

## Smash & Grab

### Masked robbers' 3am Sainsbury's ATM break-in

Does Chipping Norton town centre's security need tightening up? A quiet 9 August summer night was shattered with a shock professional burglary. The Sainsbury's door was forced, alarm set off, security gate smashed and ATM cash box prised out and taken – all in 5 minutes flat! Police, there in minutes, were looking for witnesses. It's hoped that extensive forensics, completed with the store closed, could lead to finding the culprits.

Police and Town Council might be tempted to try even more 'Big Brother' public CCTV. The last two years have also seen town shoplifting increase. It's a national problem, with major supermarkets, including Sainsbury's, Co-op and Aldi elsewhere all taking action. In Chipping Norton, Councillors and town centre traders are already working positively together to combat theft. It's up to all of us to keep alert and help.

### Co-op's on the Up



The Co-op's new escalator got its own ribbon-cutting ceremony on 11 August. Homegrown celebrity Diddy Squat's Gerald Cooper joined the store team to wield the scissors. Very welcome after months out of action. Fingers crossed teething troubles are minimal!

### Chippy School success



We feature some terrific A-level results, record student numbers, and great overall progress. See Schools pages.

### Citizens Advice back

citizens  
advice

After some years absent, much-missed face-to-face advice sessions are back in Chipping Norton – with volunteers needed. More inside.

### Sporting winners

Congratulations to all the 2023 Chipping Norton Sports Awards winners – see sports pages for full report and legacy award feature.

### Also in this issue:

Town Council £26k local grants ~ Chippy Pride pictures ~ New cinema opens ~ Fun at Cotswold Crescent play area ~ New skatepark getting close ~ Town parking issues ~ Ideas for your 'Autumn Renewal' ~ Style party at Helen & Douglas

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

# Join the fun at Cotswold Crescent

**Summer has seen the often-neglected Cotswold Crescent Play Area put to better use – and with much needed new equipment. Here’s an update – and news about the launch of Transition Chipping Norton, who’ve been supporting Learn2Sustain’s youth work, as a full Charity.**

**New play and sports equipment** – An investment of up to £60,000 by Chipping Norton Town Council finally saw some wonderful new play equipment installed at the Cotswold Crescent Play Area by the end of July, after local teenagers highlighted this as one of the things the area needed. This consultation was part of the Learn2Sustain initiative set up for young people by Cara Hedges and colleagues in March 2022 as a response to the Pandemic (see June’s *Chippy News* feature). The equipment was formally opened on 22 July by



Mayor Sandra Coleman and includes great football and basketball goals, swings, a slide and a general mini obstacle course accessed easily by two tracks from the Crescent.

**More regular activities and fun** – The Learn2Sustain



group have been meeting regularly up at the Play Area for open access sessions including cooking, bushcraft, creative upcycling, planting and other activities. Meetings were also held at the Chipping Norton Community Orchard and pop-up skateboard park. In between these regular sessions, Cara often drops in for a chat and is really keen to be led by the teenagers in making decisions and planning events. One request

from the young people was for litter bins – sadly not being emptied by the contractors immediately, but now being chased up. Generally, the sessions run from 1–4pm on Saturday afternoons – the next provisional dates are 16 September, 7 October, 28 October and 18 November. Young people can just turn up and there is even a gazebo for shelter. The young people have asked for an indoor space to meet up in town and Cara is working with the Town Council to open up the Town Hall on Tuesday evenings from 5–7pm, starting this autumn. Check out the Facebook page to keep up to date with what is going on: [Fb.com/learn2sustain.org.uk](https://fb.com/learn2sustain.org.uk)

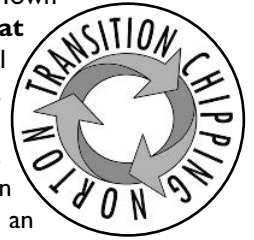
**Get involved in running the show!** –

Transition Chipping Norton – the umbrella organisation which now has under it the Learn2Sustain work with young people – wants to broaden that work. It is now a registered Charity with its first AGM on 30 September (3pm in the Town Hall see article right). TCN would love to invite Chippy teens to come along – as members – and they are looking for those interested to become Trustees, to help shape what TCN will be doing. If you are interested in getting involved, or can help with funding to keep this great initiative running, please contact the team on [info@learn2sustain.org.uk](mailto:info@learn2sustain.org.uk)



## Transition Chipping Norton AGM

Everyone is invited to Chipping Norton Town Hall on **Saturday 30 September at 3pm** for the first Annual General Meeting of Transition Chipping Norton, now officially registered as a Charity (CIO). There will be a short presentation (also available live on Zoom), activities and refreshments. It’s an occasion to celebrate what TCN has achieved so far and to help shape what the local Charity does next. It aims to support groups and individuals of all ages from Chipping Norton and the surrounding communities to develop ways to improve the natural environment and live more sustainably. Cara Hedges from TCN said ‘We would also like to build our team of Trustees. If you know anyone who would be able to play an active role as Trustee in supporting the aims of Transition Chipping Norton please put them in touch with us. We would particularly like to hear from any under-represented groups, especially those aged between 18 and 30, so please do spread the word. Training will be given and your contributions will be valued. Thank you to all of you in our community who have supported the development of Transition Chipping Norton and helped us get to this point. Drop us a line with any questions or to let us know you plan to attend, or just turn up / dial in on the day.’ Email: [info@transitionchippingnorton.org](mailto:info@transitionchippingnorton.org) or see Facebook [fb.com/TransitionChippingNorton](https://fb.com/TransitionChippingNorton) for more details.





**KAREN BILES**  
*inspiring change*

**ALL CLASSES AT GLYME HALL, CHIPPING NORTON**

**Monday**  
Body Conditioning | 9:30am - 10:30am  
Gentle Yoga | 11am - 12pm (*coming soon*)  
Yoga | 7:15pm - 8:15pm

**Tuesday**  
Yoga | 7:15pm - 8:15pm  
Women's Health Course | 6pm - 7pm (*4 weeks*)

**Wednesday**  
Pilates Conditioning | 6:15pm - 7:00pm  
Yoga | 7:15pm - 8:15pm

**Thursday**  
Yoga | 10:30am - 11:30am

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KAREN:**  
**07919 123046**  
**KARENBILESPT.CO.UK**



## Sainsbury's ATM raid

Early on the morning of 9 August, shoppers to Sainsbury's in Chipping Norton's Market Street were confronted with a closed shop, a police car and cordons. A burglary had



*Police in action the morning after the break-in.*

happened at around 3.10am. Three males wearing face coverings and gloves forced entry to the premises through the front doors and shutters. They then broke into the ATM and removed the cash cassette before making off. The value of the cash has not been reported. Investigating officer PC David Fives-Moriarty said 'I am appealing for any witnesses to this incident to please contact the Force. Anyone with information can call us on 101 or make a report on our website, quoting reference number 43230354009, or by uploading footage to the dedicated portal. Alternatively, you can call the independent charity, Crimestoppers, anonymously on 0800 555 111'. One immediate reaction has been for local police to raise the issue with Town Councillors and WODC, about more public CCTV in Chipping Norton's town centre – although more 'Big Brother' cameras are not always welcome and may not be effective. Meanwhile, action is also needed to counter the significant increases in shoplifting experienced in the last year or so – something that town traders and councillors have been working on together

## Sad death of Theatre Founder



*Tamara chose to receive her MBE from the Lord Lieutenant at a ceremony in The Theatre in 2000*

Just before going to press, the News learned of the death of Tamara Malcolm, the inspirational founder and first and long-serving Director of The Theatre Chipping Norton. Next month the News hopes to publish a full tribute to Tamara and her contribution to the arts and the life of the Town. Our thoughts are with her husband Harold, her family and her friends. In 2024 The Theatre celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year – marking Tamara's remarkable legacy.

## Lisa's 'Remarkable Angels!'

A moment can change your life. Lisa Barnes, who runs the Bippity Boo shop in Chipping Norton's Middle Row, contacted the *Chippy News* with an astonishing story of what happened when she had a life-threatening collapse in her shop. Here's her tale: 'I just needed to share my story. It's full of kindness, compassion, and courage of two incredible people – without them it could have been such a different outcome! I call them my angels, Clare & Wes. We all think we are indestructible and nothing will happen to us! But on 15 June, working in my shop as usual, I'd had a migraine for about a week, but didn't think anything was seriously wrong. Clare Percival and Wes Smith came in to buy a gift. I told Clare I didn't feel too good and instinctively she just knew something was wrong. Suddenly, I collapsed and started a seizure (I'm told!). Clare's super quick reactions literally saved my life!'



*Lisa pictured recently with her 'Angels' Wes and Clare outside Bippity Boo in Middle Row*

They called 999, described Lisa's symptoms to the controller and between them they thought it might be an aneurysm; it was urgent to get her to hospital. Thankfully Clare and Wes had done their first aid course and performed CPR until the paramedics relieved them. The two crews and the Air Ambulance took over, working quickly to get Lisa to hospital. Lisa said it was a great team effort from Clare, Wes and all the crew from the emergency services. The amazing care continued; after one week in intensive care and two weeks on the neurology ward she was allowed home to convalesce and be with her family and her 'furbabies'. Lisa ended, 'I have been completely overwhelmed by the love and compassion I have received over the last couple of months. I want to say that every message, card, visit, well wishes and taxi service has helped with my speedy recovery. My ladies who work in my shop have totally gone above and beyond to keep the shop open while I recover. And my family, who have been through so much, I LOVE YOU, you've made me so proud'.

Many thanks to Lisa for sharing her story and best wishes to her from everyone. Could you too be someone's Angel? Later in the year Clare and Lisa are going to arrange for a First Aid Course to be held in Chipping Norton. Please keep a look out for more information.

## Museum Finds Day planned

Do you have something of interest from the past? Chipping Norton Museum are holding another Finds Day on 14 October 11am–5pm. The Finds Liaison Officer will be helping to identify your objects. Watch out for more details in next month's *Chippy News* or contact Pauline Watkins at the Museum or email [paulinewatkins58@icloud.com](mailto:paulinewatkins58@icloud.com).

## Roll up for the Mop Fair

Chipping Norton's Mop Fair returns to take over the town centre again from Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 September. The Fair has been a commercial funfair with rides and stalls for decades but the Mop Fair tradition is ancient, getting its name from an earlier purpose as a hiring event where servants carried the tools of their trade to show that they were available for work. It is planned that, as usual, traffic will be one-way along the top part of the High Street and one-way in the other direction back along Albion Street. Magically, the heavy HGV traffic through town will probably vanish for the three days as usual. The Mop should be cleared by early morning on the Sunday.

## Residents hit by parking fines



Chipping Norton's town centre parking capacity (all free) has increasingly become an issue, with visitors, workers, and residents competing for space. Back in 2016, West Oxfordshire's District Council's last parking strategy said we were 100+ spaces short. They recommended more parking – such as a second layer at New Street Car Park, a park and ride, and/or residents' permits.

WODC has since done none of this – and apparently has no 'statutory duty' to do so. Since then, the town centre has seen more visitors, more housing, a new cinema, new residential flats with no parking, plus the prospect of a new hotel (at HSBC) and 1000+ new homes at the edge of town.

WODC's previous wardens took a lenient approach to 'time restrictions' – but since April, Oxfordshire County Council, who took over the enforcement for on-street and Market Square short-term parking, got tough, issuing many penalty notices. In Woodstock they've introduced street parking charges. Then, in Chippy, WODC's own wardens, who patrol the long-stay Albion Street and New Street car parks, got tough in May to July, issuing penalty notices for any cars left more than 12 hours (the official limit). Until then, for probably over 20 years, WODC had taken a lenient approach to enforcing this – allowing town centre residents, with no on or off-street parking available, to park for longer. There's now been a bombardment of fines to residents – with no consultation or notice of a 'new regime' to residents or our District Councillors.

Angry residents contacted our District Councillors – and, with their support – WODC has admitted that it had intended to issue written warning notices rather than penalties, but this did not happen. Now, there will be a moratorium on penalties until a District-wide 'Review of Parking' is finished. And WODC says the likelihood is that the 'relaxed approach' will continue, allowing residents to use New Street car park. But next steps are awaited, with a

forlorn hope that WODC action might include an actual increase in parking available in or at the edge of town. Former Mayor and Town Councillor Jo Graves – one resident herself hit by the latest penalties – stressed the issue of town parking had gone on for years – including with different studies – and said frustratingly 'NOTHING gets resolved!'

## Simon Smith's new salon

There's a new hairdressing salon in town. On 7 August top stylist Simon Smith opened his new premises in Chipping Norton,

*Simon Smith*

TwoBySimonSmith at 2 West Street (in the former Wine Bear, then Antiques shop at the entrance of Hitchman's Mews). With well over 20 years in the industry, Simon has worked with some of the best hairdressers of his time, with many loyal (and sometimes, celebrity!) clients. The spacious and smart premises promise a relaxing experience, with all manner of styling, colouring and treatments available. The refreshments on offer include tea and coffee, soft drinks and, excitingly, cocktails. There's also a menu from the Little Delish



deli over the road who will take orders from the salon! The new salon is open Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm, Saturday 8am to 4pm. Simon is the main stylist, supported by a team of three. He is also delighted to welcome, on Fridays, the experienced 'red carpet' stylist Matthew Soobroy, who is normally based in West London at his own salon. Simon told the News, 'It's amazing to be back in town with a brand new salon; I've got a brilliant team in place and can't wait to welcome back all my clients, as well as make loads of new connections'. The salon's new website will be [www.twobysimonsmith.co.uk](http://www.twobysimonsmith.co.uk), tel 01608 532222 or email [info@twobysimonsmith.co.uk](mailto:info@twobysimonsmith.co.uk). Up until 2021, Simon was at the salon at 35a West Street. That salon now continues independently, renamed a year or so back as House of Hare.

## Progress on town skatepark

Long-discussed plans for installing some form of skateboard or 'wheeled sports' park in Chipping Norton seem to be creeping nearer to being a reality. Surveys, petitions, and presentations from young people over recent years have all been received positively by Town Councillors – and funding can probably be raised from Section 106 money, District and Town Councils, and local fundraising. However, the stumbling block has always been 'no location available' for anywhere suitable and accessible. But at July's full Town Council meeting, there was potential positive news, with the meeting report saying, 'Members received a verbal update following a recent site location meeting with Field Reeves. Cllr Coleman and the



# LOCAL NEWS

Town Clerk had a very productive meeting with Field Reeves Trustees about the proposed skatepark location at New Street recreation ground. The next step would be preparing a preferred contractor tender, but in principle, the outcome of the discussions was very positive and well-received. The Town Clerk will be writing to the parents of the young people who came to speak at the Town Council meeting to request a skatepark in Chipping Norton to let them know how the project is progressing'.

## Legion keeps the flag flying



The Chair of the Royal British Legion Chipping Norton Branch, Steve Kingsford, reported the marking of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Korean War, fought between 1950 and 1953. Branch member Phil Nicks, who served in Korea as a National Serviceman with 57 Company, attended the National Service of Remembrance in Horse Guards Parade on Thursday

27 July, with his children Jennie and Steve (pictured above). Over 60,000 British servicemen and women were involved in the conflict which saw casualties of 1,100 British servicemen killed and 2,674 wounded. The war cost the lives of at least two and a half million people. Phil is a stalwart member of Chipping Norton branch and has raised thousands of pounds for the Poppy Appeal.

The Branch also held a short evening Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial, attended by Town Mayor Sandra Coleman (pictured right) and members of the public. Steve Kingsford said, 'We paid tribute to Phil's service and to all those who served in the war. Our President, Linda Maia e Silva, laid a wreath on the memorial to honour the fallen'.



Steve stressed how these, often small, commemorative services are an important part of the work of the Legion in Chipping Norton. It allows everyone to remember conflicts, some almost forgotten, that local people may have served in, and keeps fresh wreaths on the memorial. On 21 August the RAF flag was flown on the anniversary of the World War II plane crash in which several airmen were killed on a training flight after a mid-air collision. See the plaque on Redrobe House, down Church Street. In 2024 there are several milestones to be remembered: the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of the First World War, the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of both the Battle of Monte Cassino and the Normandy Landings, and

Celebrations for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Chipping Norton Branch. These will include a number of events, including the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in the Town Hall, where the Branch was born on 17 October 1924.

