

Chipping Norton News



Issue 464

November 2023

Oh yes it is!



Time for a 'fiesta' Panto, with Town Hall dancing, Chippy's Christmas lights switch on & a sing-a-long

Never mind those dark and dismal evenings – this month's News brings tidings of fun and festivities to look forward to in November – and, yes, even think about Christmas! 50 years after a first Christmas show, Chippy Theatre kicks off a terrific 'Latin' Cinderella from 15 November. You can join in Town Hall samba & salsa dance lessons and a grand Mambo fiesta evening. There's some great village craft fayres, our Methodist Christmas Tree Festival – and on 23 November the Town Centre will 'light up' with stalls, evening shopping, children's lanterns and a 'sing-a-long'.

Major news this month

Covid Boosters For those eligible – after an **NHS** uncertain start, there are more 'Walk-In' Covid Jab sessions at Chippy Hospital (not the GPs' Health Centre) on 31 October, then 10, 17 & 21 November. See p16.

Safer New Street needed! 18 months after a Town Hall summit, there's still neither funding nor timetable from the County Council to implement safer New Street crossings – from that nightmare at the top to the dangers down at the playground. OCC suggest more 'optioneering' – but Councillors and residents want more urgency.

Big changes in local politics After a row, Labour have resigned from the Alliance running Oxfordshire, leaving Lib Dems in charge. And Chipping Norton will be voting for a Banbury MP. So who will be promising a 'fair deal for Chippy' now?

Lots more on these & other stories inside this November Chippy News plus Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools & Letters

Clean Up takes off



The volunteer hi-vis gang were out on 7 October for the Big Chippy Clean Up – and a terrific morning's result! Well done all but let's Keep Chippy Beautiful even more – see p3.

In this issue



Chippy – and Charlie – mark Harvest time!

Police Town Hall Open Day 4 November ~ Transition Chipping Norton's charity launch ~ Could you be a Scout leader? ~ Chippy Larder's busy year ~ Finding fashion round our charity shops ~ New plan for celebrating town citizens



Transition Chipping Norton – plans for action

TCN has existed since 2010, but had its first AGM as a Charity on 30 September. New Trustees Marcus Simmons and his colleagues explain why and how they want to drive this important initiative forward.

The challenge of sustainability – TCN's main remit as a new charity is to put sustainability – and community solutions to achieve it – at the centre of its work. We face many interlinked challenges; social division, inequality, ecological and climate breakdown. 'Business as usual' will be impossible, but this crisis also presents positive opportunities. Local communities and individuals have a key role – we can't rely on others to do everything for us. What we can achieve now depends on who catches the vision and lends a hand – particularly those with energy to give. Becoming a charity empowers us to do so much more.



Achievements to date – Since 2010, TCN members have



helped develop many good initiatives; most still provide valuable benefits today. These include the Community Orchard, Fitzalan Wood, Cotswold Broadband, Chippy Energy (feasibility studies for a local energy enterprise), our Neighbourhood Plan,

Chippy's Climate Emergency statement, Community-Supported Agriculture (now thriving at Farm-Ed), Cycling Chippy (developing maps and proposals for local active travel), Autumn Events showcasing local sustainable solutions, Oxfordshire Treescape Project and Trees Collaborate Group (Nature Recovery resources and activities across Oxfordshire), and various other activities sharing information and inspiration among local people and groups. We've also sent email updates to 300 subscribers.

Current activities – In 2023 TCN has been focused on connecting people and organisations with common interests:

- *Engaging with young people* – understanding their perspectives and needs and helping to connect them with people and resources to help meet their needs
- *Cotswold Foragers group* – a variety of activities for all ages
- *Fireside Philosophy* – a group for adults to meet and discuss whatever is important to them around a central fire pit
- *All Things Eco* – a Whatsapp group for sharing environmental ideas
- *Helping networking* – by supporting the new Chippy 'People, Planet, Pint' group, for sharing information and inspiration. Next is on 2 November – see Diary p36.
- *WOxEcoAct group* – coordinating ideas and action between groups across West Oxfordshire

Future priorities – We now want to add to a great start by doing more in other areas, including:

- *Nature recovery planning and activities* – We have excellent resources to prioritise effective areas and actions
- *Setting up 'mini Food Forest Patches'* – Put near local play areas, these are great for families to understand how ecosystems work and produce multiple benefits
- *Promoting active travel routes*

Charity benefits and help – Being a charity gives greater scope to fundraise, collaborate, and incubate initiatives to benefit our community. TCN's charity capabilities allow us to host more worthwhile activities. We can have a bank account, access to many more funds, insurance, safeguarding and other procedures in place for a comprehensive range of projects. We need help with book-keeping, general volunteers, help to update webpages and social media – and encouraging others to become TCN members.



For more information or to offer your support, please visit facebook.com/transitionchippingnorton facebook.com/Learn2Sustain.org.uk or email info@transitionchippingnorton.org or message 07517 144828.

William Fowler Allotments

In the lead with sustainability, Chippy has a proud history of well-tended and fruitful allotments with annually awarded prizes for the best kept plots. Demand for allotments is rocketing nationally driven by the pressures of rising food prices, the benefits of outdoor exercise and the satisfaction of growing your own. The Town's William Fowler Allotment holders have just been told that the Trustees are raising the rents from next year. This is because the revenue from rents and investments no longer covers the cost of running the Allotments. However, the Trustees have investigated charges for other local allotments and found that



the new rates still compare very favourably. The pensioner rate for a small plot will go from £5 to £10 next September but this concessionary rate will also be available to residents on low incomes who receive government support. The Trustees also plan to save money by reducing the number of skips provided, but hope to offer other, greener methods of waste disposal such as wood chipping. The new system will be reviewed every two years. There are still plots available to rent and lots of friendly allotment holders to give newbies good advice, so if you have time and energy why not sign up for an allotment – contact the Guildhall 01608 642341 for more details.

Keeping Chippy beautiful



On 7 October this group of public-spirited and cheerful volunteers gathered by the Town Hall. They were there to contribute to ‘cleaning up’ Chippy by litter-picking. ‘Helping-hand’ pick-up sticks were distributed to the assembled group of 22, including three enthusiastic children, and everyone put on very fetching hi-vis jackets. Following a safety briefing, eight teams spread out across the Town and applied themselves to picking up a varied haul of discarded items. The whole town centre was covered, 30 refuse sacks of rubbish were collected in two hours, and the teams were rewarded at the end of their endeavours by tea and biscuits provided by the Midcounties Co-op. One of the volunteers, Deputy Mayor Steve Akers, who has taken a lead in the Keep Chippy Beautiful idea, told Councillors about the successful event and the Council expressed their gratitude on Facebook for the effort put in by all those who attended, saying, ‘your enthusiasm and commitment made the event a resounding success’. So, thank you to you all.

Steve and others want to keep the momentum going, and not just with a litter pick. 14 October saw a volunteer clear-up at the Town Cemetery, but the overall campaign could include cleaning or improving street signs, unkempt shop fronts, weeds, untidy bins, graffiti, broken street furniture, damaged pavements and kerbs, overgrown vegetation on paths, and more. The community can help lead, but also needs help from Councils, businesses and visitors. Anyone interested, including to join a next litter pick, can contact townclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.

2023 Remembrance

Chipping Norton, with our Branch of the British Legion leading the way, will mark Remembrance as usual. There will



be a Poppy Appeal around town – in the Town Centre on both Saturdays 4 and 11 November. Then, on Saturday 11 November, marking Armistice Day at the end of World War I, the outdoor service at the War Memorial on London Road starts at 10.45. This will include prayers, the Last Post, two minutes’ silence at 11am and the laying of wreaths. On

Remembrance Sunday, 12 November, there will be a Parade from the Market Square assembling at 10.15, a march to St Mary’s Church, followed by the Remembrance Service there. Afterwards, members of the Royal British Legion and Dignitaries will march to the Town Hall, followed by a reception there with refreshments.

Some signs of progress

How does your street name sign look? Does it make a shabby sight for visitors? Does it need a makeover? Back in early 2021 a dossier was logged with Chipping Norton Town Council, showing around 40 of our dilapidated street signs needing replacement or major refurbishment. WODC are meant to do this – but they’ve done virtually nothing for



years. The best old traditional cast iron signs, many near the town centre, needed stripping and re-painting – but WODC said they wouldn’t pay for this – instead they offered modern-style signs which the Town Council was not happy with. So WODC apparently then gave ‘their blessing’ for our Town Council to take on the effort and cost of doing it themselves. So our ‘maintenance operative’ (that’s Paolo) has taken on that gradual task, with some great results so far. The Spring Street sign is pictured above. But there’s a long way to go yet (see Walterbush Road) – and at least 20 other more modern



signs (not the old cast iron ones) that need a makeover (see Fox Close and Hailey Road). Any chance that WODC might come up with money for renewing those?

Celebrating our citizens

How should we celebrate and commemorate members of Chipping Norton’s community and their achievements for and in the Town? The Town Council discussed this in October – with ideas for the best way to do this.

Town Awards Evening – An annual sports awards evening has been held for many years; we also have the Honorary Citizen’s title, and there was a major ‘Covid Heroes’ event recently. Now, Councillors are suggesting running a more regular combined ‘Annual Town Awards Evening’, possibly each autumn. It could include awards such as for Sports, Young Citizens, Good Neighbours, Businesses, and the Allotment Prizes – aimed at recognising those who nurture and protect our community, and show commitment and energy for their projects. Additional awards might be added.

Commemorating those who have died – In the past, many families, as well as the Council, have suggested named benches around town, but there are already a great number – which will need maintenance and, often, restoration. In the future, Councillors would like to encourage planting commemorative trees with plaques – and perhaps have multiple plaques on benches or other memorials. One

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important tradition, which Councillors would aim to continue, is naming newly built streets after past residents. The Town Council would continue to suggest such names to developers and WODC as appropriate. All this needs formalising as a new 'Celebrating and Commemorating Local Citizens Policy', with dates proposed for events. The Town Clerk will take this forward.

Clock goes 'back to the future'



Those who rely on Chipping Norton's Town Hall clock to wake them up at the right time have been a bit lost in recent months – first the 'donging' started doing strange things at odd intervals, then it stopped completely. Could it be about to feature in

another 'Back to the Future' film sequel? Queries on social media were given an explanation in early October – with some added wit – from the Town Council officer: 'Thank you all for caring about our Town Hall Clock and the Chimes. It was noted a while ago that there was a resounding issue... The clock was visited by a chime doctor today ... unfortunately there is a component which needs to be replaced ... before the clock will chime accurately. We will update you all once the engineers can tell us when they can come out and get our wonderful bell ringing. Until then, we do ask that Marty McFly and Doctor Brown do not attempt to try to fix it if we get another lightning storm.' Please remember you can contact the Town Hall for information by emailing events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk

Skatepark – & road safety

Chipping Norton Town Council's plans for a new skateboard park seem to be taking shape. After agreement in principle with the Field Reeves, it looks like this will be sited on the New Street Recreation Ground. In October, Councillors heard that both adults and children had offered to join a formal Skateboard Users Group to help design the park and support fundraising. Figures of £150–250,000 were mentioned. For information, or to help, contact Town Clerk Luci Ashbourne at The Guildhall. The Skateboard Park, and increased use of the recreation ground, put a spotlight on both parking and safety issues in crossing the nearby very busy A44 main traffic route. For a long time, residents and councillors have raised this issue. Oxfordshire County Council say they have been considering more safe crossings at the top and bottom of New Street (see article below), but there's been no action yet! Chipping Norton Town Council, in developing their Skatepark consultation proposals, say they may include reference to the need to fund safer crossings and strengthen the public demand for action from OCC.

Road safety & HGVs action?

Some of us go back 20+ years on all this, but more recently – 18 months ago in March 2022 – readers will recall a packed Town Hall meeting with recently appointed WODC and OCC Cabinet member, Cllr Duncan Enright. A recent fatal accident at the top of New Street, and continued heavy traffic and

safety woes were pretty much the only agenda item. With the County's remit in Cllr Enright's bailiwick, he promised both 'short and longer term solutions' – both to our dangerous road crossings and the HGV issues. So, where are we on all this as of October 2023?

Danger at top of New Street – First, OCC highways officers were despatched pretty smartly after that March 2022 meeting to have another look, with Town Councillors, at the dangerous junction of New Street/West Street/High Street – as well as other New Street crossings further down. Every few months an OCC officer comes along to Chipping Norton Town Council's Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) to discuss progress. So, as Cllrs Walker, Akers and Festa have all



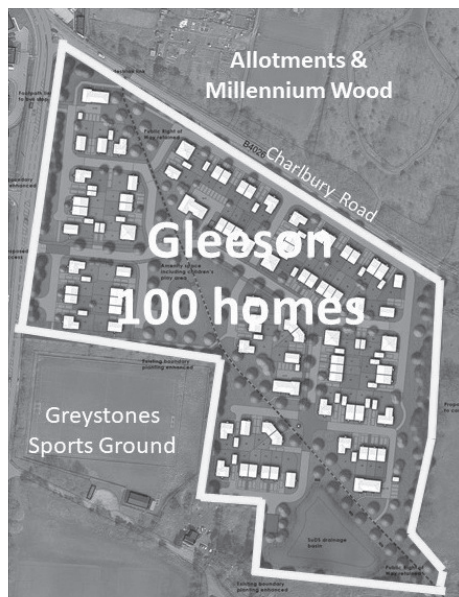
New St crossing hazard: this was the front page picture of the February 2001 News under the headline 'Lorries must go'

asked, when will there be any action or funding? Any solution for the top of New Street has always been seen as challenging – and OCC keep saying there is 'little resource', even for a proper investigation. September's TAC Minutes say a 'brief is nearly complete', but at present funding can 'not be secured' for a proper feasibility study. Instead, apparently, OCC are to 'commission a consultant' to complete a 'thorough optioneering study', to be 'drafted and formally consulted on' ready for the new financial year (ie after April 2024). OCC might then be able to afford a proper 'full feasibility and design for a preferred option'. But no promise has been made to actually fund any implementation work. We hope readers understand all of that.

HGV and heavy traffic action – The 20+ year story continued after that March 2022 Town Hall meeting, with any action having to wait for yet another two studies. First an 'A44 Corridor Report' (the main HGV route along the A44 from the Pear Tree roundabout in Oxford through to Evesham) was commissioned to look (yet again) at possible schemes along that route, including within Chippy. The report is apparently completed but, as of September's TAC, 'not signed off', so not yet available to our Councillors. Any actions will be included in the 'District Area Travel Plan'. A parallel study is a county-wide 'Freight and Logistics Strategy'. Work is underway to 'progress actions' – including, apparently, a 'weight restriction study'. 'More detailed studies' on HGV issues are being planned, include for Chipping Norton, to 'improve understanding of local HGV issues and collect granular local data'. 'Stakeholder steering groups' will be set up for these studies – which will include 'developing a business case for the funding required'. At the TAC, Chippy County Councillor Geoff Saul was pleased with Chippy being given priority on this HGV work. TAC Minutes say it 'should be a broad and

solution-focused project'. Little more has been made public yet on exactly how and when all this will benefit us.

Update on Gleeson homes



As reported last month, developer Gleeson was 'consulting' on proposals for 100 new homes on land at the edge of town between Charlbury Road and Greystones. There was some surprise to see diggers already on site! They were not building houses (yet!), but digging trenches to see if there was any archaeology –

only 200 metres from the known Roman settlement near Glyme Lane. This is normal practice as part of collecting site information before any planning application. With an option on the land, Gleeson had leafleted 1,400 homes within ½ mile asking for comments on their outline proposals. Their consultants, Meeting Place Consultation, told the News that 130 responses (online and via Freepost), showed 'a strong level of engagement'. Their questions had asked about specifics such as open space and affordable housing – but missed out the big question on whether this was an appropriate site for development in principle! Gleeson declined to offer the News a sneak peek of their analysis, simply saying they will consider all comments and make any appropriate amendments to their plans.

