton Leisure Centre, Chippy Larder and Radnor Hills drinks for sponsoring the Rollright Runners, enabling us to provide goody bags for the children. Everyone then joined in for a picnic on the lawn in the sunshine. So far, over £1700 has been raised – all going towards new playground equipment for the School. We have a target of £6000 to raise. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the runners, it really is appreciated'.

Town's domestic abuse

Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood teams have been running roadshows about Domestic Abuse, including one in Chipping Norton in May. Nationally, this important issue affects one in four women, one in six men, one in ten LGBTQ and one in five teenage girls. Abuse can be either physical or psychological; controlling behaviour is a form of abuse as are honour-based issues. It is the category with highest crime numbers in the Chippy area every month, often 'hidden indoors' and out of sight. Domestic abuse is a pattern of behaviours which often takes place within an intimate, or family relationship, making it difficult for the person experiencing abuse to have control over their own life. These behaviours can be controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading or violent. Coercive and controlling behaviour has been a criminal offence since 2015.

If you think someone you know is experiencing abuse, then learning how to support someone is important. Support and advice is at hand via various organisations: Women's Aid, info@womensaid.org.uk; Victim Support, victimsupport.org.uk, 08081 689111; Support Line, info@supportline.org.uk, 01708 765200; Respect, info@mensadvice.org.uk, 08088 010327.

If you are an organisation that would like further information on how to increase awareness amongst your staff, then you can email contact@reducingtherisk.org.uk or

office@ncdv.org.uk. Facebook users can keep an eye on future events and activities around Chipping Norton, including on the Town Council's Facebook page and in their monthly newsletter.

Changes at Holy Trinity

The community at Chipping Norton's Holy Trinity Church are saying a fond farewell to Father Anthony Joyce who is retiring. He arrived in 2015 when he also took over at St Teresa's in Charlbury. In the parish newsletter, editor Kathy Thompson said Father Tony brought a wealth of experience and stories, was always ready to listen, and his homilies were illuminating and offered opportunities for prayerful reflection. Kathy also recalled how in



Father Clive Dytor, the new priest at Holy Trinity Church

lockdown Father John, an old friend over from Spain, could not return home so joined in saying daily Mass – offered up to an empty lockdown church! Recently Father Tony has had two operations and, while recovering, his Charlbury assistant Father Clive Dytor stepped in. With Father Tony retiring, Father Clive is now Parish Priest for both communities and his Induction Mass was on 12 May, celebrated by Canon John Batthula, who formally gave custody of the Church, its Prayers and Sacraments to Father Clive. The Parish Communities pledged their support to him. Father Clive thanked Father Tony for his support and wisdom.

Beech Haven's Theatre visit



It's Chipping Norton Theatre's 50th anniversary and a team recently visited Beech Haven Care Home with some memorabilia and dressing up outfits. There were lots of stories and laughs and Beech Haven have booked seats for a trip to see *Cinderella*, the next Panto, and more events at The Theatre.

Sandra Stowe



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Progress at The Branch

The building work at The Branch (the community hub under construction at the old NatWest building in Market Place) remains on track. Emma Kennedy from St Mary's Church said, 'Frustratingly, you cannot see the amazing progress that is being made from the front. Rest assured there is lots of action at the rear'. With all the foundations now in place, the steels are now starting to give the new Community Hall and Community Kitchen extension some shape. In May, the Branch Out and Build team (a group of 10 young people from Chipping Norton School) got to hear all about the role of a Quantity Surveyor, and in June they learnt about the life of a Structural Engineer. Emma added, 'We are delighted to be working in partnership with Solid Engineering, based in Chippy. For further updates over the summer please do take a look at the notice board on the hoardings, which also has some photos. We are so grateful to the Town, particularly our neighbours and the local businesses, for your patience, and we look forward to welcoming you in February 2024'.



The Branch Out and Build team in action out the back!

Another café at Barclays site?



With Barclays bank closing its doors for the last time on 6 July, another of Chippy's former banks is looking for a new use – and the property's owners are suggesting one use could be a café. Whilst NatWest is

being transformed into The Branch community hub and HSBC is still awaiting an operator to convert it to a hotel and restaurant, the owners of the Barclays building at 15 High Street are seeking to maximise its marketing appeal. As part of a post-Covid recovery plan, the Government changed planning laws to enable new uses on high streets across the country without planning permission. Whereas consent had previously been required for a financial institution, such as a bank, to change into a shop or a café or an office or a medical centre, since September 2020 all these uses have been clubbed together in one new class, that even includes gyms. So, in fact, mentioning a planning 'change of use' to a café is really just the agents for the owners merely confirming for marketing purposes that a café would be permitted in the building. But it's true that a new use for housing, a pub, hot food takeaway or live music venue are not included in this new class so planning permission would still be required to change to one of these uses.

Is Chippy reaching peak café? (see our centre summer supplement!) High Street gyms and crèches are popular

elsewhere. Alternatively, one of our existing shops might appreciate a higher profile location. But whatever the marketing reveals the demand to be, it will be good to see a new use contributing to a vibrant Chippy town centre.

Diddly Squat farm shop issues

A Planning Inspector has given the owner of Diddly Squat Farm Shop some partial good news – after hearing appeals against a refusal and enforcement in March. West Oxford-



shire District Council had refused permission for a larger car park and had enforced against unauthorised 'mixed agricultural and leisure attraction use, comprising café, restaurant, gift/farm shop, parking and lavatory facilities'. The inspector has now partially upheld the appeal, granting permission (only temporary) for an enlarged car park to 'formalise temporary parking.' He acknowledged that traffic and parking issues had caused 'a huge inconvenience for those who live nearby'. WODC had concerns the site was becoming a 'leisure attraction', not farm shop. But the Inspector disagreed, saying 'it does not ask for an entrance fee' and was 'not comparable to say a Wildlife Park or miniature railway'. He granted temporary permission of the land uses including a café for three years, requiring restoration of the site following that period.

But it was only partially a 'win', because the Inspector refused permission for the separate Lowland Barn restaurant. He acknowledged that 'the addition of signage, outdoor seating, a catering van, toilet block and restaurant had a 'deleterious effect upon the character and appearance' of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Although it was 'undisputed' that the shop and café had contributed to the local economy. The current controversial application for a temporary car park will now be unnecessary because the Inspector has granted consent. But there may still be demands locally for some form of control to manage visitor numbers and perhaps provide shuttle bus transport. For everyone, the dilemma remains – is this a small farm shop selling local products, or is it in effect a 'de facto' tourist attraction

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bringing people from far and wide – something which no doubt will continue with Season 4 of *Clarkson's Farm*, reportedly due in early 2024.

Library's Summer Reading

Summer Reading Challenge 2023 It's time to get active this summer with a free children's reading challenge at Chipping Norton Library. From 8 July to 9 September, children across Oxfordshire can collect stickers and rewards as they read library books. This year's theme – 'Ready, Set, Read!' – is all about sports, games and play. Children who finish the challenge at an Oxfordshire Library will get a medal and certificate. Under 4s can take part in a mini challenge with their own special card and stickers. Look out for fantastic new books and summer holiday activities at the Library. Details at oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge. Go to summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for more fun!

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Sally Moore – Library Manager

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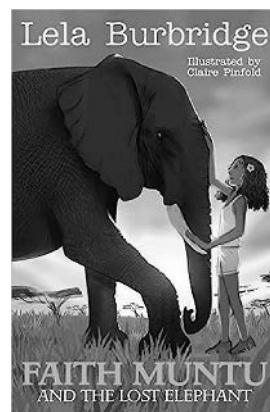
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Lela's Initiative for Uganda

The News has reported before about The Lela Initiative – a not-for-profit publishing house founded by Ugandan-born local resident and author Lela Burbridge. Her first book *Ashes of Childhood* was about her own challenges. Then in March local author and illustrator, Sarah Hutchinson-Jarman, launched her book *Frog Finds Home* – also for The Lela Initiative. With proceeds from these and other books, a whole library has now been transformed in Uganda. They work closely with the Alzax foundation to plant literacy hubs in African communities with high deprivation. Free access to books



brings hope and empowerment to Ugandan communities – and the library transformation has been a dream come true. There's another new children's book, *Faith Muntu and The Lost Elephant* by Lela Burbridge and Claire Pinfold (pictured above), and *Ashes of Childhood* has been republished.

The Lela Initiative team has visited local schools and nurseries – bringing literature alive through interactive workshops and explaining the important work they are doing for Africa. Thanks to books sales and to everyone who has 'twinned their bookshelves', primary school children in Kasaala whose library building was initially a very rough shell with few books, now have a bright and welcoming space with lots of books to come. You can buy the books online or at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop, or please donate at thelelainitiative.org.

Cooking delights at Penhurst

Residents and staff at Penhurst Gardens Care Home were treated to a talk and taster by celebrity chef Mark Hix in June. Mark (pictured) has been employed by Porthaven, the care home's owners, to inspire all their chefs. At his own restaurant in Lyme Regis, Mark specialises in using fish caught locally and plants which he forages along the coast.



He came to Chipping Norton to give a cookery demonstration, talking as he worked about the ingredients, most of which came from Dorset, and how he managed during Lockdown. While his restaurant was closed, he wrote a column for the *Daily Telegraph* and, using an old Chevrolet truck bought on eBay, he went round selling fresh fish caught by Lyme Regis fishermen, providing an income for them as well as himself. After his talk, the audience was treated to a salad of Dorset Cheddar and pickled walnuts, smoked trout, and monkfish, with a cocktail made with Dorset Vodka.

Summer events for Lawrence

Raising funds for the Lawrence Home Nursing Team, **Proms, Picnic and Fireworks** is back – at Chivel Farm, Heythrop on Saturday, 8 July. The gardens open from 6pm with music starting at 7.30. Pick your glorious garden spot, unpack your picnic and settle down for an evening of spectacular entertainment. Early bird tickets £25pp if booked before Sunday 2 July. Under-18s free accompanied by parent or guardian. Outdoor cash bar from The Crown Inn. Thanks to sponsors Wise Funds and Wheelers Garage Chipping Norton.



Other events coming include **Dent Polo Cup and Lunch** at Kirtlington Polo Club from midday on Sunday 16 July, last few tickets remaining; The **Jane Phillips Memorial Cricket Day** at Chipping Norton and District Cricket Club from midday on Sunday 27 August, teas, children's activities and a pizza van, free entry; The **John Barrows Memorial Cricket Day** at Sandford St Martin Cricket Club from midday on Sunday 3 September, free entry and plenty of family fun; The **Old Bags Handbag Sale, Auction & Lunch** at Ditchley Park from midday on Wednesday 13 September, tickets, £25 pp including lunch, are limited so please book ahead; The **Clay Pigeon Shoot & Supper** at The Oxfordshire Shooting School and The Crown Inn, Church Enstone on Saturday, 23 September; and two glorious **gardens in South Newington**, open by prior appointment, please book ahead via Claire Swan on 07711 720135, groups and individuals welcome. For all information contact Verity Fifer on 01608 684477 or fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org.

Verity Fifer

Co-op leads on sustainability!

Midcounties Co-op's recent AGM and report to Members (many Chipping Norton shoppers are signed up!) included positive news about their own drive on sustainability – after an 'Energy Project of the Year' accolade at the edie 2023 Awards for their work to create a sustainable future. The edie Awards are the world's largest sustainable business awards, which champion climate leadership and have been running for 16 years. Midcounties have committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 50% over the next five years. They highlight actions such as: reducing electricity usage by 8.8% last year, saving 870 tonnes of CO₂; new LED lighting and energy efficient refrigeration; more low carbon products for customers; and a consumer power tariff from the Co-op's utilities business – the only one in the UK powered by renewable community projects. The Co-op's newsletter said, 'Our purpose as a Society is to be a successful consumer co-operative working towards creating a better, fairer world, which has involved extensive research and engagement with our members, broader stakeholders and industry experts, to create our member-led sustainability strategy'.

