

Housing chaos?

WODC's Local Plan crisis could mean 100s more Chippy homes & 'piecemeal development failing our community'

Is Chipping Norton is heading for a free for all for house developers – on 'unallocated' sites around the edge of town. The problem: West Oxfordshire District Council's housing plans seem in disarray, there's not enough housing coming forward, and those plans for 1000+ East Chipping Norton homes are stalled. In July, WODC found themselves having to approve 90 homes past Chippy Cricket Club, now there's a new Gleeson Land proposal for 100 homes on farmland off Burford Road. Your views are wanted!! A two page feature inside (p16–17) shows how we could see 800 homes on unplanned land.

Many, including the Town Council, acknowledge we need more, and affordable, homes. But Mayor Sandra Coleman hit the nail on the head, telling the News, **'It's not enough to build just homes in isolation. Our growing town needs homes in the right place, together with schools, health care, sports pitches, upgraded transport, town centre parking and many other facilities. Piecemeal development like this fails our community'**. Can WODC and the County Council (our strategic authority) somehow get a grip fast? More inside.

Time for action!



Fed up with this derelict sight? A major developer could be about to transform the old War Memorial Hospital – and there's more on Chippy's property moves. See page 6.

Farewell to Tamara



Tribute to mark the passing of Tamara Malcolm, the 'Grande Dame' of Chipping Norton Theatre on page 21.

Skatepark Users Needed!



Skateboards, BMX bikes, scooters? Could you be on the Town Council's User Group to design a new skatepark facility down New Street. See page 5.

Also in this issue:

Town Clean Up on 7 October ~ Best ever GCSE results ~ Police Open Day & shoplifting ~ Save energy in your home ~ Animal magic – and the vets ~ Apple Day at the Orchard ~ Lots more on at the Town Hall

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

Police, crime and neighbourhood safety

Don't miss a police Open Day in November – and read about rural crime, Chippy's shoplifting, and latest crime statistics

Police Town Hall Open Day – 4 Nov

Thames Valley Police are holding a public open day in Chipping Norton in the Town Hall on 4 November from 11am–3pm. You can talk to Chippy's Neighbourhood Police team directly and PCSO Darryn Moulding says 'the event is solely for the public. Please come along and speak to our partner agencies which also will be there representing the many crime prevention services available.' Several organisations will be represented such as fire services, Trading Standards, and help for Domestic Abuse. It's a good opportunity to discuss Chippy's local policing, access services (get your bike marked!) and see behind the scenes for what it takes to police one of the biggest non-metropolitan policing areas in the country. Watch out for more on social media.



PCSO Darryn Moulding

Dealing with the rise in rural crime



Recent local headlines around Chipping Norton highlight high-value organised rural thefts of equipment and materials from vans, sheds and outbuildings. Countryside offences also include hare coursing, deer hunting, badger baiting and animal

thefts. PCSO Darryn Moulding told the News that in the last two years, Thames Valley Police have put more focus on the sometimes hard-to-reach rural communities. A new dedicated Rural Task Force, set up across the region, is now getting great results in protection, prevention and conviction. Regular daily and nightly deterrent operations have increased surveillance – and social media is helping. Darryn said they get WhatsApp intelligence, hold events and try to work jointly with estate owners, farmers, gamekeepers and others.

Fighting shoplifting 'epidemic' in Chippy

Following Covid and with current cost of living issues, shoplifting which has doubled in six years nationally is up 25% in the last year. Dame Sharon White at John Lewis called it an epidemic, and small shops (through the Federation of Independent Retailers) say they are getting little support from police – with culprits ranging from 'shoppers with prams, pensioners, children and teenagers to organised gangs'. Chipping Norton has been getting its fair share but traders and councillors are fighting back. Town Councillors Mike Cahill and Sharon Wheaton have, for months, been working on the ground with Chippy's town traders. They told the News, 'We set up a WhatsApp group so that retailers could share information about observed shoplifters – this is working extremely well.' Many shops have put in more security.

But police follow up isn't always great, with many other calls on their time. Mike says the British Retail Consortium reported around 8 million thefts last year – but police recorded only around 1 in 20 as crimes. When Chippy traders met, their first reaction was 'there's no point in reporting – police don't do anything'. Sometimes thefts under £200 aren't

investigated at all and while local police 'acknowledge' a crime reported – Mike says that often no crime number is issued. Nationally, the big retailers are now helping fund police operations but our small retailers simply aren't in that game – although there is a campaign to get the Government to provide £1500 grants to small shops for security. Home Office minister Chris Phelps has said 'police will always investigate where this is evidence to follow up'.

Mike, Sharon and the Chippy group met the Police back in June, agreeing that a police contact would be added to the WhatsApp information – but Mike says that still hasn't happened! But intelligence about actual and potential thieves is actively being shared amongst traders. The Co-op shared their 'alerts', Sainsbury's have personal staff cameras. The group are recording events and police responses. They 'wholeheartedly' support more CCTV in the town centre, strategically placed. They want shoppers to tell staff about suspicious behaviour – and stop Chippy being a 'go-to' place for outside gangs.



Chippy's crime statistics

Chipping Norton (which covers neighbouring villages) is considered a low crime area. In the 12 months to end of July 2023 there were 1144 incidents officially recorded as crimes – as follows:

Violence & sexual offences	428
Vehicle crime	137
Criminal damage/arson	109
Thefts (all types)	101
Antisocial behaviour	90
Public order	88
Burglary	86
Shoplifting	62
Drugs	16
Possession of weapons	6
Other	21

As noted earlier, the retailers say actual shoplifting is massively under recorded as 'official' crimes. Police resources are stretched – with many reports that many low-level common crimes are not followed up. But police say they are now following up all home burglaries, and Home Secretary Suella Braverman says it is 'unacceptable' not to act on all crimes which have helpful leads or evidence gathered. Please report any crimes or suspicious activity by calling 999 (emergencies), 101 (where you can ask for Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Team), report online via www.thamesvalley.police.uk or phone Crimestoppers anonymously.



Bankless & nearly cashless!



Any chance of a banking hub like this one in Brixham?

Times are tough for visitors and residents needing cash in Chipping Norton. As of mid-September, the damaged ATM cash machine at Sainsbury's (that 'smash and grab'!) was still out of action with no publicised date for replacement. The only other ATM (outside the Co-op travel shop on Topside), has also had some on-off moments recently. One visitor recently tried to pay by card at a Town Hall sale event, but the WiFi wasn't working – they then failed to get any cash out of the nearby ATM! Cash is available at the Post Office counter during opening hours if you are a patient queuer. It's also the only place in town where cash can be paid in – but if you have hundreds of pounds in coins it does take time. The News Team now takes the bulk of its cash collections to a bank branch in Banbury with a 'counting' hopper machine – avoiding the task of accurately filling up little plastic bags. Oh, for one of those in Chippy!

Meanwhile, the Barclays 'talk to an adviser' sessions (which started in July in the Town Hall four days a week, following the branch's closure) are proving popular, but causing some problems. Too many 'drop in' customers (many from our surrounding villages) are having to be looked after while waiting at the Town Hall. The Town Council is to talk to Barclays about this. Perhaps, in the light of all this there is still a chance of a permanent 'collaborative' banking hub – with dedicated space for 1-1 sessions with the major banks, and better, higher volume cash deposit solutions. This is something that the Government has been promoting for rural 'no bank' towns, but rollout has been frustratingly slow. The Link organisation has responsibility for reviewing and recommending these hubs. The hub in Brixham, run by the Post Office, is pictured, and a new one in Buckingham's market town is to be permanently based in their old Lloyds branch building (the last bank to close there). Any chance of this in Chipping Norton? And, maybe, one to lobby our MP about.

Bannor Electrical bows out

David and Wendy Gordon have decided the time is right to retire and finally wind down Bannor Electrical Services fully. The team left the shop off West Street some time ago but had continued to sell supplies directly and do contract work. But now, Wendy has told the News, 'David has had a couple of minor health scares and we wish to concentrate on our family and on his love of classic cars. We would like to thank all of the customers who have dealt with us over the past 47 years and we would also like to thank all the staff who have worked for us, past and present.' The three electricians currently working there, Justin, Stephen, and Chris, will be moving on. Wendy said, 'Chris is going to try retirement and Stephen is going on to another job. Justin is starting a business with his daughter – watch out for "Dad and Daughter" on social media'.

Chippy's 'best' GCSE results

After some great A level results, Chipping Norton School was able to report that their 2023 GCSE and BTEC results were the best in the School's history. 86% of students secured five GCSEs or more including both Maths and English. Average grades continued to rise for a fifth consecutive year, with close to one third of all results being grades 7 to 9. The average grade was one whole grade higher than it had been in 2018 – in a year when grades have not been inflated, as they were during COVID. But Headteacher Barry Doherty was particularly eager to point out the 'progress' statistics. Overall CNS students secured grades more than two-thirds higher than those in similar schools with similar students. He said also that the progress rate for the School's disadvantaged students has never been higher and now means they progress in line



Celebrating this summer's GCSE results

with all students nationally – and secure over two-thirds of a grade higher in every exam than all disadvantaged students in similar schools across the country. After a historical 'gender gap', boys had improved performance for the last four years – and boys and girls were performing much more equally. Mr Doherty congratulated students, staff, parents and carers and now welcomed many students back to the School's outstanding Sixth Form wishing them every success.

Open Evening 2023 – a reminder that Chipping Norton School holds an open evening for future year 7 entrants on Thursday 5 October from 5–8pm. See the school website for more.

Applying for secondary schools – Applications for Year 7 entries (for September 2024) for state schools, including Chipping Norton, are made via Oxfordshire County Council. To have the best chance of getting your preferred place, you must apply, listing up to four schools of your choice, by 31 October 2023 at oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

Return of the Town Festival

The Town Festival is coming back! Put **Sunday 30 June 2024** in the diary. Beverley Lane told the News 'We look forward to welcoming you all for a great day of music, food, craft



stalls and much more. We are thrilled to have a number of new Committee members who have joined us over the summer, making it possible to for us to put on this great event for the Town again. Watch out for details of our new website

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in next month's issue. There are lots of opportunities to get involved: performing, running a stall or volunteering on the day. Please drop us a line at cntownfestival@gmail.com if you would like to take part in any way'.

Chippy Mop back again!

The 'Chippy Mop' funfair was back in the Town Centre on 14-16 September – with no COVID nor Queen's funeral this year to dampen the mood. It seemed exceptionally busy again with young and old(er) – venturing back to enjoy the traditional (a bit more expensive!) stalls and rides.



With work at the Branch taking up some of the usual Mop space, the popular Booster had to stay away. But the weather was kind, fun was had, there

seemed little trouble, the traffic was diverted in the usual manner around the Town, and lots of HGVs stayed away!

Help for Cemetery Clean Up

For a morning of fresh air, some like-minded company, and a chance to help the community, why not join other volunteers to help the Town Council on Saturday 14 October, 9.30am, at the Worcester Road Town Cemetery. It's time for the next Clean Up Day – refreshments provided. Contact The Guildhall for more information.

The Branch is on track

Chipping Norton Town Council was given a positive update at their September meeting about the progress on the project to convert the old NatWest building into The Branch community hub. Emma Kennedy and Phil Sharman were very positive about about meeting the targets on both budget and timescale and the Town Council were delighted with the news. Emma Kennedy told the News that building work was now nearly three-quarters complete and October would see the various structural changes to the building completed, including new openings formed between the old parts of the building and the new Community Hall at the rear. The roofing works and the building 'envelope' will also be completed, making the building weatherproof – a huge relief given the very variable weather of late! Fit out of the building has now started, with interior partition walling and 'first fix' of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing services happening this month. This all means that the site is a hive of activity, with multiple 'trades' working in all parts of the building and across all four floors, giving the site manager plenty to occupy him!

Emma added, 'We are still on time for our early February finish, and again apologies for the inconvenience caused. We were pleased to have worked with the Mop Fair to get as many rides as possible into the reduced space – and please be assured the Booster will be back next year!'

Climate action: MP challenged

Are we and the Government doing enough towards Net Zero to combat climate change? Campaigners say no – but to inform the debate, on 21 September local environment group Witney Eco Forum hosted an open evening at Witney's parish church. Local MP Robert Courts, the main panel guest, had said beforehand he would discuss the opportunities and implications from the recent Net Zero Review published by former Energy Minister Chris Skidmore on the UK's progress towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. A wide range of issues were raised, but Mr Courts was mainly faced with defending PM Rishi Sunak's controversial 'weakening' of climate actions pledges the day before this meeting – including delays on banning new oil boilers and new petrol or diesel



MP Robert Courts (right) at the Eco Forum event

vehicles. He was also challenged on his personal objection to the major Botley West Solar Farm and his Government's policy of allowing local communities to veto on-shore windpower. The two other panellists, BBC Environment reporter Roger Harrabin and Bishop of Oxford Dr Steven Croft (on the House of Lords Select Committee for Environment and Climate Change), both raised their concerns that the Government's latest moves were blatant 'politicising', would lose consensus in the country about urgency for action, and damage the UK's International reputation.

Mr Courts pushed back on the challenges, insisting that the 2050 Net Zero target remained – it was all about changing the 'how' and practicality. He said he was eager to hear about how all this affected the Witney and West Oxfordshire constituency. But the applause in the room was mainly for the two other panellists. The large audience included members of a local climate action group called 'Robert Courts Watch', set up over a year ago by local people in Witney. That group had contacted the News saying they have been 'seeking to hold MP Robert Courts to account on the climate change issue', holding public vigils at his offices, and say the Westminster Government should be doing things more ... and much faster. They point to Parliament's own Climate Change Committee saying in August current government efforts to scale up climate action were 'worryingly slow'. Based on this evening's event – the item is clearly on Mr Court's agenda!

Behold The Black Horse!

After major refurbishment and a few delays over summer, Salford's historic pub – only a short walk over the fields from Chipping Norton – has reopened with its old name, The Black Horse, proudly back. The pub site was taken over a few months ago by Lionhearth Group, who currently run The Chequers in Churchill and The Swan in Ascott-under-Wychwood. Manager Alex Daly and his team held an informal opening on 20 September and they hope to continue a village inn tradition as well as welcoming visitors from far and wide. Alex said 'our rustic country pub which has a combination of traditional charm and contemporary design flair will be offering pub classics together with professional, attentive service in one of the most beautiful villages in the Cotswolds. Gather your friends, family and four-legged friends and book with us soon to be the first to experience the all-new, best country pub in the Cotswolds. We look forward to welcoming you'.



Planning for town skatepark



As reported last month – a long-awaited 'park for wheeled sports' could soon be coming to Chipping Norton. Finding a location has long been a stumbling block, but the last Town Council meeting heard that a positive meeting between Councillors and the Field Reeves (Trustees of the Regulated Pastures) had discussed using space at the New Street Recreation Area. All this was after a Council survey three years ago had reported strong demand, and a delegation of young people from Chipping Norton School had presented their ideas to Councillors in May.

Clearly, fundraising will be needed – from both the public and grant-giving bodies – but the next main stage of work is to form a more organised local user group and to tap into the wider community to decide exactly what kind of skatepark will be best. This was discussed at September's Town Council Community Committee. Some questions to be addressed include: what size of skatepark is needed for the demand; what mix of wheeled sports should be catered for (such as boards, scooters, skates and BMX bikes); what kind of design (for example a 'street plaza' as used in the Olympics, a traditional park with a variety of jumps or ramps, or a 'flow park' with interlinked sections). Views on all of this can then go into 'design principles' for a tendering exercise. The next step is for the Town Council to contact potential users and

form a user group. Anyone interested in being part of this user group should contact the Council via Townclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk. Once a costed proposal and evidence of support have been completed, funding can then be applied for.

Hear Radio Chipping Norton!

Many News readers may not remember or even know that we once had a 'Radio Chipping Norton'. Well, now you can find out all about it. In the late '70s, the BBC was keen to involve local communities and set up two local programmes, one from Thame and one from Chipping Norton. These involved, to start with, half an hour, inserted into a Sunday morning programme on Radio Oxford on a monthly basis. Over time, it changed to 10 minutes and other formats.



At the start in Chipping Norton, the late John Gripper, already involved as a local vet, encouraged several local people to join in. The team were John Gripper (pictured left on a Carnival float), Robert Evans, Martin Hannant, Jeremy and Marge Rowe,

Richard and Peta Simmons, and Graham Rousell. Later, Bob and Barbara Stevens, and Pete Webb, joined too.

