2013: In The News

Chipping Norton hit the national media at the end of 2012. Now it’s welcome to a New Year with a big list of likely news stories & plans for 2013.

Hitting national media
December saw the Heythrop Hunt and a new Chipping Norton Yacht Club hit the national press, and the Prime Minister with the Panto cast pictured everywhere, even in Private Eye (Oh yes it was!). Radio 4’s Mark Steel’s in Town saw a topical comedy show recorded at The Theatre – all about Chipping Norton and its stroppy history (and of course the notorious Set – who aren’t really Chippy at all ....)

Festivals for all
After last year’s successful debut, the Literary Festival should attract even more visitors in April. The lively Chipping Norton Music Festival (March), Artweeks (May), Town Festival (June), Jazz (September) and Autumn TCN Fair will all be here again, and The Theatre has just launched a lively Spring programme including a major in-house Tennessee Williams production to follow a record-breaking 40th pantomime which attracted an audience of over 16,000.

What next?
The future of the Town will get some important attention in 2013, with the publication of the Neighbourhood Plan, the building of the Co-op extension, new GP surgeries, and maybe a new major recycling centre. There could be some more publicity to market the Town Centre, big plans to develop the old Hospital, Ambulance and Penhurst sites – and, no doubt, more about the Chipping Norton Set (for good or ill).

Stephen bids farewell

Canon Stephen Weston leaves St Mary’s Church for Devon after 17 years serving Chipping Norton. Tributes from the Town on Page 2.

Readers can find much more on these stories in this February News edition (or, as pointed out on Radio 4 – in our very own ‘CNN’).

News in this issue
New GP surgeries go ahead
Angry councillors in tip row
Tribute to a Postie ~ An aviator 100 years ago ~ Transforming The Bell
Plus all the usual arts, sports, clubs, schools and letters
Au revoir to Stephen Weston

January saw Canon Stephen Weston, vicar of St Mary's Church in Chipping Norton for the past 17 years, end his happy ministry here. He is moving with his wife Cathy and four children to be the first Team Rector of the newly-formed Otter Vale Mission Community, at Ottery St Mary, 10 miles east of Exeter, and six miles from Sidmouth. Last month saw many farewell occasions and tributes, from the Town, the Church community and friends.

Years of ministry and friendship

Stephen trained at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and took over from Rev Tom Curtis in Chipping Norton in 1996 after working previously in a group of rural parishes in the Newport Pagnell Deanery. Cllr Rob Evans, who was Mayor at the time recalls telling Stephen, ‘Chippy can be a stroppy place if you don’t get it right’. Rob paid tribute to Stephen’s loyalty and service to the Town and passed on all his best wishes for the future.

A busy ministry in a rural market town has meant full six-day weeks with up to five services on Sundays, work with schools, hospitals, clubs and civic duties but above all personal work with individuals and families throughout the community. In ‘A day in the Life’ for The News back in 2001 Stephen described his amazing busy and varied week and some of the frustrations of working from home, the interruptions on family life, and of collapsing at home in the evening (or even in The Chequers) but he added, ‘I wouldn’t change jobs for the world.’ He recently told The News, ‘We have had so many happy years here in Chipping Norton and will have many, many happy memories of lovely people and community events to take with us. We are deeply grateful to you all for putting up with us for so long!’

Town pays tribute

Over 100 people from the Town were in the Town Hall on 4 January to hear Mayor Martin Jarratt pay tribute to Stephen and Cathy – presenting flowers and framed prints of Chipping Norton which will be proudly displayed in their new house in Devon. Martin praised Stephen’s work with the community, on the Hospital campaign, and with schools, sports and working together with all the churches. He said, ‘Ottery St Mary’s gain will be our loss’. Stephen thanked everyone for their best wishes and was humbled by their warmth and kind thoughts. He welcomed all to visit them in Devon.

Thanks from St Mary’s

Jo Graves, from the Parochial Church Council and a long-time member at St Mary’s wrote, ‘We have been blessed to have Stephen and his family as residents of Chipping Norton during the past 17 years. As a church it has been wonderful to have a young family growing up in the Vicarage, each, in their own way, contributing to our Church. Stephen is very much a people person and his warm, welcoming and inclusive personality has enabled St Mary’s Church to grow and develop in many ways. Stephen is a brilliant preacher and a good communicator and he has introduced many people to Church through the Alpha Courses, through Lent Supper talks, through House Groups and prayer groups. Stephen’s strong sense of community has meant that he has taken St Mary’s Church “up the hill” to the Town – encouraging carol services in the pubs and enabling different styles of worship within the Church. Our Sunday at Seven café-style service has proved to be very popular. Stephen showed a positive response to any changes whilst always maintaining a strong, spiritual and sacred centre in our worship. He has put his musical ability to good use and as “Steve the Slide” with the Folk, Gospel and Blues group he has become quite a personality on the Chipping Norton music front, and has also enlivened our worship. We have seen our Churches Together in Chipping Norton encouraged by Stephen’s involvement. I know that there are very many people of all ages who will hold a particular memory of Stephen – whether it was leading assemblies in St Mary’s School, officiating at a baptism, a wedding, a funeral or simply home visiting – Stephen is a minister who cares, an encourager and above all a man of deep faith and prayer.’

H What’s Happening@ THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON a Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5PT

LIVE:
- Tues 29 Jan, 7.45pm
- Fri 1 Feb, 1.30pm
- Sat 2 Feb, 11.30am
- Fri 1 Feb, 7.45pm
- Thur 7 & Fri 8 Feb, 7.45pm
- Sat 9 Feb, 11am & 2.30pm
- Sat 9 Feb, 7.45pm
- Wed 13 Feb, 11.30am
- Wed 13 Feb, 2.30pm
- Thur 14 Feb, 7.45pm
- Wed 20 Feb, 7.45pm
- Thur 21 Feb, 7.45pm
- Thur 21 Feb, 7.45pm
- Thur 21 Feb, 7.45pm
- Fri 1 Mar, 7.45pm
- Sat 2 Mar, 7.45pm

PHILIP PICKETT & CARLOS NUMEZ £16, £13
- WHY THE LION DANCED (for ages 5+ years) £8.50
- WHY THE LION DANCED (for ages 5+ years) £8.50
- JO CAULFIELD £16, £13
- PREVIEWS OF THE CABINET OF DR CALIGARI (post show discussion Fri) £13, £11, £8.50
- SCHOOLS HOW TO CATCH A STAR (for ages 6+ years) £8.50
- NOT THE ROLLING STONES £15, £13
- MY BIG LITTLE SISTER (for ages 4+ years) £8.50
- MY BIG LITTLE SISTER (for ages 4+ years) £8.50
- COTSWOLD COMEDY CLUB DAMIEN CLARK & GUESTS (ages 14+ years) £10
- MARK THOMAS - BRAVO FIGARO £15, £13
- AN AUDIENCE WITH THE DUKE OF HANOVER £13, £11
- FLEETWOOD BAC £15, £13
- STAND-UP COMEDY: LEE HURST £15 (ages 14+ years)
- JUAN MARTIN FLAMENCO DANCE ENSEMBLE £15, £13

FILM:
- Sat 2 Feb, 7.45pm
- THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (12A) 2D
- Sun 3, Tues 5 & Wed 6 Feb, 7.30pm
- LIFE OF PI (PG) 2D
- Sun 10 & Tues 12 Feb, 7.30pm
- MIDNIGHT’S CHILDREN (12a) Friends 2 for 1
- Fri 16, Sun 17 & Tues 19 Feb, 7.30pm
- QUARTET (12A)
- Fri 22, Wed 27 & Thur 28 Feb, 7.30pm
- LES MISERABLES (12A)

GALLERY:
- Thur 31 Jan-Mon 11 Feb
- COTSWOLD - AN EXHIBITION BY RUPERT AKER
- TUES 12 FEB - MON 4 MARCH
- DOROTHY MAY

TAKE PART:
- BABIES & TODDLERS: THE ORANGE HAT, CINEMA BAMBINO
- YOUNG PEOPLE: SATURDAY DRAMA, YOUTH MUSICAL THEATRE & YOUTH THEATRE
- ADULTS: CREATIVE WRITING, ADULT DRAMA GROUP, DANCE 50+, UNLOCKING YOUR CREATIVITY

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www.chippingnortontheatre.com
Record crowds at Hunt
On 17 December the Heythrop Hunt, its former Master Richard Sumner and Huntsman Julian Barnfield pleaded guilty to four separate counts of unlawfully hunting with dogs. They were fined a total of £6,800 after pleading guilty at Oxford Magistrates Court and also ordered to pay costs. The RSPCA said that this was a landmark case as it was the first time a hunt had faced corporate charges. This ruling, however, did not deter the crowds who came to see the hunt gather for the traditional Boxing Day meet outside the Fox Hotel in Chipping Norton. A Christmas visitor to Chippy, James Beere, sent the News some pictures from Boxing Day and said, ‘The crowd was impressive. Easily a couple of thousand people in the square. Good to see the pub handing out port (or possibly sloe gin?) and mince pies as well. Hunt members were very friendly and happy to talk to the crowd and let them get close to the horses and dogs. No sign of aggro or protesters, which was nice. It was a very nice spectacle proving that the hunt crosses and includes all sections of society and the community rather than being the aristocrats’ sport that many see it as.’ The field and followers then enjoyed the day despite the continuing wet conditions.

Selecting the next Mayor
A new ‘Mayoral Selection Committee’ was finally selected by Chipping Norton Town Council at their December meeting after protracted debates over several months. A small group of ‘previous mayors’ will now be joined by Cllrs Sue Bartholomew and David Heyes to agree a nomination for Mayor and Deputy for the 2013/14 mayoral term. This will then be put to the whole Council for approval, probably in March.

Baby elephants hit panto
Another highly successful pantomime season has just finished at Chipping Norton Theatre with critical acclaim from both local and national press. Matt Dicks in The Stage wrote, ‘A mixture of likable performances and new ideas made Cinderella energetic, inventive fun. This year’s Pantomime was a triumphant production for a significant anniversary’. The Telegraph gave a 4-star rating to the production. The 40th panto anniversary show wowed audiences from far and wide, including one family from New York who joined the other 16,000 plus ‘punters’ during the 80 or so shows. Oh, and don’t forget an annual visit by MP David Cameron and his family which of course got a picture of the PM (see above) and cast into both the national press and Private Eye! The equivalent of two-and-a-half baby elephants in sweets – 640lbs – were thrown during the seven weeks of performances. An auction in January of ‘Cinderella Memorabilia’ raised over a thousand pounds for Theatre funds.

Another memorable year at The Theatre is predicted for 2013. The latest brochure promises good theatre, music, comedy and films, not to mention the big names lined up for the Literary Festival in April (see Arts Page). February brings another night of top-notch comedy talent from the much loved Cotswold Comedy Club which should banish those winter blues. Following on from his expert direction of last year’s in-house production, Director John Terry brings us Tennessee Williams’ timeless masterpiece The Glass Menagerie in March. In April we find both Lynne Truss and Shappi Khorsandi strutting their stuff on the boards of our lovely theatre – evidence indeed that Chippy Theatre is alive and well and attracting high-calibre artists. Three cheers for our local gem!

New houses at Manor House
After previous objections Town Councillors looked, in December, at a new, revised proposal to build four new houses in the grounds of the Manor House in Chipping Norton’s West Street. The new proposals have reduced the size and scope of the buildings and, according to Cllr Alex Corfield, the scheme is more appropriate than the previously submitted design. Councillors still have concerns about flooding in the area and also about access to the property at the busy roundabout in West Street. It was also suggested that a listed wall had been pulled down during some initial site
clearance. All these points are being put to West Oxfordshire for their next planning meeting.

New clock for Hospital

Chipping Norton Royal British Legion has donated a new clock to the Town’s War memorial Hospital Outpatient Department. This was prompted by Malcolm Holland, local Royal British Legion committee member and Standard Bearer, who was in the outpatient waiting room when he noticed there was no clock. After a suggestion to his fellow members, the Legion commissioned one from the Old Map and Clock Company in Penzance, to donate as a ‘thank you’ to the hospital staff for the service they provide to the community. The 16-inch diameter station clock, displaying the Legion’s badge and the inscription ‘donated by the Chipping Norton Branch of the Royal British Legion’, was presented to Sandra Allen, Unit Manager of the Hospital, and Jane Gridley, Hospital Site Administrator, by Trevor Hodkinson, on behalf of the RBL Branch President. Mayor Cllr Martin Jarratt, and members of the CN Royal British Legion, including Branch Chairman Alec Shepherd and Dr Bruce Parker, also attended the presentation.

Mike Howes, CN RBL member, spoke about how the sale of the CN RBL club building and interest from the proceeds could allow the Legion to donate the clock and fund future community projects in Chipping Norton. The Legion’s Steve Kingsford thanked Jane Gridley and all the staff for their warm hospitality and said, ‘As a branch we are looking to forge closer ties with the local community, especially schools and young people’s organisations. If you are interested in joining us please contact our secretary Mike Dixon on 643755, e-mail dixon.1michael@sky.com’. For more details see http://www.chippingnortonbritishlegion.com.

Southerndown Care Home

Southerndown Care Home in Chipping Norton had a further inspection from the Care Quality Commission in November and the home is continuing to work on areas for improvement highlighted by the CQC in this and two other inspections over the previous 16 months. In November the Home met the necessary standards of care in treatment and support for people’s needs, and in safety and protection from harm. However, areas needing more work were under the general headings: treating people with respect and involving them in their care; standards of staffing (not enough qualified, skilled and experienced staff); and standards of management (some record-keeping). Barchester Healthcare Homes, which manages Southerndown, were quoted in the Banbury Guardian saying they were working closely with the CQC and had submitted an action plan. Their statement said they wanted to reassure everyone about their commitment and that they put health and wellbeing of residents at the ‘forefront of everything we do’. The inspector’s report can be seen at www.cqc.org.uk.