Gleeson had already asked WODC whether their proposal needs a formal Environmental Impact Assessment. The 5-hectare site is just over the size that would trigger this requirement. BBOWT Wildlife Trust were swift to demand an Assessment to ensure the Glyme Valley SSSI would be protected. If WODC agree, this will entail a lot of work for Gleeson and could delay the planning application. Gleeson's traffic engineers calculate that sixteen 2-way pedestrian trips, four public transport trips and forty-nine 2-way vehicle trips would be generated during each peak period, which, they say, 'is not a significant amount of additional traffic'. But why such heavy reliance on the private car and so few people walking to school, work etc, when Gleeson claim this is a sustainable location, 'within a 10-minute walk of the town centre'? Gleeson say an outline planning application is next – then WODC will need to answer that one earlier 'missing' question – is this an appropriate site for development?

Chippy Town Festival 2024

Are you starting to look forward to a warm Chippy summer next June! The Town Festival is coming back – on Sunday 30 June 2024 – and promises to be a great day of music, food, craft stalls and much more. The Festival Committee, with some enthusiastic new members, is delighted to be able to

put on this great town event again. There are lots of opportunities to get involved: performing, running a stall or volunteering on the day. Watch out for a newly updated Festival website coming out in December – and please drop a line to the team at cntownfestival@gmail.com if you would like to take part in any way.

News subscription price rise

The News Team continues to offer an annual subscription service to post out copies of each edition – mainly to a few regular readers who don't live locally. In their latest price increase (the second this year), Royal Mail has raised the second-class cost of sending these 'large letters' from £1.85 to £2.40. Consequently, any new subscribers will need to pay £33 per year for their 10 copies – to cover our full costs. Existing subscribers are unaffected until their next annual renewal. All readers, including distant subscribers, may note that they can access a full online PDF copy of the News for free via the Archive section of www.chippynews.org – but the latest edition is not put there until the end of the month of issue. The Archive also provides an excellent historical record of things happening in the Town.

Chippy's 'Deputy Lieutenant'

Oxfordshire, like all counties, has a Lord-Lieutenant, appointed officially to represent the Crown, host Royal visits, promote a 'spirit of co-operation', and work with voluntary and business organisations. Oxfordshire's office-holder, Marjorie Glasgow, who lives in Charlbury, also appoints over 40 'Deputy Lieutenants' around the County to assist her. Philip Sharman, who many may know as the project leader at The Branch development at the old NatWest Bank, was recently appointed her representative for Chipping Norton and Chadlington. Philip has long held a passion for energy and the environment, and has a talent for getting people together for the common good, with a calm and reassuring demeanour. His recent local voluntary activities have included: being a primary school governor, coordinating a team of volunteer drivers delivering food during Covid and Chipping Norton's vaccination clinics, co-ordinating The Branch building project, and driving the Chippy Shuttle Bus. He is an active member at St Mary's Church and lives in the Evenlode valley with wife Rachel. After a career in industry, government and academia on low-carbon energy technologies, he runs his own energy consultancy, and holds advisory positions with several clean-energy organisations and initiatives.



For Chippy and Chadlington, Philip has been asked to use his experience to focus on energy and sustainability (a passion shared by his ultimate boss, the King!) and also take a leading role in civic events such as Remembrance and the King's coronation festivities including Chippy's Party in the Park. With an appointment that could be for several years, Philip wants to focus on local effects of climate change and the need for biodiversity. He has already promoted this with ID cards for butterflies at a local primary school. He wants to align his work to the 2030 Global Sustainable Development Goals – that cover poverty, sustainability and the environment. He'd

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also like to provide leadership on decarbonised energy use and sustainable development.

Town Hall Prize Bingo

Put the date in your diary of Friday 10 November for a fantastic evening of Prize Bingo in Chipping Norton Town Hall. It's eyes down and dabbers at the ready with the session being organised by a group of local ladies in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. There will be loads of brilliant prizes and a raffle of fabulous gifts; a cash bar and refreshments will be on offer and lots of fun is guaranteed! It's all kicking off at 7.30pm so get there early to be sure of a seat.



Maggi Creese

New Street dentist to expand



Damira Dental Studios in New Street are expanding! They have a planning application to convert the adjacent 30 New Street building – adding space for three more dental surgeries to add to the current seven. The practice is one of the few in the area still treating NHS patients as well as offering a full range of private dentistry and facial enhancement. However, their NHS patients can still face an 18-

month wait for routine dentistry, they say, and they want to do something about it – hence expanding with a stated aim of providing 'better NHS services to the local community'. If that promise is kept, it should be good news for those who can't afford private dental costs. See feature below.

All In Nutrition arrives in town

Earlier this year, Dean Fuller and partner Cairo arrived in Chipping Norton and set up their health and nutrition business at Unit 36 in the Elmsfield Estate off Worcester Road. It looks like demand for their services is growing beyond



expectations! The News found out more. After a very demanding career (running children's homes and schools UK wide) affected his health, Dean was inspired to set up *All In Nutrition* to facilitate healthier minds and bodies – telling us 'it's not selfish to look after yourself'. With free initial consultations on offer up until Christmas, Dean can discuss clients' personal goals and measures – not only weight but muscle quality, body fat and water, metabolic age and other key data that underpins progression towards a healthier being.

Should people then want to continue, an initial 10-day period is agreed for £50 with daily consultation and delicious healthy breakfast protein shakes with Dean. The News Team's Roger Sinclair did all this and results were positive, with lower fat, improved muscle mass and a more hydrated body, and around a half a stone of weight loss into the bargain! After that 10 days you can 'go it alone; or continue for a month under Dean's supervision. Roger says he is far more aware now of what he should be eating and drinking and this is a complete step change from his former diet. His blood sugars are also far more in range – a common result for people with diabetes.

While Dean sees clients face-to-face in their Elmsfield unit, Cairo helps online clients with dietary and exercise plans. The couple aim to expand, looking at wider health promotion such as meditation and yoga alongside nutritional advice.

Dealing with the Dentistry Challenge

With dentists – particularly for NHS services – in very short supply nationally, The News spoke to Damira's founder Dr Annushika Brogan about how they felt able to expand in Chipping Norton.

Dr Brogan said the company, with 28 studios across England employing 270 dental professionals, had an excellent recruiter who had changed their processes. She said, 'The UK only trains a few hundred dentists each year, nothing like the number we need, so we start from a deficit, worsened by Brexit when many European dentists returned home.' But she says they can recruit fully qualified dentists from countries that train more dentists than they need. Damira arrange their visas, appoint them as dental nurses and support them through their General Dental Council examinations, which, with paperwork backlog, can take three years. Then, gaining their NHS Performance Number can take another 18 months, although that's recently reduced. So slow-moving bureaucracy doesn't



Dr Annushika Brogan

help! The Chippy practice was started by Matthew Emmott over 20 years ago higher up New Street who then in 2008 moved it to the former Grammar School premises. The practice was acquired by Damira a couple of years ago; Matthew still works there.

Appointments can be booked 8am–8pm Monday to Thursday, to 6pm Fridays and 5pm Saturdays, hopefully suitable to all. Of 10 clinicians (and three more to be added), six currently take NHS patients. There's also a therapist and hygienist. Dr Brogan stressed that the practice aims to ensure patients are well looked after – with capacity for those who cannot afford to pay for private care. If all goes well, the three new surgeries should open next year – all helping to keep Chippy's teeth healthy!

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Clients have mainly come from word of mouth so far but the couple are keen to engage more widely in Chippy. Contact them on Instagram [all_in_nutrition1](#) or Facebook All In Nutrition or Dean's mobile 07507 999613.

Police – Town Hall Open Day



Chipping Norton's Neighbourhood Team from Thames Valley Police (TVP) would like the public to come and meet them at the Town Hall on Saturday 4 November from 11am to 3pm. What's on your mind: antisocial behaviour? local crime? shoplifting and CCTV? keeping your home safe? worried about your own safety? The Open Day is for everyone in our community –

whether local residents or perhaps local town traders worried about keeping the town centre free of crime, pickpockets and out-of-town shoplifting gangs! You can chat to local police officers and PCSOs who know the Town and local villages. Our PCSO, Darryn Moulding, says there will also be stalls and representatives offering advice and support, including:

- The Branch Charity and Christians Against Poverty debt advice
- Reducing the risk – Domestic violence
- Community wellbeing with WODC
- Chippy's Fire Service
- Trading Standards
- Kingham Rotary Club

There will also be various TVP services such as: firearms licensing, bike marking, a rural crime info point, and an antisocial behaviour information point.

Latest Crime Number In August, the most recent month reported, 110 crimes were officially recorded by the police in the Chipping Norton area:

- Violence and sexual offences 40
- Vehicle crime 16
- Thefts 13
- Public order 9
- Shoplifting 8
- Antisocial behaviour 8
- Criminal damage & arson 7
- Burglary 5
- Drugs 4

The British Retail Consortium estimates that only one in 20 shoplifting offences are recorded by police as official crimes.

Fireworks at The Dunn Inn!

It was the Harrow Inn, then Art Yard Café, then Harrow Inn again – but it's reopening soon on the A44 in Enstone as The Dunn Inn. After a makeover, the pub team promise every weekend full of either live music or a DJ – with (shortly) an open party date hosted by a couple of celebrities. Their Facebook page promises a free taxi service from Chipping Norton (contact the pub for more details!!). The pub says it's family-friendly, with the sports bar showing all events, pool, and darts ... sadly their Halloween opening night on 28 October had to be cancelled as building work was unfinished but they hope to put on 'the best fireworks display in the area' on 5 November at 7pm.

Telegraph telling tales

Chipping Norton's friends down the road in Charlbury may or may not like the idea of being called 'the once sleepy town that's becoming Notting Hill-on-the-Wolds' – but that's the



latest label used by the *Daily Telegraph* in a roving feature written by someone who popped down from London. Or maybe they wrote it remotely from their London attic office. The article talked glowingly about Charlbury being 'a haunt for the great and the good' – with the usual mention of an Archbishop of Canterbury who used to live there, and of course David Beckham who lives 'nearby'. In fact, the feature seems to have been inspired by recent relaunchings of The Bull (by a London proprietor) and The Bell (another Bamford conversion), saying Charlbury now has 'the hip hotels and restaurants it deserves'. Of course Chipping Norton itself has not been immune to the *Telegraph* treatment. It was that newspaper which led the way, branding the 'Chipping Norton Set' after the phone hacking scandal back in 2011 provoked stories of the Set's 'country suppers'. And it was Peter Osborne, the *Telegraph's* political correspondent, who called

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the Chipping Norton Set that 'incestuous collection of louche, affluent, power-hungry and amoral Londoners'. Not us, guv!

New solicitors in town



Lee Chadwick, originally a Witney firm of solicitors, have announced that

they are opening a new branch office in Chipping Norton at 10 New Street (formerly Wild Thyme restaurant premises). This will make them the second firm of solicitors in town. Lee Chadwick are a long-established traditional high street



The firm's well-established Witney office

practice who have been based in Witney High Street for around 200 years. They have undergone a significant expansion over the last couple of years with branch offices in Bicester and Carterton and are excited to be opening in Chipping Norton. The office will be managed by Laura Parker, recently promoted to Partner and Head of the Family Team. Laura is a local solicitor who grew up in the area – and went to Chipping Norton School. Laura told the *Chippy News* that the firm will provide services in Family Law, Conveyancing, Wills, Probates, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Settlement Agreements. She said, 'Lee Chadwick offers free initial consultations in family law, and competitive fees across all our services, and home visits for the elderly. We also have an in-house estate agency and offer free legal fees for conveyancing if you market your house with our agency'. The firm hopes to have the new Chipping Norton branch up and running by Christmas, and are recruiting a legal secretary/receptionist. To apply with your CV, or for any other enquiries contact Laura at lp@lee-chadwick.co.uk.

Reserves used for Town Grants

Chipping Norton Town Council had earmarked £25,000 in their 2023/4 budget for grants to town charities and voluntary bodies. Back in July, Councillors considered the first (of two) rounds of grant applications. In that review, they decided to allocate an additional £10,000 from their reserves to provide ongoing core funding to the Lido (£5,000), Theatre (£3,000) and Museum (£2,000). They then awarded £16,000 to 13 local organisations as one-off grants. There were some provisos, but all grants have now been agreed. That now leaves around £9,000 from the original budget for further bids in a 'second round' in February 2024. Town organisations might mark that deadline in their diaries!

However, in another exception to the main grants process, at October's full Town Council, Councillors considered a special request from newly formed charity Transition Chipping Norton for £2,000. This was for staff and resources to support the start of a Tuesday evening (5–7pm) 'Drop In' space for young people in the Town. The Town

Council were also asked to allow the Town Hall to be used free for this – a further 'opportunity cost' for the Council. At the meeting there was considerable discussion on this – on both the case for doing it and practicalities. Councillors voted by a majority to award the grant. This will also have to come from reserves – making a total of £12,000 so far being allocated over and above the original £25,000 grants budget.

Town Council improvements

In October, Chipping Norton Town Council welcomed news that it had been awarded the 'Foundation Award' from the National Association of Local Councils – recognising the Council's good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. The award letter said that the Town Council 'goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.' This is part of the Local Council Award Scheme – a 'peer-assess' programme aimed at rewarding and encouraging both early improvement as well as cutting edge best practice. Town Mayor Sandra Coleman was delighted, acknowledging the huge effort by staff to modernise and improve the work of the Council. Deputy Mayor Steve Akers applauded the hard work and commitment of staff, paying credit to them and to former Town Councillors who had the vision to steer the Council on the path. The Town Council welcomes input from the local community on future improvement – and will work towards the Quality Award for the Scheme in 2024.



Twinkle time at Fairytale Farm

Each year, come October, local family attraction Fairytale Farm, just a mile outside Chipping Norton, switches on its autumn illuminations, and each year there is something new to see. This year, children will be able to play in Fairy Dell with the twinkling lights all around them, and try to spot the illuminated fairies. The park will be open all day as normal, but



when daylight fades the entire Enchanted Walk will become a magical wonderland of fairy lights, which will delight children and adults. Fairytale Farm owner, Nick Laister, says, 'We have so many spectacular things to see this year. From illuminated moving dinosaurs to Jack's Beanstalk rising into the night sky – and so much more.' The farm aims to use energy efficient and eco-friendly lighting, which is also brighter and more colourful. It will stay open until one hour after dusk every

weekend and daytime visitors can stay on and see the illuminations for free. There is also a reduced admissions price from 3pm, which you can purchase on arrival while annual pass holders can visit for free, as many times as they like. The Beanstalk Café will be open throughout with a choice of hot and cold snacks. Parts of the animal area will close at dusk as the lights come on, so be sure to arrive in good time so you don't miss all that Fairytale Farm has to offer in the daylight. More at www.fairytalefarm.co.uk

Celebrating Harvest

Chipping Norton joined in celebrating the Harvest again this year, a tradition believed to date back to the most ancient of



times, when people relied on crops for food and farmers would give thanks for a good harvest. At St Mary's Church, it was once again a thank you to many people who donated food and produce – including, not for the first time, Charlie Withers (pictured) who shared the fruits of his allotment to decorate the church for the Harvest Service. Emma Kennedy told the News that, having been much admired, the vegetables were then used to make soup, pies and cakes, some by the 'Branch Out and Cook' pupils from Top School. The results will be distributed to those in and around the Town who need it most.

Harvest suppers had long been popular and then the Victorians developed the Harvest Festival service with a church decorated with baskets of fruit and food which included singing well-known harvest hymns such as *We plough the fields and scatter* It's now marked by many religions –



Harvest Festival at Beech Haven

usually on the Sunday nearest to the Harvest Moon, a full moon nearest the Equinox. This year it was on 1 October. Lisa Tanner from Chipping Norton's Beech Haven Care Home told the News that residents were able to enjoy two harvest festivals held at the home by St Mary's Church and the Methodist Church – all of which including some wonderful singing.

