

THE BRIDGE

March 2025



Our thanks to Ian Lazarus for sending us this photo of yellowhammers behind Shilton church

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

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EDITORS' NOTES

The History Boys

It was quite a coup for Burford School to attract two top historians to speak at an event in February. Sir Anthony Seldon, a former vice-chancellor of the University of Buckingham, has written more than 45 books including biographies of seven former prime ministers from John Major to Liz Truss. (One on Rishi Sunak is on the way). Dominic Sandbrook has written eight history books, five of which chronicled this country from 1945 to the 1980s, and six books for children in his Adventures in Time series. He was aptly described as being, together with Tom Holland, the most famous historian in, er, history as they host the hugely popular podcast *The Rest is History* which gets a reputed 11 million downloads and 1.2 million viewings on YouTube per month. Beat that, Thucydides. They provided an entertaining and informative evening for an audience of pupils, parents and other local residents on such topics as populism, the future of America and the challenges facing this country. Too much to summarise here, but let's just say that Boris Johnson did not come out of it too well.



No Parking

From time to time we drive past the new park and ride site near Eynsham and note its marked out parking spaces, its lighting and the newly planted trees and gazebos. As most readers will know, the one thing missing is an access road which means that it cannot be opened until OCC find the money for this down the back of the sofa. We recall an episode of *Yes Minister*, *The Compassionate Society*, in which Jim Hacker discovers that there is a new 500-bed hospital which has been completed for 15 months but has yet to admit any patients. (This was entirely the invention of the script writers, Anthony Jay and Jonathan Lynn. Only afterwards did they discover that six such places already existed.) Jim goes on a tour of the hospital and walks through wards fully provided with beds and other equipment but devoid of patients, doctors and nurses. He then enters the administration department and finds 500 people hard at work. We wonder if somewhere in County Hall there is a team of people beavering away to manage the Eynsham park and ride.

Five Years On

The New Year of 2020 started much like any other with January filled by local events, social meetings and, for the editors, work preparing the February Bridge. At the same time a distant sound from the other side of the world could be heard, gradually rumbling towards us. There was an outbreak of a new disease in the city of Wuhan in China and this was causing major problems. It was evidently spreading rapidly and the Chinese government took drastic action, locking down the whole city to try and hold back the virus. However it did seem to be spreading, first to countries in the Far East and, perhaps inevitably, to Europe where Italy was the first country to be badly hit. It became known as Covid-19.

By early March horrifying pictures were emerging from Italy of queues of ambulances outside hospitals which were already overflowing with patients. On 5 March the first death from Covid occurred in the UK. On 11 March there was a TASC lecture which we attended after some hesitation and was poorly attended. The Premier League season was suspended

on 13 March although the Cheltenham races went ahead the same week. On 16 March there was a press conference at which scientific advisers announced that, if current trends continued, the country might experience 260,000 deaths. From that point people and organisations began to shut down, although it was only on 23 March that the prime minister, Boris Johnson, said "You must stay at home" and lockdown began. The April Bridge was full of announcements that events already announced would not take place and not a great deal else.

It was a very difficult time but there were, perhaps, one positive aspect which was the way we all pulled together to get through it. In the words of a letter from a reader in our April 2020 edition: *As an elderly person, I have been so impressed and touched by the large number of local people asking if they can help me. They have offered to get my shopping and also suggested that I let them know if there is anything else I need. We are so lucky to be living in this part of the country with such kind people thinking of others.* This was printed under the heading "We shall survive."



The Burford Festival gave me the most wonderful opportunity to combine my love of performing and event organising with the chance to engage with the local Burford community, when I was invited to participate in and assist with the rehearsed readings performed at the last two festivals.

Although not a resident in Burford, it was made clear that anyone from the surrounding villages would be welcome to join and I enjoyed meeting both existing and new friends as we prepared for a community production of *Under Milk Wood* in 2022 and *Cider with Rosie* in 2024.

Both productions brought local residents from in and around Burford together over a few enjoyable rehearsals (and with no lines to learn!) and, of course, for the final sell-out production nights. Indeed, many of the cast have kept in touch with each other, forming new friendships and sharing in their love of theatre via their own drama group activities.



Not everyone wants to be on stage, however, and there were plenty of other ways of being involved, from help with lighting and sound to props and front of house roles (ticket checking, venue preparation, bar duty...). For me, *Cider with Rosie* gave me the opportunity to test my skills as producer, working alongside the very capable director, Hazel Hughes. Quite a contrast to actually performing in *Under Milk Wood* during the previous festival!

If you want to get involved in an event (or two!) at the next Burford Festival it is a great way of meeting new people as well as being part of a fabulous community festival. There are lots of different events, all of which need volunteers, so don't hesitate to get in touch! Contact us at admin@burfordfestival.org to find out more.

Joanna McKerlie

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Further challenges...

Burford has experienced a bout of antisocial behaviour in the evenings and very early mornings in the last few months, both on the recreation ground and in the town. From reports, it appears to be being carried out by small groups of youths, some school age and some older. We are now working with the police to identify the culprits, and I am hoping the actions we are taking will deter them. My thanks to our Lengthsman David, councillors and the volunteers who clear up the mess left the following morning. If you see antisocial behaviour taking place, please call the police on 101 and report it.

PC Alex Dickins from the Police Neighbourhood Team came to our council meeting in February to explain in detail how the team are working here to provide community policing. We will be working closely with him and his team in the future.

Our request to limit the length of coaches using Priory Lane and create a turning space for coaches, and to install a zebra crossing at the top of The Hill along with minor parking changes, will be considered by Oxfordshire County Council cabinet on 27 February. We await their decision.

Burford pavilion was built in the 1960s, following the burning down of the previous pavilion. It is constructed of wood with a felt roof, and was built as a cricket pavilion, as cricket was very popular here at that time I am told, with families involved in the matches serving teas and with the children watching or playing in the play area. It is now used mainly as storage for the Clanfield 85 football club for their youth teams who play on the football pitches here, and for the external toilets, which are rather primitive.

The roof now leaks, and Council is concerned about the safety of the building, so we commissioned a full structural survey. This reported that it needs a new roof, and new front, four new doors as none of the doors are fire doors, an improved water supply and a new water heating system if showers are to be installed as was planned many years ago, and that the sides are rotting, so has a maximum life of probably 20 years or less even with these repairs. There are also pressing fire safety upgrades required, including the installation of fully functioning fire alarm detection system and emergency lighting system. Finally, as the building is from the 1960s, there is a good chance it contains asbestos in the insulation and construction, so we have commissioned a specialist asbestos survey to establish that later this month. Once we have all the information, we will need to decide on its future in consultation with the community.

Finally, a longer-term challenge has been presented by the government's White Paper on Devolution presented last December. From what I can see, this will take out a layer of local government, in our case that looks likely to be our district council, and our county council may well become part of an amalgamation with other county councils creating a much larger organisation.

Some of the functions of the district council may well be devolved down to the town council, but there are no details yet on any changes.

We are looking at a timescale of one to three years. Interesting times ahead!

Peter Higgs - Mayor
peter.higgs@burford-tc.gov.uk



TREE AND HEDGE PLANTING PROGRESSES AT SHERBORNE

This winter has been a busy one for nature and wildlife on the Sherborne Estate. With multiple recent storms, it has been a challenging season for tree safety, and much of January has been spent making areas around the Pleasure Grounds and Sandy Hill Farm safe. We have however also planted lots of new trees - working in partnership with a tenant we are planting 53,000 trees at Sherborne Farm to create a patchwork of new woodlands across the historic estate.