Skydive for Katharine House

62-year-old Judith Hodgkinson from Chipping Norton will be overcoming her fear of heights and doing a sponsored skydive for Katharine House Hospice on Saturday 9 September. Judith's stepfather Terry had a glioblastoma, deteriorated quickly and was cared for by the Hospice team. At the same time, Judith was supporting her mother who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. She said, 'The care we received from the whole team was outstanding and made a traumatic time much easier. Bereavement support is an invaluable service offered by the Hospice. Initially I did not take up the offer of support as I was busy caring for my mother. However, when she died Two years later, I was overwhelmed. Grief affects everyone differently, at various times. I contacted Katharine House who allocated me a bereavement support worker. She was kind, supportive and professional. She helped me through a very difficult time and I am so grateful. We, as a community, are extremely fortunate to have access to the excellent Katharine House Hospice Team. Please help to ensure these vital specialist services can continue'. You can support Judith and donate to the Hospice at justgiving.com/fundraising/-judith-charity-skydive. Or call into the Katharine House Hospice Shop in Chipping Norton for a sponsorship form.



Peter Pauling 1929–2023



On Monday 23 May, Peter Pauling died peacefully, aged 94. Peter's life began, on 11 March 1929, in Chipping Norton and he never moved far away. He was the oldest of three, born into a farming family. By all accounts, his included, he was a lively and sociable young man. During the war they had a dairy farm in Chippy (now Mill View Retirement housing), supplying milk to most of the Town. They had several Italian prisoners of war, most of whom were not much older than Dad and they became good friends. Peter was a very good farmer; it was in his blood, but he decided to hand over the reins to his son Howard while young enough to enjoy retirement. He and his wife Mary thoroughly enjoyed themselves, travelling abroad, playing bowls, racing (part-owning a racehorse) and being active and loving participants in the lives of their two children and four grandchildren. Mary died when Peter was only 73, but although very sad he determinedly continued to be positive, active and supportive of his family. Peter was a true 'old fashioned' countryman who had a small-scale map of Oxfordshire in his head. He was a lovely man, whose default mode was 'happy'.

Wendy Murphy

Brenda Morris 1933–2023

The News Team was very sad to learn, just before going to print, of the death, after a long hospital stay, of Brenda Morris at the age of 90. Brenda was a well-known and well-respected member of Chipping Norton's community – not least with her many years of support for the Museum and History Society – and, indeed, in the early years of the *Chipping Norton News*. We hope to publish a full tribute later. Our thoughts are with all her family and friends.

Time for your health and wellbeing

Wootton Wellness Workshops

Wellness is on the tip of everyone's tongue at the moment. The term 'self-care' is thrown around rather a lot – and different practices seem to hit social media headlines. Well, there's a team nearby at Wootton-by-Woodstock Village Hall who want to demystify myths and bring holistic workshops to the community in an accessible way. A wonderful selection of skilled practitioners will be visiting the Village Hall in coming months introducing you to traditional methods that can bring balance, harmony and fun to everyday life. There's a friendly space to learn skills, reduce stress, challenge your senses and make new friends too. Workshops run every 3–5 weeks, on Sunday mornings 10am–12noon, so why not make time for yourself and join in. Coming soon is Introduction to the Power of Crystals on 16 July, Aromatherapy Sound Bath on 13 August and Parent and Child Meditation on 10 September. Workshops to follow include Introduction to the Wim Hof Method (including an optional ice bath), Ayurvedic Nutrition and Breathwork. For more information contact WoottonVillageHall@hotmail.com

Glyme Hall health & fitness classes



With a range of regular health and fitness sessions, Karen Biles is celebrating 32 years of teaching classes in Chipping Norton. Run out of Glyme Hall, the September term timetable includes Pilates conditioning (Mon, Wed), Yoga (Mon–Thurs), Gentle Yoga (Mon), and Women's Health (Tue). Karen says her new 'gentle yoga' class is perfect if you are new to yoga, returning after a break or prefer a gentler approach. Most

classes are run in 12-week terms with the flexibility to make up missed classes on other days. Her 4-week Women's Health course is perfect for women over 40 and covers mid-section weight gain, nutrition, exercise, pelvic health, bone health and menopause. Karen also has a studio in Over Norton where she offers NLP coaching, personal training and advice on women's health. She can't quite believe where all the years have gone, saying, 'It has been such a pleasure teaching the community for so long. Some clients have been with me from the first class I taught back in 1991!' For more information, contact Karen on 07919 123046 or visit Karenbilespt.co.uk.

Your Mental Health experience

Chippy News has recently highlighted some of the continuing issues for people with mental health problems – and the challenge of getting the best help and advice. The Branch Charity in Chipping Norton provides outreach services to help point people to the right professional and valued support. But The Branch team would like to hear from you if you have had any lived experience, positive or negative, accessing mental health support in Oxfordshire. Your stories or suggestions for change will feed into a report that they hope will shape services locally. Please contact Catherine Spring via catherine.spring@thebranchtrust.org with your input.

Adult ballet for all



Have you ever tried doing ballet – as a wonderful sociable activity and great for both mind and body! Beginners are most welcome at the Adult Ballet sessions run regularly by Ali Maxwell at Chipping Norton's Glyme Hall. There are daily classes for all abilities and ages. Ballet can help improve posture, balance, coordination, flexibility, muscle tone and confidence. In friendly classes to beautiful music, ballet renews energy and is wonderful for you. Ali is a Royal Academy of Dance qualified teacher who's helped others for nearly 30 years. Alongside the ballet she's a Registered Nurse and aerobics teacher and has also worked with the Take Part team at Chipping Norton Theatre. Classes can be 'pay as you go', so why not come and give ballet a try. Contact Alison: 07930 191296, alimaxwell6@yahoo.co.uk and visit www.l1roubles.com

Yoga Summer School returns

A Yoga Summer School has been running for nearly 30 years at Tiddy Hall in nearby Ascott-under-Wychwood on Wednesday evenings 7–8.30pm. Starting on 26 July for 6 weeks until 30 August, it's an opportunity to explore different styles of yoga from very experienced and knowledgeable teachers in the area during the summer holidays with Nikki Jackson of Yoga Focus in Chipping Norton. For info, contact Nikki on admin@yogafocus.co.uk



FURTHER INFORMATION & BOOKINGS



Our Specialist GPs have a wealth of Women's Health experience, both in menopause and primary care gynaecology.

No referral needed. Fast appointments. Self-book:

- ✓ Menopause
- ✓ HRT
- ✓ Coils & Implants
- ✓ Perimenopause
- ✓ Menstrual Problems
- ✓ Contraception

BOOK NOW

☎ 01865 965 027

✉ reception@oxonahealth.co.uk

🌐 oxonahealth.co.uk

📍 Chipping Norton War Memorial Hospital, OX7 5FA



Chipping Norton News



SUMMER in Chippy



After a much sunnier June, Chipping Norton looks forward to summer and welcoming everyone to our friendly Cotswold Market Town. This summer supplement has some ideas from the News Team for readers and visitors alike.

There's lots to enjoy: **A Market Town Welcome**, then the centre pages have some **Trips Out and About**, where to find some **Animal Magic**, and suggestions for nearby places to see **Flowers and Gardens**. Then on the last page a tour of **Chippy's Café Society**. Finally, don't forget to look at the very back page of this edition for the **Fêtes and Festivals Diary**.

A MARKET TOWN WELCOME

1000 years of History

Take a seat in the *Market Place* outside *Repton's* magnificent *Town Hall*, imagine a bustling *Georgian High Street*, and call in at *Chippy's Museum* opposite the *Town Hall* steps. Stroll along to see the medieval *Guildhall*, *Henry Cornish's Almshouses*, and our Cotswold 'cathedral': *St Mary's* wool church. Imagine *Gerry Rafferty* making *Baker Street* in the old *Recording Studios*, or *The Who's Keith Moon* in the *Crown & Cushion Bar*. Find a *Town Trail Map* on www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.



Hospitality & Shops

Stay at the Town's hotels, inns and B&Bs or local campsites. Cafés and restaurants abound – try going al fresco including down friendly *Middle Row*. Browse our Town Centre with its many independent shops – for gifts, health foods, fashions, jewellery, food, sweets, flowers, crafts, art and antiques.

Leisure & Fun

Check out the award-winning *Theatre* in the old *Salvation Army Citadel*, for shows, cinema and summer activities. Take the kids to our three *Recreation Grounds*, picnic on *The Common*, around *Pool Meadow* and admire *Bliss Mill*, swim outside or in at *The Lido* or *Leisure Centre*, try the *Library's* great summer

reading challenge, download a town trail or treasure hunt or try a quirky town tour via www.offbeatcotswolds.com.

Getting out & about

Public transport includes good local buses: S3 to Woodstock and Oxford, 488 to Hook Norton and Banbury, The 50 to Shipston and Stratford, X9 to Witney, and the *Villager Buses* and *The Town Shuttle* around Chippy. There are trains to Oxford, London, Evesham and Hereford, from Kingham and Charlbury. See Stagecoach and Villager websites. Car parking is free in the Town, with friendly *Chippy Taxi firms* – try the taxi rank outside the *Town Hall*.



The Library and **Chipping Norton Town Council** (call 01608 642341 weekday mornings at The Guildhall) have visitor information – and see the Council's website www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk. The Co-op, Sainsbury's, The Old Mill Café, Nash's Bakery and elsewhere have racks of leaflets. The volunteer-run **Museum** is open Thu–Sat 2–4pm. The **Chippy News Team** can help (email chippymail@aol.com) or ask around town for help. See www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org for more.

Illustrations by Jan Cliffe

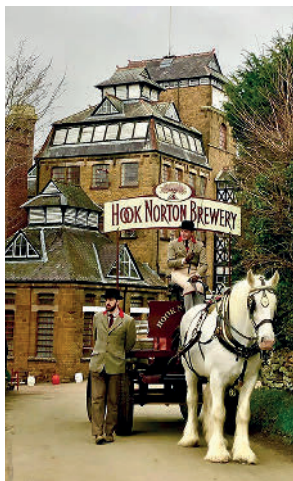
VISITOR
INFORMATION



AROUND & about

Here are some suggestions from the News Team for visits – from a fascinating traditional brewery to glorious flower farms with some animal magic thrown in!!

TRIPS OUT AND ABOUT



MINE'S A PINT! – Visit **Hook Norton Brewery**, established in 1849, and discover far more than just beer! Experience the sights, sounds and smells of brewing unchanged for generations. Tours available seven days a week can be booked online. See the Shire Horses team, stabled at the Brewery, that regularly delivers beer to local pubs. The Malthouse has a free museum, shop and restaurant open from 8am–4.30pm Monday–Saturday and 9am–3pm Sundays. hooky.co.uk

OUR OWN VINEYARD – Who knew we have a local award-winning wine producer? Enjoy the **Little Oak Vineyard** experience and wine-tasting at nearby Chipping Campden. Tours cost £18, last 90 minutes and include sampling their Siegerrebe white wines, two sparkling wines plus Cotswold Gold Brandy. Lunch, featuring locally sourced food, can be booked as an extra. Booking essential, see littleoakvineyard.com



DISTILLERY DALLYING – The **Cotswolds Distillery** opened in July 2014 after founder, Dan, decided to change careers from City hedgefunds to Cotswold hedgerows! Motivated by surrounding golden barley fields, plus love of whisky, he renovated a derelict site near his house, recruited a knowledgeable team and bingo! His dream came true. Although originally a side project, their much-revered gin is now at the operation's heart. See cotswoldsdistillery.com for information including tour bookings – 45 min tour plus tasting and lunch from £31 pp.



