

## Introduction

**Charlbury** is situated 15 miles north west of Oxford in the beautiful Evenlode Valley, surrounded by glorious Cotswold countryside and the historic towns of Woodstock, Burford and Chipping Norton. Charlbury is a small market town, typical of the Cotswolds, with its colourful cottage gardens and houses built of local materials.

To the south west of Charlbury lies the remainder of the ancient Wychwood Forest, part of which now makes up the estate of Cornbury Park. Monarchs once exercised their exclusive hunting rights in the forest. Today, deer and other wildlife can still be spotted from public footpaths that border the Park.

The coming of the railway in 1853 put new life into the market town. Charlbury still has its picturesque station, the design of which is linked to Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Regular trains link the town to London, Reading, Oxford, and west to Hereford and Worcester.

Today, Charlbury lends itself to gentle strolls past buildings and features of historic interest. Footpaths in the surrounding area offer walks through stunning scenery, all within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The quiet country lanes and roads in the Wychwood area are also popular with cyclists and horse riders.

Award-winning pubs and inns at the heart of the town encourage visitors to stay and sample local hospitality. Local books and information can be found at the nearby bookshop, library, post office and other shops, while Charlbury Museum brings to life the story of its people and their town over the centuries. Today, the community organise many events open to all. These include a two-day music festival by the Evenlode River, a popular Beer Festival and an Annual Street Fair.

To find out more please visit [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info)

# Charlbury

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### HOTELS/ RESTAURANTS/ PUBS

The Bell Hotel, Church Street 01608 810278  
The Bull Inn, Sheep Street 01608 810689

### PUBS

The Rose & Crown, Market Street (No food) 01608 810103  
The Three Horseshoes, Sheep Street 01608 810780  
(Thai Cuisine)

### SELF-CATERING, B&B, CAMPING

Banbury Hill Farm, Enstone Road 01608 810314  
Cotswold View Caravan & Camping, 01608 810314  
Enstone Road

### TRAVEL SERVICES

National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950  
Charlbury Railbus (including nearby villages) 01993 869100  
Bus Services, Travel Line 0870 608 2608  
Evenlode Valley Travel, Taxi Hire 01608 810035  
Tour guide and sightseeing enquiries 01608 819091

### CHARLBURY MUSEUM

Market Street (next door to Library) 01608 810060  
Open Easter until end September, 10.00-12.00 Saturday,  
14.30-16.30 Sunday and Bank Holidays, or by arrangement

### CORNER HOUSE (Market Street)

Library (with Internet access) 01608 811104  
(Closed Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday)  
Public room enquiries 01608 810879

### HEALTHCARE

The Charlbury Practice, Spendlove Centre 01608 811999  
Doctors' Surgery, Spendlove Centre 01608 810210  
Dental Surgery, Spendlove Centre 01608 811095  
Vincent Pharmacy, Market Street 01608 810315

### LOCAL SHOPS & SERVICES FOR VISITORS

Business Focus, office services, Sheep Street 01608 811559  
Co-op Stores, Spendlove Centre 01608 810815  
Evenlode Books, Market Street 01608 819117  
Fiveways Indian Takeaway, Sturt Road 01608 811011  
Fiveways Stores, Sturt Road 01608 810660  
Good Food Shop, Sheep Street 01608 811157  
Karizma, Beauty Salon, Sheep Street 01608 819222  
News & Things, Sheep Street 01608 810228  
Post Office, Market Street 01608 810243  
9.00-17.30 Monday to Friday, 9.00-12.30 Saturday

