



# Allo Aldi

## Chippy's new supermarket opens 3 March

After rapid construction and a major local recruiting drive, Aldi's new Chipping Norton store opens up the Banbury Road – part of a programme of 80 new UK stores opening this year.

### Competition hots up

Nationally Aldi and Lidl have doubled market share in three years. But in Chipping Norton, Midcounties Co-op celebrating 150 years in Chippy, has expanded their store with more free town centre car parking, and is making extra efforts to support local charities with £1000 a month on offer. Sainsbury's nationally posted losses last year – the first for 10 years – but are on the march again with plans to reduce prices rather than rely on deals such as BOGOF. They are also opening discount, in town 'express' stores in a joint venture with Swedish firm 'Netto'. Maybe a new idea for Chippy?

### Town Centre – boost or threat?

After refusing permission for Sainsbury's out-of-centre supermarket, WODC approved Aldi's plan only by a casting vote. Will Aldi's store bring new shoppers to Chippy or threaten the town centre? Even our out of town industrial parks – Cromwell Park and Worcester Road – seem to be attracting more retail uses. But Chippy's High Street fights on: more News reports inside.

### Town's Co-op Celebrates



Mayor Mike Tysoe – in his new robes – unveils a plaque celebrating 150 years of the Co-op in town. More on this and Co-op community projects inside.

### News in this issue:

- Neighbourhood Plan Vote on 3 March
- Local youngster's success against the odds
- Top School's Ofsted inspection
- Parliament hear of Chippy's buses plight
- County cuts to hit ACE Centre and Highlands

### Features:

- GPs' Health Centre one year on
- Police update and a Victorian riot
- Easter message

*Plus all the Arts, Sports, Clubs, Schools and a bumper Letters pages*

## Chipping Norton Health Centre – One Year On

Nearly one year ago Chipping Norton's GPs moved to their brand new building and Health Centre. The News Team's Frances Buckel went to visit and find out the latest news.

**Keen for feedback** – Overall, the team are pleased but are keen for feedback. Dr Jane Pargeter said, 'As we approach our first anniversary it's been quite a year! Just closing the old 'shops' on Friday evening and opening at the new place on Monday morning was quite an achievement. So much of that is due to our fantastic staff who have come together as one big team and do a fantastic job. We are thrilled with our beautiful new building – light, airy and with plenty of parking. It has taken time to get systems running and develop services and, yes, with teething problems. We are always happy to hear from you if you have suggestions on how we can improve.' There are feedback forms on reception or email [cnhc.reception@nhs.net](mailto:cnhc.reception@nhs.net)

### New Website and Patient Access

– Chippy patients can now use a new website and online service that includes online booking of appointments, ordering repeat prescriptions and access to parts of your medical record. Dr Mel Hargreaves explained, 'NHS England has designed this new online programme to support GP practices. If you are a patient at Chipping Norton, you will need to register on the new website [www.chippingnortonhealthcentre.nhs.uk](http://www.chippingnortonhealthcentre.nhs.uk) or come into the surgery and request a letter with your details to complete registration. You will need photo ID.'

**Walk-in clinics** – Dr Caitlin Chasser said, 'We understand when you are unwell and urgently need to see a doctor, you want reassurance you will be able to see a doctor that day. We have started a walk-in clinic every morning, Monday–Friday, where you are guaranteed to be seen provided you arrive before 10.30am; no need to book. In addition from March there is walk-in phlebotomy service for patients between 11am and 12.30pm to have their bloods done without an appointment.' The Health Centre aims to see 80% of patients in less than an hour, that's less than a quarter of the wait at A&E. However, if there is an emergency or the clinic is busy, patients may sometimes have to wait to be seen. There is a coffee machine and free Wifi available for patients while they wait.

**Pre-bookable appointments** – These are available as normal. Nationally the data shows that 60% of patients wait longer than a week for any kind of appointment and 25% wait longer than two weeks. At Chipping Norton Health Centre, the current wait for the first available routine appointment is four working days. You can still telephone for same day emergency appointments if available.

**Happy Birthday!** – From April, annual reviews for chronic medical conditions will be aligned with patients' birthday months. Some patients may be called in a little earlier or later for their health check this year so everyone can be lined up with their birthday month.

**Named doctor system** – Every Health Centre patient has a 'usual' or named GP, to help provide special personal care from a doctor who knows their history. This does not mean you cannot see other doctors, but where possible you will be encouraged to see the same doctor as this relationship provides the best care. Reception will tell you who your named doctor is.

**Telephone appointments** – If you think your medical problem or question could be managed over the telephone, please call reception to book a telephone appointment. An appointment is made where a doctor or nurse will call you within a two hour window.



### Chipping Norton Pharmacy

– continues to grow with a variety of services for all, no matter where you live or where your GP is. The pharmacy offers a selection of over the counter items, as well as a repeat prescription service, dosette boxes, free medicines, reviews and advice, help with new medications and a free delivery service. Open 7

days a week: Tuesday-Friday from 7am to 11pm, Monday and Saturday from 7am-10pm and Sunday from 10.30am-4.30pm.

**Travel to Centre** – Ask at reception for details of Volunteer Transport, phone 01993 776277 or The Villager community bus service. Charges apply for these services.

**Patient Participation Group** – The PPG consists of users of Chipping Norton Health Centre, GP Partner Dr Wendy Hall, Practice Manager Chris Bean and Practice Administrator Jani Parsons. It meets quarterly to discuss what is happening at the Health Centre, including any new initiatives. Suggestions are welcome; the PPG is looking to improve services and particularly wants to engage with carers of children and teenagers, young adults and people with chronic health conditions and disabilities to get a representative voice. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Jani Parsons at [cnhc.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:cnhc.ppg@nhs.net)

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## New Aldi store opens



Chipping Norton's new Aldi store opens on Thursday 3 March after a rapid six month site programme. The Banbury Road site plan, approved by just a casting vote by West Oxfordshire District Council, has 70 parking places. An Aldi spokesperson said, 'Our store will boost the local economy and help shoppers achieve real value for money.' Aldi has been actively recruiting, for up to 30 new jobs, since before Christmas but are still seeking 'motivated individuals' for the March opening. (See [www.aldirecruitment.co.uk](http://www.aldirecruitment.co.uk)). Aldi say they pay a minimum hourly rate of £8.40 'above the UK Government's recently announced National Living Wage', and 'pay staff more than any of its competitors'. Jobs are 'at least 25 to 30 hours per week'. The store opens until 10pm weekdays and 4pm Sunday.



Aldi say that as a result of their 'progressive business model, rewarding both shoppers and employees', the company has won numerous awards including in 2015 for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, Which? Best Supermarket of the Year. They were Grocer of the Year in 2014, for the second year running, beating Waitrose, Asda, Ocado, and Sainsbury's. Aldi have an aggressive low-cost model using 'extraordinarily efficient operations' and limited stock ranges of around 1,500 products (only 5% recognised brands), compared to up to 20,000 in major superstores. They say Aldi customers 'save between 30 and 40 per cent on their shopping' compared to traditional supermarkets, but critics say they are not based on brand-for-brand comparisons. In response to concerns about impact on local shops Aldi say 'our stores do not feature in-house butchers or fishmongers and so have a minimal impact on small, local businesses. The presence of a new Aldi store often helps to drive additional business to shops within the local vicinity.' Aldi has more than 7,000 stores across Europe, North America and Australia. They opened their first stores in the UK in 1990 and now have more than 500 here.

## Car parking and speed limits

What do you think about the car parks in Chipping Norton? And parking on the roads? And enforcement of the rules? West Oxfordshire District Council issued a press release in February about their 'major survey' of residents, to address car parking needs. The online survey was at

[www.westoxon.gov.uk/parking](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/parking). Unfortunately the survey 'closed' on 29 February so it would appear that the effort to get attention was not too great. But if anyone has views on current and future parking provision – feel free to write to WODC directly. The County Council are also asking for views on extending the 30 mph limit towards Greystones on the Burford Road past the new housing development. The Town Council want it to go further along as far as the Rugby Club entrance.

## Licensed to FILL!



The old Black Horse reopened on 16 February under its new name, The Salford Inn, and within minutes was packed with jubilant locals thrilled to have a beautifully refurbished pub in the village. People from Chippy also came to enjoy the occasion which was considered a huge success. Pictured are Jon Finch and son Liam behind the bar with former Black Horse stalwarts celebrating the grand opening night.

## Don't forget to vote!

With just days remaining until the 3 March referendum on the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan (CNNP), the Town Council's Steering Group is urging residents to get out and vote. The plan sets out policies to help guide development in the Town up to 2031. Policies cover priorities for employment land, play spaces, the natural environment, town centre, building design and use, sustainability, and transport. If a majority vote in favour of the plan it will be formally ratified by WODC and become legally binding. Hook Norton's Neighbourhood Plan achieved a turnout close to 35% and the Steering Group hopes for an even higher turnout for Chippy's plan. Steering Group chair Cllr Chris Butterworth said, 'The Neighbourhood Plan is Chipping Norton's opportunity to promote what matters to the Town. Its policies directly reflect what residents have told us they care about.' You can vote at the Town Hall from 7am to 10pm. You don't need to bring your polling card but you must be registered to vote. The full plan is at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/chippingnorton](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/chippingnorton)

## Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Another diary date is 1-3pm on Sunday 12 June when locals can join a Queen's Birthday Lunch outdoors all along the main road in Chipping Norton's town centre. Bring your own lunch but the Town Council will provide tea and birthday cake at 3pm, plus festive tablecloths and Union flags on town centre buildings. This is all while the Town Festival entertainment will be going on – so don't miss it. More info in future issues and if you want to help contact Cllr Richard Benfield or the Town

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Clerk. The Council are also picking up the challenge of lighting a Beacon as part of a national event on 21 April – it will probably be at the top of town near the Health Centre.

## Co-op marks 150 years



Mayor Mike Tysoe joined Midcounties Co-op manager Adam Quinton and staff on 11 February to unveil a plaque to mark 150 years since the start of the Chipping Norton Co-operative. The Mayor had checked

with Honorary Citizen John Grantham, whose father was twice President of the original Co-operative, and reported that it started in 1866 as



a Coal Wharf at the Railway Station selling coal at prices undercutting established local businesses. At its most active it owned shops for groceries, fish, drapery, cakes, sweets, men's clothing, shoes, furnishings plus a chemist and a café. It had a Hall, offices, slaughterhouse, butchery, bakery, warehouse, corn and feed supplies, and garage with a large fleet. It also once owned Manchester House and Glyme Farm and operated in many surrounding towns and villages. The successful business often paid out a 'divi' of 10p (2 shillings) in the pound. The Mayor said he was honoured to perform the unveiling, and Chippy was very lucky to have the new flagship store keeping up the 150-year tradition. This was also the first occasion for the Mayor to wear the new set of mayoral robes just bought by the Town Council to replace the long-serving old set. The original fox fur has been superseded by fake!

## Chippy waits for County cuts

It's official – Oxfordshire's County Council will implement a further £69m cuts over four years – which will affect key Chippy services. First the County will action their cost-saving decision to stop using NHS nurses at our Intermediate Care beds. Next, the controversial plan to cut 7 'early intervention' hubs and services at 44 Children's centres is still live. Chippy's ACE Centre may well still lose its £320,000 annual support – hitting children and family services, and seriously jeopardising the viability of the whole building, which houses the separate nursery and child daycare. The money effectively stops in September, but, a last minute cross-party Council deal to delay £2m of 'early intervention' cuts could see some interim relief. ACE Centre Chair of Governors Georgia Mazover told Chipping Norton Town Council in February they want everyone to support the excellent remaining services, and work with Governors to help remodel use of the building and

replace valuable services being cut. A 'lively discussion' followed with District and ACE Governors (some are Town Councillors) arguing with our County Councillor over facts, the direness of the problem and who was doing anything to help.

On other services, all bus subsidies probably still go (X8 and X9 had a full subsidy), and Pat Lake of Highlands day centre, told the News that the threatened loss of their £13,000 annual grant, covering around 25% of their costs, would leave the charity having to use their reserves and re-plan. Again, last minute negotiations (and £3m of elderly day care savings held back) could see some short term relief. More updates next month.

## Mayor Tysoe to continue

After three years in the job Mayor Mike Tysoe is set to continue for an unusual fourth year, with Cllr Richard Benfield as his deputy. In February the Town Council unanimously voted to accept these recommendations from the Mayoral Selection Committee – a formal vote happens at the Mayormaking on 16 May. Meanwhile put 7.30 Wednesday 13 April in the Town Hall in your diary for the Annual Town Meeting. Everyone can go along to hear the Mayor and Town Council report on their activities for the year and answer questions from the public. Topics can range from Council Tax and the Neighbourhood Plan, to issues such as new facilities, Town Hall repairs, smartening up the Town, and more.

## Dementia Friendly Town launch



*Anne Gill, Clare Sexton and Sarah Peedell pictured at the launch of Dementia Friendly Chipping Norton*

Dementia Friendly Chipping Norton, a member of the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friendly Community programme, was launched on 3 February at Chipping Norton Theatre. The aim is to bring together people living with dementia, carers and representatives from local organisations, to increase awareness of dementia and improve inclusion and quality of life for people living with dementia. At the launch two Chippy organisations were awarded certificates by Clare Sexton, Chair of Dementia Friendly CN, to mark their commitment to delivering services in ways that are accessible to and inclusive of people living with dementia. Sarah Peedell, Team Manager of the Midcounties Co-op Store, said, 'We're proud to be making the right steps to becoming a dementia friendly store'. Anne Gill, Take Part Director at The Theatre, spoke of the way their activities have been extended for people living with dementia, 'It is important to us that we create opportunities to enjoy live theatre or film screenings for people who might otherwise be unable to access them'. On the day of the launch The Theatre was exhibiting artwork

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by Lights Up Memory Group, an arts-based club for people living with dementia and their carers. Philippa Martin, who attends this club with her husband who has Alzheimer's, said, 'At Lights Up we have an extremely varied programme which is stimulating and lots of fun. I think the emphasis on fun is probably the most valuable aspect, especially for carers'. The launch was followed by an insightful performance of *Connie's Colander*, a 40-minute drama written, acted and produced by members of the Saturday Matinee Company. It was palpable how the audience were moved by the portrayal of the effect dementia has on the lives of all involved, sufferers, family members and carers.

## CNS improvement plan



The pace of improvement at Chipping Norton School must step up after an Ofsted report in February rated the School 'Inadequate' overall and put it under Special Measures. Previously rated 'Good' by Ofsted in 2012, Chipping Norton School was given a short inspection in April 2015, under a changed Ofsted framework, which also rated it as 'Good'. Ofsted visited the School again in December 2015, for a full inspection. The Sixth Form was rated 'Good' with A level results in the top 10% nationally. However, although headline GCSE results had improved (7% above national figures), inspectors judged that the overall progress of pupils through Key Stages 3 and 4 (up to Year 11) was below average. They particularly highlighted issues of progress and attendance of disadvantaged pupils eligible for 'pupil premium' and overall progress of some other students at Key Stage 4. Under the new Ofsted framework, because some key students are not making progress expected of them, this meant an 'inadequate' rating for pupil outcomes, teaching and learning, and leadership effectiveness, and an overall judgement of 'inadequate'.

### 'Strong foundation' for progress

Simon Duffy, Headteacher since 2006, says, 'This Ofsted judgement, although a shock to our whole school community, clearly identifies that the pace of improvement has not been rapid enough. It also recognises many strengths, particularly pastoral care and guidance, very strong sixth form, outstanding range of extra-curricular activities and some outstanding teaching. We agree, however, that the progress of certain students, notably those receiving the Pupil Premium Grant, has not been as we would like.' Noted for his 'outstanding leadership' by Ofsted in 2012, Mr Duffy has made significant changes recently including new heads of English, Maths and Science, and a new lead for special educational needs. Mr Duffy added, 'It is disappointing that changes we

have made were not allowed adequate time to demonstrate the improvements they are producing. Some of Ofsted's recommendations were already in place, but I recognise they must be pursued urgently and with great rigour. I am still confident that given the quality of our students, with full support of parents, and our wholly committed governors, we have an extremely strong foundation upon which to build an outstanding school.'

### Community and parent support

Following the report, meetings have been held with over 200 parents and a petition of support, signed by over 500, has been sent to Ofsted. The petition organisers say 'the overall grading given is unrepresentative of the quality of education and care provided to students. We feel it is important for us as a community to send a message to the leadership and staff at Chipping Norton School that we support them and acknowledge and appreciate their dedication, hard work and professionalism.' (see letters page) Greg Ledgard-Hoile, Chair of Governors said: 'We are confident that the action plan already being implemented by Mr Duffy and his team will make a significant difference to student progress and examination results. Chipping Norton School has always been a school at the heart of its community and, with continued strong support, will remain so.' The Ofsted visit in fact confirmed from the parent survey that around 90% said their children were well looked after, well taught and making good progress.

## Oats' first decade in Chippy



*Isita & Jain celebrating a decade of Oats*

Question: Where in Chippy can you find over 100 different teas, 13 types of seaweed, 140+ spices and herbs, not to mention a range of 120 tissue papers and even bamboo socks – all under one (modestly sized) roof? Answer: In Oats! This tardis-like emporium of health foods, herbal remedies and a quirky range of greeting cards celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Back in 2005, when looking for a new project after selling their Post Office business in Hook Norton, Isita Pickering's husband Tom suggested she pursue her lifelong interest and open a health food shop. And Oats was born. Formerly Ronnie

Barker's 'antiques' store, the name 'Oats' was selected in his honour – apparently his favourite role was in the TV series, *Porridge!* Now, with a thriving business serving loyal and regular customers who come from as far afield as Oxford, Evesham, Faringdon, and even visitors from the North (to top up on products they can't obtain locally), Isita is delighted that she shares her passion with so many – and thanks to wider publicity about diet and health, a growing range of new customers. 'We're not confined by our walls. We can get just about anything in. We love providing bulk packs of grains, rice, dried fruit, which we can sell at a 10% discount.' On behalf of her team – husband Tom, colourful-haired Jain (her invaluable

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'right-hand') and part-timers Linda and Lindsay – Isita is grateful, above all, to her customers: 'Thank you for everything and, of course, for our lovely conversations!'

