



THE BRIDGE

December
2022

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, Sherborne, Shilton, Signet, Swinbrook, Taynton, Upton, Westwell, Widford, Windrush. *Volume 13, Number 11, £1.50*



A dark December evening photo kindly provided by Peter Martin

It's been a busy old year in this neck of the woods. After two difficult years Covid relaxed its grip a little and life gradually returned to something like normal. We welcomed back the Burford Festival, onform sculpture, Taynton Fete and Bonfire Night. Elections in May brought two new district councillors for Burford and Brize Norton & Shipton wards and several new members of Burford town council. The planning appeal over Coles Field was rejected but the HGV ban in Burford was cancelled. More new residents arrived at Cotswold Gate and a number of Ukrainian refugees were welcomed into local homes. Burford School celebrated its 450th birthday and the Archive was opened. We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and sadly marked her death in September. We also said farewell to some old friends including Ann Kenny, Roy Lilley, Judy McIntyre, Tony Picking and Sylvia and Alfie Jewell.

The cost of living crisis and rising energy costs have made this a difficult time and there are more challenges ahead. There are some initiatives to help those who have been hardest hit and more can be found about this in this edition. Let us hope that things start to improve in 2023.

This is the last edition of The Bridge for the year. We don't publish in January so we look forward to being back with you in February. Once again we are immensely grateful to our contributors, donors, advertisers, printers, proofreaders and especially our small battalion of distributors without whose efforts you would not be reading this. We wish all our readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year. *Editors*



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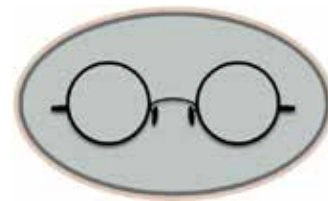
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Christmas Wreath Workshop

At The Cotswold Arms
with
Minky Cards

Join us
to create your own artificial festive door wreath

6th December
7-9pm

Includes
All equipment & tuition | A glass of wine & nibbles
£50 per person

Booking online essential

www.minkycards.co.uk



SEASON'S GREETINGS!



My thanks to all who made Burford town fireworks such a success this year, especially after the Covid break of the last two years. I cannot thank everyone individually but would like to thank Jason Curtis and Michael Wilson who set off the fireworks for us in the rain having undergone special training, Gabi Schotten for her organisation of the event for the Chamber of Trade, Smurfitt Kappa for supplying the pallets for the bonfire, Hickman Landscapes for the soil bags to set off the fireworks and for the trailer on which the great band Vinyl Daze played for us, and Alan Tuckwell and the bowls club for the electricity needed. Thanks to everyone else involved providing food and drink, and the firefighters for building the bonfire, sorting out electrics and being on hand on the night. Even in the rain it was a great evening.

Whilst I am thanking people, I must say thanks to those of you who responded to the consultation about a one-way system in Church Lane. As a result of your comments, we have decided not to pursue this any further. We have listened.

We have, however, now formally requested a 7.5 tonne weight limit on Barns Lane, Pytt's Lane, Guildenford, Church Lane and Tanners Lane, also a 40mph limit on Witney Street to start at the entrance to the Windrush footpath. There will now be a formal consultation by OCC.

Work on finding a good solution to protect pedestrians crossing the bridge to and from Fulbrook is ongoing, complicated by the fact that the bridge is Grade 2* listed, so we need permission from WODC heritage to make any changes to it. The repairs to the damage are planned for next April, so we hope to get a solution by then.

The new play area on Cotswold Gate is almost complete, with minor repairs needed to open it. Hopefully it will open in the next few weeks and be available for the whole community, as once complete it will be owned by the town council. Please see our website for updates.

I'm sure many of you noticed that Cottsway stopped cutting most of the grass verges on Frethern Close this year. The town council have now agreed to take that on in future, along with the addition of Shilton Road.

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

At St John the Baptist Church

Sunday 4 December at 3.30pm followed by a Reception in the Warwick Hall

This is a lovely way to start the Christmas season with carols and readings - every resident is very welcome to join us both at the service and the reception.

Burford Town Clerk

I hope to see many of you at the Civic Carol Service at St John the Baptist Church on Sunday 4 December at 3.30pm and afterwards for a reception in the Warwick Hall, and may I wish everyone a very happy and relaxed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2023.

Peter Higgs - Mayor

BURFORD CHAMBER OF TRADE SOCIAL EVENT



Our end of year event will be held at Lynwood & Co Cafe on **Thursday 1 December from 6pm to 8pm** and is open to all Burford Chamber of Trade members and non-member business owners in Burford.

We are always delighted to welcome our members to share ideas and discuss business issues within our local community. Anyone wishing to join the Chamber of Trade can come and chat to us to find out more while enjoying refreshments on the night. The event is free but you must register, as this will help us to plan the refreshments. To register please email your name and business name to: events@burfordchamber.co.uk.

We also have a number of vacancies on our committee. If any of our members is interested in taking up a more active role within the Chamber please contact us at info@burfordchamber.co.uk or speak to one of our committee members at the social event to find out more about what being a committee member entails.

We look forward to seeing you there. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Joanna McKerlie

THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Notice of two lectures

Lectures at 11am

In person at The Warwick Hall, Burford and by Zoom invitation

Wednesday 14 December 2022

Singe We Yule: A Musical Portrait of a Medieval Christmas with Sarah Deere-Jones



Using illustrations from illuminated manuscripts, readings from literature and contemporary accounts, and the haunting songs, carols and lively dance tunes of medieval England, Sarah brings alive the spirit of a medieval Christmas - a time of joy and celebration for some, but hardship and suffering for others. With

extracts from literature and manorial household accounts, she pieces together life in a medieval manor house at Yuletide. In addition to her reproduction medieval harps, she adds plucked psaltery, hurdy-gurdy, hammered dulcimer and gemshorn to the musical mix, performing carols, music, and readings for an atmospheric and musical seasonal celebration.

Sarah Deere-Jones is a graduate and prizewinner from the Royal Academy of Music and in 2015 was elected an associate. She performs, writes, and lectures about the harp regularly in America, Australia, Europe and UK.

Wednesday 11 January 2023

Posters of the Belle Epoque - The Great Age of the Poster with Charles Harris

This lecture demonstrates how technical innovation combined with creative genius and craftsmanship enabled posters to become the first effective method of mass communication. From Les Chats by Edouard Manet to Saxoleine by Jules Cheret and Moulin Rouge and Divan Japonais by Toulouse-Lautrec, you'll see inspirational work by generations of superb artists who made the poster great: magnificent Mucha, socially-conscious Steinlen, and many more. Learn how an effective poster is designed and how it plays on the mind; and why most posters today go unnoticed.



Charles Harris has lectured extensively on how design, illustration and photographic styles have influenced the building of brands. He has created posters for major brands including British Airways, Nestlé, Sony, General Motors and Shell.

These hybrid lectures will be held at the Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford, OX18 4RZ at 11am and via Zoom. Please be seated by 10.50 for notices of upcoming events. Numbers are no longer restricted but booking is really helpful for planning.

Further information will be circulated via the newsletter and bookings can be made via the website (www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk). Visitors are welcome, space permitting, for a suggested donation of £10.

Coffee is available beforehand in the Warwick Hall.

For more information contact Carolyn Walton on 01993 822 296 or chairman@theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk

To learn more about The Arts Society Cotswolds and to keep abreast of any additional activities, please see our website

www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk

Frances Sparkes

FRIENDS OF BURFORD LIBRARY



Those of you who shared with us the inimitable joy that is the Plonk and Pudding Party in early November will have launched the festive season off with especially good cheer. A superb evening of good company, intellectual rigour and delectable puddings and wine, was enjoyed by the capacity crowd who attended.

Thank you for all your support and contribution to the library funds.

We would also like to particularly thank our band of invaluable volunteers who ensure that our gem of a library can stay open. This will be especially important as we enter the winter months. Amongst other relevant community spaces, your library has been designated as "a warm space", so please do take advantage of its unique charm. We look forward to welcoming you.

On behalf of all the library staff and trustees, I would like to wish you and your loved ones, a healthy and joyous 2023.

Maureen Percival



WODC COUNCILLOR REPORT

WODC has produced a leaflet 'Cost of Living Support' setting out practical actions and contact details of organisations who could help you or someone you know. Copies are available at Burford library, the Warwick Hall, the council office in the Tolsey and in our parish churches. The content has also been included in this copy of The Bridge on the central pages and can be accessed at <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/news-items/help-if-you-re-struggling-with-living-costs/>.

Update on the process for communicating planning applications

At a recent Development Control Committee meeting, I asked why neighbours are no longer routinely notified by post of applications on adjacent properties. The current process for householder applications is that the applicant is sent the yellow notice to display and when planning officers visit the site, they check it has been displayed prominently. Furthermore, if they have not received comments from neighbours they think might be affected, the planning officer will drop a copy of the notice through that neighbour's door. This process has saved £70,000 annually compared with postal notification of all neighbours and has resulted in more submitted comments by neighbours.

This does mean that if you away from your property, you may not know what is going on. However, if you want to be notified automatically by email, you can register on the WODC website and then carry out a Planning Applications Search request. Select "Advanced" search and specify the area and future date range (up to a year).

Update on OCC's progress in assessing HGV area restrictions

Ken Gray and I visited OCC's officer overseeing this process to explain the history of HGVs through Burford, and point out the problems inherent in the survey methods used to evaluate the ETRO. Slow progress is being made – consultants have been selected and the study brief is being finalised to advise on an area-based HGV controls across the county. Disappointingly, Phase 1 (recommending the strategic approach) won't conclude before mid-2023. After consultation on the strategy, Phase 2 of the study will develop detailed specifications for selected schemes.