CNN hits Radio 4

Where would Britain’s top comedians be without the Chippy News? Recent appearances at The Theatre by both Jo Brand and Mark Steel (pictured) drew on the News for inspiration. Jo Brand, for example, was deeply touched by the planned cemetery clean-up, and Mark Steel’s show provided a public airing of several News stories. Recorded in December and broadcast in early January to a national audience on Radio 4’s ‘Mark Steel’s in Town’, the show saw Mark empathising with Chippy’s residents’ disgruntlement with the press fascination with the Chipping Norton Set, swooning at the outrage of early closing times of the Town Hall toilets, and expressing amazement at the Dean Pit closure ... considering who its close neighbours were. The News’s initials: CNN, didn’t pass him by either. Where else would you find a community publication sharing abbreviations with one of America’s largest news empires?

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Public spats over Tip strip

December saw even more public acrimony linked with the proposed West Oxfordshire Recycling tip at Greystones in Chipping Norton. WODC need our own Council to let them use a strip of land for access to the new facility – and Town Councillors say they were asking for £5,000 a year after an initial rent-free period. Simon Hoare, WODC’s Cabinet Member for Finance, went public at a committee meeting and then to the local press. He accused the Town Council of ‘avarice’ saying they wanted ‘hundreds of thousands of pounds’ for use of this strip of land. He claimed this was putting the new tip – which was wanted, he said, by over 95% of the local people – in jeopardy. Town Councillors at their December meeting were incensed by this (to quote one councillor) ‘very unfair public posturing in the press’ by a WODC Cabinet member.

At a crunch summit meeting on 21 December WODC officers proposed a ‘one-off’ payment of £10,000 to buy the land, but Mayor Martin Jarratt was quoted as saying the rent is needed to finance extra snow protection and maintenance of the Town Hall. At their January meeting, Town Councillors agreed not to sell the land and they want WODC to respond to their last offer properly. All this hold-up has triggered a number of letters to the Oxford press. One, from Charlbury’s West Oxfordshire District Councillor Glena Chadwick, asked that WODC and the County Council look at reopening Dean Pit. That was closed a year ago after neighbouring residents said it was in ‘an inappropriate place’, and the County and District gave various conflicting stories about exactly what justified the closure.

Snow action please!

With snow hitting town in January, Chipping Norton Town Council’s Snow Plan went into action with volunteers and machines out clearing. Everyone is urged:

- Please use grit from roadside bins sparingly – or provide your own – supplies are running out
- Please clear paths in front of your house
- Please can shops clear the paths outside their premises – you could be liable if you don’t!

Use your First Aid Unit!

The News heard this month from one very grateful Chippy resident who had to use the evening/weekend First Aid Unit stationed up at Chipping Norton Hospital. ‘We are so lucky to have an out-of-hours First Aid Unit in Chipping Norton. My family was a bit accident-prone over Christmas and twice we were treated there over the Bank Holiday period, once with antibiotics and once with sutures on a deep cut. The alternative would have involved travelling to the Witney or Banbury A&E Department (not practical with a bleeding hand) and possibly a long wait whilst staff dealt with more critical emergencies. I cannot praise the prompt, knowledgeable and friendly service enough. I hope that if local people incur minor injuries when the surgeries are closed, they do use this local facility. When its future comes up for review in 12 months’ time, it needs to be seen to be paying its way.’ The Unit is open Monday to Friday from 5pm-9pm and on weekends and Bank Holidays from 10am-9pm. It is staffed by an Emergency Care Practitioner (ECP) from the local ambulance service, who can assess and treat simple injuries and minor illness which cannot be treated at home with a first aid kit.

Town’s AmnesTree

On 9 December a new oak tree was planted on the Recreation Ground of the Common. It has been given to the Town by the Chipping Norton group of Amnesty International to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the United Nations on 10 December 1948. During the informal ceremony the 30 articles of the Declaration were read out by members with an audience braving the December showers.

People commented how the Articles are still relevant today. A rainbow appeared as Mayor Martin Jarratt planted the tree then all retired to the Town Hall for warm drinks and cakes. The Amnesty group wish to thank the owners of Southerndown Care Home, Barchester Healthcare, for paying for the timber palisade to protect the growing tree and the Albion Centre members who made and assembled it with such care. Joyce Taylor, Southerndown’s Activities Coordinator was there for the ceremony and is pictured with the Mayor and Peter Burns, the Group member whose idea it was to plant the tree. Everyone hopes the tree will flourish
and bring pleasure and protection to those who use the Recreation Area for centuries to come.

**Prayer-room plan**

Chipping Norton’s small Muslim community currently book time for prayers each week in the ground floor of the Town Hall. Now the group hope to have a more suitable permanent location and have submitted a planning application to enable them to use an empty office up Hitchmans Mews alley off West Street. The 35m² room would accommodate a couple of dozen people. Mr Tahirul Hasan, a Town Councillor who has lived in the Town for 24 years, and runs a local taxi business and the education charity Anonddo, has put in the change-of-use application to use the space for prayer sessions for 5-10 minutes at a time during the day.

The planning application seems to have kicked off some negative reactions, and written objections including a printed anonymous leaflet being posted through West Street residents’ doors entitled ‘No Mosque in Chipping Norton’. However, given the Town’s long history of welcoming many different people to join the community, one resident of West Street reacted strongly against the leaflet and wrote to WODC in support of the proposal saying in their letter, ‘I was most disturbed yesterday to receive this leaflet through my letterbox. Chipping Norton has always been notable as a beacon of religious tolerance – our Quaker Meeting House, Salvation Army Citadel, Kingdom Hall, Baptist and Methodist chapels and Catholic church all witness that this Town has welcomed faith groups seen as divisive or “troublingly other” in their day. I would be appalled, and somewhat ashamed, if this tradition is now to be lost’. St Mary’s Vicar, Revd Stephen Weston was quoted in the *Oxford Times* saying a mosque would fit in with Chipping Norton’s tolerant community.

At their January meeting the Town Council objected to the application on grounds of ‘loss of retail opportunity’, health and safety, and disturbance to neighbours. The application now goes to WODC for their decision.

**Shop window winner**

The December Late Night Shopping seems an age ago but the great effort and imagination that many premises put into decorating their windows should not go unsung. Proud winners were Four Shires Leather & Shoes, runners up were The Fibreworks, and in third place the Crown & Cushion Hotel. Jo Harper of the Four Shires Leather & Shoes said they were, ‘thrilled to have been awarded first prize’. Thanks are due to this year’s competition organisers James Kitcher of Cotswold Lettings and Polly Jaffé of Jaffé & Neale Bookshop & Café. More input into this competition would be very welcome. Please contact Polly or James if you think you could help with the December 2013 competition.

**Flea Market here again**

After their great success before Christmas, the next Chipping Norton Flea Market will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday 16 February from 10am-4pm. The eclectic array of stall holders will be selling Bric-a-brac, Collectables, Antiques and all things Vintage. There will also be a pop-up tea room where you can relax and enjoy tea, coffee, cake or home made soup. For further details or to book a stall, call Victoria on 07967 833979 or contact chippingnortonteas@gmail.com. Organiser Victoria Wills explained, ‘This is our second foray into the world of flea marketing and both I and my friend and colleague Claire Freeman would like to make it a regular quarterly event, therefore attracting serious buyers and sellers alike. We thought with the addition of a small pop-up tea room it would also encourage the browsers who may not otherwise come’.

**Problems at Vernon House?**

The News previously reported delays with the plan by Cottsway Housing to build new flats on the now empty and boarded up Vernon House site. Town Councillor Don Davidson has written to Cottsway about the concerns of nearby residents in Burford Road. With no response by mid-December he then wrote to the Mayor and Town Clerk listing some of the issues: no promised marked residents parking spaces (being used by non-residents) or replacement rotary washing lines; external lighting issues; unsafe uneven surfaces; and the car park being used as a shortcut. Some storage outhouses have been demolished and not replaced so families are having to store outdoor equipment in their flat. At least two of the ground floor flats now look out at grey boards screening the Vernon House site – the residents are wondering how long they are going to have to put up with looking at them. Cllr Davidson has suggested all Town Councillors and our three District Councillors (as well as WODC planning) might all put pressure on Cottsway to improve the conditions. He also suggested a letter to Cottsway asking when they are going to address them. The News will be happy to publish any subsequent response by Cottsway.
Sailing by – Chippy style

Chipping Norton is about as far as it’s possible to be from the sea but a new Yacht Club is being launched here. Trevor Taylor, whose idea it is, said, ‘We have had great interest and despite Chipping Norton’s distance from the sea, lack of moorings, no dinghy park or river frontage there are many local people with a keen interest in boats and sailing. Now, there will be a local yacht club for everyone nearby in the Cotswolds where those interested in boating can meet without having to embark on a two-hour journey to the Solent or longer to east or west coast ports’. The Chipping Norton Yacht Club (CNYC) will provide an opportunity for the Cotswold sailing community to get together, share experiences, hear interesting speakers, find crew, enjoy social meetings and indulge in general ‘scuttlebutt’ at the bar.

Trevor Taylor proving he can find his way to the sea – aboard his yacht ‘Breeze’

Acting Club Commodore Taylor, says, ‘The club welcomes everyone interested in boats, large or small, power as well as sail, and not just those who own a boat but just love the sea’. The newly formed Yacht Club is meeting for the first time on Wednesday 30 January at Chipping Norton Golf Club with a special inaugural dinner following a short welcome and introduction (booking essential). The next club meeting will again be at the Golf Club, on Wednesday 27 February. The guest speaker will be Chris Jeckells, MD of Jeckells Sails Ltd, talking a little about the company’s history (founded in 1882) and how to get the best from a suit of sails. Anyone interested in joining Britain’s newest yacht club or to find out about the meetings please visit www.cnyc.co.uk, email yachtbreeze@gmail.com or phone Trevor Taylor on 810167.

Go-ahead for GP surgeries

West Oxfordshire Council have granted planning permission for the building of the new £3m GP surgery centre in Chipping Norton up the London Road behind the new care home and hospital. The facility will have 18 consulting rooms, 16 clinical rooms and a pharmacy. Both West Street and White House practices are going to move to the new site, most likely early in 2014.

Another major national change in the running of the NHS should see the old ‘PCT’ hand over in April the job of commissioning £650m of local hospital and community health services to the new GP-led ‘Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group’. Our local OCG was in December given the green light by the NHS nationally, to go ahead now that they have their organisation and governance arrangements set up. A small number of items are outstanding but Dr Stephen Richards, the GP leading the OCG, said he was confident things will be in place. Chipping Norton’s GPs are part of the consortium and, as such, will share the responsibility for deciding which services the NHS will fund for Chipping Norton patients, and for using the budget in the best interest of all patients and the public.

Tickittyboo opens in March

Chippy resident Julia Cook has been a childrenswear designer for 17 years and was presented with Small Exporter of the Year at the UK Fashion Export Awards in 2006 and 2007 by none other than Princess Anne (see photo left)! At that time her factory had sales across the globe but the extreme hours and lack of time outside of work forced a rethink, and a quieter life in Chippy beckoned (who can blame her?!). She is now setting her sights on a new venture: her own kidswear boutique on Middle Row with a special preview evening on Friday 1 March where bubbly will be on tap for early birds. Julia plans to stock her own individual Tickittyboo range alongside other carefully selected brands and hopes to provide something to suit every taste, from babies to age eight or nine. Julia says, ‘Chippy residents and shopkeepers have given me great support and feedback and I look forward to the shop having a real wow factor when it opens’. Good luck Julia!

BEM for Churchill man

Seventy-six-year-old Roger Shorter has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year’s Honours list for services to the community. Roger recently stepped down after nearly 30 years’ service on Churchill and Sarsden Parish Council and is still involved in the Vintage and Classic Car Show.
Help clear up Cemetery

The next Chipping Norton cemetery clear-up day will be Saturday 23 March, starting at 10am. Meet at the cemetery. All volunteer helpers are welcome on this effort organised by the Town Council Cemetery Committee.

Grind & Dine

A new sandwich and coffee bar, Grind & Dine, is in Chipping Norton, at 9 Market Place (where Frankie Doodle used to be). Sadie Fletcher, the proprietor, said, ‘This is a new venture for me; I’ve had lots of experience with mobile catering at events, but this is the first time I’ve opened a shop’. Grind & Dine promises an exciting selection of fillings for sandwiches, baguettes and wraps plus a tempting selection of home-made savouries and delicious cakes. Sadie said ‘We’re delighted to have people call in during the day, but we are also aiming the business at people who need a lunchtime sandwich, those working in Chippy’s industrial estates, the Leisure Centre or schools, who don’t have time to pop out. If they phone us on 07906 897595 before 11.30am we’ll deliver to them’. Call in to pick up a menu and price list.

