



THE BRIDGE

December
2023

A monthly magazine covering people and events in our area of the Cotswolds, and delivered to Aldsworth, Asthall, Asthall Leigh, the Barringtons, Bradwell Village, Burford, Field Assarts, Fordwells, Fulbrook, Holwell, Northleach, Sherborne, Shilton, Signet, Swinbrook, Taynton, Upton, Westwell, Widford, Windrush. *Volume 14, Number 11,*



Our thanks to David Mostyn who provided this seasonal image

How things change. Advent, which starts this year on 3 December, is the traditional period of waiting and preparation for Christmas. Hence the Advent calendar marking the countdown with a window for each day (with or without chocolates). Burford used to have an Advent Fair but that disappeared some years ago. The celebration of Christmas would then continue until Candlemas (2 February). Nowadays Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier, with Christmas trees and mince pies appearing in shops in September and this year Burford Town Council is holding its Christmas carol service on Advent Sunday. But we are told that Christmas is over by 5 or 6 January, depending on how you count.

So not a lot to look forward to in January, not even *The Bridge* as we don't publish that month (another tradition of more recent vintage). We take the opportunity to thank our contributors, donors, advertisers, printers and, above all, our distributors for their support in the last twelve months. We wish all our readers a happy Advent, Christmas and New Year and look forward to being back with you around Candlemas.

Editors



BULL

A Coaching Inn

Bull is a gorgeously appointed, jet-set bucolic, boutique hostelry with 18 beautiful rooms and Waystar Royco-grade suites, Saatchi-worthy artwork, deliciously cocooning bed linen and at least four premium dining options. But it is also a rural town sanctuary; a mentally, physically and digitally detoxing environment with luxury, community, conviviality and oxytocin stimulation at its core. - The Times

It's hard not to be seduced by the experience once you're actually there. The food at Bull is clean and comforting, unfussy yet delicious. - AnOther Magazine

Boom - all of a sudden @bullburford is the best hotel in the Cotswolds. - Dylan Jones

A super-chic mind-expanding retreat. - The Standard

The pièce de résistance is Hiro, a ten-seat Japanese Omakase restaurant. - World Of Interiors

It's amazing how much difference the removal of a definitive article can make. - The Bridge

THE  TIMES

The  Standard

AnOther

THE WORLD OF
INTERIORS

Located in the heart of Burford, Oxfordshire is a country hotel unlike any other.

Three years in the making, Bull is a sanctuary with communal experience at its core.

Bull offers a range of coaching options and experiences from learning how to make sushi rolls to making ceramics, the ancient art of Kintsugi to the modern art of Podcasting, Beekeeping to playing poker, gospel singing to yoga and meditation.

Each of our 18 beautiful rooms and suites are unique, but all are designed to feel like home. Imperfect Perfection.

Aside from the extraordinary art and artefacts that fill every room of this higgledy-piggledy 16th Century Coaching House, Bull offers incredible spaces to dine, relax and reconnect.

We hope you might find time to visit us this Christmas and sample our food, drink and hospitality for yourself.

You can book any of the restaurants online or get in touch if you would like to host your own event at Bull. We can create unforgettable experiences for your party or celebration.

Or just drop in to Vincent's for an impromptu drink and snack.

We hope to see you here.



Bull is home to four restaurants, each unique but with one common theme, all have a communal eating concept and offer a private dining experience.



HIRO is a ten-seat omakase Japanese restaurant headed up by former Nobu head chef Hiromi. Experience an 11-course menu with 8 drink pairings, which includes wagyu beef burgers, hand-rolled sushi, and classics like crispy rice with salmon ceviche, and yellowtail new style sashimi with vegetables and sauces from our kitchen garden.



The HORN serves an ever-changing menu of honest, seasonally inspired home-cooked food, across large communal dining tables. From beef bourguignon to fish pie to classic paella, you can expect a timeless menu that never disappoints. Leave room for the stunning puddings.



The WILD is a tribute to the raw and elemental power of fire, the ancient heart of the communal table, transporting guests from the frenzy of the modern world, into the wild's warm embrace. Watch and learn as the freshest meat and seafood, and locally sourced Priory vegetables, are cooked in front of you on the open grill.



The HERD is Bull's private dining room. It seats 12 at a single table and has ample lounge space for before and after dinner. Works by artists including Salvador Dali and Jean-Michel Basquiat, and a crackling open fire, create a special place that is hard to leave.

BULL DOZING. Check into Bull and learn how to sleep. Run in partnership with Added Health, a team of world class doctors from Oxford and Harvard, the Bull Dozing programme almost guarantees a night of blissful sleep for those interested in improving the quality of their nights through diet, discussion, gentle exercise and coaching. Using sophisticated sleep monitoring equipment installed in every room, guests can also be diagnosed and treated for any sleep disorder that may be an obstacle to the most vital of our regenerative needs. Check the website for the next Bull Dozing session.

Bull welcomes you this Christmas and we don't just boast communal fine dining. There are several other unique spaces within, to meet, eat, drink and relax.



VINCENT'S Bar is named in honour of the bond between a man and his dog – a place for friendships old and new. The bar and lounge sit at the centre of Bull and offer an outstanding selection of wines, tequilas, and spirits. Regulars can secure their own tequila bottle cage kept under lock and key, awaiting their next visit.



The GRAZE is our sheltered terrace, open day and night (weather permitting) for cocktails and an ever-changing array of street food from our wood fired oven. From smash burgers to flatbreads, curnes, tacos and stir fries, you never know what you might find, but it's usually just what you wanted.



The HIDE is hidden away for guests to find, filled with the one of the largest private wine collections in the United Kingdom – a place for late night fun and games.



Our four-course festive menu will be served in The HORN and The HERD December 1st to 23rd – all guests are invited, resident or non-resident you are welcome at our table. If you would like that exclusive edge, The HERD is available for private hire for 6 or more people. More details of what we have to offer this festive period will be on our website soon.

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Taylor & Fletcher



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James Skinner
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Celebrating 4 years in Burford

Providence House, 49 High Street, Burford, Oxfordshire, OX18 4QA

BESPOKE SERVICES FOR YOUR HOME OR SECOND HOME

Whether it is organising specific areas of your home, individual rooms or the whole house – we offer a bespoke service to meet your needs;

Services we offer

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- ◆ Gift wrapping / personal shopping for gifts etc
- ◆ Modest catering

What we do

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- ◆ Zero waste is important to us, we will recycle, re-use and donate where possible.
- ◆ The sense of freedom afterwards will be a great stress buster.
- ◆ We love turning a chaotic space into a calm environment.
- ◆ Need a little help with making your house look beautiful?
- ◆ Hosting a dinner party? Need some help with catering, flowers and delicious canapés? We are here to help.
- ◆ If you are overwhelmed by clutter, need a clean start, or just need to sort out your stuff, call Mandy today.



Based in the Cotswolds

"I don't know anyone who is as organised, tidy & efficient as Mandy. I can't recommend her enough. She really is the Marvellous Mrs Lane."
JT/Wells

Call 07774 728466 or email
marvellousmrslane@gmail.com
www.instagram.com/marvellousmrslane



*DBS Checked. References available

Christmas wreath & table decoration Workshop

Monday 4th December
Golden Pheasant Hotel, Burford
7pm - 10pm
£50pp
Prosecco & nibbles provided.



Please Contact Sarah Sanders or Sandra Davies
07816 612682
sarahm.sanders@btinternet.com

Lie down & Listen™

"Next level relaxation"
OM Yoga Magazine

Intimate Festive Sessions
December & January, Burford

"Utterly blissed out"
The Financial Times



This Festive Season classical pianist and founder of Lie down & Listen Christina McMaster welcomes you to experience a blissfully relaxing 90min experience in small groups of up to three people.

Exclusive to these intimate sessions, Christina uses Tibetan sound bowls directly on the body, an exceptionally powerful tool to bring your whole being into vibrational alignment – relaxing and reawakening every cell through the physical vibration of sound. As you lie down, you'll also be immersed in peaceful resonance as Christina plays live classical piano music and her own intuitive healing improvisations.

Sessions held throughout December and January. Booking via website. *Limited availability.*

Also available:

- Gift vouchers
- Lie down & listen private parties
- Experiential gifts
- Original piano composition gifts



Email: info@liedownandlisten.com

www.liedownandlisten.com

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

My thanks to all who made Burford town fireworks such a success this year. Even the weather was kind to us. I cannot thank everyone individually but would like to thank Jason Curtis and Michael Wilson who set off the fireworks for a second year with a spectacular display; the best yet I think, Gabi Schotten for her organisation of the event and Manfred and John for cooking so many sausages, Smurfitt Kappa for supplying the pallets for the bonfire, Hickman Landscapes for the soil bags to set off the fireworks, Butcombe (Prince of Burford) for supplying the bar, and Alan Tuckwell and the bowls club for the electricity needed. Thanks to everyone else including councillors involved providing food, drink, and glowsticks, to the band, and to the firefighters for building the bonfire and being on hand on the night. It was a great event for Burford.

Maggie Andrews, our town clerk for the last 25 years, will be retiring at the end of the year. She has organised numerous events for the town council including receptions, Jubilee celebrations, Remembrance Days and civic services. She administers the town cemetery, takes up complaints on behalf of residents with the District and County Councils, keeps the councillors under control and ensures everything is documented correctly. Thank you, Maggie, for your loyalty and service to Burford! May you enjoy your retirement with family and friends, but I wouldn't be surprised if I soon see you in another role in Burford.

I am pleased to welcome Christina Edgar-Hiatt, who joined us on 6 November to take over the role of town clerk from Maggie. They will work together for a few weeks to ensure a smooth handover. I look forward to working with you, Christina.

Last December I reported that we were working with OCC to improve the safety of pedestrians over the bridge. One year on, we have finally seen three proposed solutions put forward by OCC's contractor. We now need OCC to decide which they will approve, and then see whether we can get listed building consent. Both Fulbrook and Burford councils working together along with Nicholas Field-Johnson, our OCC councillor and Hugo, our WODC councillor, have been pushing this, and we hope with continued pressure a solution will soon be put in place for the safety of residents and visitors crossing the bridge.

In early November we met with WODC to request repair and improvements in the lighting and better drainage in the car park to help stop it flooding, for an improved barrier to reduce the risk of flooding, and to reconsider how the car park could be extended. They have agreed to carry out a full survey on the usage of the car park, and to consider our other requests.