Update on Windrush water quality

As promised in last month's Bridge, I spoke to WASP about the ongoing poor quality of the water in the Windrush and they advised that we would need very clear evidence before lobbying the Environment Agency to specify higher quality standards for discharges at Burford's and Bourton's treatment works. The good news is that WASP is happy to lead a project supported by volunteers to survey water quality on the

Windrush and its tributaries. It will need 6-12 months to build up a comprehensive picture of the level of nitrates and ammonia released by sewage works and gather evidence of the contribution from other sources. Interim results will be published quarterly by WASP in The Bridge.

Hugo Ashton
District Councillor for
Burford, Fulbrook and Taynton
hugo.ashton@westoxon.gov.uk
or 0771 249051



BURFORD TOLSEY MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Light and heat have always been a concern and expense for households, and as we prepare for a winter of predicted rising costs, those houses with working chimneys will perhaps look to the hearth for comfort, and return to the cottager's task of gathering sticks for the fire as of old.

The fireplace in the museum provides an image of open fires when down-hearth cooking was practised, being equipped with a weight-driven clockwork spit-jack which turned the meat in front of the fire.



A large spit engine is recorded as having been in the kitchen of 'The Mansion' in Burford - currently the Methodist Church; visitors to the museum, and children especially, are encouraged to look for the little dog in the kitchen of the doll's house, and to imagine him running like a hamster in a wheel to turn the spit in the kitchen of The Great House. These examples underline the fact that mechanical spit-engines could be afforded only by wealthy households, or the keeper of a large inn.

The museum's spit-jack is a splendid brass mounted affair, with crescent-shaped weights on the flywheel – a particular feature of the few examples known to come from the workshop of May, a Witney-based family of clockmakers, who were members of the Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, and whose story is told in Tim Marshall's book, *Quaker Clockmakers of North Oxfordshire* (2013). The longcase clock in the photo is by fellow-Quaker, Mathias Padbury of Burford.

As can be seen from this photograph, the framework of our spit-jack is decorated with foliage and curlicues and bears the name of John May who was born in 1726, and worked through the mid to late 18th century, training his son Thomas and three other apprentices in the 1750s.

Chris Walker

BETTY @ 100

Betty will be 100 on Monday 5 December. Her 100th birthday party will be on Sunday 4 December 3 - 5pm.

The family of Betty invite any who know Betty to pop in and wish her a happy birthday.

Burford Baptist Witney St OX184SN

Hosted by Burford Baptist Church

Enquiries to Gill Crippen

BURFORD & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

October's meeting, when the speaker was Dr Mike Jones on Bringing Order to the Natural World - The Work of Carl Linnaeus, was well attended and fascinating. Dr. Jones made what could have been a dull subject interesting and entertaining.



Carl Linnaeus was born on 23 May 1707 in Rashult, Sweden. Linnaeus developed an interest in plants and animals at a young age. He was nicknamed "the little botanist" when he was eight years old. In 1727 he began studying medicine. From 1730 to 1732 he was able to pay for his classes at Uppsala University by teaching botany in the university garden.

Linnaeus's most-lasting achievement was the creation of the binomial (two-name) classification system. In this system, each living thing is assigned a name consisting of two Latin words.

Linnaeus died on January 10, 1778, in Uppsala.

Not only is Linnaeus considered the "Father of Taxonomy", he was also a pioneer in the study of ecology. He was one of the first to describe relationships between living things and their environments.

In Carl Linnaeus' 70 years on planet Earth, he made quite an impact, but even so, some historians think of Linnaeus as quite egotistical, hard-to-get-along-with and stubborn

Some interesting facts:-

- Linnaeus had a pet raccoon called Sjupp (pronounced 'Shh-up'). Linnaeus would follow Sjupp around taking notes. Sjupp didn't like this much. Nor did he like it when Linnaeus cut him up to see what his insides looked like. Bananas are exotic plants that will not grow naturally in the cool damp continent of Europe. They enjoy a warmer, wetter environment than Europe offers and can take up to a year to grow their fruit. The royal family of Sweden tasked Carl Linnaeus with the challenge of growing this delicious yellow plant for them. So, after studying the banana in its natural environment, Linnaeus recreated the conditions in a glasshouse and managed to get the banana plant to flower and produce fruit – the first to do so in Europe.
- Linnaeus travelled to Hamburg in Germany to visit the only known specimen of a hydra acquired by a local businessman at vast cost. This hydra was relatively small, and had reportedly been killed hundreds of years before Linnaeus set eyes on it. The man who had bought it showed it to Linnaeus in between entertaining bids, one of which came from the King of Denmark. This hydra was covered with scales and had snake heads, but a closer look showed Linnaeus that the claws came from weasels, and the body was an amalgam of mammal parts with snakeskin sewed over it. The current owner hadn't been directly conned, as the animal seemed to be very old. Linnaeus guessed that it was first made in a monastery or church, to scare locals and keep them pious. Safe to say, Linnaeus debunked the myth of the hydra (and then left Hamburg very quickly).

There's still time to plant spring bulbs for the Spring Show next year, 1 April, please see web site for show schedule, www.burfordhorticultural.com
Our next meeting is Thursday 26 January on Garden Design by Catherine Williams.

The next year's programme will also be available online for those who can and paper for those who can't.
Jan and David Cohen

TURN WASTE INTO GOLD

10 December: Composting workshop

This workshop will take place in Asthall Manor's walled garden, with Tim Mitchell, a qualified Level 2 Organic food-growing tutor with over six years experience.

For fees and bookings, go to asthallmanor.com and click on "What's On"

10am-3.30pm, 10 December
Rosie Pearson

TOLSEY TALKS



Thursday 26 January at 7.30pm

OXFORDSHIRE v NAPOLEON

Julie Ann Godson

Many men from Oxfordshire were involved in the international struggle against Napoleon. In this talk Julie Ann Godson will introduce you to eight Oxfordshire sailors on board Nelson's flagship "Victory" at Trafalgar, and then to a Woodstock rifleman on the field at Waterloo.

The talks, which last 45 minutes plus 15 minutes Q&A cost £5 per talk/household, can be purchased on www.burfordtolsey.org/events.

ANOTHER EXCITING NEW BUSINESS
IN BURFORD

Nutmeg and Thyme, which is a plant-based eatery using locally sourced, seasonal product, has come to Burford High Street.

Nutmeg and Thyme is a well established mobile eatery serving local markets and festivals across Oxfordshire and surrounding counties. Known for meticulously planned vegan menus featuring delicious flavour combinations and clever use of ingredients, Nutmeg and Thyme has built a solid customer base and loyal following.

Nutmeg and Thyme is based in Christmas Court offering delicious salads, wholesome meals to take home, bakes, breads and savoury snacks, all plant based and entirely gluten free. We also feature other local small business produce, small artisan gifting options and a refill service for healthy staples. My working in plant-based restaurants in London has provided inspiration and knowledge needed to create recipes and menus resulting in dishes that both please and nourish.”
Emily Weir, Founder.

OCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

Thames Water Again Dumps Raw Sewage Into Our Rivers



Thames Water's latest 48-hour sewage release amid a hosepipe ban has nailed the myth that dumping only occurs into rivers in high flow. During the first heavy rain for months, the water company started releasing sewage from its Witney treatment works on a Sunday afternoon with the discharges continuing on Monday. There was also an ongoing release from the Oxford sewage treatment works from Sunday afternoon into Monday.

WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution) has commented that: "Many rivers are still in very low and slow conditions and Thames Water is still applying for drought orders to take even more water from the aquifers, yet there is only one place that untreated sewage is going when the effects of 33 years of underinvestment mean that far too much rainwater still gets into the sewers and overwhelms inadequate sewage works - into our depleted rivers, and nationally our coastal waters as well."

One has to ask when will the government act to stop this damaging practice to our environment which makes our rivers unfit for generations to come.

OCC Coalition Continues War on Motorists in Oxford

- A wide range of initiatives is either in place or being consulted upon. These include:
- ZEZ (Zero Emissions Zone): Non-electric cars are charged or fined if they enter the area
 - LTNs (Low Traffic Neighbourhoods): Through traffic is blocked from certain areas
 - Traffic Filters: The city is to be split into four sectors and cars without permits will be unable to travel directly from one sector to another
 - Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs): Cars without permits are fined if they park in certain areas
 - WPL (Workplace Parking Levy): Businesses are to be taxed if they provide parking spaces for employees

While understanding that traffic is a huge issue in Oxford, one has to wonder whether this is overkill and there is concern about the amount of council time and council money being devoted to Oxford in comparison to towns and villages.

OCC Declines the Government’s Investment Zones Invitation

The OCC coalition has written a formal letter to the secretary of state for levelling up to explain why OCC has decided not to bid to be involved in Whitehall’s investment zones initiative. One may well question this decision. Why not accept government money at a time of great need?

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



Hello there,
My name is Alex Griffith and I am one of the new PCSOs joining the West Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Team. I will be covering Bampton, Burford and Carterton and the surrounding villages. I am based at Carterton police station; however if you see me out and about, feel free to stop me whether it is just a passing hello or for a chat about any going issues you need advice on.
As the nights draw in, we are entering the winter months and we at Thames Valley Police want to give you some advice on crime prevention for yourselves and your properties for this time of year.

As we enter the festive season, you may be more likely to be out of your property visiting relatives or loved ones and enjoying festive events. This can mean your property could be a target for potential thieves. One way to deter potential opportunists is by having lights on in your house. With the cost of living crisis, the idea of leaving all your lights on is far from ideal. However, one recommendation we have is to purchase a plug-in light timer. These can be set for certain lights in your property to come on at a certain time, making it appear that someone is at home, and making your property less of a target as thieves are less likely to hit lit houses.