COUNT THE STONES – Never mind Stonehenge. Take the family and a picnic to **The Rollright Stones** our own megalithic site near Chippy spanning 2000 years of Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Read the legends of the Whispering Knights, the King's Men, and the wonderful Stone Circle – run round and count the stones, you'll never get the number right! Picnic grass and stunning views. rollrightstones.co.uk

JOURNEY THROUGH STEAM – You can visit the Toddington-based **Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway** but why not try **Broadway Museum & Art Gallery**, where the Railway team has assembled this award-winning exhibition. Until November, enthusiasts can revel in displays of railway artifacts including uniforms, tickets, locomotive name plates, old maps and photographs plus GWR publicity. A real blast of nostalgia from the bygone era of steam. See gwsr.com

ROAMING ROMANS – Recent big interest in Romans in Chippy might inspire you to visit **North Leigh Roman Villa**, on the banks of the river Evenlode, with magnificent mosaic floors. Occupied over five centuries, it is thought to be one of the largest villas in Roman Britain. Open Days – 22, 23 July, 2, 19, 20 August, 9/10 September. See english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/

A FAIRYTALE DAY OUT – Located a mile outside Chippy (take the S3 bus!), **Fairytale Farm** is great for families (particularly with under 10s). There are six main zones, from the new adventure play area to Mermaid Garden, dancing fountains, dinosaurs, and a new Fairy Dell castle and slide feature. There's animal petting and goats, alpacas, rabbits and guinea pigs to feed and a town with real mice in it. Accessible – plus sensory experiences, Great café and gift shop. See fairytalefarm.co.uk

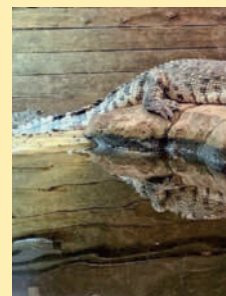


COTSWOLD W



One of the UK's largest near Burford. Over 2 animals in 160 acres of gardens. From giraffes and monkeys. Miniature train more. <https://www.cotswold>

CROCODILES C



A special experience to journey of discovery and different species of crocodiles, as well as Galapagos tortoises. crocodilesoftheworld.co

COTSWOLD

Owned by TV presenter is designed to introduce of farm animals while also A total countryside experience At Guiting. cotswoldfarm

BIRDLAND



Nine acres of gardens on the Water. Meet over large cassowary and r Waldrapp Ibis, flamingo penguins. Cafés. Over 50

ANIMAL MAGIC FOR ALL

WILDLIFE PARK



st zoological collections
60 different species of
landscaped parkland and
nd rhinos to reptiles and
in, large café, and much
voldwildlifepark.co.uk/

OF THE WORLD



that will take you on a
round the world meeting
crocodiles, caiman and
meerkats, otters, and
Near Brize Norton.
.uk/

FARM PARK

Adam Henson, the park
the little ones to the world
to preserving rare breeds.
experience for all the family.
npark.co.uk

ND PARK



nd woodland at Bourton
r 500 birds: magical owls,
are species such as the
ps, pelicans, cranes and
O aviaries. birdland.co.uk/

FLOWERS FROM THE FARM

TIF'S TALENTED TEAM – For lovers of artisan-cut flowers, there nothing better than the fabulous **Chippy Flower Farm** – near Little Tew – set up by Tif Loehnis and her team. Tif told the News 'We strive to provide locals with a really good source of naturally grown, beautiful cut flowers as an alternative to imported supermarket blooms. We raise cottage garden favourites and some more unusual blooms, a wide palette of scented flowers and foliage for vases that changes with the seasons. Many customers this year have been couples doing DIY wedding flowers, which we love'. The flower hut at the farm gate opens most days. Pre-ordering online is recommended. Coming soon is a small Pick Your Own area and Tif is preparing some workshops on sowing and growing and other botanical adventures at the Farm. See [@chippyflowerfarm](https://www.chippyflowerfarm.co.uk) and for further information see chippyflowerfarm.co.uk/the-farm



Photos: Ace Snaps Photography, © Chippy Flower Farm

CUT FLOWER GLORY – The enchanting creation of Mathew Franklin Maiden is **Chadlington Flower Farm**, part of a huge renaissance in British-grown cut flowers. He says: 'The quality simply cannot be trumped, and we must embrace and enjoy them. Everyone can grow them at home too, regardless of your garden's size'. Phone or text Mathew on 07961 149518 to arrange to visit his delightful mix of flowers, vegetables and herbs. See [instagram.com/thechadlingtonflowerfarmer/](https://www.instagram.com/thechadlingtonflowerfarmer/)



LOVELY LAVENDER – Who needs Provence? **The Cotswold Lavender Farm** at Snowhill near Broadway recommends visiting in July when their stunning purple fields and wild flower meadows are at their best. Gift shop, snacks, drinks, benches amongst the lavender, and shady spots under the trees for your own picnic. Open until 6 August. Card payments only. See [cotswoldlavender.co.uk/](https://www.cotswoldlavender.co.uk/)



FLOWER SHOWS & GARDENS

SOUTH NEWINGTON FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW Saturday 5 August, 2–4.30pm. 'Sow, Grow, Bake and Create', a great traditional Oxfordshire show. BBQ, afternoon teas, homemade cakes, children's entertainment, dog competition and silver band, with 70 entry categories, including the 'Coronation Cup' for best flower arrangement using wild or native flowers from your garden. Details at southnewington.co.uk/south-newington-flower-produce-show/ or email Nicky Smith NFDSmith@gmail.com

WHICHFORD & ASCOTT FLOWER FESTIVAL & FETE, Bank Holiday Monday 28 August, 1.30–5pm. It's a wonderful fête with fun and refreshments on the village green, but a traditional, much-admired treat is the flower, fruit, vegetable and craft show – this year in a marquee on the green.

BRIDEWELL GARDENS Open Day 16 July 11–4. Spend a peaceful day learning about this very special walled garden and vineyard, run by a mental health charity which aims to create an environment where both people and nature can thrive. bridewellgardens.org/events/open-day-july/



HONEYDALE FARM & FARMED Near Shipton-under-Wychwood is this organic farm, education centre and café – plus wildflower borders, apiary, kitchen garden and more. Join a regular Friday farm tour, or try talks and workshops through summer, from pollinators to pruning to a compost clinic. See www.farm-ed.co.uk/

GLORIOUS GARDENS – A short drive away, try this wonderful selection of country houses and other gardens which are open over the summer. Check websites for opening times.

Rousham House – blousy borders, brimming with colour



Hidcote Manor – famous garden rooms, nr Chipping Campden

Kiftsgate Court – Italianate splendour, nr Chipping Campden

Bourton House – classic elegance at Bourton on the Hill

Sezincote – a touch of Asian intrigue, Longborough

Chastleton – intimate charm near Chipping Norton

Batsford Arboretum – shady magnificence near Moreton

A varied collection of open gardens is also featured in the **National Gardens' Scheme**. Details in 'The Yellow Book' and at [ngs.org.uk](https://www.ngs.org.uk)

Chippy's Café Society

Looking for a coffee or a cuppa – and maybe a cake? One coffee-loving News team member did a roundup of Chipping Norton's growing number of places to grab a drink and a bite of something sweet or savoury.



Old Mill Bistro & Café – The place for wonderful freshly made orange and carrot juice. West Steet's longstanding Old Mill, with ample seating and a sunny garden hidden downstairs, is arguably THE Chippy place to come for a full English, all the way through to a lunchtime panini and of course, a morning coffee.

Nash's Bakery – You can't miss Nash's in the Co-op arcade – there for 25 years, perhaps the oldest coffee shop in Town. With its window of brightly-coloured iced biscuits and cakes, there's everything from a morning cuppa and tea cake to a cappuccino, seated inside or out.

Costa – Up the London Road on the small retail park with M&S Foodstore and Mountain Warehouse, Costa is a perfect stop off if you're heading out of town or finishing off a dog walk. Loads of parking and loads of seating! Will recycle all takeaway coffee cups.



Jaffé & Neale – Bookworms can indulge their cravings for literature and coffee over the weekends at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop & Café, on lower Market Place. Fridays and Saturdays 10–4, Sundays 11–3.30. Out of towners can pick up books by local authors as gifts to take home.

Caffè Nero – Near WHSmith on the High Street, Caffè Nero is the one coffee shop in Chippy open late – until 6pm. Plenty of gluten-free options and styles of coffee here, which you can sip from an armchair on the window eyeing up all the Chippy visitors. Will recycle all takeaway coffee cups.

Whistlers – If you just want coffee, no giant cakes or brekkie, then head to Whistlers along Middle Row. A chic atmosphere in this bistro restaurant, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11am – and some great classic and indie music gigs this summer.



Brown Cow Food Co – Brown Cow, on al fresco traffic-free Middle Row, is the home of the sausage rolls that feed the camera crew when they're at Diddy Squat! With seating outside where you can watch the world go by. Sally had made something specially for these delighted vegan visitors to town! Open Weds–Sat 10am–3.30pm.

Little Delish – Part deli, part coffee shop, Little Delish is tucked down the alley towards West Street next to Corbetts shop. Stools surround a bar-style table giving a trendy east London-esque vibe. While you're there, pick up some homemade pesto by Pink Salt Shed.



The Rustic Bean – On the corner next to The Fox in Market Place, replacing MASH Pantry last year, is The Rustic Bean, with an industrial-style interior of wood panelling. Our reporter goes here when she wants a soya cappuccino – a coffee specialist.

MOR – Want a pastry as big as your head? MOR is the place to go! Opposite the Old Mill towards West Street, this café also has sandwiches and bread to take away, and larger tables if there's a big group. They 'bake all their own' and you can try their classes at their bakery in Chipping Campden.



42nd East Bakehouse – The newest coffee shop kid on the block, on the High Street next to Boots. With the motto *Be the reason someone smiles today*, its USP is giant sweet treat buns – definitely one for the sweet toothed. All day brunches.

THE ARTS

The Theatre

Live shows

Ashley Hutchings: 100 not out, 1 July, 7.30pm. A founding member of Fairport Convention has a new show centred on his More songs from the shows CD. Ashley is joined by one of the country's finest singers, Becky Mills. £19

Silent Disco: Nineties versus Noughties, 7 July, 7.30pm. You choose what's playing. All seating removed to make a dance floor, with a DJ armed with the biggest hits of the time. £20

Beach Boyz Tribute Show, 20 July, 7.30pm. A stunning show of glorious vocal harmonies blended with California sunshine. The hits come thick and fast. £20



Stephen K Amos and friends, 22 July, 7.30pm. A rare opportunity to see Stephen (pictured) perform in an intimate environment before he heads out on nationwide tour. Age 14+. £22

Jenny Eclair: Sixty Plus, 1 September, 7.30pm. Sold out – contact Box Office to be added to the Waiting List for returns.