## Phone Co-op's town centre move



The Phone Co-op, one of the largest employers in Chippy, has been based at Elmsfield Industrial Estate since 2000, where the business has been able to expand steadily. With 30,000 customers

and 70 staff split between Chipping Norton and Manchester the business is now a key part of the local economy. For many years the customer-owned telecoms provider's aim has been to own its own premises, but the right property hasn't been available in Chipping Norton. They considered moving out of town but decided to hang on. Their patience has been rewarded as they have recently purchased the freehold of 19 Market Place, perhaps better known as the HSBC building. The Phone Co-op plans to invest in the building and turn it into a hi-tech eco-friendly space where they can continue to grow. HSBC will continue to trade in the part they occupy. This must be good news for the staff, customers and the town centre.

## Becoming a wine town?

Chipping Norton's Winebear in West Street has already started putting the Town on the 'wine buff' map. Now another local wine business has been getting publicity in the press. A keen chef, 'self confessed foodie' and entrepreneur, Martin Constable, has been developing his wine supply business called Norton Wines after selling his IT company two years ago and moving to Chipping Norton. He says he is offering good, everyday wines, not available in supermarkets, which are affordable and, importantly, good value for money. He wants to encourage people to experiment and try different wines, has started selling 'tasting packs' and is launching a 'Wine Explorers' idea this year. For more details see [nortonwines.co.uk](http://nortonwines.co.uk).

## Search for more housing land

West Oxfordshire has to look again at the land earmarked for housing over the next 15 years, as we reported last month, and this could mean more houses in Chipping Norton. They are inviting landowners, developers and Town & Parish Councils to put forward sites potentially suitable for residential use. WODC will then assess these suggestions in a process called the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and, according to the level of housing required, a certain number of sites meeting the stringent criteria will go into the Local Plan. The SHLAA will also consider sites suitable for travelling communities and commercial use. The last SHLAA assessed 18 sites for homes within and around Chipping Norton. The main suitable ones were: Penhurst, Castle View and land off Walterbush Road, all now being developed; land off Banbury Road at The Pillars;

land north of London Road by Chipping Norton Health Centre, and the large site at Tank Farm, allocated in the now delayed Local Plan. Two employment sites, land at Cromwell Park and the former Parker Knoll site, were also considered suitable for housing development, with provisos. If more land for additional homes is now needed then other sites, previously rejected by WODC as unsuitable, could go in the revised Local Plan. Meanwhile, the policy vacuum continues and we might see more speculative applications from developers in and around the Town.

## Turneys to close

PA Turney, specialists in agricultural and ground care machinery, intends to close its outlet on Worcester Road Industrial Estate. The company told the News that, following much consideration, subject to consultation with staff, they would close four branches across Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties during 2016. They said the decision reflected globalisation of the agricultural industry and their desire to continue to manage their business independently. The Turney Group has been working with the agricultural and ground care communities through three generations over 65 years, with a presence in Chipping Norton since 1983 and three staff at Worcester Road. Agricultural operations will be centralised in Middleton Stoney and ground care operations will continue from Weston on the Green.

## Prince's Trust: Chippy connections



Alison Green of Twist Interiors (and Experience Chipping Norton) is a volunteer business mentor for the Prince's Trust and one young woman she is mentoring, Grace Prestidge, recently won the regional NatWest Business Enterprise Award and

has now been nominated for the national award to be given in March. Alison says 'Grace saw some very difficult times and at 17 was pregnant and despondent. However, showing great courage and determination, she gained her GCSEs and NVQ qualifications in beauty therapy and nail technology whilst a single parent. She heard about the Prince's Trust Enterprise programme, which helps unemployed young people to start up in business, and soon opened her own salon, the Little Boutique, in Witney. She worked closely with me as her mentor on areas such as sales, marketing, pricing, accounts, and customer service, whilst ongoing monthly meetings have given her confidence to build a successful business making over £30,000 profit in its second year with four part-time staff with 1,000 regular clients'. Grace said, 'The Enterprise programme was the turning point in my life. I didn't want to be just a young single mother relying on benefits. Now, thanks to the support of The Prince's Trust, I am a good role model for my son, doing something that I really enjoy with a life full of great things.'

In another Chippy connection, ex-Chipping Norton School pupil, Sam Robertson, 30, was Volunteering Manager

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for the Prince's Trust between 2011 and 2015 and is now Senior Head of Strategic Change for the Charity. She told the News, 'Examples like this are why I love my job so much! Alison is one of almost 100 mentors in Oxfordshire making an incredible difference to lives of people like Grace, giving them the support to rebuild their confidence and move into work, training or self employment after completing a Prince's Trust programme. This year the Trust is celebrating helping 825,000 young people over 40 years and we couldn't have done it without the support of our volunteers.' If you have been inspired by Alison's story and want to get involved visit [www.princes-trust.org.volunteer](http://www.princes-trust.org.volunteer).

### Co-op's local charity drive



Chipping Norton Co-op representatives are pictured donating £1,000 to Chipping Norton's ACE children's centre with the launch of its 'Community Choices' campaign in January. Members of The Midcounties Co-operative Society nominate and vote on a monthly basis for the local charity or community group they would like to receive the £1,000. Members put forward their suggestions for local good causes to be considered via posting boxes in the store. They then receive an email listing the four top choices and vote by email. The community group receiving the most votes will then receive a donation of £1,000. In January, members could choose to vote for CN Air Cadets, the Lido, CN Pre-School or the ACE Children's Centre with the latter receiving the most votes and winning the £1,000. Charities wishing to be considered must be registered and must be based within five miles of Chipping Norton and customers wishing to vote must be members of the Co-operative Society. The choices for February are the Lido, CN Lions, Lights Up and Highlands Day Centre. In addition, staff at the store have their own fundraising activities and have chosen a local charity, the Lawrence Home Nursing Team, as their Charity Partner for 2015/16. Most recently, colleagues, members and customers at the store donated 1,000 items to the local food bank.

### Help with drinking problems

Is there a drinking problem in your family or with a friend? Why not come along to an Al-Anon Family Group meeting for support in the Crèche room at St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton, on Fridays at 10am. All welcome. Contact 07805 566773 for further information. Al-Anon is an organisation for relatives and friends of alcoholics with over 800 local support groups in UK and Ireland. Members attend meetings, where they hear about situations much like their own. Members help by sharing their own experience and how they have used the Al-Anon programme to change their attitudes and behaviour,

whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not. Anonymity is important – only first names are used and everything said is treated as confidential. There are no fees. Meetings usually have a collection to pay for the meeting place and to support Al-Anon services. Contributions are only what you can afford. See [www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk)

### 'Whatever the difference'

Sophie Henderson is a 19-year-old actress. She was brought up in Over Norton and attended the Frank Wise School in Banbury. Sophie has also been part of the Chipping Norton Youth Theatre, has enjoyed singing lessons from a local music teacher,



*Sophie pictured with Dr Ethan Hardy on the Casualty set*

attended Girl Guides and been part of a local choir. She is currently studying at Hereward College, Coventry – a performing arts college for young people who are different. Sophie is different. Her difference is that she is autistic. This difference has enabled her to achieve at an early age, what seasoned actors often spend their careers trying to achieve. Namely, the ability to be 'a natural' to 'act themselves'. Sophie took the role of lead guest actress in a February edition of *Casualty* on BBC One, playing Sash Gilbert, a 16-year-old autistic patient. Sophie auditioned in London and filming took place over a two-week period in Cardiff. When asked what she most enjoyed about the role, Sophie replied, 'It was fun and I got to meet lots of nice people'. Asked what she found most difficult, she said 'having to be angry and not being allowed to smile'. The established actress Crystal Yu, who plays Lilly, the Chinese Doctor, in the programme said, 'Sophie was a brilliant young actress and a pleasure to work with'. She added she only wished that at 19 she had had as much talent as Sophie has today. Autism is a label. Sophie has found the ability to move beyond the label. You have to look beyond the label to see who a person is, whatever the difference. Well done Sophie Henderson, actress, from Over Norton. (Thanks to Sophie and her parents for contributing to this article.)

### Moving retail out of Town?

The imminent closure of Harpers Department Store brings to mind changes in retailing and services in the Town over the last 20 years. The town centre has seen the conversion or redevelopment to housing (or approval to do so) of hospital and care home buildings, two surgeries, Penhurst children's home, five pubs, two garages, the Royal British Legion, Baptist Chapel, former Fire Station, Harding's Yard, the Vet's Hospital, two shops, former Howes offices and, of course, Bliss Mill. Some of these have enabled relocation of improved services (albeit usually out of centre) but some have resulted in permanent loss of local facilities in or near the Town Centre

Meanwhile, it seems that out-of-town retail is on the increase, despite national and local policy intended to support town centres. The Worcester Road Industrial Estate, for

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example, now has only five of its 24 units in industrial or warehouse use and 10 units are selling direct to the public, the most recent of which is a double unit showroom selling stone and wood tiles. Agents Brown and Co of Banbury told the News that, when Avon Capital bought the industrial estate four years ago, they felt it was 'looking rather tired, with dirty users such as car repair and so they decided to encourage trade counter type tenants'. The sales of plumbers' supplies, motor parts, carpets, flooring tiles, soft furnishing, paints and Italian food are operating under the 'trade counter' label, as full retail use would need planning permission for change of use. Six units are currently vacant and it will be interesting to see who arrives next. At Cromwell Park, on Banbury Road, the one plot remaining for development has planning permission for business use but, hard on the heels of the recent Aldi development next door, it is now being marketed as 'subject to the necessary planning consent, alternative employment uses outside of the existing B1 Business consent will be considered'. Might they have some retail aspirations there too – with shops alongside Aldi?

### Penhurst redevelopment update



Specialist retirement developer Beechcroft has released for sale 11 apartments and houses at the renamed Buchanan House on New Street. This imposing pair of stone semi-detached houses,

formerly known as Monks Dene, was built by William Bliss for his daughters, later became part of Penhurst School, but had been used as offices for several years. The one, two and three bedroomed homes are priced between £320,000 and £560,000 and are available to view strictly by appointment only. Beechcroft said that half of the 44 new homes at Penhurst Gardens were sold and that the over-55s development is due for completion in July.

### Progress with new Care Home

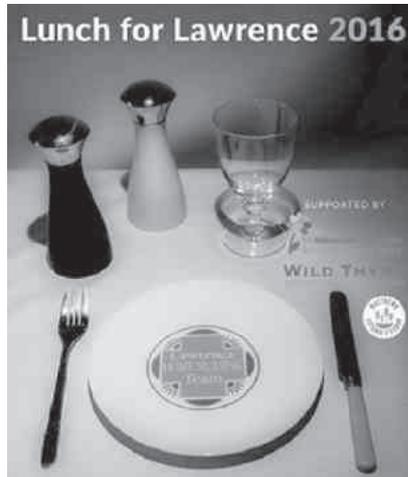
A new 59-bedroomed care home is also under construction by Porthaven on the Penhurst site, to provide 24-hour residential and nursing care for frail elderly residents as well as those with dementia. Show suites were meant to be opening this spring and the home completed this summer, but progress on site seems to have been slow. A check with the company revealed that show suites will now open in September but with no quoted date for completion. Local neighbours are concerned that, if construction is behind schedule, they face a further summer of noise and other disruption. They claim instances of work taking place on site outside the agreed hours.

### Screen by the Green

On Saturday 12 March the film *Suffragette* is being screened at Churchill and Sarsden Village Hall. This period drama set in 1912/13 is about the British women's suffrage movement. It is filmed and acted with a hot-blooded and riveting urgency depicting a surge of civil disobedience by determined and brave women. Starring Carey Mulligan and Helena Bonham

Carter with Meryl Streep as Emmeline Pankhurst. A timely reminder of the right to vote that we take for granted today. Film at 7.30pm; tickets £4.50 pay at the door. Information and bookings at 659903 or [screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com](mailto:screenbythegreen@btopenworld.com)

### 'Lunch for Lawrence'



From 2 to 11 March The Lawrence Home Nursing Team is asking everyone to host their own lunch and help raise funds. Where? Your home, place of work or school. What? Perhaps soup and a bread roll with friends or tea/coffee and a slice of cake with colleagues. You can also join the Team for a delicious homemade

soup and cake at the Lower Town Hall, Chipping Norton on Wednesday 2 March or the Memorial Hall in Charlbury on Friday 11 March. Lunch served from midday. We are grateful for support of our partners, the Midcounties Co-operative, Sainsbury's, Wild Thyme Restaurant, FWP Matthews and Shane Newman at Chipping Norton Catering. Soup and bread recipes available on our website: [www.lawrencehomenursing.org](http://www.lawrencehomenursing.org). This month also sees re-launch of The Lawrence Home Nursing Team Restaurant Scheme with the participation of supporters at The Crown Inn at Church Enstone. Please call Tony and Caroline Warburton to book your table: 677262.

Bestselling author Clare Mackintosh (pictured) will be 'In Conversation' at Godswell Park Care Home, Bloxham on Friday 15 April. Clare will be talking about her inspiration for her debut psychological thriller, *I Let You Go* and reading an excerpt from her new novel to be published this summer. Tickets £12 to include refreshments and booking details can be found at [www.lawrencehomenursing.org](http://www.lawrencehomenursing.org).



Verity Fifer

### Make your vote count

Anyone in West Oxfordshire not registered to vote is being urged to sign up in time for a number of key elections later this year. On Thursday 5 May elections are scheduled for the following: 17 seats on West Oxfordshire District Council, including Chipping Norton, where the seat is currently held by Labour's Geoff Saul, who was elected in November 2013; 140 seats on 19 Town and Parish Councils within West Oxfordshire, including Chadlington, Over Norton, Rollright, Churchill & Sarsden, Salford and Kingham; and Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. Once registered, people will also be eligible to vote in the European Union Referendum, which will definitely take place on 23 June. Register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or contact

# LOCAL NEWS

West Oxfordshire District Council electoral services on 01993 861410 for an application form. The deadline for registration is Monday 18 April.

## Chippy bus issues hit Parliament



The plight, and likely demise, of Chipping Norton buses hit national news in February. Oxfordshire County Council's withdrawal of all bus subsidies makes them fourth in the country, according to the Campaign for Better

Transport (CBT), out of authorities making the most cuts. CBT's campaigner Martin Abrams was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *Today* and was asked for an example of a route threatened. He immediately zeroed in on the X9 in the Prime Minister's constituency. He also challenged listeners to say if they had ever seen Chancellor George Osborne on a bus, suggesting he should take a ride on the X9. Later, Parliamentary Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn joked that he expected a letter in protest from the 'chair of the Chipping Norton anti-cuts alliance, Mr David Cameron'.

## A bus service run by its users?

The plans by Oxfordshire County Council to end all bus subsidies threaten the closure of 118 bus routes in the County. Locally this could mean the end of the X8 service linking Chipping Norton with Kingham Station and the X9 service to Charlbury and Witney. In response a group of people in West Oxfordshire have got together to see whether an alternative can be found. They are exploring whether a user-owned service could enable some services to continue. The Phone Co-op in Chipping Norton hosted the first meeting, which is exploring whether a combination of additional local promotion and marketing to persuade local people to use the bus more, together with sponsorship and possibly some transitional funding, as well as cost savings, could bridge the gap to viability for some services. The local group is open to more supporters – more details from Vivian Woodell at [vivian@thephone.coop](mailto:vivian@thephone.coop).

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# SPRING BINGO

on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 7pm

## The Town Hall, Chipping Norton

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

LOTS OF PRIZES • RAFFLE • BAR & SNACKS

All profits from the evening will go towards local causes.

## Tea Set ambition realised

The Chipping Norton Tea Set has announced that it will take over Café 24 in the High Street at the beginning of March, realising a long-held ambition of business owner Victoria Wills (pictured right). 'Our plan has always been to have retail premises in the Town so this was an ideal opportunity,' said Vicky, 'we'd



looked at about four units, one was unsuitable, another we were pipped at the post, and the last two wouldn't allow change of use.' Café 24's owners, the Pearces, felt it was time for new challenges and Vicky

was in the right place at the right time. The fact that the unit was already set up for catering was a real bonus. There will be a very different feel and the café will be renamed 'The Tea Set'. Vicky will expand the offering to include, of course, afternoon tea, and be opening later on some evenings for pre-Theatre drinks and light bites. The existing award-winning catering side of the business will continue as usual with plenty of weddings and parties already in the diary for summer. Vicky added, 'We'd really love to put our stamp on the shop and attract lots of new people to us and the Town.' Helen and Ray Pearce, the owners of Number 24, said, 'after nearly two years of searching for the right buyer, we are delighted to hand over to Victoria. We wish her the best of luck. We'd also like to thank all our loyal customers and hope they will continue to support Victoria and the independent businesses which give Chippy its unique character'.

## Help for Cemetery Clear Up

A reminder that next Clear up Day for the Town Cemetery is on Saturday 19 March from 10am. Volunteers are welcome to come and help. Any questions contact Cllr Martin Jarratt, chair of the Cemetery Committee (642723).

