



Happy Christmas



Chipping Norton's Indoor Hockey Team lined up for this year's Christmas News – with red and green tops, Santa hats plus hockey sticks. So it's festive greetings from them – and they'd love you to join them at the Leisure Centre on Sunday mornings to 'have a go' in 2024!

Bumper double-month issue

Chippy's
mince
pie
tasting

Our new
cheesy
panto
jokes

Churches'
Christmas
message

Festive
quiz
&
puzzles

Cinderella's
fantastic
fiesta

New Year
with
Veganuary

Find the
16
hidden
reindeer

Remembrance in colour, Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton is back, Ambitious Pool Meadow Plan, Skatepark Ideas Wanted, No Action on Town Parking
PLUS local News, Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools and your Letters



Chippy Remembers



After another successful Poppy Appeal run by their volunteers, Chipping Norton's British Legion Branch led the outdoor service, under clear skies on Saturday 11 November at the War Memorial, to mark the 1918 Armistice with the two-minute silence. Wreaths were laid by local organisations. On Sunday, 12 November, the Parade marched from a somewhat damp Market Square to St Mary's Church for the Remembrance Service – with the bells rung at St Mary's Church (see article below). The Royal British Legion then led the Parade to the Town Hall for the salute and a reception with wonderful food prepared by our Ukrainian guests.

Legion Branch Chair Steve Kingsford thanked everyone for their support and he also made special mention of the Remembrance display at the Town Phone Box – taken over by children from the Town Nursery with help from Banana Moon Nursery, CN Pre-school and Jane Phil Potter Childminding. Steve stressed how much the Legion valued talking to young people and had recently visited both Cubs and Scouts to explain the importance of Remembrance.



Ringling for Remembrance

On Remembrance Sunday, Chippy's St Mary's church bells rang out to honour those who have died or suffered in wartime. However, if you listened carefully before the service, you would have realised the sound was sadder than usual. Bells at this time are rung half-muffled – that is, a muffle is placed over half the bell clapper so every other note sounds like a sad echo. There have of course been times when Chippy bells could not ring for Remembrance. Bells were silenced nationally in 1940 in readiness to sound the alarm for a German invasion. This ban was lifted in 1943 after public pressure, debates in Parliament and Churchill's direct intervention. Many ringers were away at war but local schoolchildren and students took up the challenge and Jean Datson of Spelsbury later founded a national association of the '43ers' who had learnt to ring at that time. Bells were of course rung enthusiastically on VE day.



Covid also halted ringing locally and nationally. It is taking determined but kindly efforts by Chippy's Tower Captain Chris Harris, District Ringing Master David Salter and local ringers (pictured) to move Chippy's team back towards full strength. Bells have had a long association with Remembrance but also with celebrating peace. Recently, in 2018, they were rung for peace around the world, a hundred years after the Armistice. Shepherd and farm worker Mont Abbott recalled in the book *Lifting the Latch* that

many Enstone ringers were still away at war for the 1918 Armistice and the parson had to ring three bells including one with his foot. Despite this (or perhaps because of it) Mont said, 'you never heard such a pandemonium'. The ringing in Enstone was called off and the team walked to Chippy but could find no beer in any of the 29 pubs – so had to walk home again singing.

In memory of

Torben Erik George Sorensen MC



Chipping Norton resident Maggie Sorensen recently lost her son Torben. His funeral – with full military honours – took place on 1 November. Thanks to Maggie for including this for our Remembrance tribute.

At Torben's funeral, his coffin was carried into the church by six soldiers who had served with him, accompanied by 'He ain't heavy, he's my brother'. The Princess of Wales's Royal Regimental flag, his cap and full service medals including the Military Cross, lay on top of the coffin. Lieutenant General Doug Chalmers CB, DSO, OBE addressed the 400+ strong congregation. He said he had the honour of serving with Torben in Afghanistan. He finished his eulogy with 'Torben never knew how good he was'. In a military career of 22 years, Torben served in Afghanistan and also Northern Ireland, Iraq and the Balkan conflict. He retired in December 2018. Reflecting his exemplary military career, The Last Post followed by two minutes silence and Reveille closed the service. Maggie described her son as 'an extremely loving son, father and brother. Torben's proudest achievement was that he never lost a man who had served alongside him'.

A happy Chippy Christmas



Chipping Norton | 
News

By now, Chipping Norton's Christmas will have been launched with the Town Centre lights 'switch on', a community sing-along, children's lantern parade, plus the chance for some evening shopping. There's lots to do and see in and around Chippy over the festive season – from carols, to fayres, markets, shows and concerts plus the 'fiesta' Cinderella up and running at The Theatre. The enthusiastic volunteers of the Chipping Norton News team hope all our readers, family and friends can meet and enjoy time together.

The News Team wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – with thanks for your support in 2023. Onwards to 2024. The next issue will be for February – the Team has a month off as usual so we can all enjoy our Christmas! Meanwhile, please have a laugh at our Christmas jokes and enjoy the puzzles and special features. For anyone interested in helping with the *Chippy News* – with writing, editing, distributing, counting box money and more – we'd love to hear from you at Chippymail@aol.com or 01608 643219. The News, started in 1976, happens only because all the volunteers produce it and the community supports it!

The Chipping Norton News Team

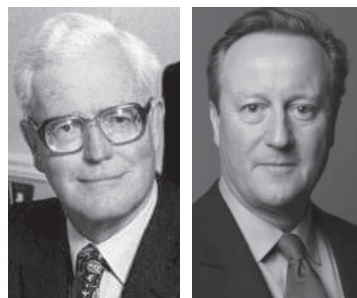
A bouquet of thanks to Steve

Many Chippy residents will be sorry to hear that Steve Slade, otherwise known as 'The Flower Man', plans to hand over the reins of his market stall in December. Steve has been selling beautiful flowers and plants to the people of Chipping Norton and beyond for the last 15 years. Steve lives in Haddenham, where he has a shop and gets up at 4.45am to arrive in Chippy at 6.30 and set up his stall with Ben, who has been working with him for 10 years. He gets no break, but does always have a cup of tea on hand. The flowers and plants come from the Netherlands by lorry three times a week and, since Brexit, undergo lengthy checks at customs. Asked for his reflections on Chipping Norton, Steve said that the people are lovely. Indeed, he has nothing bad to say about the Town except for the weather (it's probably colder than Thame where he also has a market stall). However, he estimates that he has missed setting up the stall because of bad weather less than five times over the years. Steve told the News Team that since he started in the business, there are many more types of flowers available. He particularly likes daffodils but is fond of all plants and always tries to give customers as much individual advice as possible. He comes from Middlesex and market stalls have run in the family for generations. There are plans for his son-in-law Will to take over the Chippy stall to continue the tradition. Steve, 60 this year, hopes to get up later on market days, have more days than just Sunday off and more holidays



with his wife. Thank you, Steve, for your great flowers, plants, advice and for brightening Chippy's Market Place.

Lord Cameron of Chippy?



Then and now – two Witney MPs & Foreign Secretaries: Douglas Hurd and David Cameron

It's 'back to the future' as a newly ennobled David Cameron, our MP for 15 years and former Prime Minister, has returned to politics as life peer Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton to serve as Foreign Secretary in a reshuffled Conservative Government. He had said he was 'retiring from mainstream politics' when he suddenly resigned from Parliament in September 2016 after losing to Brexiteers in the Referendum, which he had confidently called as leader of the 'Remain' Campaign. Since then, he has kept his family home in Dean, where his much-photographed shepherd's hut provided a refuge for writing his memoirs. He has also travelled the world on private advisory work and, amongst other appointments, is president of Alzheimer's Research UK.

In his first Prime Minister's Questions as Conservative leader of the Opposition back in 2005, the then Mr Cameron famously said of PM Tony Blair, 'he was the future once'. He now finds himself as the political face of the UK in a post-Brexit world. Lord Cameron said he was returning to public service 'out of a sense of duty'. Local reactions were fairly predictable. Chippy's Conservative MP Robert Courts said he 'brings immense experience and ability to the crucial role'. WODC's Lib Dem Leader Andy Graham (who stood against David Cameron in 2015) hoped for some 'common sense and cohesion to the divisive foreign policy of this Conservative Government', but Witney's Lib Dem candidate for MP Charlie Maynard said it was 'more firefighting from the Conservative Government'. WODC's Labour Group Leader Duncan Enright called it a 'step back into the past', with 'a man who brought over a decade of austerity and walked away from Brexit'.

Lord Cameron chose the title 'of Chipping Norton' – as long as it's not already taken, that is his choice. Of course, he hasn't actually ever lived in the Town, and the good folk of Chippy were sometimes miffed in recent years to be tarred with the 'Chipping Norton Set' brush. Based on reaction in the national press to the latest news, this notorious label is set for a lively revival!

Why do Cinderella's mice avoid Topsy in Chippy?

Because there's a Puss In Boots



Chippy's Christmas lights

The Town's tradition of Christmas lights – welcomed by visitors, residents and town businesses – kicked off again this year on 23 November with a big 'switch on' and sing-along. In recent years Chipping Norton Town Council has made more investment in Town Hall lights with a large Christmas tree alongside, plus attractive light displays in the permanent trees in the market square and along Middle Row. The other

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tradition of little lighted Christmas trees above all the shop fronts, installed by volunteers, went back many years, but much of the electric infrastructure had been failing, with an increasing number of gaps. Earlier this year, the Town Council



This year's recycled plastic trees

decided to upgrade it all with new 'joined up' electrics and connections for the High Street, the lower market place and Middle Row. As part of this, instead of using nearly 100 small, real trees, the Town Council decided to invest in trees made from recycled plastic. As ever, any change provokes debate – see letters page. Responding to a burst of negative social media comments, about both the plastic and the appearance of the trees, Mayor Sandra Coleman explained the background and reasons. She said that they were using artificial trees due to the environmental impact of cutting down many small trees, which was greater than if the trees were allowed to grow bigger before being cut. The plastic trees and new electrics have not yet appeared down New Street, or along to West Street or Horsefair, leaving many empty brackets. The Town Council's Christmas lights budget in 2023/4 of £15,000 is proposed to increase to £19,000 for next year 2024/5.

Gleeson Housing issues

Plans for up to 104 new homes by Gleeson Land on a site east of Burford Road may be delayed. WODC has decided that any planning application (the next step) would require a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In a letter issued to the developer on 9 November, WODC say, 'the proposed development will have potential likely significant effects on the Glyme Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a statutorily designated nature conservation site and the Glyme Valley BBOWT reserve. The site also lies close to the Cotswolds National Landscape. It is therefore considered to be EIA development, requiring the submission of an Environmental Statement'. The implications of this can only be guessed at, but the detailed planning work required in an EIA could delay the submission of the intended planning application.

Gleeson Land had been hoping to capitalise on WODC's lack of five-year housing land supply to gain permission to build on land not allocated for development in the current Local Plan. But the situation has recently changed, with WODC publishing a statement calculating that they do now have enough housing land across the District, thereby reducing their requirement to approve applications on sites not in the Local Plan. This could tilt the balance back in favour of refusal of applications on land outside the Local Plan, including that east of Burford Road.

Larder's support at Christmas

Throughout the Covid disruptions and in holidays – including Christmas – the team at Chippy Larder have gone beyond their 'membership subscription' service to provide free food, supplies and toys for families who cannot easily afford them. This year, for those families, they are planning to put together 'Holiday Hampers' with an assortment of 'store cupboard staples' and essential toiletries – all designed to ensure that families have everything they need to enjoy the long Christmas break. Helping The Larder team to do this will include the Midcounties Co-op CEO and his team providing the essential food items. Local charity Thrive North Ox, as in previous Christmases, are coming forward with toiletries and household essentials. But this year there is more – with Blenheim Palace offering to join in the Christmas spirit with an extra touch of surprise for each hamper. The Chippy Larder team are delighted with the help from local organisations coming to together to spread some Christmas cheer – and demonstrate the compassion and community spirit. The scheme is targeted at particular families in need. The Larder's Rizvana Poole emphasizes that there is no means testing or selection criteria, but the Larder is guided by their partner organisations – local schools, charities and Council bodies who know and understand our communities and have referred to the Larder; individuals and families who could do with a little extra support over the Christmas period. Contact thechippylarder@gmail.com

What did Cinders say after The Theatre photoshoot?
Some day my prints will come



What kind of skatepark?

The idea of a new 'wheeled sports park' facility – to be installed at Chipping Norton New Street's recreation area – is now looking quite likely. The Town Council, who will need to raise funds for the park, want to proceed to putting out a design specification asking specialist contractors to propose possible schemes. A small 'design/user

group' of volunteer residents (adults but some representing younger interests), has been formed, met in October, and will now consult with the community on the kind of facility best suited for Chippy. See poster with QR code above. There are many options for design and different wheeled sports to consider. The new design/user group were planning to be out and about on Chippy's Christmas Lights evening on 23 November – and watch out for social media and other public



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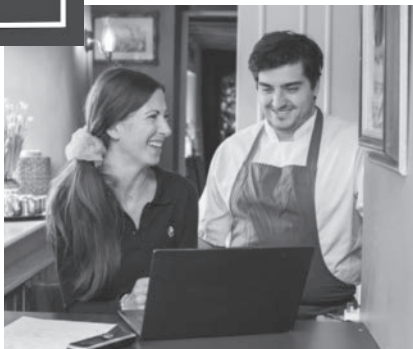
engagement to be able to express your views. For any question contact townclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.

A taste of Italy in Chippy!



It's 'Ciao' to Alberto's Pantry which opened at the end of November, at 21A High Street in Chipping Norton

(formerly occupied by Mighty Pie) and is very much a family affair. Award-winning chef Valerio Grimaldi-Plant and his partner Claire Lenkowiec (who together ran The George at Barford St Michael for over three years) have been hard at



Claire and Valerio have now launched Alberto's Pantry on Topside

work over the last month or more, with Val's mum too, getting the premises ready for their first independent venture together. It is named after Val's grandfather who always dreamt of opening a restaurant with his grandson in his home city of Rome, so Chippy is honoured to host the family's dream. Val says, 'We believe that great food should be made with love, care and respect to quality ingredients. In the heart of Chipping Norton, we are a delicatessen by day and intimate dining restaurant by night'.

Alberto's serves coffee and croissants in the morning, freshly-made deli lunches (to eat in or take away) of filled focaccia sandwiches, fresh seasonal salads in summer and winter soups and stews. Afternoons offer light Italian cocktails with complimentary house nibbles that change daily. Tables are bookable 6-9pm for small plates and sharing boards of local and Italian cheeses, fruits, charcuterie, breads and artisan crackers ... and ever-changing seasonal dishes, not forgetting Val's delicious tiramisu dessert. As well as the retail deli counter that offers Italian goodies, Alberto's prepare savoury and sweet hampers to order for picnics in the summer and for Christmas too. There's just time to place your seasonal order! To book a table call 01608 670693 or go online to ciao@albertospantry.co.uk.

Why was Cinders completely useless at tennis?

She had a pumpkin for a coach!



New Town Council grants

Would your local club, charity or voluntary body benefit from a grant from Chipping Norton Town Council? There is around £9,000 remaining out of the original budget of £28,000 to be awarded for this financial year 2023/24, in a second round of bids to be discussed by the Finance and Resources Committee on 5 February 2024. To find out more and make an application please contact the Council via townclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk or see their website www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.

Revival of net zero home plan

In September, the Chipping Norton News reported on a scheme for local Chippy-based development company, Green Axis, to build net zero carbon affordable homes at Weavers Fold. This is a WODC-owned site at the far end of Walterbush Road and, with much trumpeting back in 2022, WODC announced the 'groundbreaking' scheme as a 'national first'. The homes would be discounted from market value, with a zero-carbon specification and custom options for buyers. Then suddenly, this June 2023, WODC said they were pulling out of the deal to avoid potential financial risk, and would be pursuing other options for the land. Chipping Norton Town Council were not well pleased. But now, it seems, after Green Axis and WODC reworked the proposals, and legal issues have been ironed out, the Council's Executive, at their latest November meeting, have now agreed for Green Axis to go ahead. The plan will now be for seven homes. Net zero carbon homes means they will not have a carbon footprint and will use innovative technologies to reduce energy usage. This will also mean the homes are cheaper to run for the people that buy them. The homes will be sold at 15% less than the average market price for the area. The scheme will also provide an electric vehicle charging hub and garden for the community to use. Chipping Norton's District Councillor Geoff Saul, who is also WODC's Executive Member for Housing and Social Welfare, said he was pleased that issues had been resolved and that WODC were moving forward with Green Axis. He stressed that, in spite of the challenges, the Council was committed to pushing for new ways to tackle both the housing crisis and climate emergency.