Whether it’s locking up for the night or going away, if you have any security systems, locks, CCTV or outdoor security lights, now is the time to check that these are all in working order. Whether it is that one of your security light bulbs is out or that one of your CCTV cameras has been knocked and now doesn’t focus on the desired area, the last thing you want is to realise that there is a fault in them when you need them most. Even small things such as locks on doors and windows are vital in crime prevention.

If you have Christmas gifts, whether it be a new 55” flat screen TV, new iPad or phone for the kids or some new kitchen equipment, the disposal of the packages for the high value goods can give opportunists an idea of the items that are now in your property. One way of disposing of the packaging is to fold/rip up the packaging and only put it out for the bin men the night before your collections. When it comes to bin collections, if you are away while your bins are collected, make sure a neighbour or friend brings your emptied bins back into your property, as empty bins left at the roadside can give opportunists an idea that nobody is at home.

Christmas is a time for giving and caring. Now is a prime time to check in with neighbours and make sure they’re doing okay with everything that is going on in the world these days. It might be that you need to check they have relevant crime prevention methods in place or it may be a case of bad weather preventing them from leaving the house so they need you to pop to the shop for some essentials for them or you may be the only face they see due to family living far away. Just remember that showing care towards your neighbour may go a long way in their eyes.

I hope you can take away something useful from this short piece on crime prevention methods. Finally, if you need any advice non-crime related, my email address is alexander.griffith@thamesvalley.police.uk

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL

We were pleased to arrange support for the Link to Hope shoebox appeal for needy people in eastern Europe (Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Hungary). Over fifty boxes were filled and wrapped by a team from both Burford and Eynsham Baptist Churches, filled with treats and practical items into separate boxes for families and for elderly people. It was great and all done in a morning over coffee in our newly refreshed space in Witney Street.



Many of these items were supplied by members of the Time Out community coordinated by Irene Bartlett. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed. Thank you!
Please hang onto any shoeboxes you have for 2023 or let Irene have them. That would be helpful please.

We much appreciate the financial donations to both buy extra items and help towards the cost of postage as each box has to be accompanied by £3.
It was a great community effort.
Gill Crippen



LENTHALL CONCERTS

Wednesday 7 December – Piano Trio Fiero play Mozart, Brahms and Piazzolla.

Wednesday 18 January – Bristol Brass Consort undertake a musical journey around the world.

Wednesday 22 February – Adam Khan (guitar) & Michael Bochmann (violin) play music from South America and Europe.

The concerts are at Burford School and start at 7:30. Advance tickets (£16) can be obtained from the Madhatter bookshop, by ringing 824949 or via the website (www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk). Tickets on the night cost £18.
Nigel Barraclough



Throughout the months I have been writing about the FaB WI in The Bridge, I have always tried to emphasise not only our local activities but also give a flavour of the wider national organisation and especially its power as a lobbying body. Each year, the national WI selects a topic of current national or international interest that it feels it can be a power for good in promoting. Resolutions are put forward by individual members from across the country and the resolution selected each year is chosen by voting across the entire national membership.

Last year the chosen campaign related to raising awareness of the difficulties of getting a diagnosis of autism or ADHD, especially for women and girls, and the general lack of support for all individuals with the conditions. This was especially close to the heart of our particular WI as one of our members has personal experience as her son is diagnosed with autism, ADHD and learning difficulties. In order to support this cause locally at our Harvest Supper last month we learned about the work of Yellow Submarine. Yellow Submarine was started by a young couple who live in Fulbrook, initially to provide holidays for adults with additional needs. From these first holidays has grown a charity of regional significance – with three cafes, hubs in Witney, Abingdon and Didcot and a whole range of youth clubs, holiday clubs and holidays for both children and adults with additional needs. Our evening ended in a donation of £185.50 to the charity raised on the night. However, even more exciting for us is the news that our amazing president, Jennie Craven, was so inspired by these previous campaigns that she decided to put together a proposal for a resolution based on a topic close to her heart - Water Security. Putting together sufficient information to back up an idea is no easy feat and it takes a considerable amount of time in research and investigation. Not only did Jennie submit her idea but out of the 48 put forward this year, hers has been shortlisted to the final four to be voted on by the entire national membership of 190,000 women. We are so proud of Jennie and this is a fantastic achievement for FAB WI. It will be a hot topic of conversation at our 13 December meeting when we will enjoy a Christmas quiz with festive fare and decide on the winner of our annual 'Rose Bowl Challenge' of Christmas bauble decorations.

Proposed Resolution: -

'Save our water – every drop matters'.

As global temperatures rise, there is a risk drought will become more frequent in the UK. This will place increasing strains on the UK's water supply and endanger our natural world. The NFWI calls on government and water companies to work together to develop robust plans that would ensure the UK's long-term water security, including addressing water leakage from pipes. The NFWI calls on WI members to take immediate personal actions to value and conserve water.

The FaB WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Warwick Hall at 7.30 p.m. and warmly welcome visitors 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 obile 07710 103015.

Please note there is no physical meeting in January but we do have an online get-together.

Angela Weller



BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

After a gratifying well supported programme of talks and events throughout the year, and a record high number of members, 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 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 2023 programme, here are some early visual clues regarding some of the exciting events what you can look forward to next year.



We will start with our eagerly anticipated AGM on 21 February which no doubt will generate its legendary excitement and volatility. Every year, somewhat similar to the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, otherwise staid members of the community are seen to morph into adrenaline junkies who are prepared to throw themselves in front of others in their desperation to seize a place on the committee, such is the demand for such highly sought after roles.

Once again we will ensure everyone's safety not only with robust barriers and having a water cannon standing by, (failing which water pistols) but also by working in partnership with 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 subsequent talk. This will be given by our erstwhile WODC County Councillor, **Derek Cotterill**, entitled **'From Cocoa Tins to Glass - the rapidly changing world of communication'**.

Further details will follow nearer the date, but in the meantime, you can guarantee your place by clicking on 'Events' on our website, (see below). Additionally, as a discerning reader of The Bridge, if you are interested in possibly volunteering to join the committee, you can also gain an unfair advantage over others, by contacting me on 01993 822769.

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 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 2023.

Peter

Chairman

peteremartin@btinternet.com

www.burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk

Tickets £15
under 18s free

da capo
a cappella chamber choir

Radiant Dawn

Choral music for Advent

Saturday 3rd December at 7.00pm
St Peter & St Paul, Northleach

Tickets available at
Northleach outlets and ticketsource.co.uk/dacapo



Christmas Tea Time Classics At Northleach Church

Wednesday 7th December, 3pm
Violin: Gill Hopkin, Piano: Gerry Hopkin

Tickets £5 on door

Mince pies & mulled wine
available for £3



BURFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Venue Prospect

We had a success with the first community event with our newly refreshed space. We hope library supporters enjoyed being there as much as we did hosting you.

We look forward to welcoming the Burford community to use this space for the benefit of the community.

If you would like to discuss further please get in touch.

Gill Crippen



We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. Unfortunately, demand keeps increasing every month. We provide seven days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

"The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline."

We need financial assistance now more than ever. Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives.

Our foodbank is run entirely by local volunteers for the benefit of local people – we rely on the community's support to ensure we can continue to stop people going hungry. Can you invest in the future of our project and help us provide much-needed support to people in crisis in our community?

Donations And Gifts By Cheque, Cash, And Card:
We can currently accept cheques payable to Witney and West Oxfordshire Food Bank or cash donations dropped off at our warehouse.

We also accept online donations via credit card and PayPal either as single one-off payments or regular recurring payments through charity fundraising site Total Giving. Donate online directly at www.totalgiving.co.uk/donate/witney-and-west-oxfordshire-food-bank

HELP WITH HEATING

Free loft insulation, solar panels and low-carbon heating are just some of the energy-efficiency measures that are currently on offer to West Oxfordshire's low-income households to help make their homes warmer, healthier and ultimately cheaper to run. West Oxfordshire District Council has been allocated £1,067,000 funding to support the new Sustainable Warmth scheme, which will be used to upgrade local homes with modifications that will boost energy performance, increase their comfort and lessen the impact of rising household energy bills.

The grant is being administered through City Energy on behalf of the district council and is available for properties on mains gas as well as those in more rural areas that are off the gas grid.

Depending on the type of property and current heating system used, and following a free home survey by City Energy, the improvements on offer could include: loft, roof and wall insulation; solar panels to generate free energy; affordable energy-efficient lighting; and low-carbon heating such as an air source heat pump, that is not only less expensive to run but will help cut carbon emissions.

Households are likely to be eligible for a Sustainable Warmth grant if the annual household income is under £30,000 (before tax and deductions) or under £20,000 (after rent or mortgage costs have been deducted) and if the property has an Energy Performance Certificate rating of E or lower, although some D rated properties may be considered. Upgrades to properties

which are currently owner-occupied will be fully funded by the Sustainable Warmth scheme.

Landlords who have eligible low-income tenants living in their properties can also apply for the grant but will be required to contribute a third of the total cost of the works.

All works will be undertaken by TrustMark approved tradespeople so residents can be confident in the quality of the installation and the care they will receive throughout the process.

