

THE BRIDGE



May 2024

Look out for this tree in Burford's Open Gardens

This monthly magazine covers people and events in our area of the Cotswolds, and is delivered free of charge to residences and businesses in Aldsworth, Asthall, Asthall Leigh, the Barringtons, Bradwell Village, Burford, Field Assarts, Fordwells, Fulbrook, Holwell, Northleach, Sherborne, Shilton, Signet, Swinbrook, Taynton, Upton, Westwell, Widford and Windrush. In addition there are national and international subscribers.

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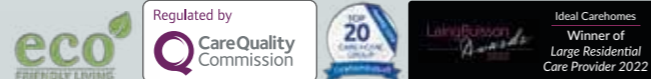
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EDITOR'S NOTES

Facing the Music

It's not very often that you hear laughter during a performance of classical music but chuckles ran through the audience in Burford parish church on Palm Sunday. The occasion was a performance of Haydn's Creation, the first public outing by the Burford Singers under the skilful direction of their new conductor, Will Dawes. Their performance brought out the composer's characteristic wit in the musical depiction of lions, sheep, worms and other animals as well as the tuneful and essentially cheerful spirit of this work. Will has continued the tradition of finding good soloists and the three on display were excellent. Perhaps the pick of them was Robyn Allegra Parton, the soprano, for the way she floated the high "money" notes across the church. The Singers sang the many choruses with gusto. Their next concert will be on 16 June during the Burford Festival.

Calling All Petrolheads



In its natural habitat

Thank you to reader Shaun Delaney for drawing our attention to a piece on a website called pistonheads.com about the launch of the new Range Rover SV Burford Edition. This vehicle is described as the "pinnacle of Range Rover personalisation". It continues: "Burford, you say? That's right: the quintessentially pretty town just off the A40, half an hour or so from Oxford. How has it earned this honour? Well, because apparently the town is known as the 'gateway to the Cotswolds' and is 'synonymous with luxury rural lifestyle'. Which, of course, means it is synonymous with Land Rover products, too. (Honestly, we had it pegged more as a Defender/Discovery town - but we're willing to concede that a Range Rover called Stow-on-the-Wold Edition or Lower Slaughter Edition doesn't have quite the same ring to it.)" Make what you will of that. Perhaps it is better not to be identified too closely as engaged in a "luxury rural lifestyle". If you want one, the price is said to be around £275,000. But you're probably too late as only ten are being made.

Getting a Charge

We were interested to read in Nicholas Field-Johnson's article this month that OCC has obtained funds to install more public charging points for electric cars. We note that they will be contactless. This is important as many chargers have to be accessed via phone apps and, unless all four mobile networks provide adequate coverage, many drivers will be unable to use them. Given the patchy coverage in Burford, this could be a problem. If they are put in the Guildenford car park perhaps they should be submersible as well.

We understand that some may be located at Burford School, available for public use.

Local Hero

Early last month David Cohen attended his final meeting of Burford Town Council after an astonishing 30 years, seven of which were spent as mayor. Is anyone else likely to match that? Not that he is going to have much time to put his feet up. He will doubtless continue his labours on behalf of the Falkland Hall Charity, the Scouts, the Almshouse Charity, the Horticultural Association, the Tolsey Museum and no doubt other good causes which we either don't know or have forgotten about. And between all that he and Jan still find time to be Bridge distributors. Thank you, David, for all you have done and continue to do for the community. Burford Fire





Burford Fire Station is holding a Charity Car Wash on the Saturday 8 June in aid of the Fire Fighter Charity at Burford School, Cheltenham Road, Burford via the A40 Entrance between 10.00- 6.00pm.

Come and support the Fire Fighters Charity and get your car cleaned for a donation to the Fire Fighters Charity by the Fire Fighters at Burford Fire Station.

Paul Andrew

THE BRIDGE TIMETABLE

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

editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk

Advertisements need to be booked before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please contact:

advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk

THE BRIDGE POLICIES

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

Copyright provisions apply to articles and photographs shown within the magazine.

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

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

Recreation Ground and Westfield News

The play park is open! The opening was timed for the start of the Easter holidays, and it is great to see so many children enjoying all the facilities. Please see photos of Amy and Felicity who were guests of honour at the opening of the playground www.thebridgeburford.co.uk.

Council considered how to manage the bonfire area on Westfield to ensure the safety of both people and animals. In the past, all sorts of items have been put on the pile by people wishing to dispose of "burnable" items. However, to comply with the 1990 Clean Air Act, council have decided that only untreated wood will be allowed in future, with no green waste as that can be recycled and generates too much smoke on the bonfire. In addition, as there is so much metal, glass and other dangerous material on the bonfire site, we will fence it off permanently to protect everyone. We do not want to lose our popular bonfire night, which is so well attended, but must ensure we comply with safety regulations.

Once again, we have received complaints from residents about dogs being allowed off the lead on the recreation ground. These are not minor complaints but involve aggression to both people and other dogs. We take this seriously.



There is adequate signage at all entrances to the recreation ground informing dog owners and walkers of the rule, so there is no excuse. As explained before, the rule is to protect both other users of the recreation ground and other dogs.

Dogs off the lead are not fully under the control of the owner; have been aggressive to both other owners, dogs and other children using the recreation ground, and we are seeing more dog excrement left. This can cause Toxocariasis, which can lead to blindness, and is a danger to children including the children from the football clubs who use the pitches. Also the council has to clear up.

Most owners and dog walkers are responsible and follow the rules for good reason. However, it only takes a few who don't, and that seems to encourage others to follow their example.

I was shocked to receive a report that, within a week of the new play park opening, a group of people were sitting in the play area and allowing their dogs off the lead in the play park! Dogs are not allowed in the play area at all, let alone off the lead. We have now added more signage to the play park as a result, but that should not have been necessary.

So, dog owners and walkers, it is up to you. If you currently let your dogs off the lead, you know who you are. If you are a responsible owner or walker and follow the rules, please encourage others to do so. If this does not improve, council

will consider whether to ban all dogs from the recreation ground, and access to Westfield for dog walking will only be from Tanners Lane car park.

You are in the best position to ensure both your dog and other dogs are on their leads to ensure your freedom to walk your dogs on the recreation ground remains.

Please be socially responsible.

Peter Higgs

As recently as March last year we published a letter about a serious attack on a local resident by a dog which was not on its lead on the Rec. The owner said that the dog had "never done this before" - Ed



Question: What's 60 years old yet very NEW and FREE?

Answer: The Burford Tolsey Museum

A New season of opening to the public has begun
New gallery lighting to improve your visitor experience

New Exhibitions

New much improved, interior lighting of the famous
Dolls' House

New lavishly illustrated Dolls' House souvenir
publications

New retail sales unit

Open every day (subject to our volunteers' availability)
from 2.00 to 5.00 pm

to the end of October, thereafter weekends up to
Christmas

Admission **FREE of charge** - Donations invited
(New 'Tap & Donate' facility available)

Is this the year when you discover **New**
information about Burford's rich heritage?

Visit the exquisite little Burford Tolsey Museum
Book a Town Tour at www.burfordtolsey.org or ring
01993 823533

New Volunteer Museum Stewards and Keepers would
be made very welcome.

Contact supporters@burfordtolsey.org or Clendon
Daukes on 01993 823533



Sue Ashton (keeper of the Dolls House) and Jan Cohen reinstating the contents into the relit house.

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Celebrating Community through the Town



Burford Town Council is a progressive council that looks to support the local community in as many ways as possible. A celebration of the culture of the community, its literary and artistic talents and the town's historical richness are illuminated every second year through the Burford Festival.

The Burford Festival began in 2001 and is run by a passionate group of residents. The town council looks to support the festival with an opening party, this year being held on **Thursday 6 June at 6.30pm** at the Warwick Hall. It is a special party, hosted by our mayor, Peter Higgs, and is a call to the residents of Burford to come together, take some time out of the hustle and bustle of life and meet your neighbours, friends and townspeople.



Community spirit is strong in Burford and there are many volunteers who spend hours out of their day working to make Burford a thriving, caring community. Indeed, the 11 council members who uphold Burford Town Council are all volunteers, giving of their time tirelessly to make sure the town is running smoothly. The town council is administered by the town clerk, Christina Edgar Hiatt. To contact the town council you can send a message to town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk.

Burford Town Council welcomes residents to take part in the festival this year. There is something for everyone, a celebration of Burford's beautiful gardens, many social gatherings including a ceilidh dance and the mayor's party as well as some fantastic music including our own Burford Singers to provide the finale of the festival. There are also some interesting talks, including a faith-based discussion chaired by our own Rev Cedric Reavley on living together in harmony.

Burford Town Council welcomes you this year to the fun and whimsical Burford Festival, and most importantly, do come to the opening mayor's party.

Christina Edgar Hiatt | Town Clerk



We've had some excellent meetings this year since our last article in The Bridge. Dorothy Cook received 100% rating in a member survey. We were treated to a host of tales - both funny and thought provoking - recounting her 30+ years as a midwife. Dorothy has practised extensively around the world, especially in the Middle East. We had our eyes opened with her stories of the lives of expectant mothers in the region and the true impact of female genital mutilation on both mother and baby. Dorothy took many questions from the floor, giving us her view of the state of maternity services here at home. She was a hilarious speaker and her time with us passed too swiftly. Our March AGM was with a Fish and Chip Supper and well attended. We also had an impromptu presentation from Ilona Poverty, the president of West Witney WI, who is a master of public speaking and we learnt of some nifty techniques to calm the nerves. The officer roles have remained the same and we are pleased to welcome a couple of new committee members: Hilary Jolly and Lesley Walton.

We are looking forward and excited to introduce our speaker on 14 May, Helena McBride, as she will be talking and showing us about 'Decluttering'. We expect this to be a popular evening. Helena is a member of the Association of Professional Declutterers & Organisers (who knew there was such a thing!). Based in Oxfordshire she holds qualifications in virtual decluttering and how to meet the unique needs of people with ADHD and hoarding disorders. She was awarded the Prestige Award 2021/2022 for 'Professional Organiser the Year'. If you think you recognise her from her photo, Helena has frequently been a guest on radio and podcasts and has been interviewed for Oxfordshire Living and Oxford Life magazines. She says "My mission is to help people curate their belongings and organise them logically. I empower my clients to live harmoniously with their treasures – making mindful choices about what to let go without adopting a minimalist lifestyle".



We are always keen to welcome new members and guests are always very welcome to any of our meetings for a suggested donation of £5.

The FaB WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the **Baptist Chapel** in Witney Street at 7.30 p.m. For further information please visit our website thefabwi.org.uk or contact me on thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk or mobile 07710 103015.