Neighbourhood Plan progress

Progress on the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan might be set to take a step forward. The Steering Group was due to meet on 22 January to ‘sign off’, for release to the public, the State of the Town Report produced by the Royal Town Planning Institute. This embodies: findings of the survey responses received by the Town Council; work of the three Task Groups, led by local people, which met last spring; and the Focus Groups’ Workshops, facilitated by Concordia Consultants, which met last autumn. The Report paints a picture of the Town, looks at various scenarios and what local people consider important, all of which will feed into the Neighbourhood Plan. Also on the agenda for discussion was the Focus Groups’ Workshops, facilitated by Concordia Consultants, which met last autumn. The Report paints a picture of the Town, looks at various scenarios and what local people consider important, all of which will feed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

Red Cross volunteers needed

The local team from the British Red Cross are looking for volunteers from Chipping Norton to join the dedicated network of helpers supporting the work and helping with fundraising here, in Banbury and in the surrounding villages. The British Red Cross are active across Oxfordshire helping people in crisis and arranging welfare provision for vulnerable people. They offer care in the home following a stay in hospital, loan medical equipment such as a commode or walking frame to increase independence, and respond alongside the emergency services to local fires and flooding. They need help managing collection boxes in local shops and businesses, and are also looking for willing helpers for their National Week of fundraising in May. If you are interested please call Cheryl on 01235 552680 or email chtree@redcross.org.uk.

Zumbathon!

Why not go along and enjoy a Zumbathon and help raise funds for the Lawrence Home Nursing Team? Turn up on Friday 15 February at Chipping Norton Town Hall, 6pm to 8pm, £8 on the door or contact Carole Phillips on 684472. There will be a £1 raffle. Enjoy a fun, energy filled evening in aid of a very worthy cause. Carole says they are lucky to have two of the very best instructors for this event: Tracey Walton and Natalie Clarke from Cotswold Fitness. So put this date in your diary. Male and female all are very welcome. Or just come and watch – you may well get hooked.

Maternity report due

Chipping Norton’s Maternity Unit has been closed (to births) for three months after staffing and management issues. The Unit had also seen a reduction in mothers using the unit – a high proportion had been referred on to the main hospitals. The Unit is managed by the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (which includes the John Radcliffe Hospital) who are carrying out a review. Local mothers and councillors had insisted on some independent input and a proper review of recent history. Keith Ruddle, a member of Oxfordshire’s Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), gave this update: ‘In December our Chair met Sir Jonathan Michael (CEO of the OUHT) and his directors leading the review. He was told independent involvement will include the Joint Commissioner for Women and Children’s Services (OCC/PCT) and the Maternity Services Liaison Committee.

8
The review will cover the last four years, evaluate 50 cases per year, and look at reasons why mothers were transferred on and did not use the unit. Supervisors from South Oxfordshire with no prior involvement will conduct the review. The Chipping Norton service teams will receive questionnaires and be interviewed, with an independent observer offered. Early indications are that people questioned are being very honest about the service. Results will be anonymised. Meetings also took place on 15 and 16 January allowing the public to feed back views on their experience of the service. The OUHT expected to have a draft report internally by the end of January and have been asked to report back to HOSC at our 21 February public meeting (starting at 10am at County Hall).’

Future of Greystones in doubt

The future of Greystones House, off Burford Road, remains uncertain following the decision by WODC Uplands Planning Committee on 7 January to refuse a planning application to convert it to three office suites with a caretaker’s flat. The building, originally a fine house, was used as the offices of the Rural District Council until 1974 when the administration moved to Witney, and the building was transferred to the ownership of the Town Council. It then accommodated the rugby club and other community uses, but afterwards lay vacant whilst the Town Council struggled to find a viable and acceptable use for it.

The new owner, based in Ardley, submitted plans to restore the building and convert it to three self-contained office suites with a one-bedroomed caretaker’s flat. However, the housing element fell foul of West Oxfordshire’s policy of not permitting new dwellings in open countryside where there is no agricultural or operational need. The Council also considered that unacceptable levels of noise and disturbance would be caused by the household recycling centre they had recently permitted nearby. The owner explained that, on account of the history of vandalism and theft on the site, it was considered that a caretaker’s flat would help keep the building and office equipment secure. This use was specifically supported by the Town Council in its observations on the application.

The agent for the new owner told The News, ‘My client is a skilled joiner. He bought the house because it is a fine building and has already started restoring it. It was in a terrible state, with wiring, etc stripped out having been vandalised whilst it had stood empty for so many years. We had been advised by the Planning Officer that the Council wouldn’t support the caretaker’s flat but we were hoping the Planning Committee would run with us. Many Councillors spoke in favour, but the vote didn’t go our way. Obviously we are disappointed. The Council has asked us to provide justification and costs for the caretaker’s flat. We are going to review the situation and are hopeful that we will be successful next time’. With the District Council’s proposed recycling centre at Greystones being delayed by discussions between the District and Town Council over the value of a strip of land required for access, the location seems to be a focus for inter-authority disputes!

Special TCN open meeting

Would you like to make a difference to the future of Chipping Norton? Transition Chipping Norton (TCN) are holding a special event on Thursday 21 February at 7.30pm at the Methodist Hall. Richard Averill told The News that at the event you can see for yourself why we are optimistic that local communities can become better prepared for the future and how your energy and ideas can make a difference. TCN, like most people in the world today, are increasingly concerned with the way things are going. The economy is still in a mess following the crash of 2008 and food and energy prices are racing upwards. The weather has gone haywire everywhere. Extremes of hot and cold, wet and dry suddenly seem normal. Governments appear powerless to deal with any of these problems, or to act together. We believe we know what needs to be done to address this mess and the place to start is in local communities. TCN is part of a movement which started in England and rapidly spread across the world, to help increase local prosperity and resilience. TCN has been active in and around Chippy, promoting energy efficiency and generation, local ultra-high speed broadband, creating a community orchard and holding two Autumn Fairs. There is much more we could do with your help. At the event on Thursday 21 February you will be able to see some videos, join in discussion, enjoy a glass of wine and chat to TCN members.
A hairdressing marriage

Over The Top, which has been trading as a gents’ hairdressers in West Street for 23 years, was joined late last year by Bartholomew’s ladies salon, as reported in our December issue. Husband and wife team Richard and Sue now plan to combine their salons fully to offer a complete service in one family-run business. Richard’s long serving barber’s team (Alice has been with him for 18 years and Paul for over 4 years) are integrating with Sue’s newly established team of local stylists Wendy and Nikki under the name Bartholomew’s. Richard explains: ‘We have been pleased to welcome our new ladies’ stylists and, since we have the skills to cut both men’s and ladies’ hair, it makes sense to combine operations. We have easy access to ground floor premises and offer both an appointment and walk-in service.’ The salon is open Tuesday to Friday, Saturday mornings, late night on Thursday and the barber’s side is also open on Mondays. For appointments call 642606 (ladies) and 644600 (gents).

Rotary Club’s gift to Library

The Chipping Norton Rotary Club has very kindly brought and donated a fantastic piece of equipment that allows those with visual impairments to read books and documents. The aid is available for anyone wishing to use it whenever the Library is open. The Library would like to thank the Rotary Club for providing such a valuable piece of equipment and hope that anyone who may need help with their reading will come along and try it out!

Laura Jones, Chipping Norton Library Manager

January Lido lottery results

1st prize (£111): B C Herbert, 2nd prize (£66.60): Mrs R H Leonard, 3rd prize (£44.40): Mrs C Hodsdon. The lottery is open to anyone over the age of 18 years. Tickets cost £3 each per month. Visit www.chippylido.co.uk for an application form.

Park Pooches are back!

For the second consecutive year ‘Pooches in the Park’ will be taking place at Cornbury Park on Sunday 24 March. Bring your friends and your pooches to come enjoy the beautiful grounds of Cornbury Park, Charlbury. Participants can choose from a one mile or five mile walk around the grounds to raise money for the local children’s hospice, Helen & Douglas House. It only costs £7 per pooch to sign up and enjoy a great family day out. There will be numerous stalls for your pooch and for you owners, including: food and drink, doggie stalls and dog agility entertainment. Sign up now through: www.helenanddouglas.org.uk

Owen Mumford’s solar power

As part of the new build development at the Owen Mumford site, Chippy’s largest employer, has installed 120 x 250W solar panels on one of their roofs. The work was carried out by local firm ecosunpower and was completed in under a week. The solar panels were installed to help reduce the high electricity bills at the site in preparation for the price rises last December when the main energy companies announced an increase of at least 10%. Prospective household users of solar lost some of the Government incentives recently but it appears that commercial properties are still benefiting greatly from solar energy whilst improving their commitment to green policies and the environment.

St Mary's Church marches on

Whilst we are saying good bye to Canon Stephen Weston and his family and wish them well in Ottery St Mary, life at St Mary’s Church, Chipping Norton, goes on!!! I understand that some people are wondering what will happen ‘without a vicar’. Our Church will still be very much ‘alive and kicking and open for business’ in the months ahead as we prepare for our new incumbent. There is a full programme of services planned for the Sundays to come – with Thursday weekly communion planned as usual. Services will be taken by visiting clergy and lay members of the church. There is a full
programme of Easter services envisaged preceded by a course of Lent Suppers. This will be an exciting time for our church as we pull together to welcome our new Vicar.

Jo Graves, Lay Chair, St Mary’s Parochial Church Council

West Oxon sports awards

Any outstanding sports people in Chipping Norton? West Oxfordshire residents are being encouraged to nominate who they think should be awarded Sports Coach of the Year, Sports Club of the Year and Unsung Hero. The 2013 awards recognise the contribution and commitment of individuals and the achievements of clubs across the District. The Coach of the Year award recognises an individual who has made a significant impact through coaching, by giving up time to develop and help others within their club or community. Jeremy Bristoe of Witney Wolves, Witney Rugby Football Club was awarded the 2012 Coach of the Year. The Unsung Hero award recognises an individual who has made a significant impact within their club or community. This could range from hosting matches and ground maintenance to securing club funding. Paul Duester of Chadlington Sports Club was the 2012 Unsung Hero. Eynsham Roadrunners gained the 2012 Sports Club of the Year award, which recognises the achievements of a club that is committed to its members, local community and sport. Nominations close on 20 February 2013 and forms can be found at www.westoxon.gov.uk/coachclubawards or by contacting Leisure and Tourism on 01993 861080.

Julia’s Positive Reflexions

Another new business has opened its doors in Chippy, this one run by long-time Chippy resident Julia Medhurst. The business represents a real change for Julia who was at Chippy School before building up her career in accountancy with a local partnership. Now she’s set up as a reflexologist under the name Positive Reflexions. Julia had always had an interest in complementary therapy and had used reflexology for stress relief and in conjunction with spinal problems in the past. She actually started doing the training more to find out about reflexology than setting up on her own. ‘But I found I enjoyed treating people,’ she said ‘and I wanted to pass it on to other people.’ Julia has now set up a treatment room at her home in The Leys and can treat people in their own homes too. ‘It fits in with the Government pushing healthy lifestyles and people taking charge of their own health,’ said Julia. ‘It really helps to stop problems happening in the first place.’

Very West End Christmas

Local charity Emma’s Trust held two sell-out concerts in December at the Town Hall with a number of West End musical singers and dancers coming especially to Chipping Norton. It was according to one punter, ‘A totally awesome show!’ raising around £6000 for the Trust that gives financial support to young people interested in sports and performing arts and also Macmillan Cancer Support. One impressed audience member was inspired to express his enthusiasm in verse:

West End Christmas

The ‘West End’ it came to Chippy
And what a show it was
The Town Hall was the venue
Filled with an ‘Opening night’ buzz
There were stars from London’s West End
Singing songs from many a show
From Oliver, Matilda, Blood Brothers
Hairspray, Fame and Chicago
Other shows were also included
A repertoire that was terrific to hear
The voices with power and passion
Sending shivers and raising a tear
‘Jodie’s all stars’ I think I shall call them
She asked her friends if they’d like to take part
They agreed to sing for the charities
That are closest to Jodie’s heart
If they do it next year don’t miss it
It’s got to be a seasonal must
Not only for the music you hear
But for Cancer and of course Emma’s Trust

Andy Thomson

Screen by the Green

The film Hope Springs will be shown on Saturday 9 February at 7.30pm at Churchill and Sarsden Village Hall. Nominated for a Golden Globe, starring Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones and Steve Carell this is a funny, entertaining and moving comedy drama about a couple who have been married for 31 years and are in a rut. Tickets £4.50 on the door. Further info & booking 659903/churchillmovies@btinternet.com
LOCAL NEWS

Wychwood Chorale success

In spite of the stormy weather on Friday 14 December, there was a good turnout as Chippy families braved the rain to enjoy the Christmas music given by the highly talented Wychwood Chorale, under their conductor David Crown. The programme was varied and ranged from traditional to modern settings of familiar words. It was all so good that it is difficult to pick out any particular item but a spirited rendering of ‘Jingle Bells’ was enjoyed by both singers and listeners. Then the audience was split into four sections, each supported by groups of the choir to keep them on track, and were guided by the energetic conductor through a four-part canon of ‘Hodie Christus Natus Est’. The concert ended with everyone singing ‘Hark the Herald Angels Sing’ at full volume. After the concert there were seasonal goodies to eat and drink and Christmas favours for the children, the most popular of these being the felt mice with small candy canes attached and paper chain-stringing for the tinies. The concert was given in aid of the Friends of St Mary’s Church fabric and the Sobell House Hospice. The audience responded with typical generosity and £448 was raised, half going to each charity.

Geoff Bayley

Highlands help and advice

Need some things to do in the New Year? For older people Chatterbox coffee mornings are held from 10am–12pm every Thursday in the Lower Town Hall. All welcome with tea and cake for £1. Beginners’ computer classes are on Thursdays now with new times of 2pm-3pm and 3pm-4pm (£5 a session). For information (and if you can offer help as well!) call Stephen on 07827 235450. Thursday 11 April is Older People’s Day here in Chipping Norton. Please put the date in your diaries as more information will follow in next month’s edition.

Have you recently been bereaved? Late Spring is a support group for people aged 60+ that meets on the first and third Fridays of the month in the front room at Highlands from 10am–12pm. Over coffee and cake you can spend time with others who understand, in a warm, relaxed and friendly setting. Contact Ruth on 07827 235461.

