

# THE BRIDGE

**November 2025**



**Photo by Pete Gould**

This monthly magazine covers people and events in a large 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 with a wider national and international readership.

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WEDDING & EVENT FLOWERS



**Christmas Workshop Dates**

30th November - Christmas Wreath Workshop - Kempsford  
7th December - Wreath Masterclass & Canapés at the Greenway Hotel in Cheltenham  
16th December - The Art of the Christmas Table at Ellenborough Park in Cheltenham

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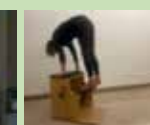
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**MATWORK**

9:30 WEDNESDAYS | FRIDAYS  
18:00 MONDAYS | THURSDAYS



## BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### From Inside the Tolsey



#### Planning

November will be the month for considering the HELAA etc as published by WODC early in the month. The HELAA is the current name for predecessor SHLAA and SHELAAAs as it covers the sites WODC consider suitable for development from the more extensive list submitted by landowners.

#### Election

Next year, 2026, is election year for Burford Town Council when all councillors willing to stand offer themselves for re-election. Several councillors will stand down so this is the opportunity for those wishing to serve their community, and keep this vibrant town running smoothly, to step forward.

#### Flooding

Will it be a dry winter or a very wet one? No-one knows but now is the time for riparian landowners to ensure that the rivers, mill stream and spillways are free from debris, vegetation, fallen trees and other obstructions. The Environment Agency (EA) has designated the Burford Mill Stream as “main river” because it is a significant part of the flood defences for Burford and the River Windrush. (EA Main Rivers and Flood Maps are on-line.) We have approximately 15 properties at risk from flooding in Burford.

#### Coaches

Work continues to find a solution to the issue of coaches overcrowding Priory Lane. The favoured solution is still for a drop off/pick up point in town and a lay over area away from the centre. Studies are underway to find a suitable location where coaches can turn and park safely. The normal traffic congestion caused by a listed 1322 single carriageway medieval bridge will always remain a headache. A traffic meeting at the end of the month between all decision makers, town, county, police, tourism and district councils will, hopefully, be a productive step forward.

#### Events

The period up to Christmas heralds many social events, switching on Christmas lights, Civic Carol Service and Reception, etc, etc, So watch the pages of The Bridge for more details of dates and times. These occasions will be great opportunities to meet councillors and others so that those interested in taking the town forwards for the next four years can discuss ideas and issues.

*Derek Cotterill - Mayor - 8 October 2025*



### BURFORD'S WARTIME STORIES

Book Launch Reception

**7.30 pm Friday 7 November**

Baptist Church, Witney Street. Burford

**Single tickets £3.00 or £5.00 per couple incl. a glass of wine available [www.burfordtolsey.org/events](http://www.burfordtolsey.org/events) or from the museum**

Join us for this major community milestone and enjoy hearing a representative selection of recollections from the book, entertainingly delivered by guest actors from the Wychwood Players.

Both hardback and paperback versions of the book will be exclusively available on the evening at specially reduced launch prices.

Use the QR code to check if your family name is one of the 400 mentioned in the books index. *Pre-launch orders for the book can also be made online at [www.burfordtolsey.org/shop](http://www.burfordtolsey.org/shop) (for despatch after 7 November).*

Benefactors of the Burford Tolsey will be admitted free of charge subject to preregistering their intention to attend by either RSVP to [supporters@burfordtolsey.org](mailto:supporters@burfordtolsey.org) or registering online at [www.burfordtolsey.org/events](http://www.burfordtolsey.org/events).

*Peter Martin*





## SCAM AWARENESS TALK

After hearing a brilliant informative talk on scam awareness (prevention, recognising potential scams and handling scams), we have invited an Age UK Scam Advisor to deliver the same session for everyone in the local area. All welcome and please don't miss this opportunity.



**When:** Thursday 13th November 10.00am - 11.00am  
**Where:** Warwick Hall, Burford

Please book your free place by scanning QR code to help us gauge numbers



## FOLLOW US ON X OR INSTAGRAM

To get the latest news follow us on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram @BridgeBurford or go to our website [www.thebridgeburford.co.uk](http://www.thebridgeburford.co.uk).



We were very fortunate to have Marea Brown of Art of Jaipur at our September meeting.

Marea is an enthusiastic proponent of the art of block printing and can usually be found running craft workshops at various locations including at Highgrove and Bowood House.



After an amusing insight into how she became hooked on the craft and a highly informative demonstration of the appropriate technique, we were let loose amongst her vast selection of blocks and vibrantly coloured inks. Very quickly, even those of us who are usually artistically challenged were absorbed and had produced an impressive array of exquisitely decorated tote bags, wash bags and Christmas stockings to name but a few.



It was a super evening and, based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback, thoroughly enjoyed by both our members and guests.

Other activities in September included a cake sale at the Tolsey that was very well supported. Members excelled themselves with the quantity and quality of the “cakes and bakes” on offer, the hamper raffle and “guess the weight of the cake” competition were also extremely popular. The event raised funds to ensure that we can continue to offer an interesting and diverse programme of speakers and workshops in the coming year.

In addition, and inspired by an earlier speaker, four members visited Coleshill Bunker and Guard Room and in October a group went to Oxford to see a production of *The Party Girls* at Oxford Playhouse.

Looking forward to our future meetings, on 11 November we have Christian McGuinness, a First Responder giving us hands-on training on ‘Resuscitation and using a Defibrillator’. Our last meeting of the year is on 9 December with a talk on the “Ten Tudor Queens” by the Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson.

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. So, we look forward to welcoming any of you interested.

The FaB WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Baptist Church in Witney Street at 7.30 p.m. For further information please visit our website [thefabwi.org.uk](http://thefabwi.org.uk) or contact our president, Jennie Craven, on [thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk) or mobile 07710 103015.

*Hilary Jolly, FAB WI Communications*

\*\*\*\*\*



**Burford and  
Kingham  
Rotary Club**



We have a few items and events coming up soon but first, news about one of the club’s recent speaker nights. President Ilias has chosen DEBRA to be one of the main charities the club will support this year. The charity finances research into edidermolysis bullosa and supports people with this terrible condition. In September Chris Clarke, a local representative from the charity, came to one of our meetings to let us know how this small charity helps people who have to deal with this severe skin disease every day. It is particularly difficult to see images of children dealing with the most severe effects of the disease. We are pleased that we will be able to help with a donation later in the year. The charity relies on public donations and fund-raising events to finance their objectives. If you would like to know more about DEBRA, the link to their website is below.

On 4 November we will be holding our annual Bridge Drive at Broadwell village hall. This is always a sell-out and one of the main events for local bridge enthusiasts. If you would like to help us, let our secretary know (see below).

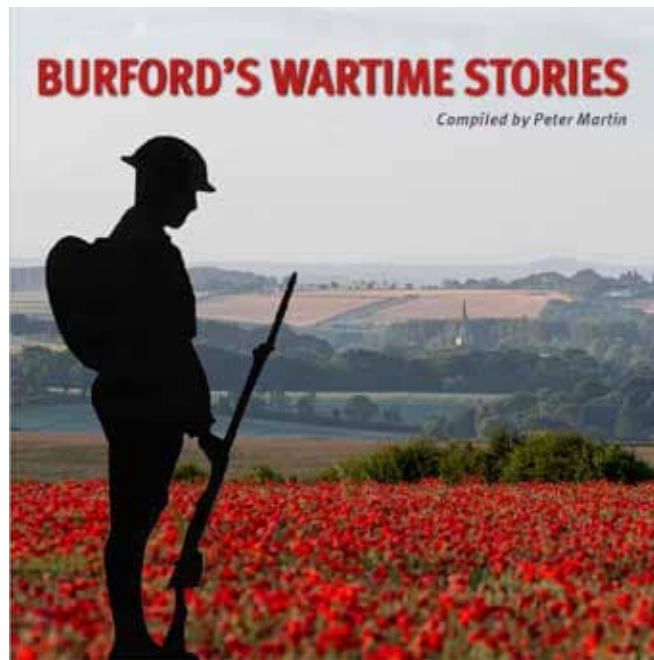
On 24 November we have an excellent speaker who often visits the club with a different, very well researched subject each time. This time Dr Muriel Pilkington will talk about the interesting life of author John Buchan.

If you went to the FFF&B Ploughing Match and Show at the end of September, you will have seen a few of us marshalling the tractor-trailer rides. This proved to be extremely popular and we were very busy all day helping ensure everyone was safe and enjoyed the rides.

As usual, I’ll finish with a message – if you would like to get involved with Rotary, just to help at events, to come to one of our meetings or even join the club, please contact John our secretary (email below).

[burfordandkinghamsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:burfordandkinghamsecretary@gmail.com)  
[www.debra.org.uk](http://www.debra.org.uk) [www.burfordkinghamrotary.club](http://www.burfordkinghamrotary.club)  
[www.facebook.com/burfordkinghamrotary](http://www.facebook.com/burfordkinghamrotary)

*Stuart Jackson*



## Burford's Wartime Stories

*We left this place in a great hurry on October 30th and travelled all night and went in the trenches at nine o'clock the next morning and were under fire almost all of the time till Tuesday. On Sunday November 1st our captain (Captain Molloy) was killed. Since then we have been in the trenches on three other occasions and there have been five killed and about 15 wounded. When we went into the trenches on November 15th it rained hard and we all got wet through, and the trenches were ankle deep in mud.*

This matter-of-fact account came from Percy Batchelor, a former pupil of Burford Grammar School, and was published in the winter 1914 edition of the school magazine. He was serving in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, the first Yeomanry unit to go overseas, landing in France on 22 September 1914 within weeks of the outbreak of the First World War. Percy survived the war, returned to Oxfordshire and died in 1985 aged 90.

His account appears in a new book from the Tolsey Press, *Burford's Wartime Stories*, a successor to last year's *Treasures of the Burford Tolsey Museum*. That book recounted local history by reference to objects in the museum's collection whereas the new volume, compiled by Peter Martin, to a large part does so in the words of local people. After beginning with brief references to the Crimean and Second Boer Wars, it covers the two World Wars in the last century in much more detail.

At this time of year our thoughts turn to those like Percy who fought for their country and came home and to those who did not and whose names are recorded on the memorials in our various communities. However, unlike the case in earlier conflicts, the two World Wars had a huge impact on those at home, especially the second one. The book contains a wealth of memories taken from the diaries, letters and other documents showing how everyone pulled together in many ways. There is a cast list of those mentioned running from Adams (Sybil) to Vick (Baden). One of the first effects of the war in 1939 was an influx of evacuees from London and other built-up areas, greatly increasing the local population. Joanna Turner says that her father, Bill Piercy, bought the Great House as a "country cottage" in 1933. The family moved there when the war broke out and spent the next six years there together with other members of their extended families

and some government evacuees placed there by Lady Southby, the billeting officer. Her father recalled sitting down to supper with 17 women.