Homeowners or landlords can call City Energy's customer care team on 02921 680951 to find out if they are eligible or can apply online, with no obligation, at: www.oxfordshire-applications.co.uk
Information can also be found on West Oxfordshire District Council's website: www.westoxon.gov.uk/warmhomes

ANOTHER NEW GALLERY OPENS IN BURFORD



Nova Fine Art Launches in Burford

Image: Emma Haines - Highland Cow

Nova Fine Art launched their first gallery in Royal Leamington Spa in 2019, and then went on to open sites in Marlow, Marlborough and now in Burford High Street. The gallery, much like Leamington Spa specialises in both contemporary artwork and sculpture from some of the most collected artists around the world. With a passion for fine art and great service, Nova was established by a team of dedicated and knowledgeable art lovers, with diverse backgrounds and a collective passion for buying, selling and creating artwork with a holistic approach.

Priding themselves on knowing all of their artists personally, the team at Nova are in a fantastic position to understand the narrative behind each piece of art, passing this information onto their customers, enhancing the overall experience and deepening the connection between the buyer and the art.

With a portfolio made up of a mix of styles and genres, from artists such as Tom Payne, Ed Williamson, Leila Barton, Mr J and Piper Bridwell to name but a few, Nova Fine Art look to provide opportunities for their customers to get a head start where investment is concerned, catering for both experienced collectors and those who are just starting out.
www.novafineart.co.uk *Gemma Finch at gemma@burfordcreative.co.uk*

BURFORD AND KINGHAM ROTARY



It may have been a bit of a chilly morning as Rotary members planted crocus bulbs to raise awareness for polio eradication throughout the world, one of Rotary's major projects. However, we had the warmest welcome from people walking up and down the Hill, who said how much they enjoyed the crocuses flowering in the spring. The lovely lady from Crown Cottage made us all coffee, which was very much appreciated. Thank you.

The Bridge drive was well supported and even had a waiting list for players. Thank you to all who came. We raised money for the British Heart Foundation and Rotary charities.

President Colin laid a wreath at the Remembrance ceremony in Burford on behalf of Rotary.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner at Burford Golf Club on 2 December. We are delighted that the mayor Peter Higgs and his wife will be joining us. Several of us will attend the Civic Carol Service on 4 December.

Why not think of doing something new in the New Year? You could join in the fun and fellowship and charity work by being a member of Rotary. Do come along for a taster meeting, we would love to see you. We are really keen to increase our membership. All you have to do is email our secretary, John Smith jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk.

We will be very pleased to hear from you. Our meetings are held every Monday at Burford Golf Club at 6pm for 7.00pm (except Bank Holidays).
Ros Richardson - 01608643844



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 2023. If you are quick, our December order will be placed on Thursday 1 December, closing a 5.00pm. Delivery will be during December we hope.

Our next order will be on Thursday 5 January 2022 for the first 40,000 litres placed, with delivery expected by the end of January. The order following will be on Thursday 19 January 2022 for the next 40,000 litres, with delivery over the following few weeks.

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

GUIDED WALKS WITH THE COTSWOLD VOLUNTARY WARDENS

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

Blockley to Broad Campden Circular
Saturday 3 December – Moderate 4hr 8.5ml

We start with a brief tour through the village of Blockley learning some of its history as a thriving industrialised silk village in the 19th Century. Then out of the village through the woodland of Dovedale and up to Five Mile drive where we explore the origins of its name. We use fieldpaths down into Broad Campden and then return to Blockley via parts of the Diamond Way footpath. Please bring drinks and packed lunch.

Start: 10:00 Outside Blockley café GL56 9BB. Please park considerably in the village.
OS Map ref: SP 164 349.

Little Washbourne to Dumbleton and Alderton around Dumbleton Hill
Tuesday 6 December – Moderate 3.5hr 7ml

A gradual up and down walk with excellent views from Dumbleton Hill. Bring coffee/snack and enjoy it on the benches at Dumbleton Cricket Club. No need to book - just turn up.
Start: 10:00 The Hobnails Inn. OS Map ref: SO 991 332.

An Exploration around Ebrington and Foxcote
Saturday 10 December – Moderate 2hr 4ml

A delightful circuit through woodland and over field paths from a small village to large country house. We will first explore the architecture and history of St Eadburgha's Church in Ebrington before walking over to the 18th C Foxcote House. This walk is also recorded and may be downloaded as a self-guided walk on the Cotswold National Landscape website. Please bring drink/snack.

Start: 10:00 Triangular green outside Ebrington Arms pub. Please do NOT park in the pub car park but use the village public car park, May Lane, Ebrington GL55 6NJ. OS Map ref: SP 185 398.

Hailes Pre-Christmas Walk
Thursday 15 December – Moderate 3hr 6ml

An invigorating pre-Christmas walk from Hayles Fruit Farm, via Wood Stanway up the Cotswold escarpment to Stumps Cross and along an old drovers road. We take in the pretty hamlet of Farmcote with great views before descending the stony track of the Cotswold Way on our return to Hayles.

Although the walk starts at 10 am, why not join the leaders for a pre-walk warming drink and mince pie in the cafe at 9.30 am? Bring additional drinks/snacks as necessary for walk. Lunches are available in the cafe following the walk.

Start: 10:00 Car park Hayes Fruit Farm, Hailes, GL54 5PB. OS Map ref: SP 053 297.

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat(level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.
Sheila Wasley





I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and encouragement over the past 12 months. I am sure my fellow retailers will agree that 2022 has been very tough but thanks to you we have survived to see another year. Not only have you ordered and purchased your books, you have also joined the book club and

supported our events, with special thanks going to everybody who came to Burford Literary Festival. We are a fledgling festival but I hope you will agree a great addition to all that Burford offers. Lit Fest 2023 is in the planning stages and we are still looking for volunteers to join the team so if you think that could be you, please get in touch via litfestteamwork@gmail.com or pop into the bookshop.

We have one more event left of the season, The Book Bar will take place on Friday 9 December 4.30-7pm. Join us for books and bubbles; the perfect way to shop for all the family. We will also be offering our free wrapping service with all gift wrap purchased. We wrap – you relax. If you are stuck for some ideas then our Christmas catalogue is available in store and online at www.madhatterbookshop.co.uk

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2023.

Kim and the team at Madhatter bookshop

ALICE'S BOOK GROUP



Can't We Just Print More Money is not, as one might hope/dread, a thrilling tale of daring counterfeiters, but as it is published by The Bank of England and written by two of its young economists, Rupal Patel and Jack Meaning, one realises the thrills are of a different sort.

This choice of book by Alice's Book Group was prescient, made as it was in early September 2022. Little did we realise that the country's economy would experience huge fluctuations within a few days. It cannot be said that

it made it easier to understand the zig-zag graphs displayed nightly by the media, but it certainly helped. The subtitle is "Economics, in Ten Simple Questions" and the initial chapters were simplified explanations of day to day financial management, most of which was knowledge common to anyone who has run a household or a business. However as the economy was explored in more depth some of us found food for thought. Indeed, I have found myself pondering some of the facts so succinctly laid out, and several members of the group intend to re-read the book, or delve more deeply into the subject.

One thing that stood out was that economic forecasters are far more socially aware than one thought, and take into account the general physical and mental well-being of the population when formulating policies to present to government. An interesting point they made was that there is a psychological skill to anticipating the actions of the populace. For example, the authors contend that when there is a general fear of a recession, the public actions actually generate it; the same with a recovery – self-fulfilling prophecies - the rumours of a bank's insolvency result in panicked depositors wanting their money simultaneously, which leads to its failure. Surprisingly, they did not mention toilet rolls which are equally vulnerable to panic hoarding.

Many other examples of economic truths are given along the way, and the authors are keen to relate them to everyday events - the Bank of England cafeteria and the supply of chips therein feature large. Another example of day to day economics was the consumption of mashed avocado on toast for breakfast – not, I suspect, a regular feature of the Burfordian diet, though apparently a staple in that of City millennials. These examples do make the book quite readable, and coupled with occasionally jokey references, a serious subject-matter is made approachable. And now we think we know why we can't just print more money.

Wanting to support both our local library and our wonderful bookshop, we are in future going to alternate between borrowing library books and buying them. Our first library book is *Lost and Found* by Brooke Davis.

Veral Marshall

THE GREATEST KINGDOM

My latest children's book, *The Greatest Kingdom*, was published this October. Thank you to everyone who came to the launch event at The Madhatter Bookshop. It was so lovely to meet some readers in real life.



The Greatest Kingdom is the final book in the *Clock of Stars* trilogy. The series follows the adventures of two sisters who go through a door in a tree and find themselves trapped in a magical world.

Here, they encounter water sprites, a witch and giant cats. Most importantly, they meet Miro – a young prince who doesn't really have any friends. Together, the children climb mountains, cross memory-eating marshes and enter a strange, multi-layered city.

But it's not all magic and monsters. Some of the questions raised in these books are relevant to this world too: What is anxiety and how might you overcome it? Who decides where we belong? How does a good king (or any leader) behave?

Above all, I hope that *A Clock of Stars* provides readers with some escapism – whisking them off somewhere exciting and dangerous, allowing them to explore new ideas and perhaps new parts of themselves – all from the safety of their beds.

I'll leave you with a thought from Imogen, the main character in the series. At this point in the story, she is travelling with her sister, Marie, and their mother:

Imogen, Marie and Mum paused at the entrance to the chasm. There was a chill draught that seemed to come from within, as if the mountains were breathing. It ruffled Imogen's hair and tugged at her clothes.

'This must be where Radko the Conqueror stood,' said Marie in her smallest voice. 'What do you think killed his soldiers?'

'Oh, it's just a story, darling,' said Mum.

It's never just a story, thought Imogen.

Signed and dedicated copies of the *Clock of Stars* books are available from The Madhatter Bookshop, on Burford High Street. The books are illustrated throughout by Chris Riddell, the former Children's Laureate, and are recommended for ages 8+.