## Comedy events for good causes

Flock Comedy (formerly Cotswold Comedy Club) is bringing some top stand-up comedy to the Cotswolds throughout 2016, including a night of stand-up comedy on Friday 29 April, at Chipping Norton Rugby Club with Laura Lexx, Nick Page, Phil Cooper and local lad Tom Goffe on the bill. Chipping Norton's Ken Norman, as 'Head Shepherd', formed the club to help local good causes raise funds through the medium of laughter. Ken, who was named 'Charity Fundraiser of the Year 2016' at last month's Oxfordshire Employee of the Year Awards, said 'We bring three professional comedians, all regulars on the UK comedy circuit, print the posters, tickets and fliers and create a Facebook page. The good cause books the venue, shifts a hundred or so tickets and runs a bar'. Flock Comedy has run events locally for Parent Teacher Associations in Stonesfield, Bloxham, Shipton-under-

## LOCAL NEWS

Wychwood and charities such as Emma's Trust and The Lido at Chipping Norton. For more details on hosting your own comedy night or to book tickets see [www.flockcomedy.com](http://www.flockcomedy.com).

### Topside's empty shops



January saw some news about two buildings with long-empty shops on Chipping Norton's High Street. The Cotswold Newsagent Partnership has resubmitted its application for consent to convert the upper floors of the listed buildings at the former Post Office and former Cotswold Newsagents to flats. The previous application, a year ago, met some concerns from West Oxfordshire's Conservation Architect and English Heritage about potential damage to historic fabric including internal panelling. The Newsagents' Jeremy Catling said the revised proposals reduce the number of flats above the shops from 6 to 5 and retain more original fabric, including an existing staircase, windows and panelling. 'We think we have overcome the concerns expressed, so that we can now get consent. I'd like to think that if we work hard this year we could get Cotswold Newsagents back into their original home in a year and re-let the building we currently occupy. Given the effect of recent changes on high street trading and the uncertainties ahead, we are reluctant to get into debt and so are funding the conversion from our revenue. However we are keen to diversify and have already bought the domain name [thecotswoldstore.co.uk](http://thecotswoldstore.co.uk) and [.com](http://thecotswoldstore.com) so we hope to move into online retailing too.' Jeremy was reluctant to commit to any further timescale. Both 19 and 20 High Street are listed but the former Post Office is listed Grade II, a superior grading awarded to only 5.5% of all listed buildings – there are 10 in the Town. It has a late C14<sup>th</sup> core, including a vaulted undercroft with carved stone heads, and was rebuilt around 1730, then altered and refaced in the C20<sup>th</sup>.

### Warming up the Town Hall

The charity, Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2), could help save energy in Chipping Norton's Town Hall through a scheme to make community buildings more energy efficient. TOE2 is seeking Parish Councils and other local groups interested in helping transform the places they live in for the better. Their ENRICH Programme for communities is all about tackling energy use in community facilities, local businesses and households. Chipping Norton Town Council received a grant from TOE2 to assess the opportunities to save energy in the Town Hall. The subsequent report is optimistic that, even though it is a listed building, savings can be made. TOE2 funding might, for example, provide secondary glazing to the large windows, and estimates are being sought.

Other areas where the ENRICH Programme can help include: fully funded workshops on energy efficiency for local businesses; Environmental Information Exchange (EiE) advisers at community events to showcase energy-saving ideas; input to neighbourhood plans; and advice on renewable forms of energy generation. TOE2 has a free short guide *Managing Energy Use in your Community Building*, available from the TOE2 office or downloadable from [www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk).

### Free trials of electric bikes

Low Carbon Hook Norton has a number of electric bikes available for free trials – starting in March. Two of them have been made available for Chippy users and will be kept at the Chipping Norton Co-op. To try one, contact David Newton on 730495.

### Help out at the Museum

Chipping Norton's volunteer-run Town Museum (entrance at the front of Beales) reopens for the season on 19 March. They are holding a volunteer evening in the Museum on Thursday 17 March at 7pm – anyone who would like to help is warmly invited to go along and meet the team. Do you enjoy helping people? Are you interested in our Town's history? Visitors are often looking for information about ancestors from Chipping Norton. Many newcomers to local villages want to know more about the villages, and sometimes property owners want to know more about their building's history. The Museum has a rich store of archive material and objects, and arguably the best photographic records of any small market

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# LOCAL NEWS

town. If you can give two hours occasionally to help – please contact Pauline Watkins (641712) or Alan Watkins (658489) or go along on 17 March.

## Folly Mixtures



... is a book of poems and song lyrics by Rachel Bentham. It includes *The Wandered Man*, the poem with which she won the inaugural George Hummer Prize for Creative Writing at the 2008 Chipping Norton Music Festival. George, an American author who lived locally, had been the Arts Editor of the *News* and the prize was set up in his memory. Rachel now lives in South Oxfordshire after 11 years in Kingham. The book is available at Kingham Village Stores, The Mill House Hotel, and Jaffé & Neale for £6, from which £1 is donated to local charities. Contact [raxb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:raxb@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.

## Having a baby in Chippy?

After some reorganisation a couple of years ago, Chipping Norton's own NHS midwife-led maternity unit (the Cotswold Birth Centre) is thriving again as an excellent local resource allowing local mothers to be supported before, during and after birth without travelling long distances to Banbury or Oxford. The Centre, managed by a team of skilled and experienced community midwives and dedicated maternity support workers, can also provide local NHS antenatal and postnatal care for women who choose a larger birth hospital. Women can receive all antenatal care at the Centre, including appointments for the initial booking and subsequent routine support. The community midwives also provide antenatal care at GP surgeries. Pre-birth courses are available free on the NHS to first-time parents; booking is essential via telephone or email. The National Childbirth Trust also runs antenatal courses for people in the Chipping Norton area – see [www.nct.org.uk/branches/chipping-norton](http://www.nct.org.uk/branches/chipping-norton). The NCT charges a fee with discounts for single parents, low-income and no-income families.

Many mothers choose to join other special privately run (with a fee) extra antenatal classes, where they can also meet other prospective parents. One such class – also run at the Chippy unit over six weeks – is organised



by Sarah Boyd of Birth Baby Balance. Sarah (pictured above) has over 10 years' experience running antenatal courses and attending births as a doula, and has taught more than 1,000 couples. She said that being well informed can help women to feel powerful and confident in their birthing, and positive about their experience, whatever it is. She says her antenatal

classes aim to empower women and their partners to take responsibility for the birth, rather than relying on the medical establishment to tell them what to do. There are plenty of opportunities for asking questions, sharing knowledge and experiences, debunking popular myths, learning about feeding options, getting to know the other people, and finding out about the reality of early weeks with a new baby. Sarah holds classes in Witney and Chipping Norton. April dates are available for June/July babies, and June dates for August/September babies. More details at [www.birthbabybalance.co.uk](http://www.birthbabybalance.co.uk).

## Watch out on A361

The A361 Chipping Norton to Banbury is officially Britain's 8<sup>th</sup> Most Dangerous Road. The Road Safety Foundation (RSF) published a report which listed the top ten 'Persistently Higher Risk Roads'. It may come as a shock to some that we have one right on our doorstep. There used to be yellow and black route alert signs from the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership showing numbers of accidents along certain roads, but, since their discontinuation in 2011, we might be missing stark reminders. The RSF report covers 2008–10 and 2011–13. In the first period there were 16 fatal or serious crashes and in the second there were 24. No precise locations were identified, although in the last three years one Newsteam member has seen three 'run-offs' of cars at the same place near Heath Farm, close to the Deddington junction. Run-offs make up 21% of all crash types. Rural, single lane carriageways are the most dangerous, according to RSF, accounting for 50% of fatal and 30% of serious crashes. Moreover, single lane 'A' roads such as the A361 have eight times the risk of motorways and three times that of dual carriageway 'A' roads. It is sobering that of the many thousands of miles of rural roads in Britain, we should be living so close to one of the most dangerous. Let's hope the next RSF report does not mention Chipping Norton again – unless we are one of its 'Most Improved'. See full report at [www.roadsafetyfoundation.org](http://www.roadsafetyfoundation.org). Go to News, Archives, September 2015, How Much Do Road Crashes Cost Where You Live?



## Award for Crown & Cushion

The Crown & Cushion Hotel in Chipping Norton has been honoured in the LateRooms.com Simply the Guest Awards 2016 by achieving Top Rated status which highlights exceptional hotel standards and service. Top Rated status requires minimum review scores of 80% on the LateRooms.com site during 2015. Laterooms.com say the awards are special because they are the only UK hotel awards based solely on genuine guest reviews posted on the website after a stay. From the Crown & Cushion, Linda Maia e Silva said, 'We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded LateRooms.com Top Rated status. It is firm recognition of the unrivalled quality we insist on here and the hugely exacting high service standards that we have become renowned for'.

## Plough in Top Ten

The Kingham Plough has been judged one of the top 10 best pubs for food in the country – at the Estrella Damm Top 50 Gastropubs Awards 2016. The judges are a panel of experts including food writers, executive chefs, celebrity chefs and pub guide editors. Some of the Plough's standout dishes included twice-baked pumpkin soufflé with Windrush goat's cheese, and frozen pear parfait with warm gingerbread and sloe gin jelly. The Plough was also Oxfordshire Dining Pub of the Year for 2015 and 2016 in the Good Pub Guide.

## Pancakes at Beech Haven



Residents and staff at Beech Haven Care Home in Chipping Norton spent the morning celebrating Shrove Tuesday in style with traditional pancake racing. Staff took to the car park and gave several onlookers a laugh with pancake tossing. Deputy Manager Sandra Marskell said, 'We encourage all to get involved and join in with the fun here at Beech Haven, the best part is having the opportunity to sample the pancakes at lunchtime'.

## Ambulance service scrutiny

What do you think of our ambulance service? As well as running the 999 service our local Ambulance Trust (South Central – SCAS) now runs the 111 NHS call centre for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire, approximately 3,554 square miles and a population of over four million. Recent concerns with the 111 service have put this on the radar – but a January inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) gave a very positive report on SCAS as 'safe, effective, responsive, and well-led'. There was praise for values and commitment of staff and use of best practice. SCAS say this is 'huge testament to hard work, dedication and commitment shown by all staff in our 111 service, providing best possible services to patients'.

SCAS are still being challenged, however, for patchy ambulance 999 response times in our rural areas, such as Chipping Norton and West Oxfordshire, worse than Oxford City because of distance and difficult access. At January's Oxfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee, SCAS reported latest statistics showing general improvement. A 'first responder' (eg a defibrillator working at the scene) to a 'Red 1' or 'Red 2' life-threatening incident is meant to arrive within eight minutes for 75% of the time. In the nine months to December, only 20% missed the target (643 out of 3,204), but 28 incidents had longer than a 30-minute wait. A full ambulance service is meant to get to Red incidents 95% of the time within 19 minutes. For West Oxfordshire only 89% achieved this, with 349 calls out of 3,194 missing the target and 91 waiting over 30 minutes. The Scrutiny Committee was concerned that these delays were having a big clinical impact on patients (such as those with stroke, heart attacks and other life-threatening issues). SCAS are trying to focus more

on this issue, as well as improving significantly the local 'first responder' capability.

## Tales from Henry Cornish



Latest news reported from the Henry Cornish Care Centre by Karen Berwick is that Sainsbury's in Chipping Norton are kindly donating the flowers that they don't sell to

the Care Centre. In January Chadlington Flower Club ladies went to demonstrate how to make the best of the flowers for displays in the home. The flowers looked beautiful and were a topic of conversation with many people. Many thanks to Sainsbury's for their thoughtfulness.

As part of Dignity in Action Day students from Holy Trinity School visited the Centre for a question and answer afternoon with the residents. Asking questions was part of a



homework assignment but residents surprised them with questions of their own. Everyone really enjoyed the visit with a resounding agreement that this was better than school.



Two volunteers, Lizzie and Lucas, from Chipping Norton School have been coming to Henry Cornish for a while helping with activities – this time they turned up with some musical instruments for some

impromptu musical moments. Lizzie is studying music at school and Lucas borrowed Lizzie's guitar.

## Military talks at SOFO

In the second programme of talks, on the first Wednesday of each month at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, Sir Hugo Brunner is talking about 'High Explosives'. At the outbreak of WWI Brunner Mond, Britain's largest chemical business, was drafted into the war effort. Sir Hugo weaves the related family stories of a colossal manufacturing effort and artillery action on the Western Front into an unusual narrative of the Great War. Booking essential. 2 March 7pm – 8.30pm. Tickets £15 to include wine and small eats. Further details on 01993 810211 or via [www.sofo.org.uk](http://www.sofo.org.uk). The next talk will be by Brigadier Robin Draper CVO OBE on 5 April entitled 'Redcoats to Riflemen' giving the exceptional story of the County Regiment from 1741. Tickets £5. Time and further details as above.

## Hospice celebrates 25 years



*Hospice founder Neil Gadsby cuts the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake*

Katharine House Hospice recently marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event for local businesses who have supported it over a quarter of a century. At the celebration, patron Sir Tony Baldry highlighted the increasing number of people now living with terminal illnesses for a much longer period. The Hospice now cares for over 250 people at any one time, both in the Hospice and the local community. He thanked founder and outgoing Chairman, Neil Gadsby, acknowledging him as the inspiration for the All-Party Hospice Support Group in Westminster. Looking to the future, Bernadette Ross, Director of Nursing at the Hospice, outlined the aim to offer a Hospice at Home service with nursing care day and night, seven days a week, supporting patients with skilled care and enabling relatives to get support and much-needed rest. New Chairman, Richard Greaves, echoed this aim, reiterating the costs involved. The Hospice's running costs are over £3 million a year, with only a third coming from government. They are grateful for continued support of the businesses in attendance, plus organisations and individuals throughout the local community that enable the Hospice to raise the £2 million per annum it needs.

## Katharine House news

**Oxford Artweeks:** Art Exhibition 23-27 & 30 May – As part of the Oxfordshire Artweeks programme, artwork created by patients will be on display in the Hospice during the week-commencing 23 May. **Care for a Cuppa Week:** 6–13 March – Invite your friends and family round for a cuppa, cake and chat. A fundraising pack complete with posters, invitations, recipes and top tips is available from Sarah Brennan, on 01295 816484 or email [sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk](mailto:sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk). **Social Media:** You can now follow Katharine House on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/katharinehouse/> or Twitter: <https://twitter.com/khhosp>. **Stall Sale:** Saturday, 19 March, 11am-2pm – Bric-a-brac, books, cakes and toys at this annual event at the Institute in Adderbury.

## Labour Councillors' surgeries

Chipping Norton's District Councillors, Geoff Saul and Laetisia Carter, hold drop-in advice sessions from 5.30–6.30pm on the first Thursday of every month in the ground floor meeting room of Bradley Saul Solicitors at 2 Market Street (next door to Trev Beadle's butcher's shop). The next date is Thursday 3 March. Alternatively, you can contact Geoff Saul at [geoff.saul@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.saul@westoxon.gov.uk) if you have concerns over housing, planning, recycling and refuse collection, parking, anti-social behaviour or any other local issues.

## Vouchers for Fairytale Farm

Fairytale Farm, Chipping Norton's family animal and visitor centre that caters particularly for disabled children, reopened in February and is open daily until October. Brand new is an indoor play room and café after a fairytale makeover with a Jack and the Beanstalk theme. There are new giant skittles and a new little Saanen goat called Thumbelina. As well as regular opening, Fairytale Farm has signed up



*Olivia Laister – the inspiration for Fairytale Farm – pictured enjoying the goats!*

for West Oxfordshire's special 'two for one' voucher scheme for a range of tourist attractions on West Oxon and Cotswold Districts' Welcome Open Weekend (WOW) Friday 15 to Sunday 17 April. Some 20 local attractions have already signed up for WOW, including Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Crocodiles of the World (near Carterton), Cotswold Farm Park and Birdland at Bourton-on-the-Water. See [www.westoxon.gov.uk/wow](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/wow) for details.



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- Visit the school website: [www.kingham.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.kingham.oxon.sch.uk)
- Read the online 'Governor Handbook' at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)
- Contact the Clerk to the Governors  
Ms Enneke Davis: email: [DEnn1085@kingham.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:DEnn1085@kingham.oxon.sch.uk)

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## Age Concern Chipping Norton

**Highlands gets a Make-Over** Newly decorated and looking great, Highlands Day Centre is a welcoming resource



*Highlands: 'newly decorated and looking great'*

for local members throughout the week. They are looking forward to the Spring programme including Trips out, Entertainment, Book Club and many enjoyable daily activities such as Bingo, Scrabble, Dominoes, Quizzes and Crosswords. Other groups can use the building for meetings, rehearsals and workshops. Hourly bookings can be made to use the large space for events (including use of a kitchen) or maybe use a smaller meeting room for the evening, prepared for your needs. There is a lot of interest in the Computer Workshop we are hoping to run in the Spring to help people use their PCs, iPads etc. (phone number below for those interested). Highlands has lots to offer our community and works closely with local businesses and organisations to provide a service that people can enjoy. Whether you would benefit from a day in good company or just a lunch out and a natter Highlands might be just what

you're looking for . . . and you'd be most welcome. Please contact Joyce and the team on 643320 about any of the above.

**Chatterbox** A coffee and cake occasion. A warm welcome is guaranteed. Pop in for a chat and put your feet up every Thursday in the Lower Town Hall from 10.30am-12.30pm.

**Seated Exercise** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays in the Town Hall, 11am until noon. £3 per session, no need to book.