Food and clothing were rationed and food distribution was organised by a committee led by Mr A E Pether, who was also chairman of the parish council. Many people kept chickens, rabbits and even pigs in their gardens. There was much improvisation in respect of clothing and makeup, with "make do and mend" being the order of the day.

Women were heavily involved in the war effort, notably through the Women's Land Army whose members replaced farm workers serving in the military and helped maintain vital food supplies. But women took on many other roles. There is a fascinating account by Diana Barraclough of how she was recruited into what became Bletchley Park where she worked in Hut 6 where staff were tasked with cracking German army and air force Enigma cyphers.

There are descriptions of the Home Guard: the Burford platoon at one stage had 120 members. Fire watchers, fire fighters and the police played their part: Burford had 33 volunteer Special Constables and eight sergeants (Special Sergeants?). Various units were billeted here, and later in the war the Americans set up a base at Barrington Park, while a war canteen was set up in Church House, later the Warwick Hall.



There is much else in the book, too much to mention here. It is generously illustrated with images on almost every page. Peter Martin and others from the Tolsey Museum team are to be congratulated on the enormous effort they must have made to research and compile this fascinating volume.

*Gordon Elliot*

## THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

**Lecture on Wednesday 12 November**

**Rescuing Zeugma from the Floodwaters of the Euphrates**



In Spring 2000 an archaeological drama began to unfold on the banks of the Euphrates river in Turkey, close to the border with Syria. A small team of French and Turkish archaeologists found a Roman city on the banks of the river, with mosaics and wall-paintings finer than those of Pompeii. However, just beside them was the almost completed Birecik Dam, and the Turks had begun to flood the great reservoir behind it, taking the city under water.

Louise Schofield is an archaeologist who was Curator of Greek Bronze Age and Geometric Antiquities at the British Museum from 1987-2000. Her book, *The Mycenaeans*, was co-published by the Getty Museum and the British Museum in 2007. She now writes, lectures and runs international archaeological projects - previously in south-eastern Turkey, Greece and Albania and currently in Ethiopia. And rather wonderfully she has just been appointed Visiting Professor of Archaeology at the American University of Rome.

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 the website 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 or please contact Lisa Etheridge on 07918 180895 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 for the future, please see the website [www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk)

*Or contact Alison Morgans on 07771 817050*

## CHARITY SALE THE TOLSEY, BURFORD

Saturday 15 November 10am - 3pm  
Quality Bric-a-Brac, Clothes,  
Collectibles etc.

In aid of:  
Shilton Old School Village Hall  
(reg.charity 272023)  
*Jean Roberts*

## THE HOLYROOD FAIR AND THE HOUSE OF YORK

There is a document in the Tolsey Museum which records the grant in 1497 by Henry VII of the right to hold an annual fair in Burford in September, for three days before and after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (also known as Holyrood Day). In addition, the town was given the right to hold a 'Court of Pie Powder', a name which derives from the French *pieds poudrés*, meaning powdered feet, doubtless because some of those who visited the fair were travellers, with dust on their shoes.

This was only one of several fairs held in Burford, while the town had long enjoyed the right to hold a weekly market; but what was it that motivated Henry VII to grant the right to another fair in 1497? He has long been credited as the first king of England to have an economic policy, at least with regard to the larger towns; but the principal reason in this case was probably dynastic and political. Specifically, despite his victory at the Battle of Bosworth in 1484, Henry needed to curry favour with those who were still loyal to the House of York, rather than his own House of Lancaster, and he was in a good position to do so now because he had become lord of the manor of Burford in 1493.



*The Hiring Fair in Burford, c.1900*

*[from Raymond & Joan Moody, 'The Book of Burford', 1983]*

The background is that during the Wars of the Roses Burford was apparently a centre of Yorkist loyalism. For example, the Great Almshouse was built in 1457 on land donated by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, lord of the manor between 1449 and 1471. He is known as 'the Kingmaker' because he supported the Yorkist claim to the throne, before he defected to Lancaster and was killed at the battle of Barnet in 1471. In addition, Lord Lovell of Minster Lovell became a prominent Yorkist courtier under Richard III (1483-5). Hence the popular rhyme, which referred to Richard's reign as a time when 'the Cat, the Rat and Lovell the Dog ruled all England under the Hog', the Cat being Sir William Catesby, the Rat being Sir Richard Ratcliffe, while the Dog appeared on Lord Francis Lovell's crest, and the Hog on the King's badge.

There is some support in Mary Sturge Gretton's novel *Crumplin* for the view that Henry VII's grant of a fair to Burford was not just philanthropic. This revolves around a Yorkist plot to overthrow Henry VII in 1491. Much of the action takes place in Burford, Upton, Swinbrook, Asthall and Minster Lovell and the story is of course fictional; but, in the author's note, she tells of an official record which shows that one William Brampton of Burford was indeed convicted of treason that year, and that the land which was then forfeit to the Crown included 'an inn called The George in the town of Burford on the Wolde'.

*Stephen Cooper - Chairman, Burford & District Society*

# BURFORD BONFIRE NIGHT



Photographs taken by Pete Gould

Wednesday 5 November from 6.00pm onwards at Westfield off Tanners Lane

## FREE ENTRY

There will be a collection towards the Fire Fighters Charity and next year’s Bonfire Night  
Please give generously **NB Cash Only Event**



BIG BONFIRE  
FIREWORKS  
HOT DOGS  
SOUP  
MULLED WINE  
BEER  
SOFT DRINKS

A bar is provided by The Prince of Burford  
Pub and Hotel

THINGS THAT GLOW IN THE DARK  
LIVE MUSIC - Stocious



Children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Limited parking so please walk if you live within walking distance.

Please **DO NOT** bring your own fireworks.

**BE SAFE** and please make sure that your animals and pets are feeling safe at home.

This is our final year of organising the bonfire.

**After 15 wonderful years, we are gracefully retiring from all Bonfire business.**

It has been an incredible experience organising this event, but the time has come to pass the torch and let someone else carry it forward. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has helped over the years — you did it with aplomb, enthusiasm, and true community spirit.

We did have fun!

**Gabi and Sue**

# 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.cotswolds-nl.org.uk>

Thursday 6 November

## Chadlington Spelsbury and Beyond

Moderate: 8.5 miles 4.5 hours

Starts: 10:00am Chadlington Memorial Hall OX7 3NA

The route passes through villages, fields and woodland. This part of the Cotswolds never fails to give great views. Please bring £1 as a contribution to village hall car parking.

Tuesday 10 November

## Tysoe and the Vale of the Red Horse

Moderate: 10 miles 5.5 hours

Start: 10:00am Tysoe Methodist Church [closed] Main Street Tysoe CV35 0SE

A moderate walk with two lengthy climbs affording great views around the Vale of the Red Horse.

Monday 17 November

## More Blenheim for Free

Moderate: 10.5 miles 6 Hours

Start: 10:00am Stonesfield Village Hall/Library Car Park OX29 8EF

A walk using public Rights of Way in this stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site

Saturday 22 November

Nice for November

Moderate: 5.5 miles: 3 hours

Start: 10:00am Salford (just outside Chipping Norton) look out for the hi-viz!

A route ideal for late autumnal walking

Thursday 27 November

## Frescos, a Palace and Water Meadows

Moderate: 10.5 miles 5 hours

Start: 9:30am The Green, Combe OX29 8NT

A walk to take you beyond Woodstock to the attractive village of Wootton.

*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. 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*



# THE COUNTRY KIWI - WINDRUSH HEIGHTS

There’s something special happening in Windrush. After months of planning, hard work, and plenty of paint, Louise and Aaron are proud to welcome you to The Country Kiwi. A café built on friendship, fresh flavours, and a passion for community.



For Louise, raised on a Wiltshire dairy farm, and Aaron, who grew up in Invercargill, New Zealand, The Country Kiwi is more than a café – it’s a dream realised. After years of working abroad, they wanted a way to live and work together in the UK while creating something meaningful. What better way than by opening a space that brings people together?

The pair have spent the last few months renovating the café, turning it into a warm and inviting place for everyone to enjoy. Their vision is simple: to create a hub where neighbour’s meet, friends catch up, and visitors feel at home.

From the moment you step inside, you’ll be greeted with the smell of locally roasted coffee, freshly baked cakes and pastries, and a menu of hearty brunch favourites. Whether you’re popping in for a quick flat white, a slice of something sweet, or a long, lazy brunch, there’s always a seat waiting for you. Whether you’re looking for a cosy spot to unwind, a community hub to connect with others, or simply a great coffee and a warm smile, you’ll find it here.

Monday- 7:00 -17:00 Food- 9:00 -15:00

Tuesday- Closed

Wednesday-7:00 -17:00 Food- 9:00 -15:00

Thursday- 7:00 -17:00 Food- 9:00 -15:00

Friday- 7:00 -17:00 Food- 9:00 -15:00

Saturday-7:00 -17:00 Food- 9:00 -15:00

Sunday- 8:00 - 15:00 Food- 9:00 - 14:30

*The Country Kiwi – 1 Windrush Heights, Windrush, Burford, OX18 4BF. Tel- 07399101334 or [info@thecountrykiwi.co.uk](mailto:info@thecountrykiwi.co.uk)*

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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## BURFORD CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVENTS



As the leaves fall, the days grow shorter, and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that Christmas is just around the corner. To help us prepare for the festive season, Burford Church has lined up a wonderful series of events—open to everyone in our community.

### Christmas Market – Saturday 29 November

(Yes, November—not December! Our apologies for the typo in last month's Bridge.)

This year's Christmas Market will be held in the Warwick Hall, perfectly timed to coincide with the town's Christmas lights switch-on. Entry is free, so come along, browse the stalls, and soak up the festive atmosphere.

### Festive Floral Workshops – Friday 5 December

- *Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop* (£40) at 10am
  - *Christmas Table Centrepiece Workshop* (£25) at 7pm
- These hands-on sessions are always very popular, so be sure to book early to secure your spot.

### An Evening of Food & Flavour – Thursday 11 December

Join Hubert Kosmala, Head Chef at *Thyme and Lovage*, for a special evening of seasonal cookery. Enjoy a delicious two-course festive supper, complete with an exclusive cookery demonstration, all for just £25.

### Carols by Candlelight – Sunday 21 December

Always one of our most popular events; at last year's services we welcomed over 600 people. This year, we're offering two identical services at **4:30pm and 7:30pm**. Afterward, enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. Admission is free, but tickets are required due to limited space. Look out for details of all our other Christmas services in next month's Bridge.

### Community Christmas Day Lunch – Thursday 25 December

Our much-loved Community Christmas Lunch returns!

Everyone from Burford and the surrounding villages is warmly invited to share a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. There's no charge, but booking is essential.

For more information and to book tickets for any of these events, visit [www.burfordchurch.org/Christmas-2025](http://www.burfordchurch.org/Christmas-2025) or stop by Warwick Hall and speak to our reception team.

*Adrian Jackson - Operations Manager*

**Don't forget to look at our website**  
[www.thebridgeburford.co.uk](http://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**

## BURFORD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON AND CIVIC SERVICE



### Christmas Lights Switch On – 29 November, 3-4pm

Burford Town Council announces that this year's Christmas lights switch-on ceremony will take place on 29 November. The festivities will begin at 3pm, igniting the holiday spirit with a spectacular display of lights and seasonal entertainment.