Francesca Gibbons

ANOTHER LOCAL AUTHOR



Burford resident Bert Clough has recently published a children's story, *The Boy, the Witch and the Cuckoo Cheat* (not to be confused with that other boy who associated with a mole, a fox and a horse). It's a charming story about a boy and a good witch who fly by broomstick to Africa. They meet two reed warblers who are cheated

by a cuckoo, in the way cuckoos do, by laying an egg in their nest. Can the boy and the witch come to the rescue? In the course of the story we learn that reed warblers, which weigh 11 grams, migrate 4,300 kilometres each way between Africa and this country. Their tiny brains contain a declination navigator which contains a built-in map and compass and enables them to navigate at night by the stars to the same place every year.

Bert is a reading mentor with Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire. He is donating all profits from the book to this charity. It can be bought from Austin Macauley Publishers (www.austinmacauley.com) price £8.99.

Editors

LOCAL AWARD WINNER



RAF Brize Norton recently hosted its annual awards evening, recognising the outstanding achievements of serving personnel and the wider community in support of the RAF's largest air base. The BRAVOS – Brize's Recognition Awards for Valued and Outstanding Service - annually celebrate the work of members of the RAF Brize Norton community through peer nominations in

several categories which reflect the breadth of achievement people have made.

Shaun Murray, who is a resident of Burford, works in the Passes & Permits Office as part of RAF Brize Norton's security staff. He was awarded the Flight Lieutenant Lord VC DFC Memorial Award, sponsored by Boeing. This award is given to the individual who through their actions has made a single outstanding contribution to the output of RAF Brize Norton during the last year.

Mr Murray's work has had a direct impact on maintaining high levels of security standards at RAF Brize Norton, ensuring the control of entry to the base is well maintained, assuring secure access is provided for the large number of civilian, military, dependent and contractor personnel requiring access on a daily basis.

Photo Crown Copyright

Alexander Gill, Deputy Media and Communications Officer



Burford Environmental Action Group (BEAGles) are always keen to do whatever we can to manage our energy consumption to reduce the effects of global warming.

In our own homes there are many different measures we can take such as increasing insulation, installing solar panels, additional glazing etc - all of which can only be achieved at significant cost and without the prospect of an early financial payback. There is one area though where we can make a small investment that will give significant energy savings almost immediately – energy-efficient lighting, which helps to lower electricity bills and carbon dioxide emissions, without reducing the quality of light in our homes. If you replace all the bulbs in your home with LED lights, you could reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by up to 40kg a year - equivalent to driving your car around 145 miles. Lighting makes up 11% of the average UK household electricity consumption, so making the switch could help you save money too.

LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes) are the most energy-efficient bulbs available, and will save you money on your energy bills as they are much cheaper to run. A common complaint of LEDs when they first came on the market was that the light they emit was too harsh. However, you should now be able to find an LED bulb that matches the soft yellow light of the old incandescent bulbs, if that is the look you're after – and they're up to ten times more efficient.

Old-fashioned tungsten light bulbs were invented more than 100 years ago and are extremely inefficient. Only about 5% of the electricity they use converts into visible light – the rest is wasted. What's more, the bulbs don't last long because the filament that creates the light evaporates as heat passes through it. These bulbs, as well as halogen bulbs, such as those found in ovens, cooker hoods and security lights, have been completely phased out, and you cannot buy them anymore.

The first energy-efficient bulbs were compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) which use around 70-80% less electricity than the equivalent traditional bulbs, as well as lasting almost ten times longer.

Nowadays light emitting diodes (LEDs) have largely replaced CFLs. They are even more efficient, turn on instantly at full brightness, and are available to fit pretty much any light fitting in the home.

Apart from replacing your bulbs, the quickest way to start saving is just by turning lights off when you leave a room. You could save almost £20 a year just by switching off the lights when you don't need them.

Don't forget your festive lights either. You may be tempted to bring out your old lights with filament bulbs, but don't forget that they will be on for several hours each day throughout the season, consuming expensive electricity. You can buy LED Christmas lights cheaply these days – maybe even solar powered ones.

It's also worth pointing out, as winter is almost upon us, that there is a council grant to help with insulation and other low energy measures, for households on low incomes: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/WarmHomes> (see separate article).

We are always looking for new members; if you're curious, please come along to our next meetings Tuesday 13 December or Tuesday 17 January at 7pm at 1 Carpenters Place, Fulbrook OX18 4BH or email andy.hayter@gmail.com

BURFORD SCHOOL

There has been a great deal to celebrate and much progress has been made, as a result of great endeavour, at Burford School in the first few months of the new academic year. In the past couple of weeks alone, our students have participated in a number of enriching trips and events which have taken place alongside fantastic learning opportunities in the classroom and a significant number of sports fixtures.

Some of the brilliant events that our students have recently participated in, such as our recent Year 11 mock interview event, would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the local community. Indeed, this event aimed to give our students greater confidence in expressing themselves and interacting with others in an interview context, which is key preparation for their futures. Students had the opportunity to undertake an individual 15 minute interview with business volunteers, gaining valuable interview experience within a relaxed environment. Huge thanks must go to these volunteers who offered their time and expertise to support our students and made the day such a success. A fantastically wide range of organisations, many locally based, and sectors were represented. These included, amongst others: Meech International, Nielsen, Cotsway, and Oxford County Council. If you are able to support our students at any of our future careers-related events, please do email our Careers Leader, Mrs Haines at h.haines@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Christmas Miscellany



As we fast approach the end of the year, we look forward to welcoming you to our perennially popular Christmas Miscellany concert. This was rejuvenated last year with a change of venue to the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford as part of our 450th-anniversary celebrations. In preparation, the Burford Institute of Music Choral Society has been rehearsing several festive favourites diligently since the autumn term as well as our Symphony and Training Orchestras.

This fantastic concert, which will definitely get you into the festive spirit, takes place on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7.30 pm. Tickets are still available to purchase on Ticketsource at www.ticketsource.co.uk/burford-school
Clementine Bright

BURFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL




As we begin to prepare for festive activities at the school, we have been reflecting on a very positive half term, which ended with our Year 4 and 5 children going on a residential trip. The trip is planned so that they can get used to staying away from home relatively locally before their longer residential trip in their final years with us. The children had a great time and were an absolute credit to the school. Although some of the children found some of the activities difficult, they all gave it a really good go.



Our School Council have been very busy this term. They decided they would like to support the Trussell Trust with donations of food (see above), and we would like to thank all of our families and members of the community who supported this cause. They have also taken the lead in planning for anti-bullying week this year with an agreed focus on celebrating our differences. We started the week off with odd-sock day, followed by daily team building activities which were completed by children who wouldn't normally work together. At break and lunchtimes, children were encouraged to play with children they didn't normally play with, and the children who had played with the most 'new friends' by the end of the week won their very own pair of odd socks!

Adam Clark - Head teacher



BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

NEW TO BURFORD & 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

BURFORD PRE-SCHOOL PREPARES FOR CHRISTMAS

We have had an eventful autumn term, the children had wonderful Halloween activities and celebrations, including a fancy dress party and our very own pumpkin patch. As always, we utilised every event to continue with their developments and learning opportunities, as well as our daily show and tell and story time.

Since returning from half term, plans for our Christmas Nativity have begun. Children are learning their Christmas carols and rehearsals are taking place. Lots of fun and laughter are being had along the way. Our Nativity is taking place on Thursday 15 December, which will also include our annual Christmas raffle. This is one of our biggest events of the year, when all funds raised are directly used to support the children's resources and experiences. Last year the funds raised were used to arrange a pre-school trip to Farmer Gow's.



If you would like to support the pre-school, either by donating a raffle prize or purchasing a ticket, please contact the pre-school on: burfordpreschool@outlook.com. Tickets will be available for family, friends, and supporters of Burford Pre-School from 1 December.

The children love showcasing all their hard work to their families. This year's Nativity is on course to be a very magical experience. Followed by a Christmas party and a special visit from Father Christmas! Ho ho ho.

Ola Caless - Burford Pre-School Committee Secretary

AS I WAS SAYING...

As we head towards the mystery, mince pies and mayhem of Christmas our thoughts turn inevitably to – road signs. They are the Marmite of the countryside, you either love 'em or hate 'em. They can inform or infuriate, help or hinder, amuse or annoy and generate strong feelings either way. It is a very British trait to get partisan about a pole with a roundel on it. The Witney Gazette of 2 November had great fun – prose and pictures – with the mess OCC had made of introducing the signage for the new Witney-wide speed limit of 20 mph. Some signs were planted next to the old 30 mph limit painted on the roads, some were planted on one side of a road but the old 40 mph limit sign on the other side of the road was left unscathed. SOS = Save Our Signs.

I use the word "planted" advisedly. They seem to breed. I expect an experienced botanist could spot the puff of seeds being released from the top of a sign rather like dandelion

clocks. Certainly when you install one, a forest will soon develop. Our own High Street has a plethora including the rather up-market black and gold finger posts. If only all our street signage could be as elegant as those but the twin demons of cost and lack of political will militate against it. And they would be quite demanding to read as you whizz past even at the regulation 20 mph. There used to be a rogue sign directing cars down Church Lane to the car park helpfully positioned so you couldn't see it until you had passed the entrance to Church Lane. I must see if it is still there.