When the programmes ended, Peta and Richard Simmons kept all the original tapes and eventually gave them to the Museum. They have recently gone through the exercise of transferring these from open reel tape to both a memory stick and the Museum's computer. There's now a full index of title, interviewer, and interviewee and this is also available. Should you wish to listen to any of the short pieces, please ask at the Museum. Peta told the News that the subjects covered ranged from the supermarket trolley dash to plans to close the Hospital. Some are serious, some light hearted. They include: Blue Boar cellars, Hospital proposed closure, historic medical instruments (Bruce Parker), home grown tobacco (Leonard Miles), glue sniffing, pigeons on the Town Hall, Peter Watson Middle East (Manufacturer of amazing sanitaryware), and the Happy Eater elephant. If you're interested in Chippy during the late 70s and early 80s, do go along and have a look at the diverse subjects covered and have a listen. Thanks to Peta for the update.

Trustees wanted for Theatre

Could your passion for the arts, and the difference they can make to communities, help our extraordinary small Theatre find its future? The Theatre Chipping Norton is seeking new Trustees to join its Board, and help to power the organisation forward into an exciting future. In particular, the Board would like to meet candidates with skills, connections and experience in the following areas:

- Fundraising, including links with local networks, trusts and high net worth individuals, and/or experience of capital campaigns
- Intellectual Property and artistic rights
- Skills around capital building works such as property development, surveying, etc.
- Business development and strategic planning.

Visit chippingnortontheatre.com/jobs for more information.

Chipping Norton – on the move!

What's happening to our Town Centre properties? Plans for the HSBC building seem to be stalled and there's a possible new developer (at last??) for the old Hospital site. Here's an update.

HSBC hotel – don't bank on it!

Six years after closure, plans for the fine **HSBC** building in Market Place seem uncertain. An earlier plan for a Phone Co-op HQ was replaced by a successful 2020 planning application by new owner SETHA for a 31-bedroomed boutique hotel. But SETHA Chipping Norton went into liquidation in June with Receiver, SFP Restructuring, appointed. An auction plan was withdrawn, with the Receiver apparently hopeful of a financial solution. More detail is awaited. The hotel planning permission runs out in November, unless quickly renewed!



Of our other abandoned banks, **NatWest** is being successfully converted to The Branch hub but **Barclays'** and **TSB's** ground floor High Street premises remain vacant – for rental at £36,900 and £27,000 pa respectively. Letting agents 'arc' told The

News they were trying to secure a new tenant so Barclays could surrender their lease – they are still paying building rent despite running a banking 'client consultation' service in the Town Hall. Tayler and Fletcher are handling the former TSB premises where, despite extensive ground floor accommodation, one-metre thick concrete security walls make any conversion of this Grade II listed building challenging.

Old Hospital plans revived

Chippy's former **War Memorial Hospital** on Over Norton Road still lies derelict. But, after more than 10 years and little progress by small developer St Charles Homes, it seems long-awaited action might be on the way. A possible new owner is linked to major UK property developer Salbo – based in the North West and, apparently, with a £1 billion property development pipeline. In July, the company secured a positive assurance from WODC that site work 'had started', meaning that planning permission for 14 dwellings (including using the old existing building) was still valid. A company spokesperson thought the intention was to build out that agreed scheme. With Salbo's main track record focused on city and high-rise projects, their interest in this complex rural site is interesting. But we'll have to wait until the deal is done to know more.

Meanwhile the nearby former **Police Station** is being carefully transformed into new homes. Estate agents Mark David have sale details. One other interesting long-empty

property that end of town is the old **BT Telephone Exchange** in Over Norton Road. Could that produce another interesting project?

Market moves in Town Centre

At 17-18 High Street, **Boots** have a lease until July 2025 at £80,000 rental pa. The whole site, which includes two flats above and a long burgage plot behind, was sold prior to auction last December. The burgage plot was sold on to Wychwood Homes, whose new planning application for 6 houses awaits determination (see article p9). The Boots building is for sale again! Other commercial premises to let include the 1315 sq ft empty **22 High Street**, (vacated a year back by the Newsagents), at £25,000 pa. The recently closed **Mighty Pie**, a 250 sq ft shop with large



commercial kitchen behind, is for let at £14,400 pa. The former **Wild Thyme** restaurant premises at 10 New Street reopens shortly as a new branch for solicitors **Lee Chadwick**. Meanwhile, the former **Johnson Gaunt** solicitors' office at 2 New Street remains available. **Rogér's deli and fish shop** and two long-lease flats are unaffected by the freehold of **22 New Street** being offered for £200,000. The former Vets (recently **Co-op Funeral Care**) building in Albion St (with its own car park!) is still for sale for £450,000. Even the Town Council has first floor **Guildhall** office space to let – 646 sq ft at £7,752 pa. Now there's a prestigious business address!

All change along West St

At 11 West Street, the building that housed **West St Newsagents**, with 426 sq ft retail area and a further three floors, with asking price of £350,000, is under offer. Further along, 13 West Street, the neo-Georgian **Old Post Office**, now occupied by The Vintage Car Club, was recently snapped up by a Chippy resident who intends to convert the whole building, subject to planning permission, into flats for let. The tiny old **K&M Fishing Tackle** shop at 23 West St is being restored as a private house.

This seems a lot of commercial space vacant. Is there a problem? Local agents Tayler and Fletcher describe Chipping Norton as 'picturesque, vibrant, highly sought after, with an impressive array of shops, exceptional services, an affluent demographic, rich architecture and lively community'. It is a haven for foodies, they say! They seem unconcerned, saying the market is stable and as positive as they have known for 15 years, Rents were not dropping. Let's hope they'll be able to attract some interesting new businesses to contribute to the vitality of our town centre.

Bus stop upgrade – finally!



As regular Chipping Norton bus user Rita Heritage says on her placard (see photo) 'at last after 4 years of wind and rain', the Walterbush Road bus stop has been given improvements to shelter weather-worn passengers from the elements. Rita has been campaigning for several years to have the sides of the bus shelter replaced and a bench installed. She is pleased the changes have at last been made – all in time for her 90th birthday in October. Just shows: age is no barrier to a successful campaign.

Everyone, including local residents and our Town Councillors who agreed the changes, will also be hoping the bus shelter does not suffer the abuse and misuse that caused problems and nuisance in the past.

Plans for Chippy's Christmas

Yes – it's nearly here again! No soon is summer over than we're planning Christmas. Elsewhere in the *News* are items on the Methodist Church's Christmas Tree Festival and the Shoebox Appeal, and don't forget to book the very Latino *Cinderella* panto at the Theatre. There's no major 'Christmas in Chippy' market this year (hopefully back next year) but there's now going to be what is hoped to be a regular annual 'Christmas Lights Switch On' event and evening on Thursday 23 November in the Town Centre to start the Christmas festivities period. Highlights provisionally planned at the Town Hall are:

- Christmas carols, singalong, and entertainment from 6pm
- Lights switch-on by the Mayor and two Chippy residents!
- Children's Lantern Parade (lantern-making 3 November)
- Mulled wine and mince pies
- Space for stallholders (4–8pm).

As with last year, lights will be displayed on the Town Hall, on the main trees in the Market Square, and on the little trees (this year using recycled plastic) on as many shop-front brackets as possible! Watch out next month for more details. Prospective stallholders – both charity and commercial, and any other enquiries – contact Tania or email events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.

And finallyWanted: Christmas Cracker Jokers. To add to the Town Hall entertainment on 23 November, The

Mayor is searching for the Best Young Christmas Cracker Joker in Chipping Norton to help her entertain the crowds and switch on the lights. She would love to meet them and hear their funniest joke. Auditions open to any young person between the ages of 6 and 16. Join in at 4.15pm on 1 November to register for joke-telling from 4.30–5.30pm. Information from Tania events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.

Having fun with new benches

After refurbishing the main town centre benches in the last couple of years, Chipping Norton Town Council has now installed the planned 'curved' bench in the Millennium Garden along West Street (pictured below) – to encourage groups and families to rest awhile. The next project, agreed at September's Community Committee meeting, is to add two colourful benches at the newly



refurbished Cotswold Crescent play area. Councillors are going ahead with designs similar to those already installed at the Evans Way play area (top picture) – which they say are fun, modern, popular, easy to maintain, and – if this option is selected – made of recycled plastic material.

Perilous car trips to Oxford!

Anyone from Chippy trying to drive to or past Oxford is set to have an even tougher time! First, Network Rail say the Botley Road into Oxford will now be closed until November 2024 because of problems with the railway bridge works for Oxford Station's upgrade. That means rush hour on the A34 bypass will be even more jammed – aggravated by more A34 works as well. Meanwhile, the jams on our A44 going to the Pear Tree roundabout continue as well with major road

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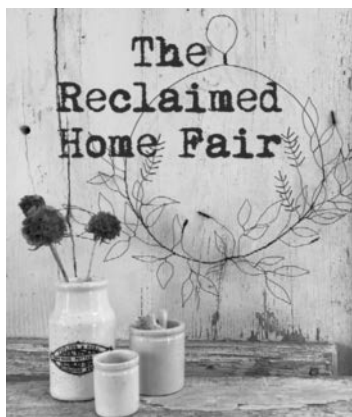
Website: www.thelangston.uk



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works. Our bus timetables have already changed to reflect slower buses - it might get worse so watch out.

Reclaimed Home Fair



Chipping Norton Town Hall
Saturday 21st October 10-4pm

Looking for a piece of unusual homeware, quirky furniture, or even an heirloom of the future? The 'Reclaimed Home Fair' is back at Chipping Norton Town Hall on Saturday 21 October, 10am–4pm, where specialist treasure sellers will bring a wide range of pre-loved, re-used, recycled and reclaimed furnishings for you to peruse and buy – hopefully instead of new! Started in 2017 by friends

Dorothy Stiven and Heather Lawson, both with permanent stands in Station Mill Antiques Centre, the vision was to bring an event to Chippy that complemented the Centre's activities and introduced more reclaimed ideas to customers. With people increasingly aware of the need to reduce waste and avoid landfill, the event has gone from strength to strength, attracting 600 visitors last year. And this year the Fair will welcome a record number of 27 stallholders – although the aim is to keep the event personal and friendly. Items are sourced mainly from around the UK, France and America, including unique lampshades made from vintage grain sacks, hand-made arts and crafts, original American antique patchwork quilts, printed heritage textiles, country furniture, and ideas for one-off Christmas gifts. Tea and home-made cakes will be available all day. Admission is £2 on the door, children under 16 free. Unfortunately, you can't take dogs inside (except assistance dogs) due to space restrictions, but the organisers' husbands have been enlisted to provide a free dog-minding service at the door whilst you browse! Visit Instagram for updates @thereclaimedhomefair.

All Smiles at Methodist Church

On the first Wednesday of every month there is a charity coffee morning at Chipping Norton Methodist Church. Nesta and Alan Rees would like everyone to know that on Wednesday 4 October it will be in aid of The Smiles Foundation. They told the News, 'This charity works in Romania helping around 1500 disadvantaged people, with over 100 Romanian staff who are supported by volunteers from across the USA and UK who PRAY, GIVE and GO, to help the work continue. We are able to GO this year for a week's mission trip in the middle of October. So it will be great if you can GIVE of your time to support the coffee morning from 9.30–11.30am. All the money raised will be donated to the work of the Foundation'.

Elaine Parsons added that the speaker at T&T on Thursday the 5th (2.30–4pm) is Steve Hutchinson on 'Calling all kids'. There's a crafty cuppa and chat session from 10–12 noon on 9 October, and then Saturday 15 October sees light lunches and a sale for church funds (12–2pm). The church team was thrilled to receive a Community Activity Grant from WODC which will go towards heating costs for the next

few months when they will be using the cuppa and chat and other sessions as a warm space for everyone, including the regular weekly cuppa and chat sessions where they raise funds for church and local charities.

QD's gift to Helen & Douglas

Chipping Norton QD discount store has donated £3132.70 to Helen & Douglas House Hospice.

The money was raised through sales of its plastic carrier bags and donations in its counter-top collection tins. The QD team in Chippy



Photo ©QD Group

Store Manager Kerry Warren with
Andrea Baganz-Pritchard of Helen &
Douglas House

chose to support Helen & Douglas House and were delighted at the amount raised for this very worthy local cause, which helps families cope with the challenges of looking after a terminally ill children. Its hospice in Oxford provides care for children with life-shortening conditions and their families, in a beautiful setting with purpose-built facilities. Kerry Warren, manager at QD Chipping Norton, said, 'We have been proud supporters of the charity since our QD store opened here two years ago and we are delighted to make this latest donation to them.' Andrea Baganz-Pritchard, community fundraising manager at Helen & Douglas House, added, 'We would like to say a huge thank you to QD Chipping Norton.'

**Your stay
your way
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LOCAL NEWS

The money will pay for a bed for a week for a child to stay at the hospice with specialised one-to-one nursing care. While staying with us, local families can make precious memories like meeting other families, meeting our PAT dogs and ponies, and having fun in our therapy pool. This is only possible because of amazing supporters like QD. QD is an independent, family-run business with 30 stores and is a very active charity fundraiser in the communities in which it is based. For more information, visit www.qualitydiscounts.com.

National Racehorse Week



Adlestrop-based trainer, Richard Phillips, held his third event marking the start of National Racehorse Week on Saturday 9 September. Previously an open-door format operated, so Richard wanted to provide a more personal experience for a smaller group of visitors. Eighty people attended, many having never been to a racing yard before. Following Richard's

welcome in the iconic Adlestrop Village Hall, visitors went up to the gallops where they saw some of his horses go through their paces. A jumping demonstration followed plus a fascinating dressage exercise. Dulcie West partnered her retrained racehorse whilst Grace Muir provided an insightful commentary – all three are representatives of the HEROS charity. On the hottest day of the year, visitors happily returned to the Hall for refreshments and a fascinating presentation by Equine Exercise Physiologist, Dr George Wilson. For the final hour, visitors were invited to visit the horses in their stables where they were educated and entertained by Equine Dentist Tash Seely (pictured above), Equine Massage Therapist Rachel Talbot and Farrier Jim Pilcher. Undoubtedly, all the guests departed knowing much more about the life of a racehorse, its care and welfare. Richard said, 'All at Adlestrop Stables were delighted to open our doors to the public to show the wonderful care racehorses receive 365 days of the year. Thank you to everyone who made it such a special morning'. More at richardphillipsracing.co.uk and heroscharity.org

Way forward at The Beeches!

After a request from residents of The Beeches caravan site in Chipping Norton, and a concerted effort by District Councillor Rizvana Poole and others, a new footpath is to be constructed to help residents get safely to both the bus stops and the main footpath on the A361 to walk to Chipping Norton. Construction of the footpath is now officially scheduled to commence on 23 October and is expected to be completed within five weeks of that date. Rizvana explained that the absence of a footpath has posed significant challenges for residents, particularly those with mobility limitations and the young children of the community. She was particularly pleased with all the collaborative efforts to make it happen – with the path acting as a symbol of inclusiveness,

breaking down barriers, and a shared commitment to the welfare of everyone in the neighbourhood. The project had involved discussions with the different local authorities and meticulous planning. Rizvana praised the grassroots efforts and advocacy involved and also thanked County Councillor Liz Leffman for her support with the campaign.

£5m gold toilet breakthrough

Not really a Chippy story, but readers may recall how a solid gold toilet – an 'installation' by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, worth £5m – was ripped out and stolen from an exhibition at Blenheim Palace in nearby Woodstock back in September 2019. The 18-carat

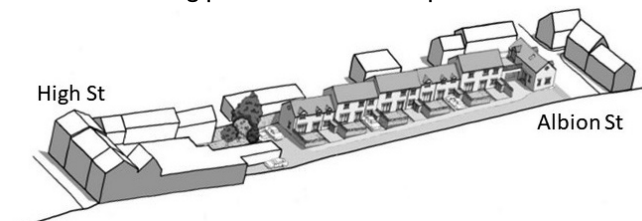


specimen totally disappeared; police arrested seven suspects, some local, at the time but no-one was charged. However, Thames Valley Police now seem to think they have 'something to go on' and have just filed a full dossier with the Crown Prosecution Service who will determine if charges can be brought. The stolen toilet (pictured – called 'America') was previously displayed at the Guggenheim Museum in New York and could be used as a functioning toilet. In 2016, 100,000 people queued to use it; a three-minute time limit had to be imposed to limit waiting times. At Blenheim, it had also been plumbed in – with the thieves leaving behind only the flushing mechanism and loo roll.

Meanwhile, the toilets inside Chipping Norton Town Hall have had a makeover as part of the refurbishments at the Town Hall. No gold-plating was involved. The WODC-maintained public loos adjacent to the Town Hall are also currently in working order after repairs earlier this year, and the public loos in the New Street car park are also available. Fingers crossed we will continue to have all of these for our convenience.