**3 pm** Father Christmas handing out presents to children...

**3:30 pm** Christmas lights being switched on throughout the High Street and Hill;

Followed by mulled wine/ mince pies being handed out to the Christmas crowd;

Best shop window competition awards;

Carols are being sung under the guidance of Ruth Reavley; Burford fire engine in attendance for entertaining the children and parents;

Announcement to follow of who will take the honour of switching on the lights!

All events being organised by Burford Town Council in conjunction with Burford Chamber of Trade who have both helped to sponsor this annual event.

*Michael Taubenheim and Christina Edgar Hiatt*

### Burford Civic Service - Together at Christmas 30 November, 3.30pm

Burford Town Mayor, Cllr Cotterill, invites residents to the annual Burford Civic Service, at St John the Baptist Church, Burford. There will be a community reception with festive treats held afterwards at the Warwick Hall at 4.30pm. This is an opportunity to come together at this festive time to celebrate community and togetherness.

*Christina Edgar Hiatt - Town Clerk - Burford Town Council*

## DO YOU LIKE SINGING CAROLS?

In harmony? On Saturday 29 November just before the lights switch-on, you are invited to join with other singers to lead carol singing under the Tolsey in the late afternoon. This is part of the Town Council's plans for that day. It's been great fun in previous years, and hugely popular with passers-by! I will provide word sheets and carol books for choir members, so I do need to know you are planning to come! Please get in touch:

*Ruth Reavley@gmail.com, or 01993 823957*

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## REPORT FROM OCC COUNCILLOR

### Apply For Your Oxford Congestion Zone Permit

The cabinet at Oxfordshire County Council have approved plans for the new Oxford Congestion Zone. Some 7000 people responded to the consultation, with 74% of those stating that the congestion zone will have a negative impact on their lives. A separate petition presented to cabinet members calling for the congestion zone to be scrapped was signed by 13,000 people. Commencement of the zone will be 29 October; therefore, it is vital that residents apply for their permits now if they are planning on travelling within the zone.

Oxfordshire Alliance Councillors have continued to call for the unfair, anti-motorist charge to be scrapped by the Lib Dems. We believe that enforcing this charge, despite the clear views from the consultation, will mean that people shop elsewhere, leading to a negative effect on the economy in Oxford – especially this close to Christmas.

All Oxfordshire residents can apply for **free 25** permits per year. The relevant information on how to apply for a permit is available from OCC's website under Transport and Travel/ Oxford's temporary congestion charge for cars.

### Send Motion Rejected By Oxfordshire Lib-Dems

Due to increasing pressure on SEND services in Oxfordshire, a motion was submitted calling on the council leader to reinstate a dedicated cabinet member for SEND.

This motion was not controversial and was backed by Oxfordshire Alliance, Labour, Green and Reform Councillors. However, the Lib Dem led Council voted against this motion, meaning that the proposal for a cabinet member for specific SEND responsibility was rejected.

Shadow cabinet member for Children and Young People Cllr James Plumb said, "The decision to remove [the role] has weakened the council's focus at a time when greater leadership is needed, not less. We all know that there is no quick fix to the issues surrounding SEND, but reinstating a dedicated cabinet member will help restore confidence, sharpen accountability and show families that this council is serious about delivering the change that families and children with SEND desperately deserve."

*Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson*  
[nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



## BURFORD AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



*Wikipedia*

Members met to hear expert Dr Michael Jones speak about the great plant hunter David Douglas (1799-1834). From humble beginnings in the village of Scone he rose, courtesy of elementary education paid for by his father's work on the rebuilding of Scone Castle, through apprenticeship (aged 11), being a trainee gardener at Glasgow Botanic Gardens, through hard work, to a distinguished yet short career as an international plant hunter. A protégé of Professor William Hooker, he gained mentorship, access to lectures and an academic library in Glasgow, and elevation to become a plant hunter for the Horticultural Society of London, precursor to the Royal Horticultural Society of Chelsea Flower Show fame (and much more).

His three journeys to North America resulted in the arrival of over 200 plants common to our gardens today in the UK - sunflowers, lupins, mahonia, penstemons, delphiniums, phlox, flowering red currant - and to our parks - Sitka Spruce, the income-generator for the Forestry Commission, grown in uniform monoculture in so many of our more remote mountainous areas, and the eponymous Douglas Fir. Unaware of the inadvisability of introducing non-native species, the societies and individuals supporting plant-hunting also caused environmental challenge: I've done battle with non-native snowberry in my time, and there are more serious economically worrying invasive species out there in forestry.

Scientific endeavour through plant collection was hazardous back then. He walked hundreds and hundreds of miles through uncharted territory, dodging unfriendly native Americans to reach known sites of potential interest. Cargoes of specimens were lost to sabotage, neglect and indeed shipwreck. The portable greenhouse (the Wardian Cabinet) was invented after Douglas's death.

Tiring of the exigencies of his job with the Horticultural Society of London, Douglas resigned his position during his third exploratory journey. A free man, he planned to walk from Oregon north, cross the Bering Strait, and to call upon the Tsar of Russia! Something made him abort that plan, but sadly, he fell victim to the trapping pit method of hunting, crashing through a layer of vegetation into a pit already containing a bullock, where he was gored to death, aged 35, in Hawaii.

Douglas is much feted in the USA, and less so here, though there is a handsome monument at Scone.

*Ruth Reavley*

## BURFORD SINGERS 2025-2026

The repertoire that the Burford Singers will embrace over the coming season has something for everyone, whether you prefer the clean lines of Mozart, the energy and glorious storylines of Handel, or the joys of Anglican Choral Music. In November, we focus on the classical era with music by Mozart and Marianna Martines. You've heard of one, but you might not have heard of Martines. She had an amazing start in life, living in a building which had an Esterhazy princess on the ground floor, and a young and struggling composer named Josef Haydn on the top floor. She took piano lessons from him, and eventually played piano duets with Mozart, 12 years her junior. Their music calms and sparkles in equal measure. Her Mass in D major forms the centrepiece of the programme and alongside it sits his Vespers (complete with the ubiquitous Laudate Dominum), the Adagio and Fugue for Strings, and his utterly radiant setting of Ave Verum Corpus. Moving slightly earlier and reaching for our harpsichord and spell-checker, March's concert consists of one great masterpiece: GF Handel's Judas Maccabeus. A large-scale oratorio, the work is based around the fight for faith, a struggle which sadly still continues in the land where the piece is based almost 3000 years later. Musically, it has all the excellence that you might expect in baroque music, plangent melodies, rousing brass, and a few very familiar tunes – See the Conquering Hero comes is heard here to the tune now more commonly sung to the words 'Thine be the glory, risen conquering son'. I really believe it is on par with Messiah, so if you like that, you'll love this!

Then in June, we celebrate major anniversaries of three staples of the church music scene, the 50th anniversary of the death of Benjamin Britten, the 100th anniversary of the death of Irish composer, Charles Wood, and the 150th anniversary of the death of Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Each of the composers has a very distinct musical language, and despite Britten probably being best known for his operatic endeavours, each composed copious quantities of music for the Anglican choral tradition. Of the seven works that form the concert, we'll hear two works by Britten (the Te Deum in C and Rejoice in the Lamb), two works by Wesley (The Wilderness and Ascribe unto the Lord) and three contrasting works by Wood, including O Thou the Central Orb. This is all utterly glorious music, packed full of wonderful tunes and dramatic effect, along with moments of gentle repose. All in all, a great variety of music to mark the climax of the Burford Festival.

I hope you can join us for all this wonderful music!  
*Will Dawes, Director, Burford Singers.*



## Fancy singing with us?



We are actively looking for singers who'd like to join our choir (particularly tenors and basses). We rehearse on a Thursday evening from 7.30-9.30pm (in the Warwick Hall) and put on three concerts a year (usually in Burford Parish Church) and our music selection is varied - as you can see from Will's feature on this page.



Will conducts a small voice assessment merely to decide where your voice is best suited. So it's not an audition! You also don't have to be fantastic at reading music either. We have rehearsal aids on our website that help you get to grips with each part and of course rehearsals each week. Why not just come along to a rehearsal - to see if you like it before you commit. We're a friendly bunch. Either email me, Lizzie: [chairman@burfordsingers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@burfordsingers.org.uk) or Juliet (our membership secretary): [membership@burfordsingers.org.uk](mailto:membership@burfordsingers.org.uk)  
*Lizzie Bennett - Chairman, Burford Singers*

## KATE'S COTSWOLD RALLY RAISES NEARLY £10,000 FOR LOCAL CHARITY

Kate's Cotswold Rally took place on 14 September, bringing together classic car enthusiasts and supporters to raise nearly £10,000 for Kate's Home Nursing, the Stow-on-the-Wold-based charity providing palliative care for local families.

The rally began at The Feathered Nest, with thanks to Adam and his team for their generous hospitality, then a pit stop with Peter and Sally Green at Upper Swell, and a finish at The Classic Car Hub, where Matt Weedon, the brilliant chef, fed us all with the most delicious lunch.

We are thanking everyone involved for their support and generosity. (The Just Giving Site for Kate's Cotswold Rally is open until the end of the month).

*Manfred and Gabi Schotten*

## "CARMEN – A POCKET OPERA" – CARMEN & CO, NORTHLEACH CHURCH

"We hear a report that this church was originally built by hundreds of industrious sheep", says Carmen, introducing her company to us. Great interaction with the audience was one of their many gifts. First and foremost, the performance of Bizet's (and other) music, by two guitars, led by Carmen's flute or voice, was beautiful – played and sung with passion and precision. Carmen's telling of her own story had the same qualities, with the addition of lovely touches of wit, sometimes scripted, sometimes improvised. We were in the second row, but we were not the only ones under her spell; the feeling of intimacy was heightened by the company's tours around the church and along the rows. It was quite a shock to discover from their English accents afterwards that the Spanish glamour which suffused the whole performance, was acted.

Carmen told us that while they have a touring programme ahead, including King's Place in London, they are heavily dependent on word of mouth to sell tickets. Our friend Nick John, a music journalist, suggested this is because they don't quite belong to any recognised genre, so people don't know what to expect. We will certainly do what we can to promote them – this was a terrific and original musical/theatrical event.

For further details contact [carmencotrio.com](http://carmencotrio.com)  
*Graham Hadley*



BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY



As many as eighty people attended a talk by Status Quo drummer John Coghlan and his wife Gillie organised by the Burford and District Society in September. The couple were interviewed by Nick John, editor of *Blues in Britain* magazine. Burford residents, as well as fans from as far afield as Birmingham and Essex, were regaled with John's often humorous anecdotes of his life on the road with fellow 60s rock musicians Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt. John joined Status Quo in 1962. Their hits included *Pictures of Matchstick Men* and *Down Down* which topped the charts in 1972. John left Status Quo after 20 years as their drummer although joining the band's reunion tour in 2013/14. John and Gillie now live in Shilton and are regular attendees at Burford Society events.