WODC: no town parking plan



Visitors, local shoppers and residents experiencing parking issues in Chipping Norton Town Centre – particularly on busy shopping and tourist days – seem unlikely to get more help from West Oxon District Council anytime soon. WODC's

last 'parking strategy' for Chippy, in 2016, said the town centre was more than 100 parking places short – and solutions such as an extra layer in WODC's New Street Car Park were mooted. Now in 2023, things are busier, there are 100s more houses and, in April, Oxfordshire County Council started a stricter regime enforcing short stay limits on the Town's streets. WODC, with an eye on their two free long-stay (12 hours) Albion St and New St car parks, started penalising nearby residents overstaying the limits. After complaints, the WODC Executive Member in charge agreed to pause that action – pending further review.

A year ago, WODC's Executive said they would look at Chippy's parking problems as part of a District-wide Review – with a focus on their 14 free car parks. This much-trailed Review has now been published; the report and its recommendations were discussed at WODC's October Executive. The result? No actions for Chippy – no more parking provision, no change to stay times, no potential residents parking permits. The review looked at car park use,

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with a spot check on capacity during only one week in early June. In fact, Albion St car park, (average capacity use of 85%) and New St car park (average capacity use 72%, but 82% for 4 hours over lunch time) had some of the highest usage rates across the District. But the Review concluded we have enough parking – so no action is proposed. A 'spot check' by the News on a wintery November Sunday lunchtime found our car parks overflowing with visitors.

Chippy will expect another busy summer next year. The new Living Room Cinema is open (no parking), the Branch Hub opens in February (no parking), the hotel plan for HSBC looks like being revived (no parking), Series 3 of Diddy Squat's TV series is on the way (rampant visitors), the Town Council wants to double the use of the Town Hall with events (good news but no extra parking) and – as reported in October – Chippy should have over 1000 new homes on the way (with no extra town centre parking mentioned). Any money for this from WODC? Unlikely. At the same October WODC Executive meeting, officers reported around a £200 million shortfall in funds to provide much needed District-wide 'infrastructure' – and that, they said, is a 'conservative' estimate.

Why did Cinderella get kicked out of Chippy Swifts?

She kept running away from the ball.



Home Care Award

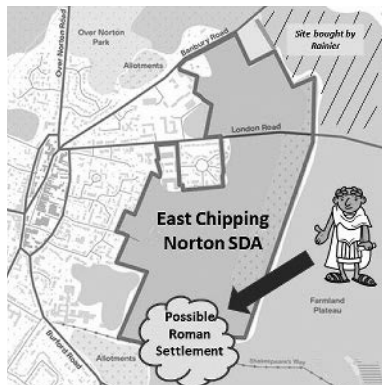
Care Compassion & Conversation Ltd, a domiciliary care agency based in Chipping Norton, has provided home care and support to clients in the Town and surrounding villages since 2013.



The CCC team with their award

CCC's Hannah Guy told the News that they recently made it through to the West Midlands regional finals for the Great British Care Awards 2023. They were finalists for not one, but two categories: the Home Care Team Award and the Home Care Employer Award. The team from CCC attended a black-tie event at the ICC in Birmingham on Saturday 4 November where finalists from across the West Midlands came together to celebrate the hard work, commitment and dedication they each put into providing the very best care possible. The winners were announced for each category and Hannah said they were 'beyond thrilled that they were announced winners of the Home Care Team Award – what an achievement to be able to say you're the best home care team in the West Midlands!' Having won at regional level, the team at CCC are now shortlisted for the National Finals, which will be held in March 2024 at the ICC in Birmingham.

East Chippy Roman hold up



Will any housing ever get built at East Chippy? As regular readers know, after years of little action, planning the 1000+ new homes at East Chipping Norton 'Strategic Development Area' has been stalled for nearly 18 months because of archaeology investigations. There's not much news. Historic

England (HE) has been assessing two detailed archaeology reports on land off Glyme Lane before deciding whether or not to recommend the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport to designate the area a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There's no formal decision yet but developer Cala Homes, whose land at East Chippy could be affected (so has a lot in its stake financially), told the News that they heard in early October that HE's report had been sent to DCMS for 'final adjudication'. We now await the Secretary of State's decision on scheduling that could determine the future shape of Chippy.

What might Government Ministers decide? Our planning authority West Oxfordshire District Council might just be ultra-cautious, but do they know something others don't? In a response to a nearby planning proposal they stated recently that 'the indications are that the area will be scheduled. While the extent of the scheduled monument is not yet known, an important consideration will not only be the impact of this proposed development on the scheduled monument but also on its setting and the potential need for a buffer area'.

So what for East Chippy? Restrictions on developing part of the East Chippy site could reduce the Local Plan proposal for 1000+ new homes significantly, but, with some careful land allocation, it should still be possible to design a sensible masterplan for new homes, employment and other facilities to the north and east of the Town. Major landowners, Oxfordshire County Council and Cala, must both be eager to pursue this. Paul McCann of Cala told the News, 'We are very keen to continue the master planning on the East Chipping Norton site but until we know finally DCMS's position on the archaeological issue, it is difficult to move forward'.



Could you help brighten an older person's life?

Could you spare a minimum of 1 hour a week to become a volunteer telephone befriender and play a vital role in providing comfort and friendship to an older person who may be feeling lonely?

Phone Friends is Age UK Oxfordshire's telephone befriending service which provides local, older people who feel lonely with a regular, free, friendly phone call from a volunteer befriender. Volunteering as a Phone Friend can be done from the comfort of your own home at a regular time that suits you.

To find out more / volunteer please email phonefriends@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk, call 01295 234 850 or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire - search 'Phone Friends'



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What weighs over two tons and wears glass slippers?
Cinderellephant!



Projects to smarten up Town

October saw a first meeting in Chipping Norton of a potential new 'Town Partnership' proposed by West Oxfordshire District Council and aimed initially at bidding for money to improve the 'public realm' in our Town Centre. It was organised by WODC's Market Town's Officer. Over a year ago, WODC secured a grant from Central Government's Levelling Up 'Shared Prosperity Fund' to improve market town centres across the District, to be spent from April 2022 to March 2025. Included is £62k, specifically to improve public realm, increase footfall & reduce vacancies, and £69k to improve open markets and town centres generally. So not a huge pot of cash to cover more than five market towns over a 3-year period already over half way through. Consultants, appointed by WODC, have suggested a Town Partnership in Chippy as 'a forum for key stakeholders to discuss and gain feedback on projects in the town.'



Cllr Rizvana Poole, with WODC's Will Barton, Polly Jaffé of The Bookshop & Town Events Officer Tania Kirby on the walkabout

At its first meeting, in October, representatives of local businesses, council officers and some of Chippy's councillors had a lively discussion brainstorming potential visual and promotional improvements to the weekly market. It seems WODC could even consider handing the market over to an experienced private operator. The meeting also suggested improvements to the general appearance of the Town including Chippy in Bloom, bunting, lighting, street furniture,

flower beds, empty units, improvements to the pedestrian and cycling experience, visitor information and signage across the town. Then, on 31 October, group members did a 'walkabout' identifying signage updates they feel are required. The next step is to put a bid or bids together for a share of the Government grant 'pot'.

There seems some good initial enthusiasm, but these kind of 'grant bid' projects to get Central Government money can

be bureaucratic, take time and divert some local councils from what they should have been doing anyway (for example upgrading Chippy's signposts to the non-existent visitor centre and citizens advice offices that closed many years ago). A similar initiative in late 2021 for 'Covid Recovery' money – which also looked at Chippy's 'public realm' – got nowhere. On the latest 'Shared Prosperity Fund', *The Observer* reported in November that 95% of local councils that received this SPF funding in 2022–23 were unable to spend all their share. Let's hope that any new Town Partnership group, with the best interest of our town at heart, can create some action that will make a real difference. After all, surely some of these actions are only what WODC is responsible for doing – and paying for – anyway!



Signs to nowhere – visitors will struggle to find the long-gone CAB and VIC offices

Why did Chippy's Panto Dame fall down a hole?

It was a stage she was going through



nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton

A 1960s CHRISTMAS AT CHASTLETON

Join Chastleton's last resident family for a 1960s themed Christmas celebration.

29 NOVEMBER-17 DECEMBER
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY

OPENS 11AM
LAST ENTRY 2.15PM



The Big Give Christmas Challenge

28th November to 5th December

This Christmas you could make a gift that has twice the impact! Whatever the size of your donation to the Branch Trust, it will be doubled!

Help The Branch to bring vital services, build hope for local young people and families, and bring down the barriers of debt, domestic abuse, and poor mental health.



Help us unlock potential and transform lives, scan the QR code thebranchtrust.org



Pool Meadow restoration

What progress at Pool Meadow, the historic wetland and nature area along the stream below the New Street playground? Just over a year ago, in September 2022, Chipping Norton Town Council (who own the site), commissioned local consultant Jonny Ackroyd of Beaumont Rivers to



The project at Pool Meadow will include recreating the wetland pond from the stream

prepare a feasibility study on how to reverse the decline in biodiversity and restore the meadow as a wildlife and countryside access site. Jonny's comprehensive plan, includes: connecting the stream with the meadow to create ponded wetland area, building dams and dealing with an old sewage outlet, bringing the great horsetail monoculture under control, replanting the meadow floodplain with wildflower seed mix, improving 285m of existing footpath surface to include wheelchair/pushchair accessibility, adding information boards, possible picnic areas as well as an additional formalised 160 metre further path round The Mount side of the pool.

So far, clearing of some of the problematic growth has been done, with great help from the Green Gym. Dangerous trees have been felled, and the route of the rear path has been carefully cleared. After full discussion with all the different public authorities involved, Beaumont Rivers have now finished a full feasibility and design report – which will now be used to obtain planning permissions, permits and Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent. To complete this 'planning and permissions' stage, costs could be around £20,000 of which £13,000 is being covered by a grant from the Evenlode Partnership via the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment. Town Councillors were very positive about all this. Once permissions are obtained, the main construction, including with contractors, can start. Costs could exceed £100,000 but major partners, such as Thames Water, are keen to support this important project, and Jonny is optimistic that other grant bodies will join in and work should proceed smoothly in 2024. The Town Council earmarked £25,000 of reserves in next year's budget for their contribution. For the full report see chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk under Strategic Planning Committee meetings.

How did Jack find the Giant at Chippy's veggie market stall?

He heard the runner beans-talk.



Eat out to help our Lido!

The Lido in Chipping Norton has launched its Water for Water fundraising campaign with Whistlers Restaurant in Middle Row. Diners there are being asked to make a voluntary £1 donation for their jug of tap water, so a big thank you to Nathan and Kerry and all their diners who are already contributing. The Lido team would love to get more venues involved, so if you run a restaurant or café, or if you have a favourite eatery who you think would like to support their community-owned pool, please get in touch at info@chippylido.co.uk. You can also support The Lido – at no cost to yourself – when you're shopping online this Christmas. Many, many retailers will make a donation based on your spend when you sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk or giveasyoulive.com and choose to support Chipping Norton Lido. Over the past few years, The Lido has raised over £2,500 thanks to supporters who have bought goods online.

Claire Jarvis

Beech Haven enjoy November



cup of hot chocolate with some toasted marshmallows.

Later in the month in the time leading up to the Remembrance weekend of 11 and 12 November, some of the residents enjoyed drawing poppies and reflected on Remembrance and what it meant to them.



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www.chippingnortonphysio.com



Defibrillator for Banana Moon

In October, Chipping Norton's Banana Moon Nursery on Evans Way was delighted to see a new defibrillator installed at its building. It was thanks to a national scheme called 'Little Hearts, Bright Futures' launched by the umbrella Banana Moon franchise company. They are in the process of raising



Little Hearts Bright Futures team at Banana Moon

£125,000 to provide an external automated defibrillator in every one of the around 40 Banana Moon franchise operations. The equipment can be accessed and used in an emergency not only by the nursery but by the local community. The devices (as with other defibrillators at locations around Chipping Norton) will be registered with local ambulance services, who can direct 999 callers to their location. The British Heart Foundation say there are more than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests annually in the UK – 20% are in public places, and more than 270 a year occur in schools. BHF say that using a defibrillator as well as quality CPR can increase survival odds from 6% to 74%.

Why did Goldilocks get ejected from the Kings Arms?

She had become un-bear-able



Methodists' Christmas plans

Everyone at Chipping Norton Methodist Church is getting ready for the excitement of Christmas, particularly the Junior Church who are planning their tree for the Festival – don't miss that on 2–3 December. Then, on Sunday 10 December the Junior Church are in charge of the family service, telling the congregation all about what they have learnt about Christingles. Everyone is welcome.

As well as regular Christmas services (see page 18) everyone is invited to two new ones. On Friday 22 December at 6pm, there is a Blue Christmas Service. It's for anyone who finds Christmas a difficult time of year, perhaps with painful memories, loneliness or loss. It's a gentle reflective service to acknowledge the struggle, and offer healing and hope from Jesus. You can light a candle to remember a person or situation on your heart. All welcome – even if church isn't usually your thing.

Then the Crib Service on Saturday 23 December at 4pm is a fun and informal telling of the Christmas story for all the family. You can join in but exactly how it works out depends on who turns up! You are invited to come in costume as a nativity character who was present in the stable that first Christmas night (optional!). Take part in the story telling, have

fun and sing some carols. The Church looks forward to your company!

Dates for December include cuppa and chat for Crisis at Christmas 9.30–11.30 on Wednesday 6th, crafty cuppa and chat 10–12 on Monday 11th, then in the New Year, cuppa and chat for The Albion 9.30–11.30 on Wednesday 3 January and crafty cuppa and chat 10–12 on Monday 8 January.

Town Council's 2024/5 budget

Chipping Norton Town Council will hold their next Full Council meeting at 6.30pm on Monday 4 December, when they aim to agree their proposed budget for next year (starting 1 April for 2024/2025) – and any required rise in Council Tax. For the current year (2023/24), the Town Council froze their 'per-household' share of Council Tax – planning to use a small amount of reserves to balance the books. They were also planning to use over £300,000 of further 'earmarked reserves' (saved from previous years) on Town Hall repairs, new recreation equipment and a Pool Meadow Project. On 4 December, the full Council will consider progress so far this year and the budget recommendations from their Finance Committee which met on 20 November. With no 'per-household' rise last year, the Council are looking at an increased budget for 2024/5 (starting next April), to cover inflation cost increases and increased staffing. They will be considering an 8% rise per household and some use of the Council's reserves to balance the books. All this will be finalised by the full Chipping Norton Town Council on 4 December.

In January there are meetings of the Town Council's Community (22 Jan, 6.30pm), Traffic Advisory (25 Jan, 2pm)

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www.thelangston.uk

LOCAL NEWS

and Strategic Planning (29 Jan, 6.30pm) Committees. Public are welcome to attend all meetings and may speak if they make a request beforehand to the Town Clerk.

The Town's old iron benches

Chipping Norton Town Council was asked by a local resident to consider sorting around 10 old iron benches on some of the paths coming into town. The one pictured is on the corner of Worcester Road and Station Road opposite the playground. They probably date back to before WWII and were probably installed by the old Chipping Norton Borough



Council – but no one seems to have taken ownership since local government changes in 1974! Our interested resident has been cleaning, wiring and painting this one with green Hammerite. Many more of these iron seats need repairing or dismantling. In November, Chipping Norton Town Councillors, agreed to investigate ownership and potentially take over dealing with the benches as part of the Council's work schedule.

What did Santa say after he'd seen
Chippy's Fiesta panto?
Hola Hola Hola



Volunteer as a life-changer!

Could you help someone with sight difficulties in Chipping Norton? Why not become a 'My Sighted Guide' and support a person with sight loss to get out and about in their local community, building self-confidence, increasing social interaction, and promoting independence. As well as providing their traditional service, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association helps organise people as volunteer guides. Oxfordshire's local volunteer coordinator for the charity, Hannah Padgham, told the News, 'Your on-arm support will build the confidence for people to meet their mobility goals. By meeting regularly, you will build a great partnership and enjoy common interests such as walking or cultural activities.' This role is perfect for someone recently retired who wants to get out of the house or someone who works flexibly and also wants to make a difference. You can meet perhaps weekly or fortnightly for a few hours for a period varying from 3 months to 12+ months. Full training for volunteers is provided. For more information and how to apply see My Sighted Guide on www.guidedogs.org.uk. For any queries you can contact the Volunteering Office. Lines are open 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. Phone: 0345 143 0191 or email volunteer@guidedogs.org.uk

Latest news from TCN

Youth Space – With young people in Chippy keen for more places to hang out, especially in winter, Transition Chipping Norton, with Town Council support, are now running a youth session 5–7pm on Tuesday evenings at the Town Hall. It is aimed at older teens (aged 15+), recognising there aren't as many opportunities for this age group. TCN are keen to shape things to what the teens want, so if you are aged 15–18 come along and see what's possible. For more info, text 07517 144828 or email cara@learn2sustain.org.uk. A big thank you to MOR bakery and Chippy Larder for supplying some of the food, and the Sovereign #iwill Fund for initial funding.



Doorstep Giveaway – Join in on the first Saturday and Sunday each month! TCN have been looking at ways to reduce waste and would love to see more households taking part in this Doorstep Giveaway scheme. If you are having a clear-out of items that you think other people might make use of, please leave them on your doorstep or at the end of the drive for others to take – next dates: 2–3 Dec and 6–7 Jan.