Six homes behind Boots

Behind Boots shop in Chipping Norton's High Street lies one of the few remaining medieval 'burgage plots' stretching up to Albion Street. Property developer Wychwood Homes had previously submitted a planning application for seven new homes on the long plot. However, in response to advice from



experts and comments by local Councillors, in September Town Councillors considered a revised proposal reducing the number of homes from seven to six and using more traditional design and building materials. At the Town Council meeting Cllr Jo Graves said 'I think it's great' but Cllr Athos Ritsperis challenged the developer to provide more low

LOCAL NEWS

carbon technologies, saying 'We simply cannot go on building how we have for the last 100 years'. The planning application will be determined by WODC.

Top awards for Chippy engineers

Chipping Norton-based Civil and Structural Engineers SOLID – whose head office is located off Albion Street – are celebrating after scooping multiple architectural awards recently. These include the Civic Trust Awards, AJ Small Project Awards, RIBA National Awards, and RIBA South Awards, with



Members of SOLID's award-winning team pictured outside their head office

possibly more to come! The company SOLID Structures and Infrastructure, founded by Sean Daly, began life as a small practice located within the iconic Hook Norton Brewery building. They've grown with multiple branches including their purpose-built head office studio in Chipping Norton next door to the Co-op, designed by Oxfordshire based architects William Green Architects.

One of their smaller projects, Black Barn Studios in Hook Norton, collected the Architect's Journal Small Project Awards first ever 'Sustainability Award'. Designed by Oxfordshire Architects Charlie Luxton Design and housing their offices, the development used a repurposed steel-framed barn and sustainable materials. The team's project work for Oxford University's St Hilda's College, marking its 125th anniversary, is for a new public entrance sequence of

spaces embodying the college's identity and values, designed by Architect Gort Scott. It won a Civic Trust Award and a South RIBA Regional Award in May. SOLID worked as Stone Façade Specialists on the Radley College Chapel extension, designed by architects Purcell. That project picked up a Regional Award, Regional Conservation Award and RIBA South Building of the Year Award – then went on to win a RIBA National Award. All three designs are unique with the ambitious developments raising complex challenges and the SOLID team were thrilled their hard work had paid off.

Sarah Jarman

More action at the Town Hall!

Efforts to refurbish Chipping Norton Town Hall and encourage much more community and commercial use seem to be paying off – and Councillors want to step up marketing and promotion efforts.



There is now regular use by community groups such as the Community Church, Choral Society, Amnesty, u3a, and The Theatre's dance, singing and Youth Theatre sections. There are also regular banking advice slots, piano lessons, and an increasing number of commercial hire events and private parties using the upper and lower halls. Events Officer Tania Kirby updated Councillors at their September meeting about future possible events:

- **Saturday Club DJ Nights** on the last Saturday each month (next date 28 October) with tickets for £5 sold online through The Theatre. From 9pm to midnight. Bar (card only). DJ local legend Jason plays club classics across dance genres from House Music to Drum n Bass that'll have you rocking the dance floor – so get your whistles ready – grab your old skool raving friends, and come along to the Town Hall for a sweaty, bouncy evening of dance delight (organised by the Town Council).
- **'Open the Blue Doors'** drop-in sessions on Tuesdays for young people in term time. All this needs volunteers, potential sponsorship and some organisation!
- **A Latin Dance Ball** run in the Town Hall jointly with The Theatre, linked with the Latin theme of this year's panto, Cinderella. There's a pencilled date of 2 December but details need to be finalised.
- **The Snow Queen** – a puppet workshop for families, premiered by Theatrix, planned for 25 November.
- **Thames Valley Police Open Event** on 4 November – for details see feature, page 2.
- **Jobs Fair** – date to be finalised – with local businesses, other employers and advisers on hand to help with jobs, skills and training opportunities.

Councillors agree that a 'step up' in marketing the Town Hall is needed, aimed at getting more commercial and private hires – with advertising and promotion of the space and services offered, including support for event hirers. There could also be more efforts to use the bar as a profit-maker. The other news is that the Town Council is now increasingly working in partnership with Chipping Norton Theatre as the ticket seller

Surinderpal Singh, LL.M TEP Solicitor

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LOCAL NEWS

for many events. The Theatre's website will show many events – but also see the Town Council's Town Hall webpage and their social media for the latest.

Orchard's international fans



Chippy Green Gym volunteers were taken by surprise, at their recent session at the Community Orchard on 13 September, by two unexpected overseas visitors. Khir Johari from Singapore, a food historian, and Eric Extrada from Indonesia, a plantation-owner who grows mangoes, guavas and other exotic fruits, popped in during their tour of fruit-growing sites across the UK. They had apparently read about the Orchard after googling the Green Gym online.

On a sunny day, the Orchard was at its best, with trees laden with ripe fruit. The visitors enjoyed sampling the fruit, with raspberries a novelty for them. The two loved the Orchard with its prolific apple trees and were very impressed by the community effort that went into maintaining it. They loved hearing the stories behind the history of the numerous varieties.

Green Gym Chair Clive Rand is pictured above explaining to the visitors that the volunteers had been keen to plant an orchard for the enjoyment of the community and to replenish orchards that are sadly disappearing from our landscape. The visitors thought it was a good prototype for community food-growing, an exemplar that they would be taking home to the other side of the world!

Museum Finds Day

Come to Finds Day – Do you have an object you've found or dug up in and around Chipping Norton? Might it be of some historical interest? Chipping Norton Museum is holding a Finds Day on Saturday 14 October, 11am–4pm. Ed Caswell, the Finds Liaison Officer for Oxfordshire, will be making a return visit to the Museum to identify your finds and answer your questions. If you have found or dug up items in the local area, please bring them along. Even if you know what they are, still bring them along. It is always interesting for the museum and the archaeology group to gain understanding of the different historical periods of the Town and the surrounding area.

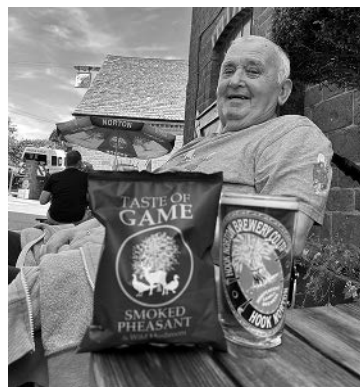
Roman Finds Exhibition – Also on show at the Museum from 1 to 28 October (after which the Museum will close for the winter) will be a display of Roman Coins, Roman Pottery and other items found by Graham Cashmore while field-walking on the East side of Chipping Norton during the 1970's. If your appetite was whetted at the recent talk in the

Town Hall about the Romans, this is a chance to see finds from the area and to ask questions. The Museum entrance is on the High Street opposite the Town Hall steps. If you have any queries please contact Pauline Watkins, 01608 641712 or paulinewatkins58@icloud.com.

Halloween Trail at Chastleton

From 21–29 October (Wed–Sun, 1pm–5pm with last entry at 4pm) the National Trust's Chastleton House will be running a Halloween Trail for children as they go around the house. Children can learn about some of the spooky stories connected to Chastleton and get a prize at the end from Visitor Reception. Trails only available at Visitor Reception; £3 per trail. For more information about Chastleton please visit the website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton

Beech Haven's trips out



Chipping Norton's Beech Haven Care Home residents have enjoyed more entertaining trips recently – especially taking advantage of the periods of good weather this summer. One of the residents enjoyed a trip to Hook Norton Brewery and a lovely pint of Hooky in this hot weather to cool him down! The place has a

beautiful building and setting, and the visitor centre, café and the brewery itself, are worth a visit. Beech Haven's Lisa Tanner said, 'Our residents will be back!'

Lisa also reported a successful trip by a group of residents who enjoyed a day at Bruern Abbey where they had fun picking some sunflowers to display in the home. The listed Bruern Abbey House, built in the early 1700s on the site of an old Cistercian Abbey, is now a private residence but has six acres of wonderful gardens. Finally, in September, Beech Haven couldn't resist a trip to see the Chippy Mop, taking in all the fun of the fair.



See picture in Mop report on p4 – Ed.



Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 18 November
10am–3.30pm
Salford Village Hall OX7 5YP
On A44 2 miles west of Chipping Norton
Various Craft Stalls, Refreshments, Raffle
All proceeds to Katharine House Hospice
Please call 07833 633804 for more information

Legion salutes the RAF flag

On Monday 21 August members of Chipping Norton Royal British Legion and the RAF Air Training Cadets attended the



raising of the RAF Ensign by the Town Council at the Millennium Garden flagpole. On this date each year the air crash that took place over Chipping Norton on 21 August 1942 is commemorated. In wartime blackout with no radar, an Airspeed Oxford Mark II trainer from Little Rissington collided with a Vickers Wellington Mark IC Bomber (probably painted black on its underside to avoid detection) from Harwell. Tragically, all the crew were killed, with the Wellington crashing into what is now Heather Cottage down Church Street. Miraculously there were no civilian casualties. Last year, in 2022 – the 80th anniversary – the Royal British Legion were joined at the site by family members of pilots Ian Henderson and Stanley Downs.

In a sad reminder of flying dangers, News readers will probably also have heard locally of the crash in August near Enstone of a replica Spitfire, a modern version of the famous World War II fighter plane. Tragically, the pilot, 68-year-old

Trevor Bailey, was killed. He was a member of The Spitfire Club at Enstone Airfield. Tributes to Mr Bailey described him as a great friend, pilot and family man – who was pursuing his passion. The cause of the crash is being investigated.

Looking for D-Day memories

Next year, 6 June 1924 sees the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Normandy Landings in 1944. The Royal British Legion Chipping Norton will be marking the event with a service at the Town's war memorial. The Legion would like to hear from anybody involved in Operation Overlord, not just those who landed on the beaches, but those who were involved in any aspect of the operation. Please contact Steve Kingsford on stevekingsford@gmail.com or call 01295 780716.

Glyme Hall events coming soon

Mind Body & Wellbeing Show

Halloween weekend is the perfect time for a Mind Body Spirit Show! It's at Glyme Hall in Chipping Norton on Saturday 28 October, 11am–5pm. Halloween has its origins in the Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts believed that the barriers between the physical and the spirit worlds break down during Samhain, allowing more interaction with the dead! Maybe a great time for a I–I reading! The Show includes Tarot, Psychic, Clairvoyant, Crystal Ball, Mediumship & Palmistry. There will also be holistic therapists, masseurs and healers – and lots of ideas for Christmas presents, from healthy living products to jewellery. More at www.deerspirit.co.uk.

Mum2Mum Nearly New Sale

The next Mum2Mum market is at Chipping Norton's Glyme Hall on Saturday 4 November, 2–4pm. You can find baby and children's pre-loved bargains, sold directly to you by the previous owner – clothes from baby to age 6 years, large and small toys



such as baby walkers and bouncers, wooden toys, puzzles and educational toys for all ages and stages of development.

Glyme Hall Tabletop Sale

The next Tabletop Sale is on Saturday 11 November, 2–4pm. Contact Karen Biles to book a table, 07919 123046, £10 a table. There will be refreshments and the proceeds will be donated to MacMillan Cancer Support.

Great Rollright Bingo

BINGO dates in Great Rollright village hall for the rest of 2023 are Fridays 13 October, 17 November, 15 December. ALL are invited! It's a fun evening for young and old, and a chance to win cash prizes! Doors open at 7pm, games start 7.30pm and it's normally finished at 9.15pm. There will be a bar and refreshments too. This is a non-profit making event and all proceeds go towards local causes. Eyes Down, Look In! Email: grrbingo@aol.com for details.

The Royal British Legion CHIPPING NORTON QUIZ NIGHT



"Listen very carefully .. I will say this only once

At the Crown & Cushion, Chipping Norton

On Saturday 14th October at 7pm

Teams of up to 8 people £5 per person

Tickets available from Carol Peachey at Topside Pharmacy or phone/message on 07785 770812

This will be a general knowledge quiz, we will not mention the war"

All money raised by this quiz will be used to fund events to mark the 100th Anniversary of the branch in October 2024

Plans to save Old Bakehouse

As reported in July, The Old Bakehouse supported living home in Chadlington, owned by the Abbeyfield Society, was under threat of closure. In late May, staff and residents were informed of this possibility and interested parties were given a 45-day consultation period. Since then, relatives of the residents, with help from the necessary professional bodies and influential individuals, have worked tirelessly to engage positively with the Abbeyfield Society to potentially save the place from closure, take ownership of the building, and eventually run the place independently.



To this end, a charitable association was registered, called 'The friends of The Old Bakehouse' with a bank account to be opened. The charity hopes to raise a 'fighting fund' of up to £5,000 to support administration costs, which are mounting. The long-term goal of the Trustees is to form a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, facilitate buying the building and employ a management team and staff to run day-to-day operations. To this end, an Acquisition and Operational Plan is being prepared to determine the total funding needed in the future.

The News was told that in about 1980, Tom Pitt, a local farmer, gifted The Old Bakehouse to the village with the express purpose of providing supported living for the elderly (who have family living locally) who need some assistance whilst retaining their independence. He was a committed Rotarian and the Rotary Club members supported him to realise his ambition. The Trustees have yet to establish the wording of the Deed of Covenant drawn up by Tom Pitt. It would be helpful to them to hear from anyone who remembers Tom, or his wife Mary, or who had any connections with members of the Rotary Club who might have been involved in the setting up of the Old Bakehouse as a residential establishment. If you do have any such memories, would like more information or kindly wish to make a donation, please email savetheoldbakehouse@gmail.com. Follow the campaign on Instagram @save_theoldbakehouse

Xmas Indoor Food Markets

Christmas Indoor Food and Produce Markets are being planned in Chipping Norton Town Hall on Saturdays 9 and 23 December. Tania Kirby, the Town Council's Events officer, is looking for local producers and traders of Christmas food and drink – whether it's for Christmas dinner or items as gifts. She is also looking for one business to take over the kitchen in the Lower Hall for both days as well – so if you have something lovely for the community to eat that's full of festive cheer, get in touch with Tania via the Guildhall or events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.

Christmas Tree Festival

After 14 very successful Christmas Tree Festivals, it is time once again to get into the festive spirit and celebrate the fifteenth – organised by Chipping Norton, Churchill and Wigginton Methodist Churches. All trees this year will be inside Chipping Norton's church. 50 Christmas trees have already been ordered for groups and organisations. The task is to come along and decorate them in an innovative and possibly humorous way. If you would like to book a tree for £25 please contact Maggie Hannant via martinhannant27@gmail.com or on 01608 643653. Bookings have been going fast but there are still a few trees available.



The opening ceremony is on Thursday 30 November at 6pm (open till 8pm). The event continues on Friday 1 December (2–6pm), Saturday 2 December (11am–6pm) and Sunday 3 December (11am–3pm). Any profits made will be used to support the Chipping Norton, Churchill and Wigginton Methodist churches. Tea and coffee, light refreshments, cakes and craft stalls will be available, so it promises to be a wonderful event and an early opportunity to get into the festive spirit. Entrance is free and all are very welcome. The Festival finishes with a service of celebration, open to all, on the Sunday afternoon at 4.30pm. The team looks forward to seeing you all.

Maggie Hannant

Whistlers

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St Mary's All Souls Service



'All Souls Day' is a time when traditionally the church remembers by name loved ones who have died, especially those who have died in the last year, by having a memorial service. This practice lapsed over the pandemic period, but is resuming with a special service at St Mary's Church,

Chipping Norton on Sunday 29 October at 3pm. Everyone is warmly invited to come to this service, which is one of thanksgiving for the lives of those who have died. You will also have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of any loved one if you wish. Tea and cake will be served after the service. It would be helpful if you would contact the Church Office 01608 646202 to say you would like to attend and to inform them of the name of anyone you wish to be remembered.

Judith Marshall

Hook Norton Craft Fair

The Annual Craft Fair is on Saturday 4 November in St Peter's Church 10am–5pm. As always, there will be a huge variety of superb work by crafters, both local and from across the Cotswolds. This lovely event is now in its 27th year and promises to be as enjoyable as ever with many new crafters participating along with regular favourites. Refreshments will be available all day with delicious freshly made sandwiches, savouries, and, of course, fabulous cakes! The St Peter's Grand Draw with a super £150 first prize and dozens of others will take place in the afternoon. Once again this will be a great day on which to support local craftspeople and start Christmas shopping for original, well designed, beautifully made work.