Al Fresco

David Walliams: Bad Dad, 17 August, 4pm, Cornbury Park. Frank and Gilbert of Heartbreak Productions navigate their way through this warm-hearted tale that follows a father and son's adventures through a world of crime, car chases and convicts. £14, £12 under 16s

21st Century Queen, 20 August, 7pm, Chipping Norton Rugby Club. The band promises the thrill of hearing the music in an exciting and extraordinarily atmospheric concert performance, recreating many of Queen's best known and loved hits. £27, £19 under 16s

Special Film Screening

Love without walls (15) 5 July, 7.30pm. Post-show Q&A with the film directors. Director Jane Gull's work was influenced by research and interactions with homeless people. She writes: 'The film is truthful, powerful and character-driven, putting faces to the statistics. My vision is to find the brightness in the darkest places and tease out the humour and humanity of this young couple. It's a story of love, loss, and survival with an underlying theme of hope.' £8

Take Part

3 Day Drama Workshop 5–7 year-olds, 24–26 July, 10am–1pm. Tickets: £75. This interactive workshop aims to build confidence, creativity and imagination. Improvisation, mime and storytelling will be explored in this fun and exciting experience. Participants perform on the stage on 26 July.

3 Day Musical Theatre Workshop 5–7 year-olds, 31 July–2 August, 10am–1pm. Tickets: £75. Working with creative practitioners, this high-energy workshop provides a chance to sing songs and learn some dance routines which participants will perform on the stage at 12.45pm on Wednesday 2 August.

Acting Summer School 8–14 year-olds, 24–28 July or 31 July–4 August. 10am–4pm (a 'sharing' at 6pm on Friday 4 August). Tickets: £135 per week. The Theatre's renowned Acting Summer School offers a one-week workshop to hone



acting skills and explore what it takes to tread the boards. The week culminates in a performance on The Theatre's stage at 6pm on Friday 28 July or Friday 4 August.

West End Summer School 8–14 year-olds, 24–28 July. 10am–5pm (a 'sharing' at 6pm on Friday 28 July) Tickets: £150. The Theatre's West End Summer School is the ideal introduction to the magic of musical theatre. The week offers the chance to develop skills in acting, dancing and singing, working alongside industry professionals. Participants will work together to devise their own musical theatre show, culminating in a performance on The Theatre's stage at 6pm on Friday 28 July.

Visit chippingnortontheatre.com or contact the Box Office on 01608 642350 for further information and to book.

Fundraising event

PANTO 5K – 24 September. This year hopefully bigger and better. Family friendly, fun filled, sponsored 5K helping towards a £250,000 annual fundraising effort – a quarter of the Theatre's income. Whether you jog, run or take a leisurely stroll: Just do it! Sign up as an individual, a family, or take part as a team. Please commit to raising at least £20 in sponsorship for The Theatre. For every £20 you raise you receive an entry into a prize draw to win 4 tickets for this year's panto, Cinderella. Fancy dress optional but strongly encouraged. Every penny raised directly benefits The Theatre, thanks to sponsors Owen Mumford. Register now at chippingnortontheatre.com/whats-on/panto-5k.



Owen Mumford Gallery

Summer Exhibition Connection 24 July–31 August. Organised by The Branch Trust, with a diverse range of artwork including mosaic, embroidery, mixed media, drawing and digital art. This is a celebration of all those who have been attending The Branch groups and activities this year, the incredible creativity of our community and the fact that there is real hope and transformation found in connection. The Exhibition will open before and during The Theatre performances and from 1–3pm on Saturdays.

THE ARTS

Music and Local Events

Oxford School of Drama – Students perform *Romeo and Juliet* at Sarsden Glebe, Churchill, OX7 6PH. 30 June, 5pm drinks on the lawn; 6pm performance. 1 July, 4pm tea on the lawn; 5pm performance. Chairs provided. Bring your own picnic. £20. All proceeds go to the Oxford School of Drama Hardship Fund.



Further information on 01608 658224. Booking at gemma_chandler@hotmail.co.uk

Adderbury Ensemble String Quartet 30 June: Haydn, Sjolín, Dvorak. 21 July: Haydn, Ravel and Mendelssohn. Chipping Norton Town Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets: £15 adults, £5 students & free for under 16s. Call 07711 606996 for details and to reserve tickets or pay on the door.

Come and sing day 9 July Mozart *Requiem* in memory of Shauni McGregor. Rehearsals 9.15am–5pm, Chipping Norton Town Hall. Celebration concert 7pm, St Mary's Church. Open to anyone. Conducted by Peter Hunt and Ben Goodall with accompanist Stewart Taylor. Novello score edition (edited by W T Best). Singers are welcome to attend three Wednesday rehearsals with the Chipping Norton Choral Society 7.30–9.30pm in the Town Hall starting 21 June. Adult: £25 (incl music hire); U18: 10p administration charge. Concert tickets: Adult: £10; u18: £3. See cnmf.org.uk/concerts for details.

Burford Singers Saturday, 16 September Burford School, OX18 4PLA. *Singing Day* with Conductor, Brian Kay. Music includes choruses from *Carmina Burana*, the famous cantata by Carl Orff. Accompanied by Robin Baggs (piano). Doors open 9.30am. Workshop starts at 10.30am. Informal performance 4.30pm. Light refreshments provided; bring a packed lunch. Adults £20, students £10 (including score hire). Audience free. Booking at burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/

Cotswold Stage School 24–28 July 10am–3.30pm, Chipping Norton School. Summer Holiday West End Workshop: *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Fully staged performance on final day. Age 6–18, £148 (10% sibling discount). Booking & details at cotswoldstageschool.com or cotswoldstagechool@gmail.com

The Arts Society Cotswolds In

time for school holidays are two free *Trails of Discovery* – in Shipton-under-Wychwood and Milton-under-Wychwood. The Trails bring history to life, pointing out village items of interest with a brief explanation as you follow the trail map. Both trails are in two parts, with optional amounts of walking and don't have to be completed in one session. Free access: the trails can be downloaded from theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk heritage page, QR codes in both villages or pick up a copy from a local library.



Can you spot this on the village Trail?

The next Lecture is on 13 September: *The Frick Collection, New York: A Feast for the Eyes* with Hilary Williams. Hybrid – in Warwick Hall or on Zoom. For details and to book visit theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk.

Cotswolds Artisans 21 & 22 July 10am–5pm, 23 July 10am–4pm *Meet the Makers* at the Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6BQ. Fused glass textiles, jewellery, paintings, creative felt. Email valmabenfield@gmail.com for further information.

Zuleika Gallery, 7 July–31 August, Woodstock: *A Celebration of Abstraction in British Art*: works by acclaimed Modern British artists such as Trevor Bell, Sandra Blow, Terry Frost, Patrick Heron, Ivon Hitchens plus Victor Pasmore, Lynn Chadwick and Richard Smith and others. Opening times at Zuleika.com

North Cotswolds Arts Association 28 August to 2 September 10am to 5pm, *Summer Exhibition*, Warwick Hall, St John the Baptist church, Burford. Art works in all media, oil, pastel, acrylic mixed media and watercolour for sale plus beautiful craft items, pottery and glass.

Hardings Yard Art Workshops with Caroline Chappell in Chipping Norton Studio, Unit 4 Hardings Yard, Albion Street, OX7 5BL. Acrylic paints: your own or borrow from Caroline. All papers/surfaces supplied; bring a canvas if you wish. 12noon–4pm. 6 or 8 July: *Into the Blue* – exploring and mixing blues. 17 or 19 August: *Summer Flowers* – blowsy and extravagant. 14 or 16 September: *Working with greens* – mixing interesting greens. Light refreshments included. Bring your own lunch. £60 per session. Over 16s. Booking and further information at carolinetchappell@googlemail.com or on 07902 813527.

What's On

LIVE
Sat 1st July, 7.30pm
Fri 7th July, 7.30pm
Thu 20th July, 7.30pm
Sat 22nd July, 7.30pm

FILMS
26th June
29th June

29th June
5th July
8th July
14th & 16th July
18th July
19th July
21st, 23rd, 26th & 27th July
29th & 30th July, 1st Aug
2nd & 3rd Aug
5th & 6th Aug
17th Aug
18th, 20th 22nd Aug
19th & 20th Aug
25th, 26th 27th & 29th Aug

AL FRESCO
Thu 17th Aug, 4pm
Sun 20th Aug, 7pm

SCREENINGS
28th June, 7pm & 2nd July, 2pm
26th July, 7pm & 30th July, 2pm

THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

ASHLEY HUTCHINGS—£19
THE THEATRE'S SILENT DISCO—£20
BEACH BOYZ—£20
STEPHEN K AMOS AND FRIENDS—£22

TICKETS £11, £8 UNDER 16S (unless otherwise stated)
RELAXED SCREENING: THE LITTLE MERMAID (12A)
CINEMA BAMBINO: ARE YOU THERE GOD IT'S ME MARGARET (PG)
THE BLUE CAFTAN (12A) - £8
LOVE WITHOUT WALLS (15) & Q&A- £8
SPIDERMAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER VERSE (PG) - £5
CHEVALIER (12A)
PRETTY RED DRESS (12A) - £8
PREMIERE CINEMA PASS FILM—LOCAL HERO (PG)
ASTEROID CITY (15)
INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY (12A)
LA SYNDICALISTE (15) - Friends 2 for 1/half price
GREATEST DAYS (12A)
HAIRSPRAY (PG)
BARBIE (12A)
ELEMENTAL (PG) - £5
OPPENHEIMER (15)

BAD DAD @ CORNBURY PARK—£14, £12 under 16s
21ST CENTURY QUEEN @ CHIPPING NORTON
RUGBY CLUB—£27, £19 under 16s

MATTHEW BOURNE'S SLEEPING BEAUTY (12A)
OKLAHOMA THE MUSICAL (PG)

BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 www.chippingnortontheatre.com

13th Sports Awards coming up!

It's Sports Awards time! As this *Chippy News* issue goes to press, the nominations are closing for the 13th Chipping Norton Sports Awards – with the awards ceremony and celebration evening at the Town Hall on 14 July. It is hoped all our sporting heroes nominated can come along – as well as sports club



Photo: Mike Tysoe

The 10th Chipping Norton Sports Awards in 2019 was a great evening particularly for the Rugby & Cricket clubs as a packed Town Hall watched Mayor Don Davidson present the trophies members and supporters from the wonderful range of sports around Chippy. The awards event is thanks to Chipping Norton Town Council – with much organisation done by former Mayor (as well as cricket enthusiast and *Chipping Norton News* sports editor) Graham Beecham.

As *News* readers know – there's much to be celebrated and played here in sports such as Football, Rugby, Cricket, Hockey and Roller Hockey, Tennis, Table Tennis, Gymnastics, Swimming, Martial Arts, Athletics, Bowls, Golf, Trampolining, Motor Racing, Event Riding, Show jumping – and much more. The Sports Awards, started back in 2010, aim to shine a light on some wonderful local talent – not just winners, but those who inspire by their efforts, passion and enthusiasm. Some go on to greater sporting success, but others just demonstrate endeavour and commitment, often passing that on to others in their wake for future generations. The *Chippy News* looks forward to reporting award winners at a great Town Hall evening on 14 July – more on that in our September issue and thanks to Graham and the Town Council for their efforts. Let's encourage everyone to join in and support sporting endeavour for fun, fitness and friendship.

Summer at the Leisure Centre

It's worth taking a look at what's on offer at Chipping Norton's Leisure Centre – particularly during the school holidays. Manager Lewis Brain updated the *News*, first about the Holiday



Club for children that runs through the six weeks break. There are fun activities and food is included – all aimed mainly at children entitled to free school meals. Others may be able to attend if resources are available. The new soft play area in the main centre reception lounge has been popular this year – particularly for younger children – and parents can watch swimming lessons in action at the same time, with refreshment vending machines nearby. The swimming pool – with some courses and lessons – will be in full swing. There's an inflatable obstacle course sessions as a feature bookable in the holidays.