We welcome new members who can apply online using the Society's website or by contacting the hon. secretary [b.clough947@gmail.com](mailto:b.clough947@gmail.com)

*Bert Clough*

*John Coghlan was interviewed by The Bridge in November 2021. The article can be found on our website under Bridge Archives/Bridge Interviews - Ed*

## NORTHLEACH EVENT



Ross King makes his third visit to Northleach Church on **Friday November 7th at 7.30pm** to give an illustrated talk on the creation of the Sistine chapel ceiling.

Ross tells the story of the four extraordinary years that Michelangelo spent painting the twelve thousand square foot ceiling, creating a magnificent picture of day-to-day life on the Sistine scaffolding and of the turbulent life outside, in the upheaval of early sixteenth-century Rome.

*Jane Quelch*

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## RISSINGTONS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Friday 21 November 2025 at 2.30pm**

The Cotswold Navy - what's in a name? A talk by Paul Barnett. Although landlocked, the Cotswolds has an inseparable connection to the sea, and its unheralded sacrifice during Warship Week 1942.

Village Hall, Upper Rissington GL54 2QW. Non-members welcome, £3.50 to include refreshments.

Enquiries information.[RLHS@gmail.com](mailto:RLHS@gmail.com) / 07815 606770.  
*Susan Brown*



70 NEW HOMES IN SHEEP STREET?

The HELAA Plan is now available on the West Oxfordshire website. Consultation opens in November. We are a group of Burford residents who got together to oppose the Sheep Street site, and we hope you will support us in stopping this ludicrous project by registering your comments and objections.

In October’s Bridge, our District Councillor Hugo Ashton wrote about the HELAA plan that he put together with Councillor Andy Graham. Unfortunately, Hugo did not mention that on page 71 of the report, Area N, currently Prime Agricultural Land, was recommended for the development of 70 dwellings. Area N covers the fields on Sheep Street from the Surgery to the cemetery lane, land where Battle Edge was fought in 752AD and the historic importance of which is key to the area. Thanks to West Oxfordshire’s focus on the view of A40 motorists, this entire area enjoyed by most residents is now going to be concreted over. You know the lovely walk through the fields which nicely allows people to loop from Tanners Lane back to Sheep Street and the High Street? Concrete!

On top of this, it is questionable whether the council has completed proper due diligence. After reading the site proposal, we decided to check a few facts.

Surgery and schools.

As of a few months ago, the Burford surgery was no longer accepting new patients. Due to the Cotswold Gate development, the surgery saw a 14% increase in the number of patients. In addition, as part of that development is considered a care home, the surgery is compelled to accept everyone from the retirement community. Politicians enjoy telling us that each new development financially contributes under section 106 which goes towards increasing capacity for local schools and surgery. As of today, the surgery has not seen a penny. 14% increase in patients, 0% increase in funds. Likewise, both the primary and secondary schools are now oversubscribed.

Flooding and water pollution.

Unlike Cotswold Gate which sits on a flat free-draining surface, Sheep Street is at the bottom of a steep hill with severe flooding after each heavy rainfall. Replacing fields with concrete requires very extensive (and expensive) structural measures to prevent the water running down and flooding the lands and properties north of the development site. For this reason, the Cole’s Field development was judged unsuitable as it would have resulted in the flooding of Witney Street and of three properties. It should be noted that BTC was firmly against this development. In December 2022 they wrote:

BTC is as unanimously and robustly against this proposal as we have been against all previous applications. We regard it as a cynical attempt to batter Burford into submission knowing that we are a small community with limited resources. We shall, as your Council, be lodging strong objections

So, what changed? Did they conduct a flooding assessment we haven’t seen? Have we now become a large community with abundant resources?

Traffic and air pollution.

Traffic in Burford is horrendous and getting worse with an increase in the number of coaches. The constant traffic in Burford has resulted in a significant increase in air pollution due to cars and coaches idling. Sheep Street and Tanners Lane should be considered single lane roads. The HELAA site plan proposes nothing less than adding roughly 150 cars on these

two streets. In addition, the planners considered that this would be a perfect place to add a coach and car park. We assume that the planners expect all cars and coaches to access the site from the west side of Sheep Street. With most traffic coming from Oxford, this is nothing but wishful thinking. With no direct access to the A40, the development site and coach and car parks will exacerbate traffic jams on Sheep Street and Tanners Lane and increase air pollution.

Public transport.

Whilst the planners emphasise the buses from Burford to Witney, they failed to flag that there is no coach service to the train station. They also fail to mention that Charlbury now has resident parking which results in no parking available at the train station after 8:15am. Therefore, unless you are planning on getting into Oxford before 8:30am, you can no longer take the train to go to Oxford.

Whilst the affordable housing will benefit teachers and people working in Burford, only 10% of the 70 dwellings are required to be affordable. Whilst politicians argue that this number is much higher, the House of Commons Library published a paper in July 2024 showing that this percentage has now fallen from 20% in 2020 to 16% in 2023. Therefore, in a development of 70 homes roughly 7 -11 families will be in affordable homes, and the rest (59 to 63 dwellings) will be expensive dwellings likely used as Airbnb properties or even left empty. Several Cotswold Gate properties are still vacant.

Please, when the consultation opens, make your views known. Without them, Burford faces an unmanageable spread which we cannot physically support.

C. Hoge on behalf of the Sheep Street, Tanners Lane and Priory Lane residents against Area N.  
Contact: Burfordsheepst@gmail.com  
Please also see Hugo Ashton’s article on this subject towards the back of this edition. There is a link on The Bridge website to help you find the plan. We shall add a link to the consultation when this is available - Ed



Stow-on-the-Wold Scottish Country Dance Club is a long-established group that now meets weekly in Adlestrop Village Hall from 6.30 to 9pm. The beginner’s class starts at 6.30 when standard steps and dance patterns will be taught, followed by easy dances incorporating these. After a tea break, other more advanced dances, new and old, will be danced; all dances will have tuition. We are a small, mixed, friendly group and welcome new members - no experience is necessary - and invite you to come along for a free taster evening anytime (thereafter, the cost is £4 per session). We wear comfortable clothing and most of us have dancing pumps, but many people start off wearing trainers or similar shoes ( not non slip soles). There is no need to bring a partner. Every year, we hold a summer dance with a live band at Bourton British Legion Hall. For more information on Scottish Country Dancing see [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org).

Julie Henry

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LEARNING ABOUT OWLS

Would you like to learn more about the elusive birds which brighten our evenings with their haunting calls? Asthal Parish Council has organised a talk by the Owl Conservation Project on Saturday 22 November at St Nicholas Church, Asthall at 7pm.

The talk will cover our amazing British owls – their history, taxonomy, habitats, population status, behaviour, their future and the work of the Project, plus a chat afterwards. There will be displays and a wonderful team of captive bred owls for you to meet! There will also be items to purchase and all funds go straight back into the project for the conservation work.

The Project is funded by donations, so please bring cash to make a donation to support owl conservation.

Ruth McCalman

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COMBE MILL

Sunday 30 November Christmas Fayre `NOT IN STEAM`  
11.00am - 4.00pm.

Don’t miss out, come along and bring the children `LISTEN TO A STORY WITH SANTA`, get a present, (book a slot from Combe Mill website), browse *THE CHRISTMAS MARKET STALLS* for a Christmas gift, enjoy Hot Food BBQ, Tea Room Open, Grand Raffle with fantastic prizes, Tombola and Gift Shop. Combe Mill’s blacksmiths will be in the Forge to make pokers. Blacksmith’s items on sale, made by our very own blacksmiths, wood turners items on sale too all make for a very popular gift for Christmas.

Combe Mill, a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century restored water mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode. Dogs on leads most welcome. FREE ENTRY AND CAR PARKING

Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxon OX29 8ET

Combe Mill cannot be held responsible for attractions that cancel.

SKILLS, ANCIENT AND MODERN

The FFF&B Ploughing Match & Country Show



This was held this year at Barrington Park Estate by kind permission of Mr R Wingfield. The Fairford, Faringdon, Filkins and Burford Ploughing Championship and Country Show took place in September and was an enjoyable day out for all who attended.

The FFF&B Society was set up in 1947 as a result of the merger of four wartime Farming Clubs, originally set up by the government to encourage farming efficiency and to help avoid food shortages. The Society ran an annual ploughing and hedge-laying competition which has evolved over the years to become a large country show - run entirely by volunteers and for the benefit of many local charities.

The event is a marvellous showcase, not just for traditional and modern ploughing skills (horse and tractor), but also for many demonstrations of crafting and country skills, such as gun dog and falconry displays, hedge laying, hunting hounds, and all manner of home craft competitions. Children are also encouraged to participate in the various classes, ensuring this really is a perfect day out for the whole family.



The FFF&B Ploughing Match is held each year on the last Saturday of September and locations change annually within a 10 mile radius. Membership of the society can be applied for via their website, [www.ploughingmatch.co.uk](http://www.ploughingmatch.co.uk).

Text by Joanne McKerlie, photos kindly provided by Andrew McKerlie

## BURFORD BOWLS CLUB



Oxfordshire Men's Division 3 Champions

Promotion as champions to next season's Oxfordshire Men's League Division 2 and winning the Oxfordshire Mixed League Division 1 mark the 2025 season as the most successful in the club's history.

Associated with these successes, we have seen the membership increase steadily over the past four years from 28 in 2022, 36 in 2023, 45 in 2024 to 54 as of the end of the 2025 season.



Oxfordshire Mixed Triples League Winners

Early in May we ventured down to Torquay for this year's bowls tour and enjoyed very pleasant weather, playing at Kings BC in Torquay, Brixham BC, Teignmouth (Britton Park BC) and stopping off at Wotton-under-Edge BC on our journey home; three wins and one loss made for a most enjoyable tour. Next year, again in early May, we are off to Norfolk, being based at Great Yarmouth, and already we are fully booked with a reserve list in case anyone drops out.

Including the four tour matches we played twenty-nine friendlies which has meant that those members not playing in the leagues were able to partake in several not-so-competitive matches. We were delighted to be asked by Chippenham BC if we could be their captain's mystery tour game in late June.

Having a well maintained green, that is now recognised as being one of the better playing surfaces in the county, we were invited to host a County Ladies Johns Trophy match against Gloucestershire Ladies and a County Men's match against Somerset.

Our annual gala, once again very generously sponsored by Peter Smith (Witney funeral directors), was well attended with 18 teams entered, an increase of six on last year with Burford's name on the trophy this year after beating Fairford in the final.

Moving indoors for the short mat season, the club will be hosting Witney Mills short mat league fixtures as there are plans to refurbish their home venue at the Witney sports ground during the winter. This now means that the bowls

clubhouse is being used every weekday, either all day or morning or evening.

Next year's summer season opens in April and if you ever thought about playing bowls we would be delighted to introduce you to the game; just come along on any Monday evening.