Political doings affecting Chippy

For those who have missed it – Oxfordshire County Council is no longer led by the Lib Dem/Labour/Green 'Fair Deal Alliance' – set up after the 2021 elections. A row surfaced between Lib Dem and Labour about who should 'fall on their sword' after a damning report by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission on the County's Special Education Needs (SEND) services. Labour decided to withdraw totally from the Alliance, with press stories suggesting that there had been problems within the Alliance anyway. This means that Lib Dems now occupy all the Cabinet seats, but with an overall minority of Councillors. They will depend on one-off collaborations to get votes through. So, what is the impact on Chippy? Well, Labour's Cabinet Member Duncan Enright (see article on HGVs and traffic) has resigned, so we depend on the Lib Dems for progress on roads and traffic, and their promise now to 'create a greener, healthier and fairer Oxfordshire'. They will also need to ensure that our Town's plans for growth, including at East Chipping Norton, are 'sustainable'. Perhaps a letter to Lib Dem Leader Liz Leffman might be in order?



The other political reminder is that, for a likely 2024 General Election, Chipping Norton and Charlbury will now vote with a Banbury constituency – whose current Tory MP, Victoria Prentis (pictured), is likely to stand. Recent polls suggest this new seat will be very marginal. Our current MP, Tory Robert Courts, says he will stand for the new Witney seat – which may also be hard fought. Oddly, Chippy stays with Witney in West Oxfordshire District Council for local matters. All these rearrangements create a new additional constituency of Bicester and Woodstock, probably with brand new candidates. More news to come on all this.

SaltPig's world's best pigsticks

Chipping Norton-based artisan charcuterie producer, SaltPig Curing Company, have won two awards at the inaugural



year of the World Charcuterie Awards. Facing international competition from over 400 products, their Chorizo Pigsticks – a snacking salami – won Gold Award and Best in Class. Their SaltPig Sobrasada, a spreadable salami with a gentle kick of locally grown chilli, won a Silver Award. Launched in 2023, the World Charcuterie Awards is a worldwide competition where traditional producers, such as in Italy, Spain and France, are now pitted against the newer producers on the global scene such as in the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland. The international judges, including charcuterie experts from the meat, hospitality and retail industries, looked at taste, length of flavour, mouth feel, appearance, tradition or innovation. Using mature, local, rare-breed pigs, former chef Ben Dullely and his team at SaltPig create a great range of cured meats. They believe that using traditional methods and no commercial shortcuts is what sets their products apart and, importantly, this starts with a whole-animal butchery approach. Products include whole and sliced packs of air-dried

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meats and salamis. With Christmas approaching, the range of popular gift boxes are ideal for giving or to sample at home. Order online at saltpigcuring.co.uk or see Instagram & Facebook @saltpigcuring.

Methodist Church news

The Church had a successful harvest festival weekend, with an all-age worship service led by minister Andrew Biggs. This was followed by a lunch and auction – including the tomatoes donated by this young church member. Everyone was thrilled to raise over £100 for a Methodist charity called ‘all we can’, and also sent a trolley full of canned and boxed food to the Food Bank. Dates coming up include:



- Wednesday 1 November, Cuppa and Chat for Methodist World Missions
- Thursday 2 November, T&T (Talk and Tea) 2.30–4pm in the Lower Church Hall, a talk by Jennie Heming: *My second life*. Imagine being trained as a Landscape Gardener and later in life finding yourself running a book and coffee shop in Bourton on the Water! Come along to hear how her story came about! For further info ring Nesta on 07870 384902.
- Monday 13 November, Crafty Cuppa and Chat runs from 10am to 12 noon in the Lower Church Hall.

Elaine Parsons

Katharine House update

For supporters of our local Hospice there’s an ‘ELFY way to kick off Christmas by joining the **Santa Fun Run** on Sunday 3 December. Dressing as Santa optional for 1.5 or 5km runs at Spiceball Park, Banbury. Tickets from khh.org.uk/santa. Remember a loved one at the **Lights of Love** event on Thursday 7 December at St Mary’s Church, Banbury. Find out more at khh.org.uk/lights. The **Christmas Tree-cycle** scheme is back. Make a donation and one of the hospice elves will collect and recycle your tree. Check your postcode at

khh.org.uk/christmastree. Thanks to everyone who supported the **Open Gardens** this year – raising nearly £6,000! Why not host your, or your whole village’s, gardens next year. See khh.org.uk/gardens. KHH’s seven **charity shops**, including in Chipping Norton, help people shop more sustainably. Could you spare some time to volunteer at one of the shops? Call in your local shop or see khh.org.uk/volunteer-shops. Finally, don’t miss out on the news – sign up to Katharine House’s **digital monthly newsletter**. See khh.org.uk/newsletter.

Help with Multiple Sclerosis

Over 130,000 people in the UK have multiple sclerosis (MS) – a relentless and painful condition, damaging nerves and making it harder to walk, talk and think. Peter Branson, Chippy coordinator for West



Oxfordshire’s MS support group, explained how they help. 120 members include 90 with MS plus their supporters. 20 years ago, the group started meeting every Wednesday at Burwell Hall in Witney for MS-related exercising. Each week attracts 12–20 people with MS. The first hour (from 10.30) is dedicated to either Yoga or Pilates but then the social side takes over for half an hour of refreshments and a chance to exchange experiences and information. During Covid, Zoom sessions were a lifeline and continue for those unable to get to Burwell Hall. On Mondays Yoga from Eynsham via Zoom is available plus Pilates on Tuesdays. Grants can help people affected by MS to live better, adapting their homes, purchasing equipment, etc. Funds come from legacies, donations and street collections. This summer’s in Chippy raised £518 – a great morning’s result for nine volunteers! There are also socials, lunches, trips, a Christmas get-together and quarterly editions of the Group News, which includes useful telephone numbers and email addresses. Peter said, ‘Please don’t think you have to deal with this alone. We are here to support you. And remember to do the targeted exercises!’ Email westoxfordshiresupport@mssociety.org.uk or call 07761 625815.

Staying Active with MS



The national website www.mssociety.org.uk has a wide range of online resources – many from the MS Living Well Team. One Chipping Norton man, 50-year-old Phil Evans (pictured), leads a monthly session called ‘Staying Active with MS’ usually on the first Monday each month. Phil was diagnosed with MS at 30 after minor symptoms turned to blindness in one eye and walking difficulties. The sessions explain how to get active – in many different sports. Experts and participants with MS take part. Phil himself is now a qualified yoga teacher.

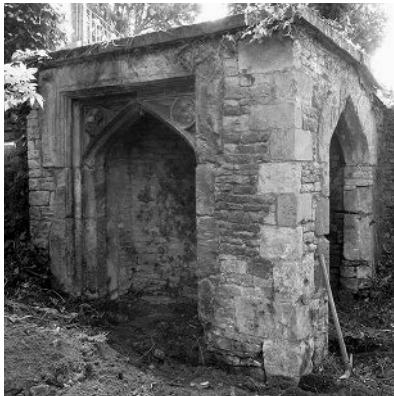
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A hidden treasure behind HSBC



Top: Victorian summerhouse with medieval archways. Right: Decoration on one of the archways
Pictures CN Buildings Record

stands a Victorian summerhouse which preserves two fine stone arched doorways from a medieval house that previously occupied the site. No 19 Market Place, which was eventually replaced in 1891 by the northern end of the bank building, was an old house that had become a notorious pub called the Borough Arms. Contemporary newspaper accounts of the pub's demolition in 1891 mention the medieval doorways and promise that 'these antiquarian relics will be carefully taken down and preserved ... The old archways have now been carefully taken down and will be re-erected. The upper stones forming the old fifteenth century archway required the combined strength of eight men to move them, and are estimated to weigh fifteen hundredweight each'.

The two large archways probably date from the 15th century and are constructed from local limestone. One is carved and decorated with deeply cut quatrefoils set in spandrels with a roll moulding. The other is a plainer Tudor arch with moulded jambs. Traces of red and yellow ochre paint on both archways suggest that they were originally coloured. There is no sign of weathering, or of graffiti from their time in the Borough Arms! They probably stood at either end of a cross-passage in what must once have been an impressive house. The planning authorities are aware of these archways behind the bank, and any grant of planning permission for construction that affects the back garden should specify that the archways are to be preserved. Let's hope that these handsome 'antiquarian relics' will become more accessible and can be enjoyed by everyone interested in exploring the history of the Town.

Adrienne Rosen & Jan Cliffe

Willow Gardens Xmas Fayre

Residents and staff at Willow Gardens in Russell Way will be holding their first Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25 November from 10am to 3pm. Why not come along to the beautiful and welcoming Whispering Willows bistro – already a very popular lunch venue for both residents and local visitors. There will be a very varied selection of gifts for all ages by local craftspeople and artists: embroidery, wood turning, perfume and toiletries, jewellery and luscious cakes, etc. There's a Tombola with some lovely prizes donated by Chippy

businesses. All are welcome to come, browse and have a tea or coffee with a mince pie or bun in the lounge overlooking the beautiful garden. Come and meet the lively residents for a happy start to the Christmas season.

Jackie Haworth

There's music in those pubs

Once upon a time, Chipping Norton was at the heart of the UK music scene. Famous bands came from far and wide to record at the Studios in the old school house down



New Street and many of the pubs hosted both regular and impromptu live music. Times have changed, but the situation is not as dire as you might think. **The Chequers** in Chipping Norton is fast becoming the place to go if you like making music with other people on a casual basis. The Third Thursday Acoustic Session has been going for several years now, while the monthly Sunday evening jazz jam is becoming a regular fixture with local jazz fans. Most recently, the Chipping Norton Folk Club has moved its monthly Monday event to the Barn at the back of the pub, having lost its Enstone home.

On the free-live-music-as-entertainment front, both **The Fox** and the **King's Arms** host bands regularly. The Fox's night is the last Friday in the month with a range of different styles from jazz and folk to rock and roll, pop covers, and more. The King's usually has a free band on the last Saturday in the month. Their Elvis nights are apparently not to be missed either. Both offer additional music over Bank Holidays and the like. Sadly, there's no live music at **The Red Lion** these days – perhaps time for a revival? However, **The Crown & Cushion** still puts on local bands occasionally, often in aid of charity, and diners at **Whistlers** can enjoy live music at least once a month, usually on a Saturday evening.

Christmas Tree Festival

Why not get yourself into the seasonal mood with a visit to Chipping Norton's Christmas Tree Festival at our Methodist Church in West Street? Over 50 Christmas trees have already been ordered for groups and organisations. You can come and decorate one – there's still time to book at tree for £25 with Maggie via



martinhannant27@gmail.com or on 01608 643653. 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). Final service of celebration at 4.30pm. Any profits made will be used to support the Chipping Norton, Churchill and Wigginton Methodist

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churches. Tea and coffee, light refreshments, cakes and craft stalls will be available. Entrance free.

Chippy businesses help Thrive



Local Charity Thrive North Oxon works to provide essentials for local families who are struggling. Aware that tooth decay is the most common reason for children to be admitted to hospital in England, Thrive is doing its bit to tackle the problem. Thanks to Thrive, children at the ACE centre were given dental packs containing toothpaste, a toothbrush and a timer to encourage thorough brushing. The charity were very grateful to Yasin

Jussab and Topside Pharmacy (pictured) for contributing items for the packs and are hoping to supply Health Visitors with packs to distribute too. You can help by donating money direct to Thrive or else just buy toothpaste, etc, and leave it in the Thrive donation bin at the Co-op.

With Christmas coming, Thrive is aware that needy kids often miss out. One way of helping is to pop into Mr Simms' sweet shop in the High Street and collect a free Thrive jar to fill with those unwanted pennies lurking in drawers, coat pockets, down sofas, etc. Then deliver the filled jars back to the shop and the Thrive team will collect and deposit all your pennies to provide urgently needed essentials for local children and teens. These include school uniforms and shoes, beds and bedding, and food vouchers.



House proposal at Greystones

Chipping Norton Town Councillors reacted with some incredulity, at their October meeting, at the prospect of a large new private home with a swimming pool being built right in the middle of the sports facilities at Greystones. It's at the site of Ash Tree Farm Cottage, which is in a poor state of repair, on a small 'island' of land in fact owned by the Cottsway Housing Association. The sports facilities surrounding the cottage – all on land largely owned by the Town Council, include the Chippy Swifts ground, Chipping Norton Rugby Club, the Bowls Club, Scout hut and a rifle range. The Council have aspirations to improve facilities there. A planning application for a five-bedroomed detached home, complete with double garage with annex over, parking for a further three vehicles, an outdoor swimming pool and a garden office pod was discussed by Councillors, with Mayor Sandra Coleman suggesting that the Housing Association owner was simply trying to maximise the value of its asset, prior to selling the plot. Councillors were concerned that any occupants might be inconvenienced by stray balls and weekend parking – and decided to make a formal comment about potential incompatibility.

Churchill Rd housing plan

In our Planning Feature (p17) last month we referred to potential new housing developments on farm land off the Churchill Road at the end of town, beyond Tilsley and Lords Piece Roads. This included a new Blue Cedar application for five homes, and a proposal by Sharba Homes some years ago for 60 houses which was refused on Appeal. We suggested, incorrectly, that this was on Westfield Farm land (which is, in fact, further along Churchill Road). We should have referred to West End Farm. Our apologies to Robin Woodcock of Westfield Farm, who let us know. He has, in fact, lodged a formal objection to the latest Blue Cedar planning application. Separately, we did report correctly that an application for converting a barn to a holiday home at Westfield Farm has been allowed on Appeal by an Inspector.

Rollright Christmas Market

Save the date – The Great Rollright Christmas Market is back – on Saturday 2 December 11am–2pm in Great Rollright Village Hall. Everyone welcome – there will be craft and gift stalls plus food and fun. It's organised by the Friends of Great Rollright School. The organising team are still looking for stall holders – if you would like to take a stall, or would like to help on the day, please email greatrollrightfriends@gmail.com.

Amy Spicer

Transport matters!

A quick update for Chippy public transport users. With the maximum £2 single bus fare now continuing to the end of 2024 – it's good news for bus travellers to Oxford, Witney,



Banbury and Stratford. Contactless cards can be used on these services. Network Rail are continuing with major work on the Botley Road bridge at Oxford Station – with an extra platform for improved train services. However unexpected Victorian relics under the ground have delayed work! Botley Road will have to remain closed right through until October 2024 – with continuing major road congestion in and around Oxford. Network Rail are also carrying out engineering work on our North Cotswold Line. Following the recent October closure affecting Kingham, the line between Moreton-in-Marsh and Evesham will be closed 24–27 March 2024 preventing through journeys to Worcester, Hereford and the Midlands. In connection with HS2 works at Old Oak Common, Paddington will be closed from 24–27 December requiring Tube travel beyond Ealing Broadway.

We are often asked about access by bus to the Oxford hospitals for those without a car. Oxford Bus Company 700 serves the JR, Churchill and Nuffield Orthopaedic (NOC)

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Mon-Fri. Take the S3 to the South Parade stop on Woodstock Road and walk across to Summertown and the 700 stops near M&S. Alternatively take the S3 into Oxford and walk via Cornmarket to St Aldates and take either X3 (serves JR), Stagecoach 10 (serves NOC via Cowley then JR), and Oxford Bus 15 (serves the Churchill with a walk through to the NOC).

Langston Arms – then & now



The News team has been sent this charming photo of the old Langston Arms Hotel in Kingham – built as a hunting lodge by the Earl of Ducie in the 1870s using stone from the private quarry of his wealthy father-in-law, James Langston, whose family name was used when it became a hotel. Positioned next to a principal railway junction, it was the headquarters of the local hunt and had stabling for 23 hunters. Guests of the Earl of Ducie and other visitors from London would bring their horses by train for a weekend's hunting. It later became a popular hotel and the News team wondered if readers have any memories of the famously lively going's on in the bar in the 1960s and 70s. Eventually in 1985 the hotel took on a more sober character and was converted into a nursing home. The Langston Residential & Nursing Home as it is today is pictured here.