Funded by Defra's Trees for Climate Fund, the project's 74.6 hectares (184 acres) of new woodland will form part of the Great Western Community Forest, which covers over 168 square miles stretching from the North Wessex Downs to the River Thames, which has its source in Gloucestershire.



The National Trust has been helping wildlife thrive at Sherborne since becoming custodians in 1987 and we are also currently building new hedgerows, working with a contractor and our volunteers to lay the double hedgerow along the northern farm track at Sherborne Farm. We are keen to explore opportunities to grow our hedgerows as they are fantastic for wildlife and habitat creation.

In exciting news, we have also welcomed four Belted Galloway cattle to Budgehill to graze for a few weeks - it was a real highlight to see them pushing their way through the scrub when they arrived, and hopefully we will reap the benefits of this in the spring. They are also sporting 'no fence' collars, which helps our cattle team manage them.

The net result of all this work is that this area will be transformed into flourishing woodland and wood pasture, with clumps of trees and sections of open grassland. The inclusion of wood pasture will maintain good grazing for livestock in the future as well as abundant habitat for many mammals, insects and birds such as voles, barn owls and skylarks. Preserving and growing our fantastic habitats for wildlife at Sherborne is central to our aims here.

At Lodge Park, we have also released our 2025 opening dates, which are available on our website. We are open for Easter, with weekend opening on 11-13 April, 18 - 20 April and 25-27 April.

For more information, do keep in touch with @NTCotswolds on Instagram and Facebook for project updates as we continue to plant trees across the estate.

Jacob Little

WE ARE ON X/TWITTER

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

CALLING ALL HOBBITS

Rissingtons Local History Society talk Friday 21 March at 7.30pm. Tolkien and the Cotswolds - the Shaping of Middle Earth by Andy Meller. JRR Tolkien used areas of the Cotswolds he knew from visiting family to help shape characters and places in his books.



Venue: Village Hall Upper Rissington GL54 2QW. Visitors welcome £3.50 to include refreshments.
Enquiries 07815 606770 / information.RLHS@gmail.com
Sue Brown

CHAIR AND STANDING PILATES

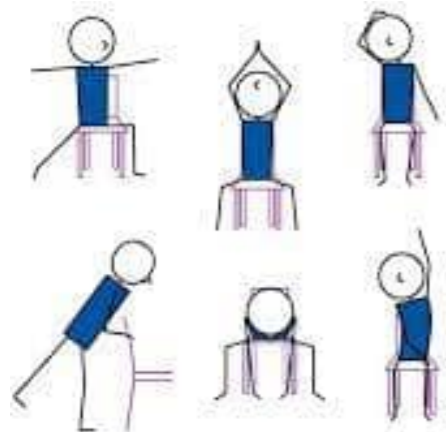
Eight Week Course

Chair and Standing Pilates can help you build a stronger core and combat the natural decrease in muscle mass that can come with ageing while helping you maintain a great quality of life. Join us for this eight week course to help you feel stronger, more flexible and more mobile.

Chair and Standing Pilates is on for eight weeks only every Tuesday between 3-4pm at the Warwick Hall.

Starting 4 March until 29 April (no class 18 March). Contact Elizabeth at Wellnessity on 07932981023 or email hellowellnessity@gmail.com to secure your spot. Pre-booking is required. Cost is £80 for the 8 weeks.

4 March	1 April
11 March	8 April
18 March (no class)	15 April
25 March	22 April
1 April	29 April



CLERK NEEDED FOR FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Fulbrook Parish Council is on the hunt for someone to take on the important role of Parish Clerk. It's a part time job at six hours a week and pay will be in line with a national scale. You don't need to have experience in such a role as full training will be provided. You just need to be someone interested in local affairs and keen to support our community. You will be required to attend ten evening meetings a year. You do not need to live in Fulbrook to apply for the job. If you would like to know more please contact the council chair Malcolm Allsop for an informal chat to find out more about the role. You can email him on malcolm.allsop@fulbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk

BRIDEWELL GARDENS OPEN DAYS 2025

Bridewell Gardens provides a mental health recovery service for West Oxfordshire, supporting people who have experienced serious mental illness. Bridewell is a creative and inspiring walled garden and vineyard where people can find hope in recovery, gardening and working with nature.



BBC Gardeners' World presenter Frances Tophill described Bridewell after filming at the gardens: "Sometimes for my job I visit gardens that really seemed to mean more than just places to grow. Bridewell Gardens is one such place. Filled with community, kindness, bustle but softness".

The walled garden and vineyard are open to the public for our open days between 11am and 4pm on: **Sundays 11 May, 15 June, 6 July and 7 September**

There will be a pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake with high quality plants for sale, home produced jams and chutneys and our acclaimed organic sparkling wine. Make a day of it, bring a picnic blanket and relax in the vineyard with friends and family. Speak to Bridewell staff about the recovery service and the support provided at the gardens. Dogs on leads are very welcome. Families and children are encouraged to explore the site.

No booking required. Suggested donation £5 per person.
Bridewell Gardens, The Walled Garden, Wilcote, Oxfordshire OX7 3DT
[Rachel Green](mailto:Rachel.Green@fulbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)

THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Lecture on Wednesday 12 March

The Art of Courtship in Paintings and Objects



This talk explores the customs and etiquette of courtship in Renaissance Italy through the rich legacy of objects made to celebrate and to commemorate love, and the pursuit of love, in a period when extravagant gift-giving and artistic production reached new heights. We will enjoy a close look at an abundant variety of gifts exchanged during courtship, and those made to celebrate love, that can be seen today in museums around the world. Intricately designed and produced in huge numbers, images on paintings and on objects and furnishings tell us a great deal about attitudes and beliefs at the time.

Dr Lydia Goodson is an art historian and lecturer specialising in the art and material culture of Renaissance Italy. After a career in television production and raising a family, Lydia returned to academia and now holds a BA in Renaissance History, an MA in History of Art and was awarded her PhD in 2020 from the Warburg Institute of the University of London, for her thesis on painting and patronage in Renaissance Perugia. This return to study as a mature student has given Lydia a passion for the benefits of life-long learning and she hugely enjoys writing and delivering lectures for audiences of all ages. She is an art history tutor for CityLit and regularly speaks to other adult learning groups. Lydia's research interests centre on painting production in Central Italy in the Renaissance. Lydia lives in Kent and the Umbrian region of Italy.

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. Bookings can be made via the website (www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk) or please contact Lisa Etheridge on 07918 180895 for a booking form. Non-members are welcome (space permitting) at a charge of £10.

To learn more about The Arts Society Cotswolds and to see what lectures, Special Interest Days and other activities are planned for the future, please visit the website www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk
Or contact Alison Morgans on 07771 817050

BURFORD SURGERY

Spring COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics at Burford Surgery

We are pleased to announce that Burford Surgery will be holding COVID-19 vaccination clinics in April and May for eligible patients. These clinics are part of the NHS spring booster campaign to help protect those most vulnerable to severe illness.

Who is eligible?

- Patients aged 75 years and older
- Individuals who are immunocompromised (those with weakened immune systems)
- Residents of care homes

If you are in one of these groups, you will receive an invitation closer to the time with details on how to book your appointment.

Getting vaccinated remains one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of serious illness from COVID-19, especially for those at higher risk. Your participation in our clinics will ensure that we continue providing essential healthcare services to our community.