Jennie Craven - President

THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Lecture on Wednesday 8 May

Wassily Kandinsky and the Birth of Abstraction



One of the pioneers of abstract modern art, Wassily Kandinsky exploited the evocative interrelation between colour and form to create an aesthetic experience that engaged the sight, sound, and emotions of the viewer. He believed that total abstraction offered the possibility for profound, transcendental expression and that copying from nature only interfered with this process. Highly inspired to create art that communicated a universal sense of spirituality, he innovated a pictorial language that not only loosely related to the outside world but expressed volumes about the artist's inner experience. In this lecture we will look at paintings by Wassily Kandinsky and the origins of his first abstractions, as well as other artists, who developed non-objective art in Russia.

Dr Natalia Murray graduated from the Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg before taking the PhD course at the Hermitage. Over the past eight years she has been lecturing on nineteenth and twentieth century Russian Art at The Courtauld and at the University of Sussex. She curated Revolution: Russian Art 1917-1932 at the RA and led a Society study day, Art at the time of the Revolution, to link with the exhibition. Natalia is also a trustee of the Russian Avant-Garde Research Project. Her books and articles extend across the wide field of 19-20th century Russian and European art, and she has featured in films dedicated to the Hermitage Museum and the Russian revolution and in programmes for BBC Radio 4 and the BBC World Service.

This hybrid lecture 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 recommended to reserve a place via our website (see below) Non-members are welcome (space permitting) at a charge of £10.

Further information will be circulated via the newsletter and bookings can be made via the website (see below) or please call Lisa Etheridge on 01285 711805 for a booking form.

To learn more about The Arts Society Cotswolds and to see what lectures, Special Interest Days and other activities are planned, please log into the website: www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk Or contact Carolyn Walton on 01993 822296

Alison Morgans

PILATES IN BURFORD

If you're searching for a low-impact, results-driven class that strengthens, lengthens, tones and flexes your body - Pilates is for you.

Join us for your weekly Pilates class to improve your body shape and flexibility. Post-class it will improve relaxation, mood and reduce stress.

Pilates connects the mind and muscles, helping people engage the right muscles in the core and is wonderful for flexibility and strength. This leads to better posture and control over the body's movements. It can also improve daily life for people suffering from back pain.



Warwick Hall, Burford, Thursdays at 9:30am from 16 May.

Launch offer: Two classes for £7.50 each

Call 07932981023 or email hellowellnessity@gmail.com to book. All abilities welcome.

Elizabeth Bell

A SONG THRUSH IN TAYNTON

Photographed by Mike Russell.



© Mike Russell

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

THE BRIDGE INTERVIEW WITH JOHN AND SARAH HORNER



Sometimes we get the impression that Fulbrook and Burford are two separate communities, separated by a narrow strip of water and leading their own lives. But then you meet a couple like Sarah and John Horner who have deep roots here and who have contributed greatly to life on both sides of the divide.

John was born in Dublin, the second of three children. He has an older brother Jack who lives in the far

distant island of St Helena and younger sister Ann. Their father was a crane driver in Dublin docks but as a Protestant he saw little future in what was then an overwhelmingly Catholic society. He and his wife decided to emigrate, as many of the extended family did, and came here in 1953 when John was seven. Their intended destination was Canada, but on the way they stopped off in Burford to say goodbye to John's Aunt Emily (Weir) who ran the Crypt Cafe in the building which now houses Manfred Schotten Antiques. They discovered that the Highway Hotel was for sale and, with a quick change of plan, bought it. John's father initially worked nights at Smith's Industries in Witney and days in the Highway. John was educated at Burford Primary School and at what was then called Burford Grammar School, where he was taught by (among others) Raymond Moody. He enjoyed all that Burford had to offer, especially sport. Out of school he led what he calls a "Just William" life, roaming around with Howard Agg and other contemporaries, swimming in the river and shooting rooks at the Priory (but only with the permission of the Mother Superior).

On leaving school at 16 he became articled as a trainee Building Surveyor to a firm in Oxford. At that time a great deal of restoration work was being done to the historic university buildings and one of his first jobs was to crawl under the lead roof of the Radcliffe Camera to inspect the timbers. In 1970 he started his own surveying business based in the Highway, soon taking on a partner to create Horner Allen Partnership (HAP).

John played for Stow Rugby Club before moving to play on the wing for Gloucester, one of the top English teams, from 1969 to 1974 before returning to play for Stow. Having sourced second hand barrack huts to create Stow's first clubhouse in the late 1960s he later became chairman and at that time designed the new clubhouse and oversaw the construction which opened in 1983.

Sarah's roots in our area go even deeper. She was brought up in Wyck Rissington, the youngest of five sisters, where her father was the Rector. In her youth she was a member of Stow Young Farmers and it was at an event at the rugby club that she met John. They were married in 1975. They have three daughters (clearly a female-dominated family). Chloe owns "Chloe's cafe" in Charlbury, Verity works for Homeless Oxfordshire and Bryony is a cognitive behavioural therapist for the NHS in Bristol. All three were schooled in Burford and are a great source of pride to their parents.

In 1974 John's parents were keen to retire but it was not easy to find a buyer as the Highway was a temperance hotel then, so John and Sarah took it over. In those days the hospitality industry in Burford largely closed down from November until Gold Cup week in March. They developed the hotel by making alterations, opening a restaurant in the cellar and by obtaining a full "on" licence. Sarah was front of house and

John learned to cook in the evening while continuing his daytime job with HAP. It was hard work but, having built up the business, they were able to sell the hotel in 1978 - "phew!"

They bought Grafton House, just across the road, and did a lot of renovation to it. Sarah ran a clothes shop where La Bulle is now situated. HAP moved from their temporary home in Milton and then relocated to Sheep Street where Kendall & Davies's offices are now. They also created two apartments above the shop, possibly Burford's very first holiday lets (they are no longer used as such).

In 1980 the family, now two daughters with Bryony still to come, set up home in Fulbrook. Here they found a lively village atmosphere with two pubs, active amenities committee, annual Church fetes and plant sales among other village offerings. They moved into The Roarings right at the bottom of the hill leading towards Shipton where they all became very involved in village activities and made lifelong friends. The Roarings was a massive project, but a lovely family home ("Always a work in progress until the day we left" says John.). It was 26 years later when the girls had grown up that they moved to their present home, Broadmead, at the other end of the village on Westhall Hill. The new home, originally an 18th century barn, became (you've guessed it) another massive renovation project. They extended the house upwards, sideways, forwards, perhaps not downwards. They love their home which commands a wonderful view towards Burford. All three daughters were married from there and now John and Sarah's six grandchildren are regular visitors.

John's work for the community includes four years as a governor of Burford Primary School followed by 20 years as a foundation governor of Burford School where he used his expertise to unravel some of the Foundation's property matters, releasing tenancies, refurbishing buildings and acquiring permissions for changes of use. Sarah developed and applied interior design skills on a number of the developments. John had left the Foundation by the time the Cotswold Gate development on the Foundation's land hove into view although his last advice before leaving was to hang onto the site for possible future development. At that time he envisaged it being used for a care home and some light industrial employment use rather than a large residential development. He and Sarah also created what is now Burford Library, moving it into a building they converted and so ensuring its survival. (The beams in the building have been dated as being made from trees felled in 1431, 30 years later than the ones in Reavley's Pharmacy).

Having had an architectural and surveying practice in Burford and Fulbrook for over 40 years, the list of projects he has worked on is much too long to set out here: Warwick Almshouses, Brewery Yard, Christmas Court, National Trust properties, numerous Listed Buildings...the list goes on. It is literally true to say that he has left his mark on our area. Although he is now retired, John has helped with the design and development of the Archive building in Swan Lane.

We shall let him have the last word: "Fulbrook has been our home for 44 years, such a great and friendly village. Our three amazing daughters have been brought up and educated here and although we haven't travelled very far in our lives, we feel very proud, lucky and privileged to be rooted in this special community."

Editors



BEAGles REPAIR CAFÉ



Monday 1 April, Burford Bowls Club

I am very happy to report that our Repair Café was absolutely humming on Easter Monday with record numbers of customers and of repairs done.



To those unfamiliar with this kind of event: volunteers with skills in such areas as woodworking, tool refurbishment and sharpening, jewellery, fabrics and clothing alterations, electrical repair and PAT testing, bicycle maintenance and general mending abilities make themselves available for a few hours to those who bring their damaged or broken possessions along for advice and (hopefully) effective repairs.

As usual at this time of the year, many people brought garden shears and secateurs for sharpening – please remember to clean them after use! It makes them easier to use next time and prolongs their life. If you have an electrical item for repair then it will be PAT tested to make sure that it is electrically safe. Sometimes items have the old-style electrical plug with solid brass pins – we have to replace these (for a small charge) before we can repair them. Similarly, if the power lead is damaged it must be replaced or repaired, and please check that bulbs are working – in some cases we have found that they are the only problem.

Hot drinks and snacks are usually available to waiting customers until their Repair Ticket is called. Money is not charged for the event but donations are much appreciated.

Repair Cafes aim to reduce waste and the amount of goods sent to landfill as well as to ensure that much-loved/used items have a longer and more fruitful life. The added bonus is that they also make for a sociable and lively morning or afternoon.

Despite the cancellation of the Burford Scouts Easter Monday Car Boot Sale we had a steady stream of customers all morning with visitors from as far afield as Chipping Norton and Bourton-on-the-Water.

We had:

Customers through the door 42

Items received 73

Items repaired 59

Items not repaired but advice given 14

as well as some very generous donations. A big thank you to all our wonderful repairers and customers; if you have skills in mending, IT, offering advice, cake-making or would just like to help out, please contact Alan Burch on 01993 824519 or alanburch@gmail.com .

Our next Repair Café will be in June, please see next month's edition for details.

Our May meeting will be at the Quaker Meeting House at 7.30pm on Friday, 17 May, when we will be hosting Dr Pete Sudbury, the Green Party councillor and OCC Deputy Leader with responsibility for Climate Change, the Environment and Future Generations, who will be speaking to us about the challenges that West Oxfordshire faces in coming to terms with climate change.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Ali McIntosh

Southrop Open Gardens Weekend

Sat 18th & Sun 19th May 2024, 1.30pm to 4.30pm
10+ varied gardens. £6 day ticket or £8 for 2 days.

Tickets available at sign-posted gardens or Southrop Village Hall, GL7 3PB

Come to the village hall for delicious teas, plant sale and more.

WE ARE ON X/TWITTER

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



The programme includes
 Finzi: God is gone up
 Elgar: The Spirit of the Lord
 Vaughan Williams: Five Mystical Songs
 Chilcott: Songs my Heart has Taught Me
 Elgar: From the Bavarian Highlands

Daniel Tate: Baritone
 Accompanist: Bernard West

Tickets £25, £20, £15, £10 (unreserved)
 available from 12 May at burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets
 Unreserved: The Madhatter Book Shop 122 High Street,
 Burford OX18 4QJ
 Catherine Martin

NORTHLEACH CONCERT



Northleach Church has been fortunate in being selected by Music in Country Churches as the first venue for its 2024 season.