Jan Hughes

Katharine House fundraising

It costs more than £4.7m per year to run Katharine House Hospice. After NHS contributions, £3m is needed every year. Sarah Woods, Marketing & Communications Officer, said, 'We need the local community to help us raise this money so we can go on providing vital care – completely free of charge. We have some brilliant events and opportunities to support our hospice coming up this autumn and winter.' These include a **Santa Fun Run** on 3 December in Spiceball Park, an opportunity to run 1.5km or the full 5km. On 7 December there is the **Light of Love** at St Mary's Church, Banbury to celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. The **RC Baker Tractor Run** will be bringing us bling again this Christmas on Saturday 16 December. Christmas isn't complete without a fleet of fairy-lit tractors touring around local villages to spread some festive cheer. Katharine House Christmas cards are on sale – take a look at



Snowy Robins Christmas cards on sale

all the designs on offer and order yours today. If you sell using eBay you can choose to donate a percentage of your eBay sales to Katharine House. Simply select 'Katharine House Hospice Trust' and the percentage you'd like to donate from the final sale price. Sign up to receive the Katharine House digital monthly newsletter and keep in touch with all the latest news and fundraising events at the Hospice. All details at www.khh.org.uk

Lawrence Team AGM & Jazz

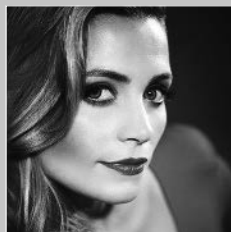
Chipping Norton's much valued Lawrence Home Nursing Team holds its AGM in the Town Hall on 10 October at 7pm. Everyone is welcome and complimentary refreshments are provided. Come along and meet the Team and other supporters. Meanwhile fundraising continues apace – with a successful Cricket Day at Great Tew held in September.

THE ST. KENELM'S CONCERTS

The Rebecca Poole Quartet

Sunday 8th October at 6pm

St. Kenelm's Church, Church Enstone, OX7 4NN



Jazz and more - The New and the Nostalgic - classic jazz songs old and new delivered with style and sophistication by the Queen of Cool Rebecca Poole

Tickets £20, Under 21's £5 including a welcome glass of wine

Part of the Dean and Chadlington Summer Music Festival

www.chadlingtonfestival.org.uk

The next fundraiser in aid of the Lawrence Team is a jazz concert on Sunday 8 October at St Kenelm's Church, Church Enstone. This is part of the Dean and Chadlington Summer Music Festival. Visit www.chadlingtonfestival.org.uk for details and to book.

Library for science and dogs!

It's the Oxford Science and Ideas Festival from 6 to 29 October and Chipping Norton Library will be holding a science event for children and families in the half-term week. Come and have a go with a microscope! Bring your own item to view under the microscope (but please don't kill anything!) and the team will show it on the monitor. Date to be confirmed but it will be posted on the Library's Facebook page and advertised in the Library.

The Library is very excited to welcome the Guide Dog Association on Wednesday 8 November. There will be a chance for a meet and greet with Poppy, a Guide Dog Association Golden Retriever. These intelligent assistance dogs help people with sight loss live more independently and they love to meet new people! This is a free, drop-in event with complimentary tea and coffee.

If you have any unwanted Lego or Duplo, the Library would love to have it so that they can start an after-school Lego Club. Any donations will be gratefully received!

Sally Moore – Chipping Norton Library

Let's Talk about Gambling!



citizens
advice

Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire contacted the News with some warnings about the increase in gambling problems and how to get help. They say gambling has become normalised. Almost half our adult population gambles, whether that's buying a lottery ticket, playing bingo, or placing a sports bet. Advances in mobile technology now allow people to gamble at anytime, anywhere, and on anything. Sports like football are saturated by gambling sponsorship and we see advertising on TV and across social media. What is gambling? – you're gambling if you take a risk of losing money, or belongings, based on chance. Lots of gambling seems very normal and is easy to access. What are some of the problems it can cause? People who come to us for support with gambling may need help with other problems. Often they don't realise that gambling might be the cause for: debts, housing problems, mental health, employment or education problems, family or relationship issues. A gambling problem can mean there isn't enough money to pay for rent, bills and food. It can mean running up credit card bills and other debts. It can mean relationships breaking down, job losses and homelessness.

These problems don't just affect the person who is gambling. They can affect their family, friends and people they work with. Whether you need support with your own gambling, or you want to help someone else, the Citizens Advice services are here for you – including if you've been affected by someone else's gambling. You can find out about

gambling harm at the GambleAware or Citizens Advice websites – and what do if you or others you know have a problem. Contacting Citizens Advice – there is a Freephone Adviceline on 0808 2787908 for support. Chipping Norton Service – three 45-minute face-to-face afternoon appointments are available in Chippy on Tuesdays once a month. Appointments need to be booked in advance by calling Adviceline on freephone 0808 2787908 or by emailing info@cawo.org.uk. See www.citizensadvicewestoxon.org

Be prepared for the winter

Are you ready for winter? Checking electrical appliances to make sure they are working efficiently helps save money and keeps you safe. It's good to go around your house and make sure that all escape routes are unblocked. Having a smoke detector on each floor is a wise move and preplan your exit in case of emergency. Only a few places are available for free electric blanket testing, which will take place on 5 October at Wood Green, Witney. If you are worried about your blanket, don't delay, get it checked. The electric blanket tests are normally very popular, with places limited. To book call 01865 895999 or email duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Testing electric blankets has taken place in Oxfordshire for over 20 years. The failure rate is still around 30 per cent, emphasising why it is so important to get electric blankets checked regularly. If you didn't manage to get a slot this time, do a visual check to see if there are any frayed wires or lumps in the wiring, as this could be faulty and best not to use. If you have an elderly friend or relative remind them to check their appliances. It is better to be safe than sorry.



WISE INVESTMENT

—

CHRISTMAS FAIR

—

Come along and browse a range of crafts and gifts,
ideal for those thoughtful Christmas presents.

All local crafters, suppliers, and artists.

Crafts, Gifts, Embroidery, Glass art, Ceramics, Cured Meats, Textiles,
Photography, Chipping Norton Honey, Artisan Chocolates and more!

ONE DAY ONLY

Saturday 18th November, 10am – 4pm

Wise Investment, The Great Barn, Oxford Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5QR
Ample free parking on site | Disabled access friendly

www.wiseinvestment.co.uk



WODC's Local Plan in turmoil?

Chippy's growth plan in disarray

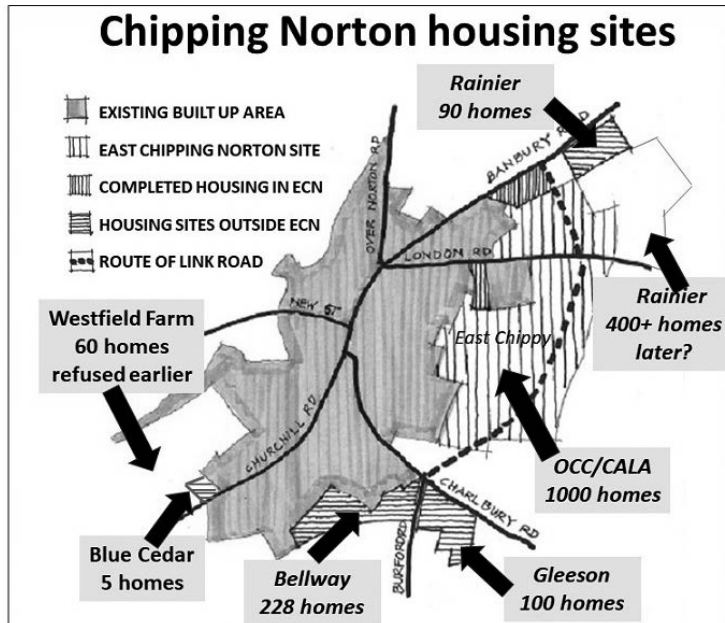
If you thought our County and District Councils (OCC and WODC) had a plan for Chipping Norton's growth to benefit the community, think again! For over 5 years we've been waiting for the strategic development allocated in WODC's 2031 Local Plan (adopted in 2018) to actually be built. WODC (as planning authority) and OCC (as strategic authority and major landowner at Chippy's Tank Farm) had eventually agreed that 1200 new homes should be built at East Chipping Norton with a Masterplan to be drawn up. This Strategic Development Area would be big enough to fund much needed town infrastructure including a new school and an HGV Relief Road.

After 5 years, less than 200 homes have been built (Bloor Homes at The Pillars and McCarthy Stone at Watson Place) out of that 1200 East Chippy Plan. The story makes grim reading – see next article. Even worse, slow progress on other sites across the District, means WODC has insufficient 'housing land supply' to meet their targets, so planning rules have allowed something of a free-for-all. LOTS of homes could be built, not where intended, but instead on piecemeal sites on the edge of town without sustainable infrastructure. This happened at Bellway's Cotswold Gate at Evans Way which was completed finally in 2019. And now developers Rainier, Gleeson, and Blue Cedar have stepped in with new proposals. Over 300 homes have already been approved outside the local plan (Bellway and Rainier) and, with Gleeson popping up and Rainier's additional land waiting in the wings, there is potential for 500 more homes, plus 1000+ at East Chippy also still in the Plan! See main map and details on opposite page.

What's happened to East Chippy plan?

That 1200 home East Chippy plan was key. Our then Town Council, acknowledging that Chippy did need more housing (particularly affordable), reluctantly agreed to the scale of the plan after OCC and WODC said it would be 'sustainable', being big enough to help fund the infrastructure the Town needed, including a Relief Road, new school, sports pitches, extra health facilities and more. **But in five years, not even a Masterplan has been agreed.** Landowners OCC and Cala quibbled, WODC was stopped by a legal challenge from publishing planning guidance for the site, then, very late, archaeology, suspected years ago, was found. Such a strategic development needs co-operation between landowners, the

planning authority and the local community. Chippy's Town Council has been frustrated. The main landowner at East Chippy is our own County Council, who should surely be working in the best interests of the people who elected them. Why has OCC not been more proactive in bringing forward proposals on its own land, most of which is not constrained by archaeology? Why, indeed, has WODC not been banging landowners' heads together to work in a pragmatic way to make land available? The News asked our WODC and OCC Councillor Geoff Saul if he could explain. He replied, 'The County Council are keen to make progress and have discussed this possibility with WODC Officers. However, some care is needed because the Local Plan refers to comprehensive development led by an agreed Masterplan, so we need to identify the most appropriate way forward for East Chippy as a whole'.



Your ideas for WODC's new Local Plan

Can you help WODC? With all this turmoil, and an aging 2018 Local Plan, West Oxfordshire District Council's recently elected Lib Dem/Labour/Green alliance has started work on a new Local Plan to cover the period to 2041. WODC is asking us how planning should respond to climate change, with a focus on transport, housing, industry and energy. They are keen to know where we think future growth should be across the District. Currently, the strategy is growth in the three main towns (Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton), plus additional growth in rural service centres, limited growth in villages, and restricted growth in smaller settlements. Do you think it's

time for a new approach? Several alternative scenarios are suggested. There is an open invitation to suggest specific sites for development and how land might be used in the future. We need to note that any existing allocations (such as East Chippy) or new applications agreed (such as Rainier beyond the Cricket Club) will be kept in the plan unless there's a good reason why not (perhaps such as archaeology!).



Your Place Your Plan

Give your views via yourvoice.westoxon.gov.uk/en-GB/ by closing date 25 October – or have your say directly at the drop-in session in Chipping Norton's Glyme Hall on Monday 23 October, 4pm-8pm.

Chippy's 'piecemeal' housing chaos

More homes – but no sustainable plan?

It seems WODC's ageing Local Plan, adopted after a long delay way back in 2018, is not delivering sufficient (or affordable) homes across the District. Failure to deliver 1000 new homes at East Chippy Strategic Development Area is one such example. As a result, developers have been targeting, in a piecemeal way, greenfield land not allocated in the Local Plan. The result: haphazard housing that risks making Chippy's growth unsustainable, with no Masterplan to ensure funding of vital town infrastructure – including public transport and greener, safer access to work, shops and education.

Examples below demonstrate how unallocated greenfield land could potentially see 800 new homes in addition to the 1000+ already allocated at East Chippy. Chipping Norton Mayor Sandra Coleman hit the mail on the head, telling the News **'It's not enough to build just homes in isolation. Our growing town needs homes in the right place, together with schools, health care, sports pitches, upgraded transport, town centre parking and many other facilities. Piecemeal development like this fails our community. We all need to get this right.'**

Bellway's Cotswold Gate estate

Ten years ago, 228 homes were given planning permission at Evans Way off Burford Road before the much-delayed 2018 WODC Local Plan had replaced the previous Plan. Although 90 of the homes were affordable, and S106 developer contributions paid for a play area and improvements to sports facilities, there was little help with town centre congestion, schools, or healthcare.

Rainier beyond the Cricket Club

As we reported recently, land investor (not house-builder) Rainier's application for about a hundred homes off the Banbury Road, up beyond the Cricket Club and outside the East Chippy SDA was permitted.

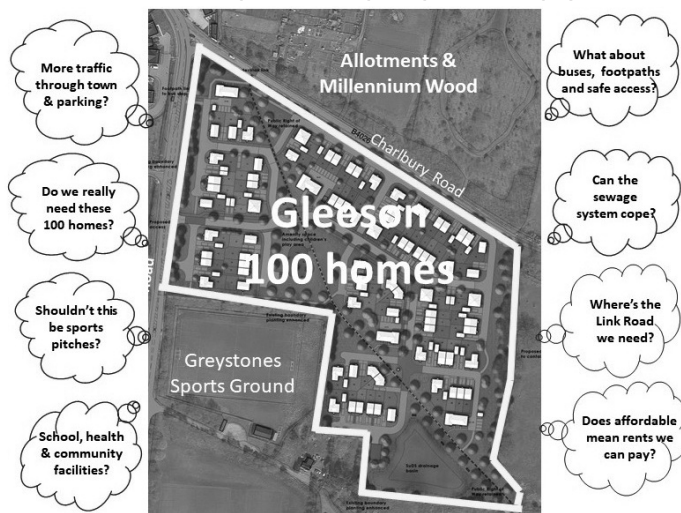


Despite the Town Council's concern about a lack of Masterplan, access and public transport, WODC felt they must approve this proposal due to their lack of housing land supply.

The developer will make financial contributions, but the site will be entirely residential with no land allocated for sports or other infrastructure. Residents will also most likely have to drive to reach the town centre. Rainier are also sitting on more land between Banbury Road and London Road which, they say, has capacity for a further 400+ homes in the future.

Gleeson off Burford Road

It doesn't stop there! Last month saw a consultation (preceding, they say, a planning application) for 100 new homes by developers Gleeson Land. The site, off Burford Road next to the Rugby Club, is outside the Local Plan. Gleeson are offering up to 40 affordable homes plus some open space and a play area, but



no other facilities. More of the same, it seems. Like Rainier, Gleeson hope to capitalise on WODC's lack of housing land. WODC's Executive Housing member, Chippy Cllr Geoff Saul, told the News WODC would publish new 'housing land supply' statistics shortly. He said the new Local Plan to 2041, just starting, would 'reset' things and reduce speculative inappropriate development. But it could be years before a new Local Plan is adopted – so that 'stable door' may be very late shutting! Gleeson presented to Chipping Norton Town Council in September, with over 20 residents attending, Mayor Sandra Coleman wants to explore how proposals could help upgrade nearby Greystones leisure facilities. Many other issues were raised including archaeology, River Glyme contamination, sewage capacity, need for more sports pitches, impact on health and school facilities, weak commitment to eco-homes and, unsurprisingly, questions about town centre traffic, and why no allowance for the Link Road. Give your views via www.landeastofburfordroad.co.uk by 6 October.

Developments off Churchill Road

Land at Westfield Farm, off Churchill Road, is also a hot topic. It has been targeted for development before. Nearly 10 years ago, WODC won a battle at Appeal to refuse 60 homes on an 'unallocated' site here. But recently, an Inspector allowed a farm building to become a holiday home and now there's a new application by Blue Cedar Homes to build five 'over 55s' bungalows close to Tilsley Road and Lords Piece Road. There's been a barrage of objections, including from the Town Council citing: harm to the AONB, the Conservation Area, the setting of Bliss Mill, ecology, road safety, drainage and privacy. And why more homes for over 55s? Pre-application advice from WODC said they were 'unable to provide support for the scheme', but, like the other proposals, the developer is citing WODC's lack of housing land supply. Might WODC now have to approve this one, and, as one local objector fears, give Blue Cedar 'a handy precedent to build more'? WODC's Uplands Planning Committee will face another difficult decision.

Our animal friends

Chippy's help for rescue cats



Have you found an abandoned cat in Chipping Norton or could you provide a caring home? After a West Oxfordshire-based cat's charity closed, Sunshine Cat Rescue was set up and has been caring for local cats for 11 years. Chippy resident and Trustee Sharon Carbonero said, 'The Charity relies entirely on donations, legacies, grants and

fundraising events to help us look after the cats and kittens that come into our care. Landlords do not always allow pets into rented accommodation; families may break up or go abroad or suffer bereavement; sadly, animals are just abandoned and left to die. So many kittens have been dumped this year. We are desperate for more volunteers to help with fostering, at events or to run errands.' See www.sunshinecatrescue.org.uk, Twitter and Facebook.



**Sunshine
Cat Rescue**

Admission 40p or tin of cat food!