The real problem is that the vast range of matters that road users should be warned about requires a vast range of signs. The Department of Transport's blockbuster publication "Know Your Road Signs" runs to 147 pages so it is not surprising that the odd curiosity creeps in. One council (not in Oxfordshire) put up the usual sign warning motorists that they are approaching a school – a red-edged roundel depicting a young child holding the hand of a slightly older child clearly on their way to school – but gilded the lily by putting a sign saying "Slow" under the roundel and then another saying "Children" under that. The AA adds to the problem by erecting their own yellow signs whenever there is an event to advertise ("The Big Festival" springs to mind) or when disaster looms – "Floods Ahead", "Mud on Road" or the standing invitation to the sporting motorist, "Pedestrians Crossing". I do wonder if the AA, which is a corporate monolith not a government department, ever gets permission to scatter the verges with frequently useless information.

This brings me neatly on to commercial signage generally. BTC has a policy of no fly posting on any poles (or walls) in the High Street and does its best to enforce it but nothing practical can be done to stop the phantom, night time poster planter. David Buckland has the unenviable task of going round the town with a pair of shears cutting offending posters down. For some reason, which entirely escapes me, the most frequent offenders are rug sellers. Not that local authorities are entirely without blame, BTC included. We all like to boast about our communities and that results in the brown signs pointing out the charms of medieval market towns, churches of various sizes and faiths and the availability of non-stop entertainment and hospitality. There is even a brown sign as you approach the Windmill roundabout advertising not only The Windmill but also, on the same sign, The Maytime. Competition shelved in the interests of economy?

Anyway, here is one sign which will never go out of fashion:-

"HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR"

John White





Signpost

Come and chat to someone over a cup of coffee about a matter you are struggling with. A team of volunteers from Burford Church will be available to listen and do their best to help. All matters will be dealt with confidentially

The Warwick Hall, Burford

JOHN KNOX-JOHNSTON

John and Sandy Knox-Johnson have been well known and popular residents of Burford. Sandy, who still lives here for much of the year, has kindly sent us this tribute to John by an old school friend who also lives in this area.



John Anthony Knox-Johnston was born on 26 June 1941, in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and passed away on 20 October 2021 in Montecito, California, with his beloved wife Beatrice (Sandy) by his side.

The son of Jeanne and Anthony Knox-Johnston, who was in the British Colonial Service, ultimately serving as Administrator of the East

Africa High Commission comprising Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania before they gained independence in the 1960s. John's early life was spent in Africa.

At the age of eight, John was sent back to the United Kingdom to attend boarding school, first at Cargilfield in Edinburgh and then to Rugby in 1954. He excelled in rugby, cricket, hockey and athletics and never lost his enthusiasm for these sports.

Upon leaving school in 1959, John joined Edward Lumley, Lloyd's of London insurance brokers, and worked for them in London until 1973, when they transferred him to their office in New York. It was from there in 1983 that he was first introduced to Nantucket, where he worked with Heard Webster Insurance and then for Congdon and Coleman Insurance.

It was in Nantucket that he met Sandy Lovell whom he married 1984, and they formed a successful business partnership running the Corner House Hotel on Center Street from 1982 to 2006. John was seen as the impeccable English gentleman, perfect as front of house, charming visitors with his wit, humour, and warmth.

But many Nantucketers will remember John even more fondly as a compelling actor. He performed in more than 30 plays in 30 years for several island theatre companies. He is particularly remembered for his roles in *Harvey*, *Faith Healer*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, and *A Swell Party*, which also travelled to Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, where John was praised for his role as the host and narrator.

However, the all-time favourite was his work in *The Seafarer*, and the absolutely brilliant performance John gave as the cranky blind drunk who plays poker with the devil for his soul. John Shea, a close friend and well known film and theatre actor and director in the US, and who directed and acted with John over 20 years, wrote for the Nantucket Times:

"John's performance was the gold standard: searing, violently swinging from one raw emotion to another, funny as hell, frightened, fearless, blind as a bat with his eyes wide open, seeing beyond seeing, his elegant body turned scarecrow slumped in an overstuffed chair stinking of beer, his voice a buzz saw that cut through the night like a rusty knife, 'Sharky, where are you? Bring me another!' Soulful, unselfconscious, ragged yet royal, in the precious moment, giving it his truthful all!"

His readings of Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales* were also a poetic gift to Nantucketers in the middle of all the Christmas rush, filling the hall, the church, the theatre, or wherever he was performing, as the tender beauty of Dylan Thomas's words poured through him, a flood of animated light, taking us to a place that John knew we'd love if only we'd take the time to listen... which we did, spell bound, year after year after year. That voice! He savoured words, the sounds of them, the music, loving them to life whatever he role he played."

In addition to the theatre, John continued to love rugby, golf, cricket, croquet and staying abreast of African politics and wildlife conservation. On Nantucket he served on the boards of PASCON - The Hospice Foundation, the Artists Association and as a lay reader and on the vestry of St Paul's Church. After he and Sandy had bought their house in Montecito, California, John also became involved with international medical relief missions in Kenya and Guatemala through Direct Relief in Santa Barbara. For this work, he was invested in 2009 by Her Majesty Queen as Officer in the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

John and Sandy also had a house in Burford, and this is where I got to know John best. We played golf together with Rugby contemporary, Mike Armstrong, and even after John's battles with cancer, he continued to play a competitive game and his spirits never flagged. John and Sandy were very active in the Burford community, and there too, he is remembered for his kindness and courtesy – 'a true gent'.

John has a godson, Michael Lawson-Smith in London, a goddaughter, Eliza Crawford Wright in Melrose in Scotland, and nieces Diana Miers and Louisa Marston in the Scottish Borders and Candida Crawford living in England.

As Buddhists say, "Everybody dies but no one's dead." That's true of John, I think, who now is waiting in the wings.

Peter Berners-Price, Filkins



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



Statistics Challenged

I was intrigued to read Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson's comments in November issue of The Bridge regarding complaints against OCC under the new administration which started in May 2021. When looking at the website of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, a banner headline immediately gives advice on comparing statistics across years, noting that fewer complaints were registered and accepted in 2020-2021 due to Covid. Therefore, the data baseline is inconsistent when measuring any percentage increase or decrease for the following year. Below is the data held on the LG&SCO reports for Oxfordshire County Council.

Oxfordshire County Council			
Year	Complaints received	Complaints investigated	Complaints Upheld
2021-2022	64	20	14
2020-2021 *	37	16	7
2019-2020	58	21	16
2018-2019	59	18	9
* In the 2020-21 year we received and decided fewer complaints than normal because we stopped accepting new complaints for three months due to Covid-19			

With exception to the year 2020/21 (Covid) there is no material change compared to previous years under the previous administration. Note however that complaints upheld was lower in 21/22 than 19/20.

Statistics aside, even one complaint is one too many and those public servants we elect of whichever party should all be constructively working towards providing better services for the people in our county, not least Education and Children services which seems to be the most common reason for going to the Ombudsman.

Sarah Millard

The Bridge is Opinionated?

Mr Jensko writes that the The Bridge's problem is its political orientation. I disagree: the problem with The Bridge is that it is opinionated. The role that The Bridge *should* be fulfilling is to inform and support the Burford community. Opinions are not required.

Take the first paragraph of the editorial on the front page of the November 2022 issue. You have the opportunity to give information to the local community yet you chose to rant about phraseology of emails. It does not inform the local community about anything. A missed opportunity on the front page to support the community.

Take the OCC Councillor Report on page 14. Mr Field-Johnson has the opportunity to inform and help the Burford community yet he writes opinionated and divisive phraseology commencing the first sentence "The LibDem/Green/Labour coalition claim..." No. Just tell us how OCC is working for Burford and stop making it into petty political canvassing.

If Mr Field-Johnson needs help in this then I suggest he reads Mr Ashton's column on page 11 which contains just what we need: information about local issues without divisive political opinion.

And the vegan debate: no one cares what the OCC councillors are fed. It's not informative, it's barely relevant to the Burford community and it is divisive.

I suggest you re-consider The Bridge's purpose to focus on supporting the community with information about local issues.

Nic Barnes

We appreciate all feedback and have explained to Mr Barnes that The Bridge aims to be informative about local events and issues as well as providing some light entertainment. Alas we realise that humour is very subjective! As explained last month, views of contributors are their own and do not reflect those of the editors who try to be neutral on most matters other than traffic jams and river pollution to which we incline against. - Editors

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



WE ARE ON TWITTER

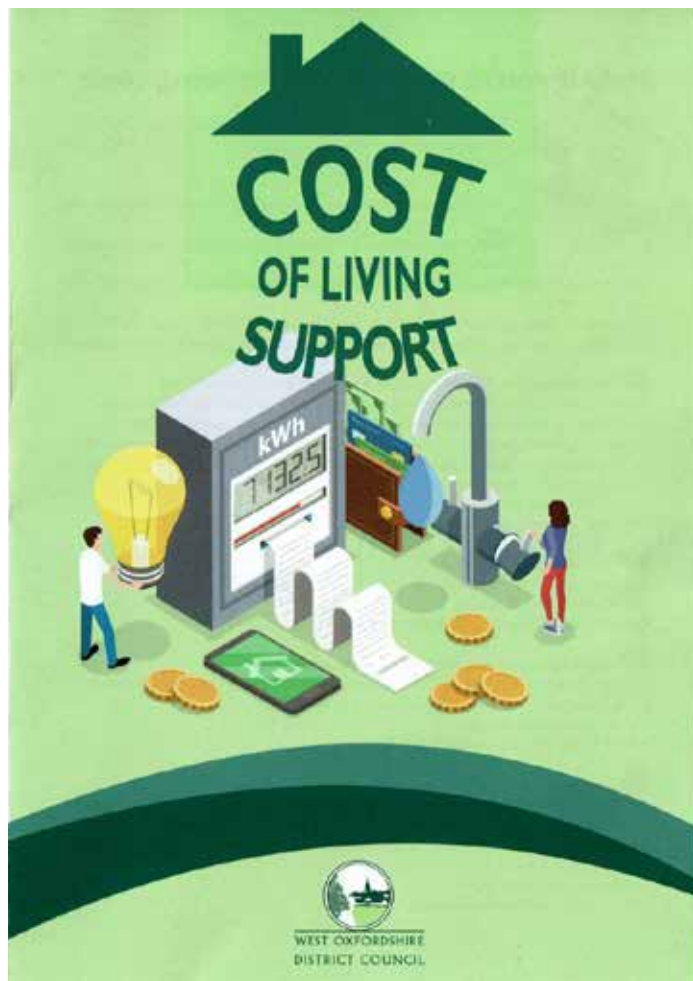
To get the latest news follow us on Twitter @BridgeBurford or go to our website www.thebridgeburford.co.uk.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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HELP IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH LIVING COSTS

Many residents are currently struggling with rising living costs. That's why it's important to know what help and support is available now - that could benefit you, a relative, friend or neighbour.