**Help with technology** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, drop in for help with IT or your mobile phone.

**Age UK Information Drop in** on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month. Drop in and meet your local Community Information Networker for information and advice.

## Churchill Car Show

The Churchill Vintage & Classic Car Show this year is on Sunday 5 June 12-5.30pm. Lunches, teas, BBQ, Beer Tent, Jazz Band, Train Rides, Stalls, Games, etc. Main beneficiaries will be Chipping Norton Theatre, the Lawrence Home Nursing Team, Sue Ryder and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

**Dave Chambers**

## The Lido's latest

In case you missed it last month, Thursday 21 April sees the 2016 season starting. As we're getting the odd glimpse of warmer sun now, we cannot wait! Meanwhile on the Gift Aid, thanks are due to all who signed a declaration with Season Tickets last season helping the Lido claim around £1500! Readers may have noticed that The Co-op is currently supporting the community by awarding £1000 per month to local good causes (see article on page 7). With your help, The Lido could be one of them. Please nominate us and, if we get enough nominations to be considered, please give us your vote. As ever, you could take part in the Lottery or donate, either cash or cheque directly to The Lido, or via [www.Totalgiving.com](http://www.Totalgiving.com) if you prefer. Keep up with the latest at [www.chippylido.co.uk](http://www.chippylido.co.uk), [facebook/ChippyLido](https://www.facebook.com/ChippyLido) and Twitter @ChippyLido, or contact The Lido directly for how to join the Lottery, the Committee, Friends or to donate: [info@chippylido.co.uk](mailto:info@chippylido.co.uk).

**Claire Williamson**



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We look forward to seeing you – the kettle is on!

## WiFi and more at the Library

The great news this month is that Free WiFi is now installed at Chipping Norton Library, funded through a grant from the Arts Council. The other important news is that due to the Westgate redevelopment in Oxford, the main Central Library is relocating to the Castle Quarter but with limited stock available. Internet access, reference information, newspapers, journals and music services will not be available so you may find it more convenient to visit one of the other 41 County libraries, including Chipping Norton. Remember, you can use your library ticket at any County library, borrow from any and return anywhere. You can take out up to 20 books and/or 5 DVDs using your library membership card. Contact [Chippingnorton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Chippingnorton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

**Judith Bucknall**, Library Manager

## The Bard – just a fond memory

... But The Friends of St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton, will be celebrating Burns Night again in January 2017 after a very successful evening in the Parish Centre on Saturday 23 January 2016. The Haggis was duly piped in by Mr John Claxton of Oxford and then Chippy's very own Jim Hopcraft, The Chequers landlord, masterfully addressed the Haggis. After the Selkirk Grace the traditional meal (Cock-a-Leekie Soup followed by Haggis with Neeps and Tatties completed by Topsy Laird) was enjoyed by all. More



entertainment followed, with Toasts to Robert Burns and Laddies and Lassies, the whole evening being rounded off with a laudable

rendition of Auld Lang Syne! Thanks to the guests' generosity over £1000 will go towards upkeep of the wonderful Grade I\* listed building, St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, where restoration work of the historic tombs will continue this year.

Future diary dates include Saturday 14 May: annual Friends' of St Mary's Church Fete at the Old Vicarage in Church Street; and then save Saturday 15 October for another great Town Hall Barn Dance – more news later. For more about The Friends please contact Jo Graves – [jo.graves46@aol.com](mailto:jo.graves46@aol.com).

## Build your own home?

Have you ever longed to build your own dream home from scratch but been unable to find the land? Well, soon, help may be at hand. West Oxfordshire's emerging Local Plan will require that large developments allocate 5% of the plots for self-builders, a policy also in Chipping Norton's Neighbourhood Plan. So the planned large expansion at Tank Farm could have around 30 such plots but only when the delayed Local Plan is confirmed. But you can act now. WODC has set up a register of people and organisations interested in self-build, to help WODC guide local policy and assist potential self-builders in finding suitable plots. The term 'self-build' does not necessarily mean you have to do the hard construction work yourself: you can appoint a contractor to build your home. 'Self-build' can also include co-housing for groups of like-minded people or co-operative housing. To be eligible under the WODC scheme you need a local connection with West Oxfordshire: present or past residence, employment, or close relatives living here. You will have to complete your build within three years and then occupy the property as your sole main residence for seven years. To register interest, see the housing page of WODC's website.

Meanwhile, at Bicester, the country's largest self-build development is getting underway. The Graven Hill Development Company, which owns the former MOD site

adjacent to the A41 south east of the town, is offering up to 1,900 self-build plots for sale from £95,000 – £105,000 according to size. This development, composed entirely of self-build, will include a school, shops, community facilities and 1 million sq ft of commercial space to generate 2,000 new jobs or apprenticeships. To find out more, visit [www.gravenhill.co.uk](http://www.gravenhill.co.uk). Channel 4's *Grand Designs* programme will be filming the first 10 self-builders, from start to completion, whose experiences might inspire or intimidate the less intrepid amongst us!

## Support for World Cancer Day

As usual the people of Chipping Norton demonstrated their generosity by supporting our local World Cancer Day event by their donations for CR-UK Unity Bracelets at the stall in the Co-op on 4 February. Thank you to all who donated and to the staff in the Co-op for their friendly and enthusiastic support. In addition to raising £300 we were delighted to make contact with a new volunteer. Our efforts are being rewarded by the recent news that death rates due to cancer in adults have fallen by 10% and in children by 25% in 10 years.

**Graham Raven**

## Travel jabs at Co-op Pharmacy

The Midcounties Co-operative Pharmacy in Chipping Norton is hoping to make travelling easier for local jet-setters with the introduction of travel services. According to the NHS, 1,586 travellers were diagnosed with Malaria after returning to the UK in 2014, and although the disease is not found in the UK, it can be caught in more than 100 countries. To help prevent situations like this, the Pharmacy branch on the High Street is teaming up with Midcounties Co-operative Travel to launch travel vaccinations, access to essential medication including Malaria tablets, and advice about sun protection to help people stay healthy when going abroad.

## Margaret Mulhearn

**30.09.1923 – 20.01.2016**



Margaret Mulhearn sadly passed away aged 92 years. Born in Over Norton she spent the majority of her life in Chipping Norton. Wife of the late Bernard (Barney) who passed away in 1996, Margaret was able to maintain an independent life in Dunstan Avenue until late November 2015, when she was

taken into hospital and sadly passed away in the Intermediate Care Unit, Chipping Norton, after a short illness. Much loved and treasured Mother to two sons, Mother-in-law, Nanny to four grandchildren and a very special 'Old Nanny' to four great-grandchildren, Margaret will be greatly missed by everyone – but always in our thoughts. The family would like to thank all the wonderful staff at the Intermediate Care Unit, and also Dr Lewis for the care and support they gave Margaret throughout her short illness. The people of Chipping Norton should be proud of the facilities they provide for us there, and all should fight to keep this unit open in the future.

**Barry & Karen Mulhearn**

## Police & Crime update

*This month's update from local police and press reports – and, with a brawl in the News, Estelle Brain sent a 19<sup>th</sup> century news story reminding us about a riot from the past.*

### Police report:

**Chippy High Street brawl** A woman and two police officers were hospitalised after a brawl in the High Street around 10pm on Saturday 28 January. Two 19-year-old men and a 51-year-old were arrested. Various charges include assault, drunk and disorderly and threatening behaviour. The main road was closed with several police units and ambulance attending. Any information please call 101.

**Spate of vehicle crimes** On Sat 30 Jan two Citroen vans were broken into overnight close to Cotswold Crescent. Then there were thefts from vans over 2-3 February weekend – in Cotswold Crescent, Cotswold Terrace, Worcester Road, Park Road, and Choice Hill in Over Norton. This was on Citroen and VW vans, and thieves made off with thousands of pounds worth of power tools. Power tools, personal belongings and clothing were also stolen in a spate of vehicle thefts overnight on 10-11 January in Enstone, Little Tew and Ledwell. A Vauxhall car was stolen from outside the Kings Arms Hotel, West Street overnight on 25 January. Any information call 101.

**Charlbury Co-op raid** The store was burgled around 11.30 on a February Thursday evening by three thieves using silver dustbins to break in. One had bright orange trousers, one a black hooded top. Call 101 with any information.

**New Year's Eve issues** Chipping Norton saw several reports of disorder in and around The Chequers and Blue Boar pubs. Captor spray was deployed by the officer to regain control and more police were called. A 23-year-old man and 34-year-old man were arrested and later received penalty notice tickets for disorder. Investigation is still continuing. Any witnesses at approximately 2am call 101 and quote URN 320 01/01/16.

**Quiet Woman raid** Between 11pm and 11.30pm on a January Thursday evening offenders entered the Antique Centre at Southcombe near Chipping Norton in Oxford Road by forcing entry through the roof. Once inside they broke into cabinets and stole jewellery, and at least one watch before leaving the premises. Call 101 with any information.

**More shed and garage thefts** Throughout the Chippy area there is still the problem of sheds and garages being broken into. Please ensure the locks, doors and windows are secure and in good condition.

**No milk today** Did anyone see a person stealing milk from Chipping Norton ACE Centre 5 Feb at approx 00.20hrs in the morning? Contact 101 number with reference 43160035338.

If you would like any advice you can contact your neighbourhood police team on the police non-emergency number 101. Alternatively you can also email: [ChippingNortonNeighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ChippingNortonNeighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

### Rumpus, death & riot in 19<sup>th</sup>C Chippy

On Wednesday 14 November 1845 an argument between locals Robert Hall and William Slatter began at The Bell Inn, West Street in Chipping Norton. Both men kept horses in



*A Victorian Street brawl – plus ça change*

The Bell's stables and Hall accused Slatter of stealing 'chaff' from him. Slatter denied this, but fuelled by drink, a brawl ensued and eventually Police Sergeant Knott was sent for. He sided with Hall in the dispute and violence was used by the Sergeant in arresting Slatter, who was conveyed to the lock-up. The following morning Slatter was found dead; news spread and a crowd gathered in the Market Place, demanding vengeance on Sgt Knott. Mayor Henry Tilsley arranged an inquest calling on the people to keep the peace. In the interests of impartiality a post-mortem was carried out by an Oxford surgeon. Meanwhile the

crowds threatened the life of Sgt Knott and the Town remained in a state of riot. Following an abandoned Borough Council meeting, the County Magistrate appealed to the Duke of Marlborough for military assistance.

At the inquest in Chipping Norton, the surgeon confirmed that death had been caused by a blow from Sgt Knott's truncheon, pointing out that Slatter had a very thin skull. Knott was then committed to Oxford Gaol on a charge of manslaughter, escorted by the local Yeomanry for protection. Shortly afterwards the Mayor was able to report that Chipping Norton was quiet once again. Knott came up for trial the following March. Slatter had a history of violence, and with some rather doubtful evidence that Knott had tried to handcuff him before resorting to his truncheon; the jury found in Knott's favour – not guilty of manslaughter.

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# CELEBRATING EASTER

## An Easter perspective

**Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby of Chipping Norton Methodist Church sent this Easter Message reflecting on the different dimensions of the Cross**

The Cross, symbol of Christianity, gathered different dimensions at Easter. It has now become the symbol of Jesus Christ. Not just the one who was crucified on it, but the risen one. It is a symbol of new life; it is a sign of real glory.

The resurrection is a new beginning to all believers. The uniqueness of the message and mission of Christ is beginning to gain momentum from this moment. The principles and teaching he introduced are inspiring people and calling for their response. And so, the Cross now becomes a sign of discipleship.

The Cross of Christ brings out another different meaning after Easter. It is about the fundamental understanding about the purpose of God for the whole of humanity. It is about love. The principal commandment Jesus preached as the embodiment of all the Law and Prophecy is love: loving God, and loving others. The fundamental purpose of God in sending his Son, is all about love: God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son... [John 3:16]. The coming of Christ, his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, is all about love. And so, the Cross of Christ symbolises the love of God for all.

Warm greetings to you all!



## An interactive Labyrinth

**Jo Graves of St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton sent our readers an invitation to visit the Easter Labyrinth at the Church**

St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton invite you to come and explore the Labyrinth in the Church from Monday 21 March to Friday 25 March 2016. The Labyrinth is an interactive way of experiencing the Easter Story from the Triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper and the Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane to the Trial of Christ and the Crucifixion and Resurrection. It is multi-media in expression with opportunities for prayer and meditation with gentle, musical accompaniment.

There will be refreshments available too. Opening times are 9.30am to 7pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm on Good Friday. School parties will be visiting Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30am-11.30am, but the public are still welcome. Do come and join us, you really must experience this.

## EASTER SERVICES

**NB Clocks go forward one hour at midnight on Easter Saturday**

### Churches Together

*Good Friday 25 March 11am Town Hall steps (preceded by The March of Witness)*

### Baptist Church

*Good Friday 25 March 6pm Communion Service in the Lower Town Hall*

*Easter Sunday 27 March 10.30am Easter Sunday Celebration at Highlands*

### Community Church at Glyme Hall

*Palm Sunday 20 March 10.30am Family Worship*

*Easter Sunday 27 March 10.30am Family Worship*

### Holy Trinity (Roman Catholic)

*Maundy Thursday 24 March 7pm Mass of the Last Supper*

*Good Friday 25 March 10am Stations of the Cross*

*3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion*

*Holy Saturday 26 March 8pm Vigil Mass of Easter*

*Easter Sunday 27 March 10.30am Mass of the Resurrection*

### Methodist Church

*Good Friday 25 March 9.30am Service prior to the March of Witness*

*Easter Sunday 27 March 11am Easter Service*

### St Mary's (Church of England)

*Maundy Thursday 24 March: 10.30am Communion in the Parish Rooms*

*Good Friday 25 March: noon-3pm Service of Reflection and prayer, St Mary's Church*

*Easter Sunday 27 March:*

*6.15 for 6.45am Sunrise prayer on hill above Chipping Norton*

*8am Holy Communion, St Mary's Church*

*9.15am Holy Communion, St James' Chapel Over Norton*

*10.45am Family Celebration with Communion, St Mary's*

## The origins of Easter

March is the month of the Spring Equinox, when the length of day and night are equal. After a relatively mild winter without snow or periods of frost, we are seeing the early arrival of nesting birds, daffodils, snowdrops, catkins on the hazel bushes and even early cherry blossom. This change of the season has been celebrated by different cultures throughout history from the earliest recorded times. Festivals were held praising gods and goddesses, such as Aphrodite from Cyprus and Hathor from Egypt and there are long Scandinavian and Celtic traditions of festivities at this time of year. Some Pagan groups carry out particular rituals, for example, a man and a woman are chosen to act out the roles of the Spring God and Goddess, playing out their courting and planting of seeds. Egg races, egg hunts and egg painting are also traditional activities. The Christian celebration of Easter has taken up some of these themes, Easter eggs, Easter bunnies etc. The word Easter is thought to have taken the name from the Saxon fertility goddess Oestre, whose image is portrayed as the bringer of new life and light, the Celtic Festival of Ostara may be another source.



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT



## Eastern Promise

Chipping Norton is lucky to be blessed with a number of Oriental restaurants and over the past couple of months the Newsteam's Sue Hadland has enjoyed trying some of them.



I have visited two Indian restaurants. Firstly I went to Spice of India in West Street. Here the decor is fresh and welcoming and the air conditioning is so good that it does not smell of curry the moment you walk in the door. I tried 'Mumtaz Makhani', a dish of chicken stuffed with minced meat in a delicately spiced mild sauce. It was reputedly invented for the empress for whom the Taj Mahal was built and it was definitely fit for a queen. To accompany, we had naan bread, jalfrezi vegetable curry, Bombay aloo and special fried rice, all of which were delicious. I will certainly be returning very soon.

Over Christmas and the New Year I had family staying with a young child so eating out in the evening was a 'no go' so we opted to have a takeaway, home delivery, from Café le Raj. The food arrived within half an hour and was piping hot. The lamb tikka masala, vegetable dansak, and chicken dupizza made a wonderful selection, all of varying degrees of spice and the sides of fried rice, naan bread, Bombay aloo and tarka dal completed the feast. We all enjoyed it so much we went back two days later and did it all over again. Yum!

Let's now turn our attention to the Chinese. As far as I know there is only one Chinese Restaurant in Chippy where you can eat in and that is the Beijing Gourmet in Market Street. We booked a table a couple of Saturdays ago and were most surprised to arrive there and find we were the only guests. We did not have much of a welcome and eventually had to ask for a drink and the menu. It soon became apparent to me that the reason for this was that the staff were rushed off their feet with takeaway orders. There was a constant stream of people ordering and collecting food which did not subside as the evening progressed. The mixed Chinese starters arrived and were very tasty, the prawn toast, ribs, spring rolls, chicken satay and seaweed all nicely presented. Our main courses of Schezuan fish and beef with green pepper and black bean sauce followed and were tasty.

However all the time the staff seemed preoccupied with the takeaways. The restaurant is obviously very popular and there is certainly no problem with the food but it just lacked a bit of atmosphere.

Finally, we went to celebrate the Chinese New Year (the Year of the Monkey!) at the Thai Shire. What a wonderful banquet. It was a fixed price of £21 per person and worth every penny of it. The starter was dramatic, a huge plate with shredded duck in the centre surrounded with brightly coloured shredded vegetables which you mixed altogether and ate in lettuce leaves topped with plum sauce. Wow! The main dishes were slow cooked chicken with ginger and rice wine, stir fried king prawns and scallops, crispy chilli shredded chicken, sweet and sour crispy sea bass honey roast belly of pork and thai spiced roasted pork. What a banquet. The king prawns and scallops especially took my fancy and my friend raved about the crispy chicken. As usual the service was relaxed and friendly, it is almost like being one of the family there. It was all finished off with a trio of desserts, ice cream, jam cookie and a battered sweet potato, different but delicious.