Finally some cold weather advice: keep your living room temperature at 70°F (21°C); keep your bedroom at 65°F (18°C). Keep your bedroom window closed at night and wrap up well! A helpline is available on 0844 8870005.

Ruth Swift

Special year for Methodists

After enjoying Christmas services and activities, we are now looking forward to the New Year. 2013 will see us celebrate the bicentenary of Methodism in the Chipping Norton and Stow on the Wold circuit. The focus will be mission and the community, with events and services at

Like Father Like Son!

An interesting article arrived on the News desk from Chipping Norton resident Paul Burbidge about a special family reunion! Here is his story:

‘My father, Norman Burbidge, was, by all accounts, a bit of a tearaway on his motorcycle in Chippy in the 1930s. He was born in Chippy in 1908, and bought the bike new in 1929 when he was 21. He last taxed it until the end of 1938. Marriage, WWII and children came along and his biking days ceased, but he kept the bike until the 1960s when it was sold to a motorcycle enthusiast and it’s been back on the road again for some years. Recently, the current owner phoned me to say that he’d got it and would I like to see it again. Would I? I last saw it in a shed in Over Norton in the 1960s, covered in dust and cobwebs, but never saw or heard it running. It’s now back how it ought to be – loved, used and it starts first kick. I’ve been riding motorbikes myself for the last 53 years, and I’m still at it, but I had to reluctantly turn down a ride on it as my insurance wouldn’t cover me on it, and I firmly believe in Sod’s Law waiting to trip me up. Maybe another day on private land...

PS: My dad also reckoned he could, and did, drive a sidecar outfit from Over Norton, down through the town centre to Station Road with the sidecar wheel off the ground all the way. It petrified my mother.’

Geoff Bayley
the various chapels culminating in a special celebration on 14 September. Further details will be available later.

Elaine Lugo

From the RAF to vehicle locks

Are you stuck locked out of your car! After serving for fifteen years in the Royal Air Force as a Technical Engineer attaining the rank of Corporal, local man Tjark Andrews, has handed back his uniform and weapons (literally) and has now began a new career as a vehicle locksmith! Tjark, (pronounced ‘charuk’) was born in the Netherlands to a Dutch mother and an English father; his name comes from the northern province of the Netherlands called Friesland, where Fresian cattle originate. He joined the RAF in 1997 and left in 2012, having served all over the world, including in Iraq and Afghanistan. He worked on the Harrier GR7, Chinook Heavy Lift Helicopter and was commended twice in the Queen’s Honours List, something of which he is immensely proud.

Tjark and his wife Hayley now have three children and live in Chadlington, and he decided it was time to find employment closer to home. Not relishing the idea of working for someone else, he searched for a gap in the market where he would be able to use the technical knowledge he had gained through the RAF; choosing a vehicle locksmith as his new venture, serving all the Thames Valley area.

With vehicles becoming more and more electronic, it has become harder for anyone to get a replacement key quickly but now Tjark can have your vehicle back on the road on the same day. With his knowledge and hi-tech laboratory on wheels, he is aiming to be that ‘knight in shining armour’ and come to your rescue when you need him most. Twenty four seven, he is available to get you back on the road. His company name says it all: ‘LMI Automotive Locksmiths’ which stands for ‘Let Me In!’ For full details of the service on offer visit www.lmiautomotivelocksmiths.co.uk or phone 672612 or 07798 557 188.

Katharine House update

Festival of open gardens 2013: Would you like to open your garden to raise money for the hospice – and be featured in the Spring newsletter? Last year’s festival raised £7,852 towards nursing care. Contact Valerie in fundraising on 01295 812161.

Grimethorpe Colliery Band is performing at 7.30pm, Saturday 16 March at St Mary’s Church, Banbury. Tickets are going fast; local businesses can sponsor the concert programme – contact fundraising as above.

2013 Christmas cards! If your business wants to sponsor next Xmas cards contact Valerie.

Volunteers: if you can help with anything at KHH from driving to decorating contact Rachel Wegerhoff on 01295 811866.

Easter Knits filled with a Cadbury’s Creme Egg will soon be appearing. Baskets, bunnies and chicks are the designs for this year. If you’d like a pattern to make some for us to sell call fundraising or download the pattern from the website: www.katharinehouse.co.uk.churchillmovies@btinternet.com.

Tree-mendous Festival

Once again the Chipping Norton and Stow on the Wold Circuit Christmas Tree Festival was a tree-mendous success. We had 63 trees beautifully decorated and four groups that brought their own displays. The favourite tree on Thursday evening and Sunday was ‘We Tree Kings’ designed by Tree Tech. On Friday and Saturday the favourite tree was ‘A Flurry of Snowmen’ designed by Chadlington School. Adding to the atmosphere was some excellent carol singing by CN Operatic Society, Kingham Choral Society and St Mary’s C of E School singing group. Hundreds of people came through the door to get themselves in the mood for Christmas and had a wonderful experience. You really need to see the trees twice

Bartholomew’s Hair

29 West Street, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 5EU
Telephone: 01608 642606

Sue would like to welcome Wendy & Nikki to her new Salon

Easy access ground floor salon
Reduced rates every day for Senior Citizens
Police & crime report

Allotment holders turn vigilante

Burglaries continue at the William Fowler allotments off Glyme Lane. In the summer produce was damaged, dug up and stolen. Then on a single night in late November, five sheds were broken into, with two rotavators, a lawn mower and a wheelbarrow being stolen. Thames Valley Police confirmed that three burglaries and one act of criminal damage were reported, with another remaining unreported, but told The News that no further lines of inquiry have yet come to light to assist in apprehending the culprits.

Although new padlocks had been fitted on the main gates by the Trustees last year, security remained the major concern expressed at the AGM of the William Fowler Trust, which saw new allotment holders voted onto the Committee. Councillor Don Davidson, Chair of the Trustees, says, ‘I feel very sorry for the people who had equipment and, in some cases produce, stolen from their allotments during 2012. The Trustees are currently investigating how to make the allotments more secure. However this will come at a cost and the trustees have to use funds cost effectively. In the meantime we must all remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to both the Police and the Town Clerk. I would also advise that where possible allotment holders should not leave expensive equipment in their sheds.’

The Police agree, advising that valuable items should not be stored at the allotments but that, where this is not practical, allotment holders should keep a note of the serial numbers of their equipment, which can assist in their retrieval should they be stolen. In the meantime, allotment holders are now making regular late night checks in an attempt to deter would be criminals.

Fingerprint tests on the street

Police officers in West Oxfordshire are now equipped with fingerprint scanners, for use at the roadside, to help them combat crime. So if you are looking suspicious in your truck driving through Chipping Norton (perhaps with some rotavators and mowers on it!!) – watch out!

Dangers at Albion Street

Chipping Norton Town Councillors are getting upset about the dangers to pedestrians at the London Road end of Albion Street. A zebra crossing exists across London Road but then to cross Albion Street pedestrians have to negotiate a strange ‘pathway’ that seems to be neither one thing nor another – is it a ‘way’ for pedestrians or not? Councillors claimed at their December meeting that parents with buggies and elderly people are running the gauntlet of busy traffic with no clear rules. Cllr Jo Graves said it was ‘an accident waiting to happen’. Various ideas about better crossings were mentioned. Councillors say they have raised this with Oxfordshire County Council before but as yet there has been no proposed improvement.

Join your Neighbourhood Action Group

Do you care about the quality of life that you, your family and your local community enjoy? If your answer is YES, you may consider joining the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) the current team are pictured above, – which covers the Town and surrounding villages including Charlbury. Every two months, it brings together police officers, the West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership, local town/parish/district councillors, business owners, pub licensees, Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, local housing associations and residents. The group helps identify priorities for police and community safety and gets involved in local action to help.

For more information, please contact Cllr Sarah Wilkes, the member of Chipping Norton Town Council on the NAG on 643525 or at The Blue Boar, Goddards Lane.

Geoff Williams 1945-2012

Chipping Norton is mourning the passing of former Theatre Front of House Manager, co-owner of the Bay Tree café and champion of the small trader, Geoff Williams. Born in Dorchester, Geoff was adopted and grew up in London and Essex. A series of jobs including teaching and an applied Maths degree led to a career in Recruitment and Training. Always very laid back, he was actually a founder member of the Institute of Stress Managers! He moved to Chipping Norton in 1999 and became Front of House Manager at The Theatre. He had always had an interest in theatre and dabbled in am-dram – playing a memorable pantomime Dame – an enthusiasm reflected in his imaginative choice of waistcoats! He met his wife Helen soon after and continued to work at The Theatre when they bought the Bay Tree in 2005. After he retired from The Theatre he became very involved in the SCOOTS campaign to prevent Sainsbury’s building a large edge of town supermarket which he feared would drain the life out of the Town centre. Genial and well liked, Geoff was always keen to encourage others to do the best that they could. A brief illness prevented his enjoying the well deserved retirement he had been anticipating.
The Bell conversion nears completion

The conversion of the former pub, The Bell on West Street, is nearing completion. The Grade II listed building has been restored and converted to two homes and two new houses have been built in the back land. Agents Tayler and Fletcher report that one house is occupied and the remainder are all under offer. The developer, Jervis Homes, is a small family-run firm that has been building in the Cotswolds for 15 years, including the award winning conversion of Home Farm in Over Norton. The company’s web site claims, ‘Every one of our properties is different in character’, and there is certainly no shortage of character in this old pub.

Records held in Chipping Norton Museum document the history of the public house on the site with the earliest record being the application by Nathaniel Clift for a license for the Blue Bell in 1793, but it is certain that the building predates this use.

Jervis Homes allowed local architectural historians, volunteering on behalf of the Oxfordshire Building Record, to undertake a detailed survey of the property whilst it was being renovated. ‘Having access to the building whilst renovations were taking place was the perfect time to inspect and evaluate the original construction and fabric’, says Vicky Hubbard, one of the team and author of the resulting report. ‘The element of the building which fronts the lane was the focus of the report due to the extent of historic fabric discovered during the site visits.’

In the south-west part, with its gable onto West Street, the team discovered:

- An originally symmetrical frontage to the lane, including evidence in the jointing of the stonework of a former central door with a window over and corresponding evidence of a symmetrical floor plan
- Attic floor joists and straight joints in floor boards suggesting that a central stair once rose from the first floor to the attic
- A remarkably long single spine beam running the length of the building that, with the uniformity of a complete roof structure, suggests there was never a central chimney stack so the gable stacks are probably original

In the east part up the lane, where the ground floor had been the former pub kitchen, the team discovered:

- Remains of a timber lintel either side of the existing door suggesting an earlier doorway at a lower level
- Evidence that both the ground floor and first floor ceilings were later insertions, which suggests that this range probably had a non-domestic function originally
- Evidence of stone quoins under the current staircase and remains of a redundant chimney stack above the stairs, which may indicate that a single fireplace served both rooms prior to the insertion of the stairs
- A window in the cellar with ovolo moulding that dates it from the mid C17th century and which appears to have been reused from elsewhere.

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The researchers concluded that the building has a possible construction date of about 1700, has re-used material from earlier buildings, and that the two halves of the premises were constructed separately but probably at more or less the same time and for different functions. The West Street frontage was a later cottage infill, and was then incorporated into the pub some time after 1924.

Henry Jervis told The News, ‘I have always enjoyed historic buildings and the development of The Bell and Bell Yard has been a very interesting project. I feel it is vital to achieve the right balance of alteration, repair and conversion to preserve the essence and character of the buildings whilst ensuring they are sustainable for the future. Although the building would now probably be unrecognisable to its original builders, it has been fascinating to see the way it has evolved over its 300 year history and we can be now be proud of being part of that history.’

Whoever the new owners of The Bell are, they will be sure to inherit an appreciation of the history of their home, thanks to the detailed research undertaken by this group of historic building specialists.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Sue Shepherd – local postie

The subject of this month’s In the Spotlight will be well-known to almost anyone in Chippy and surrounding villages in possession of a letterbox!!

Surprise package for a Postie

One of Chipping Norton’s popular and long serving posties, Sue Shepherd, was given a major surprise before Christmas when she walked into The Fox Hotel to find a packed room full of past and present colleagues from Chipping Norton’s Royal Mail delivery depot. Partner and fellow postman Rick Henderson had helped organise a tribute party for Sue who retired on 27 October through ill health after nearly 23 years delivering mail in the Town and local villages. The gang were persuaded to line up on a wet afternoon on the Town Hall steps for a ceremonial picture by the News, copies of which are now up both in Sue’s home and in the Station Yard office.

Hard work and fun

A News team member went to find out more from Sue at her home in Fox Close. She is a Chippy girl through and through, born, brought up and educated in the Town. She applied for a postie’s job in 1989 in her 20s – then riding the traditional postman’s bike – and never looked back. She did eight years on the Middle Barton round– see picture above – where a video of her was buried in the village’s Millennium time capsule, then latterly 10 years on Town and Great Rollright rounds (over 600 stops and 7 miles each time) – you can see her featured in the town book ‘A Day in the Life’. Sue told the News she thoroughly enjoyed the job, meeting people and ‘getting the mail through’ – telling us tales of battling through snow and hauling large sacks with pre-Christmas packages (all booming with the internet and Amazon). On her retirement she was presented with a glass plaque noting all her hard work and dedication, and she bought diamond stud earrings as a gift from colleagues and the Royal Mail.