Events and Activities – Join the TCN team for foraging and nature walks, eco activities and fireside chats – all events are free or by donation and there are several meet-ups a month. Keep in touch through the TCN WhatsApp chat groups where people share ideas and make new connections – 07517 144828 or follow us on Facebook: fb.com/TransitionChippingNorton/ and fb.com/Learn2Sustain.org.uk/ for youth activities.

Volunteer Needed – If you or someone you know might have a few spare hours to help with book-keeping, the TCN team would love to hear from you!

Cara Hedges – TCN Trustee

Youth Space*
@
The Town Hall
Tuesdays
5–7pm

FREE WIFI

If you are aged 15 – 18 come and help shape this new youth club

For more information
text 07517 144828
or
email info@Learn2Sustain.org.uk





Polluting the river Evenlode



Hot spot outfalls with high pollution levels

ment Partnership (ECP) to undertake a water pollution outfall 'safari' on the stream above the Chipping Norton water treatment works. This stream eventually flows into the River Evenlode and down to the Thames. There is automatic pollution testing equipment (called sondes) already in the stream above and below the treatment plant. What was surprising was the level of pollution being recorded above the plant. The safari sought to find what the possible sources of the contaminants might be. Some pipes set into the stream bank were known about and recorded, some were not.



The survey found four outfalls/pipes upstream of the upper sonde. At the first outfall (the first picture), chemical testing showed high levels of nitrates. There was a strong smell, strong discolouration, and lots of sediment on the surrounding channel bed. The amount of human waste products is evident. This outflow is adjacent to Bliss Mill but does not come from there but is part of the Thames Water system. One other outfall was of particular interest. At another spot (second picture) there was a lot of erosion from the outfall, extensive sediment, and a strong smell. Investigations continue to track its source.

The ECP is a collaboration of various communities and organisations associated with the Evenlode river catchment. Among its projects and objectives is one to address and eliminate water pollution sources throughout the catchment. The ECP has been funded by various bodies including Thames Water. The River Evenlode rises near Moreton-in-Marsh and local citizen scientists grouped as Riverlution have proved the river is already polluted even there. Previously, Thames Water promised to upgrade the water treatment works at Moreton but in its latest Plan delivered to the Environment Agency, this, among 12 other upgrades, has been discarded. ECP sees this as a betrayal of trust and has therefore decided to sever all

The national issue of river pollution, from both sewage and other causes, remains a hot topic locally including around Chipping Norton. This summer a group of volunteers joined the Evenlode Catch-

links with Thames Water from 2025 once the current funding arrangements finish. They will seek alternative funding and collaborations with organisations such as WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution) which has gained a national profile in its exposure of water companies' statutory failings.

Tim Prail

Xmas: beware online fraud!

Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire are warning Chipping Norton shoppers about seasonal shopping traps. Nationally, Citizens Advice is contacted by worried shoppers every nine seconds and fraud is up 35%. Teresa Archer, head of CAWO, said they often hear of shoppers' difficulties and are there to help. Here are some tips to help you shop confidently and not to fall for scams:

If it seems too good to be true – it probably is. Be wary of sites offering big discounts, and ensure it's a genuine product. Check on www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company. Do some background research into the company and look at the reviews. Find out how they can be contacted, where they're based and if they're part of a consumer protection scheme.

Be cautious about payment methods. Watch out for being asked to use methods such as iTunes vouchers, crypto currency or via bank transfer. These are harder to track and lack vital protections you get using debit or credit cards or third-party apps such as PayPal.

Delivery scams and issues. It's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. If the seller used a courier, they should chase the courier to find out what's

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What does Chippy Theatre's ghost watch at Christmas?

The Phantomime



LOCAL NEWS

happened to your order. Be aware of email scams saying the delivery company has tried to deliver; never just 'press here' without checking.

For information and advice, contact Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire on 0808 278 7908.

Join Chippy's alternative COP28

The 'People, Planet, Pint' movement – formed after an impromptu event back at the UN's climate crisis conference COP26 in Glasgow – is holding simultaneous local town meetings on Thursday 7 December including in Chipping Norton. The latest official global COP28 (the United Nations Conference of the Parties) is being held in Dubai over two weeks in November and December when the world leaders



gather to discuss climate change and the environment. To coincide with this event, People, Planet, Pint are holding their own free version – COPPP (Congress of the People Planet Pints!) in towns and cities across the country on 7 December. PPP Chipping Norton is one of the 30 groups participating, bringing local organisations and people together to share the amazing things they've been doing during 2023 for the climate, environmental and social challenges we face in the area and beyond.

The 7 December event is in the Stable Room at the Blue Boar (1 Goddards Lane, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NP) 6 to 9pm. From 6.15–7pm there will be very short presentations from local champions – then the opportunity to mingle and chat over a drink or two. If you are interested at all in sustainability, come along and find out about local projects and action you can get involved with or inspired by! Spaces are limited to 50 so please register to secure your place. Find

the Chipping Norton COPPP28 meeting on www.eventbrite.co.uk, or contact Linda@aspey.com. Thanks to the two sponsors of Chippy's PPP meetings – Krystal Web Hosting, which buys a drink for the first 33 people who register, and the Blue Boar for the venue and friendly, supportive staff.

Why do Chippy schoolkids always laugh
at Mother Goose?
She has all the best yolks



Views on next Local Plan

Where should West Oxfordshire's new development go over the next 20 years? The District Council have declared their current Local Plan (adopted in 2018) as 'out of date' and they have had some issues with new housing plans. So WODC's Executive are eager to get a new Local Plan in place, covering up to 2041. They've been asking the public for views, and a WODC public exhibition at Chipping Norton's Glyme Hall exhibition on 23 October was well attended. Naturally, particularly with the current Local Plan failing to get housing growth in the right places, there was a lot of focus on Chipping Norton. But overall, district-wide, WODC said response was 'fantastic', with more than 600 responses giving 'helpful feedback'.

The Chippy News Team did its own analysis of the 274 online responses sent to WODC by the closure date. Many on-line respondents felt new development should still be distributed in a hierarchical manner, focussing mainly on the three towns (Carterton, Witney and Chipping Norton), with some growth in larger villages and less in more rural areas. Carterton was favoured as a location but Witney residents felt they have had enough! The idea of more growth in 'village clusters' was unpopular, but many favoured growth along public transport corridors.

Many people stressed the need for infrastructure investment to cope with new housing, citing issues such as sewerage upgrades, road capacity improvements, increased healthcare provision and enhanced public transport. People in Witney, Bampton, North Leigh and Long Hanborough repeatedly said they were already overwhelmed by new development. Smaller villages were losing character and identity. Re-use of brownfield sites was favoured. Development along the A40 corridor was favoured – if it helped fund solutions to congestion. Rail infrastructure here was also mentioned. One respondent described Chipping Norton as a 'catastrophe' due to new housing without additional facilities.

As reported in November's News, Chipping Norton Town Council favours a broad strategy, combining Carterton development with growth in village clusters and along public transport routes. A WODC spokesperson confirmed that a combination of strategies was likely. Chipping Norton could see a change of direction, but the immediate next stage of growth remains unclear – particularly with East Chipping Norton's plans still stalled while a Government decision is awaited on the archaeology reports about the site. WODC aims to produce a summary report about the new Local Plan by December, explaining the main issues raised and how those will be taken into account. In the new year, they will pull

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together the draft plan before consulting again on their preferred approach.

Raising the UN Flag

In October, Town Councillors joined members of Chipping Norton Amnesty group to raise the United Nations Flag to mark United Nations Day – the annual commemoration of the official creation of the UN on 24 October 1945. Amnesty International campaigns to protect human rights and for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. This is a cross-



Chipping Norton Deputy Mayor, Steve Akers, right with Councillors and Amnesty members

cutting theme in all UN programmes: peace and security, development, humanitarian assistance, and economic and social affairs. At the flag-raising, Amnesty's Kate Ward outlined the Group's work and Town Cllr Alex Keyser remembered his grandfather, John Keyser, who was a Secretary with the UN just after its formation. Deputy Mayor Cllr Steve Akers led a minute's silence to remember all those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world. The UN flag's blue colour and laurel leaves symbolise peace.

See Amnesty report p32 with details of the raising of the Human Rights flag on 10 December.

Why has Chippy's Dick Whittington grown a beard?

Because Cotswold cats prefer Whiskers



Transport Matters!



An update on last month's report. From 26 November, the Oxford Bus Company 700 serving the JR, Churchill and Nuffield Orthopaedic (NOC) is now also operating hourly on Saturdays and Sundays, thanks to additional funding for buses from Oxfordshire County Council. There are also some minor changes to weekday timings. Timetables can be downloaded from the Oxford Bus Company web-

site. Also, thanks to OCC funding, there will be £1 single fares on Sundays during December on buses within Oxfordshire. Christmas shopping opportunities!

Police open day in Town Hall

There was a good attendance at Thames Valley Police's public awareness event in Chipping Norton Town Hall on 4 November. Different agencies were there with stalls and information including Police, Trading Standards, Fire Service, Debt support services, and the Farming Community Network (FCN) charity. Police



PCSOs Darryn Moulding & Wes Smith at the Town Hall event

Community Support Officer Darryn Moulding explained how rural crime, one of his particular interests, is very seasonal. Due to extended night-time hours in winter, thefts (in particular oil) and burglaries increase. There is also more emphasis on wildlife crime, for example, hare coursing. The event's aim was to increase awareness of what resources are available for the public to use. Trading Standards offered information about doorstep traders plus home security advice. The FCN were on hand to advertise how they offer support to farmers and rural communities which includes crime prevention information. They are also involved in rural welfare.

Darryn highlighted a meeting that the Thames Valley Police (TVP) cross border forces will be attending at the end

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ARIA CARE

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of November. 'Cross border' includes Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and West Mercia (Evesham). Different counties experience particular hikes in crime – for example in Warwickshire it is currently quad bikes whilst in West Mercia it is solar panels. Darryn summarised saying, 'as a community, TVP are there for your safety and security but we also have a wealth of partner agencies which we can signpost you to, if we are unable to help you. Today is about highlighting what is available. Don't be afraid to contact us. Ring 999 if you witness a crime or have any concerns.' Representatives thanked the Co-op for providing the free refreshments. Could you become a PCSO? See letters page.

Why did Captain Hook buy Aldi's cheap pasties?

Because he wouldn't pay the pie-rates



Christmas goodies at Oxfam



Chipping Norton's Oxfam Bookshop is positively bursting with Christmas goodies. As well as the usual high quality Christmas cards, there is wrapping paper, crackers, tree decorations, chocolate and much, much more. There are plenty of

stocking fillers, calendars and Moomin bags. The shelves are filled with an amazing variety of books suitable for all tastes which make great presents. For the vinyl buffs there is a wide range of albums on offer including many old favourites. Why not drop in and browse the festive shelves and maybe even treat yourself to a good book and a bar of chocolate?

Liz Atkins

Keep fit and stay active!

Would you like a little encouragement and help to stay active as the years move on? Why not come and join in some Chipping Norton sessions run by local independent charity Age UK Oxfordshire, which supports older people across the county to live life to the full. Age UK's Emily Cleary updated the News about their Physical Activity sessions locally. The **Strength and Balance** exercise class is run at Chippy Town Hall on Fridays 10–11am. It's to help you maintain health, mobility, and independence, and to keep doing what you love for longer – boosting energy levels and wellbeing. 1 hour for £5 – first session free.

The new **Stay Strong and Steady** class is at CN Rugby Club on Wednesdays from 11.30am–12.45 pm. The current course is in progress and the next course starts on 17 January 2024. It's a fall prevention exercise and information programme, designed for older people who are concerned

What kind of pet did Aladdin bring when he visited Chippy?

A flying car-pet!



about their balance. To join and book your place contact active@Ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call 01235 849403.

Lots on at the Library

The **Guide Dog Association** visited the Library in November with Golden Retriever Poppy and Labrador Sasha. This was a lovely event with Poppy and Sasha thoroughly enjoying the attention and cuddles. It's hoped to have Poppy back in the New Year. You may even have met her at the Christmas lights



switch on in Chippy on 23 November. Warm Spaces on Friday afternoons has started again. Come and join from 1–5pm for a free tea/coffee and there's usually a biscuit or two! Read a book, bring a puzzle or small craft project and relax in the warm space. You don't need to be a member of the library. **Lego Club** for ages 4+ will start in the New Year. This free, drop-in event for children will be held from 3.30pm to 5.30pm every Monday. There's no need to book but children of primary school age must be accompanied by an adult.

The Library would like to say a big thank you to all the wonderful Home Library Service volunteers: Nicola, Steven, Stuart, Penny, Heather and Petra. The Town couldn't provide this important service without you! Thank you, Ellie, for all the Saturday Storytimes. The **Saturday Storytime Christmas Special** is on the 2 December at 11am. Sarah, the amazing



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Monday: 8.30am–5pm

Tuesday: 8.30am–5pm

Wednesday: 8.30am–7pm

Thursday: CLOSED

Friday: 8.30am–5.30pm

Saturday: 7.30am–1pm

Sunday: CLOSED

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Chipping Norton

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Digital Helper Volunteer, holds one-to-one computer/device tuition on Wednesdays; please contact the library if you'd like some help with your laptop or device. Thanks to Yen Yang for **Origami Time**, the monthly origami workshop. The next one is on Saturday 9 December at 11am to 12pm. And thank you Madeleine, for the delicious cakes you make for our monthly **Coffee Mornings** with AgeUK. The next one is on Tuesday 19 December from 10–11.30am. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Sally, Kate, Kaye, Evie, Liz, Linden and Lauren!

Sally Moore – Library Manager

Letting all the grass grow!



Uncut grass verges at the bottom of Hailey Road

How do we like our grass verges? Chippy's road and pavement users may have noticed that many of our adjacent grass verges seem to have grown to some height – and sometimes overgrowing the paths or even blocking sight lines. Local resident Martin Hannant had particularly noticed those along the Churchill Road at the top of Tilsley Road and bottom of Hailey Road. It appears the verges has been cut only once this last year – and cut grass was left on top and made a mess. After he enquired at the Guildhall, our Deputy Town Clerk, Katherine Jang, told him that Oxfordshire County Council ('tis them who do it), had recently changed their grass-cutting policy, which has caused some discontent. OCC say 'we updated our maintenance policy to prioritise biodiversity where possible. This new approach means that all roadside verges in Oxfordshire (rural and urban) will be cut once a year. Wildlife refuges will be cut in rotation every five years'. It is encouraging to see our County Council's enhanced focus on biodiversity, or some might suspect 'cost-cutting'. Anyone can report messy or dangerous verges to OCC online via fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ and you can track the progress of your complaint.

2024 Town Festival

The Chipping Norton Town Festival will be back next year on Sunday 30 June. Plans are coming together and it's promising to be a great day for the whole Town. The new website www.chippyfest.co.uk will go live in the New Year. Here you will be able to keep up to date with all the latest news about the Festival. If you are interested in performing, running a stall or volunteering on the day, please drop a line to the Festival team at cntownfestival@gmail.com. The Team wish everybody a very happy and healthy Christmas.

Beverley Lane – Festival Committee

NOXAID help for Ukraine



The Ukraine support team, based at Hook Norton Brewery and working with the NOXAID charity in Banbury, continue to do amazing work. Over recent months, vehicles ranging from trucks and ambulances to a car recovery trailer have been delivered to various destinations in Ukraine.

Two ambulances, fully kitted out with stretchers, defibrillators, respiratory equipment and orthopaedic items have also arrived in the war-torn country. As casualty numbers increase, these vehicles are vital assets to civilians and soldiers alike.

'One way you can really make a difference is to set up a standing order to help us fund these projects' said Hook Norton Brewery MD, James Clarke. 'Despite the world taking its focus away from the conflict with Russia at the present time, we



continue to do what we can to help. The winter months are a challenge for everyone in Ukraine and we are resolute in our commitment to provide what aid we can. If we could get 200 people giving £10 per month it would make a huge difference to our work. All donations are most gratefully received.'

Charlbury Christmas Trees

Pick your own and pre-cut trees
Belgium Blue • Nordsman
Norway spruce

December 2-3, 9-10 & 16-17
Opening hours **9.30 – 4.00pm**

Please check for updates on:
www.charlbury.info

Halcyon Honey Farm
Woodstock Road, Charlbury, OX7 3ET
Tel: 01608 810260



LOCAL NEWS

NOXAID is a registered charity. The bank details are: Barclays, sort code 20-03-84, account number 03595552. Thank you from the whole NOXAID team.