## WODC halt eco-home plan

A scheme for eight net-zero-carbon affordable homes at Weavers Fold, a WODC-owned site along Walterbush Road, could be under threat. At WODC's Executive meeting in June, it was suddenly announced they were 'ceasing the relationship' with custom-build Chippy-based developer, Green Axis. Back in November 2022 the WODC Cabinet unanimously agreed what was called a 'groundbreaking' scheme – with much fanfare and photo opportunities in the local press. The deal, agreed in 2022 (see picture below), was



called by WODC a 'national first', and would see WODC sell the land for £250,000 to Green Axis and provide Section 106 funding. This would allow Green Axis to develop and sell the eight affordable homes at prices discounted 20% from market value, with a zero carbon specification and custom options for buyers. Green Axis started all the technical design and told the News there had been considerable buyer interest.

A year later, this June, after a confidential report from officers, and (according to Green Axis) with little notice, members of the WODC Executive voted unanimously to pull out, saying they would now approach other housing developers about the site. The meeting minutes say homes will still be 'affordable' – but there is no firm commitment to net carbon zero – it's only 'encouraged'. Both Green Axis and Chipping Norton Town Council have raised concerns about this U-turn. At July's Town Council meeting, a paper by Town Councillors said that, after practical work for a year since approval, the deal arrangement had been 'overturned without explanation' and suggested the whole thing 'had not been well managed by WODC'.

WODC Executive member for Housing, Cllr Geoff Saul, who also happens to be a Chipping Norton Councillor, wrote to the Town Council saying that WODC had a duty 'to protect Taxpayers' assets' and that there were issues with providing a 'suitable agreement for land transfer' with Green Axis. The News was told by Green Axis they had not been appraised of the specific concerns, but were willing to continue talks with WODC and put a proposal to them that would resolve any issues. Next steps are awaited.

## Latest progress at The Branch

In July the team at The Branch, the new community hub in the old Natwest building Chipping Norton, reported 'halfway' on the project. The previous seven months saw 656 tonnes of demolition rubble and 720 tonnes of soil extracted and conveyed out of a window. 104 cubic metres (260 tonnes) of concrete



and other materials have gone in to level the floors for easier access. The Branch project leader Philip Sharman reported a busy summer with substructure and groundworks completed in July and a steel frame for the Community Hall erected at the back – the garden floor will include a Community Kitchen with 10 mobile cooking stations, and flexible rentable office space (see picture). In August the site heaved with different trades refurbishing the original building from basement up to second floor. September (month 10 out of 14) will see roofing work ending and fitting out starting. Ten Chipping Norton School students will resume their monthly site visits as part of the 'Branch Out & Build' project, learning about delivery of a complex construction project. In September, The Branch's many existing activities will start up again. Leaders, volunteers and participants are eagerly looking forward to moving to the completed building from February! Philip Sharman added, 'Despite less than ideal weather for building over the summer, we remain on track to complete works in early February – Thank you again for your patience and forbearance throughout the building work'.

## New Air Quality Action Plan

West Oxfordshire District Council has been getting feedback on its new 'Air Quality Action Plan' for Chipping Norton – a 100+ page document which sets out latest air pollution levels and over 30 potential actions to reduce levels to below illegal limits and safer for public health (see last month's News). While many measures are proposed, including encouraging more walking and cycling, there are concerns that actions with the highest impact (such as reducing HGV and diesel traffic by action on the A44 corridor routes or major changes to road and junction design in Chipping Norton) are beyond the control of WODC. Chipping Norton Town Council members discussed their views for sending to WODC in July. They noted that NO<sub>2</sub> levels in many Chipping Norton areas remain five times greater than World Health Organization limits, and that the data (up to 2021) may already be out of date. Councillors also noted that vehicle data does not include impact of over 1000 new homes likely soon. Recommendations and actions should also include using electric buses for Chipping Norton, more EV charging hubs, and a depot for electric delivery vehicles. Town Council members (Cllrs Festa, Cahill, Coleman, Rickard, Keyser, and Graves) volunteered to join a working party to collaborate more closely with WODC on next steps.

## Town litter pick – 7 October

Can you come and help? As part of the new town campaign to 'Keep Chipping Beautiful', everyone is invited to help at a 'Big Clean-up litter pick event on Saturday 7 October, 10am–noon. Meeting at Wither's Court. To attend please sign up at [chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/keep-chippy-beautiful](http://chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/keep-chippy-beautiful)

Meanwhile – A press release fanfare from WODC has announced they are deploying, via contractors UBICO, new



eco-friendly electric street and pavement cleaning machines (they also clear gutters!) to Carterton and Woodstock – but no mention of Chipping Norton!

## Churchill Road speed camera

Chipping Norton should next year be getting 20 mph limits on all the residential and main roads in the main town area as a plan by Oxfordshire County Council to roll out this scheme across the County is well under way. Meanwhile motorists continue to ignore existing limits, including where 20mph limits are already in place. There's a speed indicator flashing device down New Street and many vehicles exceed the 20mph limit. Now Chipping Norton Town Council has assigned off a quote for nearly £3000 to put a speed indicator device (SID) along the Churchill Road, where speeding has been one of the issues for local residents. In fact, the money may not have to come from the Town Council as our County Councillor Geoff Saul has said he is willing to consider using his own 'County Councillor Priority Fund' to pay for this. All County Councillors have a limited budget delegated to them each year to spend on local issues they wish to prioritise.



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## Town's Civic Service

After a gap of several years – including through the Covid pandemic – the tradition of holding an Annual Civic Service for the Town was revived on 9 July. Mayor Sandra Coleman and members of the Town Council, supported by Councillors from Witney Town and West Oxfordshire District, walked in procession behind Terry Palmer, the Mayor's Sargeant, (who was carrying the Town Mace 'to protect the Mayor') and took their places in St Mary's Parish Church. The service, led by the Vicar, James Kennedy, traditionally uses a Sunday Morning Service to acknowledge the contribution made to the community by our public servants and others. During the service the Deputy Lieutenant, Philip Sharman, asked the Mayor and Councillors to pledge themselves 'to serve God and all mankind in the cause of peace and the relief of want and suffering'. It was a traditional service with up-to-date aims. Afterwards, the Mayor and Councillors held a public reception with refreshments back in the Town Hall. Holding a civic religious service is at the voluntary request of the sitting Mayor. On previous occasions, some Mayors have taken a more secular approach and held events such as a civic garden party or reception to welcome community and other guests.



## Meet your Chippy Councillors

If you would like to meet or have something to discuss with our local Chipping Norton Councillors (about Town, District and County matters), representatives hold monthly informal 'drop-ins'. Next month they are: Wednesday 13 September (at the Old Mill Café in West Street) and Saturday 30 September (at Chippy Larder at the Guildhall) – both from 10am to 12 noon. The public are also welcome to sit in and listen to regular Town Council meetings held in the Town Hall Council Chamber at 6.30pm. Next month they include:

- Monday 11 September – Community Committee
- Monday 18 September – Strategic Planning
- Monday 25 September – Finance & Resources
- Thurs 28 September – Traffic Advisory

You can request a public participation speaking slot by notifying the Town Clerk in advance. All meeting details, with agenda papers in advance and past minutes, can be found on [www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/](http://www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/)

## Ella's Muddy Paws success!



The Pandemic created all kinds of challenges – not least the arrival of many local puppies whose well-being suffered, as well as their ability to get out walking and socialising with lots of other furry friends. All this also allowed veterinary nurse Ella Salter, then only 20, to prioritise her own well-being in difficult times and take a 'leap of faith' on a journey to change her own life by hard

work and determination, with rewarding results. Lisa Behan wrote to the News with the story. Utilising her professional experience and skills Ella took the 'entrepreneurial plunge' in 2022 and channelled her passion for animals into a thriving enterprise called Muddy Paws. Starting with dog-walking, Ella's expertise and commitment built a high demand from dog-owners around Chipping Norton and Hook Norton – and she then expanded her business into natural healthy and nutritious dog treats. With a base of monthly subscriptions, she launched Muddy Paws Natural Dog Treats, an online shop. She then added canine toys for entertainment and good cognitive engagement. Ella and Muddy Paws have also become engaged in the local community – supporting dog shelters, providing a pop-up shop at local events and sponsoring local dog shows.



This year Ella's commitment and dedication to making a difference with her new business has earned her nominations for both the Cherwell Business Awards and Barclays Entrepreneur Awards, with winners to be announced later this summer. Ella hopes to expand the business nationally and introduce her own line of natural products and enrichment toys to pet owners across the country. As a young enterprising entrepreneur Ella is an example that could inspire others to pursue their dreams. More at [muddypawsdaycare.co.uk](http://muddypawsdaycare.co.uk)

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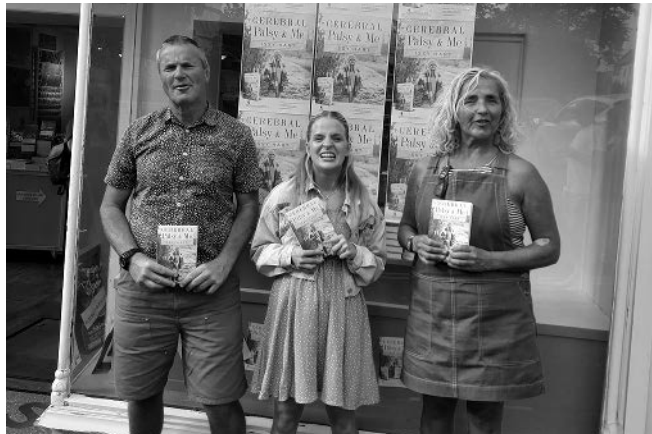
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## LOCAL NEWS

### Issy's life with cerebral palsy

Local resident Issy Hart, who has lived her whole life with cerebral palsy, launched her new book *Cerebral Palsy and me* to much acclaim at Jaffé & Neale's bookshop on 17 August. She began writing some five years ago. Explaining why this was



*Issy Hart pictured at the launch of her book with Patrick & Polly of Jaffé & Neale Bookshop & Café*

so important to her, she said, 'I started writing this book when I was 17 years old. Growing up with cerebral palsy, there wasn't really a book out there that I could turn to for support so I didn't feel as alone as I did. I'm hoping this book can be that book for many other people living with cerebral palsy and other disabilities as well'. Here in Issy's story are the realities of her life, the appointments, the disappointments, the joys. It is, however, a tale of hope, strength and determination. Available at Jaffé & Neale Bookshop.

### Charity Tea & Sewathons



Each year (save the date of Sunday 3 September!) Libby and Nigel, the husband and wife team who run the Window Design Soft Furnishings company at Greystones in Chipping Norton, gather friends and family and together to put on an afternoon tea event to raise much needed funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. It is an important cause for them as their daughter has CF. The tea takes place in Combe near Woodstock in the garden of the Reading Room, opposite the village green, with cream teas and cakes, plus a raffle with some great prizes (this year the Tite Inn in Chadlington has generously donated a meal for four), and also a gift stall selling some lovely handmade items.

The gifts are all made by a wonderful bunch of volunteer sewers. Libby and Nigel's fabulous neighbour and supporter, Sue Hazell, (see [www.sewing-tuition.co.uk](http://www.sewing-tuition.co.uk)) who runs sewing classes in Chipping Norton, organises this through a series of 'Sewathon' days. Window Design supply the fabric, which is either surplus designer fabric off-cuts or discontinued lines. Her top sewing students give their time to get together for a

series of days, to make a variety of gifts which we will be selling. It's a win win win for everyone, lovely items made for charity, reducing fabric waste and fun days of sewing and chat! The tea will be held on Sunday 3 September from 2.30pm. Everyone welcome – raffle tickets can be purchased from Window Design, 01608 670781.

### People, Planet, Pint in Chippy

People, Planet, Pint is a growing, informal community – across the country – bringing sustainability-minded businesses and people together over a drink once a month. In just one year it's grown to over 60 towns and cities across the UK (with some events in Europe too). The Chipping Norton group are pictured at their first meeting at the Blue Boar on Goddards



Lane in July, with a variety of very motivated people – from architects to zoology graduates – coming along to chat, learn, and network – making both new connections and reconnecting with some familiar faces in and around the wider area. Mayor Sandra Coleman dropped in to lend her support! The August meeting was equally well attended, and meetings for the rest of the year will be on the first Thursday of each month, from 6–9pm, generously hosted by the Blue Boar (that's 7 September, 5 October, 2 November, and 7 December). If you'd like to come along (whether one-off or regularly), you can register for a free place. The first 33 people to sign up each month are rewarded with a free drink, kindly sponsored by Krystal Web Hosting. And, if you travel around the UK, you can register for any event in other locations too. See [www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/people-planet-pint-207559](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/people-planet-pint-207559)

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## Meeting the Mayor of Mariupol

In July, News Team member Charlotte Bird had the privilege of attending a reception at Banbury Town Hall organised to



Mr Boychenko pictured with James Clarke of Hook Norton Brewery

welcome Vadym Boychenko, Mayor of the devastated Ukrainian city of Mariupol. Mr

Boychenko had been invited by Banbury's Mayor to meet supporters and the local Ukrainian community. He was introduced by former MP Sir Tony Baldry, who gave a sobering description of damage sustained by Mariupol. The city has been more badly damaged than any

city in World War II, losing 24,000 inhabitants plus colossal loss of buildings and infrastructure. Speaking through an interpreter Mr Boychenko described the catastrophic damage to his city. Listening to his account was something everyone in the room will never forget. But he spoke with optimism of the rebuilding – 'Mariupol Reborn'. He praised the combined efforts of the pro-Ukraine groups in Banbury and Hook Norton that have transported vehicles, clothing, vital food and medical supplies since the beginning of the invasion.

James Clarke, Managing Director of Hook Norton Brewery, has played a key role for more than a year, helping with transport to get urgently needed supplies out to the war-torn area. He was at the reception and invited News Team's Charlotte, who has also been involved in fundraising and support. James said, 'It was an honour to meet the Mayor and some of his team. It was very useful to talk about the work we are doing and the way lots of smaller groups like us are helping. He was very clear that this is the most effective way as aid gets directly to those that need it'. Following the presentation of a Banbury Town Council flag, the event closed with the Mayor joining his former compatriots, currently domiciled in North Oxfordshire, to sing the Ukrainian national anthem. Appropriately, the evening ended at Hook Norton Brewery's Coach and Horses pub in Butcher's Row where the Mayor enjoyed pulling a pint of Hooky beer.

## Progress at old Police Stn

The conversion of Chipping Norton's former Police Station into new homes is almost complete. This iconic 'locally listed' building, constructed in 1865, has recently been subject to the very careful restoration and conversion by Nimbus Property Developments Ltd. You can see the quality of the restoration from the outside. But the inside reveals features that you might not expect to see: all the ceilings have been vaulted, exposing the trusses and purlins to give a really spacious feel and one of the former cells has even been converted into a bathroom, complete with the original jail bars at the window and restored original locking mechanism on the jail door, making the building unique! Local estate agents Mark David

will be offering two 2-bedroomed detached houses, three 2- and 3-bedroomed town houses and four 1- and 2-bedroomed apartments for sale in a few months' time for between £250,000 and £675,000.

## ... and at Old Hospital site?

Could the derelict former Hospital site in Spring Street be about to see some action? The small property company that bought the site over 10 years ago has been trying to sell it for years – and in July, a prospective buyer, apparently linked with a large property developer based in the North-West, received confirmation from WODC that the existing planning permission for a small housing development remained valid. Next steps are awaited!