The other good news is that the 'changing spaces' project should be finished by mid-July. This will build new accessible state-of-the-art changing facilities, funded by West Oxfordshire District Council. To find out more about what's on – either call in to the Centre up the Burford Road behind Chipping Norton School or visit the website: better.org.uk/leisure-centre/west-oxfordshire/chipping-norton-leisure-centre.

All out for a pint!

Adlestrop Cricket ground was at its bucolic best in June when four local pub teams lined up in a competitive but jovial tournament. Organiser Sam Greaves wrote to the *Chippy News* inviting us along to enjoy the spectacle. On 7 June the Kings Head Bledington saw off Daylesford Organics by 36 runs, and then on 14 June *News* Team members took a picnic to watch The Fox in Broadwell beat The Kingham Plough in a tied thriller match with a super over needed. Food and appropriate amounts of liquid refreshment were available. A wonderful summer evening at one of the most picturesque village grounds. For anyone who reads this early enough – the Final is at 6pm on Wednesday 28 June. Enthusiastic supporters are expected! Well done to organiser Sam Greaves, volunteer helpers, the Adlestrop, Daylesford and Oddington Club and all the players. Cheers!

Lady Bamford's winner



Photo: Warren Little

On 2 June the 245th Oaks run at Epsom produced a celebrated winner owned by a local! Lady Carole Bamford, as well as owning Daylesford Organics and fashion businesses, is a keen racehorse breeder and owner. Having led her home-bred filly to the winner's enclosure, Lady Bamford was swept off her feet by her jockey, a jubilant Frankie Dettori. In his last ever Oaks ride he clinched victory on Lady Bamford's Soul Sister, a clear winner at 11/4 beating the short priced Irish trained favourite by nearly two lengths. After his seventh victory in the prestigious race Frankie told ITV, 'That means a lot – Lady Bamford is a big supporter of mine'. The 115-acre Daylesford Stud was started in 2000 and has produced some talented Classic-winning racehorses, in addition to Soul Sister, over the last two decades.

Hook Norton Tennis Club

The Summer League is now under way. The Singles Tournament on Monday 29 May was won by Hook Norton's Bertie Fawcett-



Eustace (4th from the right). Thanks to Nick Adams for organising it. A Fun Doubles Tournament followed on Saturday 17 June. Club sessions and court bookings: Courts can be booked by members via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub>. Club sessions are also listed there,

SPORTS NEWS

plus Covid guidelines and other useful information. Use WhatsApp to book on to club sessions. The cost of floodlights on non-club nights is £8 per hour per court. New members always welcome. Our club nights are very popular and friendly sessions. For more information contact Kate, the membership secretary – khs.shoes@gmail.com or 01608 642774

Elaine Priestley

Tennis summer camps

This summer, Breakpoint Tennis are running a 4-week programme of tennis camps at Kingham Hill School near Chipping Norton. Breakpoint say the camps are ideal for juniors aged 5–15 from beginner to intermediate improver level. The emphasis is on an atmosphere of learning and enjoyment – but with really good coaching. Camps run from 9.30am–3.30pm each day with the option for early and late drop off. You can choose to do half days 9.30–12.30 or 12.30–3.30. You can attend all week or per day. Daily feedback reports are provided. You can learn to score, play and rally with a coaching ratio of 1 to 6 maximum. Details at clubspark.lta.org.uk/cotswoldtennisacademy/Coaching/Camps

Rugby Club – Summer Events



Our free Touch and Walking Rugby sessions every Wednesday evening 6.30–7.30 are open to members and non-members alike, so please come and join us! We were delighted to welcome 43 players to the first Touch Rugby session (pictured) where all ages and genders play together, making it perfect fun and fitness for the whole family. Walking Rugby is also non-contact, slower paced and with a focus on older participants, so Wednesday nights have something for everyone, and the bar is open afterwards for a well-deserved drink on our newly refurbished patio. On 20 August, it's time to party on the pitch, as 21st Century Queen recreates many of the band's best known and loved hits live at CNRUFC. Book your tickets online via Chippy Theatre's website, or call their Box Office on 01608 642350. Looking further ahead, next season starts on Sunday 3 September from 10am, with new players welcome across all age groups from under 6 upwards. To find out more contact the club via chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com, check out our website and follow us on social media.

Graeme Williamson

Hook Norton Harriers

The Harriers are delighted to announce that their summer race, The Hooky 6, is now open for entries. This will be take place on Sunday 6 August starting at 10am. It is a six-mile run looping through the village twice and is run on country roads. We have friendly volunteers to marshal the course with delicious cake to enjoy at the end. There's also a one-mile fun

race for children. You can enter both races online via hooknortonharriers.org.uk We'd love to see you on the day.

Anwen Greenaway

Fire Brigade Charity grant

On Saturday 27 May two Trustees of the Chipping Norton & District Charity were pleased to present a cheque to the Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club to help with the



Pictured are the Club's Treasurer, Martin Elliott; Chairman & Secretary, David Wood and 1st XI Captain Andrew Tompkins with Charity Trustees Martin Jarratt & Richard Benfield.

The photographer was Trustee and Club Life Member, Graham Beacham

funding of their new electronic scoreboard. The Charity's' aim is to support amateur sport in Chipping Norton and surrounding villages. Applications for grants to clubs or individuals are welcome, please email the Chairman, Martin Jarratt via martjar@hotmail.com, for more information.

Martin Jarratt

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SPORTS NEWS

CN Cricket round up

Youth Cricket Youth Co-ordinator, Sue Powell writes: It's great to see the sun at last and children playing cricket – pictured below is our youngest group of players. All youth teams are in action with varying results from development teams learning and improving to the league teams winning and losing to a variety of opponents. Club night on a Friday is proving very popular with bar and BBQ for parents while the youngsters train. It's all done by a very small band of volunteers – thanks to them for giving their time.



The annual President's Day on Sunday 25 June organised by current President, Russell Collins saw players, young and old turn up to have a game.

Seniors We are well into the season now and enjoying the sunny weather. With the ground becoming harder, scoring runs is getting easier and results are improving – last weekend saw both league teams winning. The Club appreciates the cheque from the Fire Brigade Charity, however we still need to carry out more fundraising if we are to achieve our goal of an electronic scoreboard and paying expenses to be able to play cricket. Our season is a relatively short one and when I write for the September News it will almost be over. So we must enjoy the cricket and the weather while we have it!

Home Fixtures July & August

July 1 Sandford St Martin v 1st XI

July 8 Cumnor v 1st XI

July 15 Charlbury v 2nd XI

July 22 Cropredy v 1st XI

July 29 Horley v 2nd XI

Aug 5 Horley v 1st XI

Aug 12 Banbury v 1st XI

Aug 19 Minster Lovell v 2nd XI

Aug 26 Witney Mills v 1st XI

Graham Beacham

The Vintage Sports-Car Club

Chippy News readers are being offered the chance to win two free tickets to experience the thrill of vintage hill climbing with Vintage Prescott held in August at the prestigious Prescott Speed Hill Climb near Cheltenham. The weekend will offer a fascinating display of vintage vehicles, trade stands, and an open paddock for enthusiasts to explore. It's a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a weekend filled with fun, excitement, and hopefully instil a lifelong passion amongst the youngsters for vintage cars. For more information, please visit www.vsccl.co.uk or drop into the VSCC's headquarters in the Old Post Office on West Street. To enter the prize draw for the two free tickets please email Shannon.hunt@vsccl.co.uk with the subject line Prescott Prize and include your name and address. Your details will only be used for the prize draw and not any other purpose.

Shannon Hunt

Indoor Hockey Team's new recruits

Chippy's mixed age and gender Sunday indoor hockey team were disappointed by the postponement of their friendly against Kingham Hill School, so took the chance of all the dry weather to play an outside mid-week game on



The Indoor Hockey team venture outdoors! the full sized astro turf pitch at Chippy Leisure Centre. We had a brilliant turn-out of long-term players and some friends we hadn't seen play in ages and enjoyed a few drinks in The Fox afterwards.

We've recently gained a few new players: a year 7 student and his dad, who we hope will bring Mum along soon too, and someone who hasn't played for about forty years since they were at school. So if you feel like trying indoor hockey, just turn up to the hall at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre sports hall any Sunday morning (10-11am). 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. We have kit to lend if you need it. £5.40 adults/Juniors £3.00 Ask at reception or contact Sharon Truelove for more information sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk 01608 730546/07722 603207



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Spring Clean at the Albion

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

It's Spring-Cleaning time at the Albion and a rather endearing skip has been sitting outside the centre for a few weeks now whilst Anthony and the staff have been clearing out and tidying up to create more space for much needed storage and activity supplies.



Anthony with a bag of kindling

Anthony has a lovely area downstairs where for many years he has been producing bags of kindling for public sale. I went down to see him in action. His radio was playing and he gleefully informed me how he happily works down here for 3 or 4 days a week, I watched him work, he goes at quite a speed!

Local garden centre Applegarth drop off palettes for him which he dismantles and removes all the nails and then splits the wood into kindling and sacks it up ready for sale. Applegarth also buy back a quantity to sell in their own shop. All profits go hurtling back into the Albion coffers (win win!). Anthony then took me up to the workshop where other members of the Centre have made and painted plant boxes, bird boxes and garden ornaments which all are for sale to anyone who'd like to own a unique piece.

We are very keen to run a coffee morning soon, so please look out for posters with details and come and meet us all.

Carole Fagg

WOWI – you name it, we do it!!

West Oxfordshire WI is a group of 45 ladies who meet on the third Monday of the month. In addition to this main meeting, members create their own interest groups including Craft Group, Saturday Lunch and Book Club with other suggestions welcome. In May we welcomed Marie Louise Kerr, a very enthusiastic speaker, to talk about 'Oxford Penicillin' and how the research of Oxford students contributed to Alexander Fleming's discovery, and its use today.

The WI is an Educational Charity for Women and Girls, and this can be widely interpreted to include, history, crafts, gardening and wellbeing. In fact you name it and we can cater for it. We are also a campaigning organisation. Did you know we were instrumental in getting Breast Screening for all women over 50? We were campaigning on climate change and plastic in our water 12 years ago. At our last National Annual Meeting we passed a Resolution to campaign for 'Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife'. Come and join us and have fun.

Of course, we are also known for our cake and tea. We do this well and our community effort in conjunction with the Methodist Church is on the first Sunday of every month at 2.30pm, when we offer 'Cuppa, Cake & Chat' in the Church so people can come and spend a lovely couple of hours chatting along with tea and delicious cake.

Monthly meetings are at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton. OX7 5NT. For more details please contact: wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Hilary Dix 01608 646228

National Trust coach trips

Membership of the National Trust Association is open to all National Trust members and volunteers. The North Cotswold Branch's programme of talks resumes in October and in the meantime there's a full summer of coach outings to: 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. There are pick up points at Stow, Moreton & sometimes Chipping Norton. All are welcome with priority given to members. For more information call 01608 659215 or 01608 658157. To join, contact the Membership Secretary on 01386 593085.

Rees Jenkins

Green Gym scything through summer

The team worked on a range of sites through May and early June – greatly assisted by the improving weather. Weeding and general maintenance took place at the Health Centre as well as scything (pictured), clearing undergrowth and removing ivy in St Mary's Churchyard. Work at the Fitzalan site included clearing paths and bramble, horsetail and Himalayan Balsam. The picnic bench at Fitzalan received its annual maintenance, including a new coat of oil, and is now ready for visitors to enjoy again. A session was spent clearing brambles and scything pathways at Hawkyard Common in preparation for a dry-stone walling workshop in July for Green Gym members. Further afield, the team travelled to Hook Norton to remove tree guards at Hogan's Copse and to Gagingwell, near Enstone, to clear the brook and pond of debris and remove surplus plants – a rewarding but challenging, and at times precarious, session!