I am very pleased to report that we have now placed the order for the new play park as we have finally raised sufficient money. Thank you to our Play Park committee for all your hard work in getting us to this point and to all the people, businesses and organisations that donated the money for it. We plan to open the new park in the spring.

Finally, I hope to see many of you at the Civic Carol Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 3 December, and at the reception afterwards in the Warwick Hall; you are all welcome, and may I wish everyone a very happy, healthy and more peaceful 2024.

Peter Higgs - Mayor



MORE BONFIRE THANKS

Gabi Schotten and David Cohen have also been in touch to express their gratitude to so many people who helped to ensure that the bonfire party went off with a bang. In addition to those already mentioned, these include Dave Buckland and his son Jack, Phil Adams, Jayne Tunnell Westmacott, Sue Lofthouse, Sarah and John Horner, Manfred Schotten, Sally Green, Sarah Pether, Jane Buckingham, Chris Rowntree and his band Stocious, Michael Taubenheim, Sarah Palmer, Terry Hickman, Jason Curtis, Frank Triggs, John Yeatman, the Burford Festival and many other local people. The photos below show the various stages of the fire.

Gabi was anxious to play down (or even deny!) her heroic role we mentioned in our November issue and to say that it was very much a joint effort.

Well done to all those who made this such a successful, enjoyable event.

Editors



THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Lecture on Wednesday 13 December
Step into the Christmas Card



For the last 150 years Christmas cards have been adorned with nativity scenes or holly, ivy and mistletoe, a rotund Father Christmas, hosiery, trees, and to the shout of Noel, Noel. Sacred and profane, plant symbolism and carols that echo the sacred magic of the nativity scene, the lowing animals popularised by St Francis of Assisi, the shepherds and kings, all playing their part and foretelling the future. There are also fashion plates, New Year wishes and cartoons. So what on earth do Christmas cards portray – tasty, tasteful or tasteless?

Caroline Holmes has lectured in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Europe and Japan. She is an academic tutor and course director at Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. She also lectures for the Royal Horticultural Society, museums, specialist travel companies and The Gardens Trust.

This hybrid lecture will be held at the Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford, OX18 4RZ at 10.50am and via Zoom on 13 December. Please be seated by 10.50 for notices of upcoming events. Numbers are no longer restricted but booking is recommended to reserve a place. Non-members are welcome (space permitting) at a charge of £10.

Further information will be circulated via the newsletter and bookings can be made via our website or please contact Lisa Etheridge on 07918 180895 for a booking form.

For information about our January talk see the Diary page. To learn more about The Arts Society Cotswolds and to see what lectures, Special Interest Days and other activities are planned for the future, please visit our website www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk or contact Carolyn Walton on 01993 822296

Jill Wright



I have to admit that autumn is my favourite season, not the miserable wet days but the days bursting with colour and low sun or the windy days when the leaves swirl around in a riot of red, yellow and orange. My husband, who grew up in Herefordshire, remembers the distinctive smell of hops and the sulphur from the hop kilns mingling with the aroma of apples being turned into cider by the numerous small producers around the county. It is a season that attacks our senses full on.

Since coming to Burford and joining the WI, my favourite meeting of the year is without doubt our Harvest Supper. This is traditionally a bring-and-share event which always provides a table heaving with delicious salads, cold meats and quiches followed by extremely indulgent puddings. This year we had the pleasure of hosting three guests from the Baptist Church. They have made us so welcome in their building and it has very quickly come to feel like a special home for us. We were also celebrating with them the installation of their new heating system which is providing a very warm welcoming space for all users.

Our president, Jennie Craven, had challenged members to bring along an autumn table decoration to the supper and we did not disappoint her. There were two tables covered with beautiful and colourful arrangements. Our guests, Gill and Richard Crippen, had a hard job to select a winner but eventually chose three prize winners. First was Corrine Ash for her display made up of locally foraged items. Second was Sue Newport with her unusual, bright red tractor container with matching arrangement and third Elayne College for her display with mini pumpkins at its centre.



At our November meeting we were excited to welcome Jane Abbot from Grange Farm, Swerford, Chipping Norton for her talk entitled 'Alpacas and their Fabulous Fluff' about her Oxfordshire herd of alpacas and a brief demonstration of using their fleece for felting. This craft is gaining in popularity and produces some delightful finished results.

We plan to end this year on 12 December with a festive celebration evening. Festive food accompanied with Christmas games and our annual Rosebowl craft competition. For the silver Rosebowl award this year we are having a competition to make "Christmas Candy". The remit for the competition is to make some sweets, chocolates, fudge or whatever sweet candy and decorations for Christmas. The judges will consider three aspects: creativity, appearance and taste. Good luck everyone.

There is no physical January WI meeting but there will be a gathering over Zoom. We look forward to 'Tales of a Midwife', a talk by Dorothy Cook on the 13 February.

The FaB WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Baptist Church in Witney Street at 7.30 p.m. and warmly welcomes visitors and new members to all of our meetings. For further information please visit our website thefabwi.org.uk or Facebook page search 'The Fulbrook and Burford WI (FAB WI)' or contact our president, Jennie Craven, on thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk or Mobile 07710 103015.

Angela Weller

BURFORD OIL SYNDICATE



Covering Burford, Fulbrook,
Taynton and Bradwell Village
Only)

Wishing all our members, and everyone locally, a happy, healthy and enjoyable Christmas season, and a peaceful 2024. If you are quick, our November order will be placed on Thursday 30 November, closing at 5.00pm. Delivery will be during December we hope. Our next order will be on Thursday 4 January 2024 with delivery expected by the end of January.

You can join the syndicate and order online at www.burfordoil.co.uk, or membership application forms and order forms are available from Reavley's Chemist.

Any questions please contact Peter Higgs - 822462

OCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

OCC Is In A State Of 'No Overall Control' (NOC)

As reported last month, the 'Fair Deal alliance' running OCC collapsed in acrimony at the end of September after Labour withdrew, and the LibDem/Green group is now attempting to run the council with a minority administration. The council make up is now:

LibDem/Green: 24
Conservative Independent Alliance: 21
Labour: 14
Independent: 3

A motion is being submitted to full council in December proposing a cross-party, quasi-committee system.

New Cabinet

Details of the new cabinet can be found here:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/about-your-council/oxfordshire-councillors/oxfordshires-cabinet>

Council Budget For 2024/25 Under Development

The OCC Budget process for 2024/25 is now under way. Given the NOC status of the council, the development and approval process is likely to be especially challenging.

Controversial Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNS) Will Remain

The hugely controversial low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) in east Oxford are to remain, following a decision by OCC's cabinet at a packed meeting in October. This is despite the fact that the 18-month trial has been criticised by residents and businesses. Cabinet also approved the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras in place of existing physical barriers, which have been repeatedly vandalised. The debate goes on.

Heavy Rainfall And High River Levels In Oxfordshire

Persistent rainfall in recent weeks has led to higher than normal river levels on many watercourses in Oxfordshire. Here is useful information for local people to monitor the situation in their part

of the county – especially when the Environment Agency issues flood alerts or the more serious flood warnings. There are also links to the Met Office's weather warning bulletins.

- The Environment Agency's information relating to current flood alerts and flood warnings and the five-day flood risk for Oxfordshire can be found here: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/location/Oxfordshire> This page also captures flood alerts and warnings from areas immediately adjacent to the county.
- The Met Office issues weather warnings when severe weather is expected. These give an indication of problematic weather that may be on its way to Oxfordshire and could further influence river levels. Details here: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings>
- OCC has produced a 'flooding toolkit' which provides advice and support for residents and businesses. It can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com>

Police And OCC Reaffirm 20MPH Speed Limits Effectively 'Voluntary'

In response to parish council criticisms about the lack of effectiveness of OCC's £8 million 30mph to 20mph sign-changing exercise, the Oxford Mail has reported that a spokesperson for Thames Valley Police has said:

"We enforce speed limits based on evidence and threat and harm principles and officers will always deal with situations they encounter operationally. We also rely on the public to provide information and would encourage anyone with information about speeding or poor driving to please report it so that we can gather information about a particular area and take action where appropriate. We would ask people to report online on our website or by calling 101. While we share the council's enthusiasm for road safety and making improvements for all road users, it is also important that the introduction of 20mph speed limits is done in conjunction with Department for Transport guidelines."

Residents Warned Against Cold Callers Offering Property Repairs

Residents are being warned to be wary of cold callers offering to do property repairs after the recent storms. OCC's Trading Standards team is receiving an increased number of complaints about cold callers and leaflets for traders being put through the door, resulting in some reports of overcharging for work, charging for unnecessary work and completing work of poor quality.

Burford Bridge and HGV Weight Limit

In October, a meeting was held with OCC Officers to discuss the planned repairs to Burford bridge. Although progress has been slow (it is over 18 months since the original accident), we are hoping that repairs will begin this side of Christmas – watch this space! They witnessed the HGVs on Burford bridge and lack of space for pedestrians.

On 27 October, with BTC, we met the new cabinet member for highways, Judy Roberts, who fully understood the issues facing Burford: its economy, building destruction and pollution incurred by the HGVs. We still are waiting for the county-wide HGV report. However, funding is needed to fund the project and this will need to be approved in the February OCC budget which is under increased pressure for funding social care and education.

OCC Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson, Burford & Windrush Valley nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk and nfjuk3@gmail.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

October and November have seen action taking place on several of Burford's key issues. These include meetings with OCC's contractors to discuss options for increasing pedestrian safety on the bridge, the new OCC Executive member in charge of HGV restrictions (Judy Roberts) to be briefed on the background to Burford's experimental weight restriction and the lessons learnt, and the new District Executive Member (Tim Sumner) and a senior WODC officer on a wet and blustery day in the car park, to discuss measures to increase flood resilience, improve lighting, provide EV charging points and increase capacity. I imagine that these subjects will be expanded on in Peter Higgs' and Nicholas Field-Johnson's reports, so I thought I would say something about OCC in the context of the political changes that have taken place there.

Nicholas has previously reported on the demise of OCC's Fair Deal Alliance with the withdrawal of the Labour Party. However, this has no impact on the District's West Oxfordshire Alliance, which continues to thrive. Let me explain why.

The dust-up at OCC followed the publication of a very poor special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) report. Of the councils that have been inspected under the new scheme (which includes health and education partners), Oxfordshire performed worst. Its performance was a legacy from the previous administration, but the accountable cabinet member (Liz Brighthouse, Labour group leader) had done little to try and improve the situation. Liz Leffman (council leader) was told that there would be calls from parents for Liz Brighthouse's resignation and therefore asked her if she would consider resigning as the cabinet member before the report was published. She refused, and there were subsequently several meetings where parents publicly demanded her resignation.