## New team at The Chequers

It's all change at The Chequers in Chipping Norton. Darren, who was landlord for over five years, has hung up his hat to take some time travelling and have a breather. The new landlady is Marion Healy, supported by husband Tom and daughter Ally. As a family they have been running pubs, restaurants and hotels in England, Spain and Ireland for over 30 years, so have plenty of experience in the trade. Regulars



will be pleased to know that they aren't planning any major changes, because they love the pub as it is, although they are getting a few things fixed (like the leaking window alcove) which sadly means the vine across the front of the pub will probably have to go to allow the outside wall to be repointed. The menu focuses on traditional pub classics like Sunday roasts, steaks, fish and chips, home-made pies (made by Marion herself), and burgers (with meat from Trev Beadle). They also cater for vegetarians and vegans. Lighter food is available at lunch times, and the ploughman's and sandwiches are proving very popular. The pub opens every day at noon with food served 12–3 and 6–9 Monday (yes, Monday!) to Saturday, and Sunday lunch 12–4. Marion likes to encourage live music, such as the monthly Thursday acoustic session, and the monthly jazz session, and she's looking to start an informal quiz night – so if you're a quizmaster, do get in touch! We'll see a few new faces behind the bar and front of house. Al is still doing a sterling job as barman along with Ally and Abbi, and Amelie is doing more front of house. The team is likely to grow as they get more established. So it's goodbye to Darren, and welcome to Marion and family – and the very best of luck.

## Running for the Lawrence Team



On Saturday 8 July a team from Cromwell Park's Cotswold Dental Wellness clinic ran 5km around Chipping Norton to raise funds for Chipping Norton's Lawrence Home Nursing Team.

Pictured are Kim, Zoe, Sabrena and Niamh, along with Austin and Seb (Kim's son and Sabrena's son) who set out in less than desirable conditions. Despite the torrential rain they completed the 5km and recovered with a warm drink and slice of cake! The Lawrence Team was the charity of choice for Zoe, who ran in remembrance of her nan who sadly passed away on 9 July 2022. The Lawrence Team supported Zoe's nan and her family through an incredibly difficult time and this was a lovely way to say thank you and give a little back. The total raised stands at £415. Thanks to all who sponsored and supported the Cotswold Dental Wellness team.

**Kim Payne**

## & more Lawrence fundraising

The Lawrence Home Nursing Team is delighted to be supported by Great Tew and Little Tew Cricket Club for the Club's Charity Fun Day on Saturday 16 September. LHNT receives 75% of net profits and 25% will be allocated to the Pratley family to help them with their journey with Motor Neurone Disease. The Cricket 6s start at 11am. There's family fun, food, stalls and an evening live band. Free entry. Saturday 23 September sees the annual Clay Pigeon Shoot at The Oxfordshire Shooting School followed by a two-course supper at The Crown, Church Enstone. To enter a team please contact fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org.

Huge thanks to the members of Chipping Norton's Midcounties Co-op who chose LHNT as their charity partner for the next year. Next, a big welcome to Wendy Palfrey who is joining the Team. She takes over as Registered Nurse

Manager on 18 September. Finally, the Lawrence Home Nursing Team's AGM will take place at the Town Hall on Tuesday 10 October from 7 pm. All are welcome.

**Verity Fifer**

## Walterbush Rd bus shelter



Chipping Norton Town Council's July meeting had further discussions about the bus shelter on Walterbush Road at the top of Hailey Avenue. It lost its shelter and seat some years ago; a new shelter was then erected – but with no side panels against the wind nor a bench

to sit on. But for some reason (unknown to the Town Council), County contractors added four large round planters. Plants have come, including herbs, and some have gone,



dried up – there's no plan for caring for them. They've often been 'mistaken' for litter bins (top picture). The shelter's back panels have also suffered from paint daubing. Now Town Councillors have agreed to move the remaining three planter bins to lower Market Square, as long as they don't impede pedestrian access there. Polly and Patrick from Jaffé & Neale have very kindly agreed to maintain the planters which should add colour and greenery to the centre of Chippy.

Some months ago, the Town Council had also agreed to reinstate the bus shelter side panels with a spring or summer installation. There seems to be a further contractor 'hold up', and the News has again been contacted on behalf of bus users enduring wind and rain. The News spoke to staff at the Town Council who promised to chase the contractors again and hopefully get the work completed before those autumn winds start blowing.

## Library Challenge, chat & cake

Chipping Norton Library had a bumper year with this year's Summer Reading Challenge: Ready, Set, Read! The theme of sports and games ties in with so many of our sports teams and athletes doing so well in international events this year. Congratulations to everyone taking part and there is still time to finish and collect your stickers, medals and certificates from the Library. Dogs aren't normally allowed in the Library, except for assistance dogs but we have a very special event coming up soon. Save the date of Wednesday 8 November for our Guide Dog Experience Day! More information next month...

There's room for more at the regular Chatterbox coffee mornings and the library team would love to see you if you'd like to come along. Run by Age UK, there's a hot drink, cake, a chance to socialise and access to advice and information. Chatterbox meets on the third Tuesday of each month 10–11.30am. There's always delicious cake too! The next one is Tuesday 19 September. For more detail, contact Katrina on



### CRICKET 6s

Charity Fun-Day



in aid of



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Saturday 16 September 2023

Great & Little Tew Cricket Ground

**Mixed teams**  
**Party Atmosphere**

11am: Tournament starts  
2pm: Stalls open  
6pm: Hog roast  
7pm: Band starts



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[www.lawrencehomenursing.org](http://www.lawrencehomenursing.org)



07827 235444 or email [network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)  
Did I mention cake...?

**Kate Leimer** – Chipping Norton Library

## Valued mentor retires

As summer term ended, staff at Chipping Norton School and the congregation of St Mary's Church honoured John Marshall, finally retiring this year from his formal work with our young people. The School's Deputy Head, Natalie Hancock, explained how John had, over many years, supported and nurtured some of the most challenging and vulnerable students, week after week both inside and outside school – providing invaluable guidance to those students and their families. John and his wife Judith opened their home at times for students in the most desperate of circumstances, putting the children's needs before their own, even during challenging Covid times when they were classed as 'vulnerable' themselves. Natalie added 'We are extremely grateful for all the years of service John has given. John, we thank you for your commitment, your selflessness and your patience over the years. We will miss you but wish you a very happy, relaxing retirement. Do pop in and see us from time to time, we would love to see you'.



*John Marshall in unfamiliar garb!*

Joel Reed (Youth Pastor at St Mary's Church) added, 'It's been such a pleasure to work alongside John for the last three years. He has played a vital and impactful part in the youth ministry during my time here, and for a long time before that! It's hard to put into words the value and positive impact the work that John has done over the years, but is evidenced by the number of young men who have excelled and achieved because of the time and the listening ear John has devoted for years. All of us in the youth team, staff team, and wider church are so grateful for all John has done and he will leave a massive hole behind him now he's retiring (again)'. Through his involvement in everything from 'Boys' Hikes' to school mentoring, Remix and so much more, John has been a faithful member of both the Church and of our local community. We are tremendously grateful to him for all he's done – his time, wisdom, and consistency. His legacy will live on, not least through the continued work in the School and at Remix.

**James Kennedy** – Rector, St Mary's Church

## Apple Day again!

Come Wassailing at Chipping Norton's Community Orchard (off the Worcester Road) on Sunday, 24 September, 12 noon–3pm. Bring your apples to press and take away juice, the delights your children will have made and perhaps a handmade walking stick. Enjoy the Morris dancing, pole lathe, rural crafts, and delicious refreshments. Donations only – please bring cash. Meanwhile, when you stroll through the orchard, look out for the 'Pick me Now' notices on the trees – and do let us know if you've got surplus apples to press and we will collect. Contact Heather Leonard 01608 643691, [rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk).



## Results of GPs survey

NHS GP practices and staff, both nationally and in Oxfordshire, remain under considerable pressure. With extensive demand and staff shortages, they have struggled to meet demand for appointments – but overall, we, as patients still have high trust and confidence in our medical professionals when we do see them! That's all in the latest national survey – based on nearly one million responses earlier this year. The results for our area (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire region) saw patients giving an average of 73% 'good' or 'very good' ratings for their surgeries. Across the board, the 'satisfactory' experience for getting through on phones (53%) and making an appointment (55%), reflected some of the challenges.

Chipping Norton Health Centre, one of the larger practices of the 50+ in Oxfordshire, saw a similar pattern of scores. Like many, dealing with increased demand since Covid, (particularly with more elderly patients in the Chippy area), new housing, and hospital waiting times – has meant appointment times have seen issues. However, one very positive score is that 'confidence and trust' in the last clinician that patients dealt with hit a regional average of 94%. Chippy's score was even higher. The national survey was held between January and April this year – mainly under winter pressures. Since then, the positive news is that Chipping Norton has returned to making 'face-to-face' consultations the main default option for seeing a clinician – unless patients

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# LOCAL NEWS

themselves choose an alternative, such as a phone call. Chippy's team is also gearing up for a major round of both flu and Covid booster jabs this autumn. Full national survey details, including from each GP practice, can be found at [www.gp-patient.co.uk](http://www.gp-patient.co.uk).

## Local train & bus update



If you haven't done so, everyone should take advantage of the continuing £2 single fare limit on local Stagecoach buses, notably the S3 from Chipping Norton to Oxford – a big saving. The £2 limit will also now apply from Chippy to Witney on the X9, because

Pulhams, who run the route, have been bought by Go-Ahead (who also own Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel). They had signed up to the Government-led £2 subsidised scheme. For those timetables go to [www.pulhamscoaches.com](http://www.pulhamscoaches.com) and click on bus timetables and then X9.

Roadworks around Oxford have caused big delays to the S3 going to Oxford and so Stagecoach revised their timetable from 23 July to achieve more reliable timekeeping. Delays in printing meant timetables were late getting on to all the bus stops. Many S3 buses now run about 15 minutes earlier from Chippy. A new service from Chippy was also added at 07.18 in the morning peak – but from 3 September this has been brought forward to 06.58 (arr Oxford Station 8.18) because of problems getting Charlbury pupils to Woodstock's Marlborough School on time. Also the 06.33 from Chippy via Chadlington and Charlbury will (from 3 September) leave at 06.53 arriving at Oxford station at 08.38. To download the new timetable go to [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com), click on timetables and enter S3 Chipping Norton to Oxford. It is worth also downloading the timetable for the S7 which provides a connection from Woodstock to Oxford Parkway station and Summertown.

For road travellers, disruption in Oxford will continue until late October because of the closure of the Botley Road under the railway bridge in connection with the long-needed major upgrade of the railway through Oxford station which will provide an extra platform and provision for the arrival of East-West Rail from Bedford and Milton Keynes. For good services to London why not travel from Oxford Parkway to Marylebone?

## Paying for Chippy's growth

Continued demand for new houses in Chipping Norton is increasing pressure to fund much-needed local community services and infrastructure – and provide affordable housing. Millions of pounds of 'developer contributions' are legally required from the private builders – under 'Section 106' legal agreements with planning authority WODC (and 'Section 278' agreements from the County on highways and public transport). The whole 'Section 106' process has often been criticised as complex, sometimes involving 'behind doors' negotiations between developers, WODC and OCC.

WODC has spent some months updating the process – and have now issued a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD – nearly 100 pages) to explain it. The Document is long and detailed, but important. Developers must, through these agreements, make new housing projects acceptable in planning terms – funding important needs directly related to the development that are fair and reasonable given the scale and type of development. These agreements, negotiated on a case-by-case basis, can include provision of freehold land or financial contributions for affordable housing, self-build schemes, education provision, highways and access improvements, public transport, indoor and outdoor sports and leisure facilities, green spaces, play areas, public rights of way, health care facilities, allotments, libraries and museums, public art and air quality. All of this applies to schemes with more than 10 dwellings – but large expensive items will apply mainly to the five large West Oxfordshire 'strategic development areas' such as East Chipping Norton. You can download the SPD from [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) or see a copy at the Library.

In Chipping Norton, local councillors and public will want to know if this funding (for example from houses at East Chipping Norton) is sufficient – and whether it prioritises important needs such as town parking, HGV relief, new school, sewage treatment, sports pitches and health facilities. It's unclear whether WODC even has an up-to-date list of infrastructure needs, properly prioritised. How can we influence their negotiations and when? Make sure your views are known to our local Town, District and County Councillors. Meanwhile, plans for a new (perhaps fairer and more directly transparent than s106) government scheme – the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – have been much delayed. CIL would charge a 'levy' directly for every dwelling built, and could fund a wider range of town infrastructure needs. But so far, WODC has said it would not use CIL for large developments such as East Chipping Norton, leaving us



*Who funds more schools and health facilities?*

### Christmas Craft Fair

Salford Village Hall

Saturday 18 November

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Contact Wendy early to secure a space:

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£20 per 6ft table

£15 for Five Villages residents

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# LOCAL NEWS

at the whims of the s106 process and its 'negotiations'. WODC plans to consult again on their long-awaited CIL plan later this year – but meanwhile, the Government has hinted they may scrap the whole idea.

## Car parks grow at Diddly Squat



*Another 'temporary' car park in a field at Diddly Squat*

The controversial car park at Diddly Squat Farm Shop, given planning permission at appeal, has finally opened right next door between the shop, the bar, the burger van, the loos, etc, and the camping site. It sounds like that should be the end of visitors' cars blocking the road and visitors wandering across the road without looking, or stopping in the middle of the road to take selfies in front of the Diddly sign. At last! ... But, hang on, what's that in the field on the opposite side of the road? Another car park? Are we seeing double? This one is busy and even bigger than the car park given planning permission at appeal. And it is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. And it has no planning permission. And visitors are still wandering across the road without looking

and stopping in the middle of the road to take selfies in front of the Diddly sign. Looks like the saga continues.

## Town Hall Bingo: 10 Nov

Please save the date of Friday 10 November in Chipping Norton Town Hall. It's eyes down and dabbers at the ready for a fantastic evening of PRIZE BINGO! It's being organised



be a group of local ladies in aid of The Motor Neurone Disease Association. There will be loads of brilliant prizes and a raffle of fabulous gifts; a cash bar and refreshments will be on offer and lots of fun is guaranteed! We're kicking off at 7.30pm so get there early to be sure of a seat.

**Maggi Creese**

## Town Council grants awarded

In July's meetings of Chipping Norton Town Council, a first tranche of 2023/24 Grants was awarded to town charities and voluntary organisations. Firstly, the Council agreed to separate out £10,000 in total of ongoing annual 'core funding' for three major town organisations – The Lido (£5000), The Theatre (£3000) and the Local History Society and Museum (£2000). This will continue for three years. These will now be dealt with separately from the existing Grants budget – and be funded from Reserves this year and budgeted as an extra item of spending next year. The main Grants budget available for all other requests in 2023/24 is around £25,000. The Council received requests in this first tranche for a total of £24,990 from 15 other organisations. Three were rejected, and so 12 awards have been made. However, to keep some funding in the pot for the second award round in February, the Finance Committee decided that they would grant 80% of the request for each successful application (except Thrive, who were awarded their full amount). Some organisations were granted free use of the Town Hall instead of the direct funding they had requested. The total allocated was £15,992 as follows.



CN Cricket Club	£1600
CN Music Festival	£1200
Chippy Scouts	£1600
Cleanslate	£800
Green Gym	£400
Lawrence Home Nursing Team	£1592
Oxfordshire Play Association	£400
Remix Youth Club	£1200
CN Royal British Legion	*£400
Volunteer Link Up (VLU)	£1600
Thrive North Oxfordshire	£2000
St Mary's Mentoring	*£1600
Citizens Advice West Oxon	*£2000

(\*RBL will also be given the use of the Town Hall free of charge. Mentoring and CAWO grants are dependent on further discussions with the Town Council)

After all this, £8,888 will remain for funding Round 2 applications in February 2024. Members remarked that the

# LOCAL NEWS

successful applications are all worthy organisations but that due to the number of applicants they were unable to fund all the applications fully. Invitations would be sent to organisations to apply again in future if unsuccessful in this round of funding.