If you would like to join us on Wednesday mornings, working in the fresh air on environmental projects in good company visit www.chippygreengym.org and then please email our Membership Secretary at rmccubbin33@gmail.com Everyone is welcome. A variety of jobs for all!

Adela Thomas

Burford & Kingham Rotary

We held our AGM at Burford Golf Club on the 15 May. We have a speaker evening on the fourth Monday of the month. Our last one was Richard Cullen talking about women in WWI and the next speaker on 3 July is an Air Ambulance Paramedic, talking about the history of the ambulance service.

Our main charitable fundraising activity over the summer providing tea, coffee & cakes to visitors to Chastleton House. In July we are planning a picnic & guided tour of Bridewell Gardens, the mental health recovery charity we support. Later in the year we are organising a video horse race evening.

We are a busy, vibrant & friendly club which meets on Monday evenings. If you are interested in coming along to see what we are about, please contact our secretary John Smith email jpw.smith@jass.co.uk Tel 07717 883182.

Colin Stringfellow

Scandal and dogs for Chippy u3a



On Wednesday 5 July members will hear *Secrets, Sex, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660 to 1830*. This popular talk will be given by Sarah Slater, a White Badge Guide and Guide Lecturer who has worked for Historic Royal Palaces, based at Hampton Court Palace, since 2008. Sarah (pictured) will wear one of her beautiful costumes and talk about the scandalous gossip and some of the naughty bits of history you probably wouldn't have learnt about at school! Sarah warns that she discusses topics

of a sexual nature including royal mistresses, prostitution, sex toys, contraception and sexual diseases.

As a complete contrast on Wednesday 2 August Carol Shearman and Christine Parrett will talk about *Dogs for Good*, from puppies to the dogs who work alongside individuals, all illustrated with some wonderful videos. Since 1988 *Dogs for Good* has been making life-changing differences for people with disabilities, enabling them to lead more independent lives. (See <https://www.dogsforgood.org/>).

Monthly meetings are at 2.30 in the Town Hall

Yvonne Beaumont

Girlguiding re-launch appeal

Chipping Norton Guides, part of Girlguiding with members aged 10 to 14 years old, have been unable to meet since Covid. We would like to find someone who could reopen and lead the unit together with a couple of volunteers who are happy to help at meetings and with admin. Although the unit used to meet on Tuesdays, this can be changed. If you are interested or you would like to volunteer, please register your interest by using this link: <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-volunteer/> Alternatively you can email chippygirlguiding@gmail.com or call 07785 384461 and we'll supply further information.



Chipping Norton District

Alison Dunbar

Railway Club waits for a Disaster

On 6 June Jim Portlock entertained his fellow members, by showing slides of his recent rail travels in Eastern Switzerland. The country is well known for its cleanliness and efficiency and of course the scenery was spectacular. Ian Boskett will visit on 4 July, presenting his talk *Ashchurch to Tewkesbury by train*. Two dates for your diary: on 1 August Paul Barnett will thrill us with *Disaster Waiting* – the Severn Bridge disaster; then on 5 September old friend Mike Clemens returns with more of his *Archive Railway* films and slides.

All meetings are at 7.30 in the Lower Town Hall. Do come along and join us... new faces always welcome.

Estelle Brain

Chequers Music Session 3rd Thursday

We had a fine session in May, with most of the usual suspects turning up for an evening of musical fun. Songs and tunes from the last 300 years or so. The space is small, but it's surprising how many musicians you can pack into it! The June session is safe, and we hope to continue in July with the new

management in the Chequers. For more info contact Jane Lewis jalemail27@gmail.com.

Chippy Amnesty Remembers!

Faced with a litany of human rights abuses and the consequent suffering and imprisonment of so many human rights defenders, it sometimes is difficult to imagine that our letters can make a positive difference. But Amnesty International has plenty of evidence that they sometimes do. So recently we have been focusing our attention on card and letter writing. We write to authorities to ask about the whereabouts of the 'disappeared' and for prisoners to be



Amnesty's Tiananmen Square vigil on 3 June

released, and whilst in detention to be given medical care and access to family members, lawyers and a fair trial. We send messages of support to individual Prisoners of Conscience and their families. Currently we are focusing on the BK16 imprisoned in India since 2018 for defending the rights of some of India's poorest and most marginalized communities, and nine cases in other countries where Amnesty's research indicates letters may make a positive difference.

You may have seen us on 3 June, holding the vigil on the Town Hall steps to commemorate the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown and subsequent stifling of protests in China, and on 20 June, raising the Refugee flag with members of the Town Council to mark Refugee Week.

At our next meeting, on 13 July, we will be joined by Amnesty UK's country co-ordinator for India and Nepal. On 10 August we shall be celebrating our 30th Anniversary with a social 'bring a plate' event. Contact Val 01608 645036 or email chippingnortonamnesty@outlook.com for more information. Meetings are 7.30 in the Lower Town Hall. All welcome!

Kate Ward

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CLUB NEWS

Chipping Norton Probus

At the May meeting of the Probus Club of Chipping Norton, Neuroscientist, Dr Kate Bellamy, kept members very much awake with an enlightening and entertaining talk on sleep. As well as explaining what sleep is, we learnt how blue light from our TV, computer, tablet or mobile phone interferes with sleep. Exercise and the avoidance of caffeine after lunch benefit sleep. Getting good sleep helps to clean our brain and assist in memory consolidation. In contrast, poor sleep encourages poor eating habits, weight gain and pre-diabetes. This was a really fascinating talk from a leading expert.



Club President, Peter Miller with speaker Dr Bellamy

We are always pleased to welcome guests to our monthly meetings, contact Membership Secretary, Simon Bucknall (01993 830760 / simon.bucknall@talk21.com) for details

Martin Williams

Great Tew walk for Chippy Ramblers.

Five walkers left New Street car park and were joined by three others at Great Tew. The weather was nice and sunny. We passed by thatched houses and a large livery stable. We continued on a track until we were in sight of the stag-headed oak tree, a very unusual feature. We turned right at this point and had to walk down a narrow uneven path bordered by

brambles and nettles – not great for those in shorts! We continued across a field and came to the Estate boundary enclosed with a ha-ha which had replaced the original stone wall. We eventually arrived at the Falkland Arms where we had a well-deserved cool drink. New faces are always welcome. These walks are always on the first Sunday of the month; for more details, contact Heather Leonard on 01608 643691.

Jill Megson

Chippy Folk tour the Animal Kingdom

The Harrow Inn, Enstone welcomed 25 of us on a thirsty Monday night and *The Animal Kingdom* theme sparked some interesting interpretations, ranging from *Dead Skunk* to *Clay Pigeons*. We were hugely entertained by Craig's rendition of *Me and the Elephant* (Bobby Goldsboro?) and after too long away, Terry's unforgettably original *Red Tiger Moth and Red Shank* followed by his own composition, which took the prize for novelty lyric of the evening: *doo lang doo lang, at Stanford Dingley on the Pang...* His superb pennywhistle playing had everyone transfixed. Guitars and Ukes were in plentiful supply and there was some great poetry and unaccompanied singing in true folk tradition from old friends and new. Yellow Bird, Black Wild Swans and the Raven from Crazy Man Michael all got a look in, with perhaps the best title of the night *May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose!*

We meet at the Harrow Inn Enstone, OX7 4NF on the 2nd Monday of the month. Next meeting is on 10 July: theme *My Favourite Place* (Rivers and Towns) Everyone takes a turn to MC so do sign up, it's a good way of getting to know everyone Details www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk/

Mandy Cooper

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Chipping Norton School

Sixth Form News: At the end of term, Mr Ward (Head of



Sixth Form) led a moving and celebratory final assembly with our Year 13s. The students are well-prepared to fulfil their potential and enthusiastic to move on to their next adventures. We are looking forward to their Leavers' Ball at the Oxford Boathouse at the end of June – a last chance for them to enjoy one another's company as an entire group.

Year 12 students, Luke and Charlie entered the international Minds Underground essay competition. Over 2000 students from across the globe demonstrated their writing skills and ability to construct effective arguments about subjects beyond the school curriculum. Luke was a runner up in the Senior Mathematics category. The title of his essay was *What is a number? ... No, but what is it really?* Luke explored the philosophical side of mathematics by learning about some influential mathematicians from the past. Charlie's essay 'Why do we move forwards in time?' was highly commended in the Physics category. Both enjoyed competing and felt that they benefited from the advanced research that they had to undertake. Well done to both students.

Year 7 Bikeability Challenge: 15 intrepid Year 7 students



took on the bikeability challenge. Over the course of two days, students were assessed in their ability to ride bikes safely, look after their bike and demonstrate road safety. The students thoroughly enjoyed

their two days working with The Windrush Bike Project volunteers Helen and Dominic.

Sports News: Huge congratulations to all the students who took part in the Year 7 & 8 Football Teams this season. Both teams finished top of the West Oxfordshire league! Year 7 finished the season with 5 wins and 1 loss, while Year 8 ended up with 4 wins and 2 draws.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: Seventy-six students in 15 teams successfully completed their camping and walking practice over the first weekend in May. Despite their exertions, there was still time to play football and Frisbee, and enjoy the great outdoors with one another. Twenty-six students in five teams took part in their silver expedition practice at the end of April, camping in Stow-on-the-Wold and then taking part in an arduous circular walk – combined with some first aid training as well. In the middle of May, the same

students then successfully completed their assessed expedition in and around Watlington and Henley.

Oxfordshire Artweek: We were really excited that artwork produced by last year's GCSE and A Level students was exhibited at Wise Investments' offices at Chalford Park Barns in May as part of Oxfordshire Artweek. The visitors to the exhibition were very impressed with the talent on display including this *Portrait of Picasso* by former CNS student Beth Simpson.



CNPS News: Towards the end of Term 5 we invited Able, Interested and Motivated students nominated by their primary school to two events. During the Drama workshop, led by Head of Drama Mr Franklin, the pupils undertook exercises to encourage them to use their bodies as a prop.



The pupils worked well as a group, used their creativity and met some new friends. The other AIM workshop was for our budding scientists who looked at Microorganisms and Disease. They grew bacteria from swabs taken from around the room and looked at microbes under the microscope. Many thanks to Dr Hagan and Mr Turvey from the Science Department who led this fascinating workshop.



On a beautifully sunny day at the end of May we held the Athletics tournament for Years 4, 5 and 6. All the partnership primary schools took part, ably assisted by helpers from CNS Year 7. It was great to see pupils from both primary and secondary working together so well. Well done to everyone who took part, and especially our winners this year who were Kingham (Big Schools) and Great Tew (Small Schools).

The Stranger in the Window competition organised by CNS PTA is back! A great thing to do with friends and family over the summer holidays. Can you find the odd one out in town centre shop windows? Entry forms £1 each from Beehive or Bippity Boo. Start date: Saturday 15 July, deadline for completed forms Sunday 3 September. Cash prize for the winner!

St Mary's Primary

Vision and Values: Mrs Christine McQueen writes: I can't believe that I have been the Headteacher at St Mary's for six months now – the time has flown by! Throughout that period, we have achieved so much as a school community and this is only the beginning. We reviewed our school vision in January, and I am pleased to say that we now have something that represents the School in 2023. We held a competition to design a new logo for our sweatshirts and this is currently being finalised.

Kingham Sculpture: We really do enjoy enriched activities



at St Mary's and we were lucky enough to have worked alongside the artists at Kingham Lodge again this year. When the School visited the gardens in May, they found the experience to

be extremely exciting. The pupils enjoyed looking at the sculptures and they commented on the fact they would like to be artists and sculptors one day. Thank you to



everyone who works on this project as you are inspiring the children of the future.