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# Charlbury

## OXFORDSHIRE

## A guide for visitors

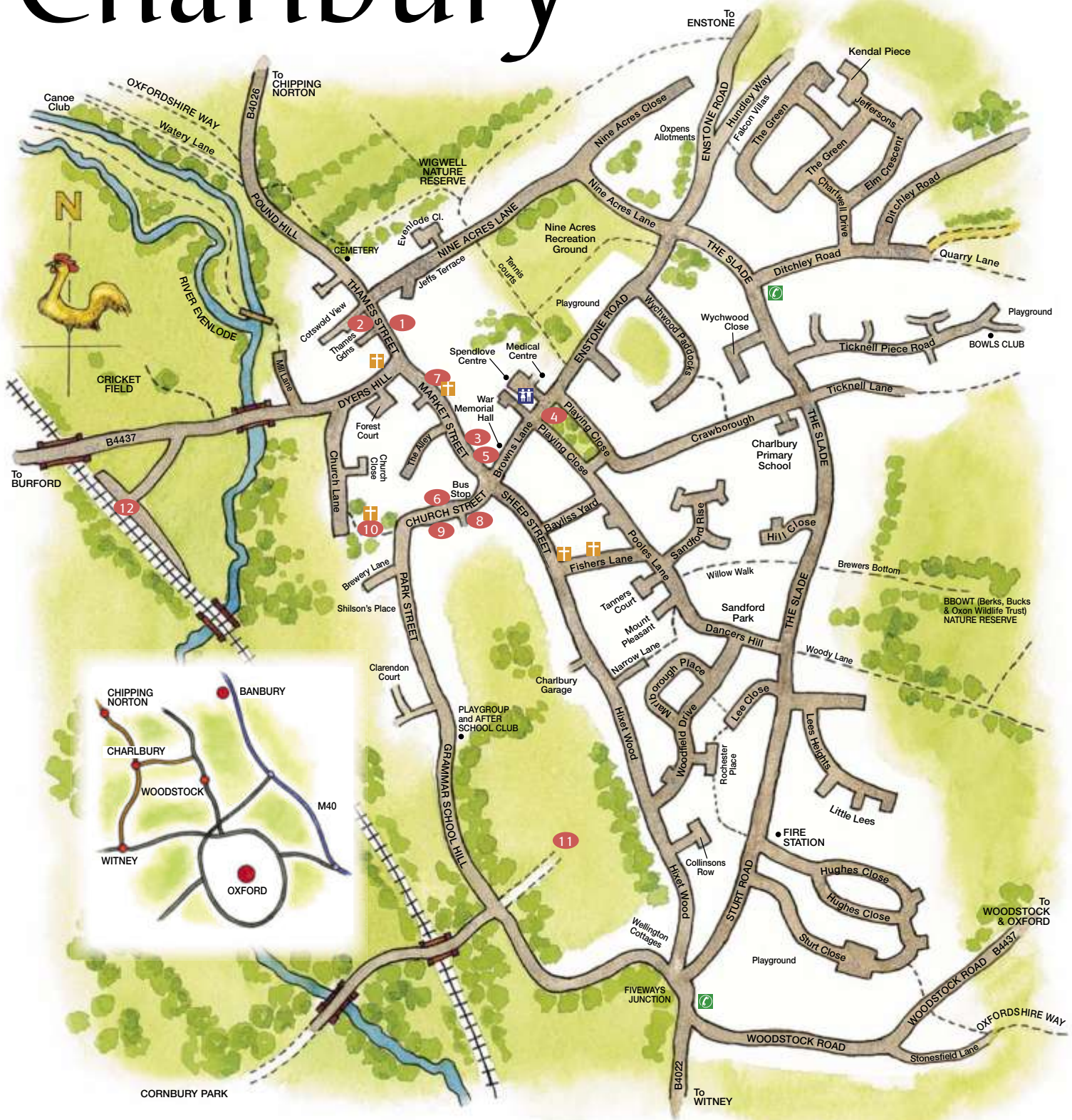


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# Charlbury



## KEY TO MAP See inside leaflet for featured buildings and monuments

- |   |                              |                     |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| ① Granchester House                     | ⑥ Albright House             | ⑪ Lee Place         |
| ② The Old Talbot Inn and Armada Cottage | ⑦ Friends' Meeting House     | ⑫ Charlbury Station |
| ③ The Museum                            | ⑧ The Bell Hotel             | ☐ Place of worship  |
| ④ Drinking Fountain                     | ⑨ Gothic House               | ☎ Public telephone  |
| ⑤ Corner House                          | ⑩ St. Mary the Virgin Church | ♿ Public toilets    |