The situation was untenable. Liz Leffman therefore told the Labour group that she was not expecting Liz Brighthouse to resign from the cabinet or as deputy leader of the council, but to switch roles between Labour's cabinet members so that she no longer had responsibility for Children's Services. After some attempts at negotiation, it became clear that they were not willing to do this and instead they broke the Alliance and left the administration.

The issue is therefore very specific to OCC's activities and the personalities involved and does not carry over into WODC.

While on the subject of OCC, some good news as well. The council has been ranked highest out of UK county councils for its climate action (by Climate Emergency UK).

Key contributions to this result came from OCC's actions on the wide take-up by towns and parishes of its 20mph policy, making permanent the LTNs in Cowley and East Oxford, the future introduction of traffic filters in Oxford in October 2024, investment in 159 electric buses with Oxfordshire's bus

companies, and a new parking policy which restricts parking in new developments especially those on the edge of the city. In addition, OCC is re-introducing some rural bus services (sadly not in our area), and in December running up to Christmas, single fares in Oxfordshire will be capped at £1. Although some call these policies 'war on motorists' I think of them as 'war on climate change'!

Hugo Ashton

District Councillor for Burford, Fulbrook and Taynton
hugo.ashton@westoxon.gov.uk or 0771 2490517



Liz Deverson kindly sent us this atmospheric image of St Oswald's Church in Widford



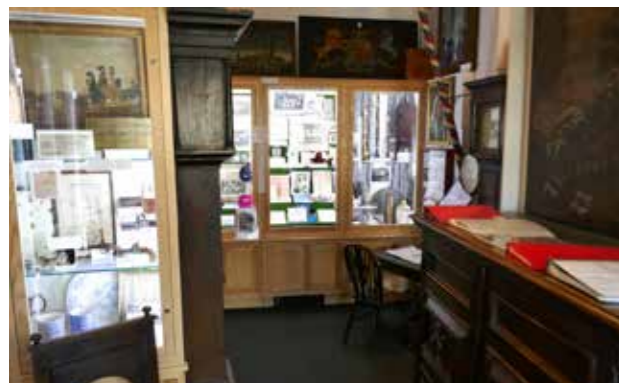
BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

NEW TO BURFORD AND AREA?

Welcome. The Burford & District Society will be happy to deliver your free copy of the 'Living in Burford & District' pack with details of many of the local facilities, clubs and societies. Simply email your name and address to lizannjack@gmail.com.

Don't forget to look at our website www.thebridgeburford.co.uk too for updates on local news, previous features and topical photographs
And for more photos about Burford events do look at Burford Life on Facebook

All is far from quiet upstairs in the Tolsey



Depending on the time you read this, our annual Benefactor's Reception on 2 December, held to recognise the invaluable financial support our subscribers provide, will either just have taken place or be imminent. If you or your spouse/partner are subscribing benefactors (currently £25 p.a.) but have not yet received an invitation, please contact Reg & Dorrit Marshall at supporters@burfordtolsey.org

The Museum is now closed for the winter except for Saturdays and Sundays up to Christmas. Thereafter it will remain closed for essential work until we reopen on 1 April next year. You could therefore be excused for thinking that all will be quiet upstairs at the Tolsey. Nothing could be further from the truth. After over sixty wonderful years of providing the support structure which enabled us to share our fantastic collection of artefacts with the public, we have realised that our original system of cataloguing our unique collection onto three long-serving, well thumbed, card indices is now quaint enough to become an exhibit in its own right. In short, such card indices are no longer fit for purpose.



Consequently from November the Museum's volunteers will be undertaking one of their most ambitious initiatives in recent times. That is to check every item in the Museum (whether on show or sleeping quietly in a cupboard) against its card index before adding modern internationally recognised codes and entering the new information onto our e-Hive programme. This in turn will eventually allow worldwide public online access to our collection. This technological leap is not only needed for good housekeeping and modern security but is necessary if we are to achieve our goal of being accredited by the Arts Council. Accreditation is one of the ambitions we undertook when we applied to grant-making charities for funds to establish the Archive and will also be essential should we wish to apply for other grants managed by the Arts Council. But that's not all! To capitalise on the rich diversity of the items we hold in the Museum, we are appointing 'Keepers'. In time these volunteers will become the 'go to' people who have intimate knowledge of specific groups of objects in the Museum. So we will have a Keeper of Textiles, of the Dolls House, of Clocks & Watches, of Stone work, Metal Work, Coins, Ceramics and so on. It is expected that these Keepers will begin to get to know their parts of the Museum's collection in early 2024 following the cataloguing exercise.

The Museum and Archive are community assets exclusively run by volunteers so, if you would like to get involved with cataloguing or with anything else to do with the project and are interested in discovering what we hold in our extensive collection please contact me (cddaukes@gmail.com) or Reg & Dorrit Marshall (supporters@burfordtolsey.org). We will be very pleased to hear from you.

Clendon Daukes

FRIENDS OF BURFORD LIBRARY

Ahead of the rapidly approaching Yuletide festivities, our annual plonk and pudding extravaganza was a truly joyous event filled with great food and good cheer.

Along with our usual delicious array of cakes and puddings, we threw caution to the wind this year and introduced a surprisingly popular savoury option. In addition to a marvellous quiz, local businesses including Bull and the Stone Gallery gave generously to provide a range of tempting prizes for our spectacular raffle including a very exciting dinner for two at Bull.

As we move forward into the new year, we are also thrilled to welcome two new people into our team of library volunteers. If you think you might like to join our happy band, helping to keep the library open, please contact Liz Deverson on lizdev@btinternet.com

To lighten up the dark February days, and awaken the little grey cells from their winter slumber, our ever popular Fish and Chip Supper and quiz is already scheduled. The date for your diary is 28 February at the Royal Oak. Tickets sell out fast so be sure to get yours early (available from the Library or the Stone Gallery).

Finally, we thank you for your support throughout the year wish and you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, hopefully with a good book or two to see you through the dark winter nights.

Ann Morris



LIBRARY EVENT

Helen Hawkins will be at Burford Library on Monday 4 December at 4pm. Tickets (available from the library) are free but numbers are limited. Refreshments available. Donations to the Friends of Burford library

Carol-Amy Holdcroft



BURFORD BOWLS CLUB

Two thousand and twenty three was a very successful year for Burford Town Bowls Club with an increase in membership and success in three competitions entered.

An open day in early April was well attended from which we gained 12 new members on the day and, with another six joining from other local clubs, our membership has grown from 30 to 48; of which 16 are from the Burford/Fulbrook area and our ladies' membership has increased from five to 12.

We were promoted as champions from division four of the Oxfordshire Men's League, and will compete in the third division next year. In the recently expanded Oxfordshire Mixed Triples League we were runners-up and were successful in winning the Temple Piper Summer Open Triples League held and organised by Witney Town Bowls club.



Oxfordshire Men's League Division 4 Champions

The club enjoyed an early season tour to Weston-super-Mare, winning against four local bowls clubs. Next year's tour will again be four matches but this time in the Weymouth area. A full programme of friendly fixtures, combined with the different league fixtures, ensures that all club members have the opportunity to play in a competitive match, whilst also entering the many club competitions and just enjoying the Monday evening roll-ups.

As a venue to hire the club has been very pleased to welcome the Seasons Arts Club and the Burford Town new playground project for their successful race night.

Currently we are playing a short mat winter programme with an internal triples league on Friday evenings and roll-up on Monday evenings whilst also playing in a couple of local leagues.

April 2024 will be the start of the next season when our Monday evening outdoor roll-up recommences and an Open Day will be advertised to which all prospective bowlers are invited; contact the club via the Website www.burfordtownbowlsclub.com.

Jeff Bizzell



Temple Piper Open Triples winners

GUIDED WALKS WITH THE COTSWOLD VOLUNTARY WARDENS

Details of the walks available are described on the website (below). More will be added in due course, including walks in January. Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary. Additional walks may be published on the website. <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/guided-walks/>

Circular walk through Stowell Estate and Chedworth Villa. Friday 1 December - Easy 3hr 5ml

A scenic flat and easy circular route with one short but steep ascent at the end. This wander encompasses a beautiful area of woodland, a river valley and open countryside.

Start: 10.00am at disused RAF Chedworth airfield a mile nw of Chedworth on the road towards Compton Abdale

Stow on the Wold to Broadwell and Oddington Tuesday 5 December - Moderate 3hr 6ml

A circular walk from Stow on the Wold to Broadwell and Upper Oddington.

We start off in the historic town of Stow-on-the-Wold and walk to Mangersbury which used to be the location of the workhouse for Stow. From there we walk to Upper Oddington and on to Broadwell and return to Stow past the Stow Wells. Lunch can be had in Stow after the walk or a short drive to neighbouring villages and towns. Please bring a drink/packed lunch.

Start: 10.00am Public car park next to Tesco's car park GL54 1BX. OS Map ref: SP 192 263.

EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground.

STRENUOUS - may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed.

Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.

Sheila Wasley

The editors have taken part in a couple of these walks and found them very well organised and enjoyable. The groups were quite large - 25+ walkers of all ages from all round this area. You can go at your own pace (within reason) and one of the wardens acts as a back marker so if you drop back you won't get lost. Stout footwear is strongly advised.

LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

In Burford you will find beautifully presented chocolates and cakes, cards, jewellery, clothing, furniture (new and old), paintings, lamps, throws, cushions, candles, woodcraft, delicatessen, cheeses, books, shoes, wine, ornaments, joke items, soaps, cosmetics, kitchen items, post office services and much more!





Taynton in the snow (above) and in the frost (below) photographed by Mike Russell




Lower Windrush Choral Society
**A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY FROM
HANDEL TO VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**
(Programme overleaf)
Saturday 9 December 2023
at 6.00 pm
(Doors open at 5.30 pm)
 Concert will run without an interval and finish approx 7.15 pm
HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH,
40 HIGH STREET, WITNEY OX28 6HG
 Soloist: Quentin Hayes (baritone)
 Organist: Bernard West
 Directed by: Terry McNamara
 Admission free, retiring collection towards concert costs
 www.lowerwindrush.org
 Registered Charity no: 1152661

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

“England’s broken housing system is now a problem no council can avoid!” This headline is taken from The Guardian newspaper of 30 October 2023. It reports on the high house prices, soaring rents and benefit cuts that are forcing more and more to seek help from local authorities.