We will be hosting La Serenissima, a world-renowned string ensemble, joined by the Italian mandolin virtuoso Raffaele La Ragione, in whose hands the mandolin can

weep, sing, dance and laugh. The evening will feature Vivaldi's concertos for lute, mandolin and violin and will be preceded by a short talk on Venice.

Expect an evening of 18th century surprises and delights - from show-stopping musical fireworks to heartfelt Italian melody.

Friday 24 May, 6.00pm, Northleach Church.
 Tickets £30/£20/£15 at northleachevents.co.uk

Jane Quelch

CHELTENHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL

Music lovers can also look forward to the 70th Cheltenham Music Festival which runs from 6 to 13 July. There will be music by Cheltenham-born Gustav Holst (see also opposite), his friend and contemporary Ralph Vaughan Williams and many others. Tickets are on sale via the Festival website.



CHORAL EVENSONG AT HOLWELL

Friends and graduates of New College Chapel Choir, will be singing Evensong at St Mary's Church Holwell on Sunday 5 May at 6pm. The New College Organ Scholar and Sopranos from Merton and University College Chapel Choirs will also be lending their skills and voices on this occasion and all are welcome to come to enjoy this contemplative occasion. The photograph shows the choir of Worcester College who sang at a service at Howell in March.

Nikki Rigg

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES OXFORDSHIRE

24 - 27 May 2024



The seventeenth annual English Music Festival (EMF) returns to Dorchester Abbey, Oxfordshire from Friday 24 May until Bank Holiday Monday 27 May 2024. The festival will celebrate anniversaries of two of Britain's greatest composers, Gustav Holst (1874-1934) and Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) across the event. The opening concert, given by the BBC Concert Orchestra and conductor Martin Yates, features Stanford's Clarinet Concerto with soloist Michael Collins, and Holst's Cotswold Symphony.



Ralph Vaughan Williams's Richard II Concert Fantasy, incidental music for a Stratford production in 1912-13, is given a world premiere, alongside works by Doreen Carwithen and Frederick Delius. Orchestral, chamber and choral concerts continue throughout the weekend.

Further information including the full programme is available on the EMF's website: <https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2024-may-festival/programme.php>

Tickets are on sale from the website and by means of a postal booking form. Full Festival and Day Passes are also available. Tickets for individual concerts will be available on the door, subject to availability.

Archery Promotions Music Consultancy

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

With Thanks

I often see a lone gentleman, on damp and dismal mornings, litter picking in the area around the A40 Burford roundabout. Through your letters page I would like to convey to him a BIG THANK YOU on behalf of myself and many others who care about our environment.

Jan Branson

Offensive Effigies

Having being intrigued by several attractive shops fronts on the Burford roundabout for years, this time I parked. After being wowed by a flooring shop and an antique shop on one side of the road, I crossed over to take a look at the fabric store and another antique store. First I entered Burford Antiques. Two monkey butlers assaulted my eyes. These racist caricatures have no place in modern society. None. I literally shook with anger which is a new emotion for me. I immediately drove away. I can never pass through Burford again without feeling deeply saddened that these black-bodied servants, their heads replaced by those of monkeys, are being sold as objects of fun and pleasure. I remain appalled. Please will you participate in their removal? Thank you.

Mrs Joni Rushton, Cirencester

Offensive Politicians

Following on from John White's interesting article last month [about disposal of sewage] which, I have to say, did have a whiff of uncertainty about it, readers might be interested to learn that the Isles of Scilly adopted something similar some time ago. In 2022 many of their waste bins carried this image.

Mike Tancock



BURFORD OIL SYNDICATE



(Covering Burford, Fullbrook, Taynton and Bradwell Village Only)

The last order date for the 2023/24 year will be Thursday 2 May 2024 by 5.00pm with delivery is expected between 6 and 18 May, but this will depend on market conditions. No late orders will be accepted. Information on the next oil year will be published in the June edition.

For more information or to join the syndicate and order online visit www.burfordoil.co.uk, or membership application forms, and order forms are available from Reavley's Chemist.

Any questions contact Peter Higgs - 822462.



Thursday 30 May at 7.30pm
 Burford Baptist Church, Witney Street
 'The King's Jockey' - Lesley Gray

This talk and the novel were inspired by the life of royal jockey Herbert 'Bertie' Jones, his rise to fame, his tragic collision with Emily Wilding Davison over 100 years ago, and the dramatic events that followed.

"The King's Jockey" is Lesley Gray's first novel. Brought up in rural Oxfordshire, Lesley has worked in science publishing, IT and management consultancy. Lesley now lives in Kent with her husband. Here she combines her job in academic and educational publishing with writing and studying Comparative Literature at the University of Kent.



Tickets are £6 per person, but free for all Benefactors of the Burford Tolsey. Bookable on www.burfordtolsey.org/events or at the door

Series tickets to the Light Night Talks (see below) at the Baptist Church are available for £20. (£18 for Friends of the Burford Tolsey) on www.burfordtolsey.org/shop

Peter Martin

30 th May	The King's Jockey 1913 Suffragette Derby: A woman sacrifices her life. But what of the man who feels responsible?	Lesley Gray
12 th Jun	The Man Who Invented The News Born in Burford, the notorious journalist's story at a time when popular newspapers were first taking off.	Nigel Hastlow
25 th Jul	They Run With Surprising Swiftness The women athletes of early modern Britain.	Peter Radford
26 th Sep	The Water Gypsy How a Thames fisher girl became a Viscountess.	Julie Ann Godson

COMPETITION CORNER



Q: Where is this bridge?

Q: Which river/stream flows beneath it?

There is no prize but the first correct answers sent to editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk will get an honourable mention in our next edition. More bridges follow.

Tom Barry and editors

BURFORD & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



At our last meeting at the Bowls Club back in March, Chris Small, last year's show judge, came along to give us hints and tips on "Shows and Showing" in order to help us with this year's Spring and Summer shows.



It was informative and helpful on many levels, detailing how to stage exhibits, how to pick the best of the best, and what the judges are looking for. Any defects are quickly found, the slightest holes, deformities, and, if there is a tie, dirty vases, incorrect proportions, etc. The most important advice was "read the schedule" provided by the BDHA with your annual pack each year – if you are not a member but wish to show please contact Val Kent at vsKent@outlook.com. Any deviation from the schedule, incorrect species, wrong number of exhibits, etc will quickly rule out an entry.

Our next show is the Summer Show to be held on Saturday 6 July at the Bowls Club so if you wish to enter, please get hold of a schedule and get planting.

So, the Spring Show held on Saturday 6 April – considered a great success with many entries, this is always a popular show as the pictures demonstrate. Jane Tunnell-Westmacott was overall winner with the most points, Jan Cohen coming second, and Mary Alcock a close third. Jane won the Harry Wyatt Bowl for most points, Janet Copley won the Jeremy Swynnerton Cup for the best home-grown flowers (always difficult at this time of year), and Jane again won the Sir Jim Holland Cup for best flower arrangement.

It's a level playing field for all of us, we all have the same weather, and this year has been exceptionally warm and wet, hence the problems with slugs and snails (speaking personally!), but as gardeners we can all hope for better next year, always optimistic.

We are now looking forward to our car outing to Court House Gardens in Stretton-on-Fosse on 25 April – fingers crossed for the weather, it can't be as wet as last year's outing, please!

Jan Cohen

WESTWELL MANOR GARDENS

NGS Open Day 1400-1800, Sunday 19 May 2024. (Adult £5, child free)

Large garden surrounding old manor house with knot garden, potager, shrub roses, herbaceous borders, topiary, earthworks, moonlight garden, rills and water garden.

Tea and cake stall in aid of St.Mary's Church.
Moray Angus



FULBROOK PLANT SALE

You are invited to the Fulbrook Plant Sale on Saturday 11 May from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Carpenters Arms in Fulbrook.

As well as lots of plants we have cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle prizes.

Proceeds go to the people of and places in Fulbrook.

For more information and offers of help please call
Jean 07950 694639

Taynton

OX18 4UH

Open Gardens

SUNDAY 23rd JUNE - 2pm to 5pm



Many of Taynton's most lovely gardens will be open for you to enjoy

A ticket for admission to all the gardens is £5, children admitted free.
Home-made teas will be available in the village hall.
All proceeds will go towards the Taynton church fabric fund.

We look forward to welcoming you to Taynton

BRIDEWELL GARDENS OPEN DAY

The Walled Garden, Wilcote, Chipping Norton OX7 3DT
12 May, 11.00 to 16.00

Inspirational gardens, vineyard, wide range of plants, fruit and veg, and dragonflies and newts in the pond. Chickens roaming free.

This charity offers therapeutic horticulture and beneficial experiences in a calm, supportive environment.

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/>

Alderton to Dumbleton Bluebell Walk – Tuesday 7 May – Moderate 2.5hr 5.5ml

A beautiful walk around the hills of Alderton and Dumbleton, essentially to see the magnificent display of bluebells in the woods around Dumbleton Hill. Lunch after in the Gardener's Arms – if open! Please bring a drink/snack.

Start: 9.30am The Gardeners Arms, Alderton, GL20 8NL. OS Map ref: SO 999 333.

W3W: [lied.profile.revealing](#)

Bruern Bluebells - Thursday 9 May Easy: 4.5 miles 2.5 hours

Starts Bruern Farm Shop & Café OX7 6QE

A gentle walk through the eastern Cotswolds from the small hamlet of Bruern. A lovely woodland walk with the added bonus of carpets of bluebells.

Badgers Mount and Prestbury Hill Reserve – Friday 17 May – Moderate 3hr 4.5ml

A steady climb to a beautiful area of limestone grassland on the scarp slope adjoining Cleeve Common with great views across the Severn Vale. The area is particularly managed to encourage butterflies and, weather permitting, there may be an opportunity to see the Duke of Burgundy amongst others. Please park considerately in the village.

Start: 10.00am War Memorial, Prestbury at junction of High St and The Bank. OS Map ref: SO 972 239. W3W: [trains.stud.fries](#)

What Links Oxfordshire, a Monarch and a Diamond? – Thursday 23 May – Moderate 4.5hr 8.5ml

The answer is this walk! Using long distance footpaths this walk takes us on a journey through the ages. From a Neolithic causewayed enclosure to an Iron Age Fort, medieval churches and a WW2 airfield this will be an interesting walk. Please bring drink/snack and lunch. Start: 10.00am Bourton-on-the-Water War Memorial (village green). OS Map ref: SP 167 207. W3W: [pickle.forgotten.weaved](#)

Sibford Scene Friday 24 May Moderate: 6 miles 3.5 hours
Starts: 10.00am Grange Farm, Grange Lane/Park Lane junction, Swalcliffe OX15 5EX

Chipping Campden Town Walk – Every Tuesday and Thursday starting from Tuesday 28 May to the end of September – Easy 1.5hr

Start: 2.00pm on Tuesdays and 10:00am on Thursdays. Meet at the Market Hall in the centre of town. OS Map ref: SP 151 392.