JUMBLE SALE

14 October

11.30am – 1.30pm

**Milton-u-Wychwood
Village Hall**

Life-saving action for spaniel Archie

A team at Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital were praised by Chippy resident Laetisia Carter, after her 15-month-old cocker spaniel Archie was stricken after ingesting into his lungs four arrowhead grass seed stems – an example of this if



pictured left. Archie almost died after his lungs collapsed. Vet Peter Kettlewell said Archie came in with a fever – but X-Ray and CT scans revealed pneumothorax and pyothorax (air and pus in the chest). Two hours of surgery followed. This treatment doesn't come cheap. It was reported that two of the vets used their £1000 allocation from the IVC Evidensia



Care Fund to help fund the surgery. The dog's owner, reaching their insurance limit, footed the rest of the bill. Laetisia posted 'a massive thank you' to Chippy Vets and their 'talented, kind, compassionate team'.

Badger culling in Oxfordshire

The controversial Government policy to cull badgers to combat Bovine TB has hit the headlines again – and nearby parts of Oxfordshire are involved. Direct culling started 10 years ago – and the



Oxfordshire Badger Group – pictured at a recent protest – say 60% of the County (west of a line between Banbury and Thames) could see 5000 badgers culled in the six weeks from 1 September. Berks, Buck and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) are also objecting. Both organisations say evidence that culling shoots are effective is flawed, preferring Bovine vaccination and other policies. The Government had signalled a halt to culling after current licences expire in 2025, but DEFRA secretary Thérèse Coffey now says badgers will continue to be trapped and shot 'for as long as we need', adding, 'there hadn't been (enough) progress' on other solutions such as vaccination. Many farmers support the culling programme but Oxfordshire campaign groups fear 'badger extinction'.

Your hedgehog-friendly garden



Can you help our hedgehogs? These much-loved creatures, with a gentle unobtrusive presence, cute faces, and great garden bug-management services, have been our friends for half a million years. But numbers

have declined over 30+ years, down by 30–75% nationally, with, surprisingly rural areas like Chippy affected more, according to a 2022 report by The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and People's Trust for Endangered Species. Reasons are complex, largely interlinked with other environmental losses, and caused mainly by human activity. These include fewer hedgerows, more arable crop farming (with fewer places for them to live, breed and hibernate safely), decline in bug numbers (hedgehogs eat a varied diet of invertebrates: worms, beetles, slugs, caterpillars, earwigs, and millipedes), pollution from pesticides including crop spraying, weedkillers and slug pellets, and of course, road casualties. To help hedgehogs survive and thrive, make them welcome in your garden. But how? To help with everything from access to feeding and nesting – try the fun quiz from the Hedgehog Highways website – the answers will tell you more! See www.hedgehogstreet.org/garden-challenge/

Your experience of Vets?

In September, the Government's Competition and Markets Authority launched a review of the vet industry saying that vets' costs were rising faster than other goods and services. They want to hear pet owners' experiences. See CMA via www.gov.uk. During Lockdown and over the last four years, pet ownership has increased substantially – and this has created a boom in the demand for vets. Brexit also hit vet numbers as some vets had to leave the UK. In addition, the proportion of independent vet practices dropped from 89% in 2013 to only 45% by 2021. Locally,

the previously independent Chipping Norton Vets partnership was bought by the IVC Evidensia Group, the largest European vet company with over 1500 clinics and hospitals. It's owned by EQT Private Equity, with consumer giant Nestlé, with its global Purina PetCare business, one of the 'substantial' investors. Our other local vets, the Hook Norton Veterinary Group, with branches in Hooky, Charlbury, Deddington and Moreton is a member of XLVets, an international group of over 100 independent practices that share knowledge and skills.

Fruity autumn-time

September saw another successful Apple Day at the Community Orchard – home to a whole range of summer fruits. And we've added some ideas on what to do with fruits – foraged from Chippy's

Fun up at Apple Day



Mist and soft rain in the morning threatened our faith in the Orchard Guardian Angel who we trust to deliver fine weather for our bi-annual events; but Lo! – it cleared in the afternoon in time to welcome a large turnout of supporters to celebrate 2023's Apple Day at Chipping Norton's Community Orchard off Worcester Road. The Orchard, maintained and nurtured by volunteers, had a good crop of apples and other fruit this year. There were apple presses in continuous action and the revellers departed laden with the subsequent juice along with plants, jams and chutneys, all for donations dropped into wellies and buckets. At work were Phil the Bodger and Jim with his walking sticks. Delicious juice, cakes, puddings, bread, cheese and other delights were available. As ever, children were invited to hang cider-soaked toast on the trees. Bells, whistles and voices duly drove out evil spirits and Morris Men led Wassailing songs and, of course, danced! Kids and adults dressed up. Well done to all the volunteers and thanks to our orchard neighbours for their support and tolerance. The Orchard Group and the Green Gym would welcome any volunteers to help keep the Orchard going. Email rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk – and look out for Blossom Day on the second Sunday in May, 2024.



Let's feast on foraged fruits!

A mix of warm and wet Chippy summer weather has produced an abundance of hedgerow fruit and nuts. With container to hand whilst out and about, we've been picking blackberries, elderberries, sloes, rose hips, crab apples and hazelnuts - including from our own gardens. Brambles are a nuisance but they produce some luscious fruit when left until early autumn. To make use of these foraged fruits, jams, jellies and syrup can easily be made and stored for several months. Nuts can be left to dry off and stored in jars too. Here are a couple of ideas.

Rosehip syrup

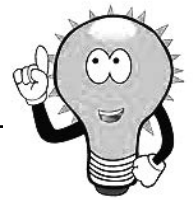
Use the large type from the wild hedgerow rose. About 500 grams with 350 grams of sugar and 700 mls of water needed. Chop or process the clean fruit and place in a saucepan with the water, simmering for about 15 minutes. Strain through muslin or a sieve until the juice runs clear. Add the sugar; bring to the boil for 3-4 minutes, skimming off the scum. Pour into sterilised bottles and label. Should last about four months and will be delicious over porridge, pancakes, yoghurt or ice cream.



Elderberry Jam

Requires 500 grams of berries, washed and cleared of stalk and leaves, plus 400 grams of sugar and a tablespoon of lemon juice. Put the berries in a large heavy pan and crush with a potato masher until juices run. Add the sugar and lemon juice, and simmer until sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil and cook for about 15 minutes, scooping off any scum. Test by dropping a dollop on to a cold plate and if a wrinkle forms, the jam is ready. Cool slightly before pouring into sterilised jars. Label and keep in the fridge one opened.





Ready for the Great British Chill?

With energy costs, climate change, and a cold winter beckoning – how can we keep our homes warm and our energy costs and usage low? The News Team’s Linda Aspey gives some pointers – but tell us your experience!

First some low-cost quick wins



- Turn off the lights when not in use (yes, it’s a nightmare to get the kids to remember!)
 - Reduce your thermostat by 1 degree. This can reduce annual heating bills by 10%
 - Fit temporary draught excluders like foam strips or plastic sheeting to doors and window frames
- Clear out your gutters to reduce risk of water leaking in and causing damp
 - Insulate your hot water cylinder with a jacket
 - Hang long, heavy curtains inside external doors (ours were charity shop finds).

These tips & more can be found on www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/ogspztnw/low-cost-ways-to-save-energy-in-your-home.pdf or try www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/

Get your home insulated

‘Eco Plus’, a new government energy efficiency scheme, now rebranded as the ‘Great British Insulation Scheme’ (who said climate activism never works!?) will, subject to eligibility, part- or fully-fund retrofitted loft and cavity wall insulation. Uninsulated roofs and walls can lose 20-35% of heat, so insulation reduces energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions significantly. Contact your energy supplier, or visit www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/energy-efficiency-advice-and-grants/. If you’re a tenant in social or private rental housing, your landlord must, by law, ensure your home has an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) of at least E (A being best, G worst). But as they don’t benefit from lower energy bills, there’s little incentive for them to do more. However, if you’re eligible for a grant, you could ask if they’ll pay the balance – EPC standards could get tougher in future.

Help with Energy Bills

The 2022 ‘Energy Price Cap’ scheme capped the unit price on electricity, gas and standing charges and gave one-off householder fuel grants (£150 to c£400). October 2023 sees a small Price Cap fall and a small rise in standing charges, reducing a typical annual bill from £2,074 to £1,923 (in 2021 it was £1,138); prepaid meters and

**citizens
advice**

direct debit payers save a little more. Struggling with bills? Try your energy supplier first – they can be surprisingly helpful, or contact Citizens Advice. Many Chipping Norton residents live in fuel poverty and Christians Against Poverty, in partnership with St Mary’s Church, is offering free advice – call 0800 328 006 or visit chippingnorton.occ.org.uk/cap – plus look out for updates on advisory services from The Branch.

Renewable Energy

For homeowners, renewable energy devices are gaining in efficiency and getting cheaper by the year. Until 2027 projects involving energy saving materials (ESMs) are exempt from VAT, and some mortgage lenders offer loans for renewable energy installations.

Solar panels can save the average family c£1,200 a year and



Solar panels installed by local company Ecosunpower at Hook Norton Sports & Social Club

cost c£5,000 for a 4kW system, and you can sell excess energy back to the grid. When there’s less sun, a battery of 4kW provides sufficient electricity for a few hours, useful too if there’s a mains grid power cut.

Heat pumps can be highly efficient, using up to 70% less energy than gas boilers – great for the environment. They don’t automatically save on energy bills as it depends on what’s being replaced and how, and on variable energy market prices. For a typical 3 bedroom home, a 10kW air source heat pump (ASHP) costs £8,000 to £14,000, a ground source one (GSHP) c£24,000 – find local installers via renewableenergyhub.co.uk/search-installers.

The government’s Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) provides £5,000–£6000 for heat pumps and biomass boilers, subject to criteria. Visit gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme/what-you-can-get or ask your energy supplier.

Yes we can do it!

Here are two personal Chippy experiences

Having recently installed 15 solar panels (6.5kw output), Chippy resident Paul Davison says, ‘Three things I recommend before buying solar. First, get three quotes – for roughly the same array of solar panels, our three quotes varied by almost 40%. Second, make sure the people you work with are both EPVS and NAPIT accredited – this demonstrates they’re a competent installer. Finally, bear in mind that for maximum benefit you have to change the way you use electricity. On the upside we’ve had several days this summer exporting more

electricity than we’ve used – actually receiving money from the power company is a great feeling!’

News Team member Linda Aspey had an air source heat pump and solar panels installed four years ago when she moved into her then dilapidated home. She says, ‘I spent a lot up front as the current grant system wasn’t in place – instead I get a small quarterly ‘incentive’ payment. But I don’t regret it for a second. It’s efficient and comfortable to have my heat pump on a low constant setting in winter, and it’s a lot quieter than I thought it would be. And I love that in summer I earn money from my solar panels!’

Tamara Malcolm 1937–2023

Passionate, inspirational and formidable ‘Grand Dame’ of The Theatre Chipping Norton

On 7 September, family and friends met in Stroud for the funeral and celebration of the life of Tamara Malcolm who died in August aged 86. In Chipping Norton, many recalled Tamara and her astonishing contribution, as co-founder and Director of the Theatre, to creative art, to the community and to the lives of many people she worked with and inspired.



Tamara pictured in The Theatre at the time of her retirement in 2002

A fierce independent spirit – Tamara was born in Swiss Cottage, London, in 1937. Aged 19 she graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Her early career, initially under her maiden name Tamara Fuerst, was as an actor working in regional repertory theatre, film and TV, highlighted by a long stint with the Royal Shakespeare Company, including in Peter Brook’s *Marat/Sade*. Tamara’s early acting career and life experience such as living in Africa allowed her to meet and work with a diverse set of people from different social and national backgrounds. Partly from this, she developed a life-long passion for social justice and inclusion and she would positively bring these values to her work and life later in Chipping Norton.

Building a wonderful legacy – With her then husband, actor John Malcolm, Tamara came to Chipping Norton in 1968. A little later, in the early 70s, John first mooted the idea of a theatre having spotted the old Salvation Army Citadel in Spring Street. In 1970, Tamara, admitting she no longer got nervous waiting in the stage wings, said it was time she stopped. Surrounded by Chippy folk and volunteers, she and John threw themselves into the building project and fundraising (everything from jumble sales, rousing the community and putting on puppet shows in the villages). The first two pantomimes (*Beauty and the Beast* 1973 and *Old King Cole* 1974) were in the Town Hall, The Theatre charity was established, and the Theatre was finally opened early in 1975 by Dr Who’s Tom Baker.



Formidable passion for excellence – Tamara pursued the vision of a theatre, in and with the community, with dedication, energy and humour. Her daughter Aimée recalled how she, no longer then with John, was joined by key staff (mostly women like her with young children), by lifelong theatre-world friends such as Murray Melvin, Dudley Sutton, Jeff Clarke, and by many others. Fundraising was never-ending, from ‘buy a brick’ to a Friends of the Theatre organisation now over 1000 members strong, and to one of the earliest successful bids to the National Lottery. But it was artistic excellence that Tamara put first, creating a national reputation for her successful pantos – she loathed ‘bad theatre’. She was proud of her inhouse professional productions such as *Quack Quack*, Jeff Clarke’s *Sweet Liberty* (on the French Revolution), and, with Collective Artistes, the iconic Lorca’s *Yerma*. She was passionate about nurturing young talent and encouraged the often oversubscribed Youth Theatre. She cared about staff and her ‘actors’, cooking them hearty meals with great enthusiasm.

A curiosity for the world – Tamara spent 29 years as Founder/Director of the Theatre, and was awarded the MBE in 2000, presented in the Theatre by the then Lord Lieutenant. She had insisted on sharing her medal with all those who had made The Theatre possible.



Receiving the MBE from Lord Lieutenant Hugo Brunner, with then Chair of the Board David Peake looking on

She retired on her 65th birthday (VE Day!) in 2002, saying she needed to pass The Theatre on to a younger generation. She and her partner of 45 years Harold Hurrell moved to Stroud but she always kept in touch. She continued working as an artistic consultant – particularly for several years with Collective Artistes, one of the most influential black theatre ensembles. She now found time for all her passions, visiting Europe to see many of the wonderful operas and theatres – not just for the shows but also for the buildings.

Tamara, as son NOJ said at her funeral, ‘lived so large’. She loved and was loved by many. In an extraordinary life, she touched so many people. She was flamboyant, laughed loud and long, loved the absurd, and retained a generosity of spirit. She will be much missed and Chipping Norton is better for her ‘passing through’. Oh yes they are!

THE ARTS

The Theatre

Theatre Highlights – Our Picks for October

For full What's On listings, visit chippingnortontheatre.com or pick up a brochure at The Theatre Box Office.

SCREENING A Little Life (18), 1,2,8 October. This critically acclaimed play, recorded and captured live from London's Savoy Theatre, stars James Norton as Jude, one of four college friends in New York City. Although ambition, addiction and pride threaten to pull the group apart, they find themselves bound by their love for Jude and the mysteries of his past. The production comes with a strong content warning of language, nudity and references to sexual abuse and self-harm. £18.



THEATRE Victoria Melody: Headset (age 14+), 3 October. One of Time Out's top picks at the Edinburgh Fringe, stand-up comic Melody tells the story of how at the age of 40, a string of diagnoses led to a revelation that she is neurodivergent. Using wearable technology and working with a neuroscientist, Melody makes a revolutionary discovery that might be a natural cure for ADHD. £5 – £25 with the Pick A Price scheme.

THEATRE Triffids! 7 October. Artist-led company Platform 4 take a deep dive into John Wyndham's killer plants novel *The Day of the Triffids* in a 'gig theatre adventure'. This thrilling show promises digital projections and live music featuring instruments such as Moog, double bass, Theremin, and even a cactus! £5 – £25 with the Pick A Price scheme.

THEATRE Oh What a Lovely War! (age 12+), 12–14 October. This modern theatre classic as told by Blackeyed Theatre is a powerful reminder of the atrocities of the First World War. A satirical, funny and deeply moving attack on military incompetence and disregard for human life, the show combines live music, dance songs and sketches to create a picture of life for those on the front line and those behind it. £20, £16 concs



MUSIC Jodie Nolan: Empowered, 15 October. West End singer – and Chippy resident! – Jodie Nolan, who has starred in *Les Mis*, *Mama Mia* and *Chicago*, goes on a journey of songs and stories of the inspirational and empowered. £18

FAMILY Splash Test Dummies (age 5+), 20–21 October. Expect joyous circus fun as the Dummies head off on an oceanic adventure. Featuring stunt work, dazzling acrobatics, dexterous juggling and slapstick comedy, they promise to take their audience on a wild aquatic ride! £13.50, £11.50 under 16s.