I read with interest the final version of the Burford Town Plan appropriately named Burford Today and Tomorrow.* I note on page 4 under Burford Today paragraph three, that in 2001 the census had 1,340 inhabitants, and currently has 1016 residents on the electoral roll.

Meanwhile when I research information regarding holiday accommodation in Burford I note that 263 properties are advertised for holiday rental/AirBnB. Good luck to the holiday sector I say, bringing variety and trade to Burford, but perhaps that income is only seasonal and therefore contributes less in the long run, as other holiday destinations in the UK state.

I also note in The Bridge, December 2021 edition page 6, Derek Cotterill, who was instrumental in the Burford School Foundation development opposite Burford Garden Centre, hopes that project will bring some younger blood into Burford, as he has no neighbours. What I would say! Be careful what you wish for, lest it comes true! (Aesop’s Fables)

When I served as a town and district councillor there were 3,000 people on the housing waiting list, and today even with a name change to Homeseeker Plus there remain 2078 on the list for housing.

Local young people, many of whom would like to live in Burford and to work in Burford as staff for the 41 shops and 56 other businesses in Burford or as firemen, and have no chance of doing that, because of the high rents, and high costs of buying a home locally. Even during the last Conservative conference they produced a map of England and in red highlighted the unaffordable areas for housing and guess what? Burford happens to sit right in the middle of it all!

It has taken literally generations to create the Burford community, that is well established with its charm of a medieval trading town, and its history to entice visitors and the town remains largely unchanged.

With its listed buildings protected standing firm, any modern improvement in the form of solar panels would require Listed Buildings Consent from the local council, but I fear that this form of modernisation could be refused as it could have a negative impact on the whole visual effect of a picturesque Burford scene. So limited modernisation of the existing grade 2 housing presents a challenge for modernisation.

Page 5 of Burford Today and Tomorrow under Housing & Transport raises the need for low cost/affordable housing. Well, this community had the chance to support Planning Application 17/00642/OUT Land East of Barns Land Burford Known as Cole’s Field where some 35 affordable houses were proposed to serve the local population!

Houses right in the very heart of Burford, modern with all the quality of insulation, and ground source heat pumps to enable

young families to live and work in Burford! Walking to work, or pushing their prams around the shops and catering establishments all year!

The Shilton Road development is an estranged development at distance from Burford that is so detached from Burford that it is struggling to formalise its identity, and fails to meet the needs of younger families I am told!

Page 7 of Burford Today and Tomorrow highlighted the fact that there is a shortage of affordable and low cost housing to maintain an age balance within the community. Also skills that are in short supply and needed by the local community!

Thirty-five affordable houses were proposed to meet the local needs but residents were encouraged to object by leading individuals in Burford Town Council? The results are all clear to note, that now house prices on the open market have again risen beyond ordinary people’s means, and the hope of ever seeing low cost houses in Burford is pie in the sky!

The irony of this whole document contradicts itself, as building houses demands planning gain to the District Council and many other entities, so building six houses per year is a poorly collective pipe dream from John White who invited Mr and Mrs Cole to his offices and offered to buy Cole’s Field at agriculture rates?*

Page 7 also mentions floods! Not only does this happen all too frequently but now that we know Thames Water has discharged raw sewage into the River Windrush 74,693 times in 2022, then Burford Town Council should be very concerned about FLOODING, flooding their main car park and leaving a residue of

human raw sewage will not attract

visitors when all the parking areas are full and overflowing on the main high street? I have raised this matter with WODC cabinet members and I am awaiting their reply, as an outbreak of waterborne cryptosporidiosis broke out in Swindon and Oxfordshire in 1991, “so it can happen again”!

However Cole’s Field can come to the rescue by providing extra car-parking, a new coach park and tourist offices, and the potential for an electric bus. That will remove the coach park from outside the Burford Primary School and help to reduce air pollution that the school children are confronted with!

The new offset roundabout will give relief to all Burford residents and again reduce air pollution of traffic jams!

Cole’s Field can meet the required biodiversity net gain, and the contributions towards the provision of essential supporting infrastructure and required affordable housing. To include public open space, play facilities and green infrastructure .

Let’s hope that we all can come together to ensure that the Burford community can support phase 1 and 2 shown in the Clarity Plan.

Harry Watts

**This was published in 2013. It can be viewed on the OCC website - Ed*

***We understand this was at the council office and that John White suggested that BTC might buy the field for something between its agricultural value and its development value - Ed*



LETTER TO THE EDITORS

UK Emissions are a Big Deal

Joe Brannan claims (Letters, November) that the UK does not need to worry about its greenhouse gas emissions, because we currently emit “about 1% of global man-made CO2”.

It is really important to give context to this claim. “What about China?” has for years been the go-to argument for those who have wanted to continue polluting our planet. (I’m not suggesting Mr Brannan is amongst these.) Unfortunately, it has contributed to the dangerous levels of misunderstanding which are making it so hard for us to find a mutually agreed pathway to avoiding ecological disaster.

First, even at 1%, we’re about the fifteenth largest emitter in the world. In fact, nearly a third of global emissions comes from countries whose territorial emissions are each 1% or less of the global total.

Second, that 1% only covers the UK’s territorial emissions – those within our borders, excluding imports and international flights. When you include those, the number doubles, because of the huge proportion of our consumption that we have “offshored” to countries like, yes, China.

Third, we have to take responsibility for our historic emissions. If we add up all of our emissions since we led the way in the industrial revolution, we’re the fifth biggest emitter in the world. And this matters, because all of those carbon emissions are still up there in the atmosphere, and form part of the climate crisis that we face today.

But perhaps the most important context of all is our influence on the rest of the world. How can we ask developing countries, who have not benefited from the high carbon lifestyles we have enjoyed for so long, to take the climate crisis seriously if we do not show serious commitment ourselves?

Rosie Pearson, Asthall

(For further reading: https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/FINAL-WWF-UK_Carbon_Footprint_Analysis_Report_March_2020%20%28003%29.pdf Or <https://eciu.net/insights/2021/why-the-uks-1-of-global-emissions-is-a-big-deal>)

INCONSIDERATE PARKING

We have received a number of comments on this subject since the letter in our November edition and Paul Ashton-Bridges sent us a photograph of one of the vehicles concerned standing in the Lower High Street. In addition to parking on the zigzag lines outside the Co-op, another grouse is about abuse of disabled spaces by drivers who spring out of their cars like young gazelles. Sightings of civil enforcement officers (aka traffic wardens) in Burford are rare although we are told the they will come if requested to do so.

Contrary to what we said in the last issue, since 1 April this year OCC has taken over responsibility for on-street parking enforcement while WODC is responsible for car parks. Thanks to Steve Howell for pointing this out. Complaints can be made via the OCC website - search for Oxfordshire County Council parking enforcement.

Editors



Thursday, 25 January - Tolsey Talk on Zoom
'Oxfordshire on Canvas'
Marie Louise Kerr



Local scenes that have inspired and been captured by artists over 200 years.

Join us on a visual tour of Oxfordshire, as we look at various images captured by artists which have made an impression on our neighbourhood. This talk looks at local scenes and views that have inspired and been captured by artists (famous and less well known) over the last 200 years.

Tickets: £5 per residence can be ordered from www.burfordtolsey.org/events
Peter Martin



MADHATTER BOOKSHOP

“The rooms were very still while the pages were softly turned and the winter sunshine crept in to touch the bright heads and serious faces with a Christmas greeting.”

Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

I challenge you to save a tree and save our High Street and do all your Christmas shopping on Burford High Street. Don’t fight through the traffic or wait for your bus in the pouring rain, forget online, just take a stroll in Burford and immerse yourself in the spirit of Christmas. From fresh turkeys at Castles to fabulous vegan treats from Emily at Nutmeg and Thyme. From cinnamon scented candles from Bramble and Gooseberry to party frocks from Resource and of course books for everyone on your gift list. Whether you are a jolabokafloder* on Christmas Eve or simply want to gift the joy of reading, The Madhatter Bookshop is here to inspire, recommend, assist and we will even wrap.

Here are just a few of our favourites:

For little ones....

Mouse’s Wood by Alice Melvin – as Mouse goes on a journey through the woods, he relishes the changing of the seasons with all his woodland friends. An absolute gem of a book.

For early readers...

Lily The Pug and the Christmas Wish by Kerris Stainton – the town has decided to do something really special and write down a secret wish and tie it to the town’s Christmas tree but after a strange storm scatters all the wishes can Lily and her pug fix things before Christmas Eve?

For him....

A Passion for Whisky: How the tiny Scottish island of Islay creates malts that captivate the world by Ian Wisniewski – I confess I have skin in the game with this choice having spent a week on Islay this summer with my partner Andrew. When he said let’s go for the spectacular wildlife, what he meant was let’s go to every distillery and by the way you will see Golden Eagles! To be honest I was happy with both. Experiencing the Islay wave was an added joy.

For the fantasist....

Bookshops and Bonedust by Travis Baldree – the perfect book for those who were once young and pulled between fighting for the world with all they had or curling up in a dusty bookshop with a good story.

For her....

Days at the Morisaki Bookshop by Satoshi Yagisawa – this gentle tale of families, love, new beginnings and the comfort that can be found in books and indeed bookshops.

We hope you feel inspired and we look forward to seeing you at Madhatter Bookshop very soon. In the meantime the team wish you and yours peace, love and joy this Christmas.

Kim Harvey

**Us neither. Apparently it’s an Icelandic custom to give and receive new books on Christmas Eve - Ed*

HARMONIUM SEEKS GOOD HOME

Harmonium built by W Bell, restored into full working condition in 2018. Bring your Christmas carols to life in your own home, with pedal pump action to keep you fit at the same time! We have no room for it any longer and it seeks a good home. Available to view in Burford.

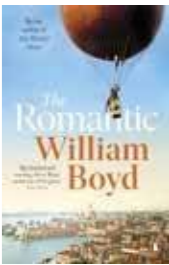
Contact Hugo Ashton on 0771 2490517 or hughashton@btinternet.com

A reader once asked us if we could find room for an advertisement saying “Accordion for Sale”. We said we’d try to squeeze it in - Ed

ALICE’S BOOK GROUP

The Romantic is the first of William Boyd's books Alice's Book Group has read, surprising as he is a prolific, award-winning writer. Better late than never, it was enjoyed to a greater or lesser degree by all.