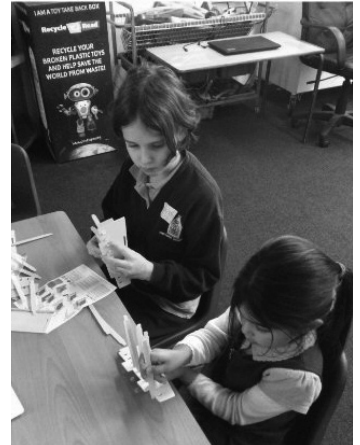
School Council: I often write about our School Council being such a vital part of our School, but it really is. It is great to know that you can put a suggestion to the Council and the members will generate some great ideas. To link with our new school vision, the children were asked to think of something that would embody this. The pupils would like to work alongside an artist to produce a carved tree. They would like the word 'joy' to be the main root as we have discussed the Christian value to mean deep rooted happiness and the pupils of St Mary's would like everyone to have this. I think we would

all like everyone in our school community to have this in their lives. If anyone knows of someone that may be able to fulfil this request, please get in touch with the school.

Enstone Primary

Eco Warriors Special Report: Having retained our Green Flag status with distinction

at our last assessment, our Eco Warriors have continued their good work this academic year. In November, our older Eco Warriors attended the FarmED Eco Conference in Chipping Norton. Inspired by a talk on bat conservation, they went on to arrange an assembly speaker and fundraising for the Oxfordshire Bat Group, and to make some bat boxes



for our school garden. The conference also led to a visiting speaker delivering a fantastic and impassioned presentation to our Key Stage 2 classes on river pollution, following which the children wrote to MP Robert Courts to ask for his support in tackling this issue. Our Y4-6 pupils will soon be doing some river surveys in association with the Evenlode Catchment Project. The team have also been the driving force behind many recycling initiatives in school, including a Relove Your Stuff sale and regular recycling collections for stamps, batteries, hard plastics and spectacles. They were also pleased to correctly dispose of two sacks of rubbish collected from the NPFA playing field and some of the local streets during The Great Big School Clean 2023.

Chadlington Primary

'We Are Engineers' is the new whole-school theme and the older year groups are currently looking at car designs with a view to building a battery powered kit car. 'The Green Goblin' from the Green Power Education Trust is great fun to build but is also part of the School's approach to teaching STEM subjects. To paraphrase Albert Einstein, Knowledge gets you from A-B but imagination gets you everywhere!

Sustainability: As part of the Eco Schools journey, the children have carried out a full environmental review of the School across 10 different dimensions including; energy, citizenship, health and living, litter, school grounds, transport, waste, water. They will report back to the School and parent community by Golden Acorn Radio in the summer term. The end of year animation, part of Little Acorn Films, the School's production company, is being worked on by all pupils and will be screened at Chipping Norton Theatre on 12 July.

You've heard of *Springwatch*, well here at Chadlington we are on *Frogspawn Watch* as tadpoles in a tank in the Pixies' class await maturity before being transferred into the school pond. At the time of *Chippy News* deadline they are getting fatter, but no sign of legs yet!

Congratulations to all KS1 and KS2 children who are now on the other side of their SATs. The children managed brilliantly, and the staff are proud. We are also thrilled that Chadlington came first in the Yr 6 Small School Athletics

SCHOOLS NEWS

Tournament and the Under 10s Small School Tag Rugby. And a massive well done to all the children who participated in the Big Summer Sing in Oxford.

Bledington Primary

To celebrate the King's coronation, our BSA provided a spectacular tea party. The hall was beautifully decorated with balloons and flags and the food was delicious. Pupils were given a special Coronation coin to treasure and will remember this as a very special occasion.



To enhance our curriculum, activities have also included: a Y3/4 trip to watch a production of *Matilda* at Kingham Hill School, a Y5/6 Orienteering day, a Y3/4/5/6 District Athletics Day, a Reception/Y1/2 trip to

the Kingham Lodge Sculpture trail and a fabulous Maypole dancing afternoon (parents too!) in the sunshine. All these events were much enjoyed and rewarded pupils for their hard work during our Assessment week. What wonderful ways to celebrate our learning!



Over the coming weeks we will be practising for Sports Day and the end of year play, watching a playground performance by Longborough festival opera of *The Downfall of Don José* and holding a French Day. We will also be hosting our new Reception families into school and preparing Transition activities for our Y6s who are moving on to KS3. Please visit

our website for further information about our fabulous school <https://www.bledington.gloucs.sch.uk/>

Hook Norton Primary

In the summer term we can make the most of our outdoor spaces with PE lessons, sports clubs and practising for Sports Days, as well as practical lessons and conducting experiments. During the summer we also enjoy regular Frozen Fridays, the sale of ice-lollies at the end of the school day organised by FOHNS.



This term Nursery children have been learning the story of Jack and The Beanstalk. They have been printing with giant rhubarb leaves to make a beanstalk for Jack and have also made a castle for the Giant.

Reception class have been learning about Fairies by sharing the story of Freddie and the Fairy by Julia Donaldson. They have been making wands and creating fairy gardens.

Years 1 & 2 have been learning about the 1950's and the key events that have happened since.

Years 3 & 4 have learned all about Volcanoes and Tsunamis. We even had a fantastic talk from one of the parents on what it was like to survive a tsunami!

Years 5 & 6 have been learning all about Forces by designing and making parachutes and studying famous physicists such as Newton and Galileo.

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Great Rollright Primary



We have an exciting new addition to our school this summer: our first school dog. Mabel is a 7-month-old Labrador puppy who is being specially trained under the Dog Mentor programme to become a working school dog. She spends part of the week at school already and will spend more time here as she matures and learns her

role. School dogs have been shown to offer a range of cognitive, social, emotional and physical benefits to children – including teaching compassion and responsibility, and relieving anxiety.

In other news:

Gurdwara visit: Yrs 3–6 visited the Sikh Temple in Leamington Spa, as part of our efforts as a Church of England school to introduce our children to other faiths. The children toured the prayer space, and learned about the Sikh faith and rituals, and the Temple's wide-ranging charitable activities.

Fairytale Farm trip: As well as meeting the animals, Yrs R-2 helped plant a new wildflower meadow and learned all about bees.

Parents and carers are strongly encouraged to visit to see all that the School can offer – including a free bus to Chipping Norton. Please call us on 01608 737202.

Kingham Primary

The Big Summer Sing: On Monday 22 May our choir took part in the Big Summer Sing at the Oxford Centre for Music. Students joined with other schools to perform a variety of songs from the likes of Ed Sheeran, Sam Ryder and The Beatles. We were treated to brilliant solos from both Elia and Florence during *Blame it on the Boogie*, and the choir enjoyed performing for parents with a live band. We are very proud of how quickly the children learned all eight songs and the dance moves in just four weeks of preparation for the concert.

Kingham Inter-House Kurling: But we don't have any ice

– how can we possibly play Kurling? Well, it turns out that ice is not needed to play New Age Kurling. The competition was fierce, the stones flew down the rink towards the



house and cheers could be heard around the School as points started to add up. Our students were soon applying tactics; from stones being used to clear the house, to guards being placed in front to stop the other team. What was clear throughout was a strong application of the School Games values of Passion, Teamwork, Determination, Respect, Self-belief and Honesty. Stags House were triumphant overall, but all players should be proud – the final results were close!

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support and kindness over
the last 12 months."*

Claire & Daniel

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LETTERS

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

More urgency for safety measures?

I write in response to your article in June's issue of the *Chippy News* (*Slow Progress on Traffic Plans*). It's quite clear that whilst we await with bated breath the 'long-awaited relief from heavy traffic through the Town', there is absolutely no reason why we should continue to run the gauntlet trying to cross New Street. It would appear that County officers have cited 'pressures on staff', whatever that means, as the excuse for not proceeding with the provision of pedestrian crossings, despite a fatality and serious accidents (and near misses) that have occurred. Apparently, the earliest any works are likely to take place is 2024/2025. That's absolutely disgusting. How much longer are we and our Town and District Councils going to allow this farce to continue. Perhaps one part of the answer is for our Town Council to dig into their ample finances and offer to pay for these much-needed pedestrian crossings. Perhaps that might relieve the pressures on County Council staff! How much do we value the lives of pedestrians? Perhaps the abundance of new Town Councillors will look further into this possibility. On HGVs and the A44: finally, we all await the proposals for a new 'Area/Corridor' following yet another report from Consultants. What will the forthcoming Air Quality Action Plan tell us later this summer that we don't already know? Many questions but will there be answers?

Steve Williams

Blocked Ears?



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Welsh choir packs Town Hall

We were thrilled that the Cwmdare voices wanted to come and sing once again in Chippy and they were welcomed back by a Town Hall full of folks who enjoyed an evening of



wonderful uplifting singing. Also joining them was local CHAOS singer Fiona Bates. Over £700 was raised to share between Lawrence Home Nursing Team and Chipping Norton Methodist Church. Thank you to everyone.

Elaine Parsons – CN Methodist Church

Abbeyfield's closure in Chadlington

Following the shock news of the likely closure of Abbeyfield's supported living home at The Old Bakehouse (see *Local News* article page 5 – Ed), I am writing to describe the emotional 'fall-out' from the proposal. My father Peter Pauling, born in Chipping Norton in 1929, lived happily and productively at The Old Bakehouse for the last four years of his life. With two days' notice for staff, residents and their families, we were told in a formal meeting that the house was listed for closure and there would be a 45-day 'consultation period'. The shock in the room was palpable and the sight of many elderly and vulnerable residents in tears will be difficult to forget. My father, normally phlegmatic, became very anxious about his future and, sadly, six days after the announcement he had a fatal heart attack. He was frail and had been recently diagnosed with heart failure but I cannot help but think his mental and physical state suffered from the events of the previous week.

I will not describe the meeting in detail. Suffice to say, the way the news was conveyed was not fit for purpose. There was so little notice that some residents had no relative there in support. Most, including my father, could not properly hear the words read from a prepared script. The Charity's website



chippingnorton
Health Centre

Dear Patients,

Our first **Flu clinics** will be held the week commencing the **25th of September**.

We will invite all those who are eligible via text, as we did last year, where you can book your own appointment using the text link. We will send letters to invite anyone we do not hold a mobile number for. Please await your invitation. Those aged 50-64 years who are NOT clinically at risk, are NOT eligible for a free vaccination this year. Please do try to provide us with a mobile number before the end of August, if we do not already hold one for you.

Please check our website from August onwards for further information about clinics.

www.chippingnortonhealthcentre.nhs.uk

LETTERS

states 'Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for older people. Community is at the heart of Abbeyfield, where people come together to share meals, company, and enjoy life. Abbeyfield is more than a home, it's a neighbourhood, a community, a family'. With a care sector crisis, and this laudable 'mission', Abbeyfield's homes for the elderly, like that in Chadlington, should be a jewel in their crown. I find it hard to describe my depth of disappointment in this charity, which does, to me and others, appear to have been mismanaged on several fronts.

Wendy Murphy

Supporting Chipping Norton Hospital

The League of Friends of Chipping Norton and District War Memorial Hospital has been supporting the War Memorial Hospital ever since we had a stand-alone building for In-patients and Maternity, and a First Aid and Minor Injuries Unit – all at the site now looking like a bomb site behind the blue hoarding – with the original 'donated house' as the Hospital, the only building standing. League funds were raised over many decades, through legacies left and the famous Hospital Fetes. Times have changed and the NHS-delivered services within the Town have undergone several metamorphoses – not to mention a new building up on the London Road, housing a superb Outpatients and remarkable midwife-run Cotswold Birth Centre, a beacon site of excellence, now thankfully back up to full strength. We are so fortunate to have our County-wide midwives giving advice and expertise and, of course, delivering babies once again in Chippy.