[Kim Sharples - Practice Manager](mailto:Kim.Sharples@burfordnhs.uk)

BURFORD & KINGHAM ROTARY CLUB

We have new friends! Two members of the Rissingtons Club came to one of recent meetings. We then reciprocated when seven of our members and partners joined them at their annual quiz night on 1 February. Our team didn't quite come last – we just enjoyed taking part! The event raised funds for CALM – a small charity based in Bourton which offers free physical therapy to children with long-term movement disorders.

We are looking forward to our next event at the Warwick Hall, Burford: A Murder Mystery - "THE ROGUE ROTARIAN", proudly presented by The Burford & Kingham Rotary Part Time Players, a charity performance for Prostate Cancer UK and Maggie's. An evening of intrigue, murder and investigation combined with a prosecco/canapés reception and a two course dinner. It promises to be great fun (apart from the murder, of course!). Tickets £45.00.



Plans are also well under way for a special event – The Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir will be performing in Burford Church on Saturday 3 May. Please plan ahead by buying your tickets nice and early as this promises to be a sell-out event (ticket price – only £15.00). Tickets for our events are available from our secretary jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk.

We would love to hear from you if you feel tempted to chat with us about how much fun we have raising money for charity and doing things to help people in the local area. Keep our secretary busy by emailing him!
<https://oxfordwelshmvc.org.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/calmlifelongmovement/>
<https://prostatecanceruk.org/>
Rotary Club website: www.burfordkinghamrotary.club
[Stuart Jackson](mailto:Stuart.Jackson@burfordkinghamrotary.club)

Please become a Benefactor.

Can you support us by becoming a Benefactor of the Burford Tolsey, please? Our Benefactors' donations crucially underwrite the financial security and operation of the Burford Tolsey Museum & Archive.

Every year the cost of running the Museum & Archive (which is 100% self-funded and voluntarily run) exceeds the income generated by our Museum visitors. The annual donations made by our Benefactors and the associated gift aid monies, make a vital contribution towards bridging that gap.

As a small token of our huge appreciation of our Benefactors' commitment, you can enjoy a programme of benefits which in 2025 include:

- Free monthly e-News
- Free participation in our local projects
- Artefacts – an exclusive twice-yearly update which is solely issued to our supporters
- Free entry to the Tolsey Talks (the 2025 programme can be seen on the next column and www.burfordtolsey.org/events)
- Invitation to the Annual Benefactors Reception (2024 is pictured below)
- Exclusive link to our supporters team who can assist with access to events



If you are able to financially support us and would like to enjoy the range of special benefits, please become a Benefactor for a suggested minimum annual donation of £25 per person. Simply download and complete the application form from www.burfordtolsey.org/join and either email it (**preferred**) or post it to the address given in the application form. The form can be completed electronically or by hand. Payment may be made by standing order, by bank transfer or by cheque to the address given in the form.

If you are a UK taxpayer, could you please also complete the Gift Aid declaration which is available using the above link, so we can receive an additional 25p for every £1 you give to us at no extra cost to you.

For any queries please contact Reg and Dorrit Marshall on supporters@burfordtolsey.org. They will be pleased to hear from you.

2025 Museum Opening Days

May we remind you that every year the museum closes January to March to provide a welcome break for its volunteer room stewards and allow us to tackle some key curatorial tasks. We will be reopening seven days a week on 1 April 2025.

Peter Martin 01993 822769 petermartin@btintertnet.com

The 2025 season of five talks will be:

29 May

The Rollright Stones – George Lambrick

Reflections on their folklore, cultural and archaeological value

26 June

Limestone – the 'other' Cotswold material – Richard Martin

How the money from wool paid for magnificent buildings

24 July

History of Minster Lovell – Graham Kew

Historical tales, ghostly legends and the Chartist Cottages

25 September

The Great Exodus of the 1870s – Carol Anderson

Story of local agricultural labourers' emigration to Australasia

30 October

Archive images and Reminiscences – led by David Cohen

Personal recollections exchanged prompted by Archive images

The Tolsey Talks are 45 minute illustrated local history talks, each with a 15 minute question and answer session. Attendees are invited to stay on for a chat and a glass of wine (donations are requested).

All talks start at 7.30pm, and cost £6.00 (a discounted season ticket is available). Benefactors of the Burford Tolsey are admitted free of charge. Talks take place in the historical setting of Burford's Baptist Church, 34 Witney Street, which was erected in 1804, on the site of an earlier building. Further details and ticket booking on

www.burfordtolsey.org/events

AUSTENTATIOUS



Nicola Cornick is coming to Burford Library to talk about Jane Austen's connections in the Vale of White Horse. This is part of the 250th anniversary celebrations of her birth. It's a nationwide celebration so will be very popular with Jane Austen's fans and visitors too. (#JaneAusten250). Tuesday 25 March 7pm at Burford Library

Free event but booking essential!

Carol Amy Holdcroft - Library Manager



Every year, every WI member can vote on a resolution that will be taken forward for that year. In early February we voted using Slido, an anonymous online survey tool, and it looks like "Bystanders can be lifesavers" is getting our votes. So, as part of our programme activities for the year we plan to have one meeting learning about First Aid and being able to use a defibrillator and knowing where they are all located in Burford, Fulbrook and the surrounding areas. One of our members already this year has helped in a first aid situation where she was not a bystander but stepped in to help assist someone who needed help and an ambulance was called to the scene.

Tuesday 11 March is our AGM. After the standard agenda has been gone through with voting in committee, we are going to have slices of Dominos pizzas and a Dingbats Quiz in teams which should be fun. Our secretary, Pat Ferret, is standing down from the committee after many years and the latter three years as secretary. We are very grateful for all that Pat has done for the WI keeping the committee organised and minuting all the committee meetings. Pat will continue to be very much part of the WI, just very deservedly handing over the reins. So, we will be looking for a new secretary. The remainder of the committee is willing to stand again and will need to be voted in by members.

For the start of our new programme, on Tuesday 8 April we have a local lady speaking about "From Galas to the Games - the story of a little swimmer with big dreams", who won an Olympian Bronze in the Beijing Olympics. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Cassie Patten to speak at our meeting and we are hoping she brings along her bronze medal.

For the VE Day celebrations on Thursday 8 May we are planning an afternoon tea in the style of that from 1945, open to anyone who would like to come along. We will provide more details with venue, timing, afternoon tea menu and activities in next month's edition of The Bridge. If anyone would like to help and/or join in please let us know.

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 Chapel in Witney Street at 7.30 p.m. For further information please visit our website thefabwi.org.uk or contact our president, [Jennie Craven](mailto:Jennie.Craven@oxfordshirewi.co.uk), on thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk or mobile 07710 103015.



BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

NEW TO BURFORD & AREA?

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

HEDGEHOGS, HOW CAN WE HELP?

As part of Asthal Parish Council's commitment to nature recovery we are delighted that Dr Lucy Bearman-Brown will give a talk on hedgehogs on Friday 7 March. Dr. Lucy Bearman-Brown is a Senior Lecturer in Zoology and Biodiversity at Hartpury University with a PhD from Reading University in Hedgehog Ecology. Lucy and her work have been featured on the Chris Evans' show on Radio 2, BBC One's The One Show and Countryfile and in numerous print publications. She lives in Burford with her husband, daughter and collie. The talk will cover the ongoing decline of both the hedgehog population and biodiversity more widely, with discussion of how this decline can be reduced through positive action in our own gardens and neighbourhoods. The talk will be held at St Nicholas, Asthall. Doors will open at 7pm and the talk will start at 7.30pm. After the talk there will be a Q & A session.



The event is free but please bring some cash with you as there will be collection boxes for St Nicholas Church and The British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

The talk will be suitable for all ages.