It is a long book befitting the biography of a man who lived many lives throughout the 19th century, beginning, playfully, with a preface purporting to be written by the biographer of one Cashel Greville Ross, based on letters and a meagre collection of momentos, and it continues with occasional subtle comic undertones. What a life; born in 1799 in Ireland, after an unsettled youth, Cashel develops a knack of being involved in many of the major events of his time, firstly the Battle of Waterloo. He is lauded as a "Waterloo Man," despite the fact he was actually merely an under-age drummer, late arrived when the main event was over, but then got wounded by fleeing French soldiers. To list the places and countries he visits would spoil the enjoyment of future readers. Suffice it to say, the situations he encounters are well researched and the descriptions interesting, albeit brief. Boyd casually introduces some great 19th century names; we were tickled by intimate details of the Shelley household in Italy and its neighbour, Lord Byron, a bad-tempered sufferer from severe sunburn, and totally club-footed, not the romantic poet of Victorian biography; but Boyd is excellent at bringing life to his subjects and to an era.



Cashel Ross, is he "Romantic?" He does indeed have a great, but unfulfilled, love in his life, which is a thread woven throughout the story, but also he has other liaisons; his greatest claim for the title must be that he is a man of conscience, almost naive, with an unquenchable thirst for adventure, and desire to do what is right, all the while making a living in hard times.

The recurring word used in our discussion was “romp.” William Boyd gives us a jolly romp through the major part of the 1800s; we have experienced events and several countries on the cusp of the 20th Century, met interesting characters of every class, enjoyed smiles, and sometimes sighs. Towards the end, however, it began to feel as though Cashel went there and did this, then there to do that, then there a ticked off list of events. He is perhaps, the literary version of cinema's Forrest Gump. In fact Boyd remarked, in a later interview, the situations and places were those about which he had already researched for other books and which he wished to revisit.

Next month we read: *Notes from an Exhibition* by Patrick Gale, set mainly in Cornwall, followed by a festive book for Christmas. We wish you a lovely time, with lots of great books.

Veral Marshall





BURFORD & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On 26 October the Burford & District Horticultural Society met to hear Bill Lawes talk about *50 plants that changed the course of history*. We enjoyed a global tour and a deep dive into history, encompassing many different aspects of our cultural heritage, through the impact made by the discovery and development of particular plants. Did you know that the structural design of Paxton's glasshouses at Kew was inspired by the structure of giant water lily pads? Or that we have Joseph Stalin to thank for the variety of sunflowers available

in the world? Or that King James I was scathing about the damage wrought to humans by smoking tobacco? In the language of flowers, tulips signify vanity and ignorance – so I'll be very careful about my choices of posies in future. We considered the architectural impact on town centres all over the UK of the "Corn Halls", built as wheat grew in its importance in the economy. U-boats featured (maybe an apocryphal story) in the history of the Gloucester Black Kidney

potato variety. Our speaker thinks that cannabis's time is "yet to come" as a medicine. A consideration of the rise of interest in the heritage apples took us via Roman goddesses, druids, and the "invisible women," fine artists and botanical illustrators of classic texts on apples, to astonishing apple variety names. My eye was caught by the Bastard Foxwhelp apple – I can't see that catching on in any supermarket any time soon!

If you fancy a thought-provoking afternoon talk and a friendly welcome, why not give HortSoc a try? 25 January (details are on the Diary page) sees the start of our new season. There is no meeting in December, and the secretary would be glad to sign up new members. Visit burfordhorticultural.com or contact secretary Nigel Barraclough, Sylvester House, Witney Street, Burford, OX18 4RU.

Ruth Reavley

WINDRUSH RURAL CINEMA

No film in December

Saturday 27 January - The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry - Windrush Village Hall - 7.30pm - Tickets £5
Starring: Jim Broadbent, Earl Cave, Penelope Wilton
Director: Hettie MacDonald

When Harold learns his friend Queenie is dying, he is moved to act. He leaves home, walking to the post box to send her a letter, until he realises a letter is not enough. In that moment Harold decides to keep walking, all the way to her hospice.

Brendan Boyle

THERE IS SO MUCH TO ENJOY AT YOUR LIBRARY

Every week Burford Library is the venue for a fabulous range of activities:

- **Knit (or Sew) & Natter** : First Tuesday of every month 2—3 pm
- **Book Group** : Last Tuesday of every month 2—3 pm
- **Gadget and IT Support**: Third Tuesday of every month 1-3pm booking essential
- **Reminiscence Morning**: Third Friday of every month —10.30 to 11.30 am. 17 Nov/22 Dec
- **Puzzle Club** : Every Friday—10.30 to 12 noon, excluding Reminiscence morning
- **Scrabble Evenings** : First Tuesday every month—7 to 9 pm
- **Family History** : If anyone would like help starting a family tree, or breaking down brick walls, please contact Jan Cohen: cohen4sp@btinternet.com

All Welcome to any of the above at your Library

Please register an interest with Carol-Amy at the Library or phone 01993 823377

Refreshments are provided—donations to the Friends of Burford Library

BURFORD LIBRARY 86 High Street, Burford— 01993 823377 (behind Sue Ryder)

Library Opening Hours - see Useful Contacts page



BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

After delivering the very well supported programme of talks and events throughout the year, and benefitting from a record high number of memberships, December is when we catch our breath. By tradition, we do not meet this month.

In turn, the town's much appreciated Bridge magazine team, (to whom we are indebted for their fantastic support), will then be re-charging their batteries by not producing a January edition, so we will be unable to post an article next month. Consequently, to whet your appetite about our 2024 programme, here are some early visual teasers to some of the exciting events you can look forward to next year.



We will start with our eagerly anticipated AGM, on 20 February which is once again expected to generate its legendary excitement and competition for places on our Committee. Every year, somewhat similar to when Glastonbury release their tickets, otherwise staid members of the community morph into adrenaline junkies, prepared to do whatever is required in their desperation to obtain their lanyard to wade in any mud, have their faces painted and wriggle into and strut about in their unfashionable flared trousers, in a desperation to re-live their younger days whilst listening to this year's featured pelvic thrusting balladeer, such is interest in and demand for places on our committee. On a personal note, after six very happy and productive years at the helm of the B&DS, I will not be seeking re-election i.e. my days on Warwick Hall's iconic Pyramid stage are ending.

Similarly copying Glastonbury, we will ensure everyone's safety at our AGM by installing robust barriers and enlisting the support of the Warwick Hall's crack SAS-trained, crowd control team.

We anticipate that next year's anticipated rush for seats and relentless scramble to join the committee, could be more intense due to the attraction of the accompanying talk to be given by **Ken Ingamells**, entitled '**Shackleton's fateful Antarctic Expedition**'.

Further details will follow nearer the date, but in the meantime, you can guarantee your place at our extravaganza by clicking on 'Events' on our website (see below).

We would also like to thank the Warwick Hall's management team and their fantastic volunteers, who have always ensured that all our meetings have taken place as planned. The assistance our members have also given in clearing away the chairs at the end of each event is similarly much appreciated.

Memberships, which run for a calendar year from the 1 January, will shortly fall due for renewal. Once again, despite rising costs etc we will be pegging our fees at £10 per person, for five talks, an annual visit and a free garden party. Your prompt renewal of subscriptions would be much appreciated. New members are warmly welcomed and can download an application form from our website.

In the meantime, the committee join me in wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a safe and enjoyable 2024.

Peter **Chairman** peteremartin@btinternet.com www.burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk

EDITORIAL POLICY

As is customary with publications, the decision of the editors on what can and cannot be published is final. In particular, they will edit or decline to publish anything which in their opinion includes personal attacks on any individual, is expressed in unduly partisan language or is offensive, in bad taste or potentially defamatory. Opinions expressed by contributors are entirely their own and the appearance of any letters or articles in The Bridge does not indicate that the editors agree with them. Items may also be edited for clarification or length and may be rejected. Where items or services are offered for sale, or advertised, the provider is responsible for ensuring that the goods or services are safe and of good quality. The editors may refuse to publish advertisements or other statements about unsuitable items or services. The Bridge does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of advertisements and does not endorse any goods or services which are advertised. All items submitted for inclusion must give the name and address of the writer and an email address or telephone number. By submitting any article, announcement, letter or advertisement to The Bridge you are deemed to have agreed to the above.

All advertisements in The Bridge are accepted subject to The Bridge Terms and Conditions of Advertising 2021 which can be viewed on our website www.thebridgeburford.co.uk.

HOOTING AND SHRIEKING



The fearsome-looking Barn Owl is really quite docile, but it's not really bright enough to merit its traditional reputation for wisdom. These were two of the insights given us by Adrian 'Ady' State in a talk, kindly hosted by Rosie Pearson at Asthall on 17 October, on behalf of the BEAGles. Thirty or so people were there to hear about the Oxford Ornithological Society's Barn Owl Project.

In 1932, there were only 45 pairs of Barn Owls in the whole of the county. Barn conversions were reducing the owls' habitats and pesticides were killing both them and the mice and voles on which they depended. Reducing the use of pesticides has since helped numbers recover and the Project's own campaign of providing licensed owl boxes has made a great difference.

There are now 1000 boxes all over the county, including the Burford area, most of them inhabited by owls - although a few attract other creatures: a kestrel, young jackdaws, stock doves and even squirrels. Barn Owls normally live for three or four years, though premature deaths still occur. Cars are the main killer, but also owls might drown in the still water of cattle troughs, trying to fight the reflected enemy they see below them.

The Barn Owl Project puts the specially-designed boxes on trees, at a height of between 3.5 and 4.5 metres, a balance between security for the owls and accessibility for the volunteers who, armed with gloves and leg-rings of different sizes, mount ladders to reach them. Despite the owls' powerful legs and sharp claws, their main offensive weapons, they are surprisingly easy for an expert to handle. Being taken from a dark box into the light probably has a chastening effect.

Young owls are weighed and ringed, carefully, so that the ring does not catch on branches or wires. Ringing helps the Project to keep track of distribution, travel habits, the owls' preferred habitat and even feeding habits. The boxes have removable bases for regular cleaning, to inhibit the spread of disease.

Little Owls and Tawny Owls are also present locally, and Adrian played recordings of their distinctive cries. He finished by gently chiding Shakespeare. The 'bird of night... hooting and shrieking' in *Julius Caesar* would need to have been of two different species.

Bill Risebero

BARRINGTON'S MUSICAL MUSKETEER



D'Artagnan Arbuah is a local singer/songwriter who has issued a Christmas single - *Merry Christmas Darling* which was inspired by Josie, his fiancée, (pictured).

You can hear him at The Fox, Barrington, where he is the resident singer.