I still have some Chinese takeaways to try out and hopefully will in the near future.

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### What's On

THE THEATRE  
CHIPPING NORTON  
1 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX9 3PL

#### LIVE HIGHLIGHTS:

Wed 2 Mar, 7.45pm	LA BOHEME £15, £13 conc
Thurs 3 Mar, 7.45pm	DRACULA: THE KISSES £14, £12 conc
Friday 4 Mar, 7.45pm	RORY MCGRATH £15
Thurs 10 Mar, 7.45pm	THE BIRTHDAY PARTY £15, £13
Fri 11 Mar, 7.45pm	SWEDE DREAMZ £18
Sat 12 Mar, 7.45pm	THE BARRON KNIGHTS £17.50, £15.50 conc
Sat 19 Mar, 2pm	FAMILY SHOW: HERE BE MONSTERS £8.50
Thurs 24 Mar, 7.45pm	BACKSTAGE IN BISCUITLAND £13, £11 conc
Tue 29 Mar, 2pm & 4pm	FAMILY SHOW: HAIRY MACLARY & FRIENDS £8.50
Sat 2 Apr, 2.30pm & 7pm	A NIGHT WITH TWEEDY £10, £8.50 conc

#### FILM:

Tue 1 Mar, 7.30pm	ROOM (15)
Sat 5 Mar, 7.30pm	THE BIG SHORT (15)
Sat 12 Mar, 7.30pm	SNOOPY & CHARLIE BROWN: THE PEANUTS MOVIE (U)
Sun 13 Mar, 7.30pm	SPOTLIGHT (15)
Mon 14 Mar, 7.30pm	RELAXED SCREENING: EASTER PARADE £5
Mon 17 Mar, 7.30pm	YOUTH (15)
Sat 19 Mar, 7.30pm	AND THE WINNER IS...
Sun 20 Mar, 7.30pm	DAD'S ARMY
Mon 21 Mar, 10.30am	CINEMA BAMBINO FILM CLUB
Wed 23 Mar, 7.30pm	DAD'S ARMY
Tues 29 Mar, 7.30pm	STAR MEN (PG)
Wed 30 Mar, 7.30pm	A BIGGER SPLASH

Tickets £9, £7 under 16's

#### THEATRE SCREENINGS:

Sun 6 Mar, 7.30pm	HANGMEN (RECORDED, CAPTURED LIVE) £15
Tues 15 Mar, 7.30pm	THE CAR MAN (RECORDED, CAPTURED LIVE) £15
Mon 28 Mar, 7.30pm	THE RAILWAY CHILDREN (RECORDED, CAPTURED LIVE) £10, £8

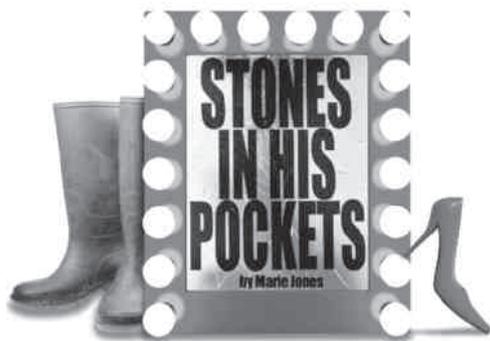
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# THE ARTS

## The Theatre

Latest in house production



Following huge success of previous 'home-grown' productions, The Theatre Chipping Norton and The Dukes Lancaster, in association with Oxfordshire Theatre Company, present the widely acclaimed play **Stones In His Pockets** by Marie Jones, billed as 'hilarious, lovable and at times almost breathtaking'. The storyline follows two Irish village lads engaged as extras in a Hollywood film set in their own Irish village community. Written with poignancy and sincerity and performed at breakneck pace, actors Conan Sweeny and Charlie de Bromhead play a vast array of eccentric, lovable characters. The play, directed by the Theatre's Artistic Director John Terry, is presently on a major tour, coming to Chippy from 5-9 April and 11-16 April at 7.45pm (plus 2.30pm on 9 April). On 15 April at 7.45 pm there is a BSL signed performance. On Saturday 9 April from 10am until the end of the matinée is a workshop based on the play. Cost £25, including a ticket to the 2.30pm performance. Further information on 642350 or via [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com).

### 25 Years of Youth Theatre

In September 2015 the Youth Theatre was 25 years old. In recognition, Groups 1, 2 and 3 perform a celebratory show on 9 March at 7.30pm looking back over this quarter century of performance. They will be exploring what has changed, both within the Youth Theatre and the wider world. Tickets £5, £4 concession.

### Easter Holiday Take Part Events

**Play in a Day 5 - 7 years** 30 March 10am - 3pm Participants will engage in drama games, storytelling and improvisation and create their own version of a traditional tale. **Play in Two**

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## Chipping Norton Music Festival

4-19 March

details: [www.cnmf.org.uk](http://www.cnmf.org.uk)

Tickets & Programmes available from  
Jaffé & Neale Bookshop & Café

**Days 8 - 12 years** 31 March and 1 April 10am - 4pm. This popular event enables children, through drama games and improvisation, to devise a play. **Musical Theatre Experience 5 - 8 years** 4 - 6 April 10am - 1pm. A choreographer and musical director present a high-speed, high-energy experience of musical theatre. Participants will sing well-known songs, learn dance routines and discover the excitement of performing on a professional stage. **Street Dance 8 - 12 years** 7 April 10am - 4pm With Body Politic's Emma-Jane Greig. Learn hip-hop, house and breakdance and create and choreograph your own dance moves. Further details, including cost and times of performances, on 649102 or via [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com).

## ChipLitFest 2016, 21-24 April

### Children's Programme Special

The very first Chipping Norton Literary Festival in 2012 opened with a day of events for schools. Ever since, the children's programme has been a central part of the festival. This year Jo Cotterill, author of the *Sweet Hearts* series of books and the new

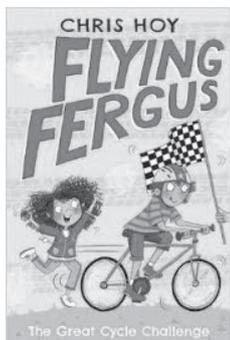


*Electrigril*, among others, and John Dougherty, author of the *Stinkbomb & Ketchup-Face* series, have been invited to put together this year's programme. Jo and John (pictured) have curated eight public events in the children's programme, featuring authors who have written brilliant books appealing to children all ages. The 2015 Carnegie Medal winner Tanya Landman follows up her astounding novel *Buffalo Soldier* with another equally wonderful book, *Hell & High Water*. The hugely popular Steve Cole (ask your dinosaur-obsessed children about the *Astrosaurus* series), entertains his young audience on Sunday. Jo herself appears with her illustrator partner Cathy Brett in an event based on their brand new superhero book *Electrigril*. And John is adding to his hilarious series *Stinkbomb & Ketchup-Face* with the latest, *The Great Big Story Nickers!* As well as the public events, there's a full programme for Chipping Norton Partnership schools: on Thursday 21 April, nine talented authors will visit twelve schools. There'll also be events for home educated pupils and

# THE ARTS

those attending the ACE Centre. Jo and John really hope that, at this year's Festival, a lot of you will find your new favourite authors of 2016!

## For children and young people



**Saturday 23 April**

**The Crown & Cushion** 10-11am *Flying Fergus and his Magic Bicycle* for ages 6-10; 12-1pm *Stinkbomb and Ketchup-Face* for ages 5-11; 2-3pm *Electrigril* for ages 7-12; 4-5pm *Hell and High Water* for ages 11+ with Tania Landman; 5-6pm Poetry Competition Awards.

**The Library** 4-5pm *Storytelling for young children*, ages 3-5 with Atinuke

**Jaffé & Neale** 4-5pm Cathy Brett creates a live window display.

**Town Hall** 6-6.45 *First Draft*, a musical suitable for all ages

**Saturday 23 April**

**The Crown & Cushion**

10-11am

*Pop-up Monster*

*Workshop* for ages 2-6;

12-1pm, *Monsters, Magic & Mayhem* for

ages 7-12 with Steve Cole;

2-3pm *Myths, Legends and Superheros*

for age 10+

**The Library** 12-1pm

*Storytelling for young children*, ages 3-5

with Atinuke;

2-3pm *Very Little Sleeping Beauty* for ages 2-6

with Teresa Heapy and Sue Heap.

Children must be accompanied by a ticket-holding adult at

ticketed events. All tickets £2 from The Theatre box office, or

phone 642350. For information about all ChipLitFest 2016

events, see [www.chiplitfest.com](http://www.chiplitfest.com). More details about the 2016

programme in our April edition.



Photo: Ian Taylor

Atinuke at the Bishop's Stortford College Festival of Literature.

frontman Tunde to revisit the band's classic catalogue. Cornbury perennials STAXS return to their regular Sunday slot, with bets already being taken on their star guest. Noah & The Whale guitarist Fred Abbott showcases his new band, Kelvin Jones brings a soulful edge, and musicals star Ramin Karimloo makes his major UK festival debut with bluegrass. Probably the best party band in the World – Bjorn Again – close the festival from the Songbird Stage in true ABBA style.

## Other local events & news

**Life and Times of the Sundial: Our Most Enduring**

**Timekeeper** – A lecture by Kevin Karney on its history,

how time has been told, and its effect on poets and

philosophers down the ages. 9 March for the Cotswold

Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Bradwell Village Hall,

Burford OX18 4XF Time: 11 am with coffee from 10.15. Non-

members welcome (£8 suggested entry) see

[www.cotswolddfas.org.uk](http://www.cotswolddfas.org.uk) for more details.



**Shakespeare in Art: Tempests, Tyrants and Tragedy**

–

Compton Verney

re-opens on

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this exhibition

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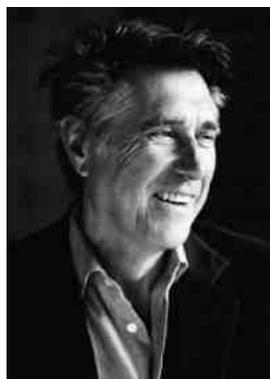
For information,

opening times and

ticket prices see

[www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk).

## Cornbury Music Festival



Bill-topping Bryan Ferry

The Saturday and Sunday lineups (9

and 10 July) are announced!

Topping the Saturday bill is the

most elegant man in music, Mr

Bryan Ferry, along with a wealth of

cool women; pioneering Gospel

diva Mavis Staples, purveyor of The

Power of Love, Gabrielle Aplin, and

original alt-country star, Lucinda

Williams.

Cornbury favourites, British

country stars The Shires, make a

welcome return, whilst dreamy

songsters Turin Brakes bring new

and old blend. Sealing the bill are

trio Red Sky July (husband

and wife duo Ally McErlaine (Texas)

and Shelly Poole (Alisha's Attic),

and folksy newcomers Cattle & Cane.

After his triumph as surprise special

guest last year, Seal returns as

Sunday headliner with celebrated

singer-songwriter James Morrison,

guitar virtuoso Newton Faulkner.

60s rock combo The Zombies

joins the stellar cast, as does

## Town Sports Awards



The judging was held recently for the Town Sports Awards – with the Awards Evening due on Friday 26 February in the Town Hall. The judges, available from a panel of volunteers, are pictured above, left to right are: Tym Soper (football), Stuart Turner (motorsport), Alice Powell (motorsport) and Matthew Stevenson (football). This worked well as three of the judges live out of town, and we had received no nominations for motorsport and only one nomination for football. This is one of the nicest and shortest meetings of the year! As usual the judges had no problem agreeing on the winners. Following the 2015 Awards, the Town Council wished to reward achievement, so a clear indication of success is required to win an award. Look out for the April *Chippy News* for photos of the Awards Evening and a list of the award winners.

Graham Beacham

## Chipping Norton Cricket Club

The Cricket Club has begun preparations for the upcoming season. Winter nets at Sibford School on Friday evenings 7-8pm, with useful structured sessions, are run by qualified Level 3 coach Richard Ferley and Level 2 coach Dave Brassett. Training begins outside soon. Sessions are open to current players and anyone over 15 hoping to join the Club or just try out. We look forward to seeing as many new faces there as possible. The Club is looking for new players and non players. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI is now back in the top division in the OCA after several years' absence and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have marched up, now playing in Division 5. The Youth section is making fantastic progress with a huge number of children joining last season. Success on the field has also been supported off the field with tireless efforts from everyone involved. A new artificial wicket will help the Club to host more matches. Non-playing help is needed such as as scoring or managing the U11's youth team. Previous experience is not necessary, as you will be welcomed into a very friendly club. Please contact Ian Widdows (1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain) on 07795 100952.

**Player Registration for 2016 Important change**  
12 March 10am-4pm. The Club will be open for all members, old and new, men's & youth, to fill in Membership Forms and pay their fees.

## Higher Energy Trampoline

A great start to 2016 saw 16 young gymnasts entering the Regional test event on the IOW. Fourteen qualified for the next round. Huge congratulations to Sam Cruttenden, Jade Hopkins, Alex McShane, Ollie Haddrell, Lois Moseley, Kelcie Griffin taking Gold and Lucy Washbourn and Masie Tustian taking Silver. We are taking 30 club members to Milton Keynes

for the 2nd test event on 21 February, hopefully securing more qualification results and adding to our trophy cabinet!

Fiona Middleton

## Chipping Norton Rugby Club

The Club is hosting the U9 & U10 Oxfordshire Festival on Sunday 3 April and needs volunteers to help with parking support, sponsorship, raffle prizes, PA system on the day, Health & Safety, food & tuck shop. The Club ran a similar, hugely successful Oxfordshire Festival which raised about £10,000 for clubhouse facilities. It is hoped the April Festival will be as successful but this depends on volunteer support. If you'd like to help, please contact the Club via [chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com](mailto:chippingnortonrugby@gmail.com)

## Tae Kwon-Do



Chipping Norton Tae Kwon-Do club is celebrating, after awarding Student of the Year to Larrys (left) in the junior class, who has worked hard to implement the changes we have made to his performance. Berin (pictured below) in the adult class, also worked hard last year and is about to take his Blue Belt marking almost five



years of training. We train on Wednesday at the Leisure Centre with a Junior lesson at 5pm and Adult & Teen Class at 6pm. You can register for a free four-week training pass by visiting [www.martialartsvoucher.co.uk](http://www.martialartsvoucher.co.uk)

## Football

### Chipping Norton Town Swifts

Swifts, well into the New Year, have only three months of the season left, with teams hoping for a good run to finish the season on a high. **Under 7s** have had a mixed start – after early season success – in a much stronger league, facing some talented sides. There's been a recent mix of wins and losses but with a couple of new additions, they improve each week. Swifts **Under 8s** are also in a stronger league after successes at the start of the season. After some very narrow defeats, the team gained a few new faces and now looks like a side that can compete at a much higher standard than 12 months ago. Unfortunately **Under 11s** haven't been able to gain any real momentum, as postponements have meant their 9-1 and 6-2 away victories have been the only matches played since Christmas. Swifts **Under 12s** have been boosted by a couple of important new additions and look a much better-rounded outfit. Despite postponements, a solid 4-1 friendly win and a 3-2 league defeat demonstrated their potential. Success in the 'A' League has continued for **Under 15s**, who began the season's second half with a 5-3 home win against Clanfield – their only game of 2016 so far, they are 2 points off the top of the table, with games in hand on leaders Bampton. CNTSFC always welcome new players at all ages. If you have any enquiries, visit the Club website [www.chippyswifts.co.uk](http://www.chippyswifts.co.uk),

# SPORTS NEWS

for the manager contacts for every age group and training times, fixture details, and weekly match reports.

Luke Newman

## Chadlington Whites U14

Chadlington Whites U14 2 ~ Witney Vikings Youth U14 2. An absolutely cracking top of the table match, between two fine entertaining teams in January, saw honours even. Both teams displayed great spirit and eagerness to win the ball making for some end-to-end football and great goalmouth chances. Many thanks to the referee, Mike for running the line, and excited spectator support. Training remains focussed on keeping shape, positioning, ball retention and distribution.

Seymour Mincer & Drew Duncan

## 4Shires Swimming Club



The 4Shires' year started with the Ox & N Bucks Counties, with both individual distance events and relays seeing some outstanding swims with relays giving us best ever placings. We helped once again with the Chipping Norton Partnership Schools' swimming relay gala. It was great to see so many 4Shires swimming hats, and a very good standard. Hopefully the 18 talent-spotted swimmers will come for a trial and join us. A huge thanks to all coaches and parents who helped ensure smooth running of this annual event.

The 4Shires Junior Swimmer of the Month is Mary Francis who has continued to train hard and listens to her coaches. Competing in her first Counties relay she produced a good Personal Best. Senior Swimmer of the Month is Clive Jarvis, one of our few Masters Swimmers; always leading the

lane, setting an example to youngsters with his great efforts. To find out more please visit our website [www.4SSC.co.uk](http://www.4SSC.co.uk)

Louise Berry

## Chipping Norton Bowls Club



*Bowls Club members with Brize Norton visitors*

In February Chipping Norton Bowls Club entertained 13 members of the Joint Air Delivery, Test and Evaluation unit from RAF Brize Norton to an afternoon of Bowling with training by Club members and a match. Members Mike and Val Harris organised the event and Mike said, 'It is a pleasure to host members of the armed forces and we hope you have enjoyed your afternoon and will continue to play bowls.' The Unit's Chief Technician Daryl Lockwood said, 'Many thanks for providing such an entertaining afternoon – six of our group could be interested in taking up Bowls. The afternoon also provides an opportunity to say goodbye to member Matt Usher who is leaving the Army today on his birthday after 12 years of service. We wish him well in his new civilian role.' Club members who helped throughout the afternoon were Carol and Ron Thornhill, John Bowlt and John Cox.

John Bowlt

## A Sporting Life – Stuart Turner

*This month's 'Life' is motorsport's Stuart Turner, one of our Town Sports Awards judges who, with his wife, has lived in Heythrop since the 1990's.*

**A career in motorsport** Stuart has been involved in motorsport since the 1950s as a navigator, journalist and team boss, as well as trustee of the Motorsport Safety Fund Charity for twenty years. They produce films and publications to help keep the sport safe. Stuart's achievements include being a champion navigator, winning the 1960 RAC Rally. He was also Competitions Manager at BMC during the winning days of the Mini Coopers in the Monte Carlo Rally. It was nice to meet someone so involved with that success, reminding me of those iconic black and white film reels of Minis driving over the mountains. This was followed by success as Competitions Manager at Ford, with the Escort.

**Journalism and speaking** Stuart was awarded an Autosport Award in 1990 and the Prince Michael Award of Merit in 2009, both for services to motorsport. Stuart was also involved in journalism, writing over 20 books, including

a Haynes Manual, not on motoring but on retirement. However, he shows no sign of retiring at the moment! He is also the winner of a Benedictine After Dinner Speaker of the Year Award. He does not charge fees or expenses so all proceeds from talks go to charity.

**Personal reflections** Stuart tells many tales about being behind the scenes with the Mini inventor, Sir Alec Issigonis, and the rally drivers. He also recalls that whilst at Ford they made an appeal for women competition drivers, thinking they would get twenty applications. They received a thousand! Stuart and his wife love Chippy and the surrounding area – including the 'lively and great atmosphere... much helped by the work of community volunteers'. Stuart complimented the Sports Awards and Chippy News.

*A big thank you to Gill Boobyer for mentioning Stuart – resulting not only in this article, but also his help with Town Sports Awards.*

Graham Beacham



*Photo: Tony Baker/Classic & Sports Cars 2015*

# CLUB NEWS

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## Railway Club's impressive programme

Our AGM took place on 2 February followed by a talk from new speaker, Reece Jenkins. The Committee were re-elected and Programme Secretary Richard Stowe has put together another impressive programme. On 1 March we look forward to greeting again Chris Youett, our 'Coventry Kid' friend, with his talk A Trip around East Anglia. On 5 April we welcome a second visit from Frank Banfield, with more of his archive railway films.

Local man, Reece talked about the privatisation of the railways in the mid-nineties, a controversial subject. At that time he had a managerial post with British Rail and played some small part in this contentious programme. His talk was followed by a lively debate with many opinions and points of view being aired.

Our two outings will be in May and September. On Sunday, 15 May we are off to the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway in Kent. This is their special Gala weekend and will include unlimited travel along the line, from Hythe to Dungeness. We last visited nine years ago and will see a few changes: a new Restaurant at Dungeness and a Model Railway Exhibition at New Romney Station. On 11 September the Nene Valley Railway in Peterborough will be the venue, again for their special Steam Gala.

Do come along on the first Tuesday of each month. We give a warm welcome to new members and visitors, with free tea or coffee and biscuits in the interval.

Estelle Brain 641586

## Royal Secrets at U3A

Our speaker for January was Ian Scott-Hunter who worked in the 1970s as footman to Her Majesty the Queen. Ian described how he moved his family to London to get the best care for his disabled daughter and heard 'on the grapevine' about the vacancy as footman. He got the job, the family took up residence at Hampton Court and Ian began his seven-year career which involved him in ceremonial processions, extravagant dinners and visits to Sandringham and Balmoral. He had many interesting anecdotes and the audience was eager to ask questions afterwards. U3A is an organisation for retired or semi-retired people and we meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 2.30 in the Methodist Hall on West Street. We also have a number of Special Interest Groups covering all kinds of subjects. For more information, please email Jo McVicker on [jo.mcvicker@btinternet.com](mailto:jo.mcvicker@btinternet.com)

Jo McVicker

## Scouting round up

**Beavers:** Woodpecker Colony had a very exciting visit to Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital, to learn about what they do and to meet some of their resident cats and dogs. A big thank you to Janine Whitehead for accommodating us on a wet and windy night. We are busy working towards the Space Activity badge and My World Challenge Badge.

**Cubs:** The cubs have been learning new skills whilst working towards the 'Our Skills' challenge badge. They learnt how to sew on a button whilst making sock monsters and how to use an iron to ensure their neckers look immaculate. Cubs have also been learning about how their hearts and lungs work – from books, models and the heart and lungs from a sheep.

Well done to all who took part in the district swimming gala, 6<sup>th</sup> Chipping Norton came sixth overall.

**Scouts:** The scouts have already been camping at Winter Camp which had a medieval theme. Activities ranging from whittling spoons, disco, trebuchets, jousting and aboriginal archery. Our scouts won the archery competition for the second year running! Chippy scouts swam brilliantly in the district swimming gala coming second overall – Edward was the U14½ front crawl champion and Lenny the U12½ and a half marathon champ.



Congratulations to Felix, Charlie and Alex (pictured) who recently received their Chief Scout's Gold Awards – one of the highest awards in scouting. They have been working towards this for the past two years.

In our usual meeting all the scouts have been learning Tae Kwon-Do for their badge work and loving it!

**Explorers:** The Explorers celebrated Burns night in style with a Scottish quiz but also various challenges. These included making a caber and tossing it, designing their own tartan and making a Scottish outfit out of newspaper. The challenge to make the best Scotch pancakes the leaders had ever tasted was judged extremely successful. We have lots of activities planned including climbing, first aid, the Winter Challenge walk along the Ridgeway and the County Explorers' activities weekend camp in March.

## Quaker meetings

Meetings are held 7.30-8.30pm in the Lower Town Hall on the first Wednesday of the month: 2 March, 6 April, 4 May. All are welcome. Meetings include a discussion about pertinent issues, focusing on those questions which sometimes make us uncomfortable as we wrestle with our conscience and 20-30 minutes of silence.

## Relaxed evening for Chippy Folk

Another lovely relaxed evening at Chipping Norton Folk Club. A good mixture of regulars and newcomers treated us to around 30 songs ranging from traditional American folk via Buddy Holly, The Beatles, Eric Clapton, Van Morrison, Tom Paxton (and many others), three Bulgarian handkerchief dances, traditional Scottish and English folk to a stunning setting of a Thomas Hardy poem (by Rosie).

We enjoyed music from quartets, duos, and solo acts performed on guitar, fiddle, banjo, soprano and baritone ukulele, mouth organ and of course voice (solo and in harmony). Congratulations to Rosemary and Mandy who performed on ukulele and guitar in public for the first time.

# CLUB NEWS

The general standard was impressively high as usual with many standout performances including Tony and Moira, our guests from near Stroud, with the lovely *Loch Tay Boating Song* on guitar and fiddle, and a Townes van Zandt song from Dave Oakley. We next meet on 14 March – see p36 for details.

Patrick Moores

## Legion seeks missing men

Chipping Norton Royal British Legion at the behest of the Town Council are compiling the names of men from Chipping Norton, who fell in the two World Wars, and who are not included on the Town War Memorial. To date we have identified the following:

*World War One:* Private George Aries, Private Ralph Benfield, Gunner Ernest Betteridge, Corporal Harry Betteridge, Private Leonard Langford, Private Wilfred Nason;  
*World War Two:* Private Ernest Bowser, Flying Officer Ronald Jaques.



We are seeking further information about Musician Richard Herbert Lovick, a Royal Marine Bandsman who died on 16 July 1943, aged 23, when his ship HMS Cleopatra was torpedoed. Born in Essex, he moved to Chippy with his parents Arthur and Rose who ran the Blue Boar. His father had been in the Royal Marines Light Infantry and served in the First

World War. He ran the pub sometime between 1921 and 1940, but we don't know exactly when. If anyone has any information please contact me as below.

If you have any information about Richard Herbert Lovick or if you know of someone who you think should be on the Town's War Memorial, please contact me by phone on 01295 780558 or email me via [stevekingsford@gmail.com](mailto:stevekingsford@gmail.com)

Steve Kingsford

## CNAAG makes an exhibition of itself

After what seemed an eternity, clear skies returned over Chipping Norton during the first weeks of February allowing local stargazers of Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group to emerge, bleary eyed and yawning, to continue their relentless study of the heavens. A flurry of activity found us at Chipping Norton, Bidford on Avon and Longborough schools where high overhead passes of the International Space Station bolstered the 'Tim Peake effect'. In March we plan visits to Charlbury Beavers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Daylesford on the 19<sup>th</sup> as part of their WWF Earth Day event. Weather permitting our Spring MoonWatch is on the 16<sup>th</sup> outside Jaffe & Neale in the town centre. Join us as we observe the Moon & Jupiter at close quarters. From 24 March-21 April we have an exhibition *Cotswold Stars & Stones* in The Theatre gallery – stunning astronomical pictures taken by CNAAG members plus a display about the Rollright Stone monuments by the Rollright Trust. On 29 March there's a special screening of the astronomical documentary *Starmen* with a post show talk by Oxford Astrophysicist Frazer Clarke, contact Box Office for tickets. We have regular monthly meetings in the Methodist rooms – our AGM where we reflect on the past year and outline our plans for the future is on 21 March. CNAAG is for

all local stargazers and whatever your level of interest, our meetings are open to all. Details [www.cnaag.com](http://www.cnaag.com)

Robin Smitten

## A taste of the Arts at CNWI

Chipping Norton Women's Institute was pleased to welcome Lyn Coleman, advisor for the Norton group, to their meeting on 10 February, when she gave a brief outline of her work for the WI. Some members then shared their interests with a rich variety of topics – polar bear watching in Canada and reminiscences of past careers plus examples of handmade cards, a Provencal watercolour and a hand stitched picture. The afternoon concluded with a rendition of one of Alan Bennett's inimitable episodes from *Talking Heads*, which sent everyone home with a smile. At the annual meeting on 9 March we will review the past year's activities and discuss plans for the next. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us in the Lower Town Hall at 2.15pm.

Prudence Chard 642903

## Hilarity and resolve at WOWI

West Oxfordshire WI has a great year to look forward to. In January we heard an entertaining talk by Gillian Cane, one of the first female officers to pass out of Sandhurst who had some hilarious anecdotes! In February we have a craft evening to 'Decopatch' polystyrene eggs to put on an 'Easter Tree'. The AGM on 21 March sees members elect their President and Committee for the following year. We are also having a presentation by our Adviser on the process of WI Resolutions. WI has a reputation for taking on the government to act on different matters. Resolutions in the

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# CLUB NEWS

past have included, 'Equal Pay for Equal Work', they led the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign and in 1975 informed members of the importance of breast examination and lobbied MPs to set up screening clinics. The WI website will inform you of many more! In April we will welcome Prue Leith to our meeting which is also open to other local WI members. Our monthly meetings are at 7.30 in St Mary's Parish Rooms at the bottom of Church Street Chipping Norton.

Hilary Dix 646228

## Fundraising time for Lions

This month's news is small but important as the Lions are now starting to raise funds for 2016 with Easter Eggs and a Bingo Night. The Easter Eggs will be in various public houses and shops, so please keep your eyes open for them. This year they are from a different supplier so we would like to hear comments on them from the winners. This year our Bingo Night is on Friday 1 April – those who came last year will know it was a good night. Please look for the posters, make a note in diaries and come along for the Bingo and to meet some of the Lions. We still need more members, see what we do on our website [www.chippingnortonlionsclub.org.uk](http://www.chippingnortonlionsclub.org.uk) or contact our President Rob Caswell 646003 or any Lion.

Liz Nason

## The more the merrier in Over Norton

Over Norton WI has a colourful, interesting programme for 2016. On Thursday 17 March Roger Powell, author and historian, will be speaking about *Royal Mistresses: A quest for love!* Sounds intriguing, we meet at Over Norton Village Hall, starting at 7.45pm. Visitors welcome.

ONWI has been instrumental with the Parish Council in getting a defibrillator in the village. It is in the old telephone box outside Firs Farm, near the Green in the centre of the village. You can learn how to use the defibrillator at Over Norton Village Hall on Saturday 12 March 10am to noon. Call Lesley 642690 if you wish to come as places are limited. Coffee and cake on sale too!

ONWI has organised a special Italian Evening on 11 March with Giuseppe Grassi, G & G Fine Italian Foods. This is for everyone, including non-members and partners; the more the merrier! £15 a ticket to include Prosecco on arrival,

antipasti, balsamic vinegar tasting, followed by espresso and biscotti. Great value for a truly Italian evening. Booking essential – phone Cathy 07775 566030 to reserve a place.

Frances Buckel

## Sailors' tales at Yacht Club

The Chipping Norton Yacht Club AGM was well attended, with a free buffet, and officers were re-elected unopposed. We recalled an excellent year with high turnouts which included presentations from yachting greats Mike Golding and Sir Chay Blyth.

Member Bob Steele told of a disaster-filled family holiday on a cheap charter boat out of Corfu, illustrated with his own artwork. Many of us have experienced some of the problems he described – losing anchors, failed engines, etc – few of us have experienced all of them in so short a time, or had so little to hand to deal with them.

Member Carolyn Roberts told a rather different story, of a passage around 'the bumpy bit' of Ireland: the less well-known and exposed West coast, which the prevailing South Westerlies make a lee shore. Carolyn is an experienced offshore sailor so when she said 'bumpy' we knew 'scary' was nearer the mark. Clearly a magical place, offering some great sailing (for the stalwarts among us).

In March we hear from Peter Cardy, former Chief Executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. New members are always welcome or come along as a guest to try us out. For details and to book visit [cnyc.co.uk](http://cnyc.co.uk).

Roger Backhaus



*The 'bumpy bit' of Ireland*

## Chadlington Flower Club

January was our AGM followed by a sharing supper and animated talk by David Trollope on his work in advertising. We have a busy and varied year planned, and 24 March will be a members evening entitled *Easter Celebrations*. For more information please contact Ann on 683289.

Elaine Parsons

## Anniversary challenge for ATC

2016 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Air Cadets and on 1 January our cadets started a challenge to collectively walk, cycle, swim or run 8801km. Why so far? Well, this is the distance from Chipping Norton to Minneriya in Sri Lanka, where our namesake 136 RAF Squadron was stationed at the end of World War II. This is a huge undertaking wholly organised by the cadets, led by Cdt Oliver Hall aims to increase cadets' participation in physical activity, raise their awareness of the Anniversary and also raise funds. Cadets are seeking sponsorship for each kilometer they cover or for the squadron achieving the whole distance. Please support them by sponsoring an individual air cadet or the whole squadron. Donations can be sent to 136 Squadron ATC (Sort code: 52-21-31, A/c: 13942816, Ref: 75<sup>th</sup>

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# CLUB NEWS

Anniversary) or directly to the squadron. ATC is for young people aged 12-17. We meet Tuesday and Thursdays 7-9.30pm in Chipping Norton. Our next open evening and joining day is in April 2016. To find out more about air cadets, please visit [www.136atc.com](http://www.136atc.com), or email [136@aircadets.org](mailto:136@aircadets.org).

Helen Haine

## Green Gym enjoys signs of spring



Some time ago we planted a hedge at Church Enstone so now we have been back to lay it. It was a pity to have to cut back one or two hazels which had lovely catkins but at least we could spare the many primroses below. Nearer Chippy we have continued to work at the BBOWT reserve near Glyme Farm, cutting down young blackthorn to provide suitable habitat for small mammals – voles etc. We had a lovely sunny day there and enjoyed our usual mid-morning break (pictured above). In Chippy itself we have also cut back blackthorn that was encroaching on the paths through the William Fowler Wood and have continued to work on the copse we have planted near Travis Perkins – now known as Fitzalan Wood.

Do come and join us on Wednesday mornings! Get fit and enjoy good company while caring for the local environment. There are jobs for all ages and abilities, there's no joining fee and lifts may be available. For further information please visit our website: [www.chippygreengym.org](http://www.chippygreengym.org) or email [jennyharrington@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyharrington@btinternet.com). Everyone is welcome!

Jenny Harrington

## New members rambling

Chippy Ramblers were delighted to welcome several new walking enthusiasts on Sunday 7 February. The January walk had been cancelled due to heavy rain, so after such a wet winter, February's was planned on roads to avoid floods and mud. The walk, courtesy of Peta Simmons, was just under four miles, on quiet roads, starting in a lay-by near Hook Norton and going through the very attractive village of Swerford. We passed, and pointed out, two entrances to the Hook Norton Nature Reserve, and the SSSI with wild flower meadows. By this time the rain had finally burst through, so it was heads down and back to the start. The promise of Spring was everywhere – white blossom of the blackthorn along the hedgerows, snowdrops, aconites and primroses on the banks and birds trilling their future families. The gardens in Swerford were beautiful, and a small shy herd of deer shied away from our presence. On returning to Chippy, 9 of the 13 walkers retired to a member's house to sample some Bordeaux brought back from France at Christmas time, and a well deserved cup of

tea. Next walk, Sunday 6 March, will be in the Great Tew area. Meet at 1.30pm in the New Street Car Park. Details from me on 643691 or email: [rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk), or email Jenny Harrington via [jennyharrington@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyharrington@btinternet.com)

Heather Leonard

## UKIP Corner

This month's piece should read *Non UKIP Corner*. I have been talking about debating the EU question, but, for some reason, I can't find anyone to debate with! However, all is not lost, the launching of GO, (Grassroots Out) an organisation formed across party lines plus those with no political affiliation, to pull all the numerous Out groups together, gives us the opportunity to hold a meeting where the whole subject can be discussed including the pros and cons of Mr Cameron's negotiations, the various treaties and the history of the EU. While this is not meant to be a debate, I for one, would be more than happy to hear from those who wish to stay In. Only by talking the whole subject through can a balanced view be achieved, and a decision made. Please watch the Town Notice Boards and future editions of the News for more details. As Mr Cameron has announced a Referendum in June this may be the only chance to learn the Ins and Outs (no pun intended), before we all have to make the biggest political decision of our lifetimes.

To return to specifically UKIP matters, I will be calling a meeting of our local support group soon, to let you know how you can help in the forthcoming District Council Elections. Look out for the posters around town and your email inbox for details.

I look forward to see many of you at the GO meeting. If

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# CLUB NEWS

you would like more information, please contact me via my email address UKIP.ChippingNorton@GMail.com

Jim Stanley

## Amnesty's hope for Palestine

Earlier this year The Theatre screened *He Named Me Malala* a documentary about the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and her campaign in her native Pakistan for the rights of girls, including the right to education. CN Amnesty International Group handed out leaflets and collected money for AI's campaign for women's rights everywhere. We raised £150 and thank The Theatre for allowing this, and the generous audience who contributed.

The Group talk on 10 March is *Palestine 2016: Hope or Hopelessness? Stories from Palestinians living in West Bank* when Karen Fairfax-Cholmeley, from Duns Tew, will talk to us about her work helping the Palestinian people in their non-violent struggle to uphold dignity and human rights by engaging with them through education. All are welcome to join us, no fee, at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall. Parking is next to the Town Hall. Call Priscilla Peace for details on 01451 830459

Kaye Freeman

## Dingbats and more for Single Filers

Single File has had some popular birthday meals – each attracting about 15 members – at various local pubs with a talented Single Filer making some wonderful birthday cakes. In a more cultured vein we saw the films *The Dressmaker* and *He Named Me Malala* at Chippy Theatre. A pleasant games evening with Scrabble & Dingbats was held at a member's house. Fortnightly social evenings continue at the Crown &

Cushion where current and prospective members can meet. In March, four aficionados are also going to see Puccini's *La Boheme*, others to a quiz evening in Banbury and an evening dedicated to the ins and outs of chess is planned.

Single File is a social club based in Chipping Norton, not primarily a dating agency. It is for those aged 45-70 who may be single, separated, divorced or widowed. For more information contact us on 077655 98518 or via [www.meetup.com/single-file-chipping-norton](http://www.meetup.com/single-file-chipping-norton)

Richard Dixon

## Butterflies . . . and veg growing

James Campbell, of Garden Organic, provided a stimulating start to N Oxon Organic Gardeners' year in February. Now approaching its silver anniversary, this hands-on gardening organisation has an impressive array of activities – from vegetable-



growing projects in schools and prisons, to members' experiments. An inspiring event. On Wednesday 2 March, Roger Kemp, author of *Jewels in the Air*, will share his passion for the *Butterflies of Oxfordshire* and how to attract them to our gardens. *Growing Vegetables in Raised Beds* will be the topic on Wednesday 6 April – perfect timing for this stage of the gardening year – when Charles Dowding will draw on his extensive experience of preparing land and building soil fertility. Do come along – NOOG meets at 7.30pm, St Mary's Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton. Visitors: £3, Members: £1. For enquiries please contact [tracylean@gmail.com](mailto:tracylean@gmail.com), 01295 780710, [www.noog.org.uk](http://www.noog.org.uk).

## Chippy Labour Party

At our AGM in February, Councillor Geoff Saul was re-elected as our Chair for the coming year. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we held one of our regular Quiz and Chips events at The Chequers. With a new, and young, question master some of our older members were occasionally baffled as well as entertained. On 11 March we will be holding another of our regular Supper Clubs, this time in Shipton-under-Wychwood. The speaker will be Rodney Bickerstaffe, for many years leader of UNISON, Britain's second largest Trade Union. For further information and bookings contact Jane Johnson – [chrisandjane3021@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisandjane3021@btinternet.com)

Our monthly meetings are on the second THURSDAY (not Tuesday as stated incorrectly in last month's News), which this month is 10 March at 7.45. For more information on our activities contact me, David Heyes at [davidheyes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidheyes@yahoo.co.uk)

## Horticultural pruning

On a cold, wet February evening around 50 members and friends of the Chipping Norton Horticultural Association met to hear a very interesting and informative talk on *Pruning Trees and Shrubs*. Richard Cripps from Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire, held our attention, explaining the do's and don'ts of this gardening task.

The March meeting, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm, we welcome the return visit of Rob and Diane

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# CLUB NEWS

Cole from Feckenham. They will give a presentation *A Year at Meadow Farm* – their home and plant nursery. There will be plants for sale, grown on site.

Membership renewal will be due at the March and April meetings, at £10, which also offers discount (on production of membership card) at four different outlets. Further details of summer trips and the future programme available from our website [cnha.uk](http://cnha.uk) or the secretary Eileen Forse 643275.

## History tips for the lovelorn

It is a pleasure to listen to Dr Gillian White, who was the guest speaker at the History Society in February. She imparts to her audience not only a clear outline of events but, as on this occasion, fills it with fascinating minutiae. So, all you lovelorn swains, follow her advice and Robert Dudley's example should you wish to impress your Beloved. Make improvements to your home fit for a Queen; re-design your garden with discreet bowers and treat her to a few 300 course meals! This may do the trick but be prepared for disappointment.

At our next meeting on 14 March David Howe will talk about *Prime Ministers and the Midlands*. Intriguing! We look forward to seeing you then at 7.30pm.

Alert! **Wednesday, 16 March**. The museum will have a pop-up shop in the old post office on Top Side. Please drop in and buy. There will be a variety of goodies.

**17 March** at 7pm in the museum: Anyone who would like to volunteer to help please come along – the Museum opens for the Summer season on 19 March – see article on p10.

Liz Whitaker

## Volunteer plea for MS branch

# MS

### Multiple Sclerosis Society

Would you or someone you know have a little time and energy to help those who are struggling to have any quality in their lives through no fault of their own? If so then please do get in touch with me directly and we can discuss what you may be able to do for those affected by Multiple Sclerosis in West Oxfordshire. The branch is run wholly by volunteers to cover fundraising, events (both social and therapeutic) as well as giving support. The MS Society provides training and the time spent volunteering depends on each individual. The current cuts to social services and to essential benefits mean that volunteer groups are even more necessary both to give help and to support campaigns to influence the Health and Social Service decision makers.

The West Oxfordshire Branch Annual Meeting is 2pm on Saturday 12 March in Burwell Hall, Witney. Contact me if you want lunch (jacket potatoes and fillings) beforehand. This is a formal review of the year, election of officers and committee and a chance to air anything regarding the branch though only MS Society members will be able to vote.

Contact details are: Branch website [www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire](http://www.mssociety.org.uk/westoxfordshire) Helplines: Local 0800 917 9790, National 0808 800 8000, contact for the younger (20-45ish) group: [mssy.oxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:mssy.oxfordshire@gmail.com). Or contact me on 645988 or e-mail: [westoxfordshire@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:westoxfordshire@mssociety.org.uk)

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## Chipping Norton School

**Sixth Form enjoys continued success:** Our A level



results have again placed our sixth form as one of the best in the County, securing top spot in 2014 and second out of 30+ schools in 2015. The sixth form has also been in the top 10% of schools nationally for the past three years in terms of Value Added (which measures how much progress students make). We are proud to have this identified by Ofsted: 'Outcomes in the sixth form have been a clear strength of the academy in the past and remain so'.



**Student Council news:** The Student Council held a non-school uniform day at the end of January. The students decided that they wanted to support two charities (SeeSaw and Cancer Research) and split the funds raised equally. The School held two themes; years 7-11 wore denim and the sixth form dressed up as 'What I want to be when I am older'. The students and staff raised an amazing total of £1700!

**Citizenship at CNS:** At the end of last term the Year 11 students were invited to Chipping Norton Fire Station to see a road traffic collision demonstration to emphasize the dangers of 'drink driving'. The fire officers showed how they would extract an injured passenger from a badly damaged car and the actions that the three emergency services go through to save lives. This very powerful demonstration had a real impact on the students and we are very grateful to the Fire Services for taking the trouble to organise it.



This term the Year 10 students were given a series of presentations aimed at helping young people make good decisions and choices. Mrs Bull, the school nurse, spoke about the difficult subject of 'sex and consent', the Samaritans explained their vital service, Sam Stronach and Sarah Pratley

from Cottsway Housing talked about debt management and Ben Lovatt from The Training Effect talked to students about managing risk-taking behaviour, especially in relation to the use of drugs and legal highs. Deb Lamb, Station Support Officer at Chipping Norton Fire Station, delivered a very hard hitting and powerful presentation on 'choice and consequences' in relation to road accidents.

We are very grateful to all the speakers for giving up their time to speak to our students about these important matters.

**CNPS news:** This term we have been delighted to run an Extra Time Science Club for Year 4/5 CNPS pupils. This is the



second year that we have run this popular club and once again it was over-subscribed. Mrs Heath, Mr Ockleston, Mr Prentice, Miss Bartlett and

Dr Hagan have kindly given up their time to run the club. The theme this year was based on 'Life on Mars'. The Science club gives children a great opportunity to expand their knowledge and enjoyment of the subject. For some students it is their first time in a laboratory and the highlight for many is being able to use the Bunsen burners; there is lots of excitement at the prospect of this.

The annual CNPS Swimming Gala is another event which causes a lot of excitement among our Partnership schools. They really do enjoy the opportunity to compete against each other, and the effort put in is quite overwhelming. The Gala is run at a very high level by 25 Year



12 Sports Leaders in partnership with 4 Shires Swimming Club. All the competitors had the opportunity to go along to train with 4 Shires after the event. The winners were: Big Schools – Holy Trinity; Small Schools – Enstone. The overall winner was Holy Trinity School who will be representing CNPS at the WOSPP final.



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## Holy Trinity Primary

**Chinese New Year:** The whole school celebrated Chinese



New Year on the 8 February. Foundation Class opened their own Chinese Restaurant and ate prawn crackers with chopsticks. They enjoyed making Chinese lanterns, paper dragons and writing in Chinese. The finale of the day was a parade with a dragon which the children made, adding their own music and dance routine. Year 1 learnt about the story of 'The Year of the Animals.' They also made puppets to act out the story. Year 2 celebrated with a creative afternoon of making paper-cup, fire blowing, Chinese dragons, in addition to dancing dragons made from paper and lolly sticks. 'I enjoyed making the fire breathing dragons. It was such a fun day.' At the end of the day all our pupils took home a fortune cookie and chop-sticks.



Thank you to Mrs Giddons from Chef's Cottage Chinese restaurant for supporting us in this event.

**Visit to the Oxford Synagogue:** Year 1 and 2 classes visited the Oxford Jewish Congregation. Before our trip, we discussed what artefacts we might find in a Synagogue and explored some Jewish celebrations, Passover, Hanukah and Shabbat.

'They have an Ark to keep the Scrolls safe. It was very interesting.' Isla .

'I liked how they could write right to left.' Megan.

'I liked writing in Hebrew.' Olivia S.

**Trip to the Hindu Temple:** Year 3 and 4 visited a Hindu Temple in London. We saw a video about how the temple was built: it took three years to carve and put into place. We saw the amazing, ornate decorations. Later on, we saw how the worshippers in the temple prayed; it was really interesting as they didn't speak any words.



'It was really a fun, informative and interesting day.' Chelsea and Zoe, Y4.

'It was fun. I liked seeing the gates open in front of the Gods in the Mandir.' Samuel, Y3.

'It was exciting when the doors opened and I heard the horns.' Henry Y3.

'I liked the exhibition, it was very interesting.' Sophie, Y3.

'I enjoyed learning about the role of the different Gods.' Isla, Y3.

'I thought the temple was so very beautiful.' Felix Y3.

**Dignity In Action Day:** Year 5 visited the residents of Henry Cornish Care Centre to ask them questions about their lives, both now, and when they were younger.

**National Sing Up Day:** On 3 February, the whole school took part in the National Sing Up afternoon. We worked in different groups and learnt different songs. After that, we all gathered together in the school hall and sang all of the songs together. We sang songs from movies, response songs, pop and songs in a round. It was a fabulous experience. My favourite song was probably *Roar!* By Cheska, Year 5

**Foundation Stage:** Foundation Stage parents were invited to the 'Story Café' on 12 February. They shared a story with their child, made a prop from the story and stayed on for tea and biscuits.

**Swimming Gala:** Well done to our Swimmers who not only won the Big Schools' Swimming Gala but also won the overall event out of the ten partnership schools.

**CNPS Ball Skills Festival:** We went to Ball Skills, there were lots of schools there and we all teamed up. We all enjoyed it, they helped us play and we learned new things. We all received certificates and the winning team was Germany who got medals.' Carmen and Toby Y4

## St Mary's Primary



**Sounds Roadshow:** Andy Warne returned to our school with his Sounds Roadshow to run two workshops. All the children took part in a Samba workshop, playing several instruments like Hakkas and drums. The afternoon were 'sounds rubbish' workshops using recycled materials. The children made music using plastic buckets and drain pipes, playing along with music. This was such fun.

### International Art Weeks:

January was filled with our International Art weeks, with classes producing art from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Jamaica and many more! Years 5 & 6 produced face masks, Years 1 & 2 made carnival masks and groups made Hakkas. Year 3 & 4 made clay pots and turtles. Images, school art exhibitions turned our school hall into a wonderful art exhibition where the children had a piece of art framed on display for parents to view and purchase. This was very successful.



### Netball:



Some children from years 5 & 6 were selected to represent the School at the Chipping Norton Partnership Netball tournament. There were five large schools and six small schools competing for the trophies. After outstanding play from all the team, St Mary's finally ended up winning two games and finishing in second place. Our Sporting champions were Dijonay Walker, Tori Kennedy, Frankie Miller and Vivek Kumar. These awards were in recognition for their

fantastic teamwork and defensive play. A super tournament and many thanks to Mrs Phillips and her Sports Leaders. Well done St Mary's.

**Foundation:** This term, we have been learning about the Polar Regions. We were very interested in learning about penguins and became entranced with the footage of penguins,

via live webcams, from Edinburgh Zoo and Cotswold Wildlife Park. They are hugely entertaining! We decided to write to the zoos with our questions and are awaiting responses. Evan wants to know why Penguins eat fish. Despite the milder weather we have had, we enjoyed a session playing in the thick frost on the field and have made our own ice in the freezer.



**Wind in the Willows:** *The Wind in the Willows* blew into St Mary's school on 9 February. The Image Company's performance left the whole school speechless.

'I liked the woodland animals, they were totally great.' Oliver said.

Murilo enjoyed performing as a caravan horse, when asked was he nervous performing in front of the School he replied, 'Nay.'

'I enjoyed being a stoat because we got the longest part!' Mim said. We all really enjoyed being part of it.

### New Lunchtime Supervisors:

We have two new lunchtime supervisors that we would like you to welcome to our team. Ms Finch and Mrs French recently started with us and are settling well into their new roles on the playground and in the school hall.





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## Middle Barton Primary



What a fantastic spring term we have had at Middle Barton School so far! On 3 February Oak class participated in the Partnership's 'High Five' netball tournament. All of the children played exceptionally well and there was a great team spirit. Overall, we managed to come fourth!

On 10 February the whole school celebrated Chinese New Year. Each class took part in a dance workshop in the morning which was held by one of our parents. We all took part in creating a range of Chinese New Year decorations such as lanterns and masks. For lunch we all enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch. This linked with our whole school focus of 'Global Learning' where we are developing an understanding of the wider world. In the afternoon we all came together to perform our dance routines and celebrate Chinese New Year as a whole school.

We ended the spring term with a lovely assembly held by our Chestnut class on the theme of 'Love'. Their topic for the term has been 'Families and Neighbours' and the children discussed the different ways they could show love and care

for one another in school through roleplay, photos, art work and music – a wonderful end to the term.

## Kingham Primary

**Quiz Championship:** Eight KS2 pupils took part in the heat of the national inter-school Quiz Championship in Oxford. The competition is run by a professional quizmaster. *Ava (Y6) reports:* We were all a bit nervous when we arrived at the quiz. There was a mixture of questions: English, Art, History, Maths and lots more! After two rounds and 40 questions, the quiz ended. Both our teams did very well – my team coming second and the other team 8th. I really enjoyed the day and loved the experience.



**Swimming Gala;** The first heat was on and we freestyled our way to victory; coming first out of three. Everyone swam fantastically, earning us 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 'Big schools' section and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Report by Hannah and Edward (Y6)

## Chadlington Primary

**Whole School Topic:**

The Dragons and Wizards had the most wonderful day recently at the National Space Centre as part of our recent topic 'We are Astrophysicists'. The Pixies and Elves were lucky enough to explore a huge portable, inflatable planetarium brought into school by the StarDome and learnt masses of facts about the stars!



Our next topic is 'We are Palaeontologists' which will end just before Easter with a Science Fair for parents organised by the Wizards to celebrate these exciting topics.

**World Book Day Disco:** This year instead of a Valentine's Disco the Wizards have decided to organise a World Book Day Disco with games, a tuck shop and prizes for the best costumes. All proceeds will go to the Save the Children Fund.

**Netball Winners:** Our school continued its recent sporting success in the Chipping Norton Schools Partnership when the Wizards took part in a Netball tournament and came home with the cup! Well done to all involved!

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'All children make excellent progress in their learning and development.'

'Pupils' behaviour is excellent throughout the school.'

'Standards achieved in EYFS are excellent'

*Independent Schools Inspectorate Report 2015*



## Acorns Primary

**Bully Beat songwriting:** Children from Acorns Primary



have worked with Bully Beat musician Nathan Timothy to write and perform a song about anti-bullying. Bully Beat has been designed to enthuse children about the process of lyric writing, singing, music arranging and contemporary production whilst promoting a serious anti-bullying message. The one-day workshop presented children with opportunities to sing, write lyrics, perform and record their ideas both individually and as a team. The children that took part in the workshop were encouraged to express their thoughts on 'bullying' and its effects to make the lyrics powerful.

**Trips for learning:** Class 1 headed into the 'Enchanted Woodland'. The children explored types of trees and animals, looking at why they lived in the environment. After the first week the class were ready to immerse themselves in the woodland, and so ventured up to Whichford Wood for a morning. As part of Class 2's topic 'The Blue Abyss'. Year 3/4 children had a wonderful time at the Sealife Centre, where they saw wonderful creatures including penguins, rays and seahorses, and experienced *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* in the 4D cinema. Class 3 have been learning about 'A Child's War'. They role-played what it might have been like to be evacuated at the start of the Second World War.

## Kingham Hill School

**Indoor Rowing:** Eight Kingham Hill athletes participated in



the Oxfordshire County Indoor Rowing Competition, part of a joint initiative by British Rowing and the Sainsbury School Games. In the West Oxfordshire borough competition, our Year 9 & 10 athletes gained second place, while the Year 7 & 8 team won the event to secure a place at the County competition. All of those who took part are new to the sport.

There were a number of personal bests in the individual competition, and the pupils' depth of determination and team work were on display with Kingham Hill finishing in third place in this County competition. The team were presented with their bronze medals by Olympian Sarah Winckless MBE.

**Harry Potter Day:** We also enjoyed a Harry Potter Day complete with very imaginative themed food, as well as access to the Library through Platform 9<sup>3/4</sup>. Senior Fiction was 'Restricted', and there was even somewhere to leave your owl! The Sorting Hat put pupils into their Hogwarts houses and a number of pupils swore they were 'up to no good' in order to use the Marauder's Map.

**Open Days:** Our February Open Day was a resounding success with record numbers attending. Our next Open Day is 7 May. Your whole family is welcome so do come and join us. Telephone: 01608 659789

## Sibford School

**Students attend USA conference:** In February seven



*Sibford Students are pictured outside Lincoln School in Rhode Island (where the conference was hosted) Back: Max Ostrand, Finn Ridley, Harry Berks. Front: Bethan Robinson, Parris Pratley, Benjamin Taylor and Caroline Berkley*

Sixth Form students took part in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Quaker Youth Leadership Conference in Rhode Island. The conference, titled 'Equality: Past, Present, Future', provided the opportunity to meet with pupils from Quaker schools in the USA and explore issues of equality, diversity and gender. Students also fitted in some sightseeing, including a visit to the Top of the Rock Observation Deck and Ground Zero and a Broadway production of *Les Misérables*.

**Success In LAMDA Exams:** Sibford School students recorded a 100% success rate in their LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examinations. Of the 21 students entered, 13 were awarded a Distinction, seven achieved Merits and one received a Pass. Matt Rainsberry achieved 91% in his Grade 6 Solo Acting, an outstanding mark which also awards him 40 UCAS points.

**Open events:** A Whole School Open Morning on Friday 4 March will give parents of prospective pupils the opportunity to find out more about what the School offers for pupils aged between 3 and 18. On Wednesday 9 March, the school will host an Open Afternoon, focusing on Sibford's provision for pupils aged 3 to 7. For further information, call admissions officer, Elspeth Dyer, on 01295 781203.

# LETTERS

## Supporting our Town's School



Chipping Norton School was recently inspected by the Government's education inspection body, Ofsted. As parents and members of the community with a strong association and involvement with Chipping Norton School, we do not recognise the picture portrayed by the inspection report. Our personal experience of the School has been very positive, in terms of the education received by our children, opportunities they are given for extra-curricular activities and pastoral care. We recognise the need for inspection and for schools to be held accountable and to be supported in their efforts to improve, but believe the overall grading given is unrepresentative of the quality of education and care provided to the students. We'd like to thank all the parents, students, Councillors and other professionals in the education community who signed the petition in support of the School and its staff. Within just a few days there were over 400 signatures, and comments showed resounding disagreement with the inspection result and a broad range of positive messages about the School. We feel it is important for us as a community to send a message to the leadership and staff at Chipping Norton School that we support them and acknowledge and appreciate their dedication, hard work and professionalism. We have confidence in their abilities to turn this judgement around so that our School is once again judged as at least good.

**Mark Tailby, Shona Evans and Claire Jarvis** (parents)

## Lack of toilets – the Co-op

I thought you might be interested to read the correspondence I sent to Mid Counties Co-op and to which I had no further response. *'To The Chief Executive – Dear Sir, Many people think the store is excellent in most aspects, but many customers have expressed regret that there are no services for customers. Even when I was speaking to an assistant a member of the public asked if there was a toilet for her elderly mother to use. A few months ago I wrote asking why you didn't include it in your plans. The answer was there is a public toilet 150 metres away in the Town Hall. It closes at 6pm, is often out of use and you need a 20p piece. Not much use in an emergency! There is plenty of room for you to add these facilities. Waitrose and Sainsbury's know better when building new stores. I think it is incredibly shortsighted when a new Aldi is opening very soon. You need to do everything to make your store customer friendly. Hasn't the Coop in Carterton been forced to close due to competition from Aldi? I await your response and plan to send this letter and your reply to the local newspaper.'* Even during the last few weeks I have heard of other people surprised by the situation. One lady who was desperate was sent to the Town Hall only to find it closed. What about the folk who come on the Villager bus?

Are they expected not to have a drink on shopping days? I will be interested to hear if other people share my concerns.

**Lionel Rossington**

*In response to a prompt from the News, Chief Executive Ben Reid reports that they are now discussing with WODC how the Co-op can help with the public toilets.*

## Meet some rainbow women

I wondered if any women in and around Chipping Norton, aged between 40 and 70, would like to come out to meet for coffee and a chat with a view to forming a group for meals out / garden visits / films etc. If so, please could they email me via [Suelester@phonecoop.coop](mailto:Suelester@phonecoop.coop)

**Sue Lester**

## Consultation or not!

At their recent meeting, the League of Friends of Chipping Norton War Memorial Community Hospital felt that the consultation regarding the 14 Intermediate Care beds was definitely not a proper consultation, despite OCC



declaring to the contrary. The League had written to Simon Stevens, head of NHS England, last November, challenging the consultation process and suggesting that Chipping Norton has a Community Hospital which should be included in the Countywide consultation later this year. A response from NHS England suggests the whole issue was a County Council affair because they commission Intermediate Care for both adult social care and NHS. The League has supported the Hospital Action Group's endeavours to keep these beds within the NHS, knowing NHS nursing helps reduce bed-blocking within the acute sector. Surveys showed that under NHS staffing patients received more treatments, such as physiotherapy, reducing their stay in hospital. This was also enabled by using a Modern Matron from Oxford Health.

The last *Chippy News* reported on the low public engagement in the OCC consultation. It is not the first time that decisions regarding the hospital have been taken without consulting the public – how many knew our 14 sub-acute beds had been downgraded? *Chippy News* also reported much more positive response to the HAG questionnaire. The League are alarmed at the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who did not pick up on the poor consultation process, the loss of community hospital status and secret downgrade of sub-acute beds. We were dismayed that a HAG spokesman had been denied permission to address OJHO&SC on 4 February – the first opportunity after the OCC consultation closure. Many changes in our Primary Health Care, since the days of the PCT, seem to take place without our knowledge. The League are very concerned that we, in North Oxfordshire, might be witnessing the dismantling of our NHS, without recourse to an unbiased health watchdog, such as Healthwatch, which is funded by OCC. Chipping Norton Hospital should be included in the countywide review and a proper countywide strategy developed.

**Jo Graves** (Chairman, League of Friends CN War Memorial Community Hospital)

# LETTERS

## Try and keep our buses

I hope that some way can be found to retain at least some buses connecting Chipping Norton with Churchill, Kingham (Village & Station), Charlbury and Witney, and also to keep a regular service to Chipping Norton Hospital, Care Home and Health Centre. I'm not sure if the following idea is practical, but it might be possible to replace the two existing services with one serving Kingham Station, Charlbury and Witney, even if this were less frequent than the up to 12 journeys per day currently provided on both X8 & X9. This would presumably reduce the operating costs involved. Such a service would maintain essential links to rail stations, Hospital, shopping and other facilities in Chipping Norton and Witney for many people in rural areas who have no other means to travel to these places, and for whom at least some of these journeys are essential.

**Michael Goscombe**

## Closed pool – get a grip!

I have just been turfed out of the indoor Leisure Centre pool due to .... falling water temperature which had reached 26C. While for many this is a little cooler than usual, it is entirely safe to use by swimmers who were actually trying to use the pool. While one can understand classes being closed, 26C is far from cold and may be at the bottom end of an ideal range. The lifeguards were I think a tad embarrassed by the directive. This is the third day this year when the pool has been closed. Whoever is responsible needs to get a grip. One wonders how many days off-line are tolerable under the contract the operators have with WODC. A little later the website still said 'closed', but I am told that the Prime Minister and children were allowed to use the pool that morning when I was told previously that I could not continue to swim in the pool, so now I am rather puzzled. Could someone please explain what is going on and why the PM was able to swim when I was not allowed to the day before? And when do the operators intend to fix it? I am a chartered engineer and pool heating systems

are not rocket science. A robust explanation is required.

**John Osmond** (sent to Better Leisure copied to the News)

## Plea for new footpath

We write further to last month's letter from Frances Bain. During preparation of the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan, a group of us surveyed all existing footpaths and bridleways and established where routes were missing. We are pleased to say that reference has been included in the text of the Plan to the need for an eastern route in support of specific Policies (TM6, 7 & 8) relating to walking and cycling. Appendix A of the Plan lists all public rights of way with a map showing the 'desire routes', including the suggested links from Glyme Lane and ultimately across to Banbury Road. If the Plan is approved by residents in the Referendum on 3 March, it will become incumbent on developers of sites in the vicinity to make contributions towards such new routes around the eastern side of the Town.

**Peta Simmons & Nigel Rose**

## Black box turmoil

As requested, many of us put our black re-cycling boxes out on a Sunday evening. Over the last couple of weeks due to the stormy weather, rubbish has been strewn all over the pavements and road of West St and West End on the Monday following collection. The lids we are provided with are not very effective in windy weather, therefore may I draw attention to the 'nets' provided for the boxes and FREE to the residents of C.N. These are available from the WODC office in the Guildhall. They do a much better job of staying on the boxes overnight in bad weather and thereby reducing the amount of rubbish blowing about the streets.

**Joy Fisher**

*The News team welcomes letters (names supplied please) but reserves the right to cut depending on space available. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Team.*

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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## April deadline: Friday 11 March

Final copy should be sent to Chipping Norton News, c/o Hill Lawn House, 22 New Street, Chipping Norton, OX7 5LJ tel/fax 643219. Items should preferably be typed, on disk or sent via email to [chippymail@aol.com](mailto:chippymail@aol.com)

### Sales Outlets and Subscriptions

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### Advertising and Sponsorship

The Chipping Norton News, with a circulation of over 2000, welcomes financial support from local businesses. For information about advertising (from £30 for an eighth of a page) please contact Terry Kitchin (645502).

*The Chipping Norton News is printed on FSC approved paper*

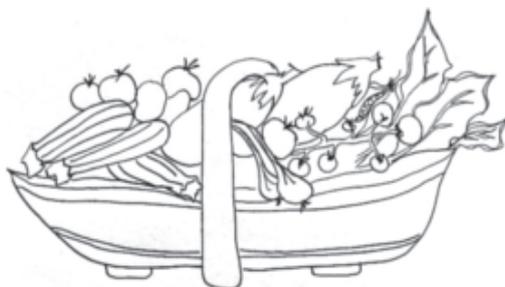
## Join Chadlington Kitchen Garden

*Is there a wannabe farmer in you waiting to come out? If you live locally around Chipping Norton why not join the GROWING movement?*

A local group of enthusiasts are starting up Chadlington Kitchen Garden, a Community Supported Agriculture programme that allows members to invest in the production, growing and distribution of locally grown produce. Team member Emma Harris-Bass from Chadlington explained 'In essence it's a veg box scheme, but the difference is, as a member, your subscription directly pays for the cost of growing in advance so the farmer knows how much to grow, for whom and when ... no waste. The result is locally grown food, a chance to dig out your hoe if you want to, or simply enjoy the spoils whilst helping sustainable farming'. The team are starting small with the Chadlington Kitchen Garden and are looking for members to join the scheme.

Members get a say in what is grown next year and receive news updates on the crops. Each week you receive a basket of fresh vegetables and salads straight from the kitchen garden reflecting the realities of the season with varieties chosen for flavour rather than shelf life. Emma said, 'no lengthy food miles, no extra packaging, just tasty food – colourful, sometimes wonky – just you and local farmers investing in each other and enjoying the good life and REAL FOOD. Then there are recipes, our "edimental", our wild cooking, real food events ... and the cider!' It's early days but the team would like to know who you are, make sure you're on the list for receiving the

first crop later this year and fill you in on any events. With Emma on the Garden committee are Richard Averill and Marcus Simmons of Transition Chipping Norton, and Christine Elliott of Charlbury Green Hub. They say they are 'proud to be an honest hub of environmentally minded growers. The rest of Europe is already doing it; we're just playing catch up!' Anyone interested in joining as a member, cultivator, volunteer, sideline supporter, contact Emma at [chadlingtonkitchengarden@gmail.com](mailto:chadlingtonkitchengarden@gmail.com).



### More on Community Agriculture

On Wednesday 23 March at 7.45pm in The Chequers Barn, Transition Chipping Norton (TCN) welcome anyone interested in Community Supported Agriculture. Find out how it works, how it helps, and how it can help reconnect us with the land that produces our food, as well as bringing gains to local farming livelihoods and the environment. TCN will introduce Chadlington Kitchen Garden, the new starting scheme, producing salad leaves and other vegetables and fruits for local people around Chippy, Chadlington and Charlbury. This will be a good evening for anyone interested in joining the scheme, or just wanting to find out more. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/TransitionChippingNorton/events](http://www.facebook.com/TransitionChippingNorton/events).

## DIARY

### March (News out on Monday 29 February)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p23
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **U3A** 2.30pm Methodist Hall Norman Dutton - William Smith Geologist - see p23
- North Oxon Organic Gardeners** 7.30 details p27
- Quaker Meeting** 7.30-8.30pm Lower Town Hall see p23
- 2-11 **Lunch for Lawrence Week** see p8
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Neighbourhood Plan Referendum** see p3
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Women's World Day of Prayer** Services 10am & 7pm Methodist Church
- Single File Club Night** 8-10pm Crown & Cushion see p27
- 4-19 **Chipping Norton Music Festival** see p19
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Ramblers Meet** 1.30pm New St Car Park - details p26
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Methodist Coffee Morning** 9.30-11.30 for Methodist Home Missions
- CNWI** 2.15pm Lower Town Hall see p24
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Amnesty** 7.30 Lower Town Hall Karen Fairfax-Cholmeley - Palestine 2016 details p27
- 11<sup>th</sup> **CHIPPING NORTON NEWS DEADLINE**
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Suffragette** in Churchill - 7.30 details p8
- 14<sup>th</sup> **History Society** 7.30 Methodist Hall - see p28
- Folk Club** 8pm (new time!) at the Blue Boar see p23-24
- 16<sup>th</sup> **Museum's Pop Up Shop** in the Old Post Office on TopSide details p28

- 16<sup>th</sup> **Horticultural Assoc** 7.30 Methodist Hall - see p27
- 17<sup>th</sup> **Museum Volunteers' Meeting** 7pm - details p10
- Over Norton WI** 7.45 ON Village Hall see p25
- 18<sup>th</sup> **Single File Club Night** 8-10pm Crown & Cushion see p27
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Chipping Norton Farmers' Market** 8.30-1.30
- Cemetery Clear Up** 10am - details p9
- Sunshine Cat Rescue Jumble Sale**, Milton-u-Wychwood Village Hall 11am-2pm details [www.sunshinecatrescue.org.uk](http://www.sunshinecatrescue.org.uk)
- Museum re-opens** for the Summer season see p10
- 21<sup>st</sup> **CN Amateur Astronomy Group** 7.30 Methodist Hall - see p24
- West Oxon WI** 7.30 St Mary's Parish rooms see p24
- 23<sup>rd</sup> **Transition Chipping Norton** 7.45 Chequers' Barn details above
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Chadlington Flower Club** details p25

### April (News out on Tuesday 29 March)

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Lions' Easter Bingo** 7pm Town Hall see Advert p9
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Railway Club** 7.30 Lwr Town Hall see p23
- 6<sup>th</sup> **U3A** 2.30pm Methodist Hall Roy Smart -The Last Naval Hero, David 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Beatty - see p23
- North Oxon Organic Gardeners** 7.30 details p27
- Quaker Meeting** 7.30-8.30pm Lower Town Hall see p23