*Jeff Bizzell*

I was very interested in the ghost article in last month's Bridge magazine as we, at the bowls club, have also experienced our ghost who came to help one autumn.

Please find below evidence of its presence.

*Jeff*



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## MEANWHILE AT THE COTSWOLD HOME

The residents of the Cotswold Home (not to be confused with the Cotswold Gate Care Home) created a Jeremy Clarkson-inspired scarecrow as their entry for the Elizabeth Finn inter-home scarecrow competition. Clarkson's office kindly donated a hamper to support the fund raising.

*Sara Armitage*



## NEW TO BURFORD AND AREA?

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



"Are the days of winter sunshine just as sad for you, too? When it is misty, in the evenings, and I am out walking by myself, it seems to me that the rain is falling through my heart and causing it to crumble into ruins." *Gustave Flaubert*

Last month I had the pleasure of meeting Queen of Shops, Mary Portas. We talked about what makes shops special. I was keen to learn, she is after all the woman who turned Harvey Nichols into Harvey Nics. What I discovered was that like many indie bookshops around the UK we are already doing everything we should.

The Madhatter Bookshop has been on Burford High Street for over four decades, most of that time in the hands of extraordinary women. We are not just another shop on the High Street, bookshops are a flashing beacon to all who walk on our High Street – the open door says come in, sit, rest, read and if you would like to, chat. We are a safe place for those who feel unsure and a friendly face for those who feel alone. The Madhatter bookshop offers the community a unique tangible experience that goes far beyond the simple transaction. We serve as a community hub, an aesthetic landmark that fosters a love of reading, of books and of conversation. We have a proven track record of events such as Burford Comedy Club, Imaginary Landscapes, and one of my dearest nights of the month, our book club. We are a cultural anchor in these turbulent times, and culturally the seas do not look like they are going to calm anytime soon.

At our recent Burford Literary Festival, Professor Richard Ovenden, 25<sup>th</sup> Librarian of The Bodleian in Oxford and author of *Burning The Books*, emphasised that bookshops, independent ones in particular, are vital gateways to widespread and unbiased knowledge. In our electronic age books play a vital role in combating both misinformation and disinformation.

We are now living in a world where bookshops are being targeted by governments and booksellers arrested for sharing information on healthcare and sexual health. They are being persecuted for spreading inappropriate literature in schools and universities. The recent banning of the children's favourite *Charlotte's Web* – for containing talking animals and therefore regarded as encouraging the dark arts of witchcraft – only serves as a reminder of the madness of the Trump administration's crusade against diversity equity and inclusion.

The madness of burning books has moved across the Atlantic and onto our High Streets. Every week I hear of another indie bookshop being closed due to threats of violence for what the perpetrators see as 'non-conformist' behaviour.

As an independent bookseller, I will not be told what books I can and cannot sell, I will not bow down to men or women who argue against our support of every member of humanity no matter what their creed, origin or sexual orientation and we will continue to fly the flag for love, peace and books!

Our book recommendation this month is *Burning The Books* by Richard Ovenden and if you get the opportunity please watch The Librarians by Kim A Snyder.

As a continuation of our joy in brining the community together our first Literary Salon will take place on 22 January 2026 – all are welcome, more detail will be available on our website soon.

Our recommendations for books for everybody this season are available on our website and in the bookshop. Please support your indie bookshop and keep the beacon of hope bright, we can't do it without you.

*Kim and the team*

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## ALICE'S BOOK GROUP

### The Old Ways by Robert MacFarlane, Sep 2025

"May you live in interesting times" is an ancient Chinese blessing – or curse, and it was brought to mind by *The Old Ways* by Robert MacFarlane. This big book follows the author's travels along paths that have been in use for centuries. His adventures reach across continents and he includes sea passages that have been used from ancient times, often with eccentric or complex companions.

Even the person who recommended the book to Alice's Book Group had reservations, She and others felt that, whilst the chronicle of his often strenuous walks, which are various including the Broomway, the second most dangerous path in Britain; in strife riven Palestine; the Caingorms and many a mountainous region, are beautiful with vivid description and even the occasional hint of humour, the overall result was an offering that was over-rich. One could only absorb so much at a time. MacFarlane unleashes a torrent of words, description, references to multiple literary sources and revelations, so the only way to digest it is to take small bites. There is sometimes a mystical element to his journey. He professes that serious mountain hikers "walk into (not on) the mountain itself." Not everyone could finish the book, indeed there were those who found the whole book overwhelming and could not "get into it" at all.

Taken at a chapter a time, however, this could be described as a lovely and informative book. Even the most mundane is often given a charming twist, nor does MacFarlane take himself too seriously. In the middle of a most lyrical description of camping on a Scottish sea cliff, he records being observed by a soft eyed seal, he serenades it with a classical song, but exhausting his repertoire resorts to heavy metal singing "Stairway to Heaven" by Guns N' Roses, at which the seal "ducks its head three times as if rinsing its ears" and disappears. MacFarlane says "I felt embarrassed." It made me laugh. Again, upon waking from a snooze on a Tibetan mountain, he is observed by an inquisitive vulture. He makes signs of active life: "I don't need help destroying my liver, I can do that myself." This is an example of the way in which the author can make the extraordinary, like snoozing on a Tibetan mountain, seem commonplace, and while on his walks he brings the landscape to life with his sometimes minute description, there is always some down-to-earth detail.

Next, having been "serious" for a while we will probably aim for something short and frivolous to read.

*Veral Marshall*



FRIENDS OF BURFORD LIBRARY

As we all ‘shift up a gear’ in relation to our preparations for Yuletide activities, don’t forget to allow yourself a little a bit of peace and tranquility. And there is no better place to find this than in your local library. Apart from the many activities listed below, there are literally thousands of safe and quiet havens waiting for you in the pages of our many books.

Maureen Percival

Library Events

Knit & Natter

First Tuesday of every month 2-3 pm. Come and natter if you can't knit!

Book Group

Last Tuesday of every month 2-3 pm

Coffee Morning

Every Friday 10:30 - 11:30 am

Play games/puzzles or chat over a cuppa! IT Sessions

Third Tuesday of the month 1-3pm (half-hour slots). Booking essential.

Reminiscence

Last Friday of the month 10:30 - 11:30 am

Led by David Cohen

Scrabble Evenings

First Tuesday of the month 7-9 pm

All welcome. Please register your interest with

Carol-Amy at the library or call 01865 815123

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KEEP WARM IN WINTER

For many, the sight of crisp leaves and the promise of cosy sofa nights by the fire brings comfort. But for people struggling to keep their homes warm – especially with the energy cap rise on 1 October - this time of year can feel more uncertain.

That’s why I’m writing from the palliative care and bereavement support charity, Sue Ryder, to highlight how we’re helping more people this winter to get the support they need.

Sue Ryder staff and volunteers are working in partnership with teams from energy network SGN across the Southeast, signposting people to advice and information on staying safe and warm at home. This includes help reducing energy bills, managing debt, understanding carbon monoxide risks and signing up to the free Priority Services Register (PSR), which offers extra help during power cuts and loss of gas supplies.

As a palliative and bereavement support charity, the partnership is particularly poignant. People at the end of their lives often rely on medical devices and need warm homes – essentials that can lead a terminally ill person’s energy bill to rise by 75% after their diagnosis.

As we enter the colder months, now is the time to check on ourselves and those around us because no one should face hardship today or in their final days.

The PSR is free to sign up for people, including those of pensionable age, who have a disability, are chronically ill, have recently been bereaved, are pregnant, or have young children under five. To find out if you are eligible and to register, visit: sueryder.org/priority

To find out more about staying safe and warm, visit: sueryder.org/safeandwarm

Laura Tosh-Safe and Warm Programme Manager



Sue Ryder

Celebrate Local Delights at the Burford Autumn Food and Gift Fair



A joyful day out filled with flavour, heart, and charm

Local maker and baking enthusiast Beccy Hunt warmly invites Oxfordshire residents to the Burford Autumn Food & Gift Fair this autumn. Set in the beautiful Warwick Hall, Burford, this free-to-attend fair offers a charming day out in one of the Cotswolds’ prettiest towns.

Expect delicious seasonal produce, handcrafted homewares, and unique presents you won’t find on the high street — perfect for those who love thoughtful shopping and seasonal treats.

The fair is proudly curated by Beccy Hunt, who is passionate about supporting small businesses and bringing people together through food and shared experience. Visitors can browse, sample, shop — and soak up a good dose of autumn cheer in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

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TOLSEY: NEW - FRUIT AND VEG MARKET STALL

We have listened to local residents requests and as from the end of October there will be a fruit and vegetable stall every Monday under the Tolsey. A variety of fruit and vegetables will be on sale at reasonable prices, so please come along and support this stall.

Many of you have asked if there can be more and a greater variety of market stalls. From November, we are trialling with different stall holders every day of the week up until Christmas. We have a local shepherdess amongst them selling Cotswolds with Love products. How about our regular Friday slot selling sheep skins for Christmas presents. Traditionally, every Saturday, we have had charities selling items to raise funds. If any local charities would like to have a stall on a Saturday please contact us.

Christina Edgar Hiatt, Town Clerk  
Town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL INVITES YOU

to the many Council events in November for residents and visitors of Burford. All welcome.

Remembrance Day Service

9 November, 10.50am

War Memorial, High Street, Burford

10.45am, for a 10.50am service

11am, 2 minutes of silence followed by laying of wreaths

Closing prayer.

Christmas Lights Switch On

29 November 2025, 3pm-4.15pm

Tolsey, 126 High Street, Burford

3pm, Festivities Start

4pm Switch On Lights

Burford Civic Service

30 November 2025, 3.30-5.30pm

St John the Baptist Church, Burford

3.30pm Civic Service, St John the Baptist Church

4.30pm Community Reception, Warwick Hall, Burford

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BURFORD OIL SYNDICATE



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

Next order date is Thursday 4 December 2025 by 5.00pm. Late orders will not be accepted. Deliveries for the December order will hopefully be between 8 and 31 December, but may extend after Christmas, depending on weather and market conditions at the time. The following order will be on Thursday 8 January 2026, with delivery expected by the end of January.

You can join the syndicate and order online at [www.burfordoil.co.uk](http://www.burfordoil.co.uk) or membership application forms, and order forms are available from Reavley’s Chemist. Any questions please contact Peter Higgs - 822462

HAPPY RETIREMENT



Jean Fellows retired at the end of September after 28 years working at Reavleys Pharmacy in Burford. Cedric Reavley writes:

Jean came from a Fulbrook family, and has therefore had the advantage of knowing many local people. She has always been completely reliable and considerate, and has built up a considerable experience over the years. I have been very pleased that Jean carried on working at the pharmacy after I sold it, providing a focus of reassuring continuity for customers and patients. I am grateful for all that she has contributed, and wish her a long and happy retirement.

\*\*\*\*\*

PINEWOOD SCHOOL

Learning Outside: Making the Most of Every Season

As November arrives with its shorter days and cooler temperatures, there's a tendency to assume children's outdoor time naturally diminishes. Yet some schools are finding the opposite, with autumn and winter offering distinct learning opportunities precisely because of the season's challenges and changes.