## Gentle Yoga ... and more



A new term of health and fitness classes run by Karen Biles starts up at Glyme Hall on Monday 11 September. Most classes are run in 12-week terms with flexibility to make up missed classes on other days. New Gentle Yoga classes – over 9 weeks – start on Monday 2 Oct at 11am. It's a perfect class for a beginner or someone returning after a break or just wants a more gentle approach to Yoga. A Women's Health Course runs for four weeks starting on Tuesday 10 at 6pm–7pm, looking at menopause, weight

management, pelvic and bone health, nutrition, and exercise. See advert on p2 for timetable of weekly sessions. Bookings are now open. Contact Karen on 07919 123046 or visit [karenbilespt.co.uk](http://karenbilespt.co.uk)

## Bridewell Gardens Open Days

Bridewell's walled gardens and vineyard at Wilcote are open to the public on Sunday 10 September 11am–4pm. No booking is required. Suggested donation £5 per person. There will be a pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake. High quality plants for sale, and other homemade produce. Bridewell Gardens provides a mental health recovery service for West Oxfordshire, supporting people who have experienced severe and enduring mental illness. Make a day of it, explore the vineyard with friends and family or relax, bring a picnic and enjoy yourselves. Speak to Bridewell staff about the recovery service and the support provided at the gardens. Dogs on leads are very welcome. Bridewell Gardens, The Walled Garden, Wilcote, Oxfordshire, OX7 3DT.

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## Plaudits for Fairytale Farm

Fresh off the back of the opening of its new Fairy Dell area and a TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Award for 2023, Chippy's Fairytale Farm has celebrated the news that it's the fastest-growing farm attraction in England since 2019. New data released by Visit England has revealed that the Farm – which focusses on accessibility – had



*Beech Haven residents pictured enjoying their recent visit to Fairytale Farm*

37,825 visitors in 2019 and 49,825 in 2022. That's a rise of 23% in visitor numbers, higher than any other farm attraction taking part in the survey. Fairytale Farm owner, Nick Laister, shared his joy at the news saying: 'This is really good news, and shows that the changes we have made over the last four years are proving a hit with our visitors. The addition of the magical Fairy Dell adventure playground, Dino Valley with its moving dinosaurs, our indoor play area Rapunzel's Kingdom, and the new attractions in our animal area have all contributed to this.' The Farm is running its Fairytale Festival until 3 September with activities including a puppet show workshop, crafts, summer games, and fun interactions and petting with friendly animals.

Lisa Tanner reports that Residents of Chipping Norton's Beech Haven Care Home thoroughly enjoyed a day trip out to Fairytale Farm in the glorious sunshine. Everyone had fun feeding the animals, milking a cow, and all rounded off with tea and a cake in the café.

## Town Trail & Visitor Centre?

**Town Trail** – Back in 2018 the Town Council launched a Town Trail leaflet, with special plaques placed around town on 25 historic sites or places of interest. The Trail map and information can be downloaded from Chipping Norton Town Council's website. The whole project was put together by former Councillor and Mayoress Peta Simmons with help from the late John Grantham, Jan Cliffe from the History Society and others. A couple of the plaques – at the Manor House and the old War Memorial Hospital site – have gone missing, and the Town Council received a letter asking them to have a look at it. At July's full Town Council meeting, Councillors discussed the Trail, including the need to find all the original documentation (current councillors and Guildhall staff were not in post in 2018). Councillors agreed to investigate the original plaque supply to install replacements, subject to landowners' permissions. The Mayor suggested looking at the Trail leaflet for refreshing or update. Next steps are awaited. Meanwhile, WODC says it is about to issue an updated, but somewhat delayed, town information leaflet for visitors, with a town map.

**Visitor Centre** – An offer was also made some weeks ago to WODC and the Town Council by Chipping Norton Theatre to provide space for hosting a visitor information



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service. WODC closed the last permanent visitor information centre well over 15 years ago. A volunteer-run Saturday morning visitor desk at the Town Hall, supported by the Town Council, has also stopped. WODC's Market Town officer Emma Phillips told the News that any action on this request will have to wait for a report they commissioned back in April looking at all the Market towns. So, no new visitor information site for this summer's visitors!

## Methodist Church update



Something fishy went on one Sunday in July: Chipping Norton Methodist's junior church took over the service and told the congregation what we had been studying about Jesus and the fishers of men. The children chose and sang the songs and read the readings and helped fish for everyone's names, finishing with tea and cake and fish-shaped biscuits to take home. Thursday's 'talk and tea' sessions restart on 7 September at 2.30pm with guest speaker Jude Levemore

talking about 'Unpredictability and fun'. Everyone is welcome.

The next Charity cuppa and chat is Wednesday 6 September 9.30–11.30am in support of The Homestead, Methodist care home in Carterton. Crafty Cuppa and chat will be on Monday 11 September 10am–12 noon.

**Elaine Parsons**

## Stars back Enstone F1 team

Following the success of their venture sponsoring Wrexham Football Club, Hollywood actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney are joining a group making a major investment in Alpine Racing, the Formula 1 team based at Enstone. The investment is an important contribution to the Alpine Mountain Climber plan, aiming to catch up the top teams with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. It was welcomed by Chippy County Councillor Geoff Saul, who was quoted in the press saying, 'It sounds like an exciting project. It would be great to see Alpine Racing competing back at front of the grid, like they did when they were Renault. The team is vital for the area – they have a number of skilled staff who live locally. It is important the race team is successful and I am very much in favour of the investment.' If Wrexham's experience is anything to go by, the actors' involvement could bring even greater benefits; they have earned widespread praise for their approach there, frequently attending games and promoting the whole town.



*The Alpine Racing factory in Enstone*

Meanwhile one cool cat tried to share the glory of this story by producing her kittens in the F1 Team's Enstone garage while they were away at the British Grand Prix. The 12 black kittens, rescued by the charity Cherwell Cats Protection, were discovered shortly after the announcement of these developments. By the time that you read this they have probably been re-homed, but would it be any surprise if one of them turned up as the team's new mascot? Now that would be one truly hot cat!

## Rollright Bingo

Everyone is invited to the regular Bingo evenings at Great Rollright Village Hall. The next sessions are Fridays 15 September, 13 October, 17 November and 15 December. It's a fun evening for young and old – and a chance to win cash prizes. Doors open 7pm, games start 7.30pm and it's normally finished at 9.15pm – so not too late for the younger ones and plenty of time to go out after for the older ones. There will be a bar and refreshments too. Cash prizes on every game so come along for your chance to win! Non-profit making – all proceeds go towards local causes. Eyes Down Look In!! Email: [grrbingo@aol.com](mailto:grrbingo@aol.com) for details.

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## Legacy Award for Got2B

At this year's Sports Awards evening, a special award was made by one of the sponsors for a non-sporting achievement. The Chippy Larder Legacy Award is being given to any individual, group, or organisation that has helped support the well-being of residents in the Chipping Norton community.



*Got2B's Julie & Madge receiving their award from Chippy Larder's Rizvana Poole and Deputy Mayor Steve Akers*

This year the award was presented to Julie and Madge from the Got2B youth group for everything they have done in the last two years to help our young people – particularly the LGBTQ community in the Town. Got2B, with their funding now at an end, are stopping, but everything they have done has been noticed, appreciated, and will be missed by the young people and their guardians who have needed their support.

## Open garden & arboretum



The wonderful private Stow Cottage Arboretum and Garden in Churchill, covering approximately 15 acres, will be open to visitors on Saturday 2 September, in aid of All Saints Church, Churchill. The Arboretum was begun in 2009 and has been extensively developed every year since, while the garden has been developed since 1995. There are around 200 different oaks, 40 different sorbus and 25 different limes as well as many magnolias, dogwoods, walnuts, birches, and liquidambar; in all around 650 different trees. The Arboretum has cut paths all around for easy walking, albeit not always even. Stow Cottage is surrounded by the garden with some of these trees and large deep borders with many rare shrubs as well as roses and daphnes. There are extensive views towards Stow-on-the-Wold and beyond. Blackberries available for picking, assuming they are ripe. Stow Cottage, Churchill, OX7 6NP. Open from noon to 5pm. Entry by donation. Teas, cakes, and refreshments to raise funds the Church. Parking will be signposted from William Smith Close. Accessibility: not suitable for wheelchairs due to uneven ground and gravel paths. Dogs: on lead.

**Tom Heywood-Lonsdale**

## Brenda Anne Morris

**(5 June 1933–18 June 2023)**



Brenda was born in New Street, Chipping Norton to parents Dorothy and Jim Shadbolt. In her youth, she played tennis, and read books about cowboys and exploring. After leaving Chipping Norton Grammar School, she joined Barclays Bank, married Dermot Morris, and moved to Walterbush Road, her forever home with her cherished garden and Monkey Puzzle tree, where they enjoyed being almost self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables. Along with

many other town residents at the time, they helped pay towards the opening of Chipping Norton Lido in the late 1960s. Many local residents will remember Brenda later from meeting her daily at the office at Chipping Norton School.

One of her life's passions was the preservation of the Town's heritage. Brenda joined the new Chipping Norton Local History Club in the 1970s, was one of the founding members of the Museum in 1985, and spent her life collecting for it and publishing books about old Chipping Norton. The Museum opened in 1986 at the Baptist Church School rooms in New Street, before moving to its current site in 1995 in the Co-op. Brenda was an amazing baker of cakes (her knowledge gained from her own grandfather) including many for the Chastleton cake stall in aid of CN Local History Society and Museum funds. She was the Society's treasurer from 1985 until December 2022.

Brenda's other major passion was Girlguiding, having been a member of the Girls Friendly Society in her own childhood before becoming a Guide. In September 1968, she became Brown Owl of the 1st Chipping Norton Brownie Pack. Meeting in St Mary's Parish Rooms, numerous Brownies throughout the 1970s and 1980s enjoyed activities including visits to Wembley to celebrate Girlguiding's Diamond Jubilee in 1970, joining the American Girl Scouts based at Upper Heyford for World Thinking Days, and baking bread on sleepovers. In her later Guiding life, Brenda joined the Chipping Norton Trefoil unit, enjoying their many activities, supporting Wychwood Division day events, and joining the annual holiday to Bournemouth with members of the RAF Benson Trefoil unit.

Brenda and Dermot loved to travel, taking their young family almost every year to Alderney, where they enjoyed walking, fishing, and exploring the tiny island. Brenda was never happier than sitting quietly next to some pink thrifts on the clifftops, watching gannets, and reading a book. Later she was very fortunate to visit many countries on holiday, including North America, France, Malta, Australia, and Oman. In 2012, aged 79, Brenda finally made the trip to New Zealand, seeing a country she nearly emigrated to in the 1950s. A Chipping Norton lady through and through, whose knowledge of the Town will be truly missed by many, Brenda leaves behind her three children, Diana, Michael and Sarah, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren who will all miss her tremendously.

**Diana Cramp** – Brenda's daughter

## Citizens Advice in Chipping Norton

*With the news that the much-needed Citizens Advice service is back with face-to-face sessions in Chipping Norton, we feature how CA can help you, and how you can also help by training as one of their valuable volunteers*

**citizens  
advice**

### Citizens Advice is back in Town!



The long-established nationally-based Citizens Advice service has been much in demand in recent years, first with the impact of the Pandemic and now with cost-of-living and energy issues as well as personal wellbeing all becoming major concerns. A permanent office in Chipping Norton, long since closed, was replaced by effective telephone advisers and online support. Our local Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire (CAWO) charity, based in Witney, supported over 9,000 people last year helping resolve many problems. Every week the charity gives free, independent and confidential advice from trained advisers and collects evidence that is used to monitor trends and impacts on the people they support.

CAWO have been eager to restart a direct 'face-to-face' presence here in Chippy – with advice and support for people unable to travel to Witney, who experience difficulties using the telephone or who want the reassurance of sitting down with a person to chat to sensitively. Face-to-face sessions, initially once a month on a Tuesday, started in July and August based in St Mary's Parish Rooms down Church Street. Sessions are planned for September, October and November, each with three 45-minute appointments available at 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Initial advice will cover a range of issues including debt, understanding benefits, housing, employment issues, consumer rights and relationship problems. CAWO say they are looking at a more central location perhaps at The Branch hub in Market Place when it is ready early in 2024. With sufficient volunteers, there may be more frequent and/or drop-in sessions in the future. Currently, appointments must be booked in advance by calling Adviceline on freephone 0808 2787908 or by emailing [info@cawo.org.uk](mailto:info@cawo.org.uk).

### Chippy volunteers needed!

In order that the Chipping Norton service is even more accessible, Citizens Advice needs more volunteers. Teresa Archer, Chief Officer of Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire, said that the newly opened outreach advice service in the Town 'needs at least two people per session to extend the service, but ideally three. In order to offer a presence three days a week, we would need to train at least eight new volunteers. As



*Publicity campaign in Witney*

volunteers often take more time away, we need more than the minimum to allow for this. We are currently only able to offer appointments with our paid caseworker and she cannot take anything other than pre-booked appointments. Without additional volunteers, we cannot manage a drop-in service which is our priority. We want to be able to provide at least a weekly drop-in and eventually expand'.

So, to make all this work, there is an urgent need for volunteers – members of the community from a range of backgrounds who want to support local people who are experiencing a variety of problems. These might include



*CA call centre advisors in Witney answer the many telephone queries CAWO receives*

benefit entitlement/help with claiming or challenging a decision, managing debt or budgeting advice, problems with housing or homelessness, problems with an employer or redundancy and much more. The increased cost of living has impacted on so many people and more than ever they need help and support.

### Volunteer roles and training

Currently two specific roles are required for the Chippy branch:

- advice support workers to triage/manage a waiting area
- face-to-face advisers

A comprehensive training programme is provided by the Witney Citizens Advice Hub and lasts approximately 8–10 weeks depending on the role you are training for. It usually entails a day in Witney which includes group tutorials, observation/shadowing and self-study. There will also be some home e-learning. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of 12 months and contribute at least 8 hours/1 day per week. Travel expenses are reimbursed.

Teresa said, 'our volunteers give and gain a great deal. They love the fact that they are helping their community whilst meeting so many different people. It gives them experience in the charity sector and a sense of purpose, some moving into paid roles. We guarantee they will receive lots of support from our supervisors and fellow volunteers'. For more information, see [citizensadvicewestoxon.org](http://citizensadvicewestoxon.org), [facebook.com/CitizensAdviceWestOxon](https://facebook.com/CitizensAdviceWestOxon) or email [info@cawo.org.uk](mailto:info@cawo.org.uk).



# Flying the Flag for Pride

The first ever Chippy Pride event – on 1 July at the end of national Pride month – saw the Town decked with colour. 100s enjoyed a wonderful day, with fun, music and friendship in and around the Town Hall. Well done to everyone, especially lead organiser Tania Kirby, Town Council, youth group Got2B – and thanks to Shot-by-Jude for pictures.



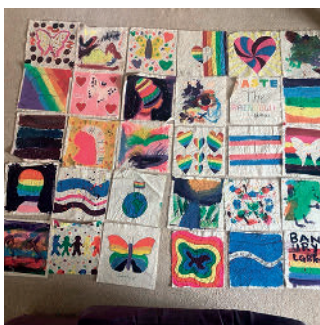
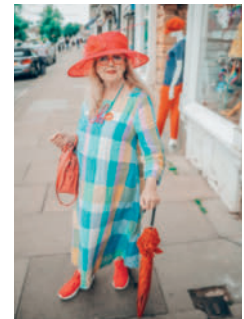
**Pride lights up the Town** – Supported by Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the official Pride Flag was raised on 1 July for the first time in Chippy and the Town came alive with rainbow colours, music, and a vibrant atmosphere on the day the community celebrated its first-ever Pride event. Hundreds turned out for the festivities. Buildings, trees and railings were adorned – with help from Holly May Crochet and our (retired!) Yarn Bomber.



**The Community joins in** – Around 20 Chippy shops decorated their windows – with Sue Ryder, Mr Simms, Jaffé & Neale and Fibreworks topping the ‘best display’ competition judged by the Mayor. Withers Court was full of organisation stalls with gifts and support, especially to the LGBTQ+ community. There was Theatre face-painting and art with Ribberty Rabbit Creative. Even Chippy’s Fire Service and Police got in the spirit. The Fox Hotel was Pride Pub of the Day!

