



Protecting the architectural and historic quality of Chipping Campden, its open spaces and its natural setting.

**May 23**

**Dear Member**

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

We are very pleased to have appointed two new Committee Members at our AGM. Both Alex O'Donell and Sue Pritchard are well known to many people in the town. Alex has been involved in the development of the Cidermill Theatre and then Longborough Festival's educational programme. She now works at Campden Home Nursing as their Fundraising Manager. Sue has recently retired from the public sector; most recently she was working in commissioning lifestyle services and community-based health programmes. In the past, Sue has been Chair of the Pre-school Playgroup, Associate Governor at St Catharine's School and is currently Chair of the Patient Participation Group for the surgery.

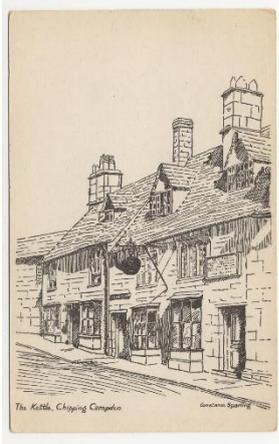
After the Society's business was concluded, we were delighted to hear from the Chief Executive Officer of the Cotswolds National Landscape, Andy Parsons, whose wide ranging and inspiring talk covered projects relevant to our area such as recreating the Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands; the Farming in Protected Landscapes funding scheme; and of course, the amazing work undertaken by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

## **PLANNING & CONSERVATION MATTERS**

NDP : At the Planning Meeting held on 23 May, it was agreed to set up a new working party to complete this urgent piece of planning work. The group comprises Cllrs Mark Benson, Patrick Spink and Michael Haines, with the addition of our Committee member, David Roberts. Once the NDP draft is finalised by the Town Councillors, there will be a consultation period for residents to have their say before it passes on to the next stage of approval and consultation. We hope everyone will get involved as it will eventually create a legal framework for Planning Applications.

We are continuing to monitor applications and work with others to argue for more strategic thinking, better design, and a more environmentally friendly approach to planning. We encourage everyone to submit their individual views about planning applications.

Town Hall Update: As reported at April's Town Assembly, the repairs to the finial urn (debris of which fell into the Square back in February 2022) have been delayed due to a re-tendering of the contract. This has now been awarded to Arnold Bartosch and it is hoped that repairs will start very soon. Reference was also made to a Condition Survey of the whole of the Town Hall carried out in November 2021. This survey highlighted several urgent repairs that needed to be carried out to conserve the fabric of this landmark building. It is hoped that income from lettings and parking fees in the Square can go some way to covering these costs.



**The Kettle:** After the disappearance of the Bantam Tearooms sign from the High St, some of you may be pondering the whereabouts of another fabulous wrought iron piece in Campden: the Kettle in Leysbourne. It is currently being renovated and will be back in place as soon as it has been repaired.

**The Tuers Barriers:** These are due to be mended by the end of the month. On 25 May, there was no sign of any repair in spite of repeated chasing by the Town Council. The Council is also seeking Planning Permission from CDC to fix the wobbly wooden barriers by the side of the Market Hall.

The Landmark Trust will be opening the Old Campden House site on **Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 June between 10am - 4pm**. Access is free though donations are always welcome. The Chipping Campden History Society will be holding an exhibition about the House and Grounds – including finds from their archaeological dig – in the Church Rooms from 2 - 4pm each day – with refreshments available.

## **WOLDS END ORCHARD**

**Bee Update:** It's early in the season and both colonies have settled well into their new homes. They are both growing and we've added extra space to each hive to accommodate the growing number of bees and the nectar and pollen they're collecting. Early signs are positive and there's plenty in there. We have to keep a careful watch on the honey as it's likely to be from oilseed rape fields nearby. The sugars in the honey made from this crop crystallise very quickly and it needs to be extracted and bottled before the honey sets hard in the frame!

## **Open Gardens Weekend 17-18 June : Orchard Wildflower Wander**

Our thing at the Orchard is wildflowers - loads of them, we hope, thanks to our project with support from Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands and Cotswold National Landscape last year. You will recall we sowed locally harvested "donor" wildflower seed in the Autumn onto the specially prepared south facing bank which runs from the entrance gate towards Jecca's House. We are just starting to see the fruits of our labours including Yellow Rattle. Visit on Open Gardens weekend when the Orcharders will be putting up signage to help you find and identify some lovely wildflowers. Stout shoes required ... the grass will be long!

**The Wild Escape comes to Campden!** Blockley Primary school visited Court Barn and the Orchard in May as part of a nationwide initiative, The Wild Escape. The aim is to engage children in the urgent conversation about climate crisis and biodiversity loss and look for nature positive solutions, in partnership with leading environmental charities the RSPB and WWF and cultural organisations, National Trust and English Heritage. We invited the pupils

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to discover how the objects in the museum had been inspired by and influenced by nature. A visit to the orchard provided an opportunity to look for different habitats and species and then it was back to the museum to create an artwork inspired by what they had seen. It was a fantastic day, the children were hugely enthusiastic and talked about what they are already doing to help the planet - recycling, growing their own food, and creating habitats at home. In June we will be welcoming St James and Ebrington Primary School and St Catharine's. Our thanks to Court Barn for leading this terrific project.

Our next **Art Open Afternoon** will be **2 - 4pm on Friday 16 June**. Bring your own art materials. There's no expectation to show anyone your work. If you register your interest by contacting [foweo2020@gmail.com](mailto:foweo2020@gmail.com), or texting 07966734731, we can let you know if the dates change due to weather or other circumstance – but do feel free to just roll up on the day too, even if it's just for a wander. As always, everyone is welcome.

This update from the Wolds End Orchard Sub Committee: Geoff Carr, Julianne Davis, John Ellis, Donna Evans, Chris Leese, Mike Newman, Susie Tombs, Geoffrey White.

**\* The TOWN PICNIC will be held on Sunday 16 July. All welcome! \***

With our best wishes

Elizabeth Devas  
Chair

Image: The Kettle by Constance Sparling/CCHS

APPLE JUICE made from Wolds End Orchard and Campden gardens is available to purchase at £3.25 a 75cl bottle. They can be bought from Rachel's Stall in Back Ends.

Alternatively we can deliver cases at a discounted price to members : 6 bottles at £18 or 12 bottles at £36 in the Campden area; to purchase a case or cases, please contact Geoffrey White on 0781 500 5879 or email [geoffreywhite@gmail.com](mailto:geoffreywhite@gmail.com).