James Langston himself was MP for Woodstock and Oxford, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, and extremely rich, inheriting the Sarsden and Churchill estate and much money, from his father's Merchant banking career and shares in the East India Company. Langston's local beneficence included funds to build Chipping Norton's railway and Town Hall, and All Saints Church, Churchill.

Council's views on Local Plan

As reported in our major housing feature last month – West Oxfordshire District Council are now working on a new Local Plan that will run up to 2041 – partly to deal with out of date and unmet housing plans. They've suggested options for District-wide growth patterns – eg: concentrating in the three main towns, dispersed across villages, focussed on public transport routes, and so on. A consultation, ending in late October, asked for input.



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chipping Norton Town Councillors debated this in October using a well-considered paper from Mayor Sandra Coleman. A new approach could partially replace land currently earmarked at East Chippy, but Councillors wanted to ensure the scale would be appropriate for the Town but big enough to fund infrastructure. For West Oxfordshire as a whole, our Councillors favoured a broad strategy, combining Carterton development with dispersed growth in village clusters and along public transport routes. For Chippy, they favoured growth to the east, infilling between the Banbury and London Roads, and avoiding ribbon development or expansion into the AONB. On housing, they sought more council homes, affordable and social rent homes, up-to-date energy standards to avoid future retro-fitting and more homes to suit town needs, such as for young people.

Councillors wanted a 5km 'biodiversity corridor' along Chipping Norton Brook from Over Norton to Cornwell, to involve organisations like a new Community Land Trust and

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Transition Chipping Norton, in discussions on green community energy, and to improve Greystones sports facilities. On infrastructure, Councillors wanted improved pedestrian routes, better and accessible road crossings, improved public transport, a new primary school, health service expansion and tennis courts. Minded about employment, Councillors suggested a designated employment site for a science park, step-up-and-grow workshops and studio spaces and serviced offices – all appealing to a young demographic. WODC held a public exhibition at Glyme Hall on 23 October, just before the consultation closed on 25th. WODC will now review input and finalise their overall Local Plan growth strategy.

Great progress at The Branch

The Branch Trust – progressing well with a big conversion of Chippy's former NatWest bank – are eager to make the building weatherproof ASAP! October saw big changes: the new Community Hall was fitted with rooflights; its roof and outside walls clad in tiles; underfloor heating pipes installed; and original building openings formed. Scaffolding



on the front façade has gone – revealing a newly-cleaned front elevation. Most complex roof scaffolding has also gone, allowing good progress on rebuilding old areas that housed the Bank Manager's Office, the boiler plant, and offices and kitchenette. All this work has reached the top floor – with roofing next month. The fit-out now starts, with interior walls going in and 'first fix mechanical & electrical' happening. Once again, thank you for your patience.

Emma Kennedy

Macmillan Coffee morning



Chipping Norton's Beech Haven Care Home raised £155.80 at their recent annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Lisa Tanner sent a picture saying that cakes and games galore (pictured) were enjoyed by residents, families and their staff. The Annual coffee morning is Macmillan's biggest fundraiser to support people living with cancer. This year's date was 29 September – you can

hold your own any time, any place – at home, in your drive, at work or even online. £22 million was raised in 2022! Find out more at coffee.macmillan.org.uk.

Library, stories, lego & a dog!

Chipping Norton library is bringing back Warm Space Fridays, starting 3 November, 1pm to 5pm. Stay warm and enjoy a hot drink and a chat in a friendly, welcoming environment. Don't worry if you're not a member, everyone is welcome. There is Wi-Fi, the magazine swap box and, of course, books. The next Saturday Storytime is on 4 November. It's suitable for ages 3–6, or thereabouts. There's no need to book, as places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Like all the library events, it's free! Storytime volunteer, Ellie, is lots of fun and we sometimes do a short craft activity afterwards. Guide Dog Association trained Golden Retriever, Poppy, will be visiting the library 2–4.30pm on Wednesday 8 November. If you love dogs or if you'd like to find out more about the amazing work of the Guide Dog Association, then drop by. There'll be tea, coffee and cake too! It's still hoped to start a weekly, after-school Lego Club but the library needs Lego to get started and would be grateful for any unwanted Lego donations.

Sally Moore – Library Manager

The Branch's Big Christmas Give



There's a chance to 'double your donation' to The Branch Trust with their Big Give Christmas Challenge! With the building project nearing completion in the New Year, funds will be much needed to run all the valuable community activities and services. The Branch Trust's

Campaign Manager Georgina Orchard promises a 'community hub to serve the Town and surrounding area, restoring access to services – tackling debt, poor mental health and domestic violence – building hope, transforming lives – a space to bring practical help to our community'. One recent attendee of a course said 'it saved my life, literally, and gave me my life back'. The Branch team are now looking for your help with this last part of the journey – to

join the fundraising Christmas Challenge. During the campaign week of 28 November to 5 December, all donations to The Branch Trust will be generously matched by a funding pot created by supporters and a Big Give champion funder. So for every £1 donated, £2 will be raised. Georgina told the News they were hoping, with the matching pot, to raise £22,500 in the campaign and hopes everyone will help turn the The Branch's aims into reality.

To donate see thebranchtrust.org or visit donate.biggive.org/campaign/a056900002RXvjbAAL here any time between Tuesday 28 November and Tuesday 5 December. Follow The Branch Trust on Instagram or Facebook, watch out for the social media campaign and get involved. Spread the word and tell friends and family to get involved.

Supporting the Lawrence Team



David on the Great South Run

As well as using financial support, our local Lawrence Home Nursing Team has a number of valuable and dedicated volunteers. One of them, David Best, explains why and how he helps. *'The Team provided compassionate end of life support for my wife Sarah, enabling her to spend her last days at home surrounded by her family when the hospital said that there was nothing more they could do. Their wonderful support should be available to anyone who sadly needs it. The NHS District Nurses provide superb care during the day but not during the night. Guided by a patient's needs and wishes, the nurses work closely with GPs and community nurses to help manage symptoms and give each person the care right for them. By helping people relax and feel like themselves, the nurses make sure patients and their families get the most out of their last few moments together. The team offers care whenever needed, for a few hours in the day or through the night. Patients (18 and over) are referred by GPs, community and specialist nurses, hospitals, hospices and sometimes family members. The charity receives less than 10% of its income from the Government. The rest comes from donations which is why I have become a volunteer and fundraiser. I competed in the 10-mile Great South Run in October to raise money for this fantastic charity.'*



This year's Christmas cards are on sale now in and around Chipping Norton, including the Midcounties Co-op, Post Office, Jaffé & Neale, Bippity Boo, Averose Pharmacy in Charlbury and Chadlington Quality Foods. See lawrencehomenursing.org for more information. Thank you to this year's artists, Susan Woolley and Anuk Naumann.

Verity Fifer

Volunteering opportunities

Many local community groups in Chipping Norton need volunteers – for a whole range of tasks and projects. It can be for just a couple of hours a week or month – or more. You may have skills you can offer, skills you might like to learn – or you might simply be someone who can provide a friendly helping hand or company to others joining in on activities. Would you like to know of groups or organisations that might need your help? The Town Council can put you in contact with some of the groups that would welcome you. Email events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk or leave a message for Tania Kirby at the Guildhall Town Council office and she will try and help.

Richard Averill 1944–2023



The Chipping Norton News team was sad to hear of the death of Richard Averill, who had been a regular member of the Team with a particular interest in environmental issues. Richard moved to Chipping Norton with his wife Gay in 2008. He had retired from his job as an IT Consultant, working mainly for Moorfields Eye Hospital. He and Gay soon involved

themselves in life in the Town, both becoming ushers at The Theatre. Richard, because of his 'green' principles, became the first Green Councillor on the Town Council. In 2011, the Green Gym was still linked with Woodstock and called 'Woodchip'. It was Richard who, concerned about travelling distances and noting that there were plenty of members in the north of the area, proposed a Chipping Norton Green Gym – and was instrumental in launching it in 2012. In no time he became a leader and was chair from 2014–2017 when sadly he had to resign due to ill health. A vivid memory of Richard is his tall, lean form expertly wielding a scythe with which he could frequently be seen carrying it over his shoulder as he strode home up the Worcester Road. And there is no doubt that his legacy to the Town is Fitzalan Wood (near Travis Perkins), part of the common land which was waiting for 'development'. The Field Reeves were keen for trees and Richard took the lead in gaining the grants and permissions and choices of trees to plant what is now an established woodland.

Thanks to Gay Holden for this tribute. Our thoughts are with her and all of the family.





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NHS Covid and Flu vaccinations

Booster jabs – what’s on offer

Flu jabs – With influenza back to pre-Covid levels, the Government recommends those eligible to get vaccinated. It’s free for all over 65s, all children aged 2–3 and many clinically vulnerable groups. Jabs are available at Chipping Norton Health Centre and many pharmacies.



Covid booster jabs – Nationally, there’s a new Covid variant and hospitalisations are rising, although by October, Chipping Norton’s rate was low (under 3 per 1000 residents). However, the elderly and others at risk could get severely ill. So, at short notice, the Government brought forward the start of the national jab campaign from 1 October to 11 September, urging everyone eligible to get one, including over 65s, care home residents, the under 64s in clinical risk groups, frontline health and care workers, and some critical carers. Check your eligibility at nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services. To book a Covid jab **appointment**, if you are eligible, you can book online (via the NHS link), call NHS 119, or use text phone 18001. You should be given a choice of venue. As of mid-October, the nearest were Moreton and Burford, with plenty others further afield. Chipping Norton Health Centre was not providing Covid boosters this time which caused some local issues (see article opposite).

You can also use a **Covid walk-in clinic** arranged, in some cases at the last minute, by the NHS. These included one by Oxford Health Trust at Chipping Norton War Memorial Hospital. They ran four in October, with plenty of take-up.. Future **Chippy Hospital Walk-in clinics are 10am–1pm & 1.45–4pm on 31 October and then 10, 17 & 21 November**. Dress for the weather as you may need to queue outside! There were also walk-in clinics at Witney, Bampton, Headington and Faringdon. The latest availability for walk-in clinics can be found on www.staywell-bob.nhs.uk.

NHS pressures hit Covid jab rollout

Nationally – and visibly in Chipping Norton – there were challenges in September with rolling out free Covid booster jabs. First, NHS England moved the start date forward suddenly. They had reduced the Government fee paid to GPs/pharmacies from £10.06 to £7.54 per jab (Wales is £10.03 and Scotland £12.58). Finally, having relied on GPs previously, they hit a problem of limited GP resources – with a flu jab campaign running in parallel. A number of GPs around England said ‘not possible’. Chipping Norton Health Centre, in an alliance with its smaller fellow local practices (Bloxxham & Hook Norton, Cropredy, Deddington and Wychwood), together also said ‘no’ to the request. Their spokesperson, Gillian Roberts, told the News that 4 out of the 5 practices could not meet the workload involved. Pressure of day-to-day healthcare left them with no additional capacity. They also had real shortage of both GPs and practice clinicians – resources had to focus on patients such as those acutely unwell, with long-term conditions, housebound or in care homes. Gillian emphasised Chippy Health Centre’s positive record as one of the first to start Covid jabs and delivering 80,000 vaccinations.

It was left to the NHS body in charge of our region (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire – BOB) to somehow fill the hole. They told the News that, as well as Chipping Norton, another Oxfordshire GP alliance at Hungerford had declined. A spokesperson from BOB said that, with the start date brought forward, as soon as they knew about the Oxfordshire GPs’ ‘gap’, they began work ‘at pace’ to arrange local teams, venues and supplies for pop-up clinics. In fact, the News was told that Chippy’s Hospital Team had been asked only in mid-September – but they were happy to step in. It was all rather ‘last minute’ and local communications were inevitably somewhat patchy.

The Silent Battle: Chronic Pain

One Chipping Norton resident, concerned about chronic pain which sometimes has no apparent explanation, told the News about specialist Oxfordshire GP Anna Smith who offers a holistic approach to help. Here’s what we learned.

Up to 30% of Anna Smith’s patients suffer persistent pain or symptoms – in spite of medical tests showing ‘normal’ results. Many people suffer pain, a companion that never leaves their side and, alongside, may have brain fog, headaches and bladder symptoms. Welcome to the world of chronic pain. Unlike acute pain (a response to acute injury that resolves over time), chronic pain is a debilitating condition that lasts. An example would be fibromyalgia, affecting physical and emotional wellbeing. But when you have physical symptoms despite ‘normal’ scans and test results, we say ‘*medically unexplained symptoms*’. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome, interstitial cystitis, migraine, chronic headaches and chronic fatigue.

Anna challenges this terminology and prefers ‘*medically explained symptoms*’ citing growing scientific evidence to explain the cause. She says many such patients have suffered traumatic childhood events, have stressful life events and variable lifestyle choices that create an inflammatory



response to mind and body. Past or present stress causes inflammation of brain cells and the brain unconsciously, and automatically creates pain symptoms in response to emotional or physical factors. Another example is eating a diet high in processed foods which affects organisms in the gut setting off an inflammatory response resulting in bowel symptoms or brain fog. Alongside this, our ‘fight or flight’ response can be activated. With raised cortisol and adrenaline levels, this may cause bladder, bowel or fatigue symptoms. This all explains why fibromyalgia sufferers have pain but suffer other symptoms such as brain fog, fatigue and headaches too.

Help can be available with resources such as www.sirpa.org or practitioners such as Anna who says she is the only Oxfordshire GP offering these healing services, looking at pain and symptoms in a holistic, comprehensive manner and working with patients on a recovery plan. For more information, visit www.healthwellnessgp.co.uk.

COMMUNITY FEATURE

The Chippy Larder's busy year

An update on progress at this valued community resource in 2023 – and a look to the future

It started with food in lockdown and an urgently needed Leisure Centre food bank! But in the last three years, founder Rizvana Poole and the scores of volunteers have made The Chippy Larder a key community resource on a much wider front, helping many local families. The team's ambition is **'Nourishing, Empowering and Connecting our community through projects in Food, Finance, Fitness and Futures'**. Here are some highlights:

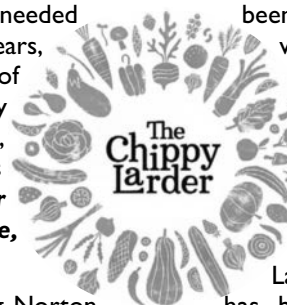
The busy weekly Larder – From its Chipping Norton Guildhall base, a main event remains the regular Thursday Larder food 'subscription service' (around £3.50 a week for up to 14 items taken). The money goes directly to the charity SOFEA to handle administration and transport costs. But it's the local Larder team that somehow gets the supplies,



Pete Westhall, Sara Durham and Rizvana Poole pictured with Midcounties' CEO Phil Ponsonby

working with local farms, food suppliers, shops, supermarkets and allotment growers, particularly with short-dated and surplus stocks, with an emphasis on healthy food. Around 160 local families use it – and there is a waiting list to join! Midcounties Co-op has been one great supporter and their own volunteer team, including CEO Phil Ponsonby, came in September and helped run the Larder for the day.

Financial help and support – With food support 'opening the door' to local families needing help (there are hundreds locally), the Larder team looked for other ways to help – starting with a big focus on the rising cost of living. There have



been Cost of Living Events offering practical advice, links with other advice about mental health, dealing with debt and more. The Larder also led a Warm Space Initiative working with places around Chipping Norton during the cold (and expensive!) winter providing a warm welcome and coffee, chat or just relaxation.