**Town Hall showcase** – The event’s focus was the Town Hall with stalls, books, jewellery, business advice, cakes, bakes and beer on offer. Then the fabulous Pride Show saw passionate speeches from the Mayor and Pride representatives, plus Hostess Lady B (a dazzling Drag Queen) and music from Cotswold Jazz Project, Eight in a Bar choir, ‘Screams of Youth’ band, and Buttercross Ukuleles.

**Chippy has Pride** – Chippy Pride demonstrated inclusivity and equality with the community. Some real momentum has been built. Over the summer, Post-Pride competitions had some great donated prizes including from Jaffé & Neale Bookshop, Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe, Mark-Making and Little Wild Things – all helping to keep the spirit of Pride alive throughout the year – with more events likely. Keep in touch via the Town Council’s social media, and Chippy Pride Group’s Instagram @chippingnortonpride



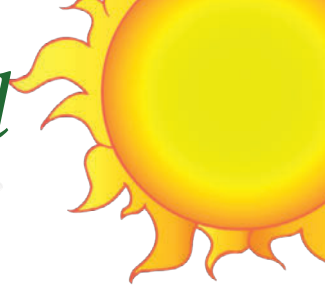
## Lots more on at the Town Hall

Chipping Norton Town Council’s Events Officer Tania Kirby, wants to make our Town Hall a great place used by the Community. With events like Pride, Sports Awards, Civic Receptions, and now Open Mic Nights, it’s getting busier. Tania said, ‘From wedding receptions and 60th birthday parties, to live music and club nights, we want your Town Hall to be there for all – young, old and the ones in-between! Regular groups are booking the Hall for dance classes, singing groups, talks, and presentations. The TSB and Barclays now run client sessions during weekdays. Keep an eye on the Big Blue Doors which will be opening for our young friends in Town in the Autumn Term; we are very much looking forward to welcoming them. Follow us on Facebook @ChippingNortonTownHall’. With the Hall busier, Tania, along with Terry Palmer, have now been joined part time by Steve Kingsford, to help at events and with all the Hall users.





# Autumn – A Time for Renewal



With the leaves turning gold and a zing in the air – it's time for some personal renewal. An Indian proverb says 'everyone is a house with four rooms: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. For your healthier well-being, strive to visit each room each day'. Details of most of these local suggestions and many others can be found in this edition of the News!

## Physical: Change your state by moving your body!

*Keep fit, keep well* – Try Chippy Leisure Centre for an invigorating morning swim, gentle (!) gym or join the jolly indoor hockey gang.

*Walk, jog or run!* – Start slow with the NHS-recommended Couchto5K and why not join the Theatre's Panto5k (in costume?) in September

*Your body ....and mind!* – Glyme Hall has yoga and Pilates, or adult ballet. There's even Qi Gong now at Salford Village Hall

*Or just a casual stroll* – There are walking groups galore, but for company at a gentle pace and beautiful Cotswold countryside, find Chippy Ramblers

## Mental: Read, learn and think!

*A book with others* – For a stimulating autumn try a book club. There's one at Jaffé & Neale but many more as well

*Games for brains* – Sudoku & crosswords are great and beginners are welcome at Chippy's Bridge Club

*Lectures and talks* – such as a Chippy Murderess and world-beating baseball at the History Society or get some ideas from U3A's 22 September Open Day

*Discuss the Chippy News* – yes, 36 pages with 50 local news stories and features. You might learn a lot – and it's great debate-fodder with friends

## Emotional: Listen, feel, sing, laugh & cry!

*Make music together* – Dust off your old instrument with the Fosseyway Chamber Orchestra or just wet your tinwhistle and go along to a local folk club – all are welcome!

*Sing your heart out* – Join the gang at Chippy's Community Choir or get classical at CN Choral Society. No auditions!

*Laugh, cry and let loose* – Join an adult drama group or watch others perform on stage or take in a film at The Theatre and new Living Room Cinema

*The joy of colour* – enjoy uplifting hues with a welcoming class of quilters, sewers or crocheters at Fibreworks or with Sewer Extraordinaire, Sue Hazell

## Spiritual: Be more mindful, connect your spirit!

*Explore a faith* – our local churches run small friendly discussion groups

*Connect with the ancients* – Take your mind and body to our mystical Rollright Stones – perhaps for the Autumn Equinox. Watch the stars

*Hands on with nature* – It's not just good company, a volunteer gardening morning with the Green Gym connects you directly with nature

*Feel the world around* – book a farm walk at FarmED near Shipton about preserving planet earth or listen to skylarks on a walk to Salford

More for those interested – read 'A House with Four Rooms', the autobiography of author Rumer Godden who spent much of her life in India.

# THE ARTS

## The Theatre

### Live Shows

*Here are some highlights from The Theatre's live autumn programme – and don't forget to book your tickets for Cinderella for that Christmas treat. Tickets selling fast, See advert opposite for Cinema listings.*

**Jenny Eclair: Sixty Plus!** Tour Warm Up, 1 September. SOLD OUT, waiting list for returns.

**Kathryn Tickell and The Darkening**, 8 September, 7.30pm. The piper, fiddle player, composer and her band bring some of the oldest Northumbrian tunes and songs to life, intermingling them with new material. £23.

**Echoes**, 15 September, 7.30pm. Andalusian music and dance from Mi Flamenco, featuring original compositions from Uri Tal on virtuoso guitar, with Nick Squires on cello and vocals from Luis Vargas Monge, accompanied by dance passion from Ester Tal and Tomas Arroquero. £18, £15 concs.

**The Midnight Mission**, 16 September, 2 & 4pm. Age 6+. Interactive family theatre with nods to spoof horror and quirky comedy from award-winning Brave Bold Drama. £13.50, £11.50 under 16s.

**Fay Hield Trio**, 21 September, 7.30pm. The Yorkshire folk singer combines vision, inspiration and outstanding musicianship in a fresh and original exploration of how we use songs, stories and music to understand what it means to be human. £24.

**Yippee Ki Yay!** 23 September, 7.30pm. A joyfully funny retelling of classic film Die Hard from Richard Marsh, on tour following rave reviews for its premiere at the Edinburgh Fringe. £18.

**Faith Healer**, 26–27 September, various times. Brian Friel's 1979 play about the life of travelling faith healer Francis Hardy as told through the shifting memories of Hardy, his wife Grace, and stage manager, Teddy. £20, £16 concs.

**Paul Zerdin: Puppetman**, 28 September, 7.30pm. Age 14+. The comedianventriloquist America's Got Talent winner brings an array of 'funny and sharp tongued' creations to his new show. £22.

**Fatherhood**, 29 September, 7.30pm. Age 12+. Three very different stories of being and having a dad are brought together with humour and sensitivity, through physical theatre and multilingual text. Includes integrated captions to translate spoken and signed languages and describe sounds for deaf and hard of hearing audiences. £17, £8 under 26s. All full price tickets are 2 for 1, with support of House Theatre network's 'Take Your Seats' campaign.



**The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)**, 30 September, 7.30pm. 37 of Shakespeare's plays and 154 sonnets in 97 minutes from BALA Theatre Troupe who present this hilarious comedy from The Reduced Shakespeare Company's revised script. £18.

## FILMS GALORE IN CHIPPY

Chipping Norton filmgoers have welcomed **The Living Room Cinema** the new boutique cinema which opened its doors this summer in the old Harpers building. The brainchild of Claire Beswick, who launched the first Living Room Cinema in her home town of Liphook in Hampshire last year, this high-end miniature multiplex features two dinky auditoria, with 40 and 48 seats. Audiences can enjoy velvety chairs and 'loungers' in the front row complete with footstools, or they can cosy up on two-seater sofas in the back row. The intimate vibe falls somewhere between the smallest screen in Cineworld and the Electric Barn at Soho Farmhouse. The complex has an attractive café-bar on the ground floor open 9am–11pm daily, and a film programme that is similar to that of The Theatre with perhaps more emphasis on blockbusters, and includes Royal Opera House, theatre and ballet live screenings and a good array of kids' films. Unsurprisingly, luxury comes at a price, and adult tickets start at £16.50 for a standard seat to £19.50 for sofa seat – plus £1 booking fee. Screenings are more expensive. A range of membership schemes from £100 to £1,500 offer escalating benefits including some free and discount tickets.



Of course, Chipping Norton's well-established film house, **Chipping Norton Theatre** in Spring Street has been welcoming culture vultures for 50 years. Alongside their busy line-up of live theatre, music and comedy, they present an eclectic film programme all year round, even during panto season (oh yes, they do!). Film buffs can enjoy all genres, from new releases and arthouse to foreign language films and National Theatre Live screenings. Film tickets are usually £11 (u16s: £8) and, positioning themselves as a cinema for the whole community, they offer some £5 Family Film tickets and have launched a 'Premiere Cinema Pass' which, for £55 gets you six cinema tickets, a ticket for a 'live screening' and other benefits. This new scheme means that tickets cost under £8 each. Those who are also signed up as Theatre Friends pay just £35 for the new pass, meaning that their tickets come in at under £6 each. They can accommodate over 200 in the auditorium and have a characterful bar serving drinks and snacks.

**So, let's ditch our cars, forget Witney and Banbury, grab some popcorn and celebrate Chippy as a cinema destination!** Book in person at both venues or online [thelivingroomcinemachippy.co.uk](http://thelivingroomcinemachippy.co.uk) or [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com)

**Ssshhhhh!** Now that we're all back watching films on the big screen, here's a reminder of cinema etiquette. The five recommendations from Debrett's guide to modern manners are: to arrive on time, to sit still, to refrain from whispering during the film, to wait for a loud scene before eating wrapped sweets, and for couples to restrain from excessive displays of affection!



# THE ARTS

## Celebrating The Theatre's 50 years!



It only seems like yesterday! 2024 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our much-admired Theatre in Chipping Norton. Friends, staff, and supporters will be celebrating the past, present and future of this unique arts centre – nationally acclaimed but also working closely with Chipping Norton's local

community. Watch out for events and new projects planned, which the *Chippy News* hopes to cover in a fuller feature later this year. One major diary date is 2 February 2024, 7pm, for the fundraising **House Party at Kirtlington Park** – an unforgettable evening at this classical 18<sup>th</sup> century house, promising to be an 'immersive winter bacchanal full of wonderful surprises'. Join everyone in the astonishing surroundings, where painted monkeys dance across the ceilings of grand salons. Heart-stopping live performances, canapés and fizz, delights of dance, drama and music. The perfect Christmas gift for an adventurous theatre lover. Tickets £125 including a sparkling canapé reception. Transport to Chipping Norton available on the House Party Coach!

Meanwhile – there's still time to register for the **PANTO 5K Run** (or walk!) on Sunday 24 September supporting The Theatre. Entry is free – you could win 4 tickets for this year's **Cinderella!** Or maybe just sponsor the PANTO 5K team at [www.justgiving/panto5k](http://www.justgiving/panto5k).

## Local Events and Music

**Club Night @ the Town Hall** – Something new to try out in town are monthly music and dance Club Nights in Chipping Norton Town Hall – with DJ Jason and Windrush Radio. From House Music to Drum 'n Bass, come and enjoy fun, music, dancing and a rave with your friends! 9pm through midnight. Card-only bar closes 11.30pm. Age 18+ recommended. Tickets £5 via [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com). On 30 September, 28 October and 25 November. Created and promoted by the Town Council.

**North Cotswolds Arts Association** summer exhibition, ends 2 September 10am to 5pm, Warwick Hall, St John the Baptist Church, Burford. Art works in all media for sale plus beautiful craft items, pottery and glass. Free entry.



**The Arts Society Cotswolds** – 13 September at 11am, Warwick Hall, Burford and by Zoom. *The Frick Collection, New York: A feast for the eyes*, speaker Hilary Williams. American industrialist and steel magnate, Henry Clay Frick (1849–1919) acquired some of the most superb works of art available in the 'Gilded Age': a first-rate collection of fine French furniture, enamels, porcelain, paintings

by Bellini, Van Eyck, Holbein, Titian, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Van Dyck, Rubens, El Greco, Velázquez, Fragonard, Ingres, Renoir,

JMW Turner, Constable, Whistler and many others. For details & booking visit [artssocietycotswolds.org.uk](http://artssocietycotswolds.org.uk)

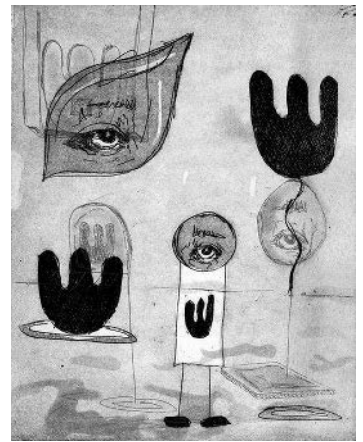
**The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock** – 16 September–5 November: Open Art Competition Exhibition. Local artists' work inspired by the theme 'Discovery'. Vote for your favourite for the people's choice award.

Tuesday – Saturday 10am–5pm. Sunday 2pm–5pm. Visit [oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-museum](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-museum) for details.

The Museum is trialling new workshops aimed at adults. Over six Wednesdays from 1 November 2pm–4pm: **Discovering Printmaking** run by Jane Ellison. This course will cover a range of simple, fun, and experimental printmaking techniques using everyday items and easily available materials. £60 for all six sessions including tea / coffee. For more information or to reserve a place email [handsonheritage@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:handsonheritage@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

## Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock

8–27 September. *Things Have to Keep Moving*. This exhibition brings together an exciting new body of work by the multi-disciplinary artist: Alice Irwin (b1994). The etchings, screen prints and sculpture maquettes offer a fresh insight into Irwin's progressive artistic practice. Wednesday–Saturday 10am–5pm. [info@zuleikagallery.com](mailto:info@zuleikagallery.com)



## What's On

### LIVE

Fri 1st Sept, 7.30pm  
Fri 8th Sept, 7.30pm  
Fri 15th Sept, 7.30pm  
Thu 21st Sept, 7.30pm  
Sat 23rd Sept, 7.30pm  
Tues 26th Sept, 7.30pm &  
Wed 27th Sept, 2.30pm & 7.30pm  
Thu 28th Sept, 7.30pm  
Fri 29th Sept, 7.30pm  
Sat 30th Sept, 7.30pm

### FILMS

25th, 26th 27th & 29th Aug  
7th Sept

12th & 13th Sept  
17th & 19th Sept  
22nd & 24th Sept

### SCREENINGS

20th Sept, 7.15pm  
1st, 2nd & 8th Oct, 6.30pm

### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Sat 16th Sept, 2pm & 4pm  
Sun 1st Oct, 11am & 2pm

## THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

**JENNY ÉCLAIR TOUR WARM-UP—SOLD OUT**  
**KATHRYN TICKELL AND THE DARKENING—£23**  
**MI FLAMENCO: ECHOES—£18, £15 concs**  
**FAY HIELD TRIO—£24**  
**YIPPEE KI YAY—£18**

**FAITH HEALER—£20, £16 concs**  
**PAUL ZERDIN: PUPPETMAN—£22**  
**FATHERHOOD—£17, £8 under 26 (all tickets 2 for 1)**  
**COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE—£18**

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

**OPPENHEIMER (15)**  
**MY NAME IS ALFRED HITCHCOCK (15) - Friends**  
2 for 1/half price

**L'IMMENSITA (15)**  
**MAIGRET (12A)**  
**PASSAGES (18)**

**TICKETS: £18.50**  
**DAS RHEINGOLD (12A)**  
**A LITTLE LIFE (18)**

**THE MIDNIGHT MISSION—£13.50, £11.50 under 16s**  
**MONKEY PUZZLE & PETER AND THE WOLF—£11.50**

### COMING SOON

**THE THEATRE'S 23/24 PANTO**  
**CINDERELLA**

**15TH NOVEMBER—14TH JANUARY**

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

# THE ARTS

## **Darl-e and the Bear, Woodstock** 10–24 November 2023.

*Tregardock and the Atlantic coast: The Wild Sea of North Cornwall.*

An intensive body of work from Tim Steward (pictured). Working outside and carving up shapes using large brushes, the pieces document a journey of immersion in the coastal landscape: a stripped back and visceral response to the beauty and charge of nature.