? Here are some practical actions that could help you or someone you know.

? **Check you're not one of up to 7 million people in the UK missing out on income-related state benefits**

You can go straight to the Government or contact West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice for one-to-one help to do this.

Number to call: **0800 328 5644** for Government advice or **0808 2787908** for Citizens Advice Website to visit: www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators or www.westoxon.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport

? **If you're over State Pension age, check if you're eligible for Pension Credit** Pension Credit provides extra money for living costs and access to other help. People of State Pension age may be entitled to Pension Credit even though they may have modest savings, or a retirement income or own their own home.

An award of Pension Credit can provide access to a range of other benefits such as help with housing costs, Council Tax, heating bills and, for those aged 75 or over, a free TV licence.

Number to call: 0800 99 1234

Website to visit: www.gov.uk/pension-credit

? **Get help with childcare costs**

Over one million families are missing out on up to £2,000 a year towards childcare costs - check what help you could get.

Website to visit: www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator

? **Check if you can claim a discretionary housing payment**

If Housing Benefit or Universal Credit doesn't cover all your rent you may be eligible to claim for a discretionary housing payment to help with rent payments.

Number to call: **01993 861000**

Website to visit: www.westoxon.gov.uk

? **Check if you're eligible for Council Tax Support**

You may be eligible for council tax support through West Oxfordshire District Council if you receive certain benefits or are on low income. Also if you are struggling to pay your Council Tax as a result of the changes to the way that we now calculate Council Tax Support from 1 April 2021, you can apply for additional assistance from the Council's Hardship Fund.

Number to call: **01993 861000**

Website to visit: www.westoxon.gov.uk

? **Help if you're experiencing illness or disability**

Check if you or your family may be entitled to benefits for those experiencing illness or disability.

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for adults under state retirement age, Visit www.gov.uk/pip or call **0800 917 2222**
- Attendance Allowance (for those over state retirement age), Visit www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance or call **0800 731 0122**
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) (for children under 16, for new claims) are not means- tested. The assessment considers the way that your health conditions affect your daily living and mobility needs. Visit www.gov.uk/dla-disability-living-allowance-benefit

? **Check your eligibility for Carer's Allowance**

If you are a carer, you may be entitled to Carer's Allowance and/or an extra amount called the 'carer element' within Universal Credit. This could mean £69.70 a week in Carer's Allowance if you care for someone at least 35 hours a week and you, the person

you care for and the type of care you provide meets the criteria.

Website to visit: www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

? **Contact your energy supplier if you can't pay energy bills**

Contact your energy supplier if you are struggling to pay for energy or think you may get into difficulty - if you already have energy debts, some larger suppliers offer grants to help pay this off. Please look for their contact details on your bill.

? **Get help if you're struggling to afford enough food**

If you are struggling to buy food you can approach West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice who will be able to provide advice on where you can get local support. Number to call: **0808 2787908**

Website to visit: www.citizensadvicewestoxon.org

? **See if you can get Healthy Start vouchers**

If you're at least ten weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old, you might be able to get free vitamins and Healthy Start vouchers for milk, fruit and vegetables and infant formula milk.

Number to call: **0300 330 7010**

Website to visit: www.healthystart.nhs.uk

? **Apply for free school meals**

If you or your child receive certain benefits, you can apply for free school meals from Year 3 and above.

Website to visit: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/school/school-meals

Seek advice about debt

If you're in debt, seek advice early rather than let things spiral out of control. Here are some organisations you can contact:

- Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire at www.citizensadvicewestoxon.org or **0808 2787908** for Citizens Advice.
- StepChange at www.stepchange.org or **0800 138 1111**
- National Debtline at www.nationaldebtline.org or **0808 808 4000**
- P3 at www.p3charity.org

? **Apply for a discount on water bills**

Households on low income can apply for financial support through their local water provider. Please look for contact details on your water bill.

? **Looking after your mental health**

Looking after our mental health and wellbeing is important. There are a variety of organisations and

websites that may be able to offer you the support, advice and help you need - whether in person, over the phone, via text, self-help or in group community settings:

- The Every Mind Matters website offers advice and practical steps that people can take to support their wellbeing and manage their mental health. Visit www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters
- Oxfordshire Safe Haven have a warm and friendly team to offer support to adults (18+) living in Oxfordshire either in person or at the end of the phone. Phone **01865 903 037**, email osh@oxfordshiremind.org.uk or visit www.oxfordshiremind.org.uk/support-for-you/safe-haven
- For the mental health services directory in Oxfordshire visit www.oxmindguide.org.uk/directory. For young people's mental health services in Oxfordshire visit www.oxfordshireyouth.org

? **Help if you, or someone you know, is suffering from domestic abuse**

Domestic abuse is a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour. It is any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional).

If you or someone you know is being abused contact Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse service on **0800 731 0055**. If there's a risk to life, please call 999 or text 99.

? **Other national charities you can contact are:**

Samaritans - if you're having a hard time, they can provide you with advice and support. Call them anytime on **116 123**.

Mind National Mental Health Charity. Call their information line on **0300 123 3393**

CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) is a charity that supports men under 45 years old with mental health issues. You can call them on **0800 58 58 58**

Papyrus UK

Prevention of young suicide

0800 068 4141

Shout A free

24/7 crisis text

service, text

SHOUT to

85258





BURFORD TOLSEY MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

What was once a dream, is now a reality

Burford Archive Officially Opened on the 18 November

After years of aspiration, the Burford and District local community has a specialist Archive. The purpose of this long-awaited additional amenity for the popular Burford Tolsey Museum is to collect, save and share the unique heritage documents, images and stories of our local area, before they are lost forever.

On 18 November Dr Antonia Boström first formally 'cut the ribbon', (around the whole building), to officially open the new Archive in Swan Lane.



The main celebrations started immediately afterwards at the Warwick Hall, attended by our specially invited guests consisting of Friends and Benefactors of the Burford Tolsey, together with our volunteers, personal and charitable donors and local dignitaries.

In his speech of welcome to the packed hall, Clendon Daukes, expressed *"our deep gratitude - we could not have achieved any of this without you and our other much appreciated supporters"*. He went on to give particular *"thanks to the trustees of the Falkland Hall charity and those who had undertaken the enormous amount of work needed to raise the funds, design the building's conversion, procure the contents, develop the programmes for the acquisition and cataloguing of archival material and digitise it for future 24/7 access, plus the wonderful work done by Pethers, the builders."*

Clendon's talk paused to enable Sue Ashton and the other members of her Warner family to present the deeds of the Archive building to David Cohen, the chairman of the Falkland Hall charity. The latter will not only will rent the building to the Archive at a nominal fee but also contribute an annual payment towards its running costs.



Our grateful thanks go to Dr Antonia Boström, Director of Collections at the V&A and member of their executive board for kindly opening the Archive and presenting **"The Lure of Archives – the past brought alive"**. The theme of her inspiring talk was the continuing and increasing relevance of archives locally, nationwide and internationally in today's digital age. It was exemplified and beautifully illustrated with a wide range of discoveries that had been made thanks to their existence.



Photos kindly provided by Pete Gould and Peter Martin

WHAT'S IN A PLACE?

In the month when the Archive opens, I've been musing about what it means to me to celebrate "place". Many strands of thought coalesce when you really start thinking about "place". The Archive aspires "to preserve Burford's written and oral stories and images ranging from medieval times to the present, plus fascinating accounts of human experiences over the centuries." It will be an assembly of all manner of things, which together have Burford as their "pride of place".

I've thought about my personal archive of Burford, built over 30 years of living here. I've walked on footpaths, getting to know the lie of the land, thinking about flora and fauna, about farming and land use, about the river and its meanders, and the mill race, the meadows, the impact different underlying rocks make. I've gardened in two gardens and now an allotment, gaining intimate knowledge of these little patches of land, the light and shade, the nature of the soil, what will and won't grow. An East Anglian for my first 20 years, I've learned how to watch the sky and feel the wind, and to interpret them for Burford's coming weather – it took time to get used to smaller skies here.

As a wife of a now retired local shopkeeper, I've gained some insight into the economics of late 20th and early 21st century Burford. Formerly custodian of a listed building (I really don't think we ever "owned" it, rather feeling responsible for maintaining it for posterity) I've given much thought to how the prosperity of previous eras and former residents, expressed in public and private buildings, contributes to Burford's unique selling point for our vitally important place as a hub and hive of activity for tourists. How our predecessors used the land and the situation of Burford is evident in the relics of the wool trade (the church, the fortune that funded the grammar school, the oldest of the almshouses), the names of houses (the Bell Foundry, for instance), the market charter, the coaching inns, turned hotels and pubs (and the Temperance Hotel now Greyhounds).