Opportunities for young people – With a key Larder's aim to empower the community – one focus has been opportunities for young people in collaboration with Chipping Norton School. The popular Secondary School Starter Kit – for all year 6 pupils in Chippy's schools – has provided a valuable boost to help young minds 'kickstart' their educational journey. The Chippy Locker was another great idea: collecting and donating pairs of trainers and football boots to the school PE department for those hard-pressed to fund sports kit. The Larder's connections with local employers can also be pointers to jobs and skills.



Leisure and fitness – There has also been a big boost to mental and physical health by the Larder partnering with Chipping Norton Leisure Centre to offer free leisure activities – including soft play sessions – promoting fitness and a sense of community. Another example has been offering family passes to Blenheim's Family and Adventure Playground, for quality time outdoors.

Future plans and your help – The Larder team has a calendar brimming with exciting events for the community. Watch out for more workshops and projects, some special activity over Christmas (last year there were local food deliveries), job fairs and other events for young people. All this can happen only with great community support, fundraising efforts, generous donations and grants. Rizvana Poole said, *'With your support, we can create even more opportunities for people in our community. Together, we are truly making a difference'*. Contact thechippylarder@gmail.com, 07890 394297, see on Facebook and at www.sofea.uk.com.



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Chippy Charities – in Fashion!

Autumn is well and truly here – with a quick jump from balmy to brrrrrr! When it comes to updating your wardrobe, you might be a bit confused whether to go for winter woollies or keep embracing more summery outfits. The thing is, you don't want to break the bank...That's where Chippy's charity shops come in. The News Team's Jenny Holliday popped in for an autumn fashion tip using their own pre-loved stock. From layering to accessories, there's plenty you can indulge in, while supporting all these amazing local charities. If you drop in to buy something, make sure that you say hello to the friendly volunteer staff!

Top Tip

For the best designer finds, go to charity shops regularly as stock can change daily. Some of the Chippy charity shops have stocked brands such as Whistles, Boden, Jaeger, White Stuff, Fat Face, M&S as well as vintage and retro clothes.



Tip: Layers and natural fibres!

Helen and Douglas House – Think Cashmere (yes, you can find it in charity shops) as well as layers for when the temperature changes, says manager Julie Taylor. 'Layers are key for the seasonal weather – and in natural fibres when you can.' The outfit she's put together is a cashmere jumper, and wool cardigan and trousers with a wooden bead necklace.

Tip: An autumnal scarf for the season

Katharine House Hospice – Scarves and jumpers are on the must-have list for manager Sinead Gowing. It's all about those finishing touches! Scarves are a winner because they can double up as a wrap (think thrown over your shoulders like a cardigan) or even to lay over your knees if you're on a chilly train. 'Choose scarves in autumnal colours – and jumpers like this orange one.' Scarves cost from just £2 or £3 here, and you can layer up your existing wardrobe, or add them to a new jumper as an extra accessory.



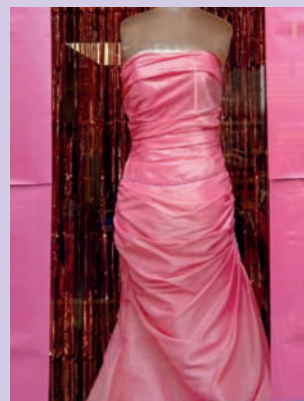
Tip: Update your boots for autumn/winter

Blue Cross – The good news at the Blue Cross is that during the summer, people clear out their winter clothes – which means that there are now some amazing boots ready and waiting for you. Choose something bright, patterned or unusual, like these zebra print boots, to liven up an outfit.



Tip: A book to read – and a pre-loved surprise!

Oxfam Bookshop While Oxfam in Chippy is best known for stocking books and amazing vinyl records, there's a wardrobe essential we spotted that ticks the pre-loved box: Scrunchies made from sari material. Dress up (maybe scrunch that ponytail), put on that nostalgic old rock LP and dream on!



Tip: Think Pink & banish those winter blues!

Sue Ryder The Chippy shop team were waiting for their new manager to arrive but in the meantime the News spotted a brilliant promotion on the 'Shop with Sue Ryder' facebook in one of their other shops, inspired by the premiere of the movie Barbie with the fabulous Margot Robbie. Why not drop into Chippy's shop on Topside and find something fun to wear?

WHAT IS PRELOVED ?

Pre-loved fashion refers to clothing, shoes and accessories that have been previously owned and worn by someone else before being resold or passed on to a new owner. It's a more appealing name than 'second-hand' or 'used'! Using pre-loved fashion is also a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to buying brand new – it extends the lifespan of clothing and reduces demand for even more production. It can reduce textile waste, lower the environmental impact of the Fashion Industry and promote a more sustainable economy. It also allows everyone to find unique and affordable pieces not always available in traditional stores.

Fiesta time at The Theatre



It's 50 years since Beauty and the Beast was put on by the late great Tamara Malcolm in 1973 – her very first Chippy Christmas show, staged in the Town Hall. This year The Theatre itself presents a terrific new Cinderella – Latin style – to continue Chipping Norton Theatre's great Panto Tradition. Book your ticket now – and why not help to keep our wonderful Theatre 'running' with a donation – like everyone in September's Panto Fun Run?

'Hola' to Cinderella!

For this year's Panto we are off to the small town of Santa Maria de las Orejas de Soplillo (St Maria with the sticky out ears). A beautiful, kind and very frustrated young woman, Cinderella dreams of a new life, away from her dreary chores and her awful stepmother. But what's the use of dreaming? Written by our own John Terry with original music by Eliane Correa and Rebecca Applin – there's Latin American music and dance, a riot of colour, and non-stop silliness. Come and join the carnival. Book your tickets at Theatre Box Office or online now.

To get in the mood why not try some Latin dance workshops in November and then the grand Town Hall Latin Fiesta on 2 December with the sizzling sound of seven-piece Mambo Tropical? See p20.



The Panto 5k Fun Run

Over 100 runners and volunteers from in and around Chipping Norton turned out for The Theatre's Panto 5k Fun Run event on 24 September. Around £2700 was raised on a wonderful occasion – featuring fabulous costumes, including characters from the Wizard of Oz, and a trio of Wonky Donkeys from The Theatre, with plenty of fourlegged friends joining in. Renan Teodoro, soon to star as Buttons in this year's Panto, Cinderella, started the race from Spring Street and met (and took lots of selfies with!) runners at the finish line. It was a fun-filled morning full of smiles and support from passers-by, with some even popping into The Theatre to donate on the day!



If you'd like to make a donation to our brilliant theatre and community arts venue, visit chippingnortontheatre.com/support-us/donate. A big thank you from everybody to Owen Mumford for sponsoring the event and making it possible, and to Whistlers for opening up for post-run refreshments.



Watch out in the New Year for plans for celebrating The Theatre's 50th anniversary with a series of events through 2024.

THE ARTS

The Theatre

Theatre Highlights – Our Picks for November

For full What's On listings & tickets, pick up a brochure, visit chippingnortontheatre.com or call 01608 642350.



THEATRE: Cinderella, 15 November onwards. Chippy Theatre is the home of family panto and this year's is a Latin American extravaganza with costumes based on traditional and carnival dress. If you haven't booked yet – ay, caramba! – what are you waiting for? Tickets £19–£36

WORKSHOPS: Latin Dance Workshops Strictly fans, get yourselves to the Town Hall and samba and salsa your way through the month with classes every Tuesday, starting on 7 November at 7pm. £10 per session or £30 for all four

FILM: The Miracle Club (12+) 19, 20, 22 November. This heart-warmer about the power of love and friendship is set in 1960s Ireland with a stellar cast including Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Laura Linney. It follows three generations of friends who dream of making a pilgrimage to Lourdes in France. £11, £8 under 16s

SCREENING: Skylight (15) 21 November. Another chance to see the critically acclaimed revival of David Hare's play featuring Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan. On a cold London evening, teacher Kyra receives an unexpected visit from her former lover. As the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship, they find themselves locked in a battle of opposing ideologies and desires. Captured live from Wyndham's Theatre in 2014. £18.50

FILM: The Old Oak (15) 23 November. Ken Loach's 'fierce final curtain call for compassion and solidarity' (The Guardian) tells the story of a village in the Northeast of England where the mine has closed, and houses are cheap, making it an ideal location for Syrian refugees – how will they be received and what will be the future for the last remaining pub? £8

PUPPETRY: The Snow Queen 12pm 25 November. Theatrix Arts bring their shadow puppet extravaganza to the Town Hall. Follow Gerda on her adventures as she sets out to rescue her brother Kai from the evil Snow Queen. £4, family of 4 £15, family of 5 £17.50. Puppet workshop £1 post-performance, payable on the day. chippingnortontheatre.com/book/instance/236401

SCREENING: Yerma (15) 27 November. A spellbinding performance from Billie Piper as a woman driven to the unthinkable by her desperate desire to have a child in this radical production of Lorca's powerful masterpiece. Filmed live on stage at the Young Vic in 2017. £18.50

FILM: The Great Escaper (12A), 26, 28, 29 November. Michael Caine stars as Bernard Jordan who in 2014 made global headlines when he staged a 'great escape' from his care home to join fellow veterans in Normandy to commemorate their fallen comrades at the D-Day Landings 70th anniversary. Glenda Jackson plays her final role as his wife Rene in this moving real life drama directed by Oliver Parker. £11, £8 under 16s

DANCE: Latin Fiesta with big band Mambo Tropical 8pm, 2 December, Town Hall Open for all people, of all dancing abilities. For those keen dancers there is plenty of room to groove, no partner needed. £25. If you want to brush up on your dance skills, drop in to the Latin dance workshops as above.

Christmas Art & Craft Fairs

St Peter's Church, Hook Norton 4 November 10am–5pm. Annual craft fair now in its 27th year. Original, well designed and beautifully made work by local crafters. Refreshments.



Open Studio, 10–12 November, 8 Cross Leys, Chippy. Judith Yarrow: original mixed-media landscape paintings, cards – including



plants through the season from FarmED plus limited edition giclee prints. Rosie Colvin: unique silver jewellery using natural materials – fossils, seaglass, pebbles, cowrie shells and felt.

Great Rollright Village Hall 11 & 12 November 10am–5pm Arts and Craft all handmade and sold by local artisans who welcome you to their festive, fun weekend. Refreshments, free parking and great gift ideas.

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock 18 November–30 December, Oxfordshire Craft Guild winter exhibition. Jewellery, ceramics, textile art, kiln formed glass and marquetry amongst other high-quality work. Wide range of prices from £20 and gift vouchers. Opening times: oxfordshire.gov.uk

See also 18 November: **Salford Village Hall** advert page 24 and **Wise Investment**, The Great Barn advert page 33.

Jaques Barn, Stourton, CV36 5HG 24–26 November 10am–5pm. Exhibition by nine local artists – including members of CNarts. Handcrafted gifts at affordable prices: jewellery, hand thrown flowerpots, paintings, chopping boards, photography, metal garden sculpture, knitwear and soap.

Chipping Norton Choral Society

Music for Remembrance and Peace

The Armed Man – Karl Jenkins
Chichester Psalms – Leonard Bernstein
Adagio for Strings – Barber
The Adderbury Ensemble
Conducted by Benedict Goodall

St Mary's Church Banbury Saturday November 18th 7.30
Advance tickets £12, £15 on the door. Under 16s free.
www.cnsc.org.uk

THE ARTS

Wychwood Golf Club, Lyneham, 24 November 11am–4pm, 25 November 11am–7pm. Artisan Christmas Fair by Cotswolds' artists – including members of CNArts. Original artwork, silk scarves, sculptures, lino prints, handbags, metal flower creations for sale and items from the Christmas Shop in Bourton-on-the-Water.

Christmas Artweeks 25 & 26 November 11am–4pm, Flat 23, Watson Place, Trinity Road, CN. Lee Belcher is exhibiting a selection of paintings and greetings cards for sale. You may find something a little bit different among the paintings or a card which will just fit someone you know.

Local arts updates



The Arts Society Cotswolds monthly lecture: 8 November 11am, Warwick Hall, Burford and by Zoom. *Art Behind Bars: The Role of the Arts in Breaking the Cycle of Crime, Prison and Re-offending* with

Angela Findlay. Further information and booking via theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk or call 07918 180895.

Dar-le and the Bear, Woodstock Current exhibition: *Tregardock and the Atlantic coast: The Wild Sea of North Cornwall*. Tim Steward will be in residence at the Gallery with his sketchbooks 17–26 November. Artist talk: *The art of place*, 18 November 10.30am to midday. Booking not necessary. Workshop: Drawing your own wild seascape, 25 November 2–4pm. £20 materials included. Details & booking darleandthebear.co.uk

Screen by the Green: Saturday 11 November ~ *Elvis* You don't have to be an Elvis fan to enjoy this dazzling film. Adam Butler as Elvis is outstanding, rendering many well-known numbers in a refreshing way, while Tom Hanks gives an effortless performance as his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker whose complicated relationship with the star is at the heart of the film 7.30pm Churchill Village Hall Tickets £5 Pre booking preferred via 07775 905444 email screenbythegreen@gmail.com

The Nortonians Under Chippy Woods 8 & 9 December 7.30pm, Glyme Hall. *A Child's Christmas in Wales*: A play with music adapted from a short story by Dylan Thomas. Tickets £10 (children £5), available from Ticketsource. Cash bar.

Macleod Workshop: New to Chipping Norton is the Macleod Workshop. Three sisters (pictured earlier!) have come up with a new creative space for workshops, talks and tastings right in the heart of Chippy! They plan taster classes such as desktop lino printing, and introductions to perfumery and gilding. It's in Hardings Yard on Albion Street, next to Jodie Douglas Framing. For more information visit www.themacleodworkshop.co.uk .



Concerts

Cherwell Choral Society 4 November 7.30pm, St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Deddington. *Baroque Splendour* – Magnificat: CPE Bach; Three Motets: Telemann, with the Adderbury Ensemble. 16 December 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Bloxham. *An English Christmas: an evening of festival music*. Finzi's *In Terra Pax* and traditional carols. Tickets £16 (u16s free), from Hamptons, Deddington, at cherwellchoral.org or call 01295 367441.

Charlbury Refugee Action Group (CRAG) Sunday Tea Concert 5 November 3pm, Memorial Hall, Charlbury. *Echoes in Air* with Matthew Wadsworth on theorbo. Works by Kapsberger, Piccinini, de Vies and Snowden. Tickets £15 (u16s £5) from Cotswold Frames, Charlbury, or via the website charlburyrefugee.org.uk or [Nick.parker@cooptel.net/01608 811558](mailto:Nick.parker@cooptel.net). Limited tickets also available at the door. 3 December 3pm *Advent Concert* given by Somerville Choir. Booking as above.

Adderbury Ensemble String Quintet directed by David Le Page 10 November 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton Schubert: String Quintet in C major, D 956. Tickets: £15 (adults), £5 (students), u16s free. Call 07711 606996 for details and to reserve tickets or pay on the door.

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

Burford Singers 26 November 7.15pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Burford. Final concert with conductor Brian Kay: Handel's *Messiah*. Cotswold Chamber Orchestra. Unreserved tickets £10 from The Madhatter Bookshop, Burford and on the door. Limited availability of reserved tickets at £15 online at burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets.

At Home: A collection of poems

At Home: the fifth anthology of poetry selected by locals Janie Hextall and Barbara McNaught, acknowledging the importance of 'home'. They write, 'We both came to realise just how much it means to us during lockdown. We also realise how lucky we both are to have homes that are safe and happy places, which is why we have decided to make a donation to Homeless Oxfordshire for every copy of the book sold. This local charity is the county's largest not-for-profit supported accommodation provider for people experiencing homelessness and is an open door for people whose lives have been shaped by trauma; providing safety, stability, and support when it is needed most.' 60 poems together with some 25 wood engravings. £10 available from Jaffé & Neale and other bookshops.