Thanks to everyone

Sue was diagnosed with breast cancer over a year ago and the illness spread needing many long periods of treatment, including surgery to remove cancerous discs in her neck and having titanium bolts and screws put in place (she showed us the x-rays!). After a traumatic year of operations, radio- and chemotherapy, hair loss and more, she has fought through to look and feel better and fitter than for months. She is back to walking down to town – but every trip seems to take a couple of hours as everyone wants to stop and chat. Sue is looking forward to reading, learning some internet and computer skills and more in 2013. We suggested she might want to write something for The News about her future adventures. She asked The News to convey her thanks to all her own family as well as to Rick and friends for the great support and encouragement they have given her through her traumatic few months – and of course to the posties for their tribute!

Local Vet, Martin Whitehead, sent The News a valuable reminder to help prevent pets being poisoned by medicines in the home. He said, ‘We frequently see dogs, and occasionally cats, that have eaten their owner’s own medicines, usually when the owner is unaware, but some poisonings are caused by owners giving human medicines to an ill pet hoping it will help, especially painkillers. Paracetamol is lethal to cats, causing liver failure, and ibuprofen (Nurofen) can be very toxic to both dogs and cats, causing bleeding into the gut and sometimes kidney failure.’

‘We have also seen poisonings caused by owners putting permethrin-based flea treatments made for dogs onto their cats – doses safe for a dog can be lethal to cats.’

Vets are familiar with the effects of the common human medicines on pets and can often give reassurance and treatment. But things can be more serious. If the medicine has only just been eaten, inducing vomiting can reduce the amount absorbed. Sometimes feeding adsorbents such as liquid charcoal will bind the drug in the gut to further reduce absorption. Putting the pet on intravenous fluids can be a life-saving supportive treatment. Some problems can be specifically treated – for instance, there is a drug to reduce the bleeding into the gut caused by ibuprofen.

Chipping Norton vets have treated pets that have eaten other pets’ medication as well as other drugs, including dogs very drunk after eating liqueur chocolates and dogs and parrots that have eaten marihuana! Luckily they all recovered, except perhaps for hangovers the next morning.

So remember to keep all medicines away from both children and pets. Don’t give any pet a medicine that is not specifically for your pet without first asking your vet.
101st Chipping Norton Music Festival 8-23 March

This traditional festival provides a platform for people of all ages, to perform in front of an audience and trained adjudicators who have a high level of expertise in their chosen field. Audiences for the classes are most welcome. It can be an enlightening experience for those who come.

Youth Jazz Band Challenge 6pm Friday 8 March Chipping Norton School: The two-week Festival starts again with the Youth Band Challenge, presented in association with Chipping Norton Rotary Club. Come and enjoy the vibrancy of these young musicians. Tickets: £2.50 available on the door or in advance.

Amazing Alphorn 3-4.30pm Sunday 10 March Town Hall: As always there are also professional concerts of a high quality. This first concert is aimed at a younger audience but promises to be something of a different experience for all ages featuring the Alphorn which may not have been heard in Chippy before. Already a professional musician, Frances Jones became hooked on the Alphorn when she visited Switzerland a few years ago and guarantees this is going to be a fun event where you may need lots of puff! Interval refreshments with a Swiss twist will be served. Tickets £5 with a free child ticket per adult. Additional children £1.

The Adderbury Ensemble 7.30pm Sunday 17 March Town Hall: The highly acclaimed Adderbury Ensemble will be joined by Viv McLean to play the Dvořák second piano quintet in A major as part of their programme. Tickets £12 available on the door or in advance.

Festival Concert 7.30pm Saturday 23 March Town Hall: This is the final concert and showcases the best performances from the Festival classes, and if the last few years are anything to go by is an event not to be missed. Tickets £5 (free to Friends of the Festival). Concert tickets are now available from Jaffé & Neale 641033. The programme listing all events will also be available there from the middle of February. For more information please consult the website www.cnmf.org.uk, email secretary@cnmf.co.uk or phone 01993 831810.

Chip Lit Festival 18-21 April

The second Chipping Norton Literary Festival will be here in April and this year promises to be even better with more events and more venues, which will include St Mary’s Church, The Vintage Car Club (13 West Street) and Four Shires Leather and Shoe Shop in New Street. The three watering holes, The Chequers, Blue Boar and Crown and Cushion will participate as well as The Theatre, Jaffé & Neale Bookshop & Café, the Methodist Church and our Library. All are in the town centre so walking from one to another will be easy. There is a wide variety of events on offer; some for those who are happy to listen, some for those who wish to participate and some for those who wish to learn more about the craft of writing. Talks, comedy, poetry and short story performances and workshops, discussions and interviews will all be represented.

Here are just some of the authors you will be able to meet: Mark Billingham; Lionel Shriver, author of the Orange Prize winning book We Need to Talk about Kevin and Tracy Chevalier, writer of The Girl with the Pearl Earring.

And here are some of the well-known wordsmiths you can listen to: The Just a Minute team of Tim Brooke-Taylor, Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden and Colin Sell with their new book celebrating 40 years of this unique Radio 4 programme, comedian Arthur Smith, politician Jack Straw and thinker Richard Dawkins. More in next month’s News.

Tickets from The Theatre Box Office 642350 or via www.chippingnortontheatre.com Details www.chiplitfest.com

February Events out of Town

Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society: Dr Paula Nuttall will talk about The Bruges of van Eyck and Memling. This lecture evokes Bruges during its late-medieval heyday, when it was the richest and most vibrant city in Northern Europe. 10.15am for coffee; the lecture starts at 11am on Wednesday, 13 February, Bradwell Village Hall, Burford. Non-members are welcome (suggested donation £8). For more information visit their website www.cotswoldffas.org.

Watercolour Demonstration: North Cotswold Arts Association invite all to a demonstration in watercolours by James Fotheringham. Wednesday 2-4pm 13 February at Broadwell Village Hall. Contact Sandi for more details 01451 822550.

Lenthall Concert 27 February: The next concert in this series features a welcome return of the internationally esteemed Amael Piano Trio from Slovenia. They will be playing a programme that includes piano trios by Haydn, Schubert, Morricone and Brahms. The New York Concert Review called
them, ‘A top-notch ensemble’. 7.30pm, Wednesday 27 February at Burford School, Cheltenham Road, Burford. Tickets are available at the door (£12) or in advance (£10) from The Madhatter Bookshop, Burford, Music Stand, Witney, or Lenthall Concerts 01993 824949.

The Theatre Chipping Norton

The Theatre’s exciting new Spring Programme is now out - here’s just a taster of what’s on offer. Visit the Box Office in Goddard’s Lane (642350) or www.chippingnortontheatre.com for full listings.


Music: Juan Martin and the Flamenco Dance Ensemble. Guitar, singing and dance explode together to create an evening of flamenco music and atmosphere. 7.45pm Sat 2 March.

Art: Two Landscape Artists in the Gallery, Cotswold – An Exhibition by Rupert Aker, a landscape artist from Painswick who works in oils on canvas and textured paper currently showing until 11 Feb. Dorothy May who has a different interpretation of landscape featuring objects and paths that are found in the landscape I Feb-4 March.

Take Part: There are a wide range of activities for all ages available at the Theatre for those who wish to ‘take part’ and at the start of the year many of us think about trying something new so this may be for you. Bursaries are available and Anne Gill, the Director of Take Part (tel 649102) is happy to talk to anyone who needs to know about them. For Adults: Creative Writing, Drama Groups for intermediate and beginners, Dance 50+ which helps you keep fit to music ... and more. For Children: Interactive workshops, Saturday Drama Sessions, Youth Musical Theatre from age 8+ and Youth Theatre for 7-19 year olds. And more. Contact the Box Office on 642350 or visit www.chippingnorton.com for more information.

Music Therapy Sessions for Residents of Local Care Homes: The Theatre will be co-ordinating Music Therapy sessions for residents in the Henry Cornish Care Centre, Southerdown Care Home and Beech Haven Care Home from 5 February to 3 May. Through the use of song, music, percussion instruments and improvisation, residents, some of whom suffer with dementia, will be encouraged to participate and interact with the therapist and others in the group. The residents can use skills which remain intact to regain a sense of identity, express emotion, and most importantly to share an experience with others, therefore increasing motivation and enhancing quality of life. Each care home will receive twelve weekly forty-five minute sessions for their residents, with the final session being ‘open’ to enable relatives and other residents to watch and listen. Percussion instruments will be provided and, after the course, instruments favoured by the residents and staff will be purchased for them so that the music-making can continue. It has been proven that this can create a long-lasting pleasant and meaningful way of engaging residents who can no longer express themselves in words. This will all be funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Future Events

Art for Business and Business for Art in March: a new one day course from the Wychwood Workshops to teach creative people business skills. The course, led by local professional artist and writer Jan Harvey, will teach everything from setting up a small business to using social media to promote it. Saturday 9 March in Shipton-under-Wychwood. To learn about this and other courses visit thewychwoodworkshops.co.uk or call Jan on 01993 832357.

The Hound of the Baskervilles in April: The next production of the Nortonians ADS: Following the success of The Wizard of Oz, the Nortonians will be back with this fun and action-packed adventure. The story itself needs no introduction but this adaptation by Steven Canny and John Nicholson for the Peepolykus Theatre company is described by The Daily Telegraph as ‘a wonderfully barking spoof’. Challenging for the Norts, it will be huge fun. Performing on 12 and 13 April in the Methodist Church. Tickets online at wegottickets.com as well as more traditional outlets!

The Mikado in May: This is CHAOS’ next production: This popular operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan has a strong cast of favourites including Arthur Taylor as The Mikado, Martin Hannant as Ko Ko, Keith Murphy as Pooh Bah, Emily Weaver as Pitti Sing and Diana Dodd as Katisha. They are building on their previous successes of Anything Goes, Oklahoma and South Pacific. It has the makings of a great performance. 2, 3 and 4 May at the Theatre. Tickets already on sale from Theatre Box Office 642350 or chippingnortontheatre.com
Lions trolley triumph
We would like to give our grateful thanks to the Manager and Staff of the Co-operative Store Chipping Norton. The winner of the 1½ minute Trolley dash was Stan Wood from Middle Barton while the winner of the one-minute Basket dash was Elaine Drinkwater. The Hamper of Fruit went to Mr D Blackwell, the Selection of Beers (in place of Spirits) to Mr Les Dear, the Bottle of Port to Hazell Webb, the Bottle of Wine, to Mrs Skinner and finally the Selection of Chocolates to Mrs Brain, all of Chipping Norton. The Lions would like to thank all who brought tickets helping us to raise £725. This together with the amount raised from our Reindeer Race of £1290 and our Christmas collections we have raised a total of £2,390.

Folk sing or play for 2013!
What a splendid evening for December’s Folk Club – strange how long ago it seems! A huge thank you once again to Mr Wilkes and his staff at The Blue Boar for the excellent fare and mulled wine; and, equally, for having made Chippy Folk Club so welcome throughout its first year of residence there.

Green Gym celebrates!
We have continued to clear brambles from an overgrown part of the Common – so the path up from the bend in Station Road (near the Royal Mail sorting office) is now much more enticing. We have finished making benches for the garden of St Mary’s School and we have cleared some of the weed from Stretch Pool. As Christmas approached, we had an indoor session at our tool store, clearing out the rubbish, cleaning the tools and hanging them up on nice new racks.

NOOG – twenty years on
North Oxfordshire Organic Gardeners celebrated its 20th anniversary in December – amazing to think that the group which started in Little Tew back in 1992 as a forum for local gardeners to share knowledge and ideas about the relatively new concept of gardening organically should still be going strong. The celebration took place against the backdrop of a nostalgic exhibition of topics covered and photographic reminders of visits made over the years. Old friendships were also renewed as early members joined us – a very happy occasion. Our 2013 programme starts on Wednesday 6 February when we learn more about garden wildlife – in particular, hedgehogs. Do join us at 7.30pm in the Timberyard Room, Little Tew. Call 683624 for more information.

Lindsay Johnstone

Jenny Harrington

Reflexology by Julia Medhurst MAR
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Mobile: 0796 800 4362
E-mail: julia@positivereflexions.co.uk
Website: www.positivereflexions.co.uk
Looking to the future with CN WI
After a very enjoyable Christmas party in December, members of Chipping Norton Womens Institute look forward to the new year with a lunch at the Crown & Cushion to celebrate th 65th anniversary of our formation in January 1948.

The first meeting of 2013 is on Wednesday 13 February at 2.15pm when members will share reminiscences of their working lives. Plans will also be discussed for the programme of speakers and events for 2013-14. Visitors are always welcome to join us in the lower Town Hall.

Prudence Chard 642903

TAI CHI in Chipping Norton
Tuesday evenings at St Mary’s School from 7-8.30pm. Would you like to do gentle exercises in a friendly environment? Please come and join us for a session and learn about these Chinese health exercises, which are not only very beneficial for your physical condition, but will also help you to relax. The class in Hook Norton is on Wednesdays from 10.30-11.30 in the Memorial Hall. Contact: Zita (644894 / 07940 304110)

Chadlington Flower Club
After a busy year the club held its Christmas open meeting. The demonstrator was Rosemarie Tree who showed us how to make some wonderful arrangements and we would like to thank everyone who came and made the evening so successful. Three of our members decorated a Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at the Methodist Church and received some lovely comments.

This year started with our AGM in January. On 28 February we welcome Sue Smithson with her demonstration: World of Flower. We meet in the Memorial Hall in Chadlington at 7-7.30pm, with refreshments and a raffle. Please come along and support us – learn a new skill and meet new friends and your first visit is free.

Pauline Clarke

Scouting news
During December the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were all very busy preparing for Christmas. The Beavers and Cubs joined forces to decorate a Christmas Tree for the Methodist Tree Festival. The Beavers made stained glass window biscuits and Cheerio garlands to hang on the tree, whilst the Cubs lashed together wooden stars. The Cubs also made decorated fairy cakes which they then enjoyed at their Christmas party. As part of their Creative Challenge, the Scouts made jewellery and stained glass candle holders. They also made a variety of petit fours and cakes. Charlie Hill (Cubs) and Jasmine Soper (Scouts) were not at many meetings in the run up to Christmas as they were both in the pantomime at The Theatre.