At Pinewood School on the Oxfordshire-Wiltshire border, outdoor education runs year-round across 84 acres of grounds. The approach at Pinewood integrates outdoor learning throughout the curriculum rather than treating it as separate. Pre-Prep children work in the Squirrel Classroom, complete with mud kitchen, fire pit, and greenhouses, regardless of season. Children in Lower School enjoy Stone Age days, where pupils craft weapons as ancient people did before gathering for hot chocolate and campfire stories.

The school's Victorian walled kitchen garden keeps children connected to growing cycles even in colder months. In the 30-foot polytunnel and raised beds, pupils grow seasonal produce that makes its way to the school kitchen. For boarders, the grounds take on different character at dusk, offering evening exploration that day pupils rarely experience.

Physical challenges can reveal different strengths to classrooms. Pinewood's Rubber Legs Challenge, a tough-mudder style course with teams navigating obstacles, mud and water, is contested through House competition. Children who find confidence outside formal lessons often flourish here, while strong academic performers discover new capabilities through teamwork under pressure.

Pinewood School invites prospective families to explore the school and grounds. Contact Emily Miller, Head of Admissions, at [emilymiller@pinewoodschool.co.uk](mailto:emilymiller@pinewoodschool.co.uk) Hayley Croft



11- 21 June  
2026

Scrapbook



## Born Free - fighting the cause on behalf of all wild animals!

We are delighted to welcome Born Free, international wildlife charity, to speak at our 2026 festival and share their mission and their stories.

Founded by the stars who featured in the classic 1966 film of the same name, Born Free charity works tirelessly to protect and help save wild animals from ill treatment, exploitation and extinction.

Actors Virginia McKenna DBE and Bill Travers MBE together with their son, Will Travers OBE, set up the charity in 1984, campaigning for a future where humans and animals can coexist safely and in harmony.

Mirroring the story told in the original film where conservationists, Joy and George Adamson (played by Virginia and Bill), rescued a lioness cub and eventually released her back into the wild, Bill and Virginia tried in vain to save a baby elephant, Pole Pole, whom they had worked with as part of another wildlife film; subsequently, the elephant had been gifted to London Zoo for a life in captivity. This spurred them on to petition for the freedom of Pole Pole, leading to their setting up of the Born Free foundation, which has grown and flourished into the international charity it is today.

Born Free works with schools and communities across the UK, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa to educate and engage with locals with the aim of encouraging a love of wildlife and the passion to protect it.

The Born Free talk will be held in the late afternoon to allow for our younger members to attend. The cost per ticket will be £10 for over 18, £5 for age 12-17 and under 11s free. We plan to hold this event at 4pm on Friday 19th June in Warwick Hall. A date for the diary!



## Vermeer - a life lost and found

Celebrated British art historian, art critic, author and broadcaster, Andrew Michael Graham-Dixon will be addressing the subject of his book, Vermeer: A Life Lost and Found, in one of our cultural highlights at the Burford Festival next year.

Exploring the life and work of Dutch 17th century artist, Johannes Vermeer, Andrew will be drawing on the latest archival research to reveal and revolutionise our understanding of this acclaimed artist.

Vermeer's work focused on the domestic lives of ordinary, middle class Dutch people, finding recognition during his lifetime in Delft and The Hague as a provincial genre artist. Renowned for his exceptional treatment of light and enigmatic interior scenes, he is considered to be one of the greatest painters of the Golden Age.

Promising to be a fascinating insight into the artist and his collective works, the talk will be followed by a book signing by the author.

[www.burfordfestival.org](http://www.burfordfestival.org)



## PETER HARRIS

5 May 1939 - 8 November 2024



It has been a year since we lost Peter who was a well known face of Burford. He came to Burford in 1970 and spent 25 years working for Frank Williams Antiques where he lived above the shop. He then spent the next 27 years living in College Cottage just next door on the High Street, before health issues saw him move to Burford Home at Whitehill where he was so warmly welcomed and he thoroughly enjoyed his last years living there. He was born in Moreton-in-Marsh hospital and spent his childhood years in Long Compton, Asthall and then Swinbrook. He went to Reading University where he studied Geography, then onto his National Service which was served in Akrotiri in Cyprus. On his return to civilian life he had various jobs which took him to Bournemouth, the Isle of Wight then back to Oxfordshire. He enjoyed going to the Opera and amateur dramatics and he was a member of the Open the Book team which acted out Bible stories at the Primary School (he loved performing). He was a regular volunteer at the Tolsey Museum, Chairman of the Burford Branch of the Royal British Legion, a regular church member, a Church PCC member, an active member of the Friends of Burford Church of which he was chairman for a number of years, a Churchwarden then later Verger to name but a few! He relished his job as Verger and loved telling the stories and history of Burford Church to what must have amounted to thousands of visitors over the years. He was made a founder member of the Fellowship of St Birinus by Bishop Colin Fletcher of Dorchester for his dedication to Burford Church.

After his retirement he spent his time walking, visiting his sister and brother-in-law, whizzing around the countryside in his little car and took the opportunity to travel by train whenever he could. His ashes have been buried on his parents grave, next to his sister and brother in law in the churchyard in Swinbrook.

*Paula Hudson*

*Peter had a fund of stories about visitors to St John the Baptist Church, including the American who asked "Is St John the Baptist buried here or did he just visit with you?" - Ed.*

## PLANNING AHEAD

Is now the time to start thinking "Home Improvements"?

Autumn is the perfect time to start planning ahead for your proposed building project, be it a modest house extension or even a new-build project. This might sound counterintuitive, but if you start now you may well be able to commence construction in the spring. The process is explained below.

Working with Panton Design will provide various design options that you may not have considered, and it is worth spending time getting this exciting stage right. Initial design sketches will be developed to an agreed final scheme for Planning Permission and construction purposes.

Not all building designs require Planning Permission and we will guide you through this process as the design may fall within the category of "Permitted Development" where formal Permission is not necessary.

A simple and cost-effective means of determining whether Permission is required and whether the Planners would support the proposals is to apply for what is called "Pre-Application Advice" with the Local Authority. This is normally dealt with within 21 days, although it can take longer. Applications for Planning Permission can take eight weeks.

Once this has been determined, Panton Design will prepare the construction drawings. This will allow us to submit for Building Regulations approval, again with the Local Authority, which can take them up to five weeks. Simultaneously, we will approach recommended building contractors for their quotations.

By default good builders are generally busy but it is advisable to work with the correct team.

As you can see, the process could take a minimum of 13 weeks (around three months) just for the Local Authority approvals. This doesn't include time for design and appointing a builder, so it may take up to five months from the initial decision to improve your home to actually starting building work. The timeframe will be project specific but this should provide you with a realistic guide.

Panton Architectural Design has more than 30 years' experience, primarily offering their full architectural service from initial contact to project completion, whether this is for a modest extension, whole house refurbishment, or a one-off new build dream home.

If you would like to have an initial chat with Henry at Panton Architectural Design, on a no-obligation basis, please do contact us at [post@pantondesign.info](mailto:post@pantondesign.info) or call 01993 810704. *Sue Panton*

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Wychwood Players' next production for the autumn will be *Enchanted April* by Matthew Barber. Previously a very successful 1991 film, starring Miranda Richardson, Josie Lawrence and Joan Plowright, it was nominated for three Academy Awards. The performances will be at New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood OX7 6BQ on 27, 28 and 29 November at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are £12.00 plus booking fee and will be available from Ticket source from mid October. Further details available at: [www.wychwoodplayers.com](http://www.wychwoodplayers.com)



**Cotswold Wildlife Park celebrates a record-breaking breeding season and becomes the only zoological collection in the UK to breed "Critically Endangered" Greater Bamboo Lemurs this year.**

Not only has 2025 been a record-breaking year for visitor numbers, but it has also been the most successful breeding season on record for one of the collection's rarest species – the "Critically Endangered" Greater Bamboo Lemur. Recently, the Primate Team celebrated the arrival of four Greater Bamboo Lemur babies. Births in captivity are extremely rare. In fact, the Park is the only zoological collection in the UK and one of three worldwide to have bred these rare primates this year. With a population of 13, Cotswold Wildlife Park is now home to the biggest breeding group in the world. In the wild, there are fewer Greater Bamboo Lemurs left than higher profile species such as Black Rhino, Tiger and Giant Panda.

Four by four: The UK's only Greater Bamboo Lemur births join an impressive baby boom at the Park (over 523 births so far this year). Other new arrivals include:

Four Great Grey Owl chicks - first brood from the Park's breeding pair.

Four rare Humboldt Penguin chicks, classified as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN's Red List of Endangered Species. This year was the Park's most successful Penguin breeding season in ten years. One in particular, Pippin, caught the attention of visitors due to her special bond with Keeper Laura (who hand-reared the chick after she was abandoned in the nest box).

Four Yellow Mongoose pups have also joined the collection.

*Debbie Ryan*

\*\*\*\*\*

## BEAGles

There are two events planned for November that I wanted to bring to your attention: a hedgelaying workshop and a talk on land use and the transition to Net Zero. Here are details:

### Hedgelaying

On Wednesday 5 November, from 9:45-16:00, Wild Oxfordshire are hosting a free one-day hedgelaying workshop as part of the Oxfordshire Hedgerow Heroes project. No experience is required, and anyone is welcome! The event takes place at Westwell, Burford, OX18 4JT/What3Words location: [regret.hubcaps.disengage](https://www.what3words.com/what3words/regret.hubcaps.disengage).

### Future land use

What does the transition to Net Zero mean for farming and land use in our landscape? What are the practical implications for what we do as citizens? On Monday 17 November, 7:30pm-9pm in Burford Baptist Church, we're fortunate to have Professor Julie Ingram from the University of Gloucester to lead us in discussions on this topic. Julie is the Professor of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture, Countryside and Community Research Institute, and she specialises in knowledge exchange within the agricultural community. This event will be a highly relevant, practical workshop: after hearing from Julie we'll encourage discussion and feedback from participants, and capture some key takeaway conclusions and practical actions that people can take. You can find out more about Julie's work on: [www.glos.ac.uk/staff/profile/julie-ingram](http://www.glos.ac.uk/staff/profile/julie-ingram).

*Andy Hayter*

## REPORT FROM WODC COUNCILLOR

On 3 November the District will have published our Preferred Spatial Options Consultation Paper and launched the consultation which will run to just before Christmas.

The Spatial Options Paper sets out a change in the Spatial Strategy which responds to feedback from our consultation on the Policy Options and splits the Villages Tier 3 into two levels. If adopted, Tier3 would contain larger, more sustainable villages and Tier 4 would consist of medium size and less sustainable villages. Apart from specific allocations made in the local plan, the proposal is that in Tier 3 village developments above 50 houses would not be supported, and in Tier 4 villages developments above 10 houses would not be supported. This would give some measure of protection from speculative proposals once the plan has been adopted.