Opening hours: Monday–Wednesday by appointment. Thursday–Sunday 10.am–4.30pm [darleandthebear.co.uk](http://darleandthebear.co.uk)



**Burford Singers** 16 September Burford School. **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 at 9.30am. Workshop starts at 10.30am. Informal performance 16.30. Light refreshments provided; bring a packed lunch. Adults £20, students £10 (including score hire). Audience free. Booking at [burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/](http://burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/)

**Charlbury Refugee Action Group** The winter season of **Sunday Tea Concerts** at the Memorial Hall, Charlbury, opens on 8 October with the return of pianist Dorian Ford and his jazz trio. The wonderful lute player Matthew Wadsworth performs a solo recital on 5 November and on 3 December there is another of the very popular Advent concerts by the Somerville College Choir. 7 January – Lionel Sainsbury, piano. 4 February – Paul Barritt and Maggie Cole. 4 March – viol consort Fretwork. Concerts are 3–4pm, followed by tea and homemade cake. Tickets £15 (£5 for under 15s) available at Cotswold Frames in Charlbury from approximately two weeks before each performance. Limited tickets available at the door. Season ticket for all 6 concerts – £75. All proceeds to refugee relief. Further information at [charlburyrefugee.org.uk](http://charlburyrefugee.org.uk), [nick.parker@cooptel.net](mailto:nick.parker@cooptel.net) or on 01608 811558.

**Kingham Singers** start their Autumn term rehearsals on 11 September 7.30pm, at the Methodist Chapel in Churchill. Sing for pleasure – all are welcome to join. Contact Linda Sale on 01608 658647 for further details.

**The Cotswold Stage School**, based at Chipping Norton Secondary School on Saturdays in term time, 1pm–3.30pm. FREE 2½ hour TASTER SESSIONS on 16, 23 & 30 September. Classes in singing, acting and dancing, based around musical theatre repertoire, including a whole school ensemble session, ages 6 – 18 years. Visit [cotswoldstageschool.com](http://cotswoldstageschool.com) or email [cotswoldstageschool@gmail.com](mailto:cotswoldstageschool@gmail.com) to book a place.

**Whichford Pottery** Director and Master Potter Adam Keeling was honoured to be invited to give a demonstration and lecture at the renowned International Ceramics Festival in Aberystwyth, held from 30 June–2 July. Adam's demonstration saw him wow the audience by making a 1.5m high Ali Baba Jar. Adam adds, 'Many of the skills, methods and work practices my father was taught are still in use today at Whichford Pottery. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to share these skills at the Festival.'



*Adam throwing an Ali Baba Jar back at Whichford Pottery*

# Jaffé & Neale

BOOKSHOP & CAFÉ

**Now selling Ice Cream**

**from**

**The Dairy at Honeydale**

**@FarmED**

1 Middle Row, Chipping Norton

01608 641033 [info@jaffeandneale.co.uk](mailto:info@jaffeandneale.co.uk)



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October - 10am to 4pm

## Annual Bulb & Pot Bonanza

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# Chipping Norton Annual Sports Awards

An enjoyable July evening in the Town Hall, organised by the Town Council with former Mayor and Chippy News sports editor Graham Beacham. saw Deputy Mayor Steve Akers present the awards with Events Officer Tania Kirby helping run the show. Graham & Tania said, 'Congratulations to all the amazing people rewarded for their sporting achievement. From swimming to rugby, running to great charitable achievements – there are so many individuals and teams to be proud of and thanks also to all of the fantastic people who support our winners.'



## Awards were as follows:

- Sportsperson Under 11 – Ethan Brook, Football & Cricket
- Sportsperson 11–17 – Max Hayman, Swimming
- Sportsperson Over 18 – Angus Brown, Rugby
- Team Award 11–17 – Chipping Norton Rugby Club U12's
- Community Legend Award Winner – Nathan Phelps Sporting Charity Fundraiser
- Better Legacy Award Under 18 – Gold Medal Archie Street, Athletics; Silver Medal James Price, Swimming
- Better Legacy Award Over 18 – Gold Medal Carol Hicks, Hockey; Silver Medal Rachel Pearson, Swimming; Bronze Medal Duncan Midwood, Rugby
- Larder Legacy Community Award – Got2B's Julia & Madge



Graham added, 'Thanks to the Town Council, especially to: Tania and the Community Committee; new main sponsor The Chippy Larder (who provided the refreshments); Better Leisure, returning to sponsor the Legacy Awards; judges Sharon, Alistair and Martin; Town Council staff; Malcolm for the photography and *Chippy News* for their support and reporting the evening. Finally, a big thank you to my family for their support. Without all these people, there would be no Sports Awards. I hope in whatever changes ahead, there will be some sporting awards next year!'



## Carol Hicks – Hooked on Hockey

**Spotlight on an unsung hockey legend whose Gold Medal 'Better' Legacy Award was for a lifetime of service to Chippy Hockey – written by Sharon Truelove**

There are few families around Chipping Norton that won't have at some stage been coached in hockey or cricket by this year's long overdue Gold Medal winner. Carol Hicks is fondly recognised and referred to as a 'total legend' by any student of Chipping Norton School, surrounding primary schools and Banbury hockey clubs, for over 30 years. Her tireless efforts for hockey have improved the skills and fortunes of all hockey players regardless of age, gender and background – ensuring youngsters and oldies alike have gained both pleasure and well-being from this exciting team sport. She has helped hundreds if not 1000's and many have gone on to play for clubs, counties and potentially even higher. Carol's award nomination from Chipping Norton Indoor Hockey Team (which Carol helped found over 20 years ago) said, 'no one has done more for women and girls



sport' and was supported by Chipping Norton School where, for over 20 years, Carol has run an after-school hockey club. School staff said 'Carol has been coaching hockey at Chipping Norton School for longer than any of us can remember. She is always reliable and so enthusiastic about the weekly sessions. She has encouraged many of our students to go on to play club hockey and beyond. Testament to how much the students enjoy her club, hockey is always well attended, with many students staying in the club the whole way through school including sixth form and coming back from study leave.' Carol, very 'chuffed' to win her award, has been hooked on hockey all her life, even coaching some Under 18 Welsh internationals and getting her own village school, Enstone Primary (the only state school), to 4<sup>th</sup> in a regional competition.



# SPORTS NEWS

## Hockey Report

Want to get fit this autumn? Join Chippy's indoor hockey team!!



We all overindulge during the summer and as the nights draw in we need something to look forward to at the weekends. Come and join a friendly bunch of people (anyone from 11 to ancient) who'll help you to keep fit, feel better and have a laugh. We're going from strength to strength – new players include complete beginners, others returning after a gap, plus Hockey legend and Chippy Gold medal winner Carol Hicks, who helped found our family-friendly team over two decades ago (see profile on p23). Carol is pictured with our youngest recruit

Benedict Querelle. We play Sundays 10–11am at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. There's no pressure to attend every week, we just offer support to learn and have fun. We have sticks and shinpads to lend if needed. £5.40 adults/Juniors £3. For details ask at Reception or contact Sharon Truelove [sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk) 01608 730546/07722 603207.

Sharon Truelove

## Hook Norton Tennis Club

Open Day 2pm–4pm Saturday 9 September. This will



coincide with a Hook Norton Sports & Social Fun Family Day. A chance for non-members to come and have a go to see if they'd like to join – we have racquets you can borrow if needed. Check out the new HNSS website as more details of the day emerge <https://www.clubhooky.com>

**Club sessions and court bookings** Courts can be booked by members via our website which also lists Club sessions. Our club nights are popular and friendly – new members welcome. Contact Kate, the membership secretary – [khs.shoes@gmail.com](mailto:khs.shoes@gmail.com) or 01608 642774

**Team News:** Winter Floodlit League final positions: A team 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 1; B team 7<sup>th</sup> in Division 1; C team won Division 4 with the D team coming 6<sup>th</sup>. In the Summer League the A team are currently top in Division 1, the B team are 7<sup>th</sup> in Division 2. The C team and D team are 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 4.

Elaine Priestley

## Hook Norton Harriers

**Hooky 6:** The morning of 6 August dawned cool and cloudy, perfect running weather! Runners from all over Oxfordshire gathered at the Hook Norton Sports and Social club for the Hooky 6, an undulating 6-mile road race organised by Hook Norton Harriers. The field this year was very quick and we were welcoming our first finishers a mere 30 minutes after the start. Such strong running! Every runner was rewarded with a goody bag containing a distinctive finisher's tee shirt and a very jazzy pair of sunglasses. Category and overall winners were awarded prizes generously supplied by the

Hook Norton Brewery. The first male was Daniel Studley in 31:40 and first female was Claire True in 39:16

Anwen Greenaway

## Chippy Swifts

Chipping Norton Swifts are fielding 12 youth teams (including three girls' teams) across three different leagues when the season starts on 9/10 September and have welcomed three new coaches. Many players benefited from the extra summer training sessions run by the Club in August. Anyone interested in joining a team should check our website for contact details.

Many thanks to some of our committed sponsors for providing new shirts for the teams – including Topside Pharmacy, Chipping Norton Garden Services, TSG Energy, BPD Joinery and Chipping Norton Event Hire.

Martyn Walsh

## Chipping Norton Rugby Club

The new season kicks off on Saturday 2 September when the 1<sup>st</sup> XV begin their 2023/4 league campaign at home to Oxford.

Please do come along and cheer them on, while enjoying a drink on our refurbished terrace. Mini and Junior age groups start on Sunday 3 September at 10am. Any new players from under 6 up welcome –



U12's pictured at the Sports Awards

just come along and our friendly volunteers will point you in the right direction. With the Rugby World Cup starting on 8 September we'll be showing matches live on our big screen, so the Clubhouse is the place to watch all the action from France. Over the summer we were honoured and delighted to pick up three Town Sports Awards including a team award for our U12's (pictured). See p23 for full report and photos.

To find out more you can contact the Club via [chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com](mailto:chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com), check out our website or alternatively you can follow us on social media.

Graeme Williamson

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# SPORTS NEWS

## Chipping Norton Bowls Club



The outdoor season is in full swing with Club Finals over the weekend of 2 September. Torrential rain has postponed a few matches but the kindly weather gods have allowed most to be played on a green that everyone agrees is second to none, thanks to the hard work of volunteer greenkeeper Martin Acock and the other members who assist him.

In May, Chipping Norton hosted the Oxfordshire Under 25 team playing Warwickshire in a friendly match. It was great to see the future

of bowls playing on Chippy's own green and it would be even better if local youngsters wanted to have a go at this traditional English sport. There's always a warm welcome for both novice and experienced bowlers of any age. See [www.chippingnortonbowls.co.uk](http://www.chippingnortonbowls.co.uk) for details.

July saw Chipping Norton achieve overall success in the South Africa Cup. This fiercely fought competition, run by Chadlington Bowls Club, is a knockout event lasting several weeks, revived this year after a Covid break. On a lovely summer's evening Chippy took on Carterton in a final hosted at Chadlington and were pleased that the Club's name is finally on the trophy having been runner up several times

Club President Roberta Jarvie is pictured above welcoming Oxfordshire Bowling Association Vice President Michel Grossnickel to the Men's Domestic Finals which were hosted by the Club on Sunday 6 August. These are the finals of

the in-county games that aren't part of the national competitions. A great day of fierce competition with Chippy's players putting up a good show reaching as far as the semi-finals. Participants agreed that Chipping Norton was certainly a winner in terms of hospitality.

Work has finished on the new heating system in the Club House. CNBC has gone green, having installed seven air source heat pumps to replace the old gas fired heating. Members should feel the benefit of this new heating and extra insulation, when the indoor season starts in the autumn.

Ann Lattimore

## Chipping Norton Cricket Club

September and the end of the 2023 Season fast approaching! After so many good seasons in recent times, this year has been blighted with wet weather and disappointing results. At the time of writing, there are still four games to play with



potential for more wins to push both league teams away from the bottom of the table. On the social side the annual President's Day in June was well attended. Three Club teams competed for the President's Jug and the current President Russell Collins is pictured handing over the trophy to the winners: The Botley Biffers.



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# CLUB NEWS

## WOWI for picnics & Arm Knitting!

West Oxfordshire WI's July meeting welcomed Jan Warner to tell us about how our ancestors looked after their children. She brought an array of toys, some of them demonstrating that there were no health and safety laws in the 18th and 19th centuries and some of the potions for ailments would not be given today. How they survived was a marvel!

We will have our usual August Picnic and a social evening with a quiz to get those brain cells working. We have been busy doing teas at Chastleton House. Lots of homemade



cakes and the photo shows three of our members ready for the visitors. It boosts our coffers and funds bursaries for two members, picked out of a hat! Last year's paid for a Calligraphy and an Arm Knitting course. Come and join us, on the third Monday of the month in St Mary's Parish Rooms at 7.30pm. Contact [wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk) for details.

Hilary Dix 01608 646228

## Ramblers spot larks & buzzards

While the News had a well-deserved rest, Chippy Ramblers remained active. Six walked to the Rollright Stones to greet the sunrise on Midsummers Day. The larks serenaded us while, over Brailes Hill way, the golden globe first peeped above the horizon and then rose in full glory. Walking back to Chippy we thanked the mowers for sparing verges of beautiful wildflowers. Later, on 2 July, four of us strolled along the Windrush at Burford. The journey back took in St Oswald's, the tiny medieval church at Widford. With box pews and wall paintings it's well worth a visit. Only accessible by foot, it sits isolated in the middle of meadows – a remnant of the medieval village it once served which was probably wiped out by the Black Death. Spic, span and polished, St Oswald's is obviously cared for. All credit to the modern-day parishioners who open it to visitors in daylight hours. A keyholder crosses the fields to open and close that ancient wooden door every day of the year; and Evening service is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

Then in August we slithered down to Salford one way and climbed back up the other on slippery mud. It was coats on, coats off, hoods up, hoods down all the way – the tail end of Storm Anthony. Thank you to the farmer who has created a wildflower meadow, hidden behind a hedge until suddenly discovered, and then spreading its delights of cornflowers, corn marigold, ox-eye daisy and more into the distance. As we oo'ed and ah'ed the buzzards were mewing overhead and the yellowhammers shouting their 'little bit of bread and no cheeese' in the hedgerow.

Join us on the first Sunday in the month, 2pm in New Street Car park for a walk of about 4 miles, local or a car ride away. Contact Heather Leonard (01608 643691 or [hrheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hrheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk)) and we'll put you on the list!

Heather Leonard

## U3A hear life-affirming nursing tales

A very special talk by a Chippy resident and author Anne Watts is entitled *Nursing: My Passport to the World*. It's at 2.30pm on Wednesday 6 September in the Town Hall, followed by the usual tea and biscuits. Having grown up in a small Welsh village, Anne's first posting was with Save the Children – to Vietnam in 1967. Her vivid descriptions sear themselves on the heart as she confronts human cruelty but also illustrate the common decency and courage of ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances. She is a warm and compassionate guide through Vietnam, Cambodia and Lebanon during the unsettled 80s, witnessing first-hand the cruelties and intransigence of the Arab/Israeli conflicts. Woven into this compelling memoir is the moving story of Anne's own personal tragedy – how her idyllic childhood was shattered by the discovery of a shocking family secret. But throughout Anne's life-affirming sense of fun and her unquenchable desire to help those in need shine through.



Then on Friday 22 September from 11am to 3pm at the Town Hall we have our **Annual Open Day** which showcases what we do. If you've finished working full time, come and find out how to make new friends, learn all about our very popular Interest Groups from Garden Visits to Italian and Play Reading – and enjoy free tea, coffee and cake!

Yvonne Beaumont

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# CLUB NEWS

## History Society's Secret Resistance

Chipping Norton History Society meets on Monday 11 September at 2pm in the Methodist Church hall, West Street. Liza Dibble will talk about The Auxiliars: Britain's Secret Resistance at Coleshill GHQ. Visitors are very welcome, £3.