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

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

Sheila Wasley and Rosemary Wilson



DID YOU THINK THIS WAS A PIGEON?

We did but it is a Stock Dove photographed by Mike Russell in Taynton.



BARTHOLOMEW FAMILY VISIT BURFORD CHURCH



The church of St John the Baptist is full of memorials and there are many bodies underneath the floor tiles but it isn't often that their descendants pay a visit. However in March I was privileged to give a guided tour to descendants of the Bartholomew family whose 17th century memorials and ledger stones dominate the Bartholomew Aisle. Louise Perrin (nee Bartholomew) has traced her lineage back to William Bartholomew the elder. His son, William Bartholomew the younger, was born in 1602, emigrated to the New World on the ship *Griffin* with his wife Anna in 1634, and died in 1680. His gravestone can be seen in Charlestown, a neighbourhood of Boston. We know from the records that father and son were mercers (dealers in cloth) and that William the younger prospered in America where he became a deputy and town clerk.

In the photograph are Louise (far left) with members of her family.
Stephen Price

FARM & FOOD LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2024

FarmED, Saturday 11 May, 9.30am - 6.00pm

The Farm & Food Literature Festival, co-curated with Chelsea Green Publishing, is a celebration of words, stories and experiences from the wonderful world of agroecology, regenerative farming and sustainable food. Expect inspirational talks and debates from a dazzling line-up including our keynote speaker, Helen Rebanks, author of the Sunday Times best-selling *The Farmer's Wife: My Life in Days*, plus best-selling authors Derek Gow, Rosamund Young, Mike Bartlett, one of the country's most acclaimed screenwriters and playwrights, and more.

The line-up of speakers for 2024 includes:

Helen Rebanks

Helen Rebanks is the author of the Sunday Times best-selling *The Farmer's Wife: My Life in Days*. She and her family work as a tight-knit team that has made their farm globally important with their farming innovations.

Jane Cooper

The Lost Flock is the story of the remarkable and rare little horned sheep, known as Orkney Boreray, and the wool-obsessed woman who moved to one of Scotland's wildest islands to save them

Robin Harford

Robin Harford is the bestselling author of *Edible and Medicinal Wild Plants of Britain and Ireland*

Alice V Robinson

As a fashion designer, Alice Robinson could not find the provenance for the leather she was using, so she took matters into her own hands and bought a bullock from her local farm

in Shropshire, and took the animal through the supply chain to create an entire collection from one animal. The result was stunning, and her collection went on to be shown at the V&A Museum.

Derek Gow

Britain's favourite maverick rewilder Derek Gow embarks on an adventure to uncover the mythology, mystery and history of wolves in Britain.

Sally Morgan

Sally Morgan writes regularly for gardening and smallholding magazines. Her previous books include *The Climate Change Garden* and *Living on One Acre or Less*.

Sophie Yeo

Sophie Yeo is a writer and journalist who has written about nature and climate change for publications including *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian* and *BBC Future*.

Rosamund Young

Rosamund Young runs Kite's Nest Farm with her partner Gareth and formerly with her late brother, Richard Young. Rosamund is the author of *The Secret Life of Cows*, which was a Sunday Times bestseller and a Times Book of the Year

Mike Bartlett

Mike Bartlett's new play, coming soon to Chipping Norton Theatre, follows the imagined story of an Oxfordshire barn. Mike is one of the country's most acclaimed screenwriters and playwrights, with TV credits including *Life* and *Doctor Foster*.

Delicious and nutritious refreshments and lunch from the FarmED Cafe are included in the price of your ticket.

Book Now: <https://www.farm-ed.co.uk/event-details/2024-farm-and-food-literature-festival> *Fiona Mountain*

We have received many wonderful photos of rainbows but we think this one by Jim Baker, taken from his garden in Burford, is the best.



WATER CLOSE - ASTHALL LEIGH

Since our last update work has been continuing at Water Close, the wildlife site in Asthall Leigh.

Two more volunteer days have been held. Forty metres of mixed native hedging have been planted, including hawthorn, field maple, dogwood, wild plum, hazel, purging buckthorn and dog rose.

Two heritage fruit trees have been acquired, a Black Mulberry (the old King James variety) and a 16th century variety of Morello Cherry. These trees, together with two small holly trees, were planted in April.

A bat talk was held at Asthall Leigh Memorial Hall and was a sell-out with people coming to listen to a fascinating talk by the Oxfordshire Bat Group with an opportunity to see some live bats being cared for by members of the group. Three bat boxes have now been erected on a couple of trees at the top of the site.

The project has been the subject of one of Wild Oxfordshire's community nature recovery case studies and a presentation of the work carried out to date was made at a meeting on 21 March at West Oxfordshire District Council Offices.

There will be a grand opening of the biodiversity site at 7pm on Thursday 23 May to which everyone in the parish is invited. By that time new steps will be in place, along with a seating area at the top of the site, with a new and comfortable bench so that people can sit and enjoy the beautiful views to the valley. The weather will be wonderful but just in case of a light shower (or blazing sunshine) there will be a gazebo for shelter. The opening will be an opportunity for local groups involved in Water Close to talk with residents about the work they do.

The official opening will be held in conjunction with the Asthall Parish Council annual meeting which will give the parish council the opportunity to let local residents know what they have been doing over the past year and also an opportunity for parishioners to have a say on anything they consider important to the people of the parish.

If you are planning to come, please park in the Asthall Leigh Memorial Hall car park and walk down to Water Close.

Lynne Hughson

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Rissingtons Local History Society have a programme of six talks on a variety of subjects, and three visits a year. Membership costs £15pp. We meet at the Village Hall, Upper Rissington GL54 2QW. We hold afternoon talks in the winter and evening talks in spring and autumn, usually on the third Friday of the month. Visitors welcome £3.50 to include refreshments.

Contact information.rlhs@gmail.com

Rissingtons Local History Society
Friday 17 May @ 7.30pm. "Stonehenge, Roofed or Unroofed" a talk by Sarah Ewbank. Venue Village Hall Upper Rissington £3.50 includes refreshments.

Contact - information.RLHS@gmail.com

Susan Brown

BEAGLES BURFORD TREE INITIATIVE



Another fantastic season of tree planting, the fourth year of the Burford Tree Initiative, has now drawn to a close. A huge thanks to the many, many volunteers who've been out to help plant and mulch the trees – it's been a damp but very jolly few weeks and together we've achieved such a lot. This year we've re-stocked an area of woodland affected by ash dieback and planted a new stretch of hedging in the admissions fields at the Blue Cross; we've planted a shelter belt at Tadpole Farm, thickened up the planting along the A361 at Capps Lodge and planted a new stretch of trees at Gibson's Fruit Farm in Westwell. Not forgetting the new fruit trees in the Oxford Road Community Orchard. All in all a total of 3,000 trees and hedging plants, and a mixture of 25 different native species which in time will provide habitat, food and a multitude of other benefits for our local wildlife and us. Funding was generously provided by International Tree Foundation, the I-Dig-Trees Scheme and West Oxfordshire District Council.



We have a growing and very friendly group that meets on a Wednesday morning to look after the trees – if you'd like to join us over the spring and summer months do get in touch. No obligation to come every week, nothing to bring, biscuits and coffee a plenty – just come along!

Finally do have a look to your right when you're driving on the A361 just past Hickmans – you'll see the trees starting to emerge from their guards. A real sign of hope this spring. Lucy.staveley@gmail.com 0792 9861712

PENNY & SINCLAIR - TEN YEARS IN BURFORD

We at Penny & Sinclair are celebrating the tenth anniversary of opening our business at 97 High Street this year. Our company was founded in 2009 and is deeply rooted in Oxfordshire. We have three other offices, two in Oxford (Summertown and St Clements) and one in Henley. From here in Burford we cover a large swathe of ground into Gloucestershire but Burford is our base and most important market.



Erling Lindoe took over the office in 2018. He heads a team of four in Burford supported by Robin Spindlow, Helen Lee and Jane Breaks. Our team members have many years of loyal service together with an extensive knowledge of the industry and the local area.

The market for selling houses has seen its ups and downs over the last decade, with a heavy demand between mid-2020 and mid-2022 as the Covid pandemic accentuated the trend towards relocating from towns and cities to rural areas and for working from home. Since the end of summer 2022, the market has been more challenging, however if homes are marketed well and priced correctly, we can sell them!



The rental market, which is a huge part of our business, continues to be busy and there is always a demand for good rental property in our area.



Though websites such as Rightmove and Zoopla are often the starting point for home buyers, we find it is essential to have a presence on the High Street. Many customers walk into the office after seeing properties in our window and this is how some of our most successful relationships have started. It

gives us that base from which to manage the rental properties for our clients and allows our local clients to pop in and discuss things face to face. But most importantly, it puts us at the heart of the community of which we are part.

That community is vital to us. Erling is a community governor at Burford Primary School and this year we were pleased to be able to contribute toward the new playground on the Rec which is such a great amenity for the town. We are also lucky enough to be one of the main sponsors of the Burford Festival again in 2024.



To mark our first decade, we will be holding a special prize draw for residents of Burford and the surrounding areas later in the summer- look out for more details in a future edition of The Bridge.

Thank you to all of our customers who have supported us over the past ten years. We are looking forward to continuing to provide an excellent service to our customers for the next decade and beyond.

SAVING LIVES AT SEA

Since the first lifeboat launch in 1824, RNLI lifesavers have answered the call to rescue, day or night. On calm seas or into ferocious storms. To date nearly 147,000 lives have been saved at sea. The story of this remarkable charity is one of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. And through recent media coverage many people may be aware that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. As a result RNLI fundraisers across the UK and Ireland are directing special effort at raising awareness of the charity's work and to fundraising.

The North Cotswolds RNLI fundraising branch is no exception with an itinerary of activities planned throughout the year, the highlight of which will be welcoming the RNLI 200 Scroll to our area in May. The 200 Scroll is on a journey right around the British Isles connecting RNLI communities as it goes and we will be welcoming it at the Victoria Hall in Bourton-on-the-Water between 10am and 12pm on 2 May 2024. As an energetic and enthusiastic RNLI fundraising branch covering Cirencester, Lechlade, Burford, Chipping Norton, Chipping Camden, Broadway, Winchcombe and all points in between, we openly invite readers of The Bridge to find out more about what we do, and who knows - maybe you'll discover a way to become involved or be a supporter.