Two Beavers achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award, and many other badges were achieved throughout the group.

Since the last news the Explorers’ programme has included a 16-mile hike in the Peak District undertaken by five Explorers and two leaders. We have been ten-pin bowling and had a Christmas party with lots of silly games. In December we had a badge evening and presented awards. Emily gaining her stage five Musician activity badge was probably one of the more unusual ones. There were lots of Nights Away and Hikes Away badges following a spate of activity in the autumn. The programme for the coming months is packed with activities and even includes scuba diving. Nineteen members are going to the District Winter camp, and will be sleeping in tents. Most of the Explorers are working towards their Bronze or Silver D of E Award with one about to start on Gold.

For more information on Scouting opportunities locally, please contact IanBushrod 07831 127120.

Helen Harris

History Society’s new programme
A reminder from the History Society that the first meeting of 2013 is on 11 February in the Methodist Hall at 7.30pm. John Hunt will talk on Oxfordshire in the Civil War. We look forward to welcoming members and visitors.

Liz Whitaker

OBE for Air Cadet Leader
Wing Commander Chris Fisher, 55, received an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List. He is responsible for 1,000 Air Cadets and almost 300 staff right across Berkshire and Oxfordshire in 26 community based Squadrons including Chippy’s 136 Sqn. On learning the news Wing Commander Fisher was taken aback as state awards are rare in the Cadet Forces, commenting, ‘It was a real surprise and is recognition of the team effort in Thames Valley Wing’. Air Cadets is open to young people aged 13-17 with an interest in aviation and adventure. Visit www.136ATC.com for further details of local activities.

LETs do some swaps!
Fancy trading goods and getting services for free? Why not join LETS, the Local Exchange Trading System? Our next meeting is on 20 February at 7.30pm at The Chequers Barn. Come and see what we have to offer! Further information: 676302.

Lisa Prince

Ramblers spy Spring!
A mild misty afternoon brought out 15 ramblers for our first walk of 2013. In view of all the rain of previous weeks, a route was chosen mainly on minor roads and farm tracks.

Starting near the top of Salford hill, we headed towards Cornwell via Hollis Hill farm. Halfway down, some clumps of early primroses encouraged the optimists among us to hope that spring was on the way – well it’s a nice thought. The footpath across the field towards Cornwell Church was under water at the bridge, so we continued on the road up towards the village. Several swans and cygnets by the lake attracted our attention, and we noted the clearance of the woods around the lake. Through the village and up another quiet road towards the Stow road, our festive consumption of mince pies and Quality Street was beginning to tell! We crossed to Chastleton Barrow, which is in fact an early Iron Age hill fort. After negotiating a couple of muddy gateways we made our way among some farm buildings, along another unfenced road and back to the A44. The total distance was a fraction over 4 miles, and it took just less than two hours.

For more information on Scouting opportunities locally, please contact Ian Bushrod 07831 127120.

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CLUB NEWS

Our next walks are on 3 February and 3 March, departing from the New Street car park at 1.30 pm. Everybody is welcome, for further details please call me on 641222.

Liz Desbrow

Cosmic year ahead for Chippy stargazers

Despite the sad news of the loss of the great Sir Patrick Moore in December, CN Amateur Astronomy Group began the year with a series of events as participants in BBC Stargazing Live, with a daytime observing session at the Rollright Stones on 6 January. Our school outreach continues to be busy and the telescope-making project at Chipping Norton School is coming along very well. High on our observing list is to observe the passing of the 130,000 ton Asteroid 2012 DA14 as it sweeps close by the Earth on the night of 15 February and also the approach of Comet 2012/S1 which promises to be a spectacular object later in the year. Thanks to CNAAG members, the CNAAG web site (www.cnaag.com) has had a major overhaul and is now so easy to explore and includes our latest newsletter.

As well as ongoing observing nights, plans are in hand for our Spring MoonWatch which will feature our tributes to astronaut Neil Armstrong and astronomer Patrick Moore. Patrick was a great supporter of CNAAG and entertained us on several occasions at his home in Selsey, he found the Rollright Stones fascinating. He will be greatly missed but sometimes we are certain we can hear his gruff voice urging us all to ‘Get on with it’ – and so we shall! Our next indoor meeting is on Monday 18 February in The Fox. CNAAG strives to follow the latest astronomical happenings and developments and promote amateur astronomy – all of our meetings are open to the public and there are no requirements to join. If you have an interest in space and the Cosmos please come along, it will be great to see you.

Robin Smitten

Amnesty's messages of hope

See p5 for full report and pictures of our AmnesTree planting event in December. The Annual Greeting Card Campaign took place in January when group members and visitors wrote messages of hope and support to Prisoners of Conscience, their families and those seeking justice. Next meeting: 7.30pm Thursday 10 February Lower Town Hall contact Priscilla 01451 830459 for any further information

Kaye Freeman

Kingham and Daylesford Rotary

New Year's Day Duck Race…...too wet for Ducks! The very popular Kingham Duck Races had to be postponed from New Year’s Day to Easter Monday – April 1st … let’s hope it’s not snowing on April Fool’s Day!

The good old rail days? January’s speaker was Chipping Norton Railway Club’s Alan Brain, who gave us a fascinating insight to the last days of the old section of railway between Chipping Norton and Kingham, once known as Chipping Norton Junction. Alan is wagon-full of knowledge and we were left wondering if it was necessary to permanently close so many lines in the 1960s and lose this engineering heritage as well as future transport links.

How green is your sward? Most of us dream of having a beautiful lawn, and achieving one is not easy. Alan Mann from Beautiful Lawns Limited will offer some useful insider information and practical help. If you would like to join us on Monday 11 February at 6pm for 6.30 at The Mill House, Kingham, then please book in advance with Kay Shortland 01993 832300. You can also join club members and Alan Mann

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Not just Fundraising Although it is estimated that the 1,700 Rotary clubs in the UK raised around £25M in 2012 (for a large range of charities at home and overseas) Rotary is more than anything a friendly organisation for people who want to ‘put something back’ to society and meet and enjoy each other’s company. Come along without any obligation anytime, any place. . . . . call Graham More 01451 810 413.

Paul Jackson

Bliss Probus enjoy a lively stand-in

In December The Bliss Probus Club had a great Christmas lunch attended by members’ wives and friends at Stow Lodge, Stow on the Wold. At our January meeting we had an enjoyable stand-in talk by Vice President, Tony Clark, about his experiences on various business trips abroad and in the UK. This picture reflects Tony’s entertaining style! It was also with great pleasure that we inducted Doug Paxton as our newest member.

If you are retired and would like to come along and meet up with like-minded people, for a chat and hear a range of speakers in a convivial atmosphere, please contact our Secretary Pat Lake (643458/ppmlake@aol.com) to hear what membership of the club involves. There is no obligation if you come along to one of our monthly meetings as a guest.

Mike Howes

Conservative Association news

Art expert’s entertaining evening: Richard Anning reports

The room was almost full to capacity with over one hundred attendees for ‘An Evening with Philip Mould’ on Friday 2 November at the Crown & Cushion which was organised by Chipping Norton and District Conservative Association. Philip delivered a most entertaining evening describing his propensity for discovering ‘lost’ masters, continuing the theme of his recent TV mini-series ‘Fake or Fortune’. Philip spoke for over an hour without notes and then took questions and signed copies of his recent book. We are most grateful to him for such an intriguing insight into his area of expertise. Our gratitude also goes out to Linda Maia e Silva and her staff for the wonderful assortment of food.

January Lunch Club meeting: Mike Howes reports

Nigel Moor Chairman of the Moreton in Marsh Branch led a discussion on how market towns have to work hard to maintain their identity in today’s economic and pressurised climate. We have much in common with Moreton which is also reflected in the sharing of services at District level with Cotswold District Council to minimise operating costs. Town Councillor Mike Tysoe, updated us on the Town Council’s Snow Plan. Alert Mike (643028/mikeytysoe@uwclub.net) to potential problems so that the volunteer Snow Team can spring into action.

Let me know if you would like to come along to our next meeting at The Blue Boar on Thursday 14 February when Cllr David Lydiat will discuss the challenge of the 2015 Parliamentary Election. We meet on the second Thursday in the month for lunch and a friendly chat. Please contact me (642423/mikehowes36@gmail.com) to book your place.

CN Rotary roundup

Annual Rotary Race Night: on Friday 22 February at the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-Under-Wychwood, starting at 7 pm. As well as video horse races to bet on, there will be a meal included and a bar is available. Tickets £12 from 677156 or e-mail via our web site www.chippingnortonrotary.org.uk – use the Contact Us button. All profits go to charity.

Chipping Norton Festival is now being managed by CN Rotary Club, conjunction with supporters of the event within the Town. This year’s date is Sunday 30 June. The Committee are busy getting the plans under way, but if you want to book a pitch, perform on stage or get involved in any way please contact the management team by e-mail at administrator@chippingnortonfestival.com

Our annual Stroke Awareness Day: in the Town Hall on Saturday 13 April – free blood pressure checks from student doctors and the chance to meet local health professionals.

Interested in Rotary and what it does? Does your club or organisation want to know what Rotary can do locally and internationally? To find out more or to ask for a member to talk to your club or organisation please go to www.chippingnortonrotary.org.uk and send us an e-mail via the ‘Contact Us’ button.

Simon Hamilton 677156

Horticultural Association forgets winter

On a cold January evening around thirty members and friends heard Tim Miles speak and show slides on ‘The Gardens of the Cotswold Wild Life Park’. He gave an extremely interesting talk on how the gardens have been designed around the enclosures and why. This gives the visitors the best setting for viewing the animals, birds etc, and as close a setting to their natural habitat as possible.

The December meeting, when the artist Terry Harrison from Bourton on the Water, painted, with such ease, a ‘summer landscape’ helped us forget, for a short time, that we were in the middle of winter. Sue Burns will be with us on

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CLUB NEWS

Wednesday 20 February giving us an insight into ‘Batsford Arboretum Moving Forward’. More details of meetings and proposed summer outings from secretary, Eileen Forse on 643275.

West Oxon MS branch celebrates

This is an exciting year for us as the MS Society celebrates its 60th Birthday – see new logo left!

As usual, your local branch has a full diary of events including: Annual meeting in Burwell Hall, Witney – 23 March, Summer Lunch – 20 June, Christmas Gift Fair – 30 November, Christmas lunch – 7 December. Six street collections this year include one in Chippy on 13 July. Please drop in to the Methodist Church in Witney on Saturdays 16 February, 22 June, 17 August and 21 December, for coffee and a chat and we hope to have other drop-in mornings around the District including some in Chippy. A special birthday event is in preparation, a day trip out to The Cotswold Wildlife Park, probably on Saturday 10 August.

Our normal Wednesday mornings still happen at Burwell Hall in Witney, where we have a group physiotherapy session, provide either massage or podiatry and of course have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Please do support us again this special year, more details will appear in The News as well as in our Branch newsletter and on the website www.mssociety.org.uk/near-me/branches/west-oxfordshire-branch

Over Christmas I was thrilled to receive a donation of £190 from a Chippy resident who has raised money in the past and saw my name in a Chippy News article – so they are sometimes read! A big thank you, the money will be well used to give local support.

Contact me on 645988 or ptr.branson@gmail.com Local helpline: 01865 884124, or national helpline: 0808 800 8000

Peter Branson

Single File dines out

Single File is a social group based in Chippy for single people between 50 and 70 (including those widowed, separated or divorced). Many members have a professional or business background and we are not a dating agency, just a group of people who enjoy going out together. We have a full programme of events every month which usually includes walks, pub meals, theatre, films, and much more.

Recently, as well as several walks and a couple of films, we have had a Christmas meal at the Crown & Cushion and a slap-up meal at a member’s house (pictured). We have also visited the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford and the races at Towcester ( alas, no big winners!), and in true Christmas spirit we had a lively evening playing scrabble and card games.

And most importantly we hold a fortnightly pub evening at which new people can come and meet us. The next are Friday 1 and 15 February and 1 March. If you are interested, phone 077655 98518 or email enquiries@singlefilecn.org.uk. New members are always welcome.

Jenny Harrington

Railway Club timetable

The Railway Club ended another good year with its festive meeting on 4 December. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the last passenger train from Chipping Norton with a slide show from Chairman, Alan Brain. This was followed by wine, mince pies and our Christmas Raffle.

Once again Richard Stowe has produced an excellent programme for the coming season, many new faces and several old friends. At the AGM on 5 February our usual Members Evening has been replaced by speaker, Jonathan Perks with a surprise subject! The March meeting sees a return of Chris Youett with more of South Wales in the 1960s.

The Railway Club had a mention on the BBC Radio 4 programme Mark Steel’s in Town recently. This was recorded at The Theatre in December, with much good feedback to Alan on this broadcast!

At the time of writing the May outing will be to the Llangollen Railway, date to be arranged.

We always welcome new members and visitors. Do come along, we are very friendly and offer free tea/coffee and biscuits.

Estelle Brain 641586
Chipping Norton was alive to the sound of music and laughter on Thursday 20 December as the Chad Whites U11 Football Team celebrated Christmas, ‘Chadnam Style’, at the Fox Hotel. All 17 players were in attendance supported by siblings, parents and grandparents for a night of fun and festivity. One of the many highlights of the evening was the distribution of Secret Santa gifts presented by our very own ‘Santa Seymour’!