Janis Paxton

## Green Gym weeding and walling

The team have continued to work on a range of local sites – mainly weeding and clearing – including at the Health Centre, Fitzalan Wood and Pool Meadow. However, the summer hasn't all been weeding, scything and composting! Our annual picnic at the Community Orchard included delicious homemade treats, such as rhubarb cake and elderflower cordial. A dry-stone walling course in July attracted several members who spent the day at Hawkyard Common. Local stone mason Eric



Sainvet led the day, and our enthusiastic group (pictured) learnt a variety of skills by rebuilding a wide piece of an existing wall. Many thanks to Eric for sharing his skills and expertise.

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](http://www.chippygreengym.org) and then contact our Membership Secretary at [rmccubbin33@gmail.com](mailto:rmccubbin33@gmail.com) Everyone is welcome with a variety of jobs for all!

Adela Thomas

## The Albion keeps up the good work

*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.*

The sun popped its head above the horizon, looked at Great Britain and thought 'Nah'. But the Albion keeps on having fun with or without the sun, and we celebrated the first anniversary of Our Space with a knees-up with snacks and cake. A gang charged off to visit to the amazing Crocodile World, plus we even had the same number coming back as went ... result! Cotswold Wildlife Park was another day out by request. Plenty of miles to cover and animals to see. Another favourite outing is Bowling at Banbury. An outdoor BBQ became an indoor BBQ and there was a fish and chip lunch with everyone enjoying seeing members of staff setting off in pouring rain to collect the choices made!

All this is running alongside the singing and artwork and usual enjoyment of being at our centre with the latest adventure that takes a small gang down to the local park to use the outdoor gym equipment before trudging back, hopefully worn out. As I started writing this, I asked Matthew if there was anything he wanted to add, he replied, 'Keep up the good work'. I feel that just sums up The Albion.

Carole Fagg

## Music Sessions still at The Chequers



With Darren leaving The Chequers, our big question was whether Marion, the new landlady, would want to continue with the Third Thursday Session (known by some as the folk night, although folk is only a

part of it). Fortunately, she is up for it, so we still have a home in The Chequers in Goddards Lane. Turn out tends to be lower in July as everyone disappears off on holiday, but Pete, Ian, Francis and Jane held the fort, supported by performances from Dave, Freya and various drop-in performers. We'll be back in September (meeting at 8pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>). So iff you sing or play or do word-based performance art, come along and join us. Or you can just come along and listen.

Jane Lewis

## Railway Club's Night Time Journey

Hello there... members and friends of the Chipping Norton Railway Club. There were two meetings over the summer, both well attended. On 5 September our old friend Mike Clemens will return with more of his Archive Railway films and slides. Always a firm favourite. We have a new speaker for 3 October, David Meara. His talk is entitled 'The Journey of a Night Time, 150 years of Anglo-Scottish Sleepers'. Do come along and join us, you will make new friends. Fresh faces are always welcome.

Estelle Brain

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# CLUB NEWS

## NOOG tour Green Gym sites

North Oxfordshire Organic Gardeners are having a tour of the Green Gym's sites around Chippy on Wednesday 6 September. Non-members are welcome to join us for a fee of £3. Meet at the Parish Rooms at the bottom of Church Street at 6pm. Details [www.noog.org.uk](http://www.noog.org.uk) or 01295 780710.

Tracy Lean

## Volunteer with CN Scout Group

Chipping Norton Scout Group is growing and has a long waiting list. We offer fun and adventurous activities for young people aged 6–18 years from around the town and



surrounding villages. A couple of our key volunteers have moved away and we are looking for new people to support the Group by helping with the Beavers, aged 6–8, or the Cubs who are 8–10½ or working behind the scenes. Please email Jill on [jill@oxonscouting.org.uk](mailto:jill@oxonscouting.org.uk) for details.

## Folk enjoy Summertime

With a number of folk away there wasn't a huge turnout for the meeting of Chipping Norton Folk Club on Monday 14 August, held in the delightful garden of the Crown Inn at Church Enstone. However, it was nonetheless a very good evening and enjoyed by all. The optional theme was 'Summertime' and the evening kicked off with George Gershwin's famous song of that name. Some people's choices of songs (and poems... ) were closely associated with the theme, some not so much, but it was lovely to have some old favourites where everyone could join in with voice and instrument with the likes of *Wild Mountain Thyme*, *Scarborough Fair*, *Under the Boardwalk*, and sadly linked to this particular summer – James Taylor's *Fire and Rain*.

The next meeting is on Monday, 11 September and will also be at The Crown, Church Enstone starting off at 7.30pm. Visit our website [www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk](http://www.chippingnortonfolk.org.uk) for details.

Rosie Cherry

## N Cotswold National Trust Association

Membership of the Association is open to all National Trust members and volunteers. The N Cotswold Branch's programme of coach outings includes visits to Stourhead House & Gardens 14 September, Attingham Park 11 October and finally Bath on 9 November. There are pick-up points at Stow, Moreton and sometimes Chipping Norton. All are welcome with priority given to members. Then members meet at 2pm on 16 November for our AGM in the Village Hall, Broadwell, with a speaker from NT on restoration at Lodge Park. For more information, call 01608 659215 or 01608 658157. To join, contact the Membership Secretary on 01386 593085. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ncotswoldassoc](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ncotswoldassoc)

Rees Jenkin

## Horticultural new season ...

Chipping Norton Horticultural Association has had a summer break when hopefully members have had a productive summer in their own gardens. The Committee meets in September to plan for the future and the new autumn/winter season starts on Wednesday, 18 October at 7.30 in the Methodist Church Hall – details next month. The new season's speakers are listed on the website [www.cnha.uk](http://www.cnha.uk) or on the membership cards received by paid-up members – and it's still not too late to renew or join! For further information, telephone the secretary Eileen Forse on 01608 643275.

## Invitation from the Bridge Club

Chipping Norton Bridge Club, affiliated to the English Bridge Union, meet every Thursday at Chipping Norton Bowls Club, on the Burford Road next to the Rugby Club. We meet at 1.15pm for a 1.30 start, and usually finish about 4.15pm. We are a friendly club and currently have 39 members but are always looking for more. If you're interested in joining, please call Club Secretary Chris Franklin on 01295 780210

David Wigley

## Burford & Kingham Rotary

In September we have a black-tie dinner to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Burford and Kingham Rotary. We are delighted to be joined by the Mayor of Burford, our District Governor and many past and present Rotarians. We were thrilled to receive a certificate from International Rotary honouring the Club's 40 years of membership.

Why not think about joining Rotary? We meet at Burford Golf Club on Monday evenings. We are a friendly and vibrant



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# CLUB NEWS

group, with members from all the local villages and are always looking to increase our membership. You will get a very warm welcome. Contact our Secretary John Smith email [jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk](mailto:jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk) 07717 883182. If I can also give you any more details about Rotary, please give me a ring – I would love to hear from you to have an informal chat.

Ros Richardson 01608 643844/07702 135731

## Air Cadets seek Volunteer Instructors

136 (Chipping Norton) Squadron RAF Air Cadets are looking for volunteers to become adult Civilian Instructors, ideally people with a military or cadet background or professional expertise in a relevant area though those with no experience should not hesitate to apply as well. 136 Squadron has a large contingent of committed cadets who need the support of instructors whose level of commitment can vary, though ideally candidates should be available for most parade nights or the occasional weekend. The Air Cadets is a fully volunteer organisation parented by the RAF since 1941. As a staff member, you can join in cadet activities such as flying, gliding, target shooting, adventure training, first aid, leadership, fundraising, etc and gain real world qualifications. The role is very rewarding that also looks great on your CV and can even lead to a uniformed role. For further information, contact Sgt Jeff Harrison, Recruiting and Retention Officer 136 Squadron via [jeffrey.harrison100@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:jeffrey.harrison100@rafac.mod.gov.uk) / 0742 737608



## World Dance back indoors

After dancing in gardens over the summer, we are back in Swalcliffe Village Hall on Thursday 14 September. We will be dancing to a variety of music from around the world from 2–4pm and you are welcome to join us for some fun in friendly company. All the dances are carefully taught and we dance in a circle so you don't need a partner. We will also be dancing in South Newington Village Hall on Thursday 28 September from 7.30–9pm. Sessions cost £5. Contact Tracy for details on 01295 780710 / [tracylean@gmail.com](mailto:tracylean@gmail.com).

## Help the Guides to make a difference



Girlguiding

Chipping Norton District

Chipping Norton Town and District Guides need new volunteers. Could you be one of them? Being a Guide Leader is a rewarding volunteer role, making a real difference to girls' lives, showing them that 'girls can do anything', leading by example and having loads of fun with Rainbows 4–7, Brownies 7–11, Guides 10–14 or Rangers 14–18. Following the disruption caused by the pandemic, we are struggling to rebuild our network of groups. Some units remain closed, with a waiting list but a lack of adult leaders, whilst other units have leaders but numbers of girls are low. We are looking for volunteers, aged 18+ to help girls to problem-solve, play games, meet challenges and have fun. Girlguiding has a strong support network and full training is given. All the resources needed for running the programme are already in place.

Contact District Commissioner Alison Dunbar [alisondunbar3@gmail.com](mailto:alisondunbar3@gmail.com) or Division Commissioner Jane Digby [janedigby@btopenworld.com](mailto:janedigby@btopenworld.com) to find out more.

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## Chipping Norton School – ‘A journey from Good to Great’



**With another year of excellent A-level results in August and a very positive recent Ofsted visit, Chipping Norton School starts the new year with record numbers of students. Headteacher Barry Doherty talks about their ‘adventurous voyage’**

**from a Good to a Great School – and encourages prospective new students and parents to come and visit.**

**A-level success** – Enjoying another year of great exam results, Chippy’s Year 13 students, hit by Covid for GCSEs, again beat the national averages. With grades across England returning to comparable pre-Covid levels, Mr Doherty reported 28% of A level grades A\*-A, 56% A\*-B and 79% A\*-C. He celebrated the ‘remarkable efforts of our highly



*A-level celebrations*

talented students and their incredible teachers’. With the School’s great curriculum, teaching and learning, the strong results in English, maths and three sciences were joined by high-flying performances in psychology, sociology, philosophy & ethics, history, geography, business studies and art & design. Sixth Form Head Peter Ward was delighted with students’ hard work, achieving many prestigious places at universities, apprenticeship programmes and in employment. He gave a special mention to a student group totalling twelve A\* and seventeen A grades: Darcey Cheung, Alice Davis, Aaron Denton, Ned Duffy, Grace Haldin-Catt, Lewis Lamb, William Porter, Rebecca Warner and Emily Whiting. Destinations include Southampton, Bath, Leeds, Harper-Keele Veterinary School and Cambridge universities – and places on highly competitive apprenticeship programmes, including Amelia Burton joining Airbus.

**A voyage from Good to Great** – The School, part of the River Learning Trust, was last graded in 2017 as ‘Good’ by Ofsted, and has, like other schools, come through some challenging periods, so everyone was delighted in June when an ‘ungraded’ Ofsted visit gave high marks for progress – suggesting they could be ‘on track’ for an ‘Outstanding’ rating. But, as we’ve seen in the national news, many schools and heads are wary of ‘one word’ judgements. Mr Doherty says he does not want the School to be driven by that goal. Far more

important is to make sure everything across the School is working well and improving. He talks about a ‘voyage’ sailing with ‘powerful tailwinds’: confident, happy and committed students; experienced and dedicated staff from cleaning, teaching and catering, to running the finances; with consistent and clear teaching and assessment. Finally, higher student numbers have been key as they help invest in great new buildings, facilities, IT and social spaces.

**Combating the headwinds** – Mr Doherty and the team have carefully nurtured the uniting force of the School values: compassion, courage, creativity and curiosity, with a goal that ‘everyone belongs and everyone achieves’. Ofsted’s visit



mentioned a ‘wel- *Last year’s fun run for Katharine House* coming’, ‘friendly’, and ‘character building’ environment. Students behave respectfully and most lessons progress with little interruption. Standards can be demanding, to be ‘the best we can possibly be’. The Headteacher, however, also mentions student absence, particularly in younger students, many disrupted by Covid. But he repeatedly stresses the link between success and attendance and wants it higher. Bullying is low, but bigger issues for staff are the disruptive influence and friendship disputes magnified by social media. Attention to that remains a priority.

**New Year 7 & Sixth Form students welcome** – The



*An outstanding Sixth Form*

increasing numbers joining Year 7 from primary schools are given a well-prepared transition with contact long before the year starts. That includes a chance to get to know staff and each other plus even some ‘taster sessions’ from teachers such as for English, maths, science and French. Year 7 children join one of four Houses – named after local rivers – and each House is attached to a local charity. Why not come to the next **Open Day for prospective Year 7s, Thursday 5 October 5–8pm.**

Headteacher Mr Doherty calls Chipping Norton’s Outstanding Sixth Form the ‘Jewel in the Crown’, with a wide range of challenging and exciting courses, transformed facilities, an independent study environment, talented teachers, wraparound support, the highest standards for students, and a journey to universities, colleges, or employers of their choice. External applicants from other schools are welcomed, encouraged and are increasing. See the Sixth Form Prospectus and details of Open Days later this term on the website.

**In the journey from Good to Great, Mr Doherty stresses the importance of ‘everyone achieving’ and ‘everyone belonging’, resulting in the School’s most vulnerable learners continuing to ‘close the gap’. He wants staff, students, parents, carers and the local community to help identify and plan together that ‘Good to Great’ journey.**

**See [chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk](http://chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk).**

## Chipping Norton School

**Year 10 Work Experience:** We are pleased to celebrate another successful work experience programme for CNS students. This year 152 Year 10 students participated in work experience from 3–7 July. 86% of students found places in Oxfordshire businesses with many going to small local firms. These businesses have been fantastic and continue to support the School, offering great opportunities. CNS student CNS Harley Paget-Rouse is pictured working at Hardys Animal Farm. We had some generous employers who took more than one student: the Alpine FI team in Enstone were very supportive and took three students, rotating them around different departments. This year we had students placed as far afield as Cheltenham, Coventry, Ingoldmells (near Skegness), London, Surrey and Brighton. Thank to all those employers who gave their precious time and kindly offered work placements for our students who gained an invaluable insight into the world of work.



**Oxfordshire High Sheriff Award for Engineering:** The annual High Sheriff Young Engineer Awards recognises students who show great promise in the fields of engineering, resistant materials and design technology. Mr Parker nominated Year 9 student Olivia Taylor for her brilliant desk lamp project. Olivia was awarded the runner's up prize for her age group. She received a certificate and £200 Amazon voucher. Well done, Olivia!



**Sports News:** It has been a great summer season for sport at CNS. Archie & Oscar Street and Aidan Williams represented Oxfordshire at the ESAA Regional Multi-Events Athletics competition. Archie and Aidan both qualified for the National Finals in September.

Over 60 CNS students travelled to Oxford to compete at the annual Athletics competition between the seven schools in West Oxfordshire. Students in Years 7–10 competed in all the throwing, jumping and running events, finishing with the 4 x 100m relays. A few of our students broke records; a great achievement considering the

competition goes back to 2007!

Our Rounders teams put on a great show at the West Oxfordshire Rounders Tournament, with the Year 8 team being crowned champions and our Year 7s were runners up in their groups.

The Year 7 Cricket team have had a fantastic season reaching the semi-final of the Oxfordshire League where they



narrowly lost to Oxford Spire. Year 9 have also done remarkably well winning four of their league games to reach the finals against Lord Williams's School. The team made a great effort in the final, scoring 138 for 8, with Jack De Bruyn top scoring with 25 runs. However, Lord Williams's were the stronger team on this occasion but we are very proud of this team's achievements this term.

The highlight of the sporting year is the annual Sports Day. The students competed in a variety of field and track events. Not only were many records broken but the spirit of the day was fantastic, with the whole school supporting and encouraging each other to do their best. The overall winner of this year's competition was Stour, with Evenlode coming in second. Glyme were third and Windrush were placed fourth. Well done to all the competitors.