BURFORD AND KINGHAM ROTARY



On the last Saturday in October, we planted nearly 4,000 purple crocus bulbs on Burford Hill to raise awareness of polio eradication and to give something for the local community to enjoy in the spring which we know is much appreciated by the lovely comments we received from passers-by. We are very grateful to Hickman Brothers for lending us their turf-cutting machine. This really helped save our backs. Thank you.



Rotary took part in the Police Awareness Day in Chipping Norton town hall. We were promoting our charity work and trying to raise money at the same time. The SeaSaw balloons went down very well with the younger visitors. Seasaw is a charity offering support for children and young people in Oxfordshire <https://seesaw.org.uk>

Tickets are selling well for our Bridge Drive .

We have had two very interesting speakers this month, one on the history of Brize Norton RAF station, the largest RAF station in the world.

Lucy Staveley spoke to us on the Oxfordshire Treescape Project. An example of how one person can motivate a community to plant trees.

So, lots of interesting things going on. Don't miss out, come and join us. Why not think about joining Rotary? We meet at Burford Golf Club on Mondays 6.30pm for 7.00pm (except Bank Holidays). We are a small but very friendly vibrant group, with members from all the local villages in the area. We are always looking to increase our membership. You will get a very warm welcome. Contact our secretary John Smith email jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk 07717883182.

Ros Richardson 01608643844 /07702135731



THE COTSWOLDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

What is the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) doing about climate change?

Quite a lot. In 2021, CNL* commissioned Small World Consulting to report on current levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the Cotswolds. The results show that those of us lucky enough to live in this super landscape have a super footprint to match.

Across all sectors, the carbon footprint of Cotswolds residents is around 26% higher than the UK average. Within this, our emissions from food and drink are around 10% higher, from electricity about 35% higher, from driving around 30% higher and from flying (wait for it!) around 250% higher. And all of that is without even taking our visitors into account!

So what can we do about it? Well, that was the subject of a series of recent workshops organised by CNL with the help of Witney-based consultants 3Keel. The first of these, on land use and management, took place in Burford's very own Warwick Hall on 24 October, and others took place online, and covered energy, transport and food and drink.

The workshops aimed to harness the ingenuity and experience of Cotswolds residents and businesses to work out how we can play our part. The UK has a national commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 (meaning that emissions are as close to zero as possible, and any remaining ones are re-absorbed by improvements in tree cover, soil etc). The United Nations has recently said that we should bring this goal forward by a decade, because global temperatures are rising faster than anticipated.

At the time of writing I have attended the first two of these workshops, and the range and ambition of solutions put forward were impressive. Farmers improving soils, widening hedges and reducing methane emissions; engineers looking at energy efficient solutions for older houses; community-based heating systems; bright ideas for real improvements to rural transport. What has been called (by Costa Rican diplomat Christiana Figueres) *stubborn optimism* was in strong evidence.

The outcome of these workshops will be a report from 3Keel with recommendations on how the CNL can journey towards net zero, in a way that is compatible with its statutory purpose to conserve and enhance the landscape, a landscape that has evolved over time but will increasingly have to contend with hotter summers, milder, wetter winters and more extreme weather events.

CNL, like the national parks and other protected landscapes, has a key part to play. If these much-loved landscapes can become pioneers of low carbon transition and environment-conscious land management, their national and international profiles could give them a level of influence that far outweighs the scale of their own emissions.

*Protected landscapes formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are all in the process of changing their names to National Landscapes.

Rosie Pearson

Board member, Cotswolds National Landscape

WE ARE ON X/TWITTER

To get the latest news follow us on X (the platform previously known as Twitter) @BridgeBurford or go to our website www.thebridgeburford.co.uk.

BURFORD SCHOOL

On 9 November, we were delighted to welcome our current Year 11 and prospective students to visit our Sixth Form as part of our Sixth Form Open Evening. Students had the opportunity to meet with those currently working towards their A-Levels and our staff.



From art and chemistry to Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Careers, students were able to learn more about the different subjects, extracurricular opportunities and support we offer at Burford School, as part of our ethos to provide the 'best of education' and a superb platform from which they can springboard onto a range of ambitious universities, apprenticeships and career pathways.

We wish all readers a wonderful festive season and look forward to sharing more Burford School news and events in the new year.

Clementine Bright - burford.oxon.sch.uk

A Cotswold Wall photographed by Tom Barry



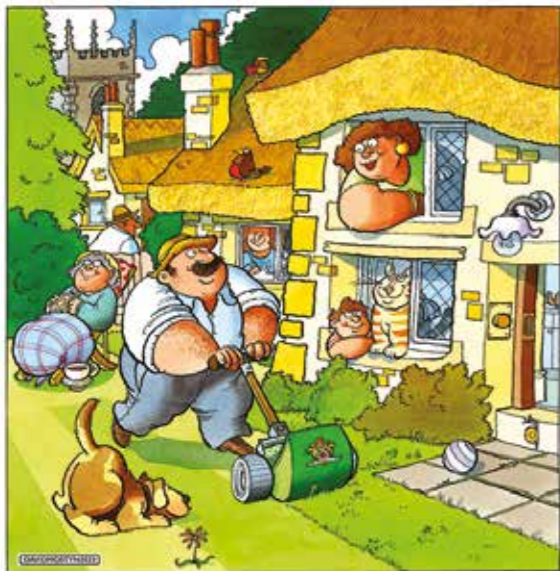
THE DELIGHTS OF VILLAGE LIFE



David Mostyn is a local artist who is no stranger to humour and the happier aspects of country life.



His career reads like a ‘Who’s Who’ of cartoon greats - including The Beano, The Dandy, Marvel Comics and Disney. Even The Bridge has benefited from his creative output and one of his cartoons appears on the front page of this issue!



In addition to writing and illustrating hundreds of books now distributed around the world, David established a very successful Oxfordshire art studio.

More recently, he has concentrated his perceptive eye on the more humorous and idiosyncratic aspects of village life; the local pub, the amateur art class and the seasonal cricket match have all been given the Mostyn Treatment.

This magazine can only give you a small sampler of his creativity.

Recognising the importance of supporting his local community, David wants to offer readers the opportunity to be amongst the first to purchase and enjoy his very affordable Village Life series.

If you are interested, please contact David directly. He can be reached at: davidmostyn@googlemail.com



THE BRIDGE TEAM

As well as a large number of valuable, helpful distributors, the Bridge team consists of:

Advertising Manager	Stephen Richards
Commercial Artist	David Mostyn
Editors	Gordon and Elaine Elliot
Founder/Chief Distributor	Clendon Daukes
Proof Reader	Judy Cumming
Roving Reporter	Ruth Reavley
Website and IT Adviser	Pete Freeman

THE BRIDGE TIMETABLE

The closing date for entries to the editorial sections of the magazine is 10th of the month preceding publication. Please send articles and information to:

editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk

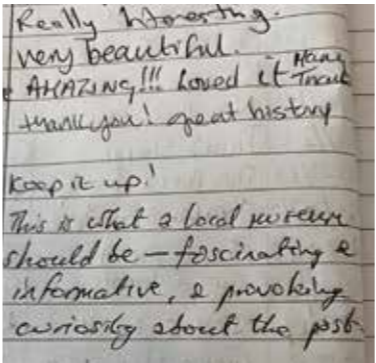
Alternatively, you can leave letters and articles at the Post Office for us to collect.

Advertisements need to be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication. Please contact:

advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk



As 2023 draws to a close we can look back on a successful season at the Museum, having been open for around 200 afternoons and attracting an average of almost ten visitors per hour.

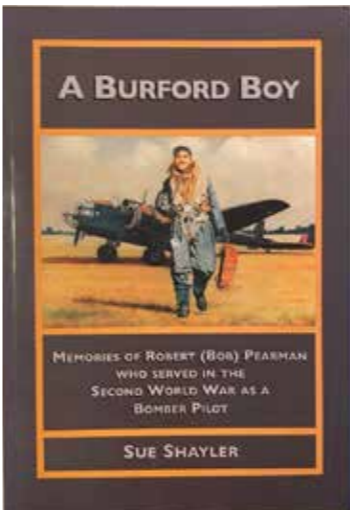


Unfortunately, many visitors have little time to spend at the Tolsey, and stay only a few minutes, but some linger for up to an hour, engaging with the steward on duty, and absorbing the mass of information found in cabinets.

These six written comments left by visitors are very encouraging.

As previously reported, for 2023 we mounted a temporary exhibition featuring the sporting exploits of Burford Grammar School’s Frank Hartley and his brothers. This brought members of the far-flung family, and the Tottenham connection was a surprise for many visitors. The Tolsey display is still on show at weekends until 17 December, but plans are well advanced for the exhibition to be relocated to Chipping Norton Museum for their 2024 season.

Filling the space left at the Tolsey, and continuing the theme of remembering Grammar School boys, there will be an exhibition on Bob Pearman, whose memories were recorded by his daughter Sue Shayler in her book *A Burford Boy*.



The exhibition will be based on the personal archive of Bob Pearman, which Sue has generously presented to the BTMA, including items from his home town, his Oxford rowing trophies including cups and an oar bearing his name, and of course of his service in the RAF during the Second World War. The latter include Bob’s flying helmet and goggles, his medals, a parachute rip-cord, and other mementoes.

There is an increasing interest in the lives of men and women who served their country in theatres of war, and this valuable personal archive considerably increases the BTMA holdings of such material.
Chris Walker

FREE ART EXHIBITION

6 December 1-3pm

Burford Town Bowls Club



You’re invited to support local artists as they display a selection of their amazing artwork produced as students of The Seasons Art Class Burford. Over the past 14 weeks our Beginner and Improver level artists have learnt new skills including drawing, pastels, watercolours and acrylic painting.

The Seasons Art Class Burford is a friendly and supportive art course for grown ups. Students develop their artistic skills, learn about styles of composition and specific artistic mediums as well as meet new friends in the local area. Tuition, demonstrations and support is given throughout the course and everyone can expect a sociable and nurturing environment to work in.

Our next 14 week art course starts in January and will take place on Wednesdays at Burford Town Bowls Club, Tanners Lane, Burford.

The exhibition is the culmination of the autumn term and gives you the chance to enjoy drawings and paintings along with the students and tutors. There will be plenty of tea and cake too!

To find out more and book your place, please contact 01865 426625 or email theseasonsartclassburford@gmail.com
Challoner Spokes



BURFORD SCHOOL FOUNDATION ("BSF") WELCOMES APPLICATIONS

BSF is a Burford charity whose charitable objects are, broadly, to benefit:

- (i) the educational institutions in Burford and
- (ii) individuals under the age of 25.