# Some of Charlbury's Historic Buildings and Monuments



## 1 Grantchester House Thames Street

The first authenticated owner was the Rev. John Arrowsmith, who was a Curate of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Master of Charlbury Grammar School and Vicar of Wilcote until his death in 1761. In the 1880s and 1890s it was a boarding school for young ladies, known as Merton House, and it was probably then that the top storey was converted from attics with dormers to dormitories, and the round windows inserted. Bought in the 1930s by the Bursar of New College, Oxford, its name was changed to Grantchester House.

## 2 The Old Talbot Inn and Armada Cottage Thames Street

A virtually unaltered Elizabethan building, saved from the philistine hands of a brewery by the outbreak of the Great War, its licence was given up in 1927. Both cottages are now privately owned.



## 3 The Museum Market Street

Opened in 1952, it contains many relics of Charlbury's past including a fine collection of farm implements and old photographs. The garden in front is the site of The Star, a former pub, demolished in 1912.

## 4 Drinking Fountain The Playing Close

The winning design of a national competition, it was opened in 1900 to commemorate Queen Victoria's visit to Cornbury in 1886, her Golden Jubilee in 1887, her Diamond Jubilee in 1897, and Arthur Albright's gift to the town of a pure water supply in 1896.



## 5 Corner House Market Street

Given to the town in 1946 by Mr and Mrs C H Morris of Lee Place, it is the civic hub of Charlbury. The street front was added in 1723 by William Spendlove, a Quaker baker. He built a gazebo-like structure on the roof (now removed), and the townspeople christened the building Observatory House. It remained in Quaker hands for the rest of the 18th and most of the 19th centuries. The Annual Street Fair is held to raise funds for the maintenance of the Corner House and the War Memorial Hall, built in its garden in 1956. The building also houses the public library.

## 6 Albright House Church Street

Another Quaker property, it was bought by Edward Spendlove in 1710 because he was a maltster and it had a malthouse. The Albrights bought it in 1813, and it is still owned by their descendants. The wisteria along the frontage is much appreciated by passers-by.



## 7 Friends' Meeting House Market Street

First built in 1681, rebuilt in 1779 and enlarged in 1987, it is an unassuming building which continues to be the focus of worship for Quaker families in the Charlbury area.

## 8 The Bell Hotel Church Street

An ancient hostelry, whose foundations probably go back to the town's first market in 1256. The date 1700 over the entrance tells us when it was altered and repaired. First penned in the street, the livestock were later moved to the yard behind, but in 1955 by agreement with the Tayler & Fletcher Brewery, the auctioneers moved the market to Kingham.



## 9 Gothic House Church Street

This was the home of Edward Lyster, apothecary, who came to Charlbury to help to conquer smallpox in 1766. He was most successful, and died in 1804. Dr George Hornblow took over his house and practice until he retired in 1849. That year, Dr William Pollard married Mary Albright and it became another Quaker property. A tenement on the east side was demolished to make way for an extension in the 1880s, and the locals called it Gothic House. Bessie Marchant, a prolific writer of girls' school stories, bought it in 1910.

## 10 St. Mary the Virgin Church

The pillars and arches on the north side of the nave are Norman. The rest is later and is well described in the leaflet available in the church. During the 1990's the interior of the church was modernised and now provides a much used space for worship.



## 11 Lee Place

Bought as a dower house for Ditchley Park in 1716 for the widowed Countess of Litchfield, King Charles II's favourite daughter. The south-west front was added circa 1722, when the new Ditchley Park was being built. The road from Park Street to Fiveways was re-routed about this time to keep traffic away from the windows. The last male Lee died in 1776.

## 12 Charlbury Station

The Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway opened the line through Charlbury in 1853. The company employed Isambard Kingdom Brunel as its Engineer and one of his standard 'chalet-type' stations was used at Charlbury. The station, now a Grade II Listed Building, retains much of its original general appearance.



Note: Please respect the privacy of the occupants of the private buildings featured.