Support The Theatre 14 October 12.15pm for 1pm, Chippy Town Hall. Come and find out over lunch how former local copper makes money from crime! Clare Mackintosh is the speaker at a special fundraising lunch, £25 for 2 course meal including a glass of wine (all dietary requirements catered for). All welcome for a fun event organised by the Friends of The Theatre. Tickets – selling fast – from the Box Office on 01608 642350 or at chippingnortontheatre.com.

Music and local events

Charlbury Refugee Action Group Sunday Tea Concert 8 October 3pm. Doors open at 2.30pm – at Memorial Hall, Brown's Lane, Charlbury. Our Little Trio: jazz trios with Dorian Ford on piano, Mao Yamada on bass and Roy Pfeffer on drums. Tickets £15 (£5 for u15s), including complimentary tea and cake, available at Cotswold Frames in Charlbury. Limited tickets may be available at the door. Season ticket for all 6 concerts – £75. Email charlburyrefugee.org.uk or contact Nick Parker at nick.parker@cooptel.net or 01608 811558 for details.

North Cotswold Chamber Choir 21 October 7.30 pm, St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton. New conductor George Parris has chosen a programme of his choral favourites, both sacred and secular. Tickets £12, u18s £8 from ticketsource.co.uk/nc3 and on the door.

Adderbury Ensemble String Quartet, 27 October 7.30pm, Chipping Norton Town Hall. Quartets by Barber, Elgar, Mozart and the Danish String Quartet. Tickets £15 adults / £5 students, free for under 16s on the door or call 07711606996.

Cherwell Choral Society 4 November 7.30pm at St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Deddington. *Baroque Splendour*: CPE Bach – Magnificat; Telemann – Three Motets with the Adderbury Ensemble. Tickets £16 (u16s free) from cherwellchoral.org or 01295 367441.

CN Choral Society & the Adderbury Ensemble 18 November 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Banbury. *Music for Remembrance & Peace* Karl Jenkins: The Armed Man; Bernstein: Chichester Psalms; Barber: Adagio for strings. Tickets from cnsc.org.uk

What's On

THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

LIVE

Fri 29th Sept, 7.30pm
Sat 30th Sept, 7.30pm
Tues 3rd Oct, 7.30pm
Wed 4th Oct, 7.30pm
Fri 6th Oct, 7.30pm
Sat 7th Oct, 7.30pm
Tues 10th Oct, 7.30pm
12th-14th Oct
Sun 15th Oct, 7.30pm
Tues 17th Oct, 7.30pm
Thu 19th Oct, 7.30pm

FATHERHOOD—£17, £8 under 26s—2 for 1 tickets
COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE—£18
VICTORIA MELODY: HEADSET- £5-25 (Pick a Price)
SINATRA: RAW- £22
MARK SIMMONS: QUIP OFF THE MARK- £19.50
TRIFFIDS- £5-25 (Pick a Price)
HENRY NORMAL AND NIGEL PLANER- £19.50
OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR- £20, £16 concs
JODIE NOLAN: EMPOWERED- £18
GARY DELANEY: GARY IN PUNDERLAND— SOLD OUT
SPONTANEOUS SHERLOCK— £18, £8 under 26s

FILMS

11th Oct
16th-21st Oct

TICKETS £11, £8 UNDER 16S (unless otherwise stated)
PREMIERE CINEMA PASS: THELMA AND LOUISE (15)
A HAUNTING IN VENICE (12A)

SCREENINGS

1st, 2nd & 8th Oct, 6.30pm
Sun 8th Oct, 2pm

TICKETS: £18.50
A LITTLE LIFE (18)
L'ELISIR D'AMORE (12A)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Sun 1st Oct, 11am & 2pm
Fri 20th & Sat 21st Oct

MONKEY PUZZLE & PETER AND THE WOLF—£11.50
SPLASHTEST DUMMIES— £13.50, £11.50 under 16s

COMING SOON

THE THEATRE'S 23/24 PANTO

CINDERELLA

15TH NOVEMBER—14TH JANUARY

BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 www.chippingnortontheatre.com

THE ARTS

Burford Singers 26 November 7.15pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Burford. Final concert under the direction of conductor Brian Kay: Handel's *Messiah*. Cotswold Chamber Orchestra. Soprano Jessica Cale, Mezzo Marta Fontanal-Simmons, Tenor William Searle, Bass Gareth Brynmor John. Tickets available from 8 October: unreserved £10 from The Madhatter Bookshop, Burford and on the door; reserved: £15–£25 online at burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets.

The Arts Society Cotswolds 11 October 11am, Warwick Hall, Burford and by Zoom. *Visual illusions: can you believe your eyes?* with John Ericson. In this thought-provoking and



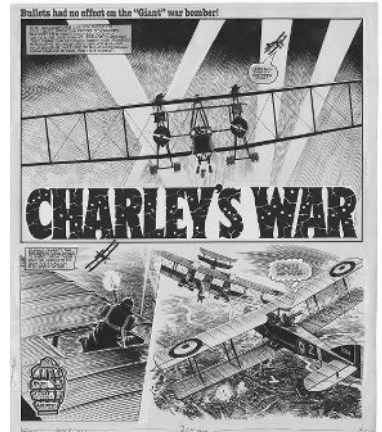
entertaining presentation John has selected a range of visual illusions illustrating 'illusions in art' as well as 'illusions as art'. Some of the images will amuse, some will confound and others will challenge your self-belief. *Special Interest Day* 25 October 10.45am–3pm, Warwick Hall, Burford. *Carried on Galleons, Borne by the Winds: Porcelain, Tea and the Luxury Arts of Cathay* – a look at the goods imported from China and its influence on our own arts with Anne Haworth. £38 (£40 for non-members) and includes a light lunch and refreshments. Booking at theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk.

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock continuing until 5 November, *Discovery*: artworks submitted by Oxfordshire artists inspired by the theme of discovery. Vote for your favourite in the People's Choice Award. Closed on Mondays. Additional exciting activities based around the theme of 'discovery' during the October Half Term (23–29 October). Keep an eye on the website oxfordshire.gov.uk and social media channels for full event details.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock 1 October – 30 April 2024. *Into Battle: the art of British war comics*,

explores the art and history of the best of British war comics. The County's military history museum is collaborating with

Oxford-based Rebellion Publishing to offer visitors a chance to explore the history of British war comics through the archives of classic comic titles such as *War Picture Library* and *Battle Action*. The exhibition, featuring



© Rebellion Publishing

original comic artwork on public display for the first time, tells the story of war comics decade by decade. From satirical comic strips and patriotic illustrated story papers of the 19th Century and early 20th Century, to the revolutionary comics of the 1970s, which presented much more gritty, authentic and emotionally-charged stories. Further details at *Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum* or on 01993 810211.

Chipping Norton Arts member Maureen Gillespie has been appointed 'Artist in Residence' at The Wychwood Golf Club, Lyneham, where a variety of her work is on display. Maureen is also hosting a Christmas Fair 24–25 November at the Club with selected local artists including other members of CNarts. Further details at artbymaureengillespie.co.uk

Cotswold Stage School Saturdays 1pm–3pm during school term at Chipping Norton Secondary School. Classes in drama, singing and dance based around the musical theatre repertoire. Free taster sessions. Further details cotswoldstageschool.com, cotswoldstagechool@gmail.com or 07721869361.

Brian Kay looks back

This much-admired conductor reflects on 21 years with The Burford Singers

I've been lucky enough to spend my entire working life pursuing my hobby – making music! I've recently written it all down – memories and anecdotes – in my autobiographical book *Music, My Life* (Umbria Press). A major part of that life ends in November when I hand over conductorship of The Burford Singers after 21 wonderful years. I've lived in nearby Fulbrook nearly 50 years, so you can imagine what a joy it's been to make music with friends and neighbours. Although I've conducted around the world during 60 years as a professional musician, there's something special about sharing the platform with people I know so well – and sharing the privilege of living in this beautiful part of the world.

Most concerts take place in Burford church, occasionally further afield to spread our musical message a little wider. That includes two unforgettable performances



of Britten's *War Requiem* in the rarefied surroundings of Winchester Cathedral and Tewkesbury Abbey. But it is with our wonderfully devoted Burford audience that we particularly enjoy sharing our joy in performing. The choir has a 100 singers and although we have occasionally included music on the lighter side – an evening of Gilbert & Sullivan or a selection of 'choral lollipops' for example – we feature mainly major classical works – Handel's *Messiah* (my final concert on 26 November), Haydn's *Creation*, Mozart's *Requiem* and so on.

We've also regularly programmed works by living composers – preserving choral music for the future. This has been a fascinating and hugely enjoyable musical journey for us all. I shall miss it dreadfully, but am happy to be handing over to my successor a very fine choir of which I remain extremely proud.

SPORTS NEWS

Indoor Hockey for fun

We've just said a sad goodbye to Sarah, Morag, Logan and Chelsea (pictured creating mayhem as usual!) who are



heading off to new hockey pitches in Scotland. We wish them well and are planning a recruitment drive to find replacements! Are you new to Chippy? Looking for something different, that's not too big a commitment? Maybe a fun sport that you and your family can join in, as and when they fancy? Do you need to keep fit during your current sport's off-season? Did you hate school hockey in the rain but might like it indoors? Or are you just bored and need to get out and have a laugh? We really do take all levels, and all ages (over 11-ish) and would love to see some new faces. Sessions are Sunday 10-11am in the hall at Chippy Leisure Centre with no pressure to attend every week – we just offer support to learn and have fun. You can borrow sticks and shinpads. £5.40 adults/Juniors £3. Details from reception or Sharon Truelove sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk 01608 730546/07722 603207.

Chipping Norton Rugby Club

The 1st XV began their 2023/4 league campaign at home to Oxford with a very tight game, ultimately resulting in a 14-18 win for Oxford. That was followed by a good 24-42 win at



Tring. Our next home game is Witney on 21 October, so come and cheer them on while enjoying a drink on our refurbished terrace. Mini and Junior rugby are underway and new players are always welcome from under 6 upwards. Come along on Sunday at 10am and our friendly volunteers will point you in the right direction. The Club is showing all England's Rugby World Cup matches (and others subject to demand) live on our big screen (pictured above). Come and join us for England v Samoa on 7 October at 4.45pm. Finally thanks to local builder, and club sponsor, Lime and Lintel for transforming our changing rooms.

For details either email chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com, visit our website or follow us on social media.

Graeme Williamson

Jon targets the 2024 Paralympics

Jon Tarrant, a former student at Chipping Norton School and Chippy Rugby Club player, has overcome a traumatic



A Edmonds

Jon in action
AE Photos/British Canoeing

injury suffered playing rugby for Stratford 1st XV six years ago and is now aiming for a place in Team GB for the Paralympics in Paris next year. After serious leg injuries – and a subsequent below the knee amputation, his determination to get fit and find a new sport has made his story an inspiration. Now 34, Jon met kayaker, Attila Herbert of Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club at the LimbPower games at Stoke Mandeville, where amputees take part in all kinds of sports such as para tennis, canoeing and climbing. Jon started canoeing and proved very good at it! Then family and sporting friends rallied round to pay for a bespoke prosthetic leg. He was offered an academy place on British Canoeing's World Class program and finished 5th in the World Championships this summer. Next target is the 2024 Paralympics GB team.



Jon with fiancée Kat

How did he get through it all? Jon said, 'the sun is still going to shine in the morning – so find something to do with a new day'. On a personal note, Jon has much to look forward to. He's getting married in October to his fiancée Katherine who he met while coaching rugby at Stratford after his accident.

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SPORTS NEWS

Cricket Club

Youth: The Club's Youth Awards Night was the final event of the season. A sunny September Friday evening saw families out in force to applaud the winners, enjoy the barbeque and support the raffle. Thanks to all Coaches and Volunteers who make our friendly and successful youth section possible.

Prize winners 2023

U7's Most Improved: Albert Brown, Best Batter: Dillon Cooper, Best Bowler: Verity Lewis
U8's Star Player: Jack Cattell, Best All Rounder: Robin Crossland, Most Improved: Alfred Main & Teddy Bailey-Fuller

U9's Best Team spirit: Fynn Holt Karawita, Leadership Potential: Isaac Brook, Enthusiasm Award: Eliza Lougheed-Eldred, Most Improved: Louie Midwood

U11's Super 8's Star Player: Thomas Brown, Most Improved: Felix Welstead

U11's League Coach's Player: Abdullah Niazi, Rising Star: Kingsley McGeown, Bowler of the Year: Ethan Brook, Batter of the Year: Gordy Jones, Most Improved with Bat: Daniel Sparvell, Most Improved with Ball: Frazer Wimshurst, Best Team Player: Sonny McGeown

U13's Wallabies Most Improved: Seb Hubbard, Bowler of the year: Tristan Hope-Cobbold, Batter of the year: Sam Broom

U13's Koalas Most Improved: George Hoare, Batter of the Year: Ned Jackman, Bowler of the Year: Ollie Dangerfield



Anthony Powell Trophy winner Stan Jackman with President Russell Collins

U13's Overall Player of the Year: Jack de Bruyn

U15's Batter of the year: Jacob Kedward, Bowler of the Year: Elliott Wiseman, Player of the Year: Stan Jackman

Overall U7-U11 Player of the Year: Sam Stafford

Anthony Powell Youth Young Player: Stan Jackman

All players received a participants' medal. Next year's signing on date and volunteer requirements TBA. Contact Youth Coordinator, Sue Powell bloxhamsue@aol.com with any queries.

Seniors: Improved weather saw the Club make a strong



finish to the season. The 2nd XI won all four of their matches and finished fourth with eight wins in total. The 1st XI won two out of four games, finishing ninth with three wins in total. Unless the Cherwell League alter the leagues, Chippy will be relegated. Riasat is pictured left, just after he scored 101 runs. The Senior Presentation Night is 6 October. I have heard four

Club members have been nominated for County Grassroots Awards. The 2024 league season starts on 4 May next year.

Graham Beacham

Hook Norton Harriers

The Harriers have had a wonderful summer racing far and wide: Mark Norris flew to Hawaii for the Kauai Half Marathon coming 4th overall, and 1st in his age category. Suzie Field and Royston Williams completed a full Ironman at the Outlaw Triathlon. Donna Allen ended the Kidlington Road Runners summer race series (Motavation races) 2nd in her age category. Richard Hart ran a 10-mile personal best at the Witney



Mark Norris pictured celebrating his Hawaiian success

Cotswold Classic race. At the Ducklington Dash Susie Morgan was 1st and Donna Allen 2nd in their age categories. We had a great turn out at the Tysoe Windmill run, with Donna Allen coming 1st woman, Darren Nash 1st in his age category, Richard Hart and Ian Malcolm 3rd and 4th in their age categories. Sam Rees and David Bunnay won their age categories at the Winchcombe Hill Climb 10k & Compton Verney 10k respectively. Autumn races will include the Oxford Half Marathon and Abingdon Marathon.

We are an inclusive club, with a warm welcome and support for all runners. We meet at 7pm on Tuesday evenings at Hook Norton Sports and Social Club. Email secretary@hooknortonharriers.org.uk or visit our website www.hooknortonharriers.org.uk for details.

Anwen Greenaway



4 Shires Swimming Club is a fun and friendly club with competitive swimming at its heart, whilst ensuring members enjoy their training and experience the thrill of competition as regularly as possible.

Training is held at **Sibford** and **Kingham Hill** independent schools and **Bourton-on-the-Water** and **Chipping Norton** Leisure Centres. We offer a broad range of times to suit many swimmers and structure our squads to cater for your individual needs. We have 6 squads: Academy, Pre-Comp, Competition, County, Regional and Masters (adults).

We always welcome new members! If you are a competent Swim England Level 7 or equivalent swimmer looking to develop your fitness and competitive swimming abilities, please contact us to book onto one of our trial sessions held on Saturdays 8.30-9.30am at Kingham Hill School. Contact us via our website www.4ssc.co.uk or email our Membership Secretary membership@4ssc.co.uk for information and bookings.

SPORTS NEWS

Better support for Chippy sport

Matthew Simmons the Partnership Manager for West Oxfordshire GLL/Better spoke at the Town Sports Awards



about the part the Leisure Centre plays in supporting and promoting sport of all kinds in the Town. Not only did Better sponsor the Legacy Awards but it also provides day-to-day training facilities for athletes using the pool, gym, sports hall and outside pitches. The GLL sports foundation also funds local athletes – applications for the next round of funding opens in December. For the less athletic, in addition to all the Centre’s facilities there is a range of fitness classes for juniors upwards plus softplay for the very young. Regular users will be delighted to hear that the Centre’s leaky roof is to be repaired and changing rooms upgraded. Beyond sport, the Leisure Centre has been prominent in supporting the wider Chippy community through its work with the Chippy Larder and in providing a welcoming ‘warm space’ in the winter.