Apart from grants to the three schools, we typically give grants and bursaries to students from Burford (or who have been educated in Burford) to assist with their education. We give annual bursaries of £1000 to assist a student through their further/higher education course or apprenticeship; and/or grants of up to £3000 to enable a student to buy, for example, equipment, computers and musical instruments etc., or to go on study/field trips.

If you are interested in applying for such assistance please contact Lisa Evans at lisa.evans@pearson.com; *Carolyn Walton*



Its subscribers included prime ministers such as Stanley Baldwin, Ramsey Macdonald, and Winston Churchill; even Eleanor Roosevelt read it avidly. In its heyday, leading writers such as George Bernard Shaw and G. K. Chesterton penned articles.

On vacating the editor's chair at the age of eighty, Robertson Scott was made a Companion of Honour. Sir Stafford Cripps of Filkins, who was to become Attlee's Chancellor of the Exchequer, had given great encouragement to Robertson Scott in founding the quarterly magazine. So, it seemed apposite that his son, Sir John Cripps, took over the editorship in 1947; moving its office to Sheep Street, Burford two years later. It reverted to a private residence, *Greyhounds*, when the magazine moved to Skipton Castle, North Yorkshire in 2003.

Like Robertson Scott, Cripps was a legendary champion of the countryside and was to become chairman of the Countryside Commission.

The title was bought by IPC magazines in 1998 and then by Dalesman, in 2002. Although it remained popular with a circulation of around 11,000 (even Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sent her best wishes on its ninetieth birthday) it has now been closed due to rising paper, print and postage costs.

Bert Clough

MEET THE NEW DISTRIBUTORS

Here are Lara and Felix Elliot who joined the Bridge distributors in November. This voluntary role is an excellent way to meet your neighbours.



This November marked the end of an era. The final edition of *The Countryman* was published; just four years short of what would have been its centenary. It was founded by J.W. Robertson Scott in 1927, at the age of sixty-one. He published it from the attic of his 16th century Cotswold manor house in Idbury. Robertson Scott was a quirky visionary. He detested country pursuits such as hunting and shooting, yet knowing that it would not go well with some rural readers.

He and his wife were business and advertisement manager, editor, sub-editor, and principal contributors. They made it the most successful venture in periodical publishing between the two world wars. Non-party, though firm enough in opinion, it was eclectic. It was packed with rural life and character, placing before town, city, and country dwellers vividly and convincingly the facts, and strengthening the forces of rural progress. Over its lifespan, articles varied from *New Facts about Earthworms* to *Closing Village Schools*.



Several hundred people attended Remembrance Sunday in Burford. The moving ceremony was conducted by Rev Tom Putt and a large number of wreaths were placed in commemoration of those from Burford who died in the First and Second World Wars.

BEAGles

Burford Environmental Action Group are planning to hold four repair cafes in 2024, the first of which will be on 13 January in the Warwick Hall; the aim of a repair cafe is to invite people to bring items for repair or refurbishment that would otherwise be unused or be sent to landfill. Typically this would include repairs to domestic electrical items, furniture, clothes and fabrics, bicycles and the sharpening of knives, garden implements and other tools.

Previous repair cafés have successfully fixed around 70% of the items brought in: all repairs and testing are carried out free of charge, but donations are welcome. In some cases replacement plugs, leads, bulbs or batteries may be needed, in which case the owner may be asked to pay a small charge for these if we have them available. New volunteers are welcome – no experience is necessary, just a willingness to help people (and the ability to use a screwdriver!).

The latest in the series of talks took place on 9 November in the Quaker Meeting House, with the intriguing title of Simon's Composting Salon! Beginning with the inspirational thought that composting is happening all around us, all the time and by creating and maintaining our own heap, therefore, we are "linking into a profound and life-generating cycle", massively increasing the microbiology of the soil, thereby making the minerals in the soil bio-available to the roots of plants. It massively increases the diversity of life in the soil, and provides nourishment for birds and insects too.

After an introduction to the idea of using a lawnmower to chop up and spread garden and kitchen waste out on the lawn and mowing over them, Simon looked at the ideal ingredients of a healthy heap, which can include: wood ash, charcoal, wood chippings, brown paper, leaf compost, pine needles, volcanic rock dust, urine (yes, a great activator), coffee grounds and other kitchen waste.

There was then a look at the different ways of building compost heaps: breeze blocks, pallets, straw bales can all feature. The enthusiastic audience was composed of a wide range of levels of experience, from enthusiastic gardeners to complete beginners.

We will have two meetings over the next two months, to which all are invited: one on 18 December at 7.30pm in the Prince of Burford and the other on 15 January at 7.30pm in the Quaker Meeting House. January's will focus on the results of our thermal imaging session the week before: we will be visiting houses throughout Burford offering a 'thermal health check', showing owners by means of an infra-red thermal imaging camera how much heat they are losing through inadequately-insulated roofs – and, more importantly, what they can do about it, with FUNDS BEING AVAILABLE to help insulate leaky roofs through Cosy Homes Oxfordshire. If you would like us to carry out a health check on your house, please get in touch at beagles.burford@gmail.com. There is of course no charge for this.

Andy Hayter

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri 1 Dec	Christmas Market	St John the Baptist Church	5.30-9pm
Sat 2 Dec	Tolsey Museum & Archive Reception (patrons & benefactors only by invitation)	Warwick Hall	
Sat 2 Dec	Switching On Christmas Lights	Tolsey Burford	4pm
Sun 3 Dec	Civic Carol Service and Reception	St John the Baptist Church	3.30pm
Mon 4 Dec	Meet children's author Helen Hawkins	Burford Library	4.00pm
Weds 6 Dec	Free art exhibition	Bowls Club	1-3pm
Sat 9 Dec	Concert - A Christmas Journey from Handel to Vaughan Williams	Witney Methodist Church	6.00pm
Tues 12 Dec	FAB WI Festive games and food	Baptist Church	7.30pm
Weds 13 Dec	Arts Society lecture - Step into the Christmas card	Warwick Hall	10.50am
Fri 15 Dec	Chamber of Trade Burford Ball	Burford Golf Club	
Sun 17 Dec	Carols by candlelight	St John the Baptist Church	7pm
Mon 18 Dec	BEAGles meeting	Prince of Burford	7.30pm
Wed 10 Jan	Arts Society lecture - The mass faking of Soviet avant-garde art	Warwick Hall	10.50am
Mon 15 Jan	BEAGles meeting - thermal imaging results	Friends Meeting House, Pytts Lane	7.30pm
Thurs 25 Jan	Burford & District Horticultural Society talk - bearded irises, history, people and plants	Bowls Club	2.15pm
Thurs 25 Jan	Tolsey talk - Oxfordshire on Canvas	Zoom	tbc
Sat 27 Jan	Windrush Rural Cinema - The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry	Windrush Village Hall	7.30pm
Weds 14 Feb	The Arts Society Lecture - Rubens: Poses, Position and Property	Warwick Hall	10.50am
Tues 20 Feb	Burford and District Society AGM and talk	Warwick Hall	tbc
Weds 28 Feb	Library fish and chip supper and quiz	Royal Oak, Witney Street	tbc
Wed 13 Mar	The Arts Society Lecture - The Art of Dance	Warwick Hall	10.50
Sun 24 March	Burford Singers - Haydn's Creation	Burford Parish Church	tbc
6-16 June 2024	Burford Festival		

PLEASE remember to give us DAY, DATE and TIME when providing information about forthcoming events to ensure the full and correct details are published. Thank you.
Editors

This information is sometimes out of date but included as a prompt for people to remind us what Clubs, Societies and Regular Events still exist and who is the contact for them.

REGULAR LOCAL EVENTS, CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Aerobics	Monday and two on Thursday	Warwick Hall Monday 6.15pm, Thursday 11.45 and 6.15pm	Gill Hames 822971 gillianhames46@gmail.com
Astally Arms	Last Friday of the month	Memorial Hall Asthall Leigh	From 7.00 pm
Badminton Group	Monday nights	Burford School 8-10pm. Friendly, all abilities	Kevin 704655 scareyradar@yahoo.co.uk
BEAGles aka Burford Environment Action Group	Third Tuesday of the month	The Prince of Burford	7.30pm
Burford Badminton Club	Tuesday nights 8-10pm	Burford School - fun, social, all abilities	Vijay 891043 vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Burford Crafters	3rd Wednesday of the month	Burford Library 2.30-3.30	Judith Butcher 01993 824194
Burford & District Society	Meet 7 times a year	Warwick Hall at 7.00pm	Bert Clough, Secretary 07943 720668
Burford Library	Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday	See Times on Useful Information page	High Street, Burford
Burford Town Bowls Club	Friendly Roll-up all Mondays	Bowls Club from 6.30 pm	Pat Walker 01993 822330 patr47@btinternet.com
Burford Writing Club	2nd and 4th Tuesday each month	Varies. 7.30-9pm	ashley.v.count@gmail.com
Coffee and Company	Every Wednesday	St John the Baptist Church 10.30 - 12 midday	Diana Peters 01993 822785
Cub Scouts	Mondays (term time)	Scout Hut 6 - 7.30 pm	Mandy Bielby 07941 470465
Fencing	Tuesdays	Bradwell Village 7-9pm	Keith Money 01982 448295
Fulbrook & Burford WI (FaBWI)	Second Tuesday of every month	Burford Baptist Church Hall	Jennie Craven 07710 103015 thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
Fulbrook Coffee am	Every 3rd Thursday	Fulbrook Meeting Place 10.30 - 12	Lyn Bibbings 823640
Fulbrook Fitness Group	Thursday (wef Sept 2021)	Fulbrook Meeting Place 9am	Pat Ferrett 822892
Horticultural Association	Fourth Thursday	Bowls Club - times vary	Janet Copley 01451 844210
North Cotswold Arts Assoc.	Every 2nd Wednesday	Warwick Hall	2-4pm
Pickleball - fun, social sport	Mon 11-1pm, Thu 10-12pm, Fri 8-10pm	Charlbury Community Centre	Vijay 01993 891 043 or vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Pilates Class	Wednesdays 10.00am	Burford Baptist Church	Elizabeth Jarvis cotswoldpilates123@gmail.com
Rhyme Time	Friday 9.15-10.00 am Term Times	Burford Library (for under 5's)	Carol-Amy Holdcroft 823377
Rock-a-Tots	Tuesday during Term Time	Warwick Hall	9.45 - 11.15 www.burfordchurch.org/rockatots
Rotary Burford & Kingham	Monday	The Burford Golf Club	Terry Best, Secretary 775232
Signpost - Coffee and Help	Every Wednesday in term time.	The Warwick Hall, Burford 10.00 - 12 midday	Opportunity to raise worries confidentially
Scouts	Thursday (term time)	Scout Hut 6 - 8pm	Alex Gill 07762161769 burfordscouts@gmail.com
Scrabble	1st Tuesday of each month	Burford Library (free soft drinks)	7pm
Soup & Pudding Club (currently suspended)	Every 2nd Tuesday	Baptist Church, Witney Street	Gill Crippen 07967 362885 or 07793 012215
The Arts Society Cotswolds	2nd Wed (not July/Aug)	Warwick Hall 11.00	publicity@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk
The Wychwood Lodge of Freemasons	3rd Thursday Sept-April	The Masonic Hall 31 Sheep Street	Mike 868302 / Allan 822240 wychwood988@outlook.com
Time Out	Monday 11.00am - 3pm lunch and afternoon tea	Warwick Hall inc games, bingo, singing, talks	John Harrington 822451 or Sue Sheppard 824729