Candles of Remembrance

Please join The Lawrence Home Nursing Team for their Annual Carols and Candles of Remembrance Service at the Methodist Church from 7pm on Friday 15 December. The Interdenominational Service is open to all and complimentary



refreshments will be served. The Service is an important moment in the Team's year – an opportunity to gather with friends and family to remember those we have lost. If you would like to remember your loved one on the Memoriam display, please visit lawrencehomenursing.org/candles This year's LHNT Christmas cards are on sale at the usual stockists in and around Chipping Norton, including

Midcounties Cooperative, Post Office and Jaffé & Neale. More information at lawrencehomenursing.org. Thank you to this year's artists, Susan Woolley and Anuk Naumann. On behalf of everyone at the Lawrence Home Nursing Team we would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Verity Fifer

Be a Phone Friend for Age UK

Age UK Oxfordshire currently supports over 375 local people with a free weekly telephone call. They would love to support thousands more lonely and isolated people who would appreciate a call. Volunteering as a Phone Friend requires a minimum commitment of an hour per week to call up to three people and can be at a regular time that suits you. You can call from home and call expenses are covered. With a friendly listening ear, you can bring friendship to older people this winter. If you are interested call 01295 234850 or visit www.ageuk.org.uk for more information.

Xmas at Gt Rollright Church

On 3 December the Congregation at St Andrew's Church in Great Rollright celebrate their Patronal Festival and Advent Sunday with a service of Holy Communion at 10am. The Christmas celebrations start with a traditional service of Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 10th at 6pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Sunday 17th has Holy Communion at 10am. On Sunday 24th there is a traditional, said service of Holy Communion in church at 10am, carol singing at Wyatts at 11am (all welcome to either or both), then at the Crib Service at 3pm – where all are very welcome, especially children. The morning Christmas Day Service is at 9am. On New Year's Eve there's a single shared service of Holy Communion at 10am in St Peter's Church, Hook Norton. Many of services between now and Christmas are shared with the rest of the parish so please do check the Facebook page (StAndrewsGreatRollright) for further information. Everyone is very welcome at any or all of these services to help celebrate Christ's Nativity. And finally best wishes for a Very Merry Christmas to all.

Sarah Durham

Marlene Tompkins

The family of Marlene Tompkins would like to thank Dr Eyles and the team at Chipping Norton Health Centre, the Lawrence Home Nurses and all the staff at Southerndown nursing home for the love and support given to their Mum, Marlene Tompkins, during the past six months. Marlene sadly passed away on the 29 October 2023 and was the beloved wife of Gordon, dearly loved mother to Sharon, Peter, Adrian and Michael, and an adored Grandma to her eight grandchildren, AJ, Suzie, Warwick, George, Archie, Eleanor, Andrew and Emma. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.



Michelle Cox

Why you should buy your carpet from a Carpet Foundation retail member

Cotswold Carpets

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Tel: 01608 651991

Unit 19, Worcester Road Ind Est, Chipping Norton
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- Written Quotations
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- Free Extended Guarantees
- A Free Installation Guarantee
- After Sales Procedures

Healthy hints for January

So now to January Pies, puddings and chocolate eaten, mulled wine, beer and prosecco drunk. Feeling a tad bloated and sluggish after too much Christmas feasting? The News Team here suggest trying 'Veganuary' – and maybe a 'Dry & Gym' January!

Try the 'Veganuary' challenge

VEGANUARY

Join a worldwide movement – Veganuary started in 2014, to

inspire people to experiment with a plant-based diet throughout January. In 2022, more than 620,000 people signed up. Why? Research shows that having a diet rich in plant-based foods can have numerous health benefits including reduced risk of heart disease, cancer, obesity, general inflammation of tissues and organs, and lower blood pressure. Plant based diets can increase life expectancy, improve digestive health, boost our immune system and, fascinatingly, because adding a wider variety of plants adds beneficial microbes to our gut microbiome, it can improve our mental health too. And of course – for the sake of the climate, environment and animal welfare reasons – switching to plant-based foods will help you and your family reduce your impact. Meat, poultry, dairy, fish and honey, produced in volume, can all take their toll on the planet.



to make it interesting, flavourful and nutritious, including experimenting with a wider variety of spices and herbs. Worried that vegan foods will cost more? First, if you cook from scratch, a plant-based diet can be incredibly low cost when compared with diets containing fresh meat. Rice, pasta, pulses, grains and veg are cheap, filling and nutritious, and often burn slower, avoiding peaks of hunger you might get soon after a meat-rich meal. When it comes to ready meals and processed foods (often lifesavers for busy parents), local research suggests more supermarkets – including the Co-op, Aldi, M&S and Sainsbury's in Chipping Norton - stock a wide range of vegan food and drink products, with many ready meals the same price as or even less than meat-based versions. Check the packet for vegan friendly labels.

What about eating out? – More and more pubs, restaurants and cafes are adding plant-based options to their menus. Whilst Chippy and surrounding villages don't (perhaps yet?) have any vegan-only places, (which



Lots of interesting choices – Perhaps when you hear the words 'vegan diet' you think it's going to be very dull. It's quite the opposite in fact, with a wide variety of vegetables, legumes, pulses, whole grains, fruits, nuts and seeds, plus, more recently, plant-based alternatives to traditional meat-based products to choose from. Dips, stews, pies, bakes, soups, salads, snacks, drinks – the list is endless. Many plant foods are rich in protein (especially the wind-producing types!) so you can still eat a balanced diet if you research and plan it thoughtfully. You might add vitamin supplements (especially B12 which is present in many animal foods but not easily found in plant-based foods) and use yeast and yeast extracts). But if you have any serious health concerns please check with your healthcare provider before making any big diet changes.

Switching & managing the budget – One key – including in persuading your family to give it a go – is not to think about what you're NOT having in your diet, but what you can ADD

many firm vegans prefer so their food isn't contaminated by animal products), we found several with delicious vegan options including Brown Cow and The Fox in Chippy, Chloes in Charlbury, The Straw Kitchen at Whichford Pottery and Cinnamon Stick in Middle Barton. When you eat out it's worth noting that some places use V for Vegetarian on the menu (which typically includes dairy products) and VG or VE for Vegan (which doesn't), whilst others use them the other way around! Check the small print!

How to start – Interested? You can sign up for the challenge at www.veganuary.com where you'll get loads of tips, inspiration and an easy recipe every day for 31 days. Some people going vegan make it a full lifestyle choice (eg no animal products in clothes, skincare and more), but most just start with diet. So, if you fancy losing some of that Christmas podge, giving you and the family a health boost, and potentially saving money, why not give a plant-based diet a try?

Dry and Gym January!

Traditionally, January sees us make our New Year's Resolutions (*this year I will lose 5 stones, get promoted and run a marathon*), join the gym (*I will go twice a week all year*) and foreswear alcohol (*I will never drink again*). Then, just as traditionally, we break our resolutions before 2 January, go twice to the gym then not again until the following January and open a bottle because it's someone's



birthday somewhere! So be kind to yourself. Make your New Year's Resolutions practical – exercise several times a week by going for a walk or scorching up the house with the vacuum cleaner or standing on one leg for five minutes and maybe only drink to celebrate the birthdays of people you know ... Just some thoughts.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.



CHURCHES AT CHRISTMAS

The Churches in Chipping Norton wish you a

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

and welcome you to their services of worship



CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Christmas is such a whirlwind of emotions with food and drink and relatives visiting ...and the tears for departed loved ones whom we miss so acutely at this time of the year. For those fortunate to share the festivities with their families it can be a wonderfully happy occasion, especially if there are little ones, all excited about Father Christmas and his goodies!

For some, on their own, Christmas can be horribly lonely and a painful reminder of their isolation. I am always struck by how generous people can be to those alone and in need of human warmth and cheer. There are many Good Samaritans among us, often unsung and not wishing to be praised for their generosity of spirit.

The news is full of conflict and bloodshed, trauma and suffering. Ukraine, the Holy Land...the misery is relentless and utterly depressing. Into this world of war and strife, our Lord Jesus Christ was born, a vulnerable baby. Very soon after birth, his mother Mary and Joseph had to flee the baby-killers sent by the murderous Herod. What anxiety and stress those young parents must have experienced as they escaped across to Egypt with their precious bundle.

At Christmas we remember that Christ-Child and His mother, so exposed to danger, hunger, fear and homelessness. Not a distant Deity, not a Supreme Being who looks down upon us all with orders and demands...but a loving Saviour, a Good Shepherd who has walked among us and who still lives in this world through His Spirit.

This Christmas, say a prayer for all those who are suffering at home or abroad, and welcome Jesus Christ as a guest into your heart and your home.

I wish everyone a very happy and holy time. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones as we remember His coming among us in Bethlehem.

Fr Clive Dytor
Holy Trinity Church
Chipping Norton



Community Church

Sunday 10 December
10.30am in the Town Hall – Expectation
Sunday 17 December
3pm in Glyme Hall – Light of the world
– all age service
Christmas Eve
10.30am in the Town Hall – Emmanuel
Sunday 31 December
11am New Year's Eve Party. Family fun

Holy Trinity Church (Roman Catholic)

Christmas Eve
5pm – Vigil Mass (followed by Confessions)
11pm – Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
11am – Christmas Day Mass

Methodist Church

Sunday 17 December
10.45am – Morning Worship
6pm Traditional Carol Service
Wednesday 20 December
10.30am – Market Day Carol Service
Friday 22 December
6pm – Blue Christmas Service – see p9
Saturday 23 December
4pm – Crib Service – details p9
Christmas Eve
10.45am – Morning Worship
Christmas Day
10am – Family Service

St Mary's Church (Anglican)

Sunday 17 December
6pm – Nine Lessons & Carols by
Candlelight
Christmas Eve
4pm – Christingle Service
11.30pm – Midnight Communion
Christmas Day
8am – BCP Holy Communion
10.30am – Family Celebration

Baptist Church

Sunday 17 December
4pm – Carol Service/Nativity
Friday 22 December
3pm – Messy Church
Christmas Eve
10.30am – Christingle Service
Christmas Day
10.30am – Christmas Service
Wednesday 3 January
3pm – Messy Church



FESTIVE TASTES & TIPPLES

Our Chippy Mince Pie test!

Are you buying Christmas mince pies or making your own? With tight budgets in mind, the News Team decided to help by organising a blind taste test – here's what happened!



Testing Pies: 6 bought & 4 homemade – Mince pies great and good were sourced, six packets bought from Chipping Norton's main supermarkets and four homemade, two of which were filled with homemade mincemeat (recipes by the great Delia Smith). Then 10 plates of pies were set before a 'tasting panel' of 11 worthy Chippy residents. Could they tell the difference between homemade and shop bought? Which was the most delicious? How was the texture, something Paul Hollywood refers to in The Great British Bake Off as 'the feel in the mouth' (well it would hardly be 'the feel on the elbow'), and, importantly, which gave the best value for money?

From cheap to a whopping lot! – To calculate the cost of home-made pies, one committed 'panel' member surveyed ingredients to be bought from a range of shops, including the Co-op, M & S, Oats, Aldi and Sainsbury's. The costs for six homemade mince pies were calculated, including pastry and homemade filling (but not the cost of cooking). The range was from £1.71 to £2.83 for six, working out



at 28p to 47p per pie. The shop bought ranged from £1.50 to £3.50 a box, at from 25p to a whopping 58p per pie.

And finally... the results – The star of the show was a box of six shop-bought pies at the cheapest price, £1.50 for six or 25p each. They were rated highest by a considerable margin! They were a little smaller than most, and simple in style, but there was no arguing with the result in this blind tasting. The most expensive shop bought pies were third, at £3.50 a box. They boasted all butter pastry and Cognac in the filling, but at 58p each it's interesting that they were beaten into third by the cheapest and by one homemade batch. The homemade pies were ranked from second to sixth, costing between 28p and 47p per pie, so, overall, it would seem worth the bother of making your own for taste, but it won't be significantly cheaper. Coming in last were shop-bought pies with a chocolate crumble on the top, so the tasters clearly said, 'don't mess about with a mince pie recipe'. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this mission. It was fun, and interesting too.

Perfect party tipple

Here are two News Team suggestions for warming the cockles on a cold night

Mulled Wine Cocktail – For the perfect party why not serve this? **STEP 1:** Put 100g light muscovado sugar in a pan



with 1 star anise, 1 cinnamon stick, 4 cloves and 150ml water. Bring slowly to the boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. **STEP 2:** Simmer for 2 mins, pour into a large jug and leave to cool. Add 1 lemon and 2 clementines, both thinly sliced, to the jug with 150ml Cointreau and a 750ml bottle light red wine

(Beaujolais?). Stir well, cover and chill for at least 2 hrs or even overnight. **STEP 3:** Serve chilled or over ice, with twist of orange zest and a star anise. For a traditional warm serving, heat without boiling and serve in heatproof glasses.

The Orchard's Wassail Cup – Those who went to Chippy's Apple Day at the Community Orchard might have tasted this delicious

(and non-alcoholic!) concoction. Very many thanks to Heather Leonard for the recipe: Put all the following into a large pan and then heat gently: 6 tsp brown sugar, 2 litres apple juice, 6 eating apples cored, 1 orange



stud-ded with cloves, 1 inch cinnamon stick, 6 allspice berries (maybe use powder!), 1 inch root ginger – peeled and chopped. The mixture should be simmered briefly but not for long! Serve warm or cold.

Christmas around & about

May your days be merry and bright! From elf hunts to craft workshops, carols and Santa in his grotto, there's plenty of sparkle to light up the weeks before Christmas in and around Chipping Norton. Here's a sample.

Holiday trips out

Santa's on the bus – It seems Santa sometimes takes a break from his sleigh. Visit him at the Oxford Bus Museum in Long Hanborough, for a nostalgic ride on a heritage bus, departing at 12.15 and 2.15 on 10 and 17 December. Check ahead that it's all running – see oxfordbusmuseum.org.

A whirl round the Ice Rink – Take a frosty skate round the real ice rink at the Blue Diamond Bicester Avenue Garden Centre until 7 January, 8am–5pm. Skate aids for children (first come first served) maximum 40 skaters for 45-minute sessions. Tickets via Oxfordshire.redkitedays.co.uk.

Stories at Shakespeare's Schoolroom – Unique festive experience awaits in Stratford-upon-Avon: an elf who tells stories, a Christmas quiz by none other than Charles Dickens, and meet Father Christmas. 22–24 December. Discover where William Shakespeare was at school and inspired to become the world's greatest playwright. ShakespeareSchoolroom.org.

The Oxford Story Museum – A 45-minute production of *Tom Thumb* is certain to enchant audiences from 4 years and up with its original music, spinning birds and a flying house! 21–23 and 27–29 December, 11am and 2.30pm, Pembroke Street in Oxford. Details storymuseum.org.uk



Christmas Tree Festivals – are a local tradition. First up is Chippy's Methodist Church on 1 December 2–6pm, 2nd 11–6 and 3rd 11–3, with the final service of celebration at 4.30pm. Light refreshments, crafts and cake stalls. All free, with donations supporting Methodist churches in Chippy, Churchill and Wigginton. St Mary's in Charlbury has an array of decorated trees glowing with community spirit and hope: 8–28 December, with 'Light up the Trees' ceremony including food and drink. Free from 5–6 pm Friday 8 December, Christmas Quiz on 9 December, all for St Mary's Charlbury appeal.

Blenheim Palace – has again had a Christmas magic wand waved over it. Wander through lavishly decorated rooms unfolding the story of Sleeping Beauty. When darkness falls, follow the illuminated night trail in all its glittering glory, with new amazements this year – all until New Year's Day. You'll need to book but remember – your ticket can be magically transformed into an annual pass. The outdoor Christmas Market in the Great Court runs until 17 December.



A Christmas Fairy Tale – There's a sleigh full of surprises at Chipping Norton's Fairytale Farm from 2–24 December: enchanted castle, snowy trip to see dancing penguins, snowball throwing, festive mouse town and more. Visit a toymaker and let elves escort you to Father Christmas in his grotto – he needs help decorating his tree! Beautiful illuminations and new attractions will make this a very special treat...and get there in daylight to visit the animals! Tickets online only via the website. The event normally sells out!



Carols at Christmas

Carols around Chipping Norton – There are lots of opportunities to sing your favourite carols locally. There's Christingle, Nine Lessons and Carols, a Crib Service, and the Lawrence Team's Carols and Candles of Remembrance. See our Churches' page and Local News for what's on in Chippy at St Mary's, Holy Trinity, Methodist Baptist and Community Churches – and also at St Andrews in Gt Rollright. And why not join in Chipping Norton Choral Society's 'Come and Sing Christmas Music' for the day on 17 December – more in Arts section.

Wonder at Christ Church Cathedral – There are many carol and music events in Oxford. But why not try a special experience to lift your hearts in the glorious surroundings of Christ Church Cathedral. You can join *Follow the Stars* – Macmillan Carols on 8 December at 8pm. A special evening of entertaining readings, carols and seasonal music, with a special carol by John Rutter. Oxford Bach Soloists with celebrity readers (including Greg Wise, Jason Isaacs, Mel Giedroyc and Toby Jones) all for Macmillan Cancer Support. See followthestars-macmillancarols.com. There's then the Family Christmas Concert on 9 December 2.30–4pm with interval, a relaxed and informal celebration sung by the boys of Christ Church Cathedral Choir, with audience participation. Details musicatoxford.com



Attractions



Santa at Cotswold Farm Park – Yes, he is also visiting Adam Henson's popular farm at Guiting Power, brimming with Christmas adventures. Book a daytime or evening experience for a never-to-be-forgotten special treat. Visit Santa, decorate gingerbread, meet the farm animals and choose a present from the elves. After dark, follow the shimmering light trail, listen to the whimsical story, and feel the warmth of firepits along the way. 1–3, 8–10, 15–17, 20–23 December; 10.45am–2.30pm or 4pm–Late.