The consultation paper then outlines preferred areas for development to fulfil the Government requirements of 905 homes annually. This would result in a 30% increase in the District's housing stock by 2043 (the end date of the emerging plan). In the main these are planned to be concentrated in strategic sites around Witney, the Carterton area and Chipping Norton. Smaller allocations have been made to service centres and villages totalling around 800 homes. This includes an allocation of 70 houses to Burford in the lower part of the field beyond the surgery in Sheep Street. The aim is for this site to be used to build smaller starter homes and homes suitable for down-sizing, as well as a space for some much-needed car parking to support the town's visitor economy.

Several other draft documents are published at the same time as background to the Spatial Options Paper. These include the Settlement Sustainability Report which outlines how the village sustainability has been assessed, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan Baseline report which is the starting point for assessing the infrastructure necessary to support the housing growth and the HELAA (Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment), which is our planners' view of the 250+ sites that came forward in the District's call-for-sites in late 2023.

Please look at the consultation and comment on the sites where you have knowledge, whether it is to support the assessment or to raise concerns, for example if you believe an issue with the site has been overlooked or understated.

Please look out for one other area for consultation which should be published during late October or November. This is a District proposal that the near part of the Guildenford car park be reserved for short term parking of up to 4 hours. Parking for longer would be restricted to the further part of car park.

I am sure that many readers will have much to say on both these topics!

*Hugo Ashton*

*District Councillor for Burford, Fulbrook and Taynton*

[hugo.ashton@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:hugo.ashton@westoxon.gov.uk) or 0771 2490517



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## CONTACT US

For editorial matters including articles, promotions, letters: Gordon and Elaine Elliot [editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk](mailto:editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk).

For advertising matters including policy, costs and availability: Elaine Elliot [advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk](mailto:advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk)

TREASURES OF BURFORD CHURCH

The Flanders Cross in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

Wooden crosses on temporary graves were a common sight on the battlefields of Flanders and the Western Front during the First World War. After the war, these crosses were largely replaced by the permanent headstones now maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

Family members were given the option of receiving their loved one's original wooden cross. Many relatives took possession of these treasured artefacts and some can still be seen today in churches or memorial buildings. Other unclaimed crosses were burned, and the ashes were scattered over the permanent cemeteries.

This wooden cross in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit marked the first grave, near Ypres in Belgium, of Major A S Conway D S O (1906 – 1917) 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) who was killed on 17 June 1917. A full account of his army career and connection with Burford is available beside the cross.

Although we have names inscribed on war memorials it is good to have this plain cross from an actual First World War battlefield commemorating the life of a brave man given for his country.

Penelope Leaf



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON, BURFORD

Saturday 29 November, 3.00pm  
Tolsey, 126 High Street, Burford

Come and meet Father Christmas, sing some carols and watch the Christmas lights switch on at The Tolsey, Burford.

At 3.00pm Father Christmas will begin handing out presents to children.

At 3.30 the Christmas lights will be switched on along the High Street and The Hill.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be distributed.

The Burford fire engine will be in attendance to entertain children (and parents).

Carols will be sung under the baton of Ruth Reavley.

The event is jointly organised and sponsored by Burford Town Council and Burford Chamber of Trade.

All welcome.  
Burford Town Council

THE WINDRUSH BENEFICE

ALDSWORTH ❖ GREAT BARRINGTON ❖

LITTLE BARRINGTON

❖ SHERBORNE ❖ WINDRUSH

Sunday 26 October

Windrush St. Peter 11:00am Morning Prayer  
Little Barrington St. Peter 6:00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 2 November

Sherborne St. Mary 11:00am Holy Communion  
Great Barrington St. Mary 6:00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 9 November (Remembrance Sunday)

Great & Little Barrington War Memorial 10:45am  
Windrush St. Peter 11:00am  
Aldsworth St Bartholomew 11:00am  
Sherborne War Memorial 3:00pm

Sunday 16 November

Great Barrington St. Mary 11:00pm Holy Communion  
Windrush St. Peter 6:00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 23 November

Aldsworth St Bartholomew 11:00am Morning Prayer  
Sherborne St. Mary 6:00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 30 November

Windrush St. Peter 11:00am Holy Communion  
Little Barrington St. Peter 6:00pm Evening Prayer  
Revd Jan H de Haldevang

\*\*\*\*\*

WESTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

An active Fellowship meeting for Sunday Worship Weekly at 11am

Remembrance Service will be at St Mary's Church Westcote from 10.50am by the Memorial Cross

Also Thursday afternoons in term time for Bible Study, testimonies and teas for local charities.

For more information contact Tony Gibson on 01993 830699 or tony@cotswoldview-guesthouse.co.uk

or the chapel website, which is updated monthly and gives any variations.

westcotemethodists.co.uk  
Tony Gibson

BURFORD BENEFICE

St John the Baptist, Burford  
PARISH CHURCH SERVICES

02 November

Communion Service 8.00am  
Morning Service 9.30am  
Morning Service 11.15am  
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall 7.00pm

09 November

Remembrance Service 9.30am  
Remembrance (at the war memorial) 10.50am  
Remembrance Service 11.15am  
Remembrance Service 5.00pm  
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall 7.00pm

16 November

Communion Service 9.30am  
Communion Service 11.15am  
Blue Sunday with Choir 5.00pm  
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall 7.00pm

23 November

Morning Service 9.30am  
Morning Service 11.15am  
Evening Prayer 5.00pm  
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall 7.00pm

30 November

Morning Service 9.30am  
Morning Service 11.15am  
Civic Carols 3.30pm

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

St James the Great, Fulbrook

09 November

Remembrance Service 9.30am

16 November

Morning Prayer 9.30am

23 November

Holy Communion 9.30am

30 November

Holy Communion 9.30am

St John the Evangelist, Taynton

02 November

Benefice Communion Service 9.30am

09 November

Remembrance Service 10.55am

St Nicholas, Asthall

09 November

Evening Prayer (BCP) 6.00pm

St Mary, Swinbrook

02 November

Holy Communion 11.00am

09 November

Remembrance Service 10.55am

16 November

Morning Service 11.00am

23 November

Morning Service 11.00am

30 November

Morning Service 11.00am

CHURCH SERVICES

Services in Burford are live streamed. Swinbrook Service are available to catch up on Monday. These can all be found on our website or YouTube Channel.

Tarnia Usher

The service on 16 November at 5.00 is a special choral service for those who find Christmas difficult and have feelings of sadness or anxiety

ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE

Sunday Mass: 9.30 am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday - 10.00 am  
Thursday - 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 Church. 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  
Tuesdays during term time only 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

## DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

|              |                                                             |                                                                                                |            |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 24 Oct-2 Nov | Cirencester History Festival                                | hello@cirencesterhistoryfestival.org                                                           |            |
| Thu 30 Oct   | Tolsey talk - Burford Recollections                         | Baptist Church Burford                                                                         | 7.30pm     |
| Sat 1 Nov    | Autumn Food and Gift Fair                                   | Warwick Hall, Burford                                                                          | 10-4       |
| Tue 4 Nov    | Rotary Bridge Drive                                         | Broadwell Village Hall                                                                         |            |
| Wed 5 Nov    | Hedgelaying Workshop - see article                          | Westwell, Burford                                                                              | 9.45-16.00 |
| Fri 7 Nov    | Book Launch Reception for Burford's Wartime Stories         | Baptist Church Burford                                                                         | 7.30pm     |
| Fri 7 Nov    | Talk on Michelangelo and Sistine Chapel                     | Northleach Church                                                                              | 7.30pm     |
| Sun 9 Nov    | Remembrance Day Service Burford                             | War Memorial                                                                                   | 10.50am    |
| Tue 11 Nov   | FABW1 First Aid training/practice                           | Baptist Church Burford                                                                         | 7.30pm     |
| Wed 12 Nov   | TASC Talk Zeugma/Euphrates Flood                            | Warwick Hall, Burford                                                                          | 10.50am    |
| Thu 13 Nov   | Scam Awareness Talk by OCC                                  | Warwick Hall, Burford                                                                          | 10-11am    |
| Mon 17 Nov   | BEAGles Talk on Future Land Use                             | Baptist Church Burford                                                                         | 7.30-9pm   |
| Fri 21 Nov   | Rissington Talk on The Cotswold Navy                        | Rissington Village all                                                                         | 2.30pm     |
| Sat 22 Nov   | Windrush Film Night                                         | Windrush Village Hall                                                                          | 7.30pm     |
| Sat 22 Nov   | Learning About Owls                                         | St Nicholas Church                                                                             | 7pm        |
| Sun 23 Nov   | Burford Singers Concert                                     | Burford Parish Church                                                                          | 7.30pm     |
| Sat 29 Nov   | Burford Orchestra Concert                                   | Burford School                                                                                 | 7.30pm     |
| Sat 29 Nov   | Christmas Market                                            | Warwick Hall, Burford                                                                          |            |
| Sat 29 Nov   | Christmas Lights +mince pies+carols ++                      | Burford High Street                                                                            | 3 - 4pm    |
| 27-29 Nov    | Wychwood Players - Enchanted April                          | New Beaconsfield Hall                                                                          | 7.30pm     |
| Sun 30 Nov   | Combe Mill Christmas Fair                                   | Blenheim Palace Sawmills                                                                       | 11.00-4.00 |
| Sun 30 Nov   | Burford Civic Service + Festive Treats                      | Warwick Hall, Burford                                                                          | 3.30       |
| Thu 4 Dec    | Christmas Wreath Making                                     | Northleach Church                                                                              | 6.3        |
| Fri 5 Dec    | Wreath Workshop                                             | Warwick Hall, Burford                                                                          | 10-12noon  |
| Thu 11 Dec   | Special 2 course supper + demo £25                          | Warwick Hall, Burford                                                                          | TBC        |
| Sun 21 Dec   | Carols by Candlelight                                       | Burford Parish Church                                                                          | 4.30+7.30  |
| Thu 25 Dec   | Community Christmas Lunch - no charge but booking essential | <a href="http://www.burfordchurch.org/Christmas-2025">www.burfordchurch.org/Christmas-2025</a> |            |
| 11-21 June   | Burford Festival 2026                                       |                                                                                                |            |

**Gentle Readers!** This page takes an enormous amount of time to put together so please help us by always giving the **Day** of the Week as well as the **Time** of the event, otherwise we shall have to leave the columns blank.

Sometimes this information is changed without notification to us, so please check before turning up to an event.