So, if you feel you'd like to know more then simply visit our website or get in touch directly with the RNLI - all the details are below. And if you're a member of a club, group or charity and the work of the RNLI might sound like a topic of interest for you, I would be delighted to discuss offering you a presentation at one of your meetings.

North Cotswolds RNLI website: <https://rnli.org/find-my-nearest/community-fundraising-groups/north-cotswold-fundraising-branch>

RNLI website: <https://rnli.org/>

RNLI HQ telephone: 0300 300 9913

RNLI HQ email: VolunteerExperience@rnli.org.uk

Anthony Gerrard - Community Presenter: 07496 626402

FRIENDS OF BURFORD LIBRARY

As we enjoy the magnificence of late spring, we can look forward to an eventful summer.

Our first major event in the library this month will be on Tuesday 14 May at 7pm, when Nicola Cornick will speak about her latest book focusing on the infamous Nell Gwyn. Tickets are free and you can reserve yours at the library, or by calling 01993 823377. Refreshments will be provided.

This is then followed in June, during the outstanding Burford Festival, with the Pimms, Poetry and Prose event. If you write poetry and want to share it with other poets and an audience, then this event is for you. We have limited spaces for performers, who will be able to come to the event for free, and we are keen to uncover local talent. So if you want to sign up, please contact anneyoungson@btinternet.com. The event is at 2.30 on 12 June, at the Baptist Church on Witney Street.

Tickets cost £15, the price including - apart from the novel entertainment - a glass of Pimms, strawberries and shortbread. Tickets are available from: [Ticketsource.co.uk/burford-festival](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/burford-festival).

We look forward to seeing you in the library and at our special events.

Maureen Percival

LOOK OUT FOR THE FORGET-ME-NOT BUNTING!



Dementia Action Week 13 May

On Friday 17 May at 10.30 am



Dementia Oxfordshire and Age UK will be at the library offering advice and information.

All are welcome!

Burford Library 86 High Street Burford Tel 01993 823377

Carol-Amy Holdcroft

BURFORD AND KINGHAM ROTARY

President John Forster and secretary Michael Lynes were delighted to attend the opening of the Burford playground and to have the Rotary Rondel on the board with all the other sponsors of this great facility for the children. As we have members from the surrounding areas and in Chipping Norton, if you have projects or need manpower for an event, please contact us. We will look at the request and help where we can.

We had a very interesting talk by Bert Clough on behalf of the Samaritans. It was very thought-provoking around the much-needed service they provide. We have some excellent speakers coming up for May and June:

20 May - John Beresford on the life of his grandfather Jack Beresford, a five-times Olympic medal winner.

24 June - Bill Williams, a local sports historian, will tell us the interesting history of a baseball bat found in Chipping Norton museum and the connection to baseball with Chippy

We had a spring walk and Italian evening in April; photos next month.

Several of us will be attending a Murder Mystery Evening run by Inner Wheel at the golf club in aid of Witney Volunteer Link. Lots of things to enjoy.

Do come along for a taster meeting. We would love to see you. Do think about joining us. We are really keen to increase our membership. All you have to do is email our secretary, John Smith jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk or please give me a ring on the number below. 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 /077002135731



THE RISE AND FALL OF BURFORD'S CORPORATION

Richard Gretton, who lived at Calendars in Sheep Street, Burford, published his Burford Records, A Study in Minor Town Government in 1920. In it he related how the ancient Corporation of the town was born, grew and died between 1100 and 1861; and he cast his story in dramatic terms. It is possible to take a more prosaic view.

Gretton explained how certain rights were granted to the 'Inhabitants' of Burford by the lord of the manor in the High Middle Ages. In practice this meant that a small group of 13 or so 'Burgesses' (all men) ran a new Corporation, which was symbiotic with their Guild. During the late Middle Ages, this Corporation acquired further rights, by various means, some of them legitimate and others not. At the same time, new charities were founded, with trustees known as Feoffees; but these were drawn from the same pool of men as ran the Corporation and the Guild. The town prospered, thanks to the trade in wool and woollens; and in 1525 it was able to finance the re-building of the Tolsey in the High Street, where the tolls on markets and fairs were collected.

In 1600 the town stood at its zenith. But there was then a series of crises. In the early 1620s the lord of the manor revoked the town's charters and, soon after that, the Feoffees lost control of the charities as a result of a royal investigation. Gretton described these events as 'a catastrophe'; but there was worse to come. A further Royal Commission in the early 18th century found that the Burgesses had usurped numerous rights, and that the charities had been grossly mismanaged. In his view the Corporation which emerged from this scandal was a mere 'shadow of its former self' and the year 1743 marked 'the end of its history'.

Paradoxically, Gretton went on to explain that there was even worse to come.

Investigations by the Charity Commission in 1822 and 1826 discovered a 'slough of mismanagement' in the charities and, as a result, responsibility for them was transferred to a wholly new and 'properly organised' body of trustees. As for the Bailiffs and Burgesses, they were now 'a wizened little survival', the depth of their insignificance being displayed by the manner of their abolition in 1861, which was effected by one sentence in a Schedule to an Act of Parliament.

This is a depressing story, though it is well told. The works of Raymond and Joan Moody and the Victoria County History's Burford, Buildings & People in a Cotswold Town lead me draw a different conclusion.

The starting point is that the Corporation and the Feoffees were clearly able to stage a series of recoveries. In the mid-16th century they were able to buy back much of the land confiscated by the Chantry Act of 1548. During the chaos created by the Civil War of 1642-6 they were able to re-establish the position they had lost in the 1620s. Between 1600 and 1700, the number of charities increased from nine to 28, and to 35 by 1780. Finally, a court case decided in 1791 about repairs required to Burford Bridge held that Burford still had all the hallmarks of a 'body corporate', including a common seal, a mace, officers who styled themselves the Bailiffs and Burgesses of Burford, and Feoffees who held land on trust for the community.

I would argue that, although the old Corporation was undoubtedly abolished in 1861, this was not so much the result of mismanagement, let alone corruption, as the inevitable result of changing times, and the existence of other authorities ready to take up the reins of power (for example, the Justices of the Peace).

The days of a self-selecting male oligarchy, which had little or no royal or parliamentary backing and no democratic support, were surely numbered. By 1861 the Victorians had reformed the Army and the Civil Service and created a world-wide Empire. Their attention was certain to be drawn, sooner or later, to local government.

Stephen Cooper, Chairman of the Burford and District Society and Manager of the Moody Collection in the Burford Tolsey Museum and Archive.

WODC REPORT

The HGV saga rumbles on. At a recent meeting of the Windrush Valley Steering Group, we received the good news that OCC's 2024/25 budget includes funding for data collection. The next step is to agree our data requirements.

The study area is large; bounded (broadly) by the A429 in the west, the A44 in the north and the Thames in the south. We need two sets of data to understand HGV movements across this area. ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) surveys will allow vehicles to be tracked across the boundaries of the study area and through key locations such as Burford and other river crossings, and GPS data from larger HGV fleets will provide a sample of the origins, destinations and routing of longer distance through trips. Hopefully the surveys will be agreed at our May meeting.

At our last council meeting we were told about a forthcoming Polling District Review. Over the next few months, the arrangements for polling stations across West Oxfordshire will be reviewed and local councils and residents will be consulted. This is a routine process, but we will need to respond with a view on whether current arrangements should be retained or changed. Watch this space!

At a recent Overview & Scrutiny Meeting, we received a presentation from Mobile UK, a consortium of the four mobile network providers (MNOs). (These are Three, EE, Virgin and Vodafone. Other operators provide services in their own names over one of these networks.)

We were told that, for 4G, 99% of West Oxfordshire is covered by at least one MNO, but only 62% is covered by all four MNOs. The 99% figure sounds good and is higher than the government target of 95% for the whole of the UK, but this is of no comfort if *your* MNO does not reach *you*, wherever you are. I had hoped we would be told that, by working together, they might agree on some form of roaming in the rural areas, but I was told that this would be too difficult to achieve. (I.e. they can't agree how to make it work – strange, when it seems to well enough when one is abroad!).

So will it get better? Mobile UK may erect more masts to cover blank spots, but it's up to the MNOs to put their kit on the masts. However, 2G/3G transmitters are being shut down over the next few years and this will release more bandwidth for 4G/5G services which will increase capacity and improve signal strength and reach.

Most of the presentation was on the roll-out of 5G, which only covers 50-60% of West Oxfordshire now. 5G becomes increasingly important as we rely on mobile broadband to connect our devices and, potentially, our vehicles in the future. It will need a greater density of masts to provide reliable coverage on the move. It was an interesting glimpse of the future.

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



NEW TO BURFORD AND AREA?

Welcome. The Burford & District Society will be happy to deliver your free copy of the 'Living in Burford & District' pack with details of many of the local facilities, clubs and Art Show Success for Budding Artists

ART SHOW SUCCESS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS

Congratulations to the students of The Seasons Art Class who hosted a successful Spring exhibition at Burford Town Bowls Club!

There was so many beautiful artworks on display including luscious landscapes on canvas, textural oil pastels and accomplished drawings and watercolour paintings. Some budding artists even allowed us to peek into their sketchbooks. Students also provided a fantastic buffet for visitors as well as a glass of fizz on arrival.

The exhibition showcased work that was created over the 14 weeks course with The Seasons Art Class Burford; a friendly and supportive art course for grown ups. In the art course, students developed their artistic skills, learned about styles of composition and specific artistic mediums as well as met new friends in the local area.

Beginner and Improver level artists are welcome to the course and students develop creative skills including working in pencil, oil pastels, watercolours and acrylic paint. The 14- week courses take place throughout the year with morning and afternoon sessions available on Wednesdays at Burford Bowls Club. Tuition, demonstrations and support are given throughout the course and everyone can expect a sociable and supportive environment to work in.

Find out more or to book your place on the next course please contact 01865 426625 or email theseasonsartclassburford@gmail.com

Challoner Spokes

PHOTOS FROM SHILTON EASTER SATURDAY CELEBRATIONS



A BURFORD BIDDY ON THE BURFORD BOUNTIES

My one regret about moving to Burford in 2022 was that I didn't do it 20 years earlier. I hadn't anticipated how soon I would feel such a sense of belonging, have so much fun and make so many new friends. I realised that stamina would be needed, not just for the social life, but because there is so much to do, and learn, and many opportunities to help keep Burford in the top ten of happy places to live in the world. It is a place thrumming with activity, good works, friendliness and a sense of its own remarkable history. Newcomers like us can hit the ground running thanks to The Bridge keeping everyone up to date, revealing all the activities which we were encouraged to join in by everyone we encountered.