Chastleton's Sixties Christmas – Grab your flowery shirt and Afghan coat and groove on down to National Trust's Jacobean Chastleton House. Join the Clutton-Brocks for their Swinging Sixties festive house party! Authentic games from the era, a joyful walk down memory lane and a kitchen to reminisce about. Remember the excitement when Angel Delight hit the shelves? Fabulous 60s music will lift your spirits to feel like Christmas has arrived! Open 11–3 Wed–Sun 29 November to 17 December. Last house entry 2.15pm.

Fairy-lit Tractor Run – On Saturday 16 December prepare to be amazed by the RC Baker Christmas Tractor Run. A cavalcade of vast agricultural machines festooned with seasonal lights will visit a variety of North Oxfordshire villages. Starting in South Newington at 5.15pm they make their way through Milcombe, Bloxham, Banbury, Adderbury, Aynho, Clifton, Dedding-ton, Hempton and Barford St Michael at 8.30pm. Timings approximate dependent on traffic. If you've never witnessed it, you are in for a treat. In aid of Katharine House Hospice.



Let's go Christmas shopping!

Chippy's wonderful shops! – It's a great market town centre with independent, national and charity shops packed with Christmas gift ideas – and some wonderful cafés and pubs to rest awhile. Why not drop in?

Great Rollright Christmas Market – There's a warm festive welcome in the Village Hall with craft and gift stalls, food and fun. organised by the Friends of Great Rollright School. Saturday 2 December 11am–2pm.

Shipston Victorian Christmas Fayre – Shipston-on-Stour Friday 1 December, 6–8pm. Travel back in time and enjoy the special atmosphere of a Victorian Christmas. Organised by the Rotary Club with live music, stalls, entertainment and Father Christmas, with the Tree of Life at the heart.

Christmas in Chipping Campden – That 'other Chipping' will be a festive wonderland on Saturday 2 December. From noon to 5pm, enjoy a myriad of stalls, Christmas lights from dusk and a visit from Santa. The Town Hall market will also be open on Sunday 3 December.



Winchcombe Christmas Festival – Visit this beautiful Cotswold town for their Festival on 8 December 5–8pm and 9th 10–5pm. With over 70 illuminated trees and 40 market stalls there is plenty to experience. On Friday there's carol singing with live music and street entertainers including Morris dancers. While there, why not book to see Sudeley

Castle's Spectacle of Light illuminations?

Garden Centre Glory

Going on an Elf Hunt – Santa's missing elves



must be found! They're hiding in Batsford Arboretum outside Moreton but there's no need to book in to look for them. And if you find one, you'll win a prize! Open 1 December till 7 January (not Xmas Day). Tickets are £3 for the elf hunt plus the usual admission price. Free entry for garden centre, shop and café – and Santa is back in his Batsford Grotto with gifts. Book a 30-minute slot online to join a small group of children – 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, and 17 December, 10am–2.30pm.

Santa & crafts at Yarnton – Visit Santa's beautifully decorated Grotto at Yarnton Garden Centre in his Magical Christmas Photo Booth. A chat, warm welcome and photo memories await. No booking and only £2 (£1 on Sundays) on the S3 bus from Chippy! Every weekend until Christmas Eve.

And why not give Yarnton's Masterclasses? Create your own Christmas wreath with expert florist Harri May for the door or as a



festive table centrepiece (7 and 10 December 10–12 or 1–3). Learn some wonderful Christmas wrapping skills with Tania Humphrey of Big Red Bow in a 3-hour workshop. Four different ways to overcome those paper and textile wrapping issues (13 December 10–1). Materials and tuition all included. Or finally, join Claire in making a potted Christmas Candle arrangement with flowers, foliage, bows and ribbons to choose from (14 December 10.30–12.30 or 1.30–3.30pm). Spaces are limited so book your place now! yarntonhomegarden.co.uk

Miniature Christmas Village – It's worth a trip to Charlbury Garden Centre at Ramsden to bring smiles to the whole family with twinkling lights, moving carousel and train, and whimsical delights. Create your own stories as you marvel at the detail and play 'I spy' games! The shop is overflowing with festive décor and gift ideas.



PANTO PARTY PIECES

Don't miss this year's Latin-themed Cinderella at Chipping Norton Theatre. Cinders dreams of a new life, away from dreary chores and awful stepmother. Here are some panto ponderings.

Fun with Panto Pippins



One of the most sought-after jobs amongst talented local children, is to be a Panto Pippin! 'Pippin teams' of school children are auditioned and share over 90 performances. Ava Lea-James (pictured left & below as a donkey!), a delighted 2023 Pippin, told us more:

Panto rehearsals have been filled with laughter and bags of fun! One thing I've found truly magical is seeing the show progress in such a short time. Every day, we'd enter the auditorium only to find a part of the breathtaking set had been painted or a new prop built! It is so inspiring to work alongside professional actors – their ability to pick up new lines, dance steps or harmonies quickly is truly admirable. They work relentlessly on perfecting their every move and keep up their energy throughout all the rehearsals, constantly giving their all. The warmth and kindness amongst the whole production team makes it simply impossible not to have a smile on your face throughout the whole rehearsal! I feel so privileged to have been given the incredible opportunity of working on such an exciting and colourful show. Please come and watch with all your family and friends, you will not regret it! I hope you'll leave feeling inspired, believing that 'nothing is impossible'. I can't wait to start performing!



Photo: Geraint Lewis

Tales of a Panto Host

Fancy having an Ugly Sister to stay in your home? The News Team's Jane Lewis, a longstanding host on Chippy's 'Theatre Digs List' is hosting Ian Crowe (pictured right and left!) who plays 'Quosimoda' in this year's panto, Cinderella.



The Chippy Panto, a major event in the Town's calendar, provides critical income for The Theatre, and has been going fifty years. The cast turn up several weeks before the opening night. Everyone needs somewhere to stay near Chipping Norton – many don't have cars (and if they did, where would they park them?) The Theatre asks for 'hosts' to rent out spare rooms, granny annexes, even second homes and short-term rental properties. Hosts want to give their panto guest a good home, but over the years I've heard some horror stories. For one actor, two hosts had let her down – one with electricity problems, telling her she'd just have to go and shower at the Leisure Centre. Pantos involve a lot of sweat and makeup, which means a good shower is critical! Over ten years 'hosting', I've met an amazing array of brilliant guests. We've had two dames, two villains, several supporting characters plus a lighting designer, a set designer, and other short-term visitors. And it's great to follow their careers afterwards.

Easy Recipe – a 30-minute Panto to make at home!

Why not get your children, friends or family to create a **DIY Christmas panto**? Here's a recipe:

- Ingredients** – one cast: this can include pets and soft toys to play some parts, if needs be! Try: A Fairy, to narrate the story; A Dame; A Boy; A Girl; A Villain.



- Add one story:**

Choose a simple tale you all know, like The Three Bears. Write it out with pencil and paper or on a laptop. Leave space between the lines for everyone to add extra bits, as the days go by. Don't forget 'The Messy Scene'!

- Stir and mix:** Add lots of jokes, make up a pun or two. (Hint: This makes great supper time conversation!) Add some favourite songs and fold them into appropriate places. Top it all off with a sprinkling of costume. Rummage through your wardrobe, and make an accessory or two.

- Finally, a taste test:** Have a run through, and see how it comes out. Add whatever spices you like, and hey presto, you'll have a great family show ready to put on for your Christmas guests!

Children's Theatre Membership – For a great Christmas present for theatre-loving 5-12 year olds, make them a 'Chippy Theatre Star' for £40. They get a special box, a miniature theatre kit, tickets for two live family shows, backstage tour and membership badge. See Arts p24.

The Theatre

Cinderella – A fantastic fiesta!

Chippy's latest nationally-admired traditional Panto – this year running to nearly 100 performances – is **Cinderella**, written by the Theatre's own Director John Terry, with original music by Eliane Correa and Rebecca Applin. It opened on 15 November and here's what our News Team reviewers thought!



Photo: Geraint Lewis

Top: Cinders with the Ugly Sisters;
Right: the Pippins as donkeys

Orejas de Soplillo – 'Santa Maria with the sticky out ears'. After the jolly opening song, *Leafy Mother Mountain*, Cinderella and her friend Buttons (you'll big it up for him later) remind the audience of the original story with clever puppetry.



The story unfolds with all the usual Chippy pantomime fun, songs, jokes and 'it's behind you' but with the added pzazz of Latin American music and dance. The wonderful, sparring identical twin ugly sisters Quosimoda and Adnausea each pick an admirer from the audience. Cruel stepmother Elsa is booed as she should be, for wanting to cut down the forest and diversify into a better money-spinning enterprise. When the invitations to a party at the big house on the hill owned by wealthy Don Francisco, aka Chico, are handed out, we see just what a horrid life Cinderella leads.

As in the opening song, 'it really does take all sorts to make a world' and all's well that ends well, even though one of the Pippins does eat the pumpkin which should have been magicked into the carriage for Cinderella to go to the party. The Pippins deserve a special mention, as always right on cue; they make adorable donkeys too with Buttons' home delivery startup company. Writer/Director John Terry has been admirably assisted by the creative team, too numerous to mention, and the multilingual cast. A *Cinderella* you could never have imagined, but it works.

Cinderella runs to 14 January – so plenty of time if you missed it at Christmas!

Cinderella in the rainforest? Whatever next! On entering The Theatre all the colourful decorations immediately tell you something different and vibrant is about to happen on the stage. On taking your seat, you see the amazing forest curtains about to open onto the bright buildings of Santa Maria de las

Theatre Highlights – Picks for Dec/Jan

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

MUSIC: Latin Fiesta with Mambo Tropical, 2 December at the Town Hall. Celebrating the Latin American theme of this year's panto Cinderella, this seven-piece band bring their live music extravaganza to Chippy. Dancing – think samba, salsa and merengue – is very much encouraged. £25

SCREENING: The Nutcracker (12A), 12 December. Live from the Royal Opera House, Peter Wright's production for the Royal Ballet delivers a gorgeous festive fairytale in the Kingdom of Sweets. With an enchanted Nutcracker and a Sugar Plum Fairy, ballet doesn't get more Christmassy than this! £18.50, £13.50, under 15s



FILM: The Holiday with Wine, 16 December. The much-loved Christmas romcom starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet and Jude Law is accompanied by a festive wine tasting experience – now an annual tradition in Chippy. £28

MUSIC: The Churchfitters, 18 December. This folk group with instruments made out of scrap metal transport audiences with heart-wrenching vocals and foot-stomping fiddle. Featuring traditional and original festive songs, it promises to be a cracker of a show. £19

FILM: Napoleon (12A), 6–18 January. Ridley Scott's epic new historical drama stars Joaquin Phoenix as French Emperor

What's On

THE THEATRE
CHIPPING NORTON
2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

THE THEATRE'S 23/24 PANTO CINDERELLA 15TH NOVEMBER—14TH JANUARY

FILMS

Tues 28th & Wed 29th Nov,
& Sun 3rd Dec
Mon 27th Nov
Mon 4th & Mon 11th Dec
Sun 10th Dec
Mon 11th Dec
Wed 13th, Thu 14th &
Sun 17th Dec
Sat 16th Dec
Mon 18th Dec
Sat 6th-Tues 9th &
Thu 18th Jan
Fri 19th-Sun 21st Jan
Sun 21st Jan
Mon 22nd Jan
Thu 25th Jan
Fri 26th-Wed 31st Jan

SCREENINGS

Mon 27th Nov, 7pm
Tues 12th Dec, 7.15pm

Wed 24th Jan, 6.45pm
Thu 25th Jan, 7pm
Sun 28th Jan, 2pm

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

THE GREAT ESCAPER (12A)
CINEMA BAMBINO: THE MIRACLE CLUB (12A)
KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON (15)
FOE (15) - Friends 2 for 1/half price
REALXED SCREENING: THE GREAT ESCAPER (12A)

MAY DECEMBER (15)
THE HOLIDAY WITH WINE (Over 18s only)
CINEMA BAMBINO: MAY DECEMBER (15)

NAPOLEON (12A)
WONKA (12A)
WISH (PG)
REALXED SCREENING: WONKA (12A)
CINEMA BAMBINO: WONKA (12A)
ONE LIFE (12A)

TICKETS £18.50 (unless otherwise stated)

NT LIVE: YERMA (15)
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER (12A)
(£18.50, £13.50 under 16s)
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE: RUSALKA (12A)
NT LIVE: DEAR ENGLAND (15)
NT LIVE: DEAR ENGLAND (15)

BOX OFFICE 01608 642350 www.chippingnortontheatre.com



Napoleon Bonaparte and follows his rise to power through the prism of his volatile relationship with his wife Josephine, played by Vanessa Kirby. £11, £8 under 16s


SCREENING: *Dear England* (15), 25 & 28 January. Joseph Fiennes is Gareth Southgate in this gripping new play by James Graham. Filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, it explores nation and football, and why England's men can't win at their own game. £18.50

FILM: *One Life* (12A), 26 January–5 February. Johnny Flynn, Helena Bonham Carter and Anthony Hopkins star in the extraordinary true story of the great British humanitarian, Nicholas Winton' who helped save hundreds of Central European children on the eve of the Second World War. £11, £8 under 16s

Chippy's own boutique picture house, **The Living Room Cinema**, on the High Street, also shows a wide selection of films including the latest blockbusters. Check out their programme at thelivingroomcinemachippy.co.uk

Children's Theatre Membership

Chippy Theatre Stars encourages children to engage with their own creativity and with the arts. With fun craft activities and lots of perks, a membership pack introduces your little one to the wonderful world of theatre – right here in Chipping Norton. Perfect for all theatre loving kids (recommended aged 5–12), membership is £40 and comes in a special box which includes everything you need to create your own miniature theatre at home, tickets to come and see two live family shows here at The Theatre, a golden ticket for a special Theatre Stars backstage tour, and your membership badge and card. Memberships can be purchased from the Box



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Office or from the Panto merchandise trolley in the bar. They can also be posted directly to the recipient.



@THE THEATRE
CHIPPING NORTON

Take Part at The Theatre

Young People

Little Limelights: new sessions for under 5s. Shine a light on your child's imagination and discover the magic of creativity with drama sessions for under 5's. Wednesdays 10–11am £32.50 for 5 sessions. Also one-off Christmas Adventure 20 December at 10am. £6.50

Youth Theatre: A centre for creativity and expression where young performers flourish. 7–18 years, Monday–Friday from 4.15pm. £85 for 10 sessions.

Youth Musical Theatre: If you like singing, dancing and acting, then this is absolutely the place for you! 5–16 years, Monday/Thursday from 4.15pm. £82/86 for 10 sessions.

Saturday Drama: Kick off the weekend in style and learn acting skills like improvisation and storytelling. Saturdays 10.45–11.45am. £78 for 10 sessions.

Adults

Dance 50: Age should never be a barrier to dance, movement and fun, which is why Dance 50 is aimed at over 50s who can still move it! Wednesdays 9.45–10.45am & 11am–12 noon. £82 for 10 sessions.

Chipping Norton Singers: Sing a wide repertoire, from pop classics to traditional folk songs and world music. There are no auditions; no need to be able to read music to join. Thursdays 7.30–9pm. £65 for 10 sessions.

Can Sing: Come and sing your heart out without any kind of judgement and learn familiar and new songs. Thursdays 6.25–7.25pm. £32.50 for 5 sessions.

Adult Drama: Learn a wide range of drama skills including breath and voice work, exploring plays, improvisation and characterisation. Tuesdays 7–8.30pm. £76 for 10 sessions.

Creative Writers: With creative prompts and exercises, you are encouraged to write and share work, in a friendly and supportive environment. Mondays 10.30am–12.30pm & 1–3pm. £86 for 10 sessions.



Great Company: These sessions are suited to adults who identify as neurodivergent or as having a learning disability and want to perform and express their creativity. Wednesdays 1.30–3pm. £35 for 10 sessions.

SEN Parent Support Group: Free monthly support group for parents and carers of young people with additional needs. Next session: 18 January at 8pm.

Mental Health Parent Support Group: Monthly craft workshops every third Tuesday for parents whose children are struggling with mental health. Next sessions: 19 Dec & 16 Jan at 10am.

February Half Term Holiday

Play in two days: work on your acting skills and let your creativity flow. 15 & 16 February, 5–7 years, £45. 12 & 13 February, 8–12 years, £55.

Details: contact chippingnortontheatre.com or 01608 642350.