Please contact Lynne Hughson lhughson382@hotmail.co.uk with any queries.

MARATHON FOR SILVER STAR

I am running my first London Marathon in 2025 in memory of Dr Simon Albert, a dear friend and colleague who died suddenly in 2023. He was my inspiration, a hugely dedicated and exceptional GP, and a very kind man. Simon supported Silver Star with his wife Beth over the years and Beth believes that Silver Star is the charity that Simon would have wished me to support in his memory.

The Silver Star Maternity Fund's Aim is:

"To make things better for Oxfordshire mothers and their families, to raise money to keep the Silver Star Unit well equipped, and to improve the comfort and amenities for ALL women during their stay at the Women's Centre, and to support research into important problems of pregnancy".

Any support would be very gratefully received - please see my Just Giving page under sarah-purvis-1723039549863 or there is a donation box at Burford Surgery. Many thanks, *Dr Sarah Purvis*



BURFORD & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

For our January meeting we welcomed back Bill Lawes, this time talking about Artists' Gardens. As our eyes enjoyed a wonderful sequence of photos of gardens and paintings of individual blooms and garden settings, our ears and brains were regaled with stories of people, inspirations, connections, and contexts. Who knew that the wonderful Peace Rose was so popular that it became a monoculture in a particular part of southern France for export to Britain, much to the fury of local olive farmers whose ancient trees were grubbed up? Bill opened our minds to the connection between the detailing sparseness of tors on Dartmoor and the inspiration Barbara Hepworth found to create her majestic garden sculptures. I was struck that Frida Kahlo, in a landscape scene, even painted the roots of plants! Did you know roads had been tarmac'd in the name of art by an "en plein air" artist fed up with his wet oil paints being covered with dust raised by passing ox-carts??

I came away with two thoughts - one, to follow Derek Jarman's "borrowing" of some of the shingle spit in Kent where he created a garden. Are there patches of local land which members might "borrow", to create gardens (behind the Tolsey there is one, and the wild flower verge in Fulbrook might count). In Witney there's a garden by Langdale Hall of edible plants for anyone to help themselves to. The other is whether, for Burford Festival Open Gardens 2026, we might take a leaf from the late Ian Pollard's book, and offer "The Naked Gardener" Open Gardens...

February was our AGM and social tea. On 27 March we have a talk on ponds and water features. The next trip is to the spring garden at Coton Manor in Northamptonshire in April. See the website or contact Jan Cohen for details.

Ruth Reavley



It's a new year and, while we may not be in a hurry to get out in the garden yet, I'm sure most of us are beginning to make plans.

So, how about joining us in the BDHS, a friendly group with relaxed meetings, a cup of tea and an interesting talk about what is closest to us, our gardens. We have six talks each year, two outings, two flower shows and a garden party.

Meetings are held at the Bowls Club in Tanners Lane and there is a car park.

The spring flower show is held on the first Saturday in April, this year the 5th, open to all to bring along your best, just 20p per entry. The summer show is the first Saturday in July, once again the 5th this year. You can enter or just come along for a browse, have a look at our website, www.burfordhorticultural.com, for the show schedules and more details.

The big incentive for joining the Society IS the discounts we get at the local garden centres: Burford (plants only), Bampton, Cassington, Yarnton, Charlbury, Applegarth (Chipping Norton), and Groves in Milton for accessories.

So, why not contact Nigel Barraclough, nngbarraclough@hotmail.com or 01993 824949, for details on how to join us, just £10 per person (easily covered by the discounts if you buy as many plants as me!).

Jan Cohen



Burford Singers
Members of the Bevan Family Consort
Cotswold Chamber Orchestra
Leader: Kate Bailey Conductor: Will Dawes

Programme includes:
Brahms: Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)
Felix Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture
Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn): Hiob (Job)
Haydn: Harmoniemesse

Tickets reserved at £29, £23, £17, unreserved £15, £12
Online booking from 2 March (Booking fee applies)
at <https://www.burfordingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/>
Phone: 0333 6663366 (free of charge) Monday to
Friday, 9.00AM to 7.00PM (not bank holidays)
Booking in person (unreserved tickets only) from
2 March at The Madhatter Bookshop
122, High Street, Burford OX18 4QJ
And on the door
<https://www.burfordingers.org.uk/events/>
Catherine Martin

NORTHLEACH EVENTS

"**Nature & Solitude**" The Old Prison, Northleach
Thursday 6 March-Saturday 8 March, 10am-6pm,
Claudia Clare, international ceramic artist, is renowned for her extraordinary painterly use of colour. Rare in ceramics, she achieves a wide palette of colours which are applied before glazing. The result is stunning Turner-like seas and skies. Claudia has exhibited in numerous galleries and museums nationally, including alongside Grayson Perry in the Zuleika Gallery, London. She is a regular contributor at Collect at Somerset House - one of the world's most influential contemporary art fairs.

"**Kathleen Ferrier: Whattalife!**" Northleach Church
Saturday 22 March at 7.00pm

Tickets at northleachevents.co.uk

The performance embodies the spirit of Kathleen, transporting the audience from her Lancashire debut in 1940, through her meteoric rise in *The Rape of Lucretia* at Glyndebourne to her final tragic performance as *Orfeo* at the Royal Opera House in 1953.

Contralto Lucy Stevens sings music from Kathleen's repertoire including *What is Life and Blow the Wind Southerly*. The show celebrates Kathleen's brilliance, on and off stage, with witty dialogue which is funny and revealing.

Kathleen Ferrier Whattalife! has featured on BBC 2 and on BBC Radio 3 Music Matters
Jane Quelch



Antique Maps and prints for sale

Thanks to the generosity of a major benefactor, the Burford Tolsey Museum & Archive is able to offer for sale the donor's magnificent collection of antique maps and prints. These range from the excellent condition 'Oxfordshire' by Thomas Kitchen c. 1787 to other prints including one the belfry of St John the Baptist Church. All proceeds are for the Archive's funds.

As our ideal is that these lovingly collected items will stay in the area, the BTMA are giving the first choice to residents and businesses who receive The Bridge. Completely without any obligation viewing can be arranged by contacting David Cohen on 07899 837482 or me.

Peter Martin 01993 822769 petermartin@btinternet.com



BRIDGE EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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"If people did not love each other, I really do not see what use there would be in having any springtime." Victor Hugo.

The last few weeks have been a time for keeping the draft excluders firm against closed doors, the wood basket full and the fire lit. Hopefully that pile of books next to you

has got smaller and you feel replete with words and literary emotions.

March has swooped in on gales interspersed with glimmers of sunshine and it is time to go outside, admire the spring flowers and breath deep the air of eternal optimism. Whilst we busy ourselves planning author events and new stock we thought you might enjoy some recommendations to refill that bedside/coffee table.

Honey From A Weed by Patience Gray

Patience was first known for her 1950's classic *Plats Du Jour*, but her greatest work is *Honey From A Weed*, an autobiographical cookbook. Each page is not only packed with passion for the staple foods of the mediterranean but it beats to the rhythm of the seasons, of what is grown and when it is harvested.

Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins

If you a fan of *The Hunger Games* then you will know!

When you've been set up to lose everything you love, what is there left to fight for? As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honour of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes. Back in District 12, Haymitch Abernathy is trying not to think too hard about his chances. All he cares about is making it through the day and being with the girl he loves. We are offering you, readers of *The Bridge*, £5 off this book when you pre-order a copy.