We moved in just in time for the 2022 Festival and spent our first Burford evening at the opening reception. No drafty converted scout hut for Burford – we are blessed with the luxury of the Warwick Hall which for the festival party offered amazing food, good wine and even better company. I was thrilled to find old friends (Sylvia McClintock amongst them) and make new ones. Afterwards on the lovely but steep walk home I commented to an elegant lady, striding past us on the pavement, that I loved her coat – she turned and said “come in for a drink“ (we were passing her cottage). We didn't get home until the early hours which gave us some insight as to our future life in Burford.

Since then we have never looked back. It is hard to believe that a town with less than 1400 people can boast a festival, world class music in the Lenthall concerts, pop up jazz every month, many busy welcoming churches and more dynamic shops, restaurants and cafes than one person can get to know well in a lifetime. My granddaughter keeps trying to count the number of places to buy cakes in the High Street – after two years we still haven't tried them all.

Some Burford hidden treasures took me longer to locate – like the traditional weekly 9.30 Sunday services at St Johns, in Burford and at St James in Fulbrook. Both offer wonderfully, quietly prayerful services, blest with thoughtful sermons often from Rev Cedric Reavely. I joined the Matins choir last autumn on the promise of singing just one 9.30 service a month. I hadn't anticipated that it would lead to more parties, a new set of friends and getting 'carolled out' last Christmas for the first time in my life by singing in nine different carol services and concerts ... but that's another story.

I run my own problem-solving company, and for many years I have illustrated all our work with cartoons from the wonderful Clive Goddard. The one above is one of his latest – I think Burford would get top rating from all feedback

Karen Gadd

Burford is a town not a village! ed

ALICE'S BOOK GROUP

Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healey

Maud is forgetful. She makes a cup of tea and doesn't remember to drink it. She goes to the shops and forgets why she went. Sometimes her home is unrecognisable - or her daughter Helen seems a total stranger. But there's one thing Maud is sure of: her friend Elizabeth is missing. The note in her pocket tells her so. And no matter who tells her to stop going on about it, to leave it alone, to shut up, Maud will get to the bottom of it.

Because somewhere in Maud's damaged mind lies the answer to an unsolved seventy-year-old mystery. One everyone has forgotten about. Everyone, except Maud.

A bit sad, a bit funny, a bit too close to home! The overall feeling of the group was that this book, chosen by the library book club app, was not a happy read. Most of the group did not get past the beginning which was a bit of a shame as it all worked out in the end as most books do. I personally felt it was well written and worth reading completely but I was definitely in the minority.

Jan Cohen

Niccolo Rising by Dorothy Dunnett

It is something of a trial for me to review *Niccolo Rising* as I have long been a fan of Dorothy Dunnett, especially her historical sagas, so I joined Alice's Book Group meeting prepared to be astonished that anybody could not like the book. But I was not astonished because everyone liked it, though only half had finished. The rest intended to do so, some will read the next in the series.

The first of eight books charts the rise from an uncertain birth to prominence of Niccolo, who, born in the mid 15th century, embodies the Renaissance then spreading throughout Europe. Initially set in Bruges, then a thriving hub of international trade, the tale travels through the continent. Some slight reservations were that it is a long book, with too many characters to assimilate, which it is and there are a lot of Italian and French names with complicated titles; the first three or four chapters which appear to have no relevance to the title do need a little perseverance.

Dunnett wrote very “dense” books, filled with historical names, dates and fact, impeccably researched; one accompanies the hero in night-time Bruges and is assailed by the smells and sounds, “the snuffling ubiquitous pigs and the squeal of cats”. Who remembers to mention pigs in a medieval town? Dunnett's knowledge of period and place enables her to inhabit every scene, whether a nobleman's house, a bloody war or a Bruges dye-house. It is her little asides that lead one to exclaim “Ah, yes, it would be like that!”

Niccolo is an enigma. At the start he tends to the irritating. The men are described well, a physical sketch is enough to identify them, whereas the women are well rounded individuals, and Dunnett's portrayal of young girls' emotions is excellent. Each new actor is introduced with a brief back history and pointers to future episodes are secreted in the narrative. As the story continues, the characters develop more depth. One of the charms of the book is that it is peopled with devious minds, one waits to see whether they are good or bad; Dunnett excels at creating both pleasant and dreadful people. “It makes you think perhaps our politicians are not so bad.”

The story becomes more gripping but sadly, being one of a series, the ending is something of a frustrating cliffhanger.

Next, the Library's choice is a change of mood: *The People on Platform 5* by Clare Pooley.

Veral Marshall





Burford Festival

Let's Play the Music and Dance!



This year the Burford Festival has an exciting array of musical entertainment to suit all tastes and ages. From regular performers in Burford, the **Jake McMurchie Jazz Quartet**, playing at Warwick Hall on 14 June at 7.30pm to a lunchtime **organ recital in Burford Church** by esteemed musician, Charles Matthews, on 15 June at 12.30pm, there is so much to choose from, a selection of which are detailed below. Just go to www.burfordfestival.org to find out more.

Barn Dance with Bowreed, UK's leading ceilidh band



With expert callers and UK's leading ceilidh band, **Bowreed**, this enjoyable evening of dance promises to be fun for all. Suitable for first time dancers and experts alike, it is being held at Warwick Hall on Friday 7 June from 7pm. Tickets £10 from ticketsource.co.uk/burford-festival.

Fleetville Swing Band - complimentary event on Sunday pm only for those who attend the Open Gardens

Why not add to your tour of Burford Open Gardens with an afternoon of glorious swing, jazz and dance music provided by the 25 musicians who make up St Albans touring community band? 2pm - 4pm on Sunday, 9 June at Whiteoaks, 163, The Hill, Burford.

Brize Norton Military Wives Choir

Formed in 2013 and part of the wider military wives choral community, which boasts over 2000 members across 72 UK and international choirs, the **Brize Norton Military Wives Choir** will delight and entertain whilst supporting each other in their shared experience of military life. They will be performing at Burford Church on Sunday 9 June at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from ticketsource.co.uk/burford-festival.



A Burford Serenade

Come and discover the fascinating history of Burford Church, told through the **Young Voices** youth choir, with narrator Brian Kay. Brought together for the Festival by Musical Director, Ben Goodall, they will feature alongside Orchestra Pro Anima, directed by Michael Bochmann, to create a spectacular evening of music and song. Tuesday 11 June at 7.15pm in Burford Church. Tickets £10 adults, £5 under 18s available from ticketsource.co.uk/burford-festival.



Burford Festival Finale - A Celebration of English Music

Led by the **Burford Singers'** new Musical Director, Will Dawes, the choir will perform a selection of popular choral pieces including work by Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Bob Chilcott and Finzi. A splendid finale to our festival, this event will be held in Burford Church at 7pm on Sunday 16 June. Tickets from www.burfordingers.org.uk.



Anyone for Cricket?

A cricket match with a difference, *Burford School versus Burford Town*, to be played on Sunday 16 June from 12 noon at Burford School.

We are looking for cricket players from Burford Town and surrounding villages to come forward for selection for this beautiful game, and we are hoping to draw a large crowd as this event has **Free Admission!**

There will be refreshments available and families are welcome to bring along a picnic hamper and rug to enjoy the match. Please contact Paul Newman 07831 450526 paul@thenewmanfamily.co.uk for further details.

Apply now for the Burford Festival 'Open Pairs' Golf Tournament

Don't forget to apply for the 'Open Pairs' Golf Tournament at Burford Golf Club on 10th June at 8am! Open to all, please contact **01993 822583** for entry and further information.

Please note the Question of Faith event has been rescheduled to Friday 7 June at 10.30am at Warwick Hall.

Also, the Poetry & Pimm's event on 12 June at the Baptist Church tickets are £15 each, not £5 as shown in the programme.



ALL FESTIVAL TICKETS ON SALE FROM 1st MAY

HELP WITH THE BURFORD FESTIVAL 6 - 16 JUNE 2024

As always, the success of the 2024 festival will depend on our loyal and hard-working team of volunteers who help deliver events and make sure everyone has a wonderful time. If you're new to Burford, volunteering for the festival is a great way to get involved in the community.

If you are able to help before, during, or after this year's Festival, please put an X in as many boxes as possible below, enter your contact details and email the completed form to ann.morris21@gmail.com or post to:

Ann Morris Long Wivets, 170 The Hill, Burford, OX18 4QY.

This will provide us with an indication of the roles that interest you and an overview of who could be available for what.

Pre/Post Festival	
Assist with putting up/removal of bunting	
Assist with putting up/removal of signs/posters etc.	

During Festival events	
Venue set up (chairs/furniture/stage)	
Ticket collection and on the door sales	
Stewarding (welcoming/seating guests, roving mic etc.)	

Open Gardens	
Car park attendant	
Ticket collection and sales	
Garden Steward (support to owners, tea and cake sales)	
Cake baking	

Name(s)	
Email address	
Tel. No.	
I am unavailable on:	

HUGH ELLIS-REES

1929-2024



We were sorry to learn of the death on 9 April of one of Burford's most notable residents, Hugh Ellis-Rees. Hugh had a distinguished career in the Civil Service and later played a big part in local life including the Burford Festival, the Burford & District Society and the Catholic Church. He was a fund of fascinating stories. We particularly remember his account of how, as a schoolboy during the Second World War, he travelled to visit his father, a diplomat, who was attached to the British embassy in Madrid. The journey involved a long overnight flight which followed a wide arc out into the Atlantic to stay out of the range of German fighters based in occupied France. In Madrid there were still trenches used in fighting during the Spanish Civil War and, as Spain was a neutral country, German officers in Nazi uniforms could be seen in the streets.

We once asked Hugh if we could interview him for this magazine but he said that, if he agreed to it, he would be imprisoned for breaching the Official Secrets Act. He did, however, give a fascinating talk to the Burford & District Society.

We took this photograph of Hugh outside his home on his 90th birthday. He joked that it would be difficult to find a moment when there wasn't a tourist taking a selfie on the steps.

We send our condolences to Elisabeth, Thomas and other members of Hugh's family. We hope to have an appreciation of his life in a future edition.

Editors

THE ROYAL MAUNDY

The distribution of alms and the washing of feet on the Thursday of Holy Week is an ancient ceremony recorded from the 13th century and probably predating that. The number of recipients is as many men and women as the age of the sovereign, 75 men and 75 women this year. The recipients are pensioners selected because of the Christian service they have rendered to the church and to their local communities. The gift that they receive is symbolic - two leather purses, a red one containing a crown coin and a 50p piece (a nominal allowance for clothing and provisions) and a white one containing small, specially minted coins amounting in total (this year) to 75p.