Other Local Arts

Kingfisher Art Gallery, New Street, 2–30 December. *Watermarks:* paintings by Woodstock resident Rod Craig inspired by the Cotswold landscape, including Bliss Mill, the lake and trees at Blenheim. 10.30am–5pm Tuesday to Saturday, 11am–3pm Sunday. Details from anne@annestabler.com 07801 754760 / kingfisherart.co.uk / info@kingfisherart.co.uk



Woodstock Poetry Festival 1–3 December. Venues: St Mary's Church, Town Hall and Social Club. Tickets: £5–£10. Weekend ticket: £60. Further information at info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk / 01993 812760.

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, an anecdotal reminiscence of a Christmas when it was always snowing, from the viewpoint of a young boy, portraying a nostalgic and simpler time. Tickets £10 (children £5), available from Ticketsource and on the door. Cash bar.

The Arts Society Cotswolds monthly lectures continue:



13 December – you are invited *Step into the Christmas Card* with speaker Caroline Holmes. Then on 10 January visit *The Dark Side of the Boom: the mass faking of Soviet Avant-Garde Art* with

James Butterwick. 11am, Warwick Hall, Burford and by Zoom. Details and booking via theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk or call 07918 180895.

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. *Find the 12 Dinosaurs of Christmas* – knitted, crocheted or felted dinosaurs hidden throughout the Museum – runs till January. 13 January–25 February. *Archie and the poet.* Learn about poet, writer and broadcaster John Betjeman and his famous teddy bear Archie (pictured left). The exhibition will also feature an array of teddy bears loaned by local residents. details: oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums.

Oxfordshire Craft

Guild which runs until 30 December at The Oxfordshire Museum. Jewellery plus textile art, ceramics, kiln formed glass & marquetry are amongst the range of high-quality work and materials on offer. Wide range of prices from £20 and gift vouchers. Opening times: oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums



112th Chipping Norton Music Festival 8–23 March. The syllabus is now available online at cnmf.org.uk. Processing of all entries 4 December to 2 February. North Cotswold

Chamber Choir 16 March. Young Performers Recital 17 March. Further details in February's News.

Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society To celebrate their 50th birthday in 2024 CHAOS have taken on the ambitious project of presenting *Evita* by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Musical director: Catrin Russ. Director: Mandyrae Turner. Performances at The Theatre 16–18 May. Tickets on sale at chippingnortontheatre.com or 01608 642350 at the end of January.



Christmas Music

Cotswold Stage School 2 December 3pm, outside Jaffé & Neale. Carols and musical theatre numbers. Free taster sessions at the Stage School in drama, singing and dance 1–3pm on 13, 20 & 27 January. Booking via cotswoldstageschool@gmail.com or contact 07721 869361.

Kingham Singers 2 December 7.30 All Saints Church, Churchill. Music & Mince Pies. Tickets £6 from Kingham Village shop or Linda Sale 01608 658647. Mulled wine, tea & mince pies will be available.

Wychwood Chorale 2 December 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton. *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, pieces by composers from Benjamin Britten to John Rutter – first concert with new Musical Director, Matthew Foster (pictured). Free admission and refreshments. Retiring collection for the Church and Cotswold Arts Through School. Call Emma Goodman 01608 659737 for more information.



CRAG Sunday Tea Concert 3 December 3pm, Memorial Hall, Charlbury. *Music for Advent* with Somerville College Choir. All proceeds to refugee relief. Tickets £15 (£5 for under 16s) include tea and homemade cake. Available at Cotswold Frames, Charlbury, charlburyrefugee.org.uk or contact nick.parker@cooptel.net / phone 01608 811558.

North Cotswold Chamber Choir 9 December 4pm, St Peter's Church, Hook Norton. *Peaceful was the night*, a mixture of motets and carols to celebrate Advent and Christmas, chosen by guest conductor Edward Caswell. Tickets £12, u18s £8 from ticketsource.co.uk/nc3 and on the door.

Cherwell Choral Society Concert 16 December 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Bloxham. *An English Christmas* – the music will include Gerald Finzi's *In Terra Pax* and a selection of traditional English carols accompanied by the Adderbury Ensemble. Tickets £16 (under 16s free) available from The Red Lion, Bloxham, cherwellchoral.org or call 01295 367441.

Chipping Norton Choral Society 17 December 10am–6pm, Chippy Town Hall. *Come and sing Christmas music* with CNCS conducted by Benedict Goodall. Open to all singers. Refreshments and music will be provided. The day will finish at 6pm with mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets £10 from cncs.org.uk. Under 16s free.

Qigong for a New Year's Resolution?



Sian Eden runs Qigong classes locally

As we approach the new year, we all wish for good health. One way that we can actively improve our mental and physical wellbeing is by regular mindful movement, such as Qigong. One of the five pillars of Chinese medicine. It's a gentle practice, a bit like Tai chi, that combines the mind, body, and breath flowing through a series of active and dynamic movements. 'Qi' means 'life energy' and 'gong' means 'work or practice', so Qigong is a practice that supports and cultivates your life energy. It works on your body from the inside out, getting your energy moving, nourishing your major organs, balancing your emotions and toning and sculpting your body. A clothed practice, it's suitable for all ages and abilities, and even a few minutes daily will see changes in your stress levels, mood and energy. The possible benefits are many including reduced anxiety, improved circulation and digestion, better sleep, increased lung capacity, and better breathing, as well as fewer aches and pains, stronger muscles and joints, better body alignment and balance, and more energy overall.

Why not join one of Sian Eden's classes to explore Qigong and see if it is for you? Her inclusive, welcoming style of teaching can give you the tools and techniques to connect with your body's needs, to feel relaxed yet energised and better in body and mind. Classes are Mondays, 6-7pm at Salford Village Hall, and Fridays, 10-11am Churchill Village Hall. She also offers one to one and online group classes. You can contact Sian via www.cotswoldqigong.com or 07981 192440

Chippy Swifts

Continuing our spotlight on individual teams, this month it's the turn of the under 7's, our newest and youngest group: These 6 & 7 year-olds are full of energy and enthusiasm. A



group of boys from different schools and villages, who didn't know each other before, have now formed friendships. We are lucky to be in the Witney and District Youth Football League playing local clubs like Chadlington and further afield Grendon Rangers. Led by Manager and Coach Benji they have had a successful start to the season so far scoring 50 goals in seven games. Each week they are learning new skills, having lots of fun and building a great team. Here's what some of them have to say – Ernie: *I really like playing for Chippy Swifts because we aren't allowed to play football at school, and I really like tackling and seeing my friends.* Walter: *It's fun and we score lots of goals!* Leo: *I love playing football with my friends and scoring goals!* Ralph: *I'm making lots of friends and the coach is alright!* Oakley: *It's a great team and I like scoring goals!*

Martyn Walsh

Holy Trinity School ... are they still the Champions?

Local sports enthusiast Bill Williams has unearthed another chapter in the history of Chippy Baseball. This time he charts the unbeaten record of the Holy Trinity School team – winners of the Grant Cup back in 1933!

Are they still the champions? It's 90 years since Holy Trinity School won the Grant Cup! Chipping Norton's remarkable link with Baseball has been well documented and the successes of the 1920's under the leadership of Fred Lewis are legendary! In its heyday, the club ran five men's teams and at least one mixed team, but Baseball was also played competitively in local primary schools. This photograph from the Baseball archive at Chipping Norton Museum has revealed The Holy Trinity School team to be 'Holders of The Grant Cup' 90 years ago in 1933!



Holy Trinity Baseball Team, in 1933 – Holders of the Grant Cup

still the holders and defending champions! In the inter-war years, the game grew in popularity and competition between junior teams was even sponsored by The Daily Mirror. Holy Trinity had beaten the old British School, based in New Street until 1965 in the building which is now a Dental practice.

Five years after this photo was taken a junior team of 16 & 17 year-olds under the guidance of Fred Lewis reached the Southern Area National Juvenile Final, where they were beaten by a team called The Pioneers and it is likely that the Chippy team contained boys who had played for Holy Trinity and other local Primary Schools in The Grant Cup competition!

'The Grant Cup' was donated by Mr W Grant the Manager of Chippy's New Street cinema, and as far as we know they were the last team to win it and are therefore,

So, are they still the champions?

SPORTS NEWS

Indoor Hockey

Indoor Hockey newcomer, Kerry Foley from Whistlers in Middle Row, writes: I've never played hockey before or anything like it, but following Covid I was desperate to interact with others and thought a team sport would offer that, and help me get fit at the same time! I was a bit apprehensive at first, but that quickly subsided when I realised that this game is literally for ANYONE! Each week the team varies from little ones at primary school to older, retired people plus everyone in between. We have experienced players who play regularly, casual players who maybe last played when they were young and complete newbies like me! Everyone is so incredibly lovely, the rules are fairly relaxed, and you can play hard & fast or slow & steady. You can be a committed player & show up every single week or just come along sometimes. Either way it just works. Joining this team has really made a difference to the quality of my life. It gives me something to look forward to each week, I get to mix with a fabulous group of people from all walks of life & I'm getting fit at the same time. I Love It. Anyone can join, just show up at 10am on a Sunday at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre, it cost £5.40 adults / £3 juniors which can be paid at Reception. We usually always have spare sticks & shinpads that you can borrow if you don't have your own. Ask at reception or contact Sharon Truelove for more info. sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk 01608 730546 / 07722603207"



and good exercise! If you are interested in playing squash in the leagues, please contact Colin Little at colin.r.little@btinternet.com / 07855 473572.

Chipping Norton Rugby Club

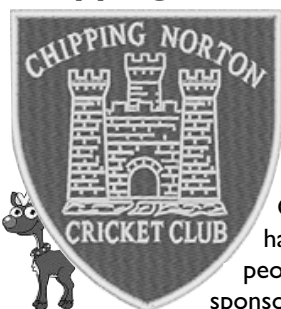
With five wins and three losses, our 1st XV remain 5th in their league after another thrilling 24–21 home win over Didcot. Home games in December and January are 9 Dec (Tring), 6 Jan (Abingdon) and 27 Jan (Oxford Harlequins) so come and cheer CNRUFC on. The 2nd XV is back up and running and



Julian Hayball's huge contribution to the Club was recognised at the recent AGM. We are delighted to welcome two new club sponsors, Banbury Private Physiotherapy Practice (pictured) who are providing the players with professional support and Peacock Gymnastics Academy, based in Shipston on Stour. Thanks also to Owen Mumford who have renewed their longstanding sponsorship. As always to find out more, contact the Club via chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com, check out our website and follow us on social media.

Graeme Williamson

Chipping Norton Cricket Club



Youth Co Ordinator, Sue Powell writes: Having finished the season with two successful presentation evenings, it is now time for everyone to book the evening of 11 December for the Club AGM at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse. It's your club: come and have a say in how it's run. We need people with ideas for fundraising and sponsorship, as well as a say in the routine things. We also could do with more volunteers for helping on the ground. Contact: Bloxhamsue@aol.com

Graham Beacham adds: This also applies to the seniors and ALL members of the Club, if they want a say in anything. We could also do with help working on the ground! Come On Chippy!

Chippy Squash Club

The Club runs leagues at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. We welcome all manner of players from near-county level to beginners. Each league involves four or five games a month. We also run an all-comers evening on the first Tuesday of the month. This is a drop-in session from 7–9.30pm. You can book, via the Better app, up to a week in advance and enjoy a few hours of squash with a wide variety of players. It's great fun



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Own a horse – and help fight cancer!

Would you like to take a share of a racehorse – and help donate to cancer research charities? Popular Moreton-in-March racehorse breeder and trainer Peter Pritchard has



Left: Katie pictured with her family; Right: The race horse Katie Sunny Dancer which is to be syndicated to raise money for gynaecological cancer charities

announced that Old Gold Racing – a horse ownership platform – is syndicating one of their racing mares, with profits to be donated to help research and awareness of gynaecological cancers. The Pritchard family earlier this summer tragically lost their daughter Katie, aged 37, to cervical cancer. Old Gold Racing are donating the horse, and the proceeds from syndication, to the sale value of the horse, will go towards charities: the Lady Garden Foundation, Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust and The Myton Hospice. Those interested in joining in can donate a one-off £60 fee for the first syndicate term of the horse called Katie Sunny Dancer.

It’s hoped to have 2000 memberships of this Katie’s Legacy Syndicate – a perfect gift for horseracing fans. Members get official ownership documents, a welcome pack and of course an appropriate share of any wins down the road! The family hope to raise £40,000 for the charities. Cervical cancer hits around 3100 women in the UK each year – the most common cancer for women under 35. For details see oldgoldracing.com/horses/katie-sunny-dancer

Hook Norton Tennis Club

Three social events are planned for November and December – contact our membership secretary for more details. In the Floodlit league the A team are 3rd in Division 1, the B team are 5th in Division 2. The C team are 5th in Division 3 and D team are 1st in Division 4. We now also run a weekend team who won their first match against Warwick in November. The Club has 113 seniors and 80 junior members one of whom 7-year-old Harry Davies recently won several matches in an LTA 8U County Cup Event in Abingdon.

Marc Gilkes’ current coaching programme ends on 9 February. Coaching with Steve Bone and Faith Heron continues. Faith has been playing in the European Club Championship in Turkey, commenting that the team reached the final, but the singles were lost ‘despite some fine battling from my amazing teammates’. Courts can be booked by members via clubspark.lta.org.uk/HookNortonTennisClub which also lists club sessions. We play tennis all through the year. Our club nights are very popular and friendly – new members always welcome. Details from the membership secretary Kate: khs.shoes@gmail.com or 01608 642774

Elaine Priestley

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CLUB NEWS

History Society meet the Mitfords

The Chipping Norton History Society will be meeting on Monday 11 December at 2pm in the Lower Hall at the



Methodist Church, West Street. The talk is by Christopher Norridge on The Mitford Sisters. Visitors are very welcome £3
Janis Paxton

Folk warms the cockles

A suitably wet and windswept evening for November's theme of *Winter* at Chippy Folk Club. Happily, the foul weather did not deter our faithful troubadours, the house was full and busting at the seams. Rachel Chai started us off with a lovely rendition of *Ready for the Storm* by Dougie Maclean then we moved around the room to a great variety of music and songs accompanied by guitar, concertina and ukulele plus some a cappella contributions – great to hear Pete and Pen's melodic voices and lovely harmonies again. An impressive rendition of *Diamonds & Rust* by newcomer Lizzy, with impromptu expert guitar accompaniment by Dave; Pete Joshua changed the mood with a lovely jazz standard and his nimble finger picking guitar. Some beautiful songs and voices as always and a lovely ambiance – an evening to warm the cockles and defy the gloom of a wintry night. All welcome to our festive meeting next month – Monday 11 December 7.30pm at the Chequers, Chipping Norton – optional theme Seasonal Fare. Free entry. Sing, play, recite or just listen. www.chippingnortonfolk.org
Claire Johnson

An evening of Pondering

The Chipping Norton Ponderers meet in The Fox on the last Monday evening of each month to ...well, ponder. To be more, accurate, we have brief spasms of passionate debate interspersed with bad jokes and ending (usually) in general agreement. We don't do small talk (though we do have short episodes of shrinkage) and topics tend to be political, economic or broadly social. So, we've considered: Should we try to sustain endless economic growth or find another way forward? Should there be a universal allowance? Is it time for the British monarchy to call it a day? and (inevitably) Is AI really going to take over the world?

Our last meeting considered population growth – should it be curbed? Some said 'yes' because we can't be serious about preserving limited natural resources and still go on producing more and more people to consume them. Some said 'no' because we need new people to look after the old ones and, anyway, the birth rate is already falling below replacement levels in many parts of the world.

Curiously, we haven't solved the world's problems yet, but we keep trying. This month (Monday 27 November, 8.30pm)

we'll be asking: Is the old 'left' and 'right-wing' social division still valid or is it meaningless in today's culture? Come and join us. See www.meetup.com/theponderings

CN Probus hear from USAF pilot

Chipping Norton Probus Club members continue to enjoy a wide range of talks at their monthly meetings. A recent guest speaker was James Biles, a Louisiana-born ex USAF pilot. James served in Vietnam, flying RF4 planes, from November 1969, carrying out day and night reconnaissance with infra-red cameras over dense jungle. The two-crew RF4 was used extensively during the Vietnam War, serving as the principal fighter for the US Air Force. James recalled his 170 missions including 100+ involving combat in extremely difficult and dangerous times. A fascinating account of active service when the whole world watched. Now living locally, we were indeed fortunate to hear James's story. Linked to his experiences and a previous talk from the War Graves Commission, several



Probus members reading the many names of the fallen in wartime at the National Memorial Arboretum

members visited the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire. All agreed it was a most worthwhile visit enabling them to relate to the atrocities of war.

We have recently heard successful profile talks from new members. These are an important part of our Probus Club, enlightening members to the many varied careers of colleagues and we look forward to hearing more.

Guests are most welcome at our meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month. Please contact membership secretary, Simon Bucknall on 01993 830760 for more information. We look forward to welcoming new members.