At Home

A collection of poems



SELECTED BY JANIE HEXTALL AND BARBARA MCNAUGHT

SPORTS NEWS

Future of Town Sports Awards

Chipping Norton has, for years, celebrated achievements at a Town Hall Sports Awards event – sponsored by the Town Council with *Chippy News* Sports Editor Graham Beacham helping drive it. In future, the Town Council are considering a permanent, but much wider, Annual Town Awards evening each autumn – to include sports awards, but broadened with things such as ‘good neighbours’, ‘young citizens’ and allotment prizes. The first would be September/October 2024. Graham has written to the Council supporting this, particularly to raise public awareness of town achievements. He also expressed the hope that the existing Honorary Citizen award will remain – and that there will be space for the range of sports awards and budget for the trophies! He said he would be happy to stay involved. The Town Council will now form a new policy on all this.

Golf Day’s Big Gift for MNDA

The Cotswolds Golf Club in Chipping Norton hosted Gary and Paul Findlay’s sixteenth charity golf day on Friday 29 September. This year, the Findlay Construction team chose to raise money for MNDA (Motor Neurone Disease Association) because their friend Martin Pratley was recently diagnosed with this debilitating disease. Forty-four teams of four took part on the



Golf Day celebrations – pictured l-r Gary Findlay, Julian Tallet, Paul Findlay & Martin Pratley

18-hole course, with over 200 friends and family joining in a fund-raising evening. Gary Findlay said it had been an overwhelming success, raising £8,732. ‘We’ve had an amazing day and I’m so grateful to all the teams, our friends and the businesses who have contributed to this fantastic amount’. MNDA’s Regional Fund Raiser, Amanda Devlin, was there to explain how these vital funds will help research and support affected families. Over the last sixteen years the Findlays’ golf

days have raised an impressive £85,277 for local charities. Gary and Paul look forward to continuing this generous and very enjoyable annual golfing fixture.

Chippy Swifts Football Club

Over the next year, we will focus on one team each month – beginning with the U13 Girls.



Some of the girls pictured after a winning game in Appleford

Our U13 Girls are going from strength to strength with a squad of 17 registered players, plus several more attending training Thursdays 6-7pm. So far this season, the girls are enjoying a winning streak having won 4 out of 5 league games! The U13s (and our two other girls’ teams) play in the Oxfordshire Girls Football League which takes us to Banbury and Hooky but also further afield to Chinnor, Aylesbury, and beyond the county to Swindon! The League has over 2000 girls playing football and we are lucky to be part of such a well-run and supportive league.

Each week, no matter what the score, we are proud of their grit and determination. The camaraderie and support they show for each other, as well as their character on the pitch, is always admirable. This season they are looking forward to Cup Games and also for the first time are entering the County Cup which will certainly be challenging.

Fleur Harvey U13 Girls summed it up: ‘Chipping Norton Swifts is an amazing team! I have made so many memories and the girls are such fun. The feeling of running down the pitch with them is indescribable! I want to stay there forever.’

Martyn Walsh

Walking Football

Competitive Walking Football continues to expand throughout Oxfordshire. In addition to the over 50s and over 60s leagues, introduced last year, involving eight teams from around the County, there was an inaugural round of games for over 70s in September. This is expected to be a regular feature next season under the guidance of Oxfordshire FA with support from Age UK. To participate in walking football on a friendly basis, there is an indoor session at the Leisure Centre every Monday at 5pm for players of all abilities aged 55 plus. For details see our website: Shilsons.co.uk/cnwf.html

Derek Dickinson

Chippy Trixsters Roller Hockey Club

Fancy trying something new? Roller hockey is a fast-paced sport played indoors on inline skates using either a puck or ball. Chippy Trixsters are a local, friendly club based at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. Beginners’ sessions are 1-2pm on Saturdays – we can provide all the kit, just arrive 15 minutes early to get kitted up. First session is free! We then

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SPORTS NEWS

run PeeWee and Youth training from 2.15 to 3.45 plus a Junior open session 8-9pm on Friday nights. If you have previous experience and are in this age group please get in contact. For any questions we have a Facebook page (ChippyTrixsters/) and a website (chippingnortonskaterhockeyclub.com/).

We also run a monthly Roller Disco 2.15-3.15pm on the last Saturday of the month. Our next disco dates are: 25 November & 16 December. Entry: £6. Skate hire: £1

Alan Howard

CN Cricket Club

The Club held its Senior Presentation for the 2023 Season on 6 October. Pictured are award winners on the night.



The winners were: First XI Bowler Andy, First XI Batter Riasat, First XI Captain's Player Laurie, Second XI Bowler Uzair, Second XI Batter Sami, Second XI Captain's Player Ali, Most Wickets Zain, Most Improved Uzair, Club Person Arthur, Performance of the Season Rhys and Zain, Life Membership Richard & Sue, Duck Award Zain & Stirrer Matty.

The Club also gained six awards at the Oxfordshire Cricket Awards: Unsung Heroes were David and Jim. Ground Team Award were Arthur and Jack. Youth Awards were Kingsley and Sonny.

Apologies: last month we listed junior club member, Zack as Jack! Thank you to Mum Emma for this photo of Zack who won the Under 8 Star Player award.



We now start to plan for the 2024 Season.

Graham Beacham

Sunday Hockey at the Leisure Centre

Every Sunday morning, hockey lovers gather at Chippy Leisure Centre for an hour of sporting fun. New recruit, Matt, decided to join up thanks to a nudge from friend and fellow hockey enthusiast Jill. 'I hadn't picked up a stick for 25 years,' said Matt, 'Then one Sunday, I found myself racing around the sports hall chasing crazily skilful teenagers and canny elders and trying to remember all the rules. Honestly, it was the best sporting fun I've had in years. The few skills I had returned quickly. I remembered what I was good at and what I was not. And the workout was intense. Thankfully, I realised I didn't have to hare around all the time!'

Hockey is a game that we are good at in this country – we've won Olympic Gold four times! But it is also a game that can be played at any age and where genders can play each other. So, if you fancy a try, do come along on Sunday mornings and join in the fun! Players are welcome at all levels, and all ages (over 11s), and we don't mind if you're a beginner or expert. Hockey is in the hall at Chipping Norton Leisure

Centre (Sundays 10-11am) with no pressure to attend every week. Sticks and shinpads can be borrowed if you need them. £5.40 adults / £3 Juniors. Ask at reception or contact Sharon Truelove for more information sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk 01608 730546 / 07722 603207

Chipping Norton Rugby Club

By the time you read this the Rugby World Cup will be over



and the Champions crowned. We will also have hosted our second mini rugby festival of the year, with Oxfordshire RFU under 7s and 8s coming together from across the county to enjoy rugby at Greystones. As I write our 1st XV sit 5th in the league with 3 wins and 2 losses, after a narrow 25-24

home win over second placed Banbury II (pictured). There are two November home games, against Didcot on the 4th and table toppers, High Wycombe, on the 18th so come and join us to cheer CNRUFC on. The 2nd XV got their first game under their belts, as have our Colts who held out against Rams for a thrilling 36-33 victory. The Club caters for every age and stage of rugby from Under 6 to Senior, so there really will be a chance to participate for everyone. To find out more, contact the Club via chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com, check out our website and follow us on social media.

Graeme Williamson

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SPORTS NEWS

Hook Norton Harriers

On Sunday 8 October the Harriers held their annual trail



Participants in the Harriers trail running event

running event for club members over a 10k or half marathon route. The challenge was to finish as close to midday as possible without going past noon. Calculating start times involved much head-scratching for most as the unseasonably warm temperatures would slow us down, but on the other hand it would be dry underfoot which would speed us up. Harriers set off from Hooky Sports and Social club in small groups throughout the morning, many using the event as a sociable Sunday run. Steve Yeomans proved best at predicting his running pace, finishing bang on midday. Many thanks to Lisa and Rob for arranging the run.

Entries open soon for the Harriers' ever-popular Christmas Canter to be run on Sunday 17 December. It's a fun 7-mile jaunt across the fields, with most runners sporting Christmas fancy dress. This race always sells out, so keep an eye on our website to book your place!

Anwen Greenaway

Hook Norton Tennis Club

Three social events are planned for November and December – contact our membership secretary for details. In the Floodlit league the A team are 4th in Division 1, with the B team 2nd in Division 2. The C team are 5th in Division 3 with the D team 4th in Division 4. Marc Gilkes' current coaching programme ends on 20 October (usual sessions/times). Steve Bone's and Faith Heron's sessions have re-started. See website for details. Courts can be booked by members via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub> which also lists Club sessions. We play tennis all the year – floodlights on non-club nights are £8 per hour per court. Club nights are very popular and friendly – new members always welcome. Further information contact Kate, the membership secretary – khs.shoes@gmail.com or 01608 642774.

Elaine Priestley

A Night at the Races



For lovers of horseracing there's a special evening on 15 November at Chipping Norton's Living Room Cinema. A stellar line up of Cotswolds-based trainers and jockeys will be there for a Cheltenham November Meeting Preview hosted by Luke Harvey. Invited are Charlie Longsdon, Richard Phillips, Ben Pauling, Kielan Woods & Johnny Burke. Drinks reception 6.30, Discussion & Q&A 7.30. Book via Living Room website

The Vintage Sports-Car Club

The Vintage Sports-Car Club offices are buzzing with excitement as we 'patiently' wait for the Octane Historic Motoring Award winners to be announced in November! We are honoured to be up for 'Club of the Year' for the third year in a row! Having won this award in 2021, and MSUK's 'Sustainable Club of the Year' in 2022, to be considered again is humbling. We couldn't be the Club we are today without our great team of hard-workers, Members, and all the dedicated Marshals and Volunteers who give up their time to help. We would like to thank them all for their part in making the VSCC what it is. We are also delighted that our Club Secretary, Tania Brown, is a finalist for the 'Classic Car Ambassador of the Year' award. Tania works tirelessly as an advocate for the VSCC and historic motorsport in general. Good luck in November when the winners will be announced too!

Shannon Hunt

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CLUB NEWS

Burford & Kingham Rotary roundup

At the end of September, we ran a Whisky and Gin Raffle at a local ploughing match in Bampton. We raised £480 for the President's charities. We will run the stall again on Saturday 4 November in



Top: the Raffle stall. Right: members enjoying a picnic supplied by the organisers



Chippy Town Hall. Please come and find us. On Sunday 8 October members enjoyed a walk round Cornbury Park in glorious sunshine followed by lunch at the Plough Inn in Finstock. We will be planting Crocus bulbs on the grass verges in Burford High Street to mark Polio Awareness Day.

Diary Date: Charity Bridge Drive on Friday 19 November from 10.30am. Broadwell Village Hall £18 (inc. morning coffee & lunch + glass of wine/juice). For details and to book contact Alan Lamb on 07946 253203 alan.lamb123@btinternet.com

So, lots 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; phone 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 01608 643844 /07702 135731

Railway Club news

With deep regret we report the passing of a much valued Railway Club and Committee member, Wendy Sumners who died recently in the Horton Hospital. Together with Emma Bayley, Wendy was responsible for providing the refreshments at the monthly meetings, including the Festive Christmas meeting and the raffles for our coach trips. She was a cheery soul, always a willing helper – a member of the Club for many years who will be greatly missed. (See p36 for details of Wendy's Memorial Service – Ed).

We had an interesting new speaker for 3 October, a retired Vicar, David Meara. His talk was entitled *The Journey of a Night Time, 150 years of Anglo-Scottish Sleepers*. On 7 November, Jonathan Perks will talk about his round up of the last year, plus *Wales Part 2*.

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

Estelle Brain

History Society & Chippy's murderess

Chipping Norton History Society meets on Monday 13 November at 2pm in the Methodist Hall, West Street. Gareth Winrow's talk is entitled: Elizabeth Wisdom – Chipping Norton Murderess? Visitors are very welcome £3

Janis Paxton

Living with human rights abuses

In our Autumn Programme Chipping Norton Amnesty Group has been privileged to hear from two guest speakers about people trying to live 'normal' lives in their traditional homelands whilst their lives and livelihoods are under constant threat.

Dawn Chatty, emerita professor of Anthropology and Forced Migration at the University of Oxford, explained the plight of an estimated 100 million 'mobile peoples', nomads with livestock who use common rights to pastures and engage with local markets to sell their produce. Their lifestyles have faced challenges from colonialism, oil discovery, extractive industries, wars, redesignation of land ownership with access constraints and climate change. One positive development has been the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation: find out more at www.danadeclaration.org.

Ian Cave described *Life in the West Bank under Israeli occupation* as he witnessed it from January to April this year, living there as a Human Rights Monitor with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Ian witnessed some of the challenges Palestinians face on a daily basis, as they encounter checkpoints and gates – sometimes firmly closed – en route to schools and workplaces, and try to keep businesses running whilst Israeli laws restrict movement and 'settler' neighbours lob stones and concrete at them. Pressure builds as this regime of separation and violence chips away.

In the light of so many atrocities in today's world and the widespread abuse of human rights, it is easy to feel helpless. But you can make a positive difference to some people's lives.

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CLUB NEWS

At our meeting on 9 November we shall be taking part in Amnesty's annual Write for Rights campaign, writing cards and letters to prisoners of conscience and to authorities, asking for prisoner release and improved conditions. Do join us in our Lower Town Hall 7.30–9pm.

For further information contact Val by phone on 01608 645036 or email chippingnortonamnesty@outlook.com.

Kate Ward

The Folk Club's back in town!



The Folk Club has a new venue! The Chequers in Chipping Norton hosted our club in a cosy room at the back of this lovely pub. Our theme this month was *Conflict and Peace*. A fitting, subject, given the recent news. The room was full to the brim with musicians and audience, eager to share their songs. These ranged

from Springsteen's *My Home Town* played on the banjo, to songs about the Crimean War, 19th century Afghan wars (Kipling), WWI, and a beautiful rendition of the *Skye Boat Song* and the aftermath of Culloden. There were contemporary songs too, from the likes of Dylan, Ralph McTell and Sinead O'Connor. The musicianship was excellent, and the words thought-provoking. It was a great evening with a lot of laughs. But what's so funny about peace, love and understanding? You might ask. I suppose, the answer is blowing in the wind. Next

meeting 7.30pm Monday 13 November at The Chequers, Chipping Norton. All welcome to sing, play, recite or just listen. Visit www.chippingnortonfolk.org for details.

Dave Oakley

Local Girlguiding news

There's a new beginning for Kingham Guides who are moving their meeting place from Bledington to Churchill (Thursdays 6–8pm in the Village Hall). We hope that some girls from Chipping Norton (where the Guide unit remains closed due to lack of leaders) may join. There is plenty of space for new members aged 10–14 and girls do not need to have been a Brownie. They are looking for a new volunteer to assist their leader Diana.

In September Chadlington Brownies held a 75th birthday party, attended by past and present members, local leaders, parents, grandparents and well-wishers. Janet Monk, who has run the unit for over 40 years, is pictured accepting the birthday cake. Janet is looking for a new assistant Guider, to join her with a view to maybe taking over at some point in the future.



Both Chadlington and Kingham offer great opportunities for anyone wanting to learn from experienced leaders. Being a Guide leader is a really rewarding volunteer role, making a real difference to girls' lives, showing them that 'girls can do anything' leading by example and having loads of fun. This is true for all ages groups Rainbows 4–7, Brownies 7–10, Guides 10–14, Rangers 14–18.

Contact District Commissioner Alison Dunbar via chippingnortondistrict@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk or Division Commissioner Jane Digby by emailing wychwooddivision@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk for details.

In Girl Guiding we believe 'girls can do anything' – that includes you!

Alison Dunbar

Ramblers cross horses, cows & sheep

Five of us met up for a very cheerful walk (despite noting at the beginning that the Greedy Goose was still empty and forlorn, so no good for a cuppa at the end of the walk!). We took a farm track and crossed a beautiful valley with grazing sheep to Cornwell church and through Chastleton Barrow – which in fact is not a barrow but the site of a prehistoric fort. In the next field we saw a group of horses, one of which looked to be in a bad temper, so most of us ducked under a fence to avoid them but one brave soul went up to the culprit and gave him a good hug round his rather big head. The next encounter was past a field of Welsh black cattle who took not a bit of notice of us and along another farm track back to our cars. No tea but a very satisfying walk!