I was invited by my brother, who had been nominated as a recipient by the Bishop of Derby, to join him as his Maundy Companion at the distribution of the Royal Maundy in Worcester Cathedral. We were welcomed by a phalanx of friendly and very efficient stewards. On being conducted to our seats, on the edge of the of the south aisle, we discovered the cathedral absolutely packed almost two hours before the service was due to start. There was a buzz of excitement as we waited to play a role in honouring 150 Christian pensioners for their selfless contributions of time and talent

Mendelssohn and Elgar were played on the the organ while two elaborate processions - the Cathedral Procession followed by the Ecumenical Procession - paraded to their places. Then a trumpet fanfare sounded to welcome the arrival of the Queen. She processed in with her supporters while the words and music of "Praise to the Holiest in the Height" rang out. Following her was the Royal Almonry Procession, whose very colourful members included the Groom of Vestry, Yeomen of the Guard, the Keeper of the Closet and bringing up the rear the Lord High Almoner (by chance, also the Bishop of Worcester).

The service was similar to Matins. The first lesson was a recording by the King from the Gospel of St John, beautifully read, and was followed by his message of regret at being unable to be present, and his commendation and thanks to the recipients for their acts of kindness. The distribution of Maundy gifts followed, Yeomen of the Guard in their red embroidered uniforms, breeches and rosetted patent shoes carrying huge gold platters filled with the Alms which were handed to the Queen. She pressed the gifts into the hands of each recipient, exchanging a few words of gratitude, and ensuring that each had felt him or herself very personally addressed.

The service closed with rousing singing of the first two verses of the National Anthem and as we left the cathedral its bells rang out over Worcester to bring to a close a memorable and very happy morning of ceremonial pageantry, colourful costumes, rows of medals and magnificent music.

Deborah Knight



OCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

Further Delay To Repair To Burford Bridge

We have been informed by OCC that there is delay to the repair owing to bats being located under the bridge. These need to be removed prior to any work commencing. We may now well see the second anniversary of the damage to the bridge. This delay is unacceptable and a formal complaint has been made to the leader of the council and the cabinet member responsible.

HGV County Wide Study

This study continues and is now focused on the positioning of cameras and collecting data. The main focus is on the Windrush Valley (including the Burford area) and Henley.

Late Night Opening At Recycling Centres To End

A reminder that Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) will no longer stay open late nights on Thursdays. The seven centres, operated by OCC, had previously opened until 8pm every Thursday between April and September.

Crackdown On Anti-Driver Road Schemes And Blanket 20MPH Limits

On 17 March the Department for Transport published draft statutory guidance for councils on low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs), setting out that councils must obtain buy-in from local residents, businesses and emergency services when considering implementing new LTN schemes. Local authorities are expected to follow the guidance and ensure local people support their plans. Recent examples where councils have implemented these schemes without public support have been shown to cause disruption and have unintended negative consequences. If local authorities fail to deliver sensible road schemes that work for local people they could see future funding withdrawn. Under powers from the Traffic Management Act the government could ultimately take control of an authority's roads where they are deemed to be widely mismanaged. Separately, councils have received strengthened guidance on setting 20mph speed limits, reminding them to reserve them for sensible and appropriate areas only – such as outside schools – and with safety and local support at the heart of the decision. Subsequently, the Oxford Mail reported that Andrew Gant, OCC cabinet member for transport management, has claimed "detailed and lengthy" consultation went on before LTNs were implemented in Oxford and that they "form part of [OCC's] vision of a safer, cleaner, greener city and county for everyone".

Workplace Parking Tax

The Liberal Democrat administration is planning to introduce a tax of £600 per parking space on all organisations with more than ten parking spaces in the city of Oxford. In addition to businesses, schools and other public organisations are likely to be hard hit. This matter is back in the news as BMW has controversially been exempted from the tax as it is just outside the Oxford ring road.

Oxfordshire Awarded £3.6M To Triple Public Electric Vehicle Charging

Oxfordshire will receive £3.6 million to triple its number of public electric vehicle (EV) chargers after the county's Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) bid was approved. Money from the Department for Transport will seed fund a major rollout of infrastructure worth over £10m that will see more than 1,300 public chargers delivered in the county by the end of 2025. The rest of the funding will largely come in the form of investment from the EV chargepoint operators themselves.

The programme aims to create a reliable, easy-to-use, contactless EV charging network spanning the county. This will give more people the opportunity to switch to an EV – regardless of where they live or their parking situation.

Nicholas Field-Johnson, OCC Cllr Burford & Carterton North



nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk and nfjuk3@gmail.com

BURFORD PRE-SCHOOL

A good time was had by all at our end of term Easter celebrations as our children do love a good party. We would like to thank Asda for their kind donation of 26 Easter eggs for all our children to take home and enjoy. We also enjoyed our annual sponsored spring walk, raising over £200.00. A big thank you to all our sponsors. Once again we would like to thank Burford Signet and Upton Welfare Trust for their kind donation towards some new toys for the children to play with. We look forward to welcoming our children back after their well earned break. We staff have been busy tidying and updating the pre-school storage space after a leak in the roof and would like to thank Hickman Brothers for their kind donation of a skip.

Karen Peedell

WINDRUSH RURAL CINEMA

Saturday 25 May

The Miracle Club

Windrush Village Hall - 7.30 pm - Tickets £5
Starring Kathy Bates, Laura Linney and Maggie Smith
Director: Thaddeus O'Sullivan

Three close friends who have never left the outskirts of Dublin (much less Ireland) get the journey of a lifetime — a visit to Lourdes, the picturesque French town and place of miracles.

Dan Boyle

TAILPIECE

Taking the P***

The Burford Chamber of Trade have many complaints about dog owners who let their dogs pee on the front of every single shop in Burford High Street.

Not only is it only visitors who let their dogs foul but also some local dog owners too. Locals should be setting an example to visitors. Please may this be taken notice of as soon as possible.

Since lockdown it seems to be compulsory to have a cup of coffee in one hand and a dog in the other. Please guide your dog along the gutter line, not along the shop line.

Many thanks from a very peed off Chamber of Trade.

Michael Taubenheim



DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

25-27 April	Wychwood Players - Arsenic and Old Lace	New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-Under-Wychwood	7.30pm
27 April	Windrush Rural Cinema - One Day. A film with Michael Caine	Windrush Village Hall - - Tickets £5	7.30pm
25-27 April	Plant Sale Bridewell Gardens	Wilcote	10am-1pm
Sun 5 May	Choral Evensong Holwell	Holwell Parish Church	6pm
Mon 6 May	Scout Car Boot Sale	West Field, Burford	
Wed 8 May	TASC - Kandinsky and Abstraction	Warwick Hall	10.50am
Sat 11 May	Fulbrook Plant Sale	Carpenters Arms	10-12
Sat 11 May	Farm and Food Literature Festival	FarmEd	9.30-6pm
Sun 12 May	Bridewell Gardens Open Day	Wilcote	11-4pm
Tues 14 May	Talk on Nell Gwyn by Author	Burford Library	7pm
Tues 14 May	FABW1 Decluttering - The Spacemaker	Baptist Church Witney St	7.30pm
18-19 May	Southrop Open Gardens - 10 gardens	Southrop Tickets £6	1.30-4.30pm
Sun 19 May	Westwell Manor Gardens	Westwell	2-6pm
Thu 23 May	Asthal Parish Meeting - see article	Water Close, Asthall Leigh	7pm
Fri 24 May	La Serenissima String Ensemble	Northleach Church	6.00pm
Sat 25 May	Windrush Cinema - The Miracle Club starring Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates +	Windrush Village Hall - - Tickets £5	7.30pm
Mon 27 May	Scout Car Boot Sale	West Field, Burford	
Thu 30 May	Tolsey Talk - The King's Jockey Suffragette theme	Baptist Church www.burfordtolsey.org/shop	7.30pm
Sun 9 June	Shilton Open Gardens	Shilton	2-6pm
Wed 12 June	Tolsey Talk - The Man who invented the news	Baptist Church www.burfordtolsey.org/shop	7.30pm
Wed 12 June	Pimms, Poetry and Prose Event	Baptist Church Witney St	3-6pm
13-15 June	Asthal Manor Garden Open + Events	www.asthallmanor.com/whats-on-list/	11-5pm
6-16 June	Burford Festival - Mayor's Reception 6th	Warwick Hall	6.30pm
Sun 16 June	Burford Singers Celebration of English Music	Burford Parish Church	7.30pm
20-22 June	Wychwood Players - The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish & Peas	New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-Under-Wychwood	TBA
21-23 June	Made in Britain Design Show	Waterperry Gardens	10-5pm
Sun 23 June	Taynton Open Gardens	Taynton	2pm-5pm
Sat 29 June	Charity sale of quality bric a brac etc	Tolsey, Burford	10-4pm
Sat 6 July	BDHA Summer Show	Bowls Club	TBA
Sat 6 July	Burford Orchestra - Pirates Outlaws Cowboys Musical Event	Burford School	7.30pm
Thu 25 July	Tolsey Talk - Talk on Women Athletes	Baptist Church www.burfordtolsey.org/shop	7.30pm
Sat 27 July	Windrush Valley Flower Show	Great Barrington Village Hall	1pm +