The Garden Against Time by Olivia Laing

This month this enchanting and beautifully written story is published in paperback. Moving between real and imagined gardens, from Milton's *Paradise Lost* to John Clare's enclosure elegies, from a wartime sanctuary in Italy to a grotesque aristocratic pleasure ground funded by slavery, Laing interrogates the sometimes shocking cost of making paradise on earth. But the story of the garden doesn't always enact larger patterns of privilege and exclusion. It's also a place of rebel outposts and communal dreams.

Ungovernable: The Political Diaries of A Chief Whip by Simon Hart

In a first-of-its-kind extraordinary look at life as a chief whip, *Ungovernable* is a revealing, real-time, blow-by-blow account – offering a glimpse of what truly goes on in Westminster behind closed doors. Trust me when I say everybody will be talking about this book!

We look forward to seeing you in The Madhatter Bookshop and Little Madhatter Emporium. Please don't forget to add Burford Lit Fest to your diary 26 - 28 September.

Kim Harvey

ALICE'S BOOK GROUP

Wyrd Sisters by Terry Pratchett was a novel experience for most of Alice's Book Group: "I opened it and thought there is no way I will read this book, but I persevered and really enjoyed it"; one member's remark was echoed by several, and only one person found it was not, really, her cup of tea.

In his Disc Novels Terry Pratchett has created a universe, a distortion of our own, but possibly some centuries ago and set on a disc, resting on the back of four elephants which stand on a huge turtle floating through space – no more fantastical than imagining the earth on the shoulders of Atlas. It is peopled by humans among whom are scattered various other intelligent beings, all of which also have human emotions, indeed some are more intelligent than some humans. This book is part of the series, but works well as a stand alone.

The Wyrd Sisters are three "witches" whose witchery is mainly "headology," a Disc interpretation of psychology and strength of mind, though it transpires that to outwit the various villains they can evoke and use magic powers. The book opens with the Sisters seated on a moor around a cauldron, but that is where any resemblance to Macbeth's crones ends, as our sisters are making a nice cup of tea and having a nice gossip. Pratchett does, throughout, borrow from Shakespeare, and indeed any classic he fancies. This makes reading one of his books a literary adventure where one is amused to identify his source, and sometimes feels there is a familiarity to a character or event, but cannot quite place it. An unmistakable nod to the Bard is a playwright whose mind is haunted by the plots and tales of Shakespeare and who then produces plays which are skewed versions of the ones we know. We all appreciated the philosophical comments that abound, and the well observed human nature, being particularly amused by the satires of governments and politic speak.

Newcomers to Pratchett are surprised by his prose. Whilst he appeals to intelligent adolescents, he makes no concessions in his vocabulary, and he slips into the text interesting description: "the moon rode the clouds," and extended humorous similes. The characters are mostly well rounded, though in this book Death is not as well "fleshed" as in others. There is, however, mention of Binky, his horse, who Death provides with a nosebag while he is collecting souls in his dryly humane manner.

It is not clear if any of the newcomers to Terry Pratchett will continue the relationship. Personally I recommend the shelving of your serious side and having some fun.

Next we read *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith, firmly set on the firmament in London.

Veral Marshall



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>

Blenheim for Free Thursday 27 February Easy: 5.5 miles 3.5 hours 10:00am

Start: Combe Gate, East End, Combe OX29 8ND
A circular route on Public Rights of Way around the World Heritage Site

Stow Swell Battlefield – Tuesday 4 March – Moderate 3hr 5.5ml

From the historic end point of the Battle of Stow, down through Swell where we are reminded of another war, back up to the battlefield memorial. Please bring a drink/snack.
Start: 10.00am Stow public car park next to Tesco (not their car park), GL54 1BX OS Map ref: SP 191 262. W3W: meal.scanty.eggshell

Upland walk around the source of the River Coln – Tuesday 4 March – Moderate 3hr 5.5ml

An upland walk from Wardens' Wood around the headwaters of the River Coln and includes the villages of Sevenhampton and Brockhampton. Please bring a snack and a drink.
Start: 10.00am Wardens' Wood car park (West Down). Turn off A40 for Whittington. Turn right at village then first left (signposted Whitehall). Continue along for two miles. The road ends at the car park. OS Map ref: SP 010 236. W3W: pizza.releasing.risky

A Walk through History - Dinosaurs to WW2 and Back Thursday 13 March Moderate: 10 miles 5 hours

Start: 10.00am Stonesfield Village Hall OX29 8HA
A circular walk through history with fabulous views

Walking the Ways 1(of 5) – Tuesday 18 March – Moderate 5hr 8.5ml

The first of five circular walks during 2025 exploring the Wardens' and Windrush Ways, which run between Winchcombe and Bourton on the Water. This walk goes through Sudeley Park and up to Deadmanbury Gate on the Wardens' Way before we join the Windrush Way for a return via Waterhatch to our starting point in Winchcombe. The walk is mainly along tracks and minor roads but please wear suitable boots and clothing. There will be mid-morning and lunch stops so please bring something to eat and drink.
Start: 10.00am Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay & display £1 all day). OS Map ref: SP 023 284. W3W: statue.harps.supposes

Women, Toil and Trouble Friday 28 March Moderate: 6.5 miles 3.5 hours

Start: Ascott-under-Wychwood Village Shop OX7 6FY
A circular walk from the village with far reaching views. Please park considerately on the village streets.

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. STRENUOUS – may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed. Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.

Sheila Wasley and Rosemary Wilson

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

As it's the time for all councils to set their budgets, I thought you would be riveted to know what is happening in WODC!

The District is expecting to end the 2024/5 financial year with an overspend of around £86,000 compared to a budgeted surplus of £5,000. In the context of total costs of £47 million, that's pretty close. Anyone who wants a closer look will find details in the committee papers for the Executive on 12 March.

So what about next year? The current draft budget has a surplus of around £91,000. To achieve this, the council will have to increase Council Tax by the maximum amount of 2.99% which is the expectation of central government when divvying out other funds.

Another source of revenue that affects us directly is the fee for our green bins. This will be going up by 5% to £52.50. Any increase is bad news, but we still have very low charges compared to the rest of the country. The lowest is £50, Cotswold's was £64 this year.

The budget includes some additional 'growth' spending, some of which I am pleased to see in the planning area. To date we have shared a tree officer with other Districts, and he has retired. We are now recruiting a fulltime replacement.

We are also strengthening our planning enforcement team with the appointment of a Proactive Enforcement Officer who will check that developments are being implemented in accordance with plans and conditions. Until now, the enforcement team has relied on you, the public, to report possible infringements which they will then investigate. (This method of reporting will certainly continue, and is being made easier with a more streamlined process and system.)

The council is also trying to manage its portfolio of assets more proactively and effectively, and the budget includes an additional building surveyor to take on work that is currently outsourced. Further resources are being spent on the District's leisure and housing projects, and to develop future partnerships and review our overall waste strategy.

I told you it was exciting stuff, and I want to reassure you that your District is in safe financial hands as it makes its way towards its dissolution.

But that's still a couple of years off!

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



BURFORD OIL SYNDICATE

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

Next order date is Thursday 13 March 2025 by 5.00pm. Late orders will not be accepted. Deliveries for the March order are expected to be by the end of March, depending on market conditions.

Final order of this "Oil Year" will be on Thursday 1May.