Martin Williams

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CLUB NEWS

Burford & Kingham Rotary

On the last Saturday in October, we planted nearly 4,000 purple crocus bulbs on Burford Hill to raise awareness of Polio eradication and to give something for the local community to enjoy in the spring. We know that the display is appreciated from the lovely comments of passers-by. We are very grateful to the Hickman Brothers for lending us their turf-cutting machine which really helped to save our backs.



Rotary took part in the Police Awareness Day in Chipping Norton Town Hall. We were promoting our charity work and fundraising. The SeeSaw balloons went down well with the younger visitors. SeeSaw is a charity offering grief support for children and young people in Oxfordshire. Tickets are selling well for our Bridge Drive on 19 November.

We have had two very interesting speakers this month: one on the History of Brize Norton RAF Station, the largest RAF Station in the World! And we heard a talk about The Oxfordshire Treescape Project: an example of how one person can motivate a community to plant trees.

So, lots of interesting things going on, don't miss out come and join us! 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. We are always looking to increase our membership. You will get a very warm welcome! Contact Secretary John Smith by email jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk or call 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

Chequers Acoustic Session

October saw more guitars than we have ever seen at the session. Ten in a very small area! Two were visitors from Banbury and London (with a nice line in composition). The rest were regulars. It's good to know that the publicity is working both with the Chequer's Facebook group and with Chippy News, no less. The December session falls on the Solstice (21st) so it will be singalong carols. We'll have one or two guitars to help everyone keep the tune and carol sheets, as we did last year. Come along and share your favourite carols with us, but don't bring your instruments as there probably won't be room! To add to the festive atmosphere, The Chequers will be drawing their Grand Raffle during the session, with hampers and other prizes to be won. The next session is 8pm onwards on 18 January when we will be back to normal. Contact Jane for queries jalemail27@gmail.com

Chippy Ramblers escape the mud

We chose a walk which – hopefully – wouldn't be too muddy despite all the recent rain. After meeting in the car park at Great Tew, the first test was crossing a large arable field at the top of the ridge. In fact, it turned out to be sandy, not clay, and was fine. Then, after walking down a minor road to Little Tew, we took another road down to the stream and along a path towards Soho Farmhouse – soggy in places but no real problem. The trees were beginning to turn and we noticed very plump sloes (ready for sloe gin?), rose hips and tremendous crops of holly berries. Up towards Great Tew we passed what we think is David Beckham's house in the distance and then down past the church and back to Great Tew. But we couldn't resist stopping there for tea and cake before getting into the cars and home.

If you too would like to enjoy the countryside in good company join us on the first Sunday of every month. In winter we meet in New Street carpark at 1.30pm and normally walk for about two hours at a leisurely pace – a different walk each time! Lifts available. Contact Heather Leonard (01608 643691 or rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk) & we'll put you on the list!

Jenny Harrington

u3a gets festive

Our usual first Wednesday talk followed by tea and biscuits will be at the Town Hall at 2.30 on 6 December. Tim Healey will be speaking on *A 17th Century Christmas* – a colourful survey of Yuletide celebrations at the time of the English Civil War and Restoration. The talk tells of pudding thieves, frost fairs, riotous Twelfth Night customs – and the Puritan backlash against *Bringing in the Boar's Head* Christmas itself. Tim is a freelance writer and broadcaster who has presented many programmes on BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4. A frequent contributor to *The Oxford Times*, Tim is also director of the 17th century costume band The Oxford Waits with whom he performs in period costume.



Yvonne Beaumont

Chipping Norton Labour Party

It has been another busy month for Labour Party Members in Chipping Norton. We have been out delivering our Autumn Newsletter to local residents which has given us the opportunity to listen to the views and concerns of the many people we have spoken to.

Our move to the new Banbury Constituency has been completed and we are establishing links with other members across the area. We are in the process of selecting a candidate to represent the Labour Party at the next election which is expected next year.

We held another well attended Quiz Night in November at The Chequers in Goddards Lane with members coming from Banbury as well as many regulars from Chipping Norton. These will continue in the New Year so look out for further dates and times.

The Chipping Norton Branch continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm but in December we

CLUB NEWS

will be holding our Annual Christmas dinner at The Chequers where members from across the CLP are welcome. Regular meetings will restart in January.

Kate Whatmore

Flexible volunteering with the Scouts



Scouts pictured at this year's Remembrance Parade

We are delighted that, since the last *Chippy News*, Lewis has joined the Scout Leadership Team and Andi Robinson has returned as Chair of the Trustees to support the new GSL Team, help with maintenance of the HQ and fundraising. However, 6th Chipping Norton Scout Group still need more help. Ideally, we need a Team of four or five adults per section so that responsibility is shared for the planning and delivery of the

meetings and activities. This should mean you don't have to turn up every week (unless you want to!) and so becomes more flexible. I joined Scouting over 30 years ago when my husband and I moved to a new village and didn't know anyone. We answered an advert in a local shop for Cub leaders. I must admit I didn't expect to still be involved in 2023 but I have made many good friends, learnt new skills, and seen many young people grow in confidence and succeed though in life with the influence of Scouting. Want to make new friends? Get Involved! Contact gssteam@chippyscouts.org.uk

Jill Elliot

Railway Club's Christmas festivities

On 7 November, Jonathan Perks revisited the Club, talking about his round up of the last year, plus Wales Part 2. For the last meeting of 2023 former member, Martin Quartermain, will join members for the Christmas festivities. He will talk on 'Western Region Steam – the final years. Tuesday 5 December 7.30pm Lower Town Hall. The Chairman and Committee wish all members and friends of the Club a very Merry Christmas and the best of New Years. We are looking forward to celebrating our 50-year Anniversary in March 2024!

Estelle Brain

WOWI have a go at Furoshiki

At our last meeting we had a very interesting talk by Liz Woolley who took us through 19th Century Oxford with some wonderful pictures and a talk about *Beer, Sausages and Marmalade*. We heard how many small breweries there were, the secret recipe of the Oxford Sausage, a delicacy sold in the Covered Market, and about the famous Frank Cooper Marmalade Factory near the Station. In the Spring, a group of us are going to do a walking tour with Liz and see some of these sights for real. In November we are watching a demonstration of 'Furoshiki', the Japanese Art of Present wrapping. We are all taking something to wrap and have a go!! December sees us at Whistlers, our usual Christmas haunt, where Nathan, Kerry and staff always look after us so well.

WOWI wishes everyone a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please come and join us in the New Year. We meet on the third Monday of the month at St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NT at 7.30pm.

We shall be very happy to welcome you.

Hilary Dix 01608 646228

Green Gym: Focus on Fitzalan Wood

The Green Gym team has continued to work in all weathers on various local sites including at Chipping Norton Health Centre, weeding the borders, atriiums and planters. In addition, we have also been weeding at Great Rollright School and cutting back invasive black-



thorn in the Glyme Valley Nature Reserve (managed by the BBOWT – the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust). There was bramble and path clearance at Fitzalan Wood plus selected trees trimmed, branches stacked and logs prepared for storage. In addition, the team has now built this log store on the site. Fitzalan Wood, located in Station Road, was planted in 2014–15 by Chipping Norton Green Gym with the help of local school children. It was originally established under the guidance and support of the field reeves of the regulated pasture supported by The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) and Grundon Waste Management. The wood stands on part of the ancient common land granted to the Town in 1377–1378 by Richard Fitzalan, the Earl of Arundel, and can still be enjoyed by locals as a quiet spot to sit and enjoy the surrounding nature.

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 is very welcome. We have a variety of jobs for all!

Adela Thomas

Greetings Albi Fans!

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

Halloween was fun here at the Albion. We celebrated with an energetic party with music and games and decorations consisting of bats, rats and pumpkins drawn and painted by anyone willing to use the colour orange. We now have yuletide to look forward to. Activities will include a minibus ride to Cadbury World and a walk to The Theatre to enjoy *Cinderella*. A delicious cooked breakfast has been requested as a culinary treat – all washed down with cups of tea.

The Guideposts charity, our Mother Ship, will be organising a Family and Carers get together at the Methodist Church (13 December 1–3pm) with mince pies, Christmas music and pictures of us and our antics. We will be charging down to this event though mostly for the light refreshments. The Albion will be keeping up the Spirit with Christmas movies and marshmallows and much seasonal artwork will be

CLUB NEWS

making its way onto the walls. Our Space are crafting, decorating and partying – please don't forget to pop into the Methodist Church for the Christmas Tree Festival as there is a tree with the Our Space name on it!

Our sale at the Co-op raised a nice amount which will go towards future outings. Thank you to all who came to say hello and support us. And now the cold weather's here Don't forget the Kindling we have on Sale! Meanwhile... Everybody here at the Albion wishes you a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you on the other side, AlbiFans.

Carole Fagg

Horticulturalists explore organic veg

Around 50 members and visitors attended the AGM and evening talk of the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association in November. All officers and committee of the Association were re-elected with the exception of Club Secretary, Eileen Forse who was standing down after many years' service. A new secretary Sandra Morris was appointed and will take up the role once hand-over can be arranged. A presentation was made to Eileen by Club Chairman Paul Embden.

Jez Taylor from Daylesford gave a very enlightening talk on the organic vegetable gardens at Daylesford – and the work that he and the gardeners have to do to maintain enough produce throughout the year, for sale and visitors. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

The December Christmas gathering on the 13th in the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30 will be a picture quiz evening, followed by festive refreshments. All details of meetings and contact details can be found on the website www.cnha.uk

Eileen Forse

Amnesty marks 75 years of UDHR



The blue Human Rights Flag designed by the artist Ai Weiwei to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the UDHR in 2018

10 December is the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being. However, the promise of the UDHR, of dignity and equality in rights, has been under a sustained assault in recent years. As the world faces challenges

new and ongoing – pandemics, conflicts, exploding inequalities, morally bankrupt global financial system, racism, climate change – the values and rights enshrined in the UDHR provide guideposts for collective actions that do not leave anyone behind. With conflict raging in many parts of the world and human rights under threat, it is more important than ever that we all strive to protect human rights both here and in other countries around the world. Join the Chipping Norton Amnesty Group in raising the Human Rights Flag in the Millennium Garden, West Street, at 9.45am on 10 December.

You can find further details of the UDHR at: www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day & CN Amnesty Group at www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/chipping-norton/

Our next meeting: 11 January 7.30pm Lower Town Hall AGM and a short review of the Group's activities in 2023.

John Dunleavy

See p13 for article about Amnesty raising the UN Flag in October

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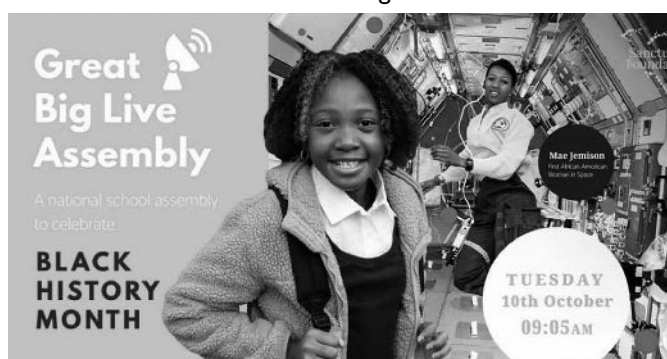




Chipping Norton School

Lest We Forget: To commemorate Armistice Day, Mr Blois (Head of Chemistry) created a week's tutor time programme exploring the Royal British Legion's motto, *Service Not Self*, drawing attention to the armed forces and members of the National Health Service and our poppy appeal in school. Throughout the week, students explored an article on local soldiers who died in the Great War before researching their own or others' links to British armed forces. At the end of the week, they watched an interview between Mr Blois and the Captain of HMS Severn.

Great Big Live Assembly: Students participated in our second Great Big Live Assembly hosted by The Sanctuary Foundation. The assembly focused on Black History Month and the theme was *Saluting our Sisters*. The assembly showcased the stories of amazing black women who have



made our world a better place. The students enjoyed being part of this national event and had the opportunity to reflect further on equality and diversity throughout this week's tutor programme in which we took time to consider the challenges and triumphs of the award-winning space scientist, broadcaster and author, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock.



Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools: We held three Family Focus workshops at the end of October with children from Years 4, 5 and 6 and their parents working together to make a trebuchet in the Design & Technology workshop, make their hands and feet dance, and/or investigate ways to find Pi in the Maths workshop. We are very grateful to all our staff members who enable these fantastic workshops to happen.

The partnership primary schools visited CNS to take part in a Boccia tournament in which Kingham were the victors, then Kingham also took first place in the Cross Country competition a week later followed by Great Tew in second with Middle Barton third.

ExtraTime: We have been able to offer taster sessions in Table Tennis with two coaches from the Banbury League, Eric Barlow and Rod Haddrell. We are very hopeful that this will lead to the ExtraTime Club starting again in the Spring. Eric and Rod are very keen to promote Table Tennis in the area and to have some new members at their clubs in the Banbury area so please ask Robyn Bissett at CNS if you are interested.

Sports News: Netball fixtures are in full swing. We have teams representing all year groups and we are particularly proud of our Year 7 girls who recently won the West Oxfordshire tournament. Although the Football season doesn't start officially till January, we have had some cup games across both boys' and girls' teams. Our Year 7 girls recently came from behind to beat Wood Green School 3 goals to 2 and our U16 girls' football team is in the quarter final against Wood Green School. Our Year 11 boys were very unlucky to lose on penalties against a strong Wheatley Park School; however, our Year 8 boys had a brilliant win against last year's champions Cherwell and now play Cheney in their quarter final.



Congratulations to both our Year 8 and Senior rugby teams who remain unbeaten and have had an excellent start to their season. Our Year 9 and Year 10 teams have had some excellent performances so far and it is now the time for our Year 7 to show what they can do! Over 30 boys played recently in a great game against Henry Box with the score 15-15 and an excellent performance against Chipping Campden recently produced a winning score of 25-0.

On Friday 1 December, 50 students and five teachers will be returning to Wembley for the first time in a few years to watch the England v Netherlands Women's Football international.

Fifty very excited Years 9 and 10 students are looking forward to our next Sports Tour to Malta in October 2024 to play netball and both girls' and boys' football. We are looking for sponsorship for any aspect of this trip so if you can help, please contact Head of PE, Mr Thomas on jthomas@chippingnortonschool.org.

Reading Club: Members attended the Oxfordshire Book Awards ceremony. Children across Oxfordshire voted for



their favourite children's books published in 2022. Our students read the shortlisted secondary novels and were rewarded with a trip to see the winning and highly commended authors collect their trophies in Oxford. Our Reading Club is looking forward to reading the books shortlisted for OBA 2024 and discussing the merits of each of the fantastic books.

SCHOOLS NEWS

St Mary's Primary

Lantern Making: Year 3 pupils were lucky enough to take



part in a Lantern Making workshop in preparation for the Lantern Parade on 23 November. A great time was had by all and we would like to thank The Chippy Larder for a delicious lunch.

St Mary's Got Talent: We are looking forward to showcasing our children's wonderful talents at the Town Hall on Friday 8 December. Doors open at 6pm See poster below.

Christmas Carol Service and Christmas Lunch: The annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place at St Mary's Church on Thursday 14 December at 9.45am. The children will then return to school in time for their Christmas lunch!

Beech Haven Care Home visit: Children from St Mary's have linked with Beech Haven to play games and read with the Care Home residents. Mrs English has organised this and it will continue every month from January. The benefits are enormous for both children and adults alike.

Year 6 Residential: Earlier this term, the children in Year 6 weathered the storm, quite literally, and had a fantastic week in Swindon. The pupils and staff battled the elements but were still able to take part in a variety of outdoor activities and the teachers have said they have been a brilliant group!.

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Holy Trinity Primary

Church: All Saints Mass was a lovely occasion where we celebrated the lives of the saints. Father Clive led an engaging service and the children sang beautiful hymns enjoyed by the school and congregation. As November is the month of the Holy Souls, we created a wall of remembrance where pupils, families and parishioners can write on ribbons the names of loved ones who are no longer with us. We then remember them in our daily prayers throughout November.



Trips: Year 5 visited Cadbury World as part of their Maya history topic to learn about the origins of chocolate and how important it was to the people that lived in Mayan Central America. In addition, in class they have been making and tasting traditional Mayan hot chocolate.



Year 4 enjoyed a special visit to Holy Trinity Church where Father Clive taught them about the different parts of the sermon.

Year 6 went *Back to the 80s* in Oxford Town Hall in a wonderful event alongside other Catholic schools from the MAC. They treated family and friends to a marvellous repertoire of songs which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Year 6 also attended a Junior Citizen event run by the Oxfordshire emergency services where the children were put into a series of scenarios where they had to deal with emergency situations. The children got an opportunity to practise making 999 calls as well as working together to deal with situations. Staff leading the event were impressed by the children's knowledge and responses as well as their excellent behaviour.