Well done to all for making the event such a success and special thanks to John Priest and the team at the Fox Hotel. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Santa Seymour Mincer

Chippy Old Boys

Just about hanging in there having played in the County Vets Cup against Thame and whilst they hit us for double figures, three other teams have met the same fate from the team tipped to be winners this season. We also played a couple of friendlies against Carterton and Royals with identical scores – 2-6 – but with most players now in their 50s we desperately need some local 35+ year olds to maybe re-join the League in Division 1 (not the Premier) next season. Some of our Over 50s are travelling to Barcelona in May for the Masters World Cup 5s and representing the UHL Vets League.

John Daly

4 Shires Swimming Club

4SSC welcomes 2013 with enthusiasm and anticipation. We have a squad of swimmers about to compete in the open meets in Coventry and Aylesbury. We then have the County Championships in Aylesbury at the beginning of March and several of our swimmers are hoping to achieve times in the forthcoming events which will allow them to compete at the Counties.

The club travelled to Newport in December for their Christmas Cracker event. All the swimmers took part in 50m races in all the strokes then they did 200m Individual Medleys. Our swimmers did us proud with Felicity Darwent coming first in the 11-year-old age group and Lucy Griffin taking third in the same class. Tag Curwen also came third in the boys 11-year-old class and Rosa Holland came third in the 15-year-old age group. All the swimmers represented the club brilliantly.
with personal best times achieved across the board. Kim Wheetman our head coach accompanied the squad on the trip which involved an overnight stay in Newport for many due to the exceptionally early start. We were also aided by Melanie Darwent who helped officiate at the event.

Winners in each age group for the Club Championships, hosted and held in Oxford in September, were announced at the 4SSC Christmas Party. There were many happy faces as several children went home with medals. The overall Club Champions were Joe Jaffé for the boys and Felicity Darwent for the girls. Well done to all.

As the club goes from strength to strength we have plans to increase swimming time and make training more efficient. We hope to enter swimmers into competitions at least once a month – a huge increase on last year. 4SSC are looking forward to co-organising the annual Chipping Norton Primary School’s Partnership Swimming Gala on Wednesday 23 January which we hope will encourage more young swimmers to join the club.

It looks like it’s going to be another successful and exciting year! Enquiries to: www.4ssc.co.uk

Sarah Holland

**Cricket Club**

The Club has had a good return to indoor cricket, playing in the OCB league in Oxford. They finished mid-table, their best result was beating the eventual winners Kingston Bagpuize in round two of games.

The Club was sad to hear the death of two club stalwarts. Ken Odell pictured left, was a former president, a life vice-president and a regular spectator at the ground. Ken was a nice gentleman and always keen to talk cricket if you ever met him in the town. On being dropped off home after the last game of the season, Ken said he hoped to see the next season.

Ken Odell (pictured far right) was a former secretary and chairman. He was also a club captain and good spin bowler. Gordon has had sons and grandchildren play at the Club. I had the great fun of playing in a double wicket club competition with Gordon back in 1984. We beat the favourites in an earlier round and gained runners up medals for losing in the last over of the final.

Gordon Tompkins

**Golf Club**

The Junior Prize Presentation in early December was a very special and enjoyable occasion. Helen Kay, Junior Organiser for the past five years, completed a most successful term of office in style with a packed Clubhouse including all categories of Juniors, parents, friends & members of the Golf Club.

A tricky quiz set by Assistant Pro Danny Phillips set the scene, followed by the formal presentations. Junior Captain Will Preece presented Helen with a flowering Cherry tree on behalf of the ‘Red Army’ Junior Squad, winners of the Oxfordshire Junior Golf League for the fourth year out of five during Helen’s tenure as Junior Organiser. The Junior Squad were presented with ‘Official Ross Fisher Branded Caps’ kindly donated by Ross, compliments of Adam Marrow, Ross’s Tour Caddy. Assistant Pro Danny also presented the Academy Juniors with a seasonal momento.

Marius Harte

**Sport in brief**

**Football:** The 1st XI Town team are going well in the Junior Shield and third in the Premier Division of the Witney & District League.

**Rugby:** The 1st XI are going well in their cup competition and are second in the league, behind Stow on the Wold.

**Horse Racing:** Charlie Longsdon has had 41 winners to date and is currently 12th best trainer in the UK over jumps.

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Chipping Norton School

Primary Partnership Ball Skills Festival: Year 3 and 4 pupils from St Mary’s, Hook Norton and Great Rollright primary schools came along to Chipping Norton School to take part in the first Ball Skills Festival of the school year. The pupils were split into country teams, and so worked with children from different schools which sometimes can be quite difficult for young people to embrace, but is a fantastic skill to encourage. Each team took part in different throwing and catching activities and games. These were led by our enthusiastic and talented Year 11 Sports Leaders who supported and encouraged the younger pupils. The winning team was Italy, so well done all of the team members.

Thank you as always to our wonderful primary school teachers, PE Department, all the Year 3 and 4 pupils from the Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools who took part and of course our Year 11 sports leaders.

Able, Gifted and Talented Workshop: Chipping Norton School continues to offer these very popular workshops. This time it was an English workshop for Year 4 & 5 pupils selected by their own teachers from Partnership primary schools. This was run by Mr Long and Mr Walker from the CNS English Department and was based on ‘A Midsummers Night’s Dream’.

The pupils were split into groups and Mr Walker introduced the pupils to the play and asked them to do some activities which included acting out a small segment of the play using their own imagination and also using freeze frames. They also wrote a spell using rhyming words. Mr Long and Mr Walker were supported by our very able 6th form English leaders who worked with the groups of children offering help and support during the activities. The pupils worked very well together and made new friends from the Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools.

The activity was very well received by the pupils and they enjoyed themselves very much, going home with a poem written on a scroll of paper and a certificate. Well done to all the pupils who took part and thank you to our English Department and our 6th form English leaders.

If you would like any further information about Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools and the Community Programme of activities please contact Mrs Phillips, Community Learning Coordinator on 649504 at Chipping Norton School or email shannis@chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk

Huge thanks to the Chipping Norton Community: Thank you to everyone for their support of Chipping Norton schools students while bagpacking at the Co-operative supermarket recently. The students are aiming to raise as much money as possible to support them on their trip to South Africa in July 2014.

This is an important part of the trip in order to pay for things such as kit, presents and tour brochures. Whilst the students will do the majority of fundraising themselves, we are looking for additional sponsorship to help towards some of the costs involved. If you are able to sponsor an item your business or company would have its logo in a prominent position on the item in question. This would provide you with advertising through our work with local media, school website and the newsletter. If you would like to contribute to the trip or to discuss any aspect of the tour further please contact us on 642007 ext 143.

Holy Trinity Primary

Christmas: We had great fun at our class parties this year and were lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas!

A HUGE well done to Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 for two brilliant performances of ‘Born in a Barn’. They were terrific and we were very proud of them all! The Key Stage 2 Carol Service was also a great success. The children read, sang and played beautifully. All their hard work and practice really paid off.

The Key Stage 2 choir had a particularly busy end of term. They sang to the residents of both Beech Haven and Henry Cornish Care Home. They also sang fantastically on the steps of the Town Hall at the Christmas Shopping Evening, drawing a big audience despite the freezing cold!

There was a great atmosphere at our annual Christmas Fayre on the 23 November, with a wonderful range of high
quality gifts available from local craftspeople and shops. Our thanks go to the PTA for organising this event and to all the volunteers who helped on the night.

**Natural History Museum:** Year 4 had a fantastic time at the Natural History Museum in Oxford. We had a very enjoyable talk about different types of skeletons and were lucky enough to touch an elephant’s leg bone, sea sponge coral and even hold some cockroaches!

**Our new Headteacher:** Our new acting Headteacher, Marie-Therese Weston, began with us this term and all the students, staff and parents have been making her feel very welcome! In her first letter to parents she said, ‘I can see children are very lucky to be in such a wonderful Catholic school with so many staff who care about them. This really is a beautiful school and one that we can all feel proud to be a part of. I feel very privileged to be working here’.

**St Mary’s Primary**

**A letter from the Queen!** Back in the summer Jubilee celebrations, Rhys Kennett decided he wanted to send his work to the Queen. He never expected to receive any sort of reply, but he got one! When asked how he felt, he said, ‘I was amazed when I got a card from the Queen’.

**Yr3/4 Ball Skills Festival:** Leah Hawtin reports: Year 3 and 4 went to Chipping Norton School to take part in the Ball Skills Festival. We got split into different teams and I was in team Spain. We had to play seven games of dodge ball. Italy won! St Mary’s retained the partnership trophy.

**Christmas Fair:** The Friends of St Mary’s School held their Annual Christmas Fair during the Christmas Shopping Evening on 7 December. St Mary’s Singing group opened the Fair and, alongside our raffle, chocolate tombola, cake stall and the very popular Pick-a-Present, we hosted Hyde Away Silver and Usborne books. Santa’s Grotto, lovingly set up on the stage, was popular throughout the evening. We raised £1,100 and would like to thank everyone who joined us for a very festive evening!

**Trip to the Ace Centre:** In December Years 5 and 6 visited the Ace Centre and took a basket of paper reindeers and reindeer dust. The Ace Centre children were very excited to see us and get their surprise. We handed out some reindeers which we had made and then we had our photo taken with a few of the little children. Afterwards they sang some songs including ‘Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney’, and we joined in.

**Singing Club activities:** Maddy Fisher and Neve Lloyd report: In December we visited Radio Oxford to have an interview with Phil Gale about singing club and our recent performances. Phil, the radio presenter, asked us to introduce our song, *Rocking around the Christmas Tree*, which was recorded earlier in November with the whole singing group over 60 children! On the way back we were treated with a yummy breakfast of hot chocolate and biscuits at Starbucks.

We hosted a tea party where we invited many local care homes to bring along elderly pensioners and children from Penhurst to share with us in music and mince pies. We made our usual visit to our friends at Southerndown where we always enjoy a warm welcome! Our school Singing Club also sang at the Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival and the Singing Club decorated the school tree with lots of yellow T-shirts to match the T-shirts they wear when performing. It was greatly appreciated when parents came along after school to help the children decorate the tree. We are already planning an Easter coffee morning so if you have contact with homes or day centres that would appreciate an invitation let us know at the school office.
School Orchestra: At our recent Carol Service, the beginnings of a school orchestra performed for the first time to a packed church, when parents were treated to seasonal sounds from brass and percussion sections. This was possible thanks to the skills of the County Music Service and school funding, which allows every child in Years 5 and 6 to learn a tuned instrument for one hour a week. Our vision is to extend this musical provision to every child in the school.

Jubilee Woodland: Another highlight has been the planting of our Jubilee Woodland within the school grounds. The trees and hedging were kindly donated by the Woodland Trust to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee. Parents and members of the local community joined our children and staff on a cold and wet winter’s day to plant a wide variety of trees which we hope will thrive and blossom into a significant feature of our outdoor learning area and also be a constant reminder of the special year that 2012 has been for our nation.

Farewells: We would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to Rev Stephen Weston, who has been our close link with St Mary’s Church for the past 17 years. It is hard to imagine the school without his presence but we wish Stephen, Cathy and the children all the very best for their new life in Ottery St Mary. Stephen has been a friend and support to us all over the years and has been loved by all the children for his engaging approach to their spiritual development. Good luck Stephen!

Sadly, we also say farewell to Mr Gareth Wingrove, who has taught many children from the community over the past 6 years. Mr Wingrove has always been popular with children and parents alike and he will be missed. He has relocated with his wife and family to Lincolnshire and in September he starts his new post with a Reception class. All the very best Gareth!

For more news and information, why not visit our new, interactive website (www.st-maryscofeoxon.co.uk) to view the exciting and creative curriculum opportunities that St Mary’s can offer your child?

Kingham Primary

Looking back at 2012: In December, we said goodbye and good luck to Ed Read, Headteacher here for the last five years, who is moving to Cumnor Primary. We had enormous fun by holding a whole school party on his last day where we all, staff and children, wore the most outrageous ties we could find, in honour of some of the wacky ties he has worn to school each day!

We wish Ed every success in his new school and thank him for his dedication and hard work here at Kingham. The governors have appointed Janet Kempton to take over from Easter. Until then, Vicki Stephens is Acting Headteacher.

Looking forward to 2013: After a very busy end of term, things have started back calmly. Each class has started new and exciting topics for the term ahead.

Sunshine class’s topic is ‘Around the World’ and on a similar international theme, Year 3 are learning about Japan. They have a whole range of visitors coming in to tell them about life in Japan and even teach them some Japanese recipes! Year 2 are sneaking in a visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park where they will learn about lions, leopards, elephants, buffalos and black rhinos as part of their ‘Africa’ topic. Year 4’s exciting geography-based topic is ‘The Rainforest’ whilst Year 6 are basing their studies on the book ‘I Wonder’ by RJ Palacio. The Second World War is the topic for Year 5 children and they will be dressing up as evacuees, visiting STEAM in Swindon and taking part in activities for a ‘We’ll Meet Again’ evacuation experience. Year 1 have already transformed their role play area into a castle for their ‘Castles, Knights and Princesses’ topic. They’re having lots of fun dressing up already!

We are very fortunate to have a vast range of exciting clubs on offer to the children this term; Archery, Origami, Drama & Poetry, Hockey, Football, Creative writing, Sewing and Mandarin. We are all looking forward to a fun and productive year ahead!

Great Rollright Primary

It has been lovely to welcome the children – and the staff! – back after the Christmas break, and we are all re-energised for another busy term. Before we broke up for the holidays, we held our Christmas plays and, as ever, the children worked incredibly hard to put on spectacular performances. Donations from our audiences not only covered the cost of the productions, but left us with enough to buy a sewing machine and the older children are looking forward to learning how to use it.