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

Any questions please contact Peter Higgs - 822462



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

BURFORD ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP, AKA BEAGLES

15 March marks our second Eco Day, at the Warwick Hall. We'll be looking at four different areas, **Land, Energy, Transport and Community**, including films during the day, presentations, workshops and many other things besides. We'll have a lot of representation at both County and district level, with lots of handy energy-saving tips – with a particular eye on how these initiatives can bring about change in Burford, and influence the future of our town and its surrounding area for the good. To paraphrase the energy and Net Zero secretary Ed Milliband, there are cost savings as well as jobs to be had, in the country as a whole but also in our little corner of Oxfordshire. We are particularly grateful to Frances Corner, vice-chancellor of Goldsmiths, University of London, for being our mediator for the day.

The programme so far looks likely to be as follows (as ever, this is subject to change):

Time	Presenter	Category	Theme
10:15	Charlie Maynard	All	Forthcoming projects, including the train link from Carterton to Oxford
10:30	Evelyn Sanderson	All	Using Doughnut Economics for a thriving community
11:20	Panel 1 -- policy and projects - Frances		
	Jennie Craven / Perryn Bruce	Climate	Burford Town Council's initiatives for climate change
	Andrew Prosser	Energy	Clean energy projects at district scale
	Hugo Ashton	Energy/Transport	Planning for climate and ecology
	Panel 2 - energy and infrastructure - Frances		
12:20	Josh Spencer	Transport/heating	A household's experience of electric vehicles & its journey to an air source heat pump
	Angus Fraser	Energy	HEAT Clanfield update (and insulating older buildings) - could this be transposed to Burford?
	Ash Smith	Water quality	Windrush Against Sewage Pollution and its progress in cleaning our rivers
13:00	Session 3 - Nature and food		
13:45	Marcus Simmons & Annie Jenkin	Nature	Mid-Windrush vision for nature recovery
14:15	Wild Oxfordshire	Nature	Garden eco-makeovers (tbc)
14:45	Andy Dibben	Food	Biodiversity & Food Production
15:15	Jo Milton	Food	The Replenish project
	Session 4 -- conclusions -- Frances, Rosie		
15:45	Frances Corner		Plenary remarks
15:55	Rosie Pearson		Wrap up

One of the films we'll be showing that looks at the climate crisis from a slightly different angle is *Climate Lens*, which highlights its effects on mental health: this is an aspect which has been under-represented in discussions on climate change, but, as evidenced by February's talk at the Witney Eco Forum devoted to this topic, one that is gaining more widespread recognition.

A list of future talks will be in the April edition: as you can imagine, there are many speakers who would have loved to have been at the EcoDay but couldn't due to time constraints, so we have a pipeline of speakers and will be accommodating them at events outside of our regular meetings, which are on the 3rd Monday of every month, at 7.30pm. We meet at the Prince of Burford, after which we either stay in the pub or adjourn to the common room in Windrush Court, at the top of Burford Hill. You can get involved in many ways: repair cafés, tree-planting, litter-picking or even helping us with our social media! Get in touch at if you would like to know more.

[Andy Hayter, beagles.burford@gmail.com](mailto:Andy.Hayter@beagles.burford@gmail.com)

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Bus blues

In our February edition we published a letter from a reader who had travelled on two occasions on the H2 bus to an appointment at the JR hospital but the driver did not stop there, alleging that he had to miss the stop to make up time. We took this up with the bus operators, Stagecoach, and received the following reply: "We are very sorry to hear that some customers have experienced occasional problems using the H2 service in Oxfordshire. We take every complaint seriously, fully investigate each one, and make the necessary changes to continually improve our service. Every timetabled journey on the H2 route is scheduled to stop at JR Hospital, *even if it is running late for any reason*. We do encourage customers to contact Stagecoach West directly if they experience any deviation from this." *[Emphasis added by editors]*.

Additional information: Stagecoach West will shortly announce a brand-new bus service, connecting both Headington hospitals with Redbridge and Thornhill Park & Ride sites. Launching on 23 February 2025, Service 600 will run every 30 mins during the day, Monday to Saturday. This coincides with Pulhams Coaches taking over operation of the H2 service.

So...they are sorry about what happened but it's now Pulhams' problem, not Stagecoach's.- Ed

Below is a reply to Nicholas Field-Johnson who wrote about the difficulties faced by farmers. It is reproduced here with the writer's permission.

Dear Mr Field-Johnson,
Thank you for the excellent piece you wrote for the February 2025 issue of The Bridge. I share your horror at the government's misguided and catastrophic attack on the farming industry. I wrote to my Metropolitan Labour MP before Christmas. He replied, but only to confirm my fears (and yours) that the Labour party not only fails to understand or care about farming, but also fails to listen to those of us who are trying to HELP them understand it. In particular, my MP claimed that the government is "protecting SMALL farms" with the £3m threshold for IHT - but my email to him wasn't about SMALL farms - it was about FAMILY farms - and as you say, they are not necessarily "small" in terms of acreage and assets - but they are nonetheless cash poor, high risk and VERY hard work. The story you shared of your father's tragic experience with foot and mouth was a heartbreaking example of how tough it can be. I am now struggling to know what more I can do to change the government's mind as a mere member of the public, but am keen to help - without resorting to anything militant or unlawful. If you have any ideas, please let me know!
Jacky King

BLOOD BIKES

Severn Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Services (EVS)

Severn Freewheelers is YOUR blood bike charity, made up entirely from volunteers, providing a professional, efficient service to our community, at no cost to our local NHS Trusts. We transport, by motorcycle or car, urgently needed items such as blood, medicines and samples across Gloucestershire, as well as North Wiltshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. We also partner with other blood bike groups across the country to relay samples across regions.



Nine emergency service bikes and four cars are available 365 days a year with members working weekdays, evenings and at weekends and Bank Holidays, we provide a 24-hour service to the NHS.

Representing a variety of people from many walks of life, member roles include motorbike riders, car drivers, despatchers and fundraisers. We are funded entirely by generous donations from the public and local grants. We hope you can help us make a difference today. Why not volunteer for us? We need riders and despatchers.

A motorcycle typically covers 60,000 miles per year and will, through conscientious servicing last around 3 ½ years. We have a constant need for funds to operate our services; a bike is £18,000 to purchase, tyres cost us £5,500 annually and with ever-rising fuel prices, that bill exceeds £25,000.

We are invariably working at night – you won't see us often – but you may need our help one day.

We appreciate that times are incredibly hard for everyone right now, but if you can find it in your heart to help us, please consider donating at <https://www.justgiving.com/severnfreewheelers>:

Scan the QR code in the above picture to read more about us.
Simon Grover. Registered charity number: 1120999

Hidden Treasures in Parish Churches

From Botanical Embroidery to Medieval Fashion
Talk by the historian Challe Hudson

6.30pm
Friday 21st March, 2025
St James the Great, Fulbrook

Register for your free ticket and glass of wine at
[TreasuresinParishChurches.eventbrite.com](https://www.TreasuresinParishChurches.eventbrite.com)

Contact: friendsofstjamesfulbrook@gmail.com

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

March News – Spring Hedgerows and Gardens

Spring is the season of growth, and our local hedgerows are no exception. This season you can expect to see hedge species beginning to flower. Blackthorn will begin to flower from early spring, blossoming before its leaves even begin to show, into beautiful five petal white flowers strikingly similar to hawthorn. Hawthorn, however, (like buckthorn, Guelder rose, dogwood, wayfaring, and spindle) blossoms later in mid-spring. Cherry plum (which began to blossom in winter) will only continue flowering into early spring, preparing to bear berries in early summer.

All of these species are extremely beneficial to pollinators as well as other insects that feed on hedges (e.g. chestnut moths and brown hairstreak butterflies). Observe the wildlife benefits mature hedges offer this spring and get ready to see it in your own local spaces once your newly planted hedgerows reach maturity.

A Selection of Garden Jobs to Help Wildlife this March

Everyone's waking up! But remember, it can still go below freezing in March...

- Put out bird food with high fat content to give extra energy when food is hard to come by. Suet treats like fat balls and sunflower hearts are ideal.
- Feed hedgehogs – more information below
- Put in at least one hedgehog gap – more information below
- Have plants in your garden that offer winter/early spring nectar – e.g. mahonia, ivy, willow, hellebores, crocuses and snowdrops to provide a boost for our pollinators after the dormant months. You can also start to think about sowing seeds. Have a look at the packets as many are now marked with a 'pollinator-friendly' symbol. Why not grow your own bird food this year and grow sunflowers?
- Create a pond or improve yours for amphibians
- Leave perennials and herbaceous, hollow-stemmed plants unpruned until late March or early April. These will still be providing homes for overwintering invertebrates like ladybirds.
- On freezing days, break the ice on bird baths and water bowls. Refresh the water supply weekly.
- Build a bug hotel
- Leave piles of leaves and logs undisturbed. In mild weather it can be tempting to get going in the garden but avoid the urge to tidy away leaf and log piles just yet. Wait until late this month or early April.
- Avoid turning the compost heap until April, even if conditions are mild. Frogs, small mammals and insects may be hibernating, and any disturbance could harm them.
- Check bonfires before they are lit for sheltering and hibernating animals, such as hedgehogs, toads, frogs and newts.

Ponds, amphibians and the garden ecosystem

March is the key month for breeding amphibians - first frogs, then toads and later, newts. Toads tend to use big ponds to breed in, laying their ribbons of spawn near stems of submerged plants. Newts use their back legs to wrap their eggs in the leaves of marginal plants like the water forget-me-not and brooklime. You may be able to see these folded leaves in June. This month, you can shine a torch into the water at night to see returning newts and you may even witness the male's courtship dance as they wiggle to show off their fabulous tails.

Ponds with fish aren't so good for our native wildlife as the fish will eat the eggs and young of amphibians as well as the invertebrates that the amphibians need to eat.

How to help

Create a pond! Ponds sustain two thirds of all of our freshwater life and improve the health of the entire garden ecosystem. If you don't have room for a big pond, why not put in a bucket pond? Go to the Wildlife Trust website for an easy "how to" guide.

Plant marginal plants in the shallows and at the edge of your pond. PlantLife and Freshwater Habitats Trust has suggestions. Water forget-me-not and brooklime are great for newts to lay their eggs and water mint is brilliant for insects. Brooklime is also used by dragonflies to lay their eggs on.

Make sure there is a way out for amphibians and even hedgehogs that can end up drowned in ponds when they fall in after using it to drink from. You can use planks of wood, piles of stones or make your pond have a shallow and gradual gradient. [Rhiannon Young – Wild Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Engagement Officer https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/](https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/)

BURFORD PRE-SCHOOL

Here at Burford pre-school, we have welcomed back the children and some newcomers after the Christmas break. Stacy went on maternity leave and had a baby boy just in time for Christmas. We send congratulations to her and her family. We have welcomed a new member of staff and will be soon be welcoming someone to cover Stacy's maternity leave. The children have had a visit from the local PCSO, Darryn Moulding, and his colleague. The children enjoyed looking around the police car and listening to the siren as well as a story being read to them. They have been celebrating Chinese New Year and we are very much looking forward to spring and better weather so that we can get outside more and investigate nature.

We are still looking for committee members to help out a little, please do get in touch if you think it could be you. We would be extremely grateful as we cannot run without a committee.

We have limited spaces available so please do get in touch if you would like a place for your child.

[Karen Peedell](#)

BURFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Stargazing Event

The children from Warwick Class, Wysdom Class and Priory Class enjoyed an evening of stargazing. The children and parents met in the school playground to watch the stars and spot the planets – Ms Brown even brought her giant telescope for us to use.

Warwick Class have been enjoying their topic 'starry night' this term. They began looking at the painting by Vincent van Gogh and then made their own versions.

As a school we are focusing on 'perfect presentation' and I have been extremely impressed by the effort the children are making, especially with their writing.

If you would like to book an appointment to look around our 'Burford Best' school then please do contact the school office.

[Rachel Veeder - Executive Headteacher](#)



CLINICAL MASSAGE THERAPY

My name is Audri, I live in Burford with my husband and my two teenagers. I am a Clinical Massage therapist and Pilates Studio owner located at Oxleaze Farm in Filkins.

I had a demanding role in IT and was on the career ladder ascent when two incidents happened to close colleagues with life-changing consequences to them. It grabbed my attention about where I was heading. I set forth on a path to be of service to others.

My journey began when I enrolled on the Comprehensive Polestar Pilates course in London. My curiosity led me to seek to understand the issue(s) in the body I aimed to solve with exercise. Anatomy Training introduced me to Tensegrity and Myofascial lines, combining tension and stability to any physical structure to create balance. It changed the lens through which I see the body and I am interested in fascial manual work and nourishment through movement. I trained with the British Wheel of Yoga, Anatomy Trains in Movement and Fascia Movement®.



During lockdown, I trained in Clinical and Sports massage (JING) expanding on chronic musculoskeletal pain conditions. Trigger Points often mimic common pain conditions such as Frozen Shoulder, Plantar fasciitis, Sciatica, and tendonopathies. The research in my final year developed my confidence to treat complex conditions when assessing headaches and jaw pain (TMJ).

Fascial work can be used for scars to break up adhesions and lessen tension. I work closely with those affected by cancer treatment and rehabilitation. Through hands-on massage or nourishing movement, I offer advice to address a specific outcome. I believe in sharing knowledge generously and teaching to self-treat so it can be practised safely and independently.

Group classes at **6 pm on Mondays and Thursdays** and **9.30 am on Wednesdays and Fridays**.

By appointment: **Clinical Massage and 1:1 Pilates tuition**

[Enquiries: 07741182858 or audri@audrischaay.com](mailto:audri@audrischaay.com)

www.audrischaay.com . *CHCN registered. SMA member.*

STUPID BURFORD

In *Burford Papers* (Constable, 1905) W.H. Hutton reproduces a letter written by the minor playwright Samuel Crisp to his sister Sophia Gast around 1780. Sophia was a tenant of the Great House in Witney Street, Burford, a house which Hutton later purchased for himself as a vacation home, since he was an academic in Oxford.

Burford had been a thriving market town for centuries and in the 18th century there was a famous racecourse there. It was a hub for the coaching trade and a place where merchants and members of the professions lived alongside many shopkeepers. Yet Crisp repeatedly categorised his sister's home town as both filthy and stupid and he constantly urged her to leave the place.

Specifically, Crisp referred contemptuously to 'Burford doctoring', while urging his sister to avoid it. But this is a little hard to take from someone who offered his sister this advice when he was suffering from insomnia:

I hope you can get better sleep than I can do. I am just going to try a steel, a Medicine of which Dr Lewis gives a most wonderfully favourable recommendation, viz. filings of Iron steep'd in Rhenish or old hock. Now I think that I have old Hock by me, I cannot put it to a better use.

Crisp's adverse criticism only makes sense when we realise that he lived in Surrey and made frequent trips to London. He spent his days entertaining himself and his friends, in reading and writing. His friends included Dr Johnson, Mrs Thrale and Fanny Burney and he clearly enjoyed conversation. By contrast with the capital, Burford was a small place in the provinces, and not even the county town. In Crisp's eyes the world of Sophia Gast must have seemed small and an intellectual backwater.