We were fortunate too, at our recent League Committee meeting, to hear from Lesley Woods, the Interim Team Leader at the Birth Centre, who spoke about it returning to its level of activity before temporary closure. Recently, more than 50 people attended an Open Evening. Lesley was made aware of how special it was to be born in Chippy, with most of the Committee born in the 'old' maternity Hospital. We also heard from Jane O'Gorman, Site Manager of the Hospital, reminding us of the wide range of outpatient clinics available there. One very useful clinic is Ultrasound, using a machine

donated by the Loff. The League exists to support our NHS-delivered services ie the Outpatients and Cotswold Birth Centre. In view of many changes within the delivery of the Town's Health Care services, the League are in the process of reviewing its constitution.

Jo Graves – Chair League of Friends CN Hospital

Chipping Norton Christian Aid

We are thrilled to report that the grand total raised for our Christian Aid collection this year is £1,458.80. Many thanks to all who helped in any way. Our photograph shows teas being



served at Chastleton Church during Christian Aid week.

Val Fletcher – Christian Aid Group

Cash collections for Barclays

Since hearing the news of the closure of the Chipping Norton Barclays branch – and a pretty unhelpful letter from them – we at The Theatre have been looking for other options for our cash movements. I finally discovered that Barclays themselves offer a cash collection service through G4S for its business customers, which if you bank a sizable enough chunk at a time is actually FREE and does not involve any staff standing in a non-secure Post Office queue with significant amounts of cash on their person. Our team are delighted, though frustrated that Barclays themselves did not inform us of this service. You might want to publish this to tell local Chippy businesses that would find this information helpful. I'd just like to be able to help other local businesses struggling with the closure of the Town's last branch.

Jo Robinson, General Manager, The Theatre Chipping Norton

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The Chipping Norton News is printed on environmentally approved paper

Plaudits for Mark's Cotswold Bakery



What started as a hobby for Mark Woodgate, creating sourdough in his Aga at home in Over Norton, has gone mad! Sharn, Mark's wife, said, 'It's not a job but more a way of life'. All their hard work is paying off as this local bakery has won another award, 'the best bakery in Oxfordshire' and now competes for the best Regional Bakery in London on 12 July – then perhaps the UK – fingers crossed! Sharn said, 'This is a particular honour as it was voted for by customers; we didn't have to apply so it's a natural organic win'. Mark started by creating a sourdough loaf using only the best and local ingredients; his recipe has not changed as each loaf is hand-made. He sources local flour from FWP Matthews Cotswold Mill in Shipton.



out and found local shops to sell their loaves. Sharn said, 'We had to create a brand, something that stood out in a crowd. Sales have relied mostly on word of mouth. We created a unique flavour and texture'. Now they have 30 independent stockists as well as selling wholesale. These range from Oxford to Cheltenham – including locally at Oats in Chipping Norton, the Bledington Community shop, Bruern Farm Shop, Chadlington Quality Foods, Hook Norton village store, Wyatts farm shop and Quince & Clover in Great Tew.

The Bakery, producing over 3000 loaves a week, has outgrown its Chipping Norton site and has recently moved into new premises on Heath Farm, along the Banbury Road, with ten bakers making a selection of sourdough loaves, including the popular Cotswold Crunch. In total, Mark's Cotswold Bakery employs 24 people.

To find out more see markscotswoldbakery.co.uk.

However, the pandemic changed his business overnight, as he had been solely wholesale selling to pubs and restaurants. Sharn and Mark had loaves maturing but no sales, so went



DIARY

See back page for fêtes, festivals & fayres, also ps 21-22 for Arts pages: theatre, concerts, exhibitions etc

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

- 1st **Chippy Pride** 11am-4pm Town Hall - see p11
- 2nd **Ramblers** see p28 for details
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church
- 3rd **Town Council Community Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- 4th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p27
- 5th **Methodist Coffee Morning** for Blue Cross 9.30-11.30am
- U3A** 2.30pm in the Town Hall - see p27
- 6th **Thursday T&T** (Tea & Talk) with Chris Stratta from the Leprosy mission - 2.30pm Methodist Church
- 9th **Civic Service** 10.30 St Mary's Church - see p3
- 10th **Crafty Cuppa & Chat** 10-12 Methodist Church
- Town Council Strategic Planning Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- Folk Club** 7.45 The Harrow Inn Enstone - see p28
- 12th **Town Council Drop-in** 10-12 Old Mill - see p3
- 13th **Amnesty** 7.30pm Lower Town Hall - see p27
- 17th **Town Council Finance Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- West Oxon WI** 7.30pm Parish Room - Survival of the Fittest: how our forebears raised their infants see p26

- 20th **Chequers Music Session** 8pm Chequers Goddards Lane CN. All welcome - see p27

- 22nd **Town Council Drop-in** 10-12 Chippy Larder in the Guildhall - see p3

- 24th **Full Town Council Meeting** 6.30pm Town Hall

August (No Chipping Norton News)

- 1st **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p27

- 2nd **U3A** 2.30pm in the Town Hall see p27

- 6th **Ramblers** see p28 for details

- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church

- 10th **Amnesty** 7.30pm Lower Town Hall - see p27

- 11th **CHIPPY NEWS DEADLINE** - see p34

- 21st **West Oxon WI** Summer Picnic - see p26

September (News out Tuesday 29 August)

- 5th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p27

- 6th **U3A** 2.30pm in the Town Hall see p27

- 11th **Local History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - Liza Dibble - Britain's Secret Resistance

Festivals, Fêtes, Fairs & FUN

NB Please check websites for late changes



CHIPPY PRIDE – 1 July the Town's first Pride festival event – painting the Town with the LGBTQ rainbow. See details on Town Council and Got2B social media. Connect with #ChippyHasPride2023 pride-events.co.uk/event/chippy-pride-2023/

Longborough Festival Opera – until 3 August. World class opera festival in 500-seat home-grown theatre. Donizetti, Monteverdi and Purcell. Stunning views of the Evenlode valley, picnics in a tent or outside, on site restaurant, lfo.org.uk/whats-on

SHIPSTON PROMS – until 1 July Venues in Shipston and local villages, including Long Compton, Brailes, Cherington. Jazz, pop, rock, blues folk, choral and handbell ringers. facebook.com/ShipstonProms

HOOK NORTON 25TH MUSIC AT THE CROSSROADS FESTIVAL – 30 June–2 July, Hook Norton Brewery, quiet campsite. Great little charity festival. Headlining on Saturday: John Otway. Other bands include The Krissie Matthews Band (Fri), Folklaw and more. hookymusic.co.uk/

BLenheim SUMMER EVENTS – 1 July sees the Battle Proms Picnic Concert – outdoors with fireworks – but other events include EV Live 7–9 July (free with Annual Pass), Paddington Lo-Commotion, exhibitions, Sunday concerts, and Salon Privé – a luxury auto event. Check out blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/



KINGHAM FIESTA – 9 July, 11am–4pm on the Village Green. Mexican theme. Live music, bar, BBQ, cakes and ice creams, stalls, children's area with bouncy castles, games and fun. Raising funds for Kingham Primary School

COTSWOLDS BEER FESTIVAL – Postlip Hall Winchcombe 14–16 July. Beers, ciders, perries, BBQ and vegan/veggie food. Soft drinks free to 'designated drivers'. U18s free. The Apple Mashers, Ola Samba, Morris dancers and more postlip.camra.org.uk/



CHARLBURY RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL – 29–30 July. Fabulous family event. Over 30 bands playing on 3 stages, beer etc by Hooky Brewery, kids' events...and it's FREE riversidefestival.charlbury.com/

THE AMPHITHEATRE, Upper Oddington. Huge range of events from comedy to Tina Turner and ABBA tribute acts, Shakespeare and more throughout the summer, with plenty for kids and a summer Proms night on 3 September. amphitheatreberrybankpark.co.uk

WYCHWOOD FOREST FAIR – 9 July, 11am–4pm, Foxburrow Wood, OX29 9UN. Family-friendly country fair celebrating rural crafts, community and conservation in the historic Wychwood area. More details at wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk/whats-on

GUITING MUSIC FESTIVAL – 21–30 July. First rate soloists and ensembles at 200-seat open marquee at village hall playing field. Food, bar, take picnics, dogs on leads welcome guitingfestival.org/2023-concerts/

WITNEY PLAY & ACTIVITY DAY 3 August, 11am–3pm, Woddards Meadow OX28 3JZ. Free. Toddler rides, Go Karts, Zorbing, climbing zone, mess, martial arts and more. Food & drink. Oxonplay.org.uk



WILDERNESS Cornbury Park – 3–6 Aug. Music, art, craft, live show and intellectual extravaganza in woodland and lakes, with The Chemical Brothers and more. Dressing up themes: Friday Live Rabbits, Saturday Grandma's wallpaper, Sunday OUT-Outrageous. wildernessfestival.com



WILLOWBROOK ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL (WAM) – 4–6 August. World music, arts and crafts outdoors at Willowbrook Farm at Hampton Gay willowbrookfarm.co.uk/festival

BAMPTON BEER FESTIVAL – 5 August. Promises 20 casks of beer and cider with live music all day, food and games. St Mary's Church, Bampton OX18 2LY bamptonwithclanfield.org/bampton-beer-festival/

FAIRPORT'S CROPREDY CONVENTION – 10–12 Aug. Folk-rock stalwarts Fairport's annual reunion concert (since 1979!). Still a one-stage event: with IOCC, Strawbs and more with Fairport Convention themselves. Food, craft stalls, Fringe events in Cropredy village fairportconvention.com

WATERPERRY GARDENS – Summer at the outdoor amphitheatre includes the wonderful Opera Festival (12–20 August) and the Oxford Storytelling Festival (25–27 August), 'Wildest Imaginings'. Stories, spoken word, poetry and song. Tickets include free camping. See waterperrygardens.co.uk/events

FUNTOPIA at Banbury – Tuesday 22 Aug, 11.30–5.30. Spiceball Park. Designed for the Under-10s, with special Autism-friendly session 10.30–11.30. Free. eventbrite.co.uk/e/funtopia-at-banbury-tickets-501257563867

THE BIG FEASTIVAL – 26–28 Aug, Alex James' Farm, Kingham. Feel-good family festival of food and music. Music headliners include Sigrid, Tom Brennan and Blossoms, while Chef headliners include Asma Khan, and Nathan Outlaw. Action-packed weekend. Camping and glamping thebigfeastival.com



WOODSTOCK LIVE, Woodstock – 26–27 Aug, 1–10pm both days. Fun, free family festival open to people (and pets) of all ages. Live music in the town square. Bring your own cup! woodstocklive.co.uk/festival

WHICHFORD & ASCOTT FETE & Flower Show – Bank Holiday Monday 28 August, 1.30–5. Village Green. A great day for all the family. Flower, Fruit, Vegetables, Produce & Craft Show. Vintage fly past, exotic animals, Punch & Judy, Dog Show, teas, pig roast, vintage vehicles, live music from Wired.

SHIPSTON PROMS Music Trail – 3–5 Sept. Range of musical offerings (including open mic sessions) in and around Shipston-on-Stour. facebook.com/ShipstonProms

GREAT ROLLRIGHT AUTUMN FAIR – 9 Sept 11am–3pm, Flower and Produce Show, Dog Show, live music, pony rides, stalls, BBQ and lots more. See facebook.com/FriendsOfGreathRollrightSchool for info and to get involved!