Dyakowski Gafford

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SCHOOL NEWS

A lovely carol service organised by the children was enjoyed by a packed church, and we were able to send £200 to Shelter, a charity we have supported at Christmas for seven years.

In January we organised an Internet Safety Evening for our parents. More and more children are using social media and online messaging services, and whilst they're great ways of keeping in touch with friends, it's important that everyone understands how to stay safe. In February the Friends of Great Rollright Primary School are holding a quiz in continued support of the fundraising they do for the School. This money pays for our subscription to Warwickshire Library Service, as well as the music lessons our year 5 and 6 take, and countless other activities which benefit the children.

Sibford School

Sibford's global boost: 2013 got off to an excellent start with news that the School has been selected as part of a major new initiative to boost global education.

Connecting Classrooms is a UK Government and British Council education programme aimed at linking schools around the world. As part of the initiative, Sibford School has been awarded a grant of £1,500 to help further links with Mbarara Preparatory School in Western Uganda pictured above.

Teacher Edward Rossiter said: 'This is excellent news and a fabulous start to the New Year. We first became involved with Mbarara Preparatory School in 2005, thanks to a twinning programme operated by the British Council. The grant will help us to continue to build on this relationship and will also enable us to develop links with Mbarara Municipal School, and help fund teachers from Sibford to take part in exchange visits with the Ugandan schools to work on projects aimed at giving young people a unique and hands-on international learning experience and encouraging them to become responsible global citizens.'

Fun in the Country: Sibford’s ‘Fun in the Country’ activity club returns for February half term) and is aimed at children aged 5–11. Activities include arts and crafts, music and drama, cookery, sports and outdoor activities. There will also be the opportunity to swim in Sibford’s 25m indoor pool. The club will be open during 8.30am–5.30pm and costs £28 per session.

Open Morning: 8 March 2013 10am. Following a presentation by Head, Michael Goodwin, our pupils will be pleased to guide you around the junior school, senior school or sixth form (or all three if you wish) and, for those interested in boarding, there will also be a chance to visit one of the boarding houses. For further information contact their admission officer, Elspeth Gregory, on 01295 781203 or email egregory@sibfordschool.co.uk

Windrush Valley School

We've done it again! For the 2nd successive year we have moved up a number of positions in The Times list of the top one-hundred Preparatory Schools nationwide. We are especially pleased with this accolade, as unlike the majority of other schools listed, we are a totally non-selective school.

Headmaster, Mr Alan Wood, said: ‘I am immensely proud of all the hard work my staff and all the pupils have put in to a busy school year’.

What's new on the WEB? there’s a new look for the Windrush Valley School website! Designed to inform both current and prospective families, we hope you will enjoy browsing the site, and sharing in all the activities the children have taken part in this past year. You can find us on www.windrushvalleyschool.co.uk, and update your calendar with all the school’s forthcoming events.

Congratulations: to all our pupils from Form 2 through to Form 6, for taking part in our annual English Speaking Board assessment. It was a record year, with all pupils gaining a Merit, Merit Plus or Distinction grade. We had a variety of topics presented, from World War II heroes to fishing and trips to far off lands. Well done to our Year 6 pupils, who presented their talks via their own PowerPoint presentations.

Kingham Hill School

Open Day: 2 February 11am-2pm. A chance to meet staff, tour the facilities and experience the ethos and atmosphere of the School, all followed by a delicious informal lunch. All the family are welcome. Please let the School know if you plan to attend via 658999/www.kingham-hill.oxon.sch.uk

Chadlington Playgroup

Another full and busy term at playgroup finished off with the Christmas party, which everyone enjoyed. It was appropriate that at the end of a term with the theme of people who help us in the community, our last visitor to the playgroup should be Santa Claus himself!

In November we had our first Gifts and Glamour evening, which was a great success with everything from foot and neck massages through to jewellery, cosmetics and loads of delicious nibbles. We hope to make this a regular event each term, as it was an ideal way to meet and chat to people, which you cannot always do at dropping off and picking up time.

We have lots of plans already in place for 2013 for various activities for the children, but we are also starting to look forward to 2014, which will be our 35th anniversary year of playgroup and toddler activity within the Village.
LETTERS

Chippy New’s Global Reach
As a previous ‘Nortonian’ (and frequent return ‘visitor’), I was so pleased to learn of the digital archives of Chippy News! I saw the comment from Paul Burbidge and had to echo support for the global reach … it’s wonderful having such a resource to keep up-to-date from across the pond with all that is happening! I look forward to reading further about the true ‘Gateway to the Cotswolds!’ Warm regards,
 Greg Sumners (Atlanta USA)

Christmas tree thanks

The Town owes a very big thank you to those volunteers who gave up their Sunday mornings to either put the lights on the Town’s Christmas trees or to take them off, some people doing both. We had three generation of one family putting on lights: well done the Fishers! Without all this help, Chipping Norton would not look so good over the Christmas period. My thanks also to Martin Jarratt for supplying the trees and to Richard Taylor for helping with delivery and disposal. Thanks, too, to the retailers and householder who have trees on their premises. Maybe some others may like to join in next Christmas? To you all, on behalf of the Chippy folk, thank you.
 Pat Lake

Thanks for Armistice Day support

Armistice day fell on Remembrance Sunday this year, and what a day to remember. It was a great honour to us all at ‘Chippy’ Royal British Legion to see all the support we received for this annual event. We were joined (I think) by all the youth organisations from the Town with both branches of our cadet forces marching and the RBL Bodicote Band doing us proud in leading the parade. St Mary’s Church was filled to the brim and the collection for the Poppy Fund there raised over £900. Sadly our Vicar, Stephen Weston, was holding his last Remembrance service before moving to a new parish in Ottery St Mary after Christmas. Thank you Stephen and Cathy for a wonderful 17 years of service to the community. Our thanks must go to all those who helped make Remembrance Day a special and moving event. Special thanks go to our local police who did a great job and to the civilian workers who put out cones etc. and who together ensured the safety of our parade. I would also like to thank Mr David Astor, who represented Her Majesty The Queen, and to our Mayor and all those who joined us at the Town Hall afterwards.
 Neville Edwards, President, CN Royal British Legion

Women’s RBL Bingo thanks

The Royal British Legion Women’s Section Chipping Norton Branch would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the Christmas Fayre in the Town Hall on Saturday 10 November. We had a very successful day and were delighted with the final amount that was raised. We are continually grateful for all the support we receive at our fund-raising events, especially in view of the exceptionally high number of cats and kittens in our care at present. Please look tickets there on two days. And thank you to all who bought raffle tickets and turned up on the night for the bingo. We made over £600 for our welfare fund that helps widows and children in need. Once again thank you all.
 Betty Hicks, Secretary

Fox Quiz thanks

Our Christmas quiz on 12 December, in aid of the British Heart Foundation, raised £200 for the charity from entry fees and raffle prizes donated by customers, staff and ourselves. We would like to thank all eight teams that took part, Carl for writing and hosting the quiz and Carole for collecting raffle prizes and helping to organise the event. Thanks to all.
 John & Loo (at The Fox)

Donate your Winter Fuel allowance?

The cold is now with us and those of us over 60 either receive a Winter Fuel Allowance. For some, this is a vital payment and helps significantly over these colder months. For others, it is, frankly, a payment we do not need, had probably forgotten about, and is simply a bonus. What a marvellous opportunity for the latter group to make a real difference in our local community by donating some or all of the allowance to a local charity, many of which are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain funding.

As the fundraising trustee of West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau, I very much hope that we might be the recipient of such generosity. We are entirely self funding and our volunteers and staff do an amazing job in advising, free of charge, all those in our community who have nowhere else to turn to for meaningful advice. To add icing to this Xmas gift, if donors can confirm their donation to be Gift Aided, the charity can claim a further 25% at no cost to the giver.
 Roland Cullum, Trustee West Oxfordshire CAB

Helping the cats

Sunshine Cat Rescue would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the Christmas Fayre in the Town Hall on Saturday 10 November. We had a very successful day and were delighted with the final amount that was raised. We are continually grateful for all the support we receive at our fund-raising events, especially in view of the exceptionally high number of cats and kittens in our care at present. Please look...
Ravenhill's death was brought on or hastened by his war service, up until 1921. Whether George have died from causes that were not accidental during or after serving one’s country, one had to qualify as being regarded as ‘war dead’ and so entitled to a Commonwealth War Grave after World War One. There is not, to my knowledge, a war memorial in his birthplace. It is not, however, unknown for war dead to be commemorated on more than one memorial. On the Chipping Norton Town memorial there are several also commemorated elsewhere. Richard Berry, born in Great Rollright, is listed on their memorial as well as Chipping Norton’s, for example. Most of those featured on the Town’s memorial were born in or around the Town and either settled here or moved away before dying for their Country. However, some, such as Richard Cecil Moore, were born outside the County and, like George Ravenhill, only had a brief association with the Town.

Where Ravenhill’s story differs from the men on the town memorial is that he lived to return to his birth town, dying some 5 years after being discharged on health grounds. To qualify as being regarded as ‘war dead’ and so entitled to a Commonwealth War Grave after World War One, one had to have died from causes that were not accidental during or after serving one’s country, up until 1921. Whether George Ravenhill’s death was brought on or hastened by his war experience is not known. There are no absolute rules regarding an individual’s inclusion on a town or village memorial, this generally being decided locally at the time. It is up to the town to decide. The Chipping Norton Branch of the Royal British Legion are, with some reservations, minded to support his inclusion on a memorial in the town and are continuing to investigate.

Steve Kingsford, Royal British Legion

Thanks from a couple of ex-Londoners

First of all, thank you all (on the News team) for your voluntary efforts to make a special publication. We are constantly reminded of every ‘movement’ in our dear town. Thanks also to the faithful Chipping Norton lions for our tickets to attend the Pantomime at The Theatre as a special treat for us all as members of the Stroke Club. London, for some, could be a lonely place over Christmas, but country folk know how to give love and thanks to one another. As a couple of Londoners living close to the old hospital, a friendly relationship did develop recently into one ‘worry’, in that I presume that our dear old hospital – a real memorial – is secure from demolition. A belated Happy Christmas.

Peggy McCleod

Artist appeal

Is there a keen amateur artist out there who would consider leading a group at say, Glyme Hall? So many of these courses are expensive. We would want to keep cost to a minimum. Anyone interested in joining a group, contact me on 643275.

Gerald Forse

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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March deadline: Friday 9 February

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The Chipping Norton News is printed on FSC approved paper
This young aviator, rather surprisingly, does have a strong link with Chipping Norton. German born but a naturalised British citizen, he was educated at Westminster School; learning to fly in France at the Blériot School.

Certainly throughout 1913 he travelled the country, giving flying displays as the original intrepid aviator. One hundred years ago, on 27th February, he arrived in Chipping Norton by train; with his monoplane, possibly a Morane-Saulnier, packed into a railway wagon. From the station it was taken up to the Brewery Field (now the site of Chippy School), towed by a horse-drawn Hitchman’s Brewery wagon. There it was assembled and Hamel gave what was described as a ‘great flying event’. Crowds of Chipping Norton residents gathered to watch and many Packer photographs recorded this amazing occasion. Afterwards it was dismantled and returned whence it came, by train of course. One can only imagine the excitement this generated, the first sighting of an aeroplane in flight.

Hamel also became Britain’s first ‘flying postman’, carrying 100,000 letters and cards from Hendon to Windsor, to mark the Coronation of King George V and early in 1914 he performed in the presence of King George and Queen Mary, looping the loop 14 times in 17 minutes. Sadly in May 1914 while returning from Paris with a new monoplane, he was lost without trace over the English Channel. It is thought he lost his bearings in fog, combined with either a fault in the aircraft or running out of fuel, aerial navigation then in its early days.

All of this begs the question of his possible activities in the war which was to begin in August 1914. Presumably, flying for England but not necessarily so, would he have been friend or foe of the Red Baron I wonder?

Estelle Brain

DIARY

February (News out Monday 28 January)

1st Single File social group pub meeting see p23
3rd Ramblers 1.30 pm New St car Park - see p21
5th Railway Club 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p23
6th U3A 2.30pm Methodist Hall Hubert Allen - Meals with notorious People
9th CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE
Screen by the Green Spring Awakening 7.30 Churchill Village Hall - see p11
10th Amnesty meeting 7.30 Lower Town Hall - see p21
11th History Society John Hunt Oxfordshire in the Civil War 7.30 Methodist Hall - see p20
Folk Club 8pm The Blue Boar - see p19
13th Methodist Coffee Morning 9.30-11.30 for the singing group
C NWI 2.15pm Lower Town Hall see p20
15th Monthly Town Clear-up 10am Lwr Town Hall
Zumbathon Town Hall 6-8pm for LHNT see p8
Single File social group pub meeting see p23
16th CN Farmers Market 8.30-1.30
Flea Market Town Hall 10-4 see p6
18th Astronomy Group meeting 7.30 The Fox see p21
20th LETS (Local Exchange Trading System) 7.30 The Chequers - see p20
21st Transition Chipping Norton Meeting 7.30 Methodist Hall - see p9
23rd N Cots Soc of Recorder Players details 641037
25th Chippy News Team Meeting 7.30 Chequers details 643219
28th Chadlington Flower Club - World of Flower - 7pm Memorial Hall Chadlington - see p20

March (News out Monday 25 February)

3rd Ramblers 1.30 pm New St car Park - see p21
5th Railway Club Chris Youett - S Wales in the 1960s Part Ill 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p23
6th U3A 2.30pm Methodist Hall Robert Gripper - Restoration & Maintenance of Antiques
North Oxon Organic Gardeners 7.30 Little Tew see p19
9th CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE