

Churchill and Sarsden **ROUNDAABOUT** FEBRUARY 2026



Big skies over Churchill, with thanks to Anne Mandry

Advance warning of traffic calming works

The long awaited traffic calming works will be carried out by OCC Highways in February. The works are programmed to start on 16th February. The roads will be closed at these times. The provisional dates given to the parish council are:

Chipping Norton Road: 16 - 20 February

Kingham Road : 23 - 24 February

Junction Road: 25 - 27 February

The normal working day hours are currently scheduled to be from 0930 to 1530 hrs but with the closures being in place for 24 hrs.

Diversion routes will be signposted.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

REFURBISHMENT

I'm pleased to say the first phase of the the Village Hall refurbishment programme has started and we will add updates on the village hall website as the works progress.

<https://churchillsarsden.com/our-village/fit-for-the-future/>

CAFE

The Cafe reopened on 13th January with a busy cafe after the Christmas break and in a different location!

The Cafe will be held in the lobby area of the Church for the duration of the refurbishment works and we are very grateful to the Church and especially Kathie and Mark, for welcoming us during this time. It will run every Tuesday 10am - 12 noon as usual until 17th March, with a two week Easter break. The same warm welcome along with home-baked cakes and quality coffee and teas will be available as before. Many thanks to all those who help run the cafe and provide so many delicious cakes.

Just to note that the Cafe will finish slightly earlier on the day of the Lunch Club, which is the 4th Tuesday of each month. This will allow for time to ensure Lunch Club is ready to start at midday. The next lunch will take place on Tuesday 24th February - a home-cooked lunch, glass of sherry with coffee all for £4. All over 65s welcome. For details please call Pam Wickham 07706 156002 or email pam@repton-house.co.uk.

CRAFTING GROUP

The crafters will continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons as usual, but in the Church. The hall committee is very grateful for all the hard work and resourcefulness of the crafters which enabled the Christmas sale to be so successful and raised £1500 towards the hall refurbishment.

GUIDES

The Guides meetings will take place at St Andrew's Church in Kingham during the hall refurbishment.

Please contact kingham.guides@gmail.com for further details.

COUNTRYSTYLE CALENDER

I'm pleased to say the calendar was a great success and 75 copies were sold. Some of these have been sent far and wide to be enjoyed by those previously living in the villages. Look out for details of the next calendar later in the year - but please continue to take photos in the meantime.

Please look on the website for upcoming events and further details.

<https://churchillsarsden.com/whats-on/>

CHURCHILLIANS - Meet your neighbours

DAVID CHAMBERS

I have always viewed Dave Chambers as an Angel, but his highly amusing autobiography '*A Spanner in the Car Works*' paints a very different picture. How can it be that the man who raised over £268,000 for local charities from the Churchill Classic Car Show and who transformed the Old Churchyard into a heavenly paradise can have such a devilish past? Would an Angel really conspire with others to pour water into their teachers' turn-up trousers, or place orange skins in the teacher's bin to exacerbate his citrus allergy or place stink bomb capsules under each leg of the teacher's chair? But he did. And would an Angel throw live munitions into the school's metal-working furnace to see what explosion and shrapnel might leap out?

Dave's early education near Bournemouth turned him into a 'petrolhead', but a life in 'motors' was first ignited at the Pressed Steel apprentice school in Cowley. He had an inherent love of mechanics and spent his early years metal working before draughting parts of cars and managing people. After the company became part of Austin Rover, David ran their Swindon plant as a director but when BMW took over the mood changed and he and his team of managers resigned. Shortly afterwards BMW asked them all to come back as knowledge of pressing shapes was a rarity in mainland Europe. Instead, he and Carol set up a new company and there followed ten fruitful years designing steel and aluminium panels for Rolls Royce and others.

Carol had been working with architects looking after their administration and finance. When that company closed, she turned her hand to Oxfordshire's Visitor Information offices in Woodstock, Burford and Chipping Norton. When first married, she and David lived in Stonesfield, but when driving through Churchill they always admired the monuments and the Church tower, so when land was advertised for sale, they bought it and built their house in 1984.

The first Churchill Car Show was in 1986 after Robert Heywood-Lonsdale asked Dave to add flair and colour to the Village Fete, which he did by luring 50 cars from the Fairford Classic Car Club. The show's numbers grew to become the largest non-commercial car show in the country. It had 575 vehicles at its height of which 450 were classic cars. Sadly Covid killed it off until the 2024 Car Show happily brought it back once more and with a profit of £38,000. Not content with achieving such a money-making car show, Carol and Dave also raised money for the repair of All Saints Church and together with the Old Church Committee transformed the Old Church and graveyard. His hope for the future is that all the clever people now entering the village can get as much excitement from creating village get-togethers as he and Carol have.

In 2020, to no-one's surprise, David was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Churchill, so clearly Her Majesty must also have viewed him as an angel.

David was interviewed by Rupert Ponsonby

THE CHURCHILL HERITAGE CENTRE

We are fortunate to have this gem of a museum, possibly the smallest in Oxfordshire, on our doorstep. It is run by a small committee which meets about four times a year and opens every weekend in the summer, thanks to a team of volunteers. We are always looking out for more people to join us, so if you would like to get involved, have a look at the website

www.churchillheritage.org.uk and/or contact francescahobart@outlook.com

New for this year is a brand new exhibition about Jane Austen's connection to Churchill.

NEW CHURCHILL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP

Like neighbouring Kingham, Churchill now has its own group which can be found on the Neighbourhood Watch website. It is the biggest voluntary crime prevention movement in England and Wales and is totally free to join.

A WhatsApp group for our Churchill Neighbourhood Watch has already been compiling evidence and possible suspicious activity and is strengthening our relationship with Thames Valley police. Villagers are encouraged to post anything, however 'probably nothing but..' photos etc on the WhatsApp group. It keeps all the information together in one place. The police use this evidence and compile it to help catch the criminals.

Very sadly there have been several attempted burglaries recently but both were thwarted by the quick action of the ladies group who are all heroes.

A meeting will be announced soon where we will be given a talk by Wes our local community officer and an opportunity to ask questions.

Neighbourhood Watch website: www.ourwatch.org.uk

To join the village Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group please message 07894 706919 and I'll add you.

Anne Mandry

FIRST KINGHAM GUIDES

This Autumn the Guides visited the Chipping Norton Museum as part of their Historian Badge, looking for everyday items we do not use today. They have taken part in the Remembrance Service parade at Kingham, have been on a night hike plus they attended the Pantomime ... oh no they didn't!! In

December they organised their own 'All you can eat' party with games.

This Spring term we will be meeting in St Andrew's Church, Kingham. If you are aged 10-14yrs old; and would like to do exciting things like night hikes, camping, learning new skills, crafts etc, why not come along and join the Kingham Guides?