USEFUL CONTACTS + INFORMATION

Please check hours of opening which are subject to change

Burford Recreation Pavilion (Children's Events)	01993 823647
Burford Pre School	01993 824031
Burford School	01993 823303
Burford Primary School	01993 822159
Burford Surgery www.burfordsurgery.co.uk	01993 822176
Burford Tolsey Museum Open seven days a week April to October www.burfordtolsey.org	
Burford Town Council Tolsey office open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.00 am and 11.30 am	01993 823647
Email town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk www.burford-tc.gov.uk	
Carterton Health Centre NHS www.nhs.uk	01993 841718 111
Centre for Carers in Oxfordshire www.oxoncarers.org.uk	01295 264545
Chemist Reavley's	01993 823144
Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital Burford Branch	01608 642547
Churches Anglican St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church of SS John Fisher and Thomas More Baptist Church Friends Meeting House	01993 823788 01993 823219 07967 362885 01993 875214
Citizens Advice Bureau Email admin@cawo.org.uk	0808 2787908
Dial-a-Ride Service For Information Email oxdar@oxfordshire.gov.uk	0845 3101111
Emergency Services Police – non essential	101
Environment Agency Floodline Emergency	0845 988118 0800 807060

Hall Bookings Baptist Church gill.crippen@googlemail.com	
Burford Town Bowls Club	01993 822330
Fulbrook Meeting Place	TBA
Taynton Village Hall - Lexi Young	07909 913994
Warwick Hall Bookings and Information bookings@burfordchurch.org.uk	

Library	01993 823377
Tuesday 13.00 - 18.00	
Thursday 10.00 - 13.00	
Friday 10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.30	
Saturday 09.00 - 13.00	
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/burfordlibrary	

Member of Parliament Robert Courts robert@robertcourts.co.uk	01993 702302
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Oxfordshire County Council	
General Enquiries	01865 815573
Highways	08453 101111
Faulty Street Lights	0800 317802
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	

Oxfordshire County Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson	01993 878309
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Post Office stephencolter@aol.com	01993 822174
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Recycling Centre Dix Pit, Lynch Hill, Stanton Harcourt Open 7 days a week 8am - 5pm Thursday late night until 8pm Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day	
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Southern Electric (Freephone)	08000 727282
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Thames Water	0800 3169800
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Travel Rail Enquiries Public Transport Enquiries	08457 484950 08712 002233
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West Oxfordshire District Council General Enquiries Out of Hours www.westoxon.gov.uk	01993 861000 01993 705056
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West Oxfordshire District Councillor Hugo Ashton	07712 490517
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Witney Hospital Minor Injuries Open 10.00am – 10.30pm daily Last Patient seen at 10pm	01865 903841
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Witney Police Station, No front counter www.thamesvalleypolice.uk	
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DECEMBER 2023

St John the Baptist, Burford 3 December Morning Service 11.00am Civic Carol Service 3.30pm 10 December Choral Matins (BCP) with Choir 9.30am Holy Communion (CW) 11.00am 17 December Holy Communion (CW) 9.30am Morning Service 11.00am Carols by Candlelight 7.00pm 24 December Morning Prayer (CW) 9.30am Morning Service 11.00am 25 December Holy Communion (BCP) 8.00am All age Service followed by Communion 11.00am 31 December Morning Service 11.00am St James the Great, Fulbrook 10 December Morning Prayer (CW) 9.30am 17 December Matins (BCP) 9.30am 24 December Carol Service 4.00pm 25 December Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am St John the Evangelist, Taynton 3 December Benefice Holy Communion 9.30am 22 December Carol Service 6.00pm 25 December Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am St Nicholas, Asthall 10 December Carol Service 6.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

24 December Benefice Midnight Communion 11.00pm St Mary, Swinbrook 03 December Holy Communion (CW) 11.00am 10 December Morning Prayer (CW) 11.00am 17 December Carol Service 11.00am 24 December No Service 25 December All age Service followed by Communion 11.00am 31 December Watchnight Evening Prayer 6.00pm St Oswald, Widford 26 December Carol Service 4.00pm

JANUARY 2024

St John the Baptist, Burford 7 January Benefice Holy Communion (CW) 9.30am Morning Service 11.00am Evening Meeting 7.00pm 14 January Matins (BCP) with Choir 9.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Evening Meeting 7.00pm 21 January Holy Communion (CW) 9.30am Morning Service 11.00am Evening Meeting 7.00pm 28 January Morning Prayer (CW) 9.30am Morning Service 11.00am Evening Meeting 7.00pm St James the Great, Fulbrook 14 January Morning Prayer (CW) 9.30am	21 January Matins (BCP) 9.30am 28 January Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am St John the Evangelist, Taynton 21 January Evening Prayer (BCP) 6.00pm St Nicholas, Asthall 14 January Evening Prayer (BCP) 6.00pm 28 January Evening Prayer (BCP) 6.00pm St Mary, Swinbrook 7 January Holy Communion (CW) 11.00am 14 January Morning Prayer (CW) 11.00am 21 January Morning Prayer (CW) 11.00am 28 January Morning Prayer (CW) 11.00am St Oswald, Widford 6 January Holy Communion 10.30am Services in December for SS John Fisher & Thomas More - Sunday Mass: 9.30 am Weekday Masses: Tuesday - 10.00 am Thursday - 10.00 am Christmas Eve - Carols followed by Mass during the Night at 8.30 pm Christmas Day - Mass during the Day 9.30 am For updates please see catholicchurchburford.org.uk or the church noticeboard for details.
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Please let us know if any details need amending.
editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk

A service of Choral Matins takes place at St John the Baptist Church at 9.30am on the second Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

BURFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the new executive headteacher at Burford Primary School I have had a super start to term.

The children impress me daily with their 'Burford Best' attitude to learning.

To kick off our Design and Technology unit 'Chop, slice and Mash' this term, Windrush Class went to Pizza Express on Wednesday

The trip introduced us to what it takes to prepare food safely, by becoming chefs and making a pizza and learning about good, fresh food. We are now going to apply these skills to our unit of work in school and design and make a supermarket sandwich according to specific design criteria.

Towards the end of the autumn term we are looking forward to singing carols in the church and performing our nativity for our parents and carers.

If you would like to book a visit to our 'Burford Best' school then please call the office -01993 822159

<https://burford-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>
Rachel Veeder Executive Headteacher

BURFORD SINGERS

The new conductor, Will Dawes, will be conducting Haydn's Creation on Sunday 24 March with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra. More information will be in the February edition.



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www.cotswoldphysiorooms.co.uk
Booking Team 01993 444118

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

Company Name	Business Type	Phone
Antiques @ The George	Award winning, friendly antiques centre	01993 823319
CJD Architects	Chartered Architects	01993 823646
Hickman Brothers Landscapes Ltd	Garden Design and Construction, Landscape and Garden Supplies www.hickmanlandscapes.co.uk	01993 822226
Jenny Smith	Spanish & French tutor. Building confidence GCSE/KS2. Experience in schools; DBS check held.	07908 602547
Kendall & Davies Solicitors	Expert, friendly, client-focused legal services with offices in Burford. www.kendallanddaves.co.uk	01993 822025
Taylor and Fletcher	Estate Agents / Chartered Surveyors / Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers / Commercial Agents / Rural Specialists	01993 220579
Mallams Auctioneers Ltd	Auctioneers and Valuers	01242 235712
Pauline Carter BA AmusLCM CTABRSM MISM	Piano Teacher	01993 774568
Peter Garratt	Painter and Decorator	01451 810376 07788 896496
StayCotswold	Holiday/Short Lets, Relocation, Corporate Stays, Property Search, Sales & Lettings. www.staycotswold.com	01993 259444
Thomas Ellis-Rees	Clock & Barometer repairs. tellisrees@gmail.com	01993 822132
Vick's Byway Garage	Bushey Ground, Minster Lovell, Witney, OX29 0SW. MOTs by arrangement	01993 823142
VJ Hancock & Co Ltd	Certified Accountants / Chartered Tax Advisers www.vjhaccountancy.co.uk	01993 822817
West Oxon Wills & Probate	Legal Services in your home or office. Lasting Powers of Attorneys, Trusts, Funeral Plans www.westoxonwills.co.uk	01993 220281
EiWell	Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition Helping people stay independent as they get older	01865 238185
Burford Foot Clinic	Chiropody Castles Yard, Pytts Lane, OX18 4SJ	01993 200980
Adam Carter Chauffeur Services	Local Private Hire Chauffeur www.adamcarterchauffeurservices.co.uk	07920 135157
Tony Williams	Welding/Brazing/Soldering & Metalwork Home/Garden & General repairs & alterations	07722334696
Fairways Cotswold Explorer	for all your Airport & Cruise transfers	01993823152 07751472125
The Stone Gallery	Makers of Gold and Silver Jewellery, agent for Georg Jensen. Paperweights & Pictures. www.stonegallery.co.uk	01993 823302
NFU Mutual	Insurance Pensions Investments - Call your local Witney agency	01993 776716
Patti Good	Therapist, Teacher & Healer Free Online Guided Meditation Classes www.pattigood.com	07880 998568
Radnor Martin	Estate agents covering Burford and the surrounding villages	01993 765115
Mel's hair at home	I can visit you or I have a small salon at my home on the green in Leafield.	07817726218
TC Garden Services	Gardening, Landscaping, Patios, Decking, Fencing & Gates, Raised Beds. Contact Tony for a free quotation. www.tcgs.uk	07771 888304

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