If you too would like to enjoy the countryside in good company, join us on the first Sunday of every month. We meet in New St car park at 1.30pm (note earlier start after clocks go back) and we walk for about two hours at a leisurely pace – a different walk each time! Lifts will be available. Contact



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CLUB NEWS

Heather Leonard (telephone: 01608 643691 or email heatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk) & we will put you on the list!
Jenny Harrington

Green Gym into the 'season of mists'

In early October Green Gym were sad to say goodbye to our friend Richard Averill. Richard was passionate about the environment and instrumental in launching the Chipping Norton Green Gym in 2012. His legacy to the Town is Fitzalan Wood, near Travis Perkins. Richard led the way in gaining grants and permissions and choices of trees to plant there and it is now a well-established woodland. We are all very grateful for Richard's contribution to Green Gym and the Town.



Work by the Green Gym team has continued through the balmy days of late summer and into autumn. Jobs and sites have included blackthorn clearing at Glyme Farm Nature Reserve, managed by the BBOWT (the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust), weeding and clearing at Highlands Day Centre and scything and bramble clearing at Fitzalan Wood.

Work has also taken place at William Fowler Wood – a popular area with local runners and walkers – often accompanied by their canine friends! Scything around the orchid areas has been carried out plus adding more woodchip to keep the pathways accessible. Yellow rattle has been sown (see photo) in many grassy areas. Yellow Rattle is

often described as a 'meadow maker' as it suppresses grass growth by drawing out water and nutrients. This weakens vigorous grasses allowing other wild flowers to flourish.

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

Chipping Norton Labour Party

October has been another busy month for the Chippy Labour Party. Following the boundary changes we are now part of the Banbury Constituency Labour Party. Thus, we now find ourselves in a seat winnable at the next General Election and are working hard to elect a local Labour MP. While we are moving to Banbury Parliamentary Constituency, we will also remain part of West Oxfordshire District Council and Geoff Saul will be standing again as a candidate in May. We have been out on a regular basis meeting members of the community and discussing their concerns. At the beginning of October we held one of our Street Stalls and we were pleased with the positive responses from many people we talked to about local and national issues. Our autumn newsletter, out now, contains a short questionnaire and is a chance to comment on your concerns and hopes for the future.

We met many people last month who are considering joining the Labour Party and we look forward to meeting you at our regular meetings on the second Thursday of the month at the Fox Inn Meeting room at 7pm. If you prefer a more social event, we will continue to run our regular quiz nights at

Keeping Chippy Scouts on the move!

Come and help the Chippy Scouts! Nationally, the scouting movement is thriving, and the 6th Chipping Norton Scouts has a wonderful history – pictured here are some of the fun and challenging things they can get up to – and there's a constant waiting list of local young people wanting to join. That's the good news, but Chippy's Group Scout Leadership Team **NEED YOUR HELP** with volunteers to run it all. The Beavers (6–8 years) has paused due to a lack of volunteers, and Cubs (8–10½) & Scouts (10½–14) are struggling with insufficient help.



Here's what one of Chippy's Scout Leaders, Ceri Osborne, said, 'Over a decade ago I joined 6th Chipping Norton Scouts. The reason? My son had moved to Cubs from Beavers and there was a shortage of leaders in Cubs. We were told "step forward or Cubs will close!" My son left at the end of Scouts and I am proud to say that I am still part of the Scout Group, and this is not exceptional as there are quite a few leaders who join this way, and stay on long after their children have left. What has changed? The Scout Group now have their own hut, achieved with a lot of support from

our community with fund-raising. Scouting offers young people an opportunity to work as a team, be self-reliant and independent, learn new skills, have fun and take on new challenges. Scouting offers volunteers an opportunity to learn skills, meet new people, be instrumental in giving young people "skills for life", an opportunity to gain qualifications in teaching archery, climbing and other activities, first aid training and a free uniform!

Ceri, with GSL Team members Michelle, Karen and Jill, do have scouting experience but learn new skills all the time.

You could help with fundraising, as quartermaster, administration, teaching badges, coming on days out and camps. No previous experience necessary! The Scout Association are improving how they welcome and train volunteers with a 'team' approach, and with more volunteers the Chippy Team hope to have a big relaunch event in the New Year. If you think you can help, please email gssteam@chippyscouts.org.uk.



CLUB NEWS

the Chequers, Goddards Lane. The next quiz will be on Friday 17 November at 7.30 pm. For more details or to book places contact David Heyes at davidheyesh@yahoo.co.uk

Kate Whatman

Chippy u3a focus on Jane Austen

On Wednesday 1 November Anthony Benn will be speaking on *Jane Austen in her Time & Place*. Austen lived in a time of great change and compelling political and intellectual developments particularly from Romanticism to Realism. She lived, of course, through the Napoleonic Wars.



Anthony will endeavour to trace how all this is reflected in her novels. Modern research into her life and her connections proves most stimulating. Her story begins in 1775 and this is where the talk will begin. This portrait by her elder sister, Cassandra, is the only image of her made in her lifetime. All others are at best guesswork. We meet in the Town Hall at 2.30pm with tea, biscuits and chat after the talk.

Yvonne Beaumont

Horticultural Association meetigs

We were all sorry to learn of the passing of one of our number, Wendy Sumners in September. She had served on the Committee for the past 12 years and was a very faithful and hard worker, supporting all we did. She will be greatly missed.

The first meeting of the CNHA in October was very wet, but a good number of regulars, new members and visitors

attended to hear Bob Brown give a very interesting talk about the challenge of *Too many plants – too little space*. Our next meeting on Wednesday 15 November in the Methodist Hall will start at 7.15 with our AGM to be followed by Jez Taylor at 7.30 talking about *Evolving Horticulture at Daylesford*.

Please support this meeting. All details on our website www.cnha.uk or from the Secretary on 01608 643275.

Eileen Forse

Albion's fun-filled ride up to Xmas

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.

Hi Albi Fans! Line Dancing at Our Space last month was great fun. A very enthusiastic group was mentally and physically challenged by our instructor Emma and it all went down a hoot. No major injuries were sustained and that counts as a success in my book. Meanwhile, the Albion is starting to prepare for Christmas. We have been offered a table at the Middle Barton Christmas Fair on 24 November and fundraising ideas include guess the weight of the Christmas Cake and handmade decorations which should help fund activities, such as a coach trip to Cadbury World. Our Space will also be making decorations. The Methodist Church is holding their annual Christmas Tree festival and our thanks to them for giving Our Space a charity tree. We've booked to see the Pantomime at our lovely Theatre on 29 November, which means we are making the most of our drama sessions before we get booted off the stage to make way for for panto rehearsals. What a fun-filled ride up to Christmas!

Carole Fagg

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Chipping Norton School

Open Evening: On Thursday 5 October we had a great turnout for our annual open evening. It was wonderful to see so many families visiting the School to meet our staff and



students and to enjoy seeing a snapshot of the fantastic opportunities that the School has to offer.

We were so grateful to the four hundred students who volunteered to return to school and act as guides, or work with one of our departments. Whilst there is a great deal involved in getting ready for the event, the buzz about the School made it all worthwhile! We look forward to welcoming families to our **Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 16 November, 5–8pm.**



Sports News: Ronnie Harris in Year 11 finished his last round for this year of the Honda R & G British Talent Cup. He had an amazing weekend at Donington Park, qualifying on the front row! In race one he crashed out of 4th on the penultimate corner. In the following race he was determined to get on the podium. It was really wet with awful conditions but he won

the race in epic fashion – way out in front by 15 seconds at one point. Ronnie is the only rider to have won a race in this class in their rookie season. Well Done, Ronnie!

ExtraTime: Record-breaking numbers of students have been taking advantage of the wide range of ExtraTime Clubs that we offer. This term we have been able to offer two additional clubs – Dance Crew and Badminton. We are very grateful to Cally Bond who kindly agreed to lead both Pottery and Art Clubs while the regular coaches are unable to be here this term. We would also like to thank Miss Bell who is covering for Miss Skill at Creative Writing Club. We are looking forward to starting a new club, 'Introduction to Fashion' for Year 9 and above next term. Students will enjoy learning about the Fashion industry, fabrics, design and pattern over the course of five taster sessions.

CNPS News: Earlier this term we held a School Games Crew training session for the next set of young Sports Leaders, to encourage them to increase the activity levels amongst their peers back at their own schools. We have enjoyed hosting the annual U11 Football Tournament for our partnership primary schools. It is always fantastic to see the younger pupils demonstrating such brilliant teamwork and sportsmanship. Well done to all the competing schools. The Big Schools winners were Charlbury Girls and Kingham Boys whilst Great Tew were winners in both Small Schools categories. Our Year 12 Sports Leaders visited St Mary's School to deliver a Dance workshop for Year 3 pupils. It was a lot of fun and equally enjoyable for the younger children and our Sixth Form students.

We are very grateful to our Design & Technology Department and Mr Brown, Head of Music for organising and running Able and Interested workshops this term. The D&T workshop enabled pupils to make working torch keyrings,



whilst the Music workshop gave budding musicians from the primary schools an opportunity to perform with the CNS Concert Band.

German Exchange: Once again, we have welcomed our German Exchange visitors from Nördlingen, fifty-five years after the very first exchange. We hope they enjoyed their taste of Cotswold life, the Chippy Mop Fair (!) and the autumn sunshine. Our students are looking forward to the return leg to Germany in July next year – a wonderful experience for all of the students and families involved. Many thanks to Miss Richmond for organising the German Exchange.

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SCHOOLS NEWS

St Mary's Primary

It has been a tremendous start to our Autumn term at St Mary's.

Open Morning: Our Open Morning was a huge success! We welcomed old and prospective parents to our school. The Mayor even paid us a visit to find out what we have been getting up to. If you would like a tour of our school, please do call and make an appointment.



Full Circle: An intergenerational project run by the church has been taking place between members of our community and children in Year 6. It was lovely to

pop in this week and see different ages chatting with one another over lunch.

New term topics: Our term got off to a flying start with the teachers launching their new topics. We had Banbury cakes and a local visit to Chipping Norton Museum as well as Greek food tasting and Maya cultural creations.

After-school clubs: We have greatly extended our offer of after-school activities, and children have been experiencing sewing, sports, coding and a book club. Next term, we will be able to offer this and two art clubs. We have a wonderful team at St Mary's who offer their time and expertise at every available opportunity.



St Mary's Got Talent: We are pleased to announce that yes, we have our very own home-grown talent at St Mary's and we have taken over the Town Hall on Friday 8 December to showcase what we have. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook for further details.

Holy Trinity Primary



Year 6 Visit to STEAM museum: As part of their topic about WWII, year 6 set off to the STEAM museum in Swindon, dressed as WWII evacuees, for the Museum's annual wartime event, *We'll Meet Again*. Each year, the Museum is transformed to recreate the Second World War era and children can experience life in wartime Britain for a day, immersing themselves in the sounds and sights of the Home Front. Sessions included spending time in an air-raid shelter, being selected as an evacuee at the train station, exploring the importance of the varying roles of women during the war, and learning about the role of the railways.

Community Links: The whole School attended an uplifting Harvest Celebration Mass led by Father Clive with year 6 leading the Liturgy. The altar was laden with food donations and after the service, the year 6 prefects and house captains delivered them to the Chipping Norton Food Bank.

Through 'The Lela Initiative', our school library is twinned with a school library in Kasaala, Uganda. Thanks to the children's fundraising, hundreds of children in Uganda now have access to books in a free and welcoming environment.

Year 2 were excited to visit the Chipping Norton Fire Station this month. They were welcomed by firefighters Tony and David who started by asking them how fires start, which things they thought caused the most fires and how they can keep themselves safe at home. They then showed them their protective clothing and the children all tried on the very heavy helmets! After a chance to sit in the truck, setting the siren off and a visit to the practice tower, Year 2 finished with a very exciting hose competition: who could squirt water the furthest!

National Poetry Day: Children in Years 1 & 2 were treated to some live performance poetry of *Walking my Iguana* by Brian Moses, from the librarians at Chipping Norton Library. Inspired by this active and energetic way of sharing poetry, children and adults alike brought fun and nonsense verses alive by using actions, sounds and percussion instruments!

Sporting Achievements: Mr Whybrow held a fantastic football tournament in school for over 70 children. The competition was open to all ages, and the mixed age and ability teams played with good team spirit throughout the competition, with the older children proving to be excellent role models. Despite the downpour earlier in the day, everyone had an amazing time. Many parents volunteered to referee, and the PTA provided much needed refreshments.

Football Tournament: Two teams from year 6, one boys' team and one girls' team, took part in the Chipping Norton



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SCHOOLS NEWS

School Under 11 football tournament for all the local schools. Both teams showcased their football skills and also their determination, with the girls' team coming a fantastic third place overall.

Gold School Games Mark: We are very proud to have been awarded the Gold School Games Mark once again. This is an award scheme that recognises schools for their commitment to developing competition across the school and into the wider community.

Kingham Primary

The Chipping Norton Sports Partnership calendar kicked off with U11s boys' and girls' teams playing in the football tournament. Performances were exceptional with our boys winning every match, and our girls, playing well and winning one game 5-0! At the end of the competition our boys were overall large schools champions. Well done to all who participated!



Magical Tudor Adventure! Year 6 recently travelled on a magical Tudor adventure to Mary Arden's Farm. Firstly, we dressed in smooth linen and multi-coloured wool garments, ready to be transported back in time to the Tudors! After a short talk from the mistresses, we proceeded to our various activities including: making sweet-smelling lavender bags, wattle and daub, and painting a colourful Tudor rose wall hanging. We also explored the Tudor Farmhouse which, at the time, was a rich farmer's family home. After lunch, we walked around the farm to see some Tudor farm animals: pigs, chickens, donkeys, ducks, calves, as well as watching mistress Roxanne make butter with just one hand and one bowl of cream! Later, we all learned how to play some Tudor games and practised our dancing. At the end, we all got changed again and arrived back in the 21st century. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit, and hope that, if you are ever lucky enough to visit this farm, you will too! *By Jemima, Chloe and Sophie – Year 6 Reporters*

CHIPPING NORTON WELFARE CHARITIES

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Application forms are available from: Clerk to the Trustees, The Guildhall, Chipping Norton OX7 5NJ

Closing date for applications is Thursday 30th November 2023
Charity No. 238991

Bledington Primary

All things Outdoors at Bledington Primary School!

Despite torrential rain, our Year 5 and 6 pupils bravely undertook their Bikeability (cycling proficiency) training. Over



three days they learnt about road signs, signals and markings before heading out on the roads around Bledington with a team of trained instructors. Pupils learnt how to start and stop carefully on road journeys, identify and respond to hazards, communicate with other road users, negotiate junctions and turn safely.

Forest School is busy again. This term Mrs Droy (and her team of volunteers) are leading outdoor activities for our youngest pupils in Owls and Puffins classes (Reception to Y2). Getting kitted up in waterproofs and wellies and going outside in all weathers is all part of the learning experience!

Each of our classes is having a weekly session of cricket from Ollie (Gloucester Cricket Club).

Our pupils are learning ball skills and agility as well as having fun playing a team sport. Dave, our sports coach, is currently teaching football skills to KS2 and also running his after-school Sports Club for all ages on a Wednesday afternoon.

Penguin and Parrot classes (Y3,4,5,6) have been orienteering in the woods at Sherborne and Parrots (Y5,6) have taken part in a Tag rugby tournament.

Next week we are off for three days of adventurous activities at a PGL centre. There will be kayaking, zip-wiring, abseiling and a host of other activities to participate in, as well as fun activities in the evenings. We look forward to sharing many stories upon our return!