## REGULAR LOCAL EVENTS, CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

|                                              |                                                                        |                                               |                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aerobics                                     | Monday 6.15; Thursday 11.45 + 6.15pm                                   | Warwick Hall                                  | Gill Hames 822971<br>gillianhames46@gmail.com                                                 |
| Alcoholics Anonymous                         | Wednesdays 7.30pm; Fridays 1.00pm                                      | Bradwell Village Hall                         | Patrick 0786 796 0716                                                                         |
| Astally Arms                                 | Last Friday of the month                                               | Memorial Hall Asthall Leigh                   | From 7.00 pm                                                                                  |
| Badminton Group                              | Monday nights. Friendly all abilities.                                 | Burford School 8-10pm.                        | Kevin 704655<br>scareyradar@yahoo.co.uk                                                       |
| BEAGles aka Burford Environment Action Group | Third Monday of the month                                              | The Prince of Burford                         | 7.30pm                                                                                        |
| Burford Bridge Club                          | Every Tuesday 5pm - 7pm                                                | Burford Baptist Church                        | 07831 301886 Amir Hashimi                                                                     |
| Burford Badminton Club                       | Tuesday nights 8-10pm                                                  | Burford School - fun, social, all abilities   | Vijay 891043<br>vijaysmobile@gmail.com                                                        |
| Burford & District Society                   | Meet 7 times a year                                                    | Warwick Hall at 7.00pm                        | Bert Clough 07943 720668                                                                      |
| Burford Town Bowls Club                      | Friendly Roll-up Mondays from 6.30                                     | Bowls Club Tanners Lane                       | Jan Bolton 07547 633391<br>secretary@burfordbowlsclub.co.uk                                   |
| Burford Trees care/planting                  | 4th Sunday of the month                                                | Community Allotment - Tanners Lane            | lucy.staveley@gmail.com                                                                       |
| Coffee and Company                           | Every Wednesday 10.30-12 midday                                        | St John the Baptist Church                    | 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<br>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<br>vijaysmobile@gmail.com                                              |
| Pilates Class                                | Wednesdays 10.00am                                                     | Burford Baptist Church                        | Elizabeth Jarvis<br>cotswoldpilates123@gmail.com                                              |
| Pilates Class                                | Thursdays 9.30am. Suitable for men and women; Tuesdays 6.15pm - 7.15pm | Warwick Hall                                  | Elizabeth www.wellnessity.co.uk<br>07932 981023                                               |
| Rock-a-Tots                                  | Tuesday during Term Time 9.45-11.15                                    | Warwick Hall                                  | <a href="http://www.burfordchurch.org/rockatots">www.burfordchurch.org/rockatots</a>          |
| Rotary Burford & Kingham                     | Monday                                                                 | Warwick Hall 6.30 for 7pm                     | John Smith 07717 883182                                                                       |
| Signpost - Coffee and Help                   | Ev. Tuesday in term time.10-12 midday                                  | The Warwick Hall, Burford                     | Opportunity to raise worries confidentially                                                   |
| Scouts                                       | Thursday (term time)                                                   | Scout Hut 6 - 8pm                             | Alex Gill 07762161769<br>burfordscouts@gmail.com                                              |
| Scottish Country Dance Club                  | Monday Evening                                                         | Adlestrop Village Hall                        | 6.30-9pm <a href="http://www.rscds.org">www.rscds.org</a><br>julie.henry@hba-consulting.co.uk |
| Scrabble                                     | 1st Tuesday of each month                                              | Burford Library (free soft drinks)            | 7pm                                                                                           |
| The Arts Society Cotswolds                   | 2nd Wed (not July/Aug)                                                 | Warwick Hall 11.00                            | publicity@theartssocietycotswolds                                                             |
| The Wychwood Lodge of Freemasons             | 3rd Thursday Sept-April                                                | The Masonic Hall 31 Sheep Street              | Mike 868302 / Allan 822240<br>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                                                 |
| Windrush Film Nights                         | Last Saturday of the month                                             | Windrush Village Hall                         | 7.30pm windrushcinema@gmail.com<br>Dan Boyle                                                  |

## USEFUL CONTACTS + INFORMATION

Please check hours of opening which are subject to change

|                                                        |                             |                                                |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Burford Recreation Pavilion</b> (Children's Events) | 01993 823647                | <b>Library</b>                                 | 01865 815123 |
| <b>Burford Pre School</b>                              | 01993 824031                | Tuesday 13.00 - 18.00                          |              |
| <b>Burford School</b>                                  | 01993 823303                | Thursday 10.00 - 13.00                         |              |
| <b>Burford Primary School</b>                          | 01993 822159                | Friday 10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.30         |              |
| <b>Burford Surgery</b>                                 | 01993 822176                | Saturday 09.00 - 13.00                         |              |
| www.burfordurgery.co.uk                                |                             | www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/burfordlibrary          |              |
| <b>Burford Tolsey Museum</b>                           |                             | <b>Member of Parliament</b>                    |              |
| Open seven days a week                                 |                             | <b>Charlie Maynard</b>                         | 07487 708681 |
| April to October 2-5pm                                 |                             | charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk               |              |
| www.burfordtolsey.org                                  |                             | <b>Oxfordshire County Council</b>              |              |
| <b>Burford Town Council</b>                            |                             | General Enquiries                              | 01865 815573 |
| Tolsey office open Monday, Wednesday                   |                             | Highways                                       | 08453 101111 |
| and Friday between 9.30 am and 11.30 am                |                             | Faulty Street Lights                           | 0800 317802  |
| 01993 823647                                           |                             | www.oxfordshire.gov.uk                         |              |
| Email town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk                     |                             | Oxfordshire County Councillor                  |              |
| www.burford-tc.gov.uk                                  |                             | Nicholas Field-Johnson                         | 01993 878309 |
| <b>Carterton Health Centre</b>                         | 01993 841718                | <b>Post Office</b>                             | 01993 822174 |
| <b>NHS</b>                                             | 111                         | stephencolter@aol.com                          |              |
| www.nhs.uk                                             |                             |                                                |              |
| <b>Centre for Carers in Oxfordshire</b>                | 01295 264545                | <b>Recycling Centre</b>                        |              |
| www.oxoncarers.org.uk                                  |                             | Dix Pit, Lynch Hill, Stanton Harcourt          |              |
| <b>Chemist</b> Reavley's                               | 01993 823144                | Open 7 days a week 8am - 5pm                   |              |
| <b>Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital</b>             |                             | Thursday late night until 8pm                  |              |
| Burford Branch                                         | 01608 642547                | Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day        |              |
| <b>Churches</b>                                        |                             | <b>Southern Electric</b> (Freephone)           | 08000 727282 |
| Anglican St John the Baptist                           | 01993 823788                | <b>Thames Water</b>                            | 0800 3169800 |
| Roman Catholic                                         | 01993 823219                | <b>Travel</b>                                  |              |
| Church of SS John Fisher and Thomas More               |                             | Rail Enquiries                                 | 08457 484950 |
| Baptist Church                                         | 07967 362885                | Public Transport Enquiries                     | 08712 002233 |
| Friends Meeting House                                  | 01993 875214                | <b>West Oxfordshire District Council</b>       |              |
| <b>Citizens Advice Bureau</b>                          | 0808 2787908                | General Enquiries                              | 01993 861000 |
| Email admin@cawo.org.uk                                |                             | Out of Hours                                   | 01993 705056 |
| <b>Community Transport</b>                             |                             | www.westoxon.gov.uk                            |              |
| Volunteer Link-Up                                      | 01993 776277                | <b>West Oxfordshire District Councillor</b>    |              |
| Oxfordshire Comet                                      | 01865 323201                | Hugo Ashton                                    | 07712 490517 |
| <b>Emergency Services</b>                              |                             | <b>Witney Hospital Minor Injuries</b>          | 01865 903841 |
| Police – non essential                                 | 101                         | Open 10.00am – 10.30pm daily                   |              |
| <b>Environment Agency</b>                              |                             | Last Patient seen at 10pm                      |              |
| Floodline                                              | 0845 988118                 | <b>Witney Police Station, No front counter</b> |              |
| Emergency                                              | 0800 807060                 | www.thamesvalleypolice.uk                      |              |
| <b>Hall Bookings</b>                                   |                             |                                                |              |
| Baptist Church                                         | gill.crippen@googlemail.com |                                                |              |
| Burford Quaker Meeting House                           | 01993 831282                |                                                |              |
| www.burfordquakers.org                                 |                             |                                                |              |
| Burford Town Bowls Club                                | 01993 822330                |                                                |              |
| Fulbrook Meeting Place                                 | TBA                         |                                                |              |
| Taynton Village Hall - Lexi Young                      | 07909 913994                |                                                |              |
| Warwick Hall Bookings and Information                  |                             |                                                |              |
| bookings@burfordchurch.org.uk                          |                             |                                                |              |

Please let us know if any details need amending.

[editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk](mailto:editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk)

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

| Company Name                              | Business Type                                                                                                                                                              | Phone                        |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Antiques @ The George                     | Award winning, friendly antiques centre                                                                                                                                    | 01993 823319                 |
| Hickman Brothers Landscapes Ltd           | Garden Design and Construction, Landscape and Garden Supplies<br>www.hickmanlandscapes.co.uk                                                                               | 01993 822226                 |
| Taylor and Fletcher                       | Estate Agents / Chartered Surveyors / Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers / Commercial Agents / Rural Specialists                                                             | 01993 220579                 |
| Peter Garratt                             | Painter and Decorator                                                                                                                                                      | 01451 810376<br>07788 896496 |
| 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<br>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.<br>www.lionheartlaterlifeplanning.co.uk | 07769 730616.                |
| Burford Foot Clinic                       | Chiropody<br>Castles Yard, Pytts Lane, OX18 4SJ                                                                                                                            | 07884318091                  |
| Fairways Cotswold Explorer                | for all your Airport & Cruise transfers                                                                                                                                    | 01993823152<br>07751472125   |
| The Stone Gallery                         | Makers of Gold and Silver Jewellery, agent for Georg Jensen. Paperweights & Pictures. www.stonegallery.co.uk                                                               | 01993 823302                 |
| Radnor Martin                             | Estate agents covering Burford and the surrounding villages                                                                                                                | 01993 765115                 |
| Grimebusters                              | Dirty carpets? Upholstery? Call Grimebusters - your local professional cleaners. Competitive rates. Free estimates.                                                        | 01993 868924                 |
| Woodgrove Estates                         | Contemporary offices to let in Fulbrook. office@woodgrove-estates.co.uk                                                                                                    | 01993 640014                 |
| Piano with Victoria                       | Lessons for all ages and abilities in Burford. ABRSM + improv / songwriting lessons.                                                                                       | 07737493980                  |
| Lilly and Loki                            | Trusted dog walking, pet care and sitting and basic equine care.<br>info@lillyandloki.com>                                                                                 | 07827 676067                 |
| Cindy Gumm                                | Spiritual Mentor/Counsellor. Helping your own healing journey to a better life.<br>cinjken420@hotmail.com                                                                  | 07525 267817                 |

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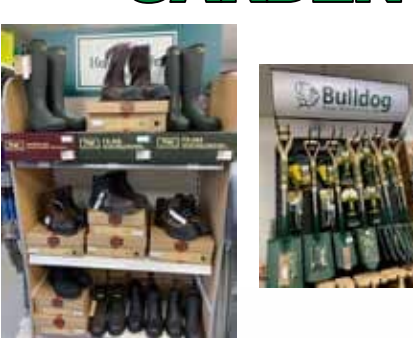


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