Great men and women, rogues and rascals have all played their part. I really hope that the Archive will capture the voices of Burfordians now. The work of the Moodys and other historians has given us such a wealth of reflection on illustrious and not so illustrious past residents. The Ghost Walks give another perspective altogether.

Moving from the tangible to the intangible and the ephemeral, I've thought about how one can ever really "know" a place. You can learn its facts, but do they alone make a place a *place*? Theories of place (yes, there is such a branch of academic study) propose that "Places are spaces with meaning." Where do I find the meaning of Burford? My husband's family are buried here; our children grew up here. I have lived, worked, worshipped and socialised here. I continue to enjoy "belonging", deepening my sense of attachment now I've retired and can join in more. I enjoy creative peoples' "takes" on Burford – water colours of the valley and town, Youtube videos of visitors joyously declaring their delight, Cynthia Harnett's *The Wool Pack*, the Cotswold Children's Choir's recording of the Burford Ballads (the Ballad of Burford Church, the Levellers' Ballad, the Ballad of Tom, Dick and Harry) – do you remember the performance and recording in 2005?

What are the "golden threads" of place, for me? (A golden thread is an idea or feature that is present in all parts of something, holds it together and gives it value). A geographer by academic training, my golden threads are the land and man's use of it. I begin with the landscape, and the way over time we humans have developed our relationship with it. What are yours?

Ruth Reavley



The painting of the Burford Tolsey by Angela Tancock was selected for the "Cotswold Inspired Art Exhibition" celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which was held in the Corinium Museum, Cirencester in 2017

Photos by Pete Gould showing the splendid catering and bonfire at this year’s successful Bonfire and Fireworks Event in Burford.



DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS			
Thu 1 Dec	Burford Chamber of Trade Event for business owners	Lynwood Cafe	6-8pm
1-3 Dec	Wychwood Players - The Ghost Train	New Beaconsfield Hall Shipton	7.30pm
Fri 2 Dec	Christmas is Coming Event	Burford Parish Church	7-9-30
Fri 2 Dec	Rotary Christmas Dinner	Burford Golf Club	7pm
Sat 3 Dec	Da Capo Sing Advent Choral Music	Northleach Church	7pm
Sun 4 Dec	Burford Civic Carol Service/ Reception	Burford Parish Church	3.30pm
Sun 4 Dec	Aldsworth Christmas Fayre	Aldsworth Village Hall	10-3pm
Sun 4 Dec	Betty’s 100th birthday party	Burford Baptist Church	3-5pm
Wed 7 Dec	Christmas Teatime Classics for Violin + Piano	Northleach Church	3.00pm
Wed 7 Dec	Lenthall Concert: Piano trio Frierio	Burford School	7.30pm
Fri 9 Dec	Late Night Christmas Shopping	Burford High Street	5-8pm
Fri 9 Dec	Madhatter Bookshop Book Bar	Madhatter bookshop	4.30-7pm
Sat 10 Dec	Composting Workshop asthallmanor.com	Asthall Manor	10.3.30
Tue 13 Dec	FABW1 Christmas Quiz with festive fayre	Warwick Hall	7.30pm
Tue 13 Dec	BEAGles Meeting - Fulbrook	1 Carpenters Place	7pm
Wed 14 Dec	Burford School: A Christmas miscellany	Sheldonian Theatre Oxford	7.30
Wed 14 Dec	TASC Lecture: A Musical Portrait of a Medieval Christmas	Warwick Hall	11am
Wed 11 Jan	TASC Lecture: Posters of the Belle Epoque	Warwick Hall	11am
Tue 17 Jan	BEAGles Meeting - Fulbrook	1 Carpenters Place	7pm
Wed 18 Jan	Lenthall Concert: Bristol Brass Consort	Burford School	7.30pm
Thu 26 Jan	Tolsey Talk: Oxfordshire vs Napoleon	Zoom	7.30pm
Tue 21 Feb	Burford District Society AGM	Warwick Hall	7pm
Wed 22 Feb	Lenthall Concert: Adam Khan (guitar) and Michael Bochmann (violin)	Burford School	7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

BURFORD BENEFICE

St John the Baptist, Burford

6 4 December	
Morning Service	11.00am
Civic Carol Service	4.00pm
11 December	
Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00am
Matins (BCP)	9.30am
Holy Communion (CW)	11.00am
Nativity Service	4.00pm
18 December	
Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00am
Holy Communion (CW)	9.30am
Morning Service	11.00am
Carol Service	7.00pm
24 December	
Benefice Holy Communion (CW)	11.30pm
25 December	
Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00am
All age Service followed by Communion	11.00am

St James the Great, Fulbrook

11 December	
Morning Prayer (CW)	9.30am
18 December	
Matins (BCP)	9.30am
24 December	
Carol Service	4.00pm
25 December	
Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am

St John the Evangelist, Taynton

4 December	
Holy Communion	9.30am
23 December	
Carol Service	6.00pm
25 December	
Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am

St Nicholas, Asthall

4 December	
Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm
24 December	
Carol Service	6.00pm

St Mary, Swinbrook

4 December	
Holy Communion (CW)	11.00am
11 December	
Morning Prayer (CW)	11.00am
18 December	
Carol Service	11.00am
25 December	
Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00am
All age Service followed by Communion	11.00am

St Oswald, Widford

26 December	
Carol Service	4.00pm

9.30am and 11.00am services in Burford are also live-streamed. These can be found on our website or YouTube Channel.

www.burfordchurch.org

Tarnia Usher - Church Secretary

A service of Holy Communion takes place in Burford Parish Church every Wednesday at 10.30am.

ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE

Sunday Mass: 9.30 am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday - 10.00 am

Thursday - 10.00 am

Christmas Eve - Carols followed by Midnight Mass at 8.30 pm

Christmas Day - Mass 9.30 am

For updates please see catholicchurchburford.org.uk or the church noticeboard for details.

Dan Boyle

BURFORD QUAKER MEETING

Pytts Lane, Meeting for Worship every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

Myra Ford 01451 810484, or Graham Hadley 01993 875214

BURFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Members of Burford Baptist Church are planning on celebrating a 100th birthday in December .

Please see the article in the November issue of The Bridge.

Gill Crippen

Readers may be interested to know that a service of choral matins with the choir takes place in Burford Parish Church on the second Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

This information may be out of date but included as a prompt for people to tell us what Clubs and Societies 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	1 Carpenters Place, Fulbrook	7.30pm
Beaver Scouts	Wednesday (term time)	Scout Hut 6-7.15pm	Claire Griffin 07751 472125 burfordbeavers@gmail.com
Burford Badminton Club	Tuesday nights 8-10pm	Burford School - fun, social, all abilities	Vijay 891043 vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Burford Crafters	2nd and 4th Wednesdays	Burford Library 2-4pm	Christine Brown 07971679116/ June Catling 823752
Burford & District Society	Meet 7 times a year	Warwick Hall at 7.00pm	K. Gray 823805 burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk
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 Monday each month	Varies. 9.30-9pm	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	Warwick Hall	Jane Arnell gjaarnell@icloud.com 01993 822755 or thefabwi.org
Fulbrook Coffee am	Every 4th Thursday	Fulbrook Meeting Place 10.30 - 12	Gilly Kay 823193
Fulbrook Fitness Group	Thursday (wef Sept 2021)	Fulbrook Meeting Place 9am	Pat Ferrett 822892
Fulbrook Forum	1st Thursday (not Jan or Aug)	Fulbrook Meeting Place 3pm	fulbrookforum@gmail.com
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
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
Scouts	Thursday (term time)	Scout Hut 6 - 8pm	Alex Gill 07762161769 burfordscouts@gmail.com
Scrabble	1st Tuesday of each month	Burford Library (free tea, coffee, 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	Frances Sparkes 01993 823943 publicity@theartssocietycotswold
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 Tuesday - 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 citizensadvicewestoxon.org	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 Fulbrook Meeting Place Taynton Village Hall - Lexi Young Warwick Hall Bookings and Information bookings@burfordchurch.org.uk	01993 822330 TBA 07909 913994
Library 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	01993 823377
Member of Parliament Robert Courts robert@robertcourts.co.uk	01993 702302
Oxfordshire County Council General Enquiries Highways Faulty Street Lights www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Oxfordshire County Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson	01865 815573 08453 101111 0800 317802 01993 878309
Post Office stephencolter@aol.com	01993 822174
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	
Southern Electric (Freephone)	08000 727282
Thames Water	0800 3169800
Travel Rail Enquiries Public Transport Enquiries	08457 484950 08712 002233
West Oxfordshire District Council General Enquiries Out of Hours www.westoxon.gov.uk	01993 861000 01993 705056
West Oxfordshire District Councillor Hugo Ashton	07712 490517
Witney Hospital Minor Injuries Open 10.00am – 10.30pm daily Last Patient seen at 10pm	01865 903841
Witney Police Station, No front counter www.thamesvalleypolice.uk	

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

Company Name	Business Type	Phone
Antiques @ The George	Award winning, friendly antiques centre	01993 823319
Cameo Hairdressers and Burford Barber	Find us at Christmas Court in Burford	01993 822292
CJD Architects	Chartered Architects	01993 823646
The Cotswold Cheese Company	We sell Artisan cheese, delicatessen foods, wines, beers, gifts and fresh bread (Thurs, Fri & Sat)	01993 823882
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
Tayler 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, Watch & Barometer repairs	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	0203 8580035
Dave Simkin	Tutor Doctor, Witney. Private Home tutoring, all subjects, all levels. dsimkin@tutordocor.co.uk www.tutordocor.co.uk/witney	07771 752758

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