Hook Norton Tennis Club

The Open Day on Saturday 9 September was part of the Hook Norton Sports & Social Family Fun Day. Lots of



visitors (mainly young children) came along and had fun on the courts and we hope some will join the Club.

Summer League results: the A team are 3rd in Division 1, the B team are 6th in Division 2. The C team and D team are 4th and 5th in Division 4.

Coaching: Marc Gilkes’ Autumn coaching programme ends on 20 October. Steve Bone and Faith Heron also offer coaching. See website for details.

Club sessions & court bookings: members can book courts via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub> which also lists Club sessions. Club sessions are also listed there. Use WhatsApp to book on to club sessions. The cost of floodlights on non-club nights is £8 per hour per court.

Our Club Nights are very popular and friendly – new members welcome. For details contact Kate, the membership secretary – khs.shoes@gmail.com or 01608 642774

Elaine Priestley

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CLUB NEWS

u3a hear about suffragettes

Our usual first Wednesday talk followed by tea and biscuits will be at the Town Hall at 2.30 on 4 October. In *Alice Hawkins, Suffragette* Peter Barratt will talk about his great grandmother's involvement in the campaign for the Vote. He will illustrate his talk with examples of her suffragette



memorabilia including her sash and hunger strike medal and prison notes which is one of the most complete collections in the UK today. A retired management accountant, Peter first learned of Alice as a boy when his grandfather described joining Suffragette processions with his mother. Peter recently took a show about her to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and has also appeared on TV and radio programmes.

Yvonne Beaumont

Al fresco Folk enjoy *The Great Outdoors*

It was a lovely balmy evening when the Folk Club met up at The Crown in Church Enstone where we sat outside for an excellent session of playing, singing and reciting. The theme was *The Great Outdoors and the Sky* to which most people managed to find a link, however tenuous, to what they offered us. We had a range of songs from Alabama and California in the US through the Caribbean to all nations of the UK. There were cowboy songs from Ricky and Colin, country songs (Steve singing Johnny Cash), blues and English folk from Ginnie (lovely hearing about the dark-eyed gypsies, O), and going up in space with Peggy Seeger. We were even introduced to Clunk, a mixture of classical and punk which was new to some of us but great fun. There was a variety of instruments apart from the guitar such as the banjo from Craig, the ukulele (Strings Attached), the recorder played by Stuart, and of course the human voice, Angela reciting Betjeman and Rupert Brooke. Many artists were featured, including Bruce Springsteen from Craig, Al Stewart from Steve, the Beatles from Claire and not forgetting of course our singer-songwriter Colin with the delightful but sad *Queen of the Village Green*. We ended on a high, joining in with Rachel and Rosie singing *I Can See Clearly Now*. We welcome all to come and participate. Next meeting Monday 9 October 7.30pm. Please sign up for our newsletter at chippingnortonfolk.org.uk for details of next month's venue.

Rosemary Osmond

Horticultural Association

The Chipping Norton Horticultural Association will start their autumn/winter season on Wednesday 18 October at 7.30 in the Methodist Church Hall, West Street. The speaker will be Bob Brown from Badsey with the topic: *Too many plants, too little space* – a major problem for many keen gardeners!! We do welcome new members to our monthly meetings, also former members who may like to rejoin. It's not too late to pay the subscription on the night when you will receive a membership card giving details of future

meetings and speakers, and also discounts at several local garden centres. All details on our website www.cnha.uk or from the secretary Eileen Forse on 01608 643275.

6th CN Scout Group need YOU!

We have a new Lead Volunteer Team in place and have been busy over the summer getting the hut ready for the start of a new term. We are excited to announce that we will be having a relaunch on Saturday 4 November from 10am to 3pm in the Scout Hut at Greystones along the Burford Road. Please come along to find out more about Scouting and what we can offer you. This will be an open house, so please come along. We currently run Cub Scouts (8–10 years) on Wednesday evenings and Scouts (10–14 years) on Thursday evenings. Contact GSL@chippyscouts.org.uk.

Explorer Scouts: always prepared

Over the weekend 9/10 September, Explorer Scouts from Chipping Norton helped at the Cornbury House Horse Trials.



Explorer Scouts spent two days helping at Cornbury House Horse Trials

Roles on the day included marshalling at the pedestrian crossings over the cross-country course and collecting points from the judges in the dressage arena. The Saturday was one of the hottest days of the year with

temperatures reaching over 30 degrees. True to their motto, the Explorer Scouts came prepared with plenty to drink, sun cream and sun hats. The Sunday was very humid due to the mid-morning rain. This brought out biting insects in large numbers. Undaunted, the Explorers were again prepared, this time with bug repellent! The young people volunteered from 8am to 6pm both days and their efforts were greatly praised by the horse trial organisers. Now they all want a pony!

Nick Davis

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CLUB NEWS

Green Gym – focus on Pool Meadow



Pool Meadow is a highly regarded local resource and the Green Gym team has been working hard over the summer pulling out swathes of Himalayan balsam – an invasive non-native plant which spreads quickly and can smother other vegetation. In addition, extensive scything of horsetail has aimed to discourage further growth so that

wildflowers can eventually be planted in wetter areas. The main priority has been public access, so work has also focused on keeping the footpaths clear and replenishing them with wood chippings. On other sites, members have been busy throughout August and early September. Jobs have included weeding and composting at Chipping Norton Health Centre (see photo), scything paths, sawing and stacking tree trimmings at Fitzalan Wood and clearing areas in the Millennium Wood at Kingham to allow access to blackberries and apples. A session at Hawkyard Copse prepared for a visit from NOOG – the North Oxfordshire Organic Gardeners.

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

Everyone welcome. A variety of jobs for all!

Adela Thomas

Journeys with the Railway Club

On 5 September our old friend Mike Clemens returned, for our Autumnal treat, showing his father's Archive Railway films and slides. Always a firm favourite, he has been a regular visitor for many years now and he never fails to please. As always, local footage of Chipping Norton Station was cheered by the members. We have a new speaker for 3 October, David Meara, whose talk is entitled *The Journey of a Night Time*, 150 years of Anglo-Scottish Sleepers. In November, Jonathan Perks will talk about his round up of the last year, Plus Wales Part 2.

All meetings are 7.30 in the Lower Town Hall. Do come along and join us... you will make new friends. Fresh faces are always welcomed with tea/coffee in the Interval.

Estelle Brain

Chipping Norton Labour Party

Our Labour councillors have been busy working throughout the summer on various projects for the wellbeing of Chipping Norton residents. Rizvana Poole ran her successful Schools Project providing stationery sets for pupils starting secondary school in September.

Following the confirmation of the proposed Parliamentary Constituency Boundary changes the Chipping Norton Branch of the Labour Party will no longer be part of the Witney Constituency and will be joining the new Banbury Constituency. In September we held a successful end-of-summer garden party at Heath Farm to meet socially with

other members from across the new constituency and forge new links for the future.

September also saw the return of our regular Quiz Nights at The Chequers, Chipping Norton. These are always oversubscribed so look out for notices of the dates and times.

Chipping Norton Branch will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Fox Inn and any new members are very welcome to join us.

Kate Whatman

News from the Albion

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

Well, Albion Fans, I've not a huge amount to report this month due to staff and our users taking holidays and well-deserved breaks but we are mostly all back and planning for a busy autumn.

The Drama group headed back to The Theatre and Our Space will be kicking off this week – literally – we start the new timetable with Line Dancing. I'll let you know how it goes.

Winter is coming ... Anthony has been so busy over the summer preparing bags of kindling for you all to purchase. On Sale Now!

Plus, we are organising a sale of Bric a Brac niceties raising funds for our outings on 25 October 9.30am–noon in the Co-op foyer at the bottom of the escalators. Please come and support us and say hello. Until next time AlbiFans!

Carole Fagg

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CLUB NEWS

A warm welcome at WOWI

I'm writing this in a heatwave, so I'm pleased we're having a bit of a summer before the autumnal weather takes hold. West Oxfordshire WI had a lovely August picnic meeting. Everyone brings a dish and it's amazing what a variety we have to feast



on. We drew names out of a hat for two members to have a Bursary. These are used for some course or experience of an educational nature. We look forward to hearing what they did. Our Craft Group starts on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4.30pm at The Willows (opposite the Health Centre). We hope some of the residents will join us. Our Sunday Teas on the 1st Sunday of the month at 2.30pm, continue at the Methodist Church. Last month we entertained 37 people. This is open to all for 'Cuppa, Cake and Chat'. Do come along to a WI meeting in St Mary's Parish Rooms at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month. We're a welcoming group and have a varied programme. Contact wowi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk if you'd like more information about our activities.

Hilary Dix 01608 646228

Glyme Valley with Chippy Ramblers

A hot sunny day did not deter 10 walkers from doing the Glyme Valley circuit for our regular monthly walk. We left New Street car park at 2pm and set off at a reasonable pace. The ground was very dry and we had to be wary of nettles and brambles. Sadly, we saw no butterflies as they were keeping in the shade. However, we encountered two cyclists heaving their bikes over the kissing gates, not having realised how many gates there were on that route. On reaching the London Road, some ramblers headed back into town, whereas others continued over Swing Swang and onto the Banbury Road, cutting into the beech woods and then on to the New Street car park. After the clocks go back at the end of October, the November walk will start at 1.30pm. New faces are always welcome. These Walks are always on the first

Sunday of the month; for more details contact Heather Leonard (01608 643691 or rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk).

Jill Megson

PROBUS

The Town's two Probus Clubs (Bliss Probus Club and Chipping Norton Probus Club) have both recognised that membership has been dwindling and there has been a lengthy period of discussion between the two clubs to try and find common ground for an amalgamation. Sadly, these efforts have borne no fruit and it has been resolved that the Clubs should follow their own pathways.

Pat Lake

Bliss Probus Club

The Club is ready to welcome new and former members who are seeking company, and who wish to share friendship. Bliss Probus Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Crown & Cushion Hotel, at 12pm where they enjoy a drink and have lunch and listen to a talk delivered by a speaker. If you think this is something for you, then contact our Secretary Pat Lake on 01608 643458, email plake1970@aol.com, who will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Chipping Norton Probus Club



At their August meeting, Chipping Norton Probus Club members welcomed Will Reid from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who gave a most interesting talk. Set up as a charity by Royal Charter in 1917 and funded by six member governments, The CWGC commemorates over 1.7 million men and women who died in the two World Wars. Its work covers more than 150 countries and territories and 23,000 locations, with an extensive archive of records. Some 2,500 war cemeteries, plots and memorials for those with no known graves have been constructed. In the UK there are war graves and memorials at over 12,000 locations, from some naming tens of thousands to others in local churchyards, with perhaps only one name. Pictured here is one of the 12 listed for Chipping Norton cemetery on the CWGC website. The conservation of these sites is ongoing, being undertaken by a global team of 800 gardeners and specialist teams of stonemasons. Commission staff continue to recover remains from former battlefields and their records enable governments to identify those buried without a name. The CWGC is pledged to ensure that all those who made the ultimate sacrifice are commemorated with dignity and honour. Guests are most welcome to join us at our meetings on the third Tuesday of the month. Please contact Simon Bucknall on 01993 830760 for further details.

Martin Williams

Chequers 3rd Thursday Music Session

August being a holiday month, we were a bit quieter in terms of numbers but not in terms of music! We had duetting kazooos from Kenny and Vixen – which always makes the musicians laugh and who knew Vixen wrote such powerful songs? Otherwise, we had contributions from other regulars as well as songs from JJ and Taff to name but a few. Next



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CLUB NEWS

session is on Thursday 19 October, 8pm onwards. For info contact Jane at jalemail27@gmail.com

Burford and Kingham Rotary



We celebrated our 40th Anniversary in great style with a delicious Gala Dinner attended by distinguished guests and past and present Rotarians. President John Forster (also a founder member) described progress to today's small very friendly Rotary that punches above its weight. The District Governor presented a Certificate, congratulating us on this anniversary, our history and achievements. Speaker Mike Lewis gave an amusing talk about the trials of being an after-dinner speaker. A splendid raffle and auction raised £1200 – an excellent ending for a very memorable evening enjoyed by all. At the end of September we'll ditch our party gear and don our wellies to marshall for a local ploughing match – always something different going on! Why not think about joining Rotary? We meet at Burford Golf Club on Monday

evening. We are a small but very friendly and vibrant group, with members from all the local villages. Contact Secretary John Smith email jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk 07717 883182 to find out more. Please do give me a ring I would love to hear from you to have an informal chat.

Ros Richardson 01608643844 / 07702135731

Chipping Norton History Society

The Society will meet at 2pm on Monday 9 October in the Lower Hall at the Methodist Church, West Street. Bill Williams will pose the question: *Were they The Champions? The Story of Chipping Norton Baseball Club*. Visitors (£3) welcome.

Janis Paxton

N Cotswold National Trust Association

Membership of the Association is open to all National Trust members and volunteers. The North Cotswold Branch's programme of coach outings includes visits to Attingham Park on 11 October and Bath on 9 November. There are pick up points at Stow, Moreton & sometimes Chipping Norton. All are welcome with priority given to members.

Meetings are at 2pm in the Village Hall Broadwell. On 19 October Phil Collins and Mike Bottomley entertain us with *The Life and Times of Charles Dickens* in a fun and innovative way. Don't miss!! 16 November is our AGM, with a speaker from the NT on restoration work at Lodge Park.

For more information call 01608 659215 or 01608 658157. To join, contact the Membership Secretary on 01386 593085. or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ncotswoldassoc

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Chipping Norton School

Exam Results: We are so pleased for the students whose effort and commitment has been so richly rewarded with another year of great A Level, GCSE and BTEC examination results. Our headline figures represent and celebrate the remarkable efforts of our highly talented students and their incredible teachers.



Our GCSE and BTEC results are the best in the School's history with close to one third of all grades in the 7 to 9 range, and one fifth of all grades being 8s or 9s. We are immensely proud of the achievements of all our Year 13 leavers, with well over a quarter of all of our students achieving two or more A* and A grades.

Sad Goodbyes: At the end of the school year the School came together to say 'goodbye' and 'thank you' to both Mr Marshall and Mrs Wooldridge. Mrs Wooldridge has been a member of our associate staff for many years and thousands of children will have seen her in our school; particularly those involved in productions over the years. Her kindness and commitment to this school and our students cannot be overstated. Mr Marshall has worked as a volunteer mentor for many years at CNS, supporting a variety of students and

helping them make their way in this world. His kindness is also so evident to us all – but also his endless compassion, patience and belief in all young people.

We also wished Good Luck our colleagues Mrs Cox, Mr Franklin, Mr Stella and Miss Chapman who are moving on to new adventures. We have greatly appreciated their commitment and hard work.

Welcome to our new Year 7: A record number of Year 7 students joined us this year and enjoyed the whole school for themselves on their first day at CNS. After meeting their new classmates, all students were able to participate in two taster sessions of our excellent programme of extracurricular activities, including cooking, origami, trampolining and digital music making. In the afternoon they were challenged to complete a treasure hunt around the School to help them feel confident in their new surroundings.



Extra Time Clubs: We look forward to the resumption of our wonderful Extra-time clubs this term. Our students are able to join a whole host of clubs and we are delighted to be able to offer some new clubs this term – Tennis, Dance Crew and Badminton. We are very grateful to all of our talented coaches, both external and our own staff members, and to all the hard work that Mrs Fisher and Mrs Bissett (Community Learning) do to enable us to offer our students such a fantastic choice of clubs.



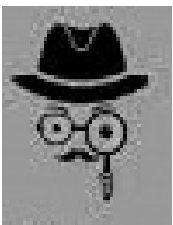
Last year Mrs Du Cros and a group of green-fingered students created a beautiful garden in the centre of the School. The garden has been planted up with a variety of insect-friendly flowering plants, fruit trees, strawberries and vegetables. Birds and insects have started to use the nesting boxes and the flower beds are buzzing

with bees – it really is a wonderful sight!

CNPS News: Throughout the year, our partnership primary schools compete against one another in a wide range of sporting tournaments. Schools earn points from each competition, and we are pleased to announce that Kingham and Great Tew were the overall winners of the 'Big' and 'Small' schools competition respectively.

Open Evening Thursday 5 October: We are looking forward to welcoming Year 5 and Year 6 families to join us at our Open Evening on Thursday 5 October. We hope to have as many of our students as possible in school, acting as guides, or demonstrating their work in Design & Technology, Computing, Art, Drama, Dance and Music. Whilst the School certainly looks impressive it is the students, our greatest asset, that families want to see as they picture how their child might turn out at CNS.

Update from CNS PTA



We would like to thank all the businesses and shops who took part in this year's **Stranger in the Window** competition. We hope everyone had fun seeking out the hidden items and inventive adverts in our creative town's windows. Congratulations to the Bagnall family, this year's winners.