Let's hope the weather improves a little so that we can continue to be outdoors as much as possible!

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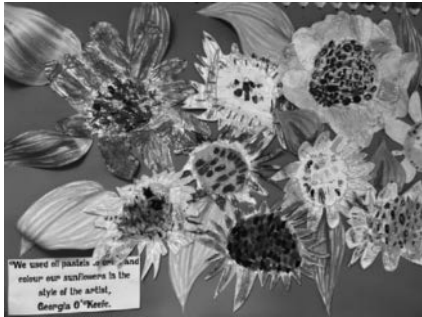
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Chadlington Primary

There's been a strong science and nature theme at Chadlington Primary for the last month with an overlap into Autumn.

As part of Harvest Festival, Elves created pictures of autumn fruits in the style of Matisse to illustrate their poetry.



In KS1, children looked at sunflowers to learn about the parts of a plant and seeds. For art, they then created a fantastic display of sunflowers in the style of Georgia O'Keefe. They have also been creating

habitats in 3D open-sided pyramids showcasing desert, coastal, ocean, rainforest and even urban garden habitats through art.

KS2 went to the Science Museum in London. They went to the IMAX and watched *Our Beautiful Planet*, a film about life on the space station, viewing our planet from space and understanding more about how climate change is changing our world. The children also visited the Wonderlab, a hands-on gallery packed with interactive exhibits and immersive experiences.

Finally, the roles have been selected for School Parliament with the first being held next week. Top of the agenda is next steps for Eco Schools where, following last year's pupil-led

audit, children will decide on the most pressing issues and projects to address this year as they build their roadmap for change.

Enstone Primary

The new school year has got off to a great start, and we have been delighted to welcome many new families to our Enstone Primary School community. Our Reception pupils are definitely finding their feet and enjoying their learning spaces, both inside and out, whilst our Year 6's are enjoying their promotion to leadership roles such as House Captains and Prefects.

We have expanded our wrap-around care this year and were pleased to welcome Lisa Thompson to our staff team, to run the Busy Bees and Chill Zone clubs after school. We are now able to offer wrap-around care from 8am until 5.15pm, which has been welcomed by our busy families.

This year we have an exciting project planned – the redevelopment of our old Pre-School site to create a new Forest School outdoor learning area, complete with an outdoor classroom, which will be used and enjoyed by all year groups. This space will link beautifully with our existing nature garden and pond garden, creating an amazing setting for curriculum work, after school clubs and nurture activities. We will look forward to sharing our progress as the year unfolds.





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Great Rollright Primary



Green issues are close to our heart here at Great Rollright. So we're proud to have been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag award for the third year. In making the award, the Eco-Schools judges congratulated our children for their hard work on a range of green causes at school and in our community – from improving biodiversity and nurturing local habitats, to reducing waste and improving recycling. This autumn we are working on making transport to school more sustainable.

In other news:

Clubs: We have added some exciting new after-school clubs this autumn, with children now able to choose among Art, Choir, Football, Hockey, Nature or Brick Lego. Clubs are just one of the ways we work hard to give all our children rich opportunities to discover new interests and talents.

Harvest: We celebrated the harvest in St Andrew's church next door, in a service planned and presented by the children. Each child brought a food item to donate to local families in need – see picture above.

With school selection time approaching, parents and carers

SCHOOLS NEWS

are strongly encouraged to join one of our small-group tours to learn more about what we offer – including our free bus to Chipping Norton. Please call us on 01608 737202 to book.

Hook Norton Primary



Autumn at school is always a favourite time of year for many of our school community. At the beginning of October we always celebrate with a special Harvest Thanksgiving Service, where we sing harvest songs and some of the year groups learned Makaton actions to go with them. We said prayers about the harvest and autumn and this year we

collected tins, jars and dried foods for Polly Preedy who cooks meals for the homeless in Banbury. As well as practising for our assembly the children are always busy learning. Years 5 and 6 have been learning about the Tudor monarchs as well as auditioning for their Christmas production. Years 3 and 4 have been continuing with their project on numerals and designing their own Roman reliefs. Years 1 and 2 have been learning all about dinosaurs, creating collages of dinosaur habitats and studying dinosaur poo to determine

what they ate. Reception class are learning about the Harvest season, creating pictures using vegetable prints inspired by *The Enormous Turnip* book. Nursery have been learning about *The Little Red Hen* and have made their own soda bread, which was delicious.

Sibford School

**Sixth Form Open Evening
Tuesday 14 November 6–8pm**

Sibford School Sixth Form is inviting students and their families to come and learn more about the A Level and BTEC options on offer for Year 12. This evening is an opportunity 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 Rebecca Evans, Head and the Co Heads of Sixth Form to give attendees an overview of the Sixth Form programme and a flavour of the unique environment Sibford offers its students. Sibford students enjoyed wide ranging success at A level and BTEC this year with top grades being spread across many different subjects, an indication of the considerable strengths across the whole curriculum. Sibford offers programmes of study tailored to meet individual needs and interests, with experienced staff who are experts in their field delivering exciting courses.

To book a place at the Sibford Sixth Form Open Evening, call Elle Kitching, Admissions Registrar on 01295 781 203 or alternatively you can book your place online via www.sibfordschool.co.uk/events.



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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.

Thanks to Chippy Hospital for Covid jobs

I am dismayed to be told that yet another service provided at our Community Hospital has been needlessly transferred to the GP surgery. I would love to know why. I refer to the ENT clinic which follows the previous transfer of our excellent First Aid Unit and Physiotherapy. I just hope the GPs' interest in these clinics lasts longer than their willingness to provide the community with Covid vaccinations. Presumably the GPs decided there was not enough money in the vaccinations and so abandoned the vulnerable in our community. Where is the desire to provide a proper health service provision to the people of Chipping Norton and District? Well, it exists in the excellent Chipping Norton and District War Memorial Community Hospital and I would like to say a public thank you to the hospital staff and volunteers who so superbly stepped in at very short notice to provide Covid vaccinations after the GPs opted out. The hospital service I experienced was second to none in a friendly, reassuring and clinical environment. I attended the first walk-in clinic and received my vaccination within 30 minutes of arrival. There will no doubt be those who went and found the available vaccinations for that day had all been used and had to attend again on a different day but that is unavoidable given the storage conditions required for the vaccines and the need to avoid waste. Thank you, Chippy Hospital, unlike some, you are there when we need you. The GPs could learn a lot from the Hospital.

Clive Hill

(See Health feature on page 16 – Ed)

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ARIA CARE

Moving on after great Chippy years

As some of you know, after almost 30 years in Chipping Norton, Sylvia and I have moved to Tiverton, Devon. From December 1993, when we arrived on a new adventure, till September 2023, our family enjoyed life in Chippy, in Rowell Way and its environs. We would like to thank all the people, neighbours, friends, colleagues, professionals, teachers, and all those that we came across in daily life for making it a great time. You might be saying why did we leave then?



Andrew & Sylvia Phillips Tebb enjoying new adventures with fond memories of their time in Chipping Norton

Well, it was time to move on, empty nesters seeking new adventures in preparation for retirement.

But our list of Chippy memories is endless, with our sons (Alex and Kieran) doing all their education in Chippy, starting at The Ace Centre, then St Mary's, then 'Top school'. Andrew spent 14 years working in Banbury at the FE college and Sylvia for longer at Burford School. Sport loomed large in our lives. Thanks are due, in particular, to the Rugby and Cricket clubs. Andrew enjoyed a spell as Sports Editor at *Chippy News*. We even saw a professional cycling race depart from town. For entertainment, we frequented The Theatre for pantomimes, films and live shows, and pubs, including quiz nights at The Chequers and elsewhere. The Mop Fair was visited when the boys were young. We also played 'spot the celebrity' when the odd politician, TV star or actor appeared in town.

With one year away from Chippy, on our Teaching Exchange to Melbourne, Australia (1999/2000), we missed West Oxfordshire's Millennium celebrations. We came back, despite some people thinking we might stay 'Down Under', sampling more Chippy life and making many more memories. We are settling into our new home in Mid-Devon, even if it is not quite as coastal as Andrew originally wanted, and it is close to the M5 if you are on your way to Cornwall! Thanks for the memories, the people, the places and the events.

Andrew and Sylvia Phillips Tebb

Remembrance and Poppy Appeal

We will be collecting for our Poppy Appeal this year in the Town centre on Saturday 4 and Saturday 11 November between 9am and 4pm. If you had a wreath last year these will be available from our stall opposite the Town Hall on both of these days. If you would like a wreath and did not order one last year, or are unable to collect on the aforementioned days please email stevekingsford@gmail.com. Just a reminder that our Armistice Day service is on Saturday 11 November at 10.45 and our Remembrance Sunday parade starts from Market Street at 10.25. In both services we will be paying tribute to the Fallen of the Town who died 80 years ago in the Second World War.

Steve Kingsford – British Legion, Chipping Norton Branch

LETTERS

Chippy's pirate radio station!

I write with reference to Radio Chipping Norton (October News page 5). Back in the early 1980s, we had a 'Pirate' radio station in town – Radio 96. It broadcast every Saturday night from 10pm until midnight. I have a recording of their 5th Birthday Party! I don't know where they broadcast from, but I believe they could be heard as far as Churchill, so I think they were based in The Leys, New Street or Lords Piece Road area.

Kenny Hawtin

(If anyone knows more please let us know! – Ed)

Amnesty and some pink balloons!

On 1 October I reluctantly joined in the moans and complaints that are the bread and butter of our 'Next Door Chipping Norton' social media forum. Months ago, we planned fundraising for Chippy's Amnesty Group with a Witney 30 September street collection day in Witney on 30 September. We followed WODC's rules and booked the licence for an 'exclusive' slot back in January – they are meant to restrict permission to only one charity each day to allow a fair process. On the day we were, however, totally subsumed under a mountain of pink balloons, goody stalls, two brass bands and pink tins on every corner collecting for Against Breast Cancer. We felt a bit miffed at the effect on our takings. But it was the replies on 'Next Door' to my grumble (that WODC had double booked two charities) that were interesting. Responses were largely sympathetic, and included some enquiries about our Amnesty group. One rejoinder felt my complaint had been completely uncharitable and bitter which gave me the opportunity to wax lyrical about Against Breast Cancer who had put on a wonderful show and were so polite and friendly towards us interlopers. No, my gripe of course was with WODC who replied to my chilly email, by return, with abject apologies for their error. They clarified that, indeed, only one charity collection should happen at the same time; and by way of saying sorry, have given us an early booking for 5 October next year. Street collections raise profile as well as cash and this Witney experience has

certainly done that for Amnesty. Finally, I'll add the local group blog and invite you to come and join us. amnesty.org.uk/groups/chippingnorton

Heather Leonard – CN Amnesty Group

Wendy Sumners 1943–2023

The family of Wendy Sumners would like to thank everyone for their cards and kind thoughts after she sadly passed away in the Horton Hospital on 20 September 2023. Wendy was a much-loved mother and grandmother and a wonderful friend to so many people. Wendy had a private cremation on 9 October and will be interred with her husband in Shipston Cemetery. The family have arranged a memorial for Wendy at the Methodist Church, Chipping Norton at 2.30pm on 18 November. All who knew her will be welcome. Also, thank you for condolences for her eldest son Nick, who passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at home on 26 September. Nick will also be buried in Shipston cemetery.

Dawn Pratley

Buzzing at the Rugby Club



Local resident and well-known bee expert Paul Embden sent these pictures saying there might be some interest in seeing this wild bee colony at Chipping Norton Rugby Club at Greystones. They are nesting in the open air

with Paul adding that he'd seen this only once before in his 25 years of bee keeping.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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The Chipping Norton News is printed on environmentally approved paper

Chippy's Christmas Evening

Put Thursday 23 November in the diary – come & join everyone in Chipping Norton Town Centre and start your festive fun with the Christmas Lights Switch On, Big Chippy Sing-a-long, some shopping, and a great community spirit



Join in the festive fun Starting at 4pm (until 8pm) for Christmas gifts and goodies, there's catering and charity stalls in the Market Square, Topside, Withers Court and the Town Hall. Hot chocolate and sweet things will be provided in the lower Town Hall by Holy Trinity and St Mary's Schools. They'll also transform the Council Chamber into a fabulous Santa's Grotto, with sacks of presents and photo opportunities.



Lantern parade and Switch On: Towards the end of the Big Sing-a-long, to coincide with the switching on of the lights, the children from Holy Trinity and St Mary's Schools will parade with the lanterns they have made. So please come along with all the family on Thursday 23 November to join in all the fun. For more information see social media or email Events Officer, Tania Kirby via events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.



Big Chippy Sing-along: Town Mayor, Sandra Coleman, will open the Big Sing-a-long just before 6pm on the Town Hall steps. The Chippy Sing-along will be led by Chipping Norton Choral Society, Can Sing and Chippy Singers, everyone will be encouraged to join in and enjoy those familiar Christmas songs. The Mayor is also looking for children to be the the Best Christmas Cracker Jokers – to tell their jokes at 6.15pm and help switch on the lights. If you have a favourite hilarious Christmas cracker joke why not go to the audition – for ages 6 to 16 – on 1 November 4.15pm in the Town Hall.



Much more inside on Christmas Fayres, Christmas Tree Festival, Panto, Christmas shows and entertainment

DIARY

November (News out Monday 30 October)

- 1st **Methodist Coffee Morning** for Methodist World Missions 9.30–11.30am - see p10
- u3a** 2.30pm in the Town Hall - see p28
- Christmas Cracker Jokers Auditions** 4.15 Town Hall - details above
- North Oxon Organic Gardeners** - 7.30 Parish Rooms - Bob Brown, Cotswold Garden Flowers
- 2nd **Methodist Talk & Tea** 2.30pm - see p10
- People, Planet, Pint** 6-9pm Blue Boar - see www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/people-planet-pint-207559
- 4th **Police Open Day** 11-3 Town Hall see p7
- Hook Norton Craft Fair** 10-5 Parish Church - p20
- 5th **Ramblers** see p26 for details - note 1.30pm start
- Cuppa, Cake and Chat** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church
- CRAG Concert** 3pm Charlbury Mem Hall - see p21
- 6th **Town Council Community Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- 7th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p25
- 8th **The Arts Society Cotswolds** lecture 11am, Warwick Hall in Burford and by Zoom - details p21
- 9th **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p 26, call Val on 01608 645436 for details
- 10th **CHIPPY NEWS DEADLINE** - see p35

- 10th **Prize Bingo** for MNDA 7.30 Town Hall - see p6
- Adderbury Ensemble** 7.30 Parish Church - see p21
- 11th **Two Minutes' Silence** 10.45 War Memorial - see p3
- Table Top Sale** 2-4pm Glyme Hall
- Screen by the Green** *Elvis* Churchill Vill Hall see p21
- 12th **Remembrance Service & Parade** - see p3
- 13th **Methodist Crafty Cuppa & Chat** 10am - see p10
- Local History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - see p25
- Town Council Strategic Planning Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- Folk Club** 7.30 - The Chequers, CN see p26
- 15th **Horticultural Assoc** 7.15 Methodist Church - see p28
- 16th **Chequers Thursday Music Session** 8pm - see p11
- 17th **Great Rollright Bingo** 7pm Village Hall
- 18th **Christmas Craft Fair** 10-3.30 Salford - see ad p24
- CN Choral Soc Concert** - see advert p20
- 20th **Town Council Finance Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- 23rd **Chippy's Christmas Evening** 4-8pm - details above
- 25th **Willow Gdns Xmas Fayre** 10-3 see p11
- 30th **Methodist Xmas Tree Festival starts** see p11

December (News out Monday 27 November)

- 2nd **Great Rollright Xmas Market** 11-2 see p12
- 3rd **Ramblers** see p26 for details - note 1.30pm start
- Methodist Xmas Tree Festival ends** see p11