**CNPS News:** A group of Year 5s came to the CNS kitchens to work with Mr James. They chopped, cooked and stirred, creating a tasty dish of vegetable noodles. We were very impressed by how spotless they left the kitchen! We are grateful to Chippy Larder for providing us with ingredients for this workshop. We were delighted to host a Family Focus Week. Over the course of a week, we were able to offer a wide variety of workshops for pupils in Years 4–6 together with their parents/carers. We offered music, tennis, creative writing, maths and the very popular pottery. The workshops



were well attended and very well received. The families who attended were extremely complimentary about the workshops that we were able to offer.



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# SCHOOLS NEWS

## St Mary's Primary

**A message from Headteacher, Mrs McQueen:**

It has been an amazing seven months as the Headteacher of St Mary's. As a school community, we have achieved so much. We changed our vision and values to meet the needs of the School in 2023, which led us to change our school logo. The deep rooted, firm foundations are demonstrated in the roots of the tree and the story of the mustard seed and the branches of the tree represent all the staff and children flourishing. The coloured leaves represent our school houses of St George, St Andrew, St David and St Patrick. The design was generated from a school competition held for pupils. The Governors chose four finalists and the graphic designer used their ideas to produce the final logo. We are looking for someone to carve a tree for us, so if anyone knows of someone who would like to take on this commission, please get in touch with the School.

**Attendance:** We have worked hard on improving our attendance statistics and we are now in line with local and national results. Persistent absenteeism has reduced by 50%. This in turn has led to improved data across the School.

**Achievement:** The children in the Early Years Foundation Stage are now achieving as they should and we look forward to this continued progress throughout the School. Our phonics results were also encouraging and again an improvement on last year. The most significant gains were seen in Year 6, especially in mathematics, where 20% more children reached age-related expectations and there were even more children receiving greater depth in writing than

ever before. We have some talented teachers who work hard to ensure the children are the best they can be at St Mary's.

**Refurbishment:** We have also started a programme of refurbishment. Areas of the School have been painted and carpeted and new furniture has been acquired in EYFS and Year 5 and 6. I stated in January that we were on a journey to success and we have made great progress already.

**Open Morning Friday 29 September:** If you are thinking about where to send your child in September 2024, please come to our Open Morning on Friday 29 September 9am to 10.30am and see our school in action. You might be pleasantly surprised and find it is the school for you and your child.

## Great Rollright Primary



Another class of Yr 6s are making the exciting move up to high school this autumn, and in July we did our best to give them a rousing send-off. As always, the highlight was the Leavers'

Service in St Andrew's Church, where the whole school – and many proud parents – gathered to see each Yr 6 child say a personal goodbye to the School and receive our best wishes for the future. Our leavers are off to an exciting range of destinations this year – from Chipping Norton School nearby, to Bloxham School, Stratford Girls' Grammar, Headington

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# SCHOOLS NEWS

School, and the Cotswold School further away. Also in July, we welcomed all the children who will be starting in Reception this autumn, along with their parents and some grandparents, for a fun afternoon of play, art, and storytelling. Our current children were brilliant hosts and the new children seemed to have a great time getting to know them and us – which we hope will help them settle in well.

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

## Chadlington Primary



The School held a screening of the Bird Box Animation at The Theatre in Chipping Norton when parents finally got to witness the extraordinary animation skills and great craftsmanship their children had demonstrated in making characters from junk, with the help of Jim Parkyn of Aardman Animation. Over the

summer the children will be taking part in a butterfly spotting project to help with biodiversity mapping. We will share more about this important project once the all results have been collected.



The summer term finished with a fabulous brass assembly. Huge thanks to the inimitable Mr Gray for making music so much fun. Everyone enjoyed the Prizegiving Picnic where we said goodbye to our Year 6s and wished them well on their next stage of life and learning. They shared their favourite moments of primary school life and head teacher Mrs Hornibrook delivered a short speech about each child.

We were also in a celebratory mood following receipt of truly exceptional SATS results – 100% of year 6s in line with or above expected standards for grammar, punctuation, spelling, reading and maths with a significant number working at greater depth across the board. KSI results were also very good showing brilliant bounce-back from Covid across the board. Well done children!

**Some school reports are missing because the September deadline was in the Summer holiday**

## Chippy Larder – Nourishing, Empowering, Connecting The Secondary School Starter Kit

**For a third year, The Chippy Larder, the local community organisation committed to supporting local families and young people has launched its Stationery Starter Set to help Year 6 'young learners' on their journey from primary up to senior school. Don't miss out. The Larder's Rizvana Poole explains how this links to some wider community aims.**

The Starter Set goes beyond just stationery (see picture) – and the Larder's mission extends far beyond the classroom with a broader aim of Nourishing, Empowering and Connecting the community. **Nourishing the Community** recognises that access to basic necessities is fundamental for young people. No child should be left behind due to financial constraints. As well as providing Year 6s with essential educational tools, the Starter Set nourishes the belief that education is a pathway to success. **Empowering the Future Generation** forms the backbone of all Chippy Larder's initiatives. By providing much needed resources, we can foster self-belief and confidence. Empowered children are more likely to be engaged and motivated learners – for a better future. Alongside educational tools and to help



*Starter Sets in stock! Each child moving to Year 7 from a Chippy Primary School has been offered a voucher for a free Set via their school. Contents include: scientific calculator, English & French dictionaries, Maths Tin set (ruler, compass etc), period products, magnetic meal/homework planner, a crocheted 'Pocket Hug' & a sweet treat.*

empower young girls, we are including period products in the Sets – to break down barriers and create an environment where every young girl can focus on her studies without worry. **Connecting the Community:** Chippy Larder's initiatives also strive to create a sense of community and connection. By involving local businesses and volunteers, we hope to strengthen ties across Chipping Norton. The power of local collaboration can involve everyone in shaping a better future for the Community's children. Through our Nourish, Empower and Connect approach, we strive to make The Larder a beacon of hope and inspiration for communities everywhere. Beyond just the Starter Sets, we'd like to leave an everlasting impression on Chipping Norton's young learners and their families.

*The Chippy Larder, a key resource during and after the Pandemic, has expanded its community initiatives from food to many other areas of support. Rizvana says she is committed to providing the leadership needed – working with support from the Town.*

*For those interested in helping The Larder's initiatives or finding out more about their community projects, please email [nourish@thechippylarder.com](mailto:nourish@thechippylarder.com) or see Instagram and Facebook.*

# LETTERS

## Barclays presence at the Town Hall



*Barclay's Town Hall service*

May I say how pleased I was this morning when I went to Barclays – now at Chipping Norton Town Hall – in what is called the Snug downstairs. I was able to sit down comfortably and talk to two very helpful gentlemen, instead of standing and leaning over to talk through a perspex screen. I could talk without

being overheard by others in a queue, and the issues that had been plaguing me were resolved efficiently and promptly. This is very reassuring indeed.

**Andrea Bates** – Enstone

*(Since the closure of the High Street branch in July, a representative from Barclays is available for customer meetings for four days a week in the Town Hall – Ed)*

## Goodbye Mr Snips

I have decided to hang up my taxi keys at the end of September and would like to thank all customers past and present for their business and friendship over the many years I have been in this trade. Thanks again.

Steve Parsons

## Celebrating the life of Eve Coles

Please join us in celebrating the life of former Councillor Eve Coles at Chipping Norton Town Hall, on Saturday 23 September 11am–3pm. Refreshments will be provided. Please let us know if you will be able to come – email: [ECmemorial2023@gmail.com](mailto:ECmemorial2023@gmail.com). Also, tell us about any memories, photos or anecdotes that you can share so that we can display them on the day.

**Cllr Mike Cahill** with Eve's granddaughter **Saffiya**

## The Quiet Woman and 1940s village life

I remember the Quiet Woman (featured in recent News editions) from when I was a child and living at Dunthrop. As a



*The Quiet Woman pub demolished in 1959*

family we all went for a walk every Sunday afternoon and during the summer we sometimes went as far as the Quiet Woman. We would go into the garden to sit and wait for my Dad to bring us pop and crisps as women and children were not allowed inside. The only time we ventured (via the back door) into the kitchen was when we would go to help Mrs Pratley (the publican's wife) prepare sandwiches to be eaten on the coach during the annual outing to the seaside. How well I remember the whole walk through fields and over stone stiles, along sandy paths where rhododendrons grew in springtime. At the bottom there was a stream and a house where Mrs Fowler would be alerted by her dog barking so



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# LETTERS

she could engage us in conversation, on upwards to where the Harris family lived – so more conversation – and ultimately, we reached the main Oxford Road. Our Aunty used to come on the bus from Oxford on her half day off. We would meet her there to escort her to Dunthorp. It was during the 1939–45 War and our village had no public transport. We either walked or cycled. The vicar from Chipping Norton would cycle to Heythrop Church every Sunday to hold a service and visited Heythrop School during the week. The church spire can still be seen from the Oxford Road and is a happy reminder of our childhood days in a village where everyone knew everyone else and made visitors welcome.

**Dorothy Walman**

*(Many thanks to Dorothy for some wonderful local childhood memories from 80 years ago – Ed)*

## Ballet for Everyone in Chippy

We all know that exercise is good for us. But which kind will suit you best? I decided to try Ali Maxwell's ballet classes, held in Glyme Hall. I was a little apprehensive, having done only the tiniest bit of ballet many years ago. Would I feel self-conscious and embarrassed? I needn't have worried. The spirit of all-inclusiveness, and Ali's inspiring teaching and gentle encouragement are uplifting and energising, helping each of us on our personal path. The room seems to glow with positivity, and I look forward to class every week! Ali says: 'The beauty of adult ballet encompasses all ages, abilities and backgrounds. There may have been childhood ballet, or the opportunity did not present, perhaps you danced at vocational or professional level but then took time away from ballet as life took another path. The longing to learn or return to ballet is deep-seated and all reasons are equally challenging when venturing to a ballet class as an adult. Once your hand is placed on the barre though, a whole new world opens up. Ballet is wonderful for all round fitness: balance, posture, strengthening muscles, coordination, flexibility, it promotes bone health, improves concentration and clears the mind. Friendships are made,

confidence is gained, spirits are lifted, worries diminish as you breathe through the ballet movements with beautiful music to nourish the soul.' Ali offers classes from beginner level to advanced, and you can book and pay as you go with no long-term commitment. There are men and women of varying body types in the classes, and you can wear whatever feels comfortable. And look out for live Royal Ballet screenings at Chipping Norton Theatre and the new Living Room Cinema.

**Deborah Siepmann** – News Team member and ballet and music enthusiast

*(Ballet screenings coming up in Chippy include Don Quixote, The Nutcracker, Manon, Macmillan Celebrated, Swan Lake, and a Winter's Tale – Ed)*

## Remembering Eileen Carbonero



On behalf of all Eileen's family, we'd like to thank everybody so much for the cards, sympathy and kind words since she passed away in June. We were overwhelmed with the messages of support, offers of help and comfort that we received and delighted to realise how much Mum was loved. Huge thanks to all the staff

at Penhurst Gardens who were always so caring and compassionate and made Mum's precious final days so much easier for us. Many thanks to Martin Hannant for leading the Celebration of Life service so beautifully, to A L Sole for the arrangements for the service and also to the Cotswold Hotel and Spa for their help in organising the wake. Mum was so happy living in Chippy and we have many wonderful memories of the time that she spent here. At Mum's request, any donations in her memory should be made to the PDSA.

**Sharon and Neal Carbonero**

*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.*

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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**Items should preferably be typed or sent via email to [chippymail@aol.com](mailto:chippymail@aol.com)**

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# Hospice shop does it 'In Style'!

**The team at Chipping Norton's Helen & Douglas House Charity shop held a highly successful evening 'Styling' event in July, raising a magnificent £1000+ for the charity.**



The event was hosted by our West Street shop manager Jules Taylor and her team, in collaboration with Sophie Golden from Threads & Fibre and Lisa Hughes from Vintage Dahling, both well known in the pre-loved fashion world. After hearing customers struggling to think how they might style pieces, the trio came up with the idea of an evening of curated fashion, and Sophie and Lisa on hand to advise. 'Listening to customers in the shop, customers struggling to "shop charity shop", talking with Sophie about sustainability and helping people shop, sowed the seed of an idea about how could we do something different to what other shops do, and promote the shop. And I love clothes and fashion! So, it was a no-brainer,' said Jules. She added huge thanks to her team who volunteered their time for free, too: Graham, Margaret, Liz W, Liz S, Nicola and Becky.

With 51 people attending, Jules was 'overwhelmed' with the support from existing and new



customers. She said: 'I was relieved we had enough prosecco! The Co-op and The Fox donated prosecco along with some regular customers. It was the perfect evening.' So much so, Jules is planning another one in October. 'Some of the feedback we got coming up to the event, was because they felt they were too old, too young, too "fat" ... but charity shopping is for everybody, it really is. Sophie and Lisa were showing people how they need to look at different sizes, how you need to look through the rails properly.' Hot on the heels of the success of the evening, the shop now has a newly curated 'Pre-loved not unloved' section which boasts



vintage and high-end brands like Boden, Whistles and others. 'I don't want it to be seen as the expensive or designer rail, just things that are a bit different.' Jules explains. To stay in touch with the stock and events, follow them on Facebook: facebook.com/hdhchippingnorton or Instagram: instagram.com/helenanddouglashchippingnorton/

*Pictured: top ~ stylists Sophie & Lisa with Shop Manager, Jules left ~ the volunteer team*

## DIARY

### September (News out Tuesday 29 August)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Churchill Open Garden** noon-5pm - see p16
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Ramblers** see p26 for details
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church
- Afternoon Tea** for Cystic Fibrosis Trust in Coombe from 2.30pm - see p8
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p27
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Coffee Morning** for The Homestead 9.30-11.30am
- u3a** 2.30pm in the Town Hall - see p26
- N Oxon Organic Gardeners** 6pm - see p28
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Talk & Tea** 2.30pm - see p15
- People, Planet, Pint** 6-9pm Blue Boar - see p8
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Bridewell Gardens Open Day** 11am-4pm - see p14
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Crafty Cuppa & Chat** 10am-noon - see p15
- Local History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - see p27
- Town Council Community Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall - see p7
- Folk Club** 7.30 Crown Inn Church Enstone - see p28
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Councillor Drop-in** 10am-noon Old Mill - see p7
- Arts Society Cotswolds Lecture** 11am - see p21
- 14<sup>th</sup> **World Dance** Swalcliffe 2-4pm - see p29
- CN Amnesty** - 7.30 Lwr Town Hall - Dawn Chatty: Mobile Peoples & Human Rights Issues

14-16 **MOP FAIR** - see p4

15<sup>th</sup> **CHIPPY NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35

18<sup>th</sup> **Town Council Strategic Planning Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall - see p7

**West Oxon WI** 7.30pm Parish Room - see p26

21<sup>st</sup> **Chequers Music Session** 8pm - see p27

22<sup>nd</sup> **u3a Annual Open Day** 11am-3pm town Hall see p26

24<sup>th</sup> **Theatre Panto 5k Fun Run** - see p21

**Apple Day** noon-3pm Community Orchard - see p11

25<sup>th</sup> **Town Council Finance Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall - see p7

28<sup>th</sup> **Town Council Traffic Advisory Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall - see p7

**World Dance** S Newington 7.30-9pm - see p29

30<sup>th</sup> **Councillor Drop-in** 10am-noon Guildhall - see p7

**Transition Chipping Norton AGM** 3pm Town Hall - see p2

**Club Night @The Town Hall** 9pm-midnight - see p21

### October (News out Monday 2 October)

1<sup>st</sup> **Ramblers** see p26 for details

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

2<sup>nd</sup> **Chipping Norton News Team Meeting** 7.15 - call 01608 643219 for details

3<sup>rd</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p27

5<sup>th</sup> **People, Planet, Pint** 6-9pm Blue Boar - see p8

7<sup>th</sup> **Town Litter Pick** 10am-noon - see p4