Year 5 joined up with St Mary's and 'Paul the Lantern Man' from Theatrx at the Town Hall for a lantern-making workshop in preparation for the Chippy Lights Switch-On. They are looking forward to sharing their creations with family, friends and the community. Thank you to the Town Council for the workshop, and Chippy Larder for the marvellous lunch!

Sports: Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 participated in the Partnership Cross Country event. The children running showed great resilience and determination, despite the less than perfect weather.

Children from each class enjoyed developing their tennis skills with the Excel Tennis team who spent a whole day at the

SCHOOLS NEWS

School running workshops with all the children. Great fun was had by all.

Fundraising: The School is thrilled to be sending Christmas shoeboxes to Teams4U to be forwarded to vulnerable children and families. This year the boxes will go to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. A huge thank you to all the parents and children that have sent in a shoebox.

The Junior Leadership team is enjoying preparing for Children in Need and have organised a non-uniform day and runPudsey event to raise money.

Our School Prefects have been selling poppies and other remembrance items, raising money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you to all the families who have donated. The whole school participated in a moving Remembrance Assembly, where children from each class shared work that they had done around Remembrance Day, including a range of poetry, diary entries, art and prayers. Themes children have reflected on include WWI and Peace and Animals in War. Some classes enjoyed having visitors and looking at artefacts. Scout and brownie pupils wore their uniforms for the Assembly and the whole school respectfully honoured members of the armed forces who have given their lives in battle.

PTA news: The children are very excited at the installation of the new 'trim trail' including a rope bridge, climbing wall, balance bars and monkey bars, as requested by our Junior Leadership Team. Thank you to our PTA who has jointly funded this new equipment. The School's PTA is looking forward to teaming up with St Mary's PTA with Santa's Grotto for the Chippy Lights Switch-On.



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Bledington Primary

Languages at Bledington: Recently we held a celebration



of European Languages and had a focused day to enhance an awareness of the different languages spoken throughout Europe. Our aims were to:

- know that (most of) these languages share a common origin;
- begin to spot links across different languages;
- work collaboratively and have fun.

Each of our classrooms became a different country for the morning and the children became citizens of that country. A flag was displayed and pupils had to colour their own and learn a morning greeting in that language which was used for the register that day. The children's first task was to complete their own passport for their journey around Europe.

They had to:

- write their name;
- colour their country's flag in the correct colours;
- find and colour their country on the map of Europe on the back of their passport.

To gain entry to each country and activity, children had to show their passport and greet the teacher with their new greeting. Children worked in teams of mixed ages so that older pupils could help younger ones and they moved around the School together. The activities were fun and included: Italian playground games, Dutch nursery rhymes, a Hello art collage and Guess the European Language Quiz. Our whole School Assembly captured much of what had been learnt and we hope that pupils will remember this day for a long time to come!

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SCHOOLS NEWS

Enstone Primary

In October we celebrated Harvest Festival with a sharing assembly and two fundraising competitions: Design a Scarecrow and Design a Fruit or Vegetable Character. Our



pupils learnt all about food miles and gave an entertaining presentation, including some new autumn and harvest themed songs. Money raised went to Farm Africa and we also made a large donation of goods to the North Oxfordshire Food Bank.

Our new outdoor learning project is progressing, with the removal of the old Portakabin building and exciting plans drawn up to reimagine the space. This will be a tremendous asset to the School, enabling even more active, creative, and outdoor learning opportunities for all year groups.

As we hurtle towards Christmas, we will soon begin preparations for our festive concerts. Here at Enstone Primary School we place a strong emphasis on the creative arts, and our pupils thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to get up on the stage and perform. Our instrumental music groups are already practising their Christmas carols, and our school choir is working hard on its performance, with the added bonus of the opportunity this year to perform at the Alpine Formula 1 Christmas Fayre.

Great Rollright Primary



December is always a joyful month at our school as our close-knit community celebrates Christmas together. As usual, we'll share Christmas lunch in the hall, enjoy the younger children's nativity play, and celebrate Christmas in St Andrew's Church next door. And this year, rather than going to see a panto,

we're having the panto come to us, with the Wizard Theatre troupe presenting *Pinocchio* to the whole school.

In other news:

School dog: Mabel (pictured above) is growing up fast and learning her role as a working school dog. This autumn she has been spending time in the library with small groups.

Black History Month: Our focus this year was on black composers and musicians. The highlight was a whole school assembly in which each class performed a song.

National Recycling Week: This year's theme was 'lost recyclables' – items that can be recycled but end up in landfill. We drew posters and wrote poems and plays to educate

ourselves and our families about the problem.

As school selection time approaches, parents and carers are strongly encouraged to visit to see all that we offer – including a free bus to Chipping Norton. Please call us on 01608 737202 to arrange your visit.

Hook Norton Primary

As our thoughts turn to the festive season with the nights drawing in and excitement brewing for nativity plays and carol concerts, we started the new term in November with a special assembly, remembering the fallen soldiers for Remembrance Day (see picture). Years 3 and 4 learned and sang a beautiful song: *We will remember them* about the soldiers going off to war, and they performed it to the rest of the School. The assembly



concluded with the whole school observing a minute's silence and then singing together, which was very moving.

An incredibly successful pre-loved clothing sale arranged by the Friends of the School and run by Years 5 and 6 raised a total of £202.43 for the School.

All Years are now planning and rehearsing for their various Nativity/Christmas plays which they will be performing to friends and family in the coming weeks.

The children are also busy with their normal lessons and have been learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot as well as the Romans, the wonderful artwork of Hokusai and the language of William Shakespeare.



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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.

Chippy's plastic Christmas trees



Let's run through a few things, Chipping Norton 'Gateway to the Cotswolds' where tourists come to visit and spend time and money; maybe they visit for Christmas. Do plastic Christmas trees really say 'gateway to the Cotswolds'? ... No! It says welcome to

Chipping Norton, a town that has very little thought about the environment, sustainability or carbon footprint. The Carbon Trust has looked at the impact of plastic Christmas trees. A real tree no taller than 2 metres and no root stump has carbon footprint of 3.5kg of CO₂. A plastic tree no taller than 2 metres has a carbon footprint of 40kg of CO₂. This means using the tree for 10 years to have the same carbon footprint, IF the plastic tree will last 10 years. As a resident of Chipping Norton I'm offended and disappointed in each of the Town Councillors for inflicting more damage on the environment – as well as the damage to the image of Chipping Norton as 'Gateway to the Cotswolds' with no thought about how tourists and visitors will perceive our town. The Town Council continues to make terrible decisions and this one is one of the poorest decisions ever made, these trees will still be bits of plastic in the environment for many to come years.

Dan Pitcher – A disappointed resident of Chipping Norton (see article p3 with an explanation on trees from the Mayor – ed)

Dreadful unsafe footpaths

All levels of local government councils, Oxfordshire County, West Oxon District and Chipping Norton Town are fully committed to active travel, walking, cycling and running instead of using cars. This could be encouraged by ensuring that the local footpaths were made safe. Anyone using the footpath from town towards Southcombe (along the London

Road) will be fully aware of the dreadful state of the path. Grass encroaching, uneven surfaces, mud and wet leaves have all combined to make this path unsafe. The rest of the paths in the Town are similarly affected. Perhaps some of the money spent on contentious 20mph limits may have been spent more productively on improving footpaths in the Town.

Alan White

Dog fouling around Bellway estate

I live on this very nice housing estate and like living here. One thing spoils it – DOGS. I have no objection to the dogs, but with their owners. All dogs should be kept on a lead. Their mess should be picked up and put in the bin. There were three bins on this estate, but now there is only one (pictured). Why? These bins were



constantly full. Now people don't bother about a bin. Some dog owners are responsible – others are not. You cannot keep an eye on your dog if it is not on a lead and a long way behind you, when you are constantly looking at your mobile phone! Dogs are always fouling on our garden despite precautions taken to keep them off. This week (25 October) a dog fouled on the pavement right outside our house. What a runny mess to dispose of. It took several cans of water to do so. We think of children and mums with prams walking through this. Neither my husband or myself are in good health and DO NOT want the worry of clearing up mess from irresponsible dog owners. The mess gets worse and worse as there are more and more dogs appearing on this estate. The mess is not only on Bellway, but along the Burford Road and Chipping Norton town centre. Some days on Topside, one had to dodge the number of dogs walking there and fouling the pavement. You really have to keep your eyes on the ground to avoid the mess. Dog owners, please be more thoughtful for other people. It is not everyone likes dogs or indeed, are comfortable near one. Bring back dog licences (a

Millie's Kyrgyzstan expedition

The News recently featured 18-year-old Millie Chettleborough from Chipping Norton and her expedition plans. Here is a report of her exciting adventure (Millie is pictured second from right)

It's been almost two months since I got back from my expedition to Kyrgyzstan in the summer, and looking back on my time there is starting to feel a bit surreal. In July, I was flying into Bishkek, with no idea, no expectations, and quite a lot of apprehension for what the next five weeks would hold. On reflection, I can confidently say this mindset served me well, as the experience proved more demanding and fulfilling than I could have imagined. Amidst the physical and emotional challenges of hiking every day at altitude, living in a 4-man tent with no personal-space, and having no contact with the outside world, the expedition had its share of rewarding moments, from conquering a 4159m peak to sharing meals with kind



locals in their yurts. The lessons that I have learnt from the hardships and the life I got to experience in Kyrgyzstan made it a profoundly fulfilling and unforgettable journey. This expedition was not only about exploring a completely new environment and culture, but also about learning to adapt and be prepared for whatever challenges a day might throw at me; something I hope I never forget. I want to express my gratitude to local sponsors, House & Carriage, Shaw & Co, Chadlington Quality Foods, and especially GWP Consultants, whose support made this expedition possible. Also, a big thanks to the generous individuals who contributed to my fundraising independently; your support meant a lot!



hefty one) and I bet there will be fewer dogs around. The licences should be compulsory on the purchase of a dog.

Patricia Sheen

Chippy Needs You!



Local PCSOs at the recent Town Hall police event

Could you become a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)? As a town, Chipping Norton should have three PCSO officers. They are the visible police presence on our high street, reassuring the public and supporting our shop keepers who are suffering from increased retail crime. They really make a big difference to our community and at the moment we only have one PCSO and there are two vacancies which desperately need to be filled. So, what is involved? You can apply if you are mentally fit and healthy, have a full driving licence or are learning to drive. There are three phases to the training and you get paid a bit over £30k a year from Day One of training. For more information contact us via The Guildhall (01608 642341) and we can arrange for you to talk to our PCSO or go to www.tvpcareers.co.uk.

Mike Cahill and Sharon Wheaton
Chipping Norton Town Council

Praise for Cotswold Dental Wellness

I would publicly like to whole heartedly thank the team who professionally, efficiently and successfully carried out an emergency procedure on a family member who, after treatment, and a stay at the JR hospital is home and recovering well.

Grateful local resident (Name & Address supplied)

New Street road safety

A big thanks to the *Chippy News* for the two excellent articles in last month's issue, again highlighting the huge problems we have in this Town with road safety – or a lack of it. The articles (p4 *Road safety & HGV actions?* and *Skatepark & road safety*) outline how after over 20 years of feasibility studies, optioneering surveys (whatever that means) etc, etc Chipping Norton is still being ignored by Oxfordshire County Council when it comes to improving our road safety. How much taxpayer's money has been wasted over the years in 'commissioning a consultant' or 'completing an optioneering study'? How much longer is pedestrian safety being put at risk because there is a lack of pedestrian crossings in New Street, for example? Until there is a reduction of through traffic, including HGVs, we need to protect residents on what is probably the most dangerous road in the Town. Lack of finances has always been cited by OCC as a reason pedestrians continue to be unprotected whilst crossing New Street in particular. Therefore, I again ask Chippy Town Council to contribute towards the cost of funding a crossing/s before we have another serious accident or fatality in New Street. Indeed, with a skatepark being considered for the New Street Recreation Ground, provision of a pedestrian crossing becomes an even more

urgent priority. So come on Chipping Norton Town Council show us some leadership qualities – please.

Steve Williams

Shopping in friendly Chippy

I'd like to say many thanks to the staff in shops in town for their cheery and helpful manner. Specifically, to those who work on a Tuesday morning, when I am in town with my mother to help her do the weekly shopping. You'll probably have seen or heard us, as we walk around the different shops, bickering – me offering mum advice, and she telling me I am ordering her about! Ha ha – well that is how it used to be, but latterly I offer less advice, and sit back and try to keep quiet, and just help with packing her shopping and carrying her bags. We've both recently commented how much we now enjoy our Tuesday trip into town. We've got to know some staff quite well and have a good natter and a laugh, and all are patient with our queries and antics. We've lived in the area over 30 years but aren't from the town, so it's a nice feeling now when people recognise you, remember you and say hello. I'd like to give particular thanks to a few, and we hope if nothing else, we bring a smile to your faces while you're at work! Thanks to Jackie C in the Co-op, the lady in WH Smiths, and another in Boots (sorry I don't know your names) the ladies in the Bakery, Scrivens; and last but definitely not least – Yasin and Sue in Topside Pharmacy. Thank you all!

Sarah Turner

Thanks for accident help

Last Saturday afternoon, around 3pm, I took a tumble down the three steps from the footpath alongside the main road through Chipping Norton town centre, landing in the lower Market Square car park on my right shoulder. Several people came to my assistance while I lay there wondering how it had happened and contemplating how I felt. I was finally helped up and went on my way, giving profuse verbal thanks. Herewith my thanks in the written word too. X-rays at the Horton later that day and a CT scan the following Monday reveal that I've broken the ball-joint off my upper arm bone – good job that I declined being helped up by my right arm. No cycling, motorcycling or driving until the New Year. With my right arm in a sling, it's been interesting learning how to do simple things like starting and zipping-up a zip single-handed!

Paul Burbidge

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DIARY



See also p18 for Christmas church services, Arts ps 23–25 for Concerts etc & Centre pages for other Christmas events

December (News out Monday 27 November)

- 2nd **Great Rollright Xmas Market** 11-2 see p21
- Kingham Singers Music & Mince Pies** 7.30 in Churchill - see p25
- Wychwood Chorale 12 Days of Christmas** 7.30 in Chipping Norton - see p25
- 2-3 **TCN Doorstep Giveaway** - see p10
- 3rd **Ramblers** see p30 for details - note 1.30pm start
- Methodist Xmas Tree Festival ends** see p20
- CRAG Concert** 3pm Charlbury Mem Hall - see p25
- 4th **Town Council: Full Council meeting** 6.30pm Town Hall
- 5th **Railway Club** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p31
- 6th **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30–11.30 for Crisis at Christmas
- u3a** 2.30 Town Hall - see p30
- 7th **People, Planet, Pint** 6-9pm Blue Boar - see p12
- 9th **North Cots Chamber Choir Peaceful was the Night** 4pm in Hook Norton - see p25
- 10th **Human Rights Flag raised** 9.45am - see p32
- Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4 Methodist Church
- 11th **Methodist Crafty Cuppa & Chat** 10am - see p9
- Local History Society** 2pm Methodist Hall - see p29
- Folk Club** 7.30 - The Chequers, CN see p29
- 13th **The Arts Society Cotswolds** lecture 11am, Warwick Hall in Burford and by Zoom - details p25
- Horticultural Assoc** 7.30 Methodist Church - see p32
- 15th **Lawrence Team Carols & Candles of Remembrance** 7pm Methodist church - see p16
- 17th **CN Choral Soc Christmas Music singing day** - see p25
- 21st **Chequers Music Session** (Goddards Lane) 8pm see p30

January (No Chipping Norton News)

- 1st **Chippy News planning meeting** details 01608 643219
 - 3rd **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30–11.30 for The Albion Centre
 - 6-7 **TCN Doorstep Giveaway** - see p10
 - 7th **Ramblers** meet 1.30pm New St car park - see p30
 - Cuppa, Cake & Chat** 2.30-4 Methodist Church
 - 8th **Methodist Crafty Cuppa & Chat** 10am - see p9
 - 11th **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall - AGM & review of 2023 see p32 - call Val on 01608 645436 for details
 - 12th **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE** - see below
 - 16th **CN Probus** 11am Crown & Cushion see p29
 - 18th **Chequers Music Session** (Goddards Lane) 8pm - see p30
 - 22nd **Town Council Community Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
 - 29th **Town Council Strategic Planning Cttee** 6.30 Town Hall
- FEBRUARY CHIPPY NEWS** comes out



Quiz Answers

Back page Xmas Wordsearch answers
 Lido Pudding Panto Diddly Squat Reindeer Turkey Topside
 Swifts Fairytale Farm Spouts Glyme Minceples The Fox
 Bliss Mill Blue Boar Baubles Santa St Marys

Back page Quiz answers
 1 Dasher, Dancer, Vixen, Comet, Prancer, Cupid, Donner,
 Blitzen, 2 Nine ladies dancing, 3 Penguins South Pole, Polar
 Bears North Pole, 4 Coal, 5 Myra in Turkey, 6 Hay and
 sugar for his horse, 7 Tinsel, 8 Christmas is All Around by
 Billy Mac, 9 Oliver Cromwell, 10 Ebenezer



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