If you are a parent or carer of children at Chipping Norton School and would like to be involved with the PTA, please do contact Chair Tanya Harrington by emailing tanya.harrington70@gmail.com. Another way to help easily is to directly donate via the School PTA Portal system. You can donate as a one-off contribution or make regular payments – just follow this link or visit the PTA section on the School website. <http://chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk/parents-association/pta-donation/>

Thank you from CNS PTA.

SCHOOLS NEWS

St Mary's Primary

Early Years Foundation Stage: Acorn Class 2023/24 We



welcomed lots of new children into our Early Years Foundation Stage. We made the most of the lovely weather and spent lots of time in the garden. We have also introduced one of our school values, integrity, and talked about telling the truth whilst we learn and play together. We have had a very positive start and can't wait for all the exciting experiences planned for this year. Welcome Acorn Class!



Year 1: In a super start to the new school year, we have been enjoying learning about where food comes from around the world. We looked at the labels from a variety of fruit from the supermarket, then located where it had come from on the world map and on a globe. We had a go at

sketching the fruit and then we cut up the fruit (very carefully) to make our own fruit salad. It was delicious!

Year 2: The children in Year 2 had an exciting first week back at school learning about healthy eating and the different food groups. As part of their learning the children had a lovely time designing and making their own pizzas using foods from each of the different food groups.

Year 3: Year 3 have started their learning about the local area by painting landscape pictures of Chipping Norton. They have learnt to mix water colours to use on their paintings inspired by David Hockney's work.

The children also enjoyed baking Banbury cakes and locating different towns on a map of Oxfordshire. All this has made for a super start to the year!



Year 5: In Year 5, we have been enjoying our new topic of Ancient Greece. We found out about gods, goddesses and monsters and made mod-roc masks of these. We learnt that pottery gives historians evidence and made our own clay

pots. On Friday we tasted Greek food, including olives, feta, pitta bread and tzatziki.

Year 6: Year 6 children enjoyed playing a ball game called Pok-A-Tok invented by the ancient Maya over 3500 years ago. Pok-A-Tok is the oldest known team sport using a ball.



Chadlington Primary

And so begins a new year at Chadlington Primary with an exciting new curriculum with challenging themes integrated across all learning areas. Over the course of the next year children will be Philosophers, Scientists, Naturalists, Robotic Engineers and Performers. We look forward to unpacking the children's adventures and learning experiences within these themes over the coming months.

This term the children are Philosophers! KS1 will be asking that million-dollar question, Who am I? They will look into what makes them who they are and understand if, and how, that can change. They will head to Africa through art and modelling a Masai village and answer this crucial question: If I were in Africa, would I still be me? KS2 will be heading to Ancient Greece to grapple with the stories of ancient Philosophers.

Parent survey: We are happy to share the very positive outcomes of a recent parent survey conducted toward the end of the last academic year. Almost all parents felt their children are happy going to school, the teaching is good, and their suggestions and concerns were important to staff. In addition, children enjoy a varied and interesting curriculum and a creative approach that helps them to make good



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SCHOOLS NEWS

progress. Parents are proud to send their children to Chadlington School, believe their children are safe, and feel the School is a welcoming and pleasant place. Of course, the Governing Board will be working closely with the School on areas for improvement.

Great Rollright Primary

Now it's October we know many parents of 3 and 4-year-olds are starting to think about choosing a primary school. Please visit our website (<https://great-rollright.oxon.sch.uk/>) to watch a short video giving a flavour of what we offer here at our small, nurturing school. But an even better introduction is to visit during a normal school day – so please get in touch to book.

Meanwhile this year's group of new Reception children are settling in well. A typical day in Reception has a balance of about half adult-led activities and half self-chosen, play-based learning. Mrs Grundy, who is one of the most experienced and respected Reception teachers in the county, has carefully designed our indoor and outdoor learning areas so that there are dozens of interesting challenges and opportunities to develop skills across the curriculum, from maths and literacy to physical and social development.



Much of the day in Reception is spent outside, in our partially covered outdoor learning area, or in our own new Forest School site next to the School.

Please call us on 01608 737202 to book your tour and learn more – including about our free bus to Chipping Norton. We look forward to hearing from you!

Hook Norton Primary



The whole school has had a fantastic start to our new year. The weather has been so beautiful it has lifted everyone's spirits so there have been lots of smiles and very smartly dressed children getting to know their new teachers and classmates and enjoying all the new topics and fresh new books to write and draw in. We have had a visit from our local librarian to award those children who took part in the summer reading challenge over the holidays with their medals and certificates.

The year 5/6 classes are beginning to learn about William Shakespeare and have been creating collaborative art. Years 3 and 4 have started their new big question, *Who were the Romans?*, by learning about mosaics and creating their own versions of concentric circle art inspired by Kandinsky. Our year 2's have done a wonderful job of helping the year 1 children to settle into the new routine and showing them where things are. Reception and Nursery children have been exploring their areas in school with lots of exciting things for them to try including water trays, sand pits, climbing frames and crafting tables.

Sibford School

6th Form Open Evening Tuesday 14 November 6-8pm

Students and their families are invited to come and learn more about the A Level and BTEC options on offer for Year 12. There's the chance to talk to subject staff and Sixth Form students, visit



subject areas in the refurbished Sixth Form Centre, main school building, Art & Music departments and Science block. There will be a presentation from Head Rebecca Evans and the Sixth Form Co Heads, with an overview of the Sixth Form programme and a flavour of the unique environment on offer where individual talents can grow, skills can develop, and ambitions can take shape. This year's top grades in many subjects at A level and BTEC indicated strengths across the whole curriculum. Study programmes are individually tailored, with experienced and expert staff delivering exciting courses. This Open Evening is an ideal opportunity for you to find out more about life in Sibford Sixth Form, the way in which it differs from the rest of the school and the opportunities it offers.

To book a place at the Open Evening, call Elle Kitching, Admissions Registrar on 01295 781203 or book online at www.sibfordschool.co.uk/events.



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Friday: 8.30am–5.30pm

Saturday: 7.30am–1pm

Sunday: CLOSED

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LETTERS

Thanks to all Lido supporters

The Lido in Chipping Norton has now closed, ending the season with its now traditional Dog Swim. Nearly 100



pooches and their humans enjoyed a final frolic under sunny skies. The staff and trustees would like to thank everyone who visited us in 2023. We have enjoyed making new friends as well as welcoming back our wonderful regulars. Thank you all for sticking with us through all that the climate could throw at us this year. Please take away your best, sunniest memories of The Lido this season, and be ready to return in April 2024!

Claire Jarvis

Remembrance Day

The Chipping Norton Branch of the Royal British Legion will hold its Annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service on Sunday 12 November 2023. The Service in St Mary's Church will start at 10.25am. Anyone requiring a wreath, please contact Carol Peachey on 07785 770812. On Saturday 11 November 2023 we will hold a Two Minute Silence at the

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Town War Memorial in London Road at 11am. if you wish to take part, please be at the War Memorial by 10.50am.

Mike Dixon – Secretary Chipping Norton Branch, RBL

Skateboard heaven!

We were interested to read about the possibility of a Skateboard Park being built in Chippy following the enthusiastic approach by young people to the Council. This will clearly be an expensive project and we await the Council's report with interest. Whilst the siting of this facility is yet to be decided, we believe that it is very important that the views of residents overlooking any of the proposed sites be properly and fully sought at the appropriate time, presumably when the report is published. The precise positioning of such a facility will have important implications for those living in the immediate vicinity due to the probability of considerable noise and the inevitable antisocial behaviour by a small minority of users.

A concerned Chippy resident (name & address supplied)
(See article p5 – the Town Council has said it is considering installing a skatepark in the New St Recreation area – Ed.)

2023 Christmas Shoebox Appeal

It is that time of year again – to get involved in the Shoebox Appeal as part of teams4U, a charity already supported by many from our Town. Maybe this year you would like to be part of it? Last year we sent 51 boxes, two bags full of knitted hats, scarves and gloves plus £50 in donations.

It's simple: you choose an empty shoebox and cover it in Christmas wrapping paper. First choose whether gifts are for a girl or boy or family. Then decide for which age: 3–5, 6–11 or 12+, or a home box for a family. Then fill your shoebox with suitable small items for your chosen group. There's a leaflet with suggestions or you could knit some items to send or make a financial donation. Suggestions include: small toys (cars, yo-yo, a ball, teddy bear etc); educational supplies (pens, crayons, paper etc); hygiene items (soap, toothbrush, flannel etc); or items such as a hat, gloves, scarf, necklace etc. Any sweets or chocolate must have a sell-by date of at least March 2024. Please don't include anything war-related, fragile or dangerous. Books are not a good idea as many children will not read English. With a filled box, please donate a minimum of £3 towards delivery.

More guidance is given on the leaflets which are available from Martin Hannant (72 Churchill Road CN, 01608 643653 or martinhannant27@gmail.com), from CN Library or the Methodist Church. Boxes need to be returned by Friday 10 November. Martin will either collect, if asked, or please drop them off at CN Methodist Church at a Wednesday coffee morning between 9.30 and 11.30am or Sunday morning 10.30am or 12.30pm. Last year over 50,000 shoeboxes were sent from teams4U from the UK to children and families in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. Often this is the only Christmas gift they get. Why not help to make a child really happy, showing that someone cares. Learn more about the charity at www.teams4u.com. Thank you so much.



Martin Hannant

LETTERS

Those Quiet Woman memories

I was really interested to read the recollections of The Quiet Woman and the walk from Dunthorp. (Letters September 2023)

My mother lived with her grandmother in Heythrop, after her mother died and her father, my grandfather, was fighting with the Royal Artillery at Dunkirk and then in Burma. When my mother Sylvia married my father Frank White, they lived in one of the cottages next to the pub, and the walk between Southcombe and Heythrop was a regular event. That continued until I was born, and they moved, along with my elder brother, into Chipping Norton. While they were still at Southcombe, my brother was regularly helping Mrs Pratley to collect the hens' eggs – that is, until the day he locked her in the hen house and suggested that she could come out through the pop hole, as the hens did! Our association with Southcombe continued for many years. Bill Pearce, who had been my parents' neighbour was conductor on the regular Heythrop bus – when we still had such things – and on occasion, after my younger brother was born, would see us older boys safely on and off the bus to Heythrop to see family. Dad worked for the Co-op, in the warehouse, for many years, before working as a cable jointer for BT, when the BT yard was based where Millview flats in West Street are now.



Graham's parents Frank & Sylvia White pictured with his grandfather, Kendrick White on a coach trip from The Quiet Woman, c1952

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

Chipping Norton News Club

Tel: 01608 643219

Email: chippymail@aol.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/chippynews Blog: www.chippynews.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/chippynews

October Editorial Team: Charlotte Bird, Lindsay Johnstone, Wendy Murphy, Linda Rand, Nigel Rose, Keith Ruddle, Jill Thorley

Section contacts: Arts - Alison Huitt (645591), Clubs - Jill Thorley (643219), Sport - Graham Beacham (810047), Schools - Clare Davison (07739 680043)

Contributors: Linda Aspey, Graham Beacham, Charlotte Bird, Frances Buckel, Judy Buckingham, Christine Clinch, Clare Davison, Catherine Elliott, Kaye Freeman, Malcolm Glenn, Alison Huitt, Lindsay Johnstone, Jane Lewis, Wendy Murphy, Deborah Siepmann, Jenny Stallard, Linda Rand, Nigel Rose, Keith Ruddle, David Woolley, Alison Wright & others where stated.

Production & proofreading: Jill Thorley, Rolie Clarke, Kaye Freeman, Lindsay Johnstone, Jo McVicker, Rosemary Osmond, Carole Rose, Deb Webb & David Woolley

Distribution: Jill Thorley (643219) Judy Buckingham, Alison Huitt, Sabina Marland, Wendy Murphy & Carole Rose

Advertising & Club Treasurer: Sandra Cash (07787 925133)

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The editorial team welcomes articles & letters (names supplied please), but reserves the right to edit or cut depending on space available. While taking every care to check accuracy we cannot take responsibility for errors which might occur. Opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team. The News does not endorse or accept liability for any products or services provided by advertisers. The News is published monthly (except January & August) by the Chipping Norton News Club which is voluntary and non profit-making.

Mum worked for Pettiphers grocers in West Street until my elder brother came along. After my younger brother was born, she did three nights/week as a nursing auxiliary when we had a proper hospital in the Town. She did 29 years and helped with the births of many in the town. One family even named their last (of eleven, I believe) after her!

Graham White

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Join Chippy's 'Big Clean-up' on 7 October

Does the sight of litter put you in a jitter? Does reeking rubbish rankle? Then why not join 'The Big Clean-up' in Chipping Norton Town Centre on Saturday 7 October from 10am to midday, starting at Withers Court on the High Street.

It's part of the Keep Chippy Beautiful campaign, led by Chipping Norton Town Council, with this Clean-up supported by the MidCounties Co-op. Bring gloves, good humour and energy – everything else, including pickup and bagging equipment, will be provided, as will tea, coffee and cakes after the Clean-up, thanks to the Co-op. Let the team know you'll be joining them in creating spotless streets and waste-free waters (or as close to them as you can!) by registering at www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/keep-chippy-beautiful-the-big-clean-up/.

This is only one part of what is hoped to be a much wider 'Keep Chippy Beautiful' theme – which arose at March's Annual Town Meeting when



Join us for Chipping Norton's Big Clean-up!

Saturday 7th October
10am-midday



Meet at Withers Court. Please bring a pair of gloves. All other equipment provided

Please sign up at www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/keep-chippy-beautiful

many issues were raised and the Town Council picked up the campaign. As well as litter (don't drop it in the first place!), there's everything from blocked drains, overflowing bins, dirty and derelict road and street signs, weeds, bent railings, scrappy and broken pavements, dog poo and more! Of course, it's not just up to us, our councils, our businesses and our visitors. Local schools can join in – for some time, schools such as Great Rollright and Enstone primaries have joined the Eco-School movement. If you're involved in a local school, check out the great resources for young people from the Keep Britain Tidy organisation keepbritaintidy.org/our-cause/educate-future-generations.

DIARY

October (News out Monday 2 October)

- 1st **Ramblers** see p29 for details
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30–4pm Methodist Church
- 2nd **Chipping Norton News Team Meeting** 7.15 - call 01608 643219 for details
- 3rd **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p28
- 4th **Police Open Day** Town Hall 11am-3pm see p2
- Methodist Coffee Morning** for The Smiles Foundation 9.30–11.30am - see p8
- u3a** 2.30pm in the Town Hall - see p27
- North Oxon Organic Gardeners** - 7.30 Parish Rooms - AGM & Group Discussion on regenerative practices in our gardens
- 5th **Methodist Talk & Tea** 2.30pm - see p8
- People, Planet, Pint** 6-9pm Blue Boar - see www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/people-planet-pint-207559
- 7th **Town Litter Pick** 10am-noon - see info above
- 8th **CRAG Concert** 3pm Charlbury Mem Hall - see p22
- Jazz Concert** in Enstone for Lawrence Team- see p14
- 9th **Methodist Crafty Cuppa & Chat** 10am - see p8
- Local History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - see p30
- Town Council Full Council Meeting** 6.30 Town Hall
- Folk Club** 7.30 - details p27
- 10th **Lawrence Team AGM** 7pm Town Hall - see p14
- 11th **The Arts Society Cotswolds** lecture 11am, Warwick Hall in Burford and by Zoom - details p23

- 12th **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - call Val on 01608 645436 for details
- 13th **CHIPPY NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35
- Great Rollright Bingo** 7pm Village Hall - see p12
- 14th **Cemetery Clean Up** meet 9.30 - see p8
- Museum Finds Day** 11am-4pm - see p11
- Sunshine Cat Rescue Jumble Sale** Milton-u-Wychwood Village Hall 11.30-1.30 - see advert p18
- British Legion Quiz** 7pm Crown & Cushion see ad p12
- 15th **Methodist Church Sale** noon-2pm - see p8
- 16th **West Oxon WI** 7.30pm Parish Room - see p29
- 18th **Horticultural Assoc** 7.30 Methodist Church - see p27
- 19th **Chequers Music Session** 8pm - see p29
- 21st **Reclaimed Home Fair** 10-4 Town Hall - see p8
- North Cotswold Chamber Choir** 7.30 St Mary's Church - see p22
- 25th **The Arts Society Cotswolds** Special Interest Day - details p23
- 27th **Adderbury Ensemble Concert** 7.30pm Town Hall - see p22
- 28th **Mind, Body & Wellbeing Show** Glyme Hall see p12
- Saturday Club DJ Night** Town Hall 9pm - see p10
- 29th **All Souls Service** 3pm St Mary's Church - see p14

November (News out Monday 30 October)

- 5th **Ramblers** see p29 for details - note 1.30pm start
- 7th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p28