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

REGULAR LOCAL EVENTS, CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Aerobics	Monday and two on Thursday	Warwick Hall Monday 6.15pm, Thursday 11.45 and 6.15pm	Gill Hames 822971 gillianhames46@gmail.com
Astally Arms	Last Friday of the month	Memorial Hall Asthall Leigh	From 7.00 pm
Badminton Group	Monday nights	Burford School 8-10pm. Friendly, all abilities	Kevin 704655 scareyradar@yahoo.co.uk
BEAGles aka Burford Environment Action Group	Third Monday of the month	The Prince of Burford	7.30pm
Burford Badminton Club	Tuesday nights 8-10pm	Burford School - fun, social, all abilities	Vijay 891043 vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Burford Crafters	3rd Wednesday of the month	Burford Library 2.30-3.30	Judith Butcher 01993 824194
Burford & District Society	Meet 7 times a year	Warwick Hall at 7.00pm	Bert Clough, Secretary 07943 720668
Burford Town Bowls Club	Friendly Roll-up all Mondays	Bowls Club from 6.30 pm	Pat Walker 01993 822330 patr47@btinternet.com
Burford Trees care/planting	4th Sunday of the month	Community Allotment - Tanners Lane	lucy.staveley@gmail.com
Burford Writing Club	2nd and 4th Tuesday each month	Varies. 7.30-9pm	ashley.v.count@gmail.com
Coffee and Company	Every Wednesday	St John the Baptist Church 10.30 - 12 midday	Diana Peters 01993 822785
Cub Scouts	Mondays (term time)	Scout Hut 6 - 7.30 pm	Mandy Bielby 07941 470465
Fencing	Tuesdays	Bradwell Village 7-9pm	Keith Money 01982 448295
Fulbrook & Burford WI (FaBWI)	Second Tuesday of every month	Burford Baptist Church Hall	Jennie Craven 07710 103015 thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
Fulbrook Coffee am	Every 3rd Thursday	Fulbrook Meeting Place 10.30 - 12	Lyn Bibbings 823640
Fulbrook Fitness Group	Thursday (wef Sept 2021)	Fulbrook Meeting Place 9am	Pat Ferrett 822892
Horticultural Association	Fourth Thursday	Bowls Club - times vary	Janet Copley 01451 844210
North Cotswold Arts Assoc.	Every 2nd Wednesday	Warwick Hall	2-4pm
Pickleball - fun, social sport	Mon 11-1pm, Thu 10-12pm, Fri 8-10pm	Charlbury Community Centre	Vijay 01993 891 043 or vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Pilates Class	Wednesdays 10.00am	Burford Baptist Church	Elizabeth Jarvis cotswoldpilates123@gmail.com
Rhyme Time	Friday 9.15-10.00 am Term Times	Burford Library (for under 5's)	Carol-Amy Holdcroft 823377
Rock-a-Tots	Tuesday during Term Time	Warwick Hall	9.45 - 11.15 www.burfordchurch.org/rockatots
Rotary Burford & Kingham	Monday	The Burford Golf Club	John Smith 07717 883182
Signpost - Coffee and Help	Every Wednesday in term time.	The Warwick Hall, Burford 10.00 - 12 midday	Opportunity to raise worries confidentially
Scouts	Thursday (term time)	Scout Hut 6 - 8pm	Alex Gill 07762161769 burfordscouts@gmail.com
Scrabble	1st Tuesday of each month	Burford Library (free soft drinks)	7pm
Soup & Pudding Club (currently suspended)	Every 2nd Tuesday	Baptist Church, Witney Street	Gill Crippen 07967 362885 or 07793 012215
The Arts Society Cotswolds	2nd Wed (not July/Aug)	Warwick Hall 11.00	publicity@theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk
The Wychwood Lodge of Freemasons	3rd Thursday Sept-April	The Masonic Hall 31 Sheep Street	Mike 868302 / Allan 822240 wychwood988@outlook.com
Time Out	Monday 11.00am - 3pm lunch and afternoon tea	Warwick Hall inc games, bingo, singing, talks	John Harrington 822451 or Sue Sheppard 824729

USEFUL CONTACTS + INFORMATION

Please check hours of opening which are subject to change

Burford Recreation Pavilion (Children's Events)	01993 823647
Burford Pre School	01993 824031
Burford School	01993 823303
Burford Primary School	01993 822159
Burford Surgery www.burfordurgery.co.uk	01993 822176
Burford Tolsey Museum Open seven days a week April to October www.burfordtolsey.org	
Burford Town Council Tolsey office open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.00 am and 11.30 am	01993 823647
Email town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk www.burford-tc.gov.uk	
Carterton Health Centre NHS www.nhs.uk	01993 841718 111
Centre for Carers in Oxfordshire www.oxoncarers.org.uk	01295 264545
Chemist Reavley's	01993 823144
Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital Burford Branch	01608 642547
Churches Anglican St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church of SS John Fisher and Thomas Baptist Church Friends Meeting House	01993 823788 01993 823219 More 07967 362885 01993 875214
Citizens Advice Bureau Email admin@cawo.org.uk	0808 2787908
Community Transport Volunteer Link-Up Oxfordshire Comet	01993 776277 01865 323201
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
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	

Please let us know if any details need amending.
editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

BURFORD BENEFICE

St John the Baptist, Burford

05 May Benefice Holy Communion (CW) Morning Service (CW) Evening Meeting	9.30am 11.00am 7.15pm
12 May Choral Matins (BCP) Holy Communion Evening Meeting	9.30am 11.00am 7.15pm
19 May Holy Communion (CW) Morning Service (CW) Evening Meeting	9.30am 11.00am 7.15pm
26 May Morning Prayer (CW) Morning Service Evening Meeting	9.30am 11.00am 7.15pm

Every Wednesday at 10.30am we have a Holy Communion Service followed by Coffee & Company.

St James the Great, Fulbrook

12 May Morning Prayer (CW)	9.30am
19 May Matins (BCP)	9.30am
26 May Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am

St John the Evangelist, Taynton

19 May Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm
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St Nicholas, Asthall

12 May Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm
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St Mary, Swinbrook

05 May Holy Communion (CW)	11.00am
12 May Morning Prayer	11.00am
19 May Morning Prayer	11.00am
26 May Morning Prayer	11.00am

St Oswald, Widford

09 May Ascension Day Holy Communion (CW)	10.30am
26 May Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm

9.30am & 11.00am services in Burford are also live streamed. Swinbrook Service are available to catch up on Monday. These can all be found on our website or YouTube Channel.

ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE

Services in May-

Sunday Mass: 9.30 am
Weekday Masses:
Tuesday - 10.00 am
Thursday - 10.00 am

Ascension Day Mass: 10.00 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

Welcome to Burford Baptist. It's now a lovely warm space with a new heating system in place. We want the community to come and use our facilities and we are happy to negotiate rates for hire depending on the event.

We have a growing number of regular users including FAB WI meeting on the second Tuesday evening of the month and pilates meeting every Wednesday at 10am.

Both would welcome new people to join them at BBC.
Do get in touch.
Gill Crippen

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
Wednesdays 10am - 12 noon term time only
Tarnia Usher

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

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

Company Name	Business Type	Phone
Antiques @ The George	Award winning, friendly antiques centre	01993 823319
CJD Architects	Chartered Architects	01993 823646
Hickman Brothers Landscapes Ltd	Garden Design and Construction, Landscape and Garden Supplies www.hickmanlandscapes.co.uk	01993 822226
Jenny Smith	Spanish & French tutor. Building confidence GCSE/KS2. Experience in schools; DBS check held.	07908 602547
Kendall & Davies Solicitors	Expert, friendly, client-focused legal services with offices in Burford. www.kendallanddaves.co.uk	01993 822025
Taylor and Fletcher	Estate Agents / Chartered Surveyors / Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers / Commercial Agents / Rural Specialists	01993 220579
Mallams Auctioneers Ltd	Auctioneers and Valuers	01242 235712
Pauline Carter BA AmusLCM CTABRSM MISM	Piano Teacher	01993 774568
Peter Garratt	Painter and Decorator	01451 810376 07788 896496
StayCotswold	Holiday/Short Lets, Relocation, Corporate Stays, Property Search, Sales & Lettings. www.staycotswold.com	01993 259444
Thomas Ellis-Rees	Clock & Barometer repairs. tellisrees@gmail.com	01993 822132
Vick's Byway Garage	Bushey Ground, Minster Lovell, Witney, OX29 0SW. MOTs by arrangement	01993 823142
VJ Hancock & Co Ltd	Certified Accountants / Chartered Tax Advisers www.vjhaccountancy.co.uk	01993 822817
Lionheart Later Life Planning and Probate	Wills – Lasting Powers of Attorney – Trusts and their registration – Fixed fee Probate – Equity Release and Free Financial Advice. www.lionheartlaterlifeplanning.co.uk	07769 730616.
EIWell	Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition Helping people stay independent as they get older	01865 238185
Burford Foot Clinic	Chiropody Castles Yard, Pytts Lane, OX18 4SJ	01993 200980
Adam Carter Chauffeur Services	Local Private Hire Chauffeur www.adamcarterchauffeurservices.co.uk	07920 135157
Tony Williams	Welding/Brazing/Soldering & Metalwork Home/Garden & General repairs & alterations	07722334696
Fairways Cotswold Explorer	for all your Airport & Cruise transfers	01993823152 07751472125
The Stone Gallery	Makers of Gold and Silver Jewellery, agent for Georg Jensen. Paperweights & Pictures. www.stonegallery.co.uk	01993 823302
NFU Mutual	Insurance Pensions Investments - Call your local Witney agency	01993 776716
Patti Good	Therapist, Teacher & Healer Free Online Guided Meditation Classes www.pattigood.com	07880 998568
Radnor Martin	Estate agents covering Burford and the surrounding villages	01993 765115
Mel's hair at home	I can visit you or I have a small salon at my home on the green in Leafield.	07817726218
TC Garden Services	Gardening, Landscaping, Patios, Decking, Fencing & Gates, Raised Beds. Contact Tony for a free quotation. www.tcgs.uk	07771 888304
Samantha James	Regarded organic - Private Hairstylist - Experienced. Email - samloujam@googlemail.com	07772 601495
J Coles Plumbing & Heating	For all your plumbing emergencies/needs and bathroom refurbishments.	07947693427
Oxford Construction	Building, Groundworks and Project Management Services Email; enquiries@oxfordconstruction.co.uk	01865 922001
Grimebusters	Dirty carpets? Upholstery? Call Grimebusters - your local professional cleaners. Competitive rates. Free estimates.	01993 868924

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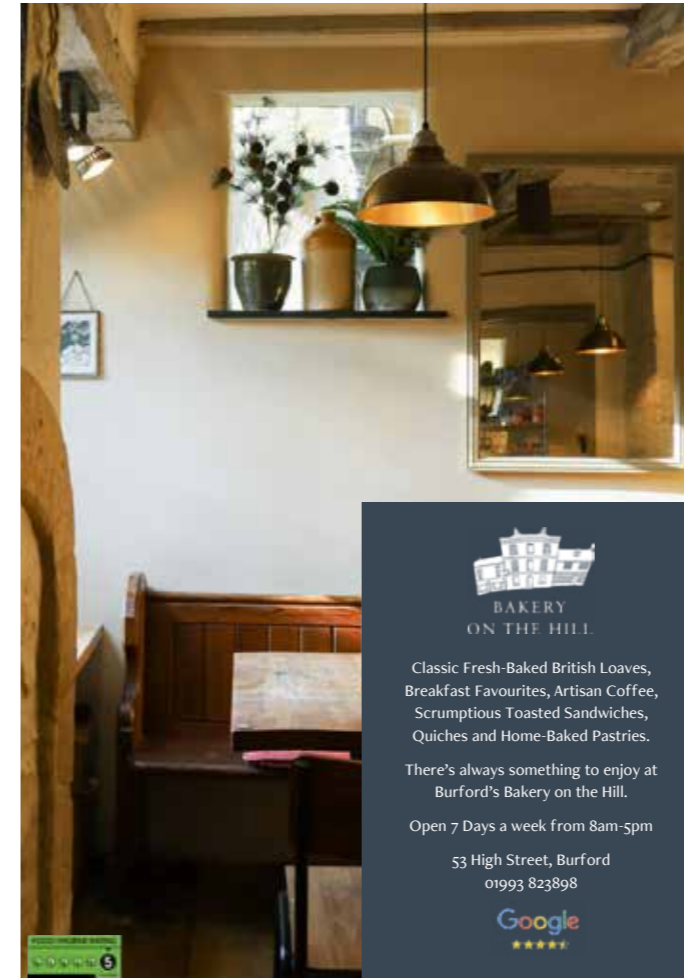
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