Crisp was especially interested in food and drink. Consider the following extract from his letters:

I had yesterday half a Pipe of excellent Old Port (25 dozen and 2 Bottles) laid in... which will be in prime order for Drinking when You come up. (For I shall not touch it myself until then, as I am constantly drinking Cyder of my own making, which I really like better and I have besides left of my old Stock above 5 Dozen of Port, which likewise I believe I shall hardly touch myself. Now, all these Premises being put together who the D.....l, d'ye think must drink all this Wine, if You don't?

One cannot imagine that Sophia Gast shared her brother's taste for port. She had other interests; and indeed she contributed much to Burford life. There is a tablet in the parish church which commemorates her and her sister Ann Crisp. They are stated to have been *above forty years Resident in Burford; blessings to the poor and Ornaments of Society.* [Stephen Cooper](#)

HAREFOOT PRIVATE HIRE & TOURS

Your Local Minicab Service in Burford

If you're looking for a reliable and luxurious private hire service at competitive prices, in the heart of the Cotswolds, look no further than HareFoot Private Hire & Tours. Set up by locals, for locals and tourists, we pride ourselves on offering a personal touch to ensure that every journey meets your unique needs.

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You can call us at 07301 035924,

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or visit our website at www.harefootcotswoldtours.co.uk to check our price list and make an inquiry.

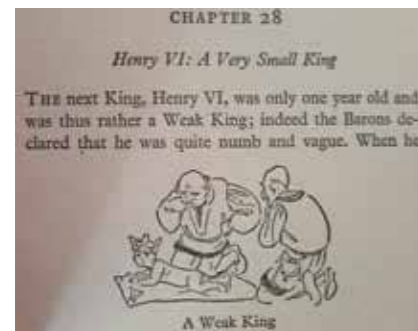
At HareFoot Private Hire & Tours, we believe in making every journey memorable, comfortable, and stress-free. Let us take care of the travel while you sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride!

[Dan Derry](#)

1066 AND ALL THAT

1066 And All That has been described, perhaps with tongue in cheek, as “one of the most influential history books ever written in the English language.” It is certainly one of the funniest. Written by W. Sellar and R.J. Yeatman, two demobbed subalterns who met at Oxford in 1920, it first appeared as a serial in *Punch* and was published in book form in 1930. My disintegrating copy is a 1950 reprint.

It is subtitled “A Memorable History of England, Comprising All the Parts You Can Remember, Including 103 Good Things, 5 Bad Kings and 2 Genuine Dates”. Its genius is in the way it pokes fun at the way history was taught in schools around 1930 and for some decades afterwards by taking the simplified stories we just about remember and giving them a comic twist. Each king is summed up in one word. Richard I was “A Wild King”; John was “An Awful King”; Edward II was “A Worthless King”. The explanation of the relative absence of dates is that “Two of the four Dates originally included were eliminated at the last moment, research done at the Eton and Harrow match having revealed that they are *not memorable*.” One of the surviving dates is, of course, 1066.



All the stories are comically distorted. Thus Henry VIII had “VIII wives, memorable amongst whom were Katherine the Arrogant, Anne of Cloves, Lady Jane Austin, and Anne Hathaway.” The Civil War was between “the

Cavaliers (Wrong but

Romantic) and the Roundheads (Right and Repulsive)”. The French Revolution was caused by “the writings of Madame Tousseau, the French King’s mistress, who believed in everyone returning to a state of nature and was therefore known as *la belle sauvage*.”

At intervals the book contains spoof test papers. For example the reader is asked “Which do you consider was the stronger swimmer, (a) The Spanish Armadillo, (b) The Great Seal?” Examinees are instructed not to write on both sides of the paper at the same time.

The book also pokes fun at English history being taught as charting the steady progress of this country to becoming pre-eminent in the world, which the Victorians may have believed but by 1930 was no longer tenable. “The Norman Conquest was a Good Thing, as from this time onward England stopped being conquered and thus was able to become top nation,” while Wellington was one of the “the great men who kept Britain top nation”. The story ends with the Great War and the peace treaty which was signed in the “Chamber of Horrors at Versailles.”

The book concludes with:

CHAPTER 62

A Bad Thing

America was thus clearly top nation and History came to a .

(In case you are wondering, the other memorable date was 55 BC when, as practically everyone knows, Julius Caesar invaded Britain).

Gordon Elliot



OCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

OCC Budget 2025/26

The minority Liberal Democrat/Green administration at OCC has now published its Budget proposals for 2025/26. Despite receiving more government funding than expected, the administration intends to keep the proposed Council Tax rise at 4.99% (of which two per cent is earmarked for adult social care). The Conservative Opposition failed in its attempt to limit the rise to 4.5% and to sweep away vanity projects which would have enabled the council to spend more on roads and flood measures. New funding of more than £50m has been agreed for highway maintenance. The net budget for 2025/26 will be £646m. More information on the OCC budget can be found on the OCC website.

Local Government Reorganisation And Devolution

OCC’s response to the government’s white paper on devolution was agreed at a meeting of the cabinet last month. OCC has sent a letter to central government requesting that Oxfordshire is fast-tracked for local government reorganisation. The Conservative Opposition broadly supports the concept of unitary government for Oxfordshire but has concerns about a Mayoral Strategic Authority. OCC local elections will be held as planned in May. Current OCC Leader Liberal Democrat Liz Leffman has stated: “*I have been holding constructive conversations with leaders in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire for several weeks. My preference is for us to be able to form a strategic mayoral authority with those councils, but we have not yet reached an agreement.*”

MPs Who Have Retained Council Positions Since Being Elected

Liberal Democrat County Councillors Calum Miller and Freddie van Mierlo have come under media scrutiny for failing to resign their positions since being elected as MPs. ITV News reported that Calum Miller attended 57% of county council meetings and Freddie van Mierlo just 25%. Freddie van Mierlo is also a District Councillor where he has attended 17% of meetings.

Network Rail To Delay Reopening Botley Road Until August 2026

Network Rail has revealed that the redevelopment of Oxford Station, which has seen Botley Road closed to through traffic for 22 months, is further delayed. The new programme will see Botley Road reopen in August 2026, two years after it was due to be completed. OCC will now assess the impact of this on the timing of its own schemes, including the sectorisation plan.

Just Two 20MPH Fines Every Week Across Three Counties

Thames Valley Police covers over 2,200 square miles and three counties: Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The BBC reports that on average just two fines for exceeding 20mph are issued each week across this entire area, so perhaps less than one a week in Oxfordshire. This data adds weight to the views of opponents of the scheme who say it is a waste of money, and infuriates supporters who say the scheme is clearly not being enforced.

OCC Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson, Burford & Carterton North
nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk
nfjuk3@gmail.com



GREAT RISSINGTON GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club was formed in 2010 by some very keen gardeners who wanted to meet likeminded gardeners. The club has grown from informal chats to guest speakers and garden visits. The club runs from March to December, meeting every second Wednesday of the month at the Great Rissington Club at 7.30pm, for an 8pm start. New members can join any time or come as a guest.

At our meetings we have a variety of guest speakers covering a wide range of topics, from vintage tools, plants with medicinal properties, butterflies and bugs, wildlife, organic gardening and famous gardens to name but a few. Throughout the summer months (June, July and August) when we are all busy in our own gardens and allotments, we arrange garden visits.

We will reconvene for our AGM and membership renewal on Wednesday 12 March, at the Great Rissington Club House, 7.30pm for 8pm start. Our guest speaker Charlotte Popescu will talk about “Foraging for Wild Food”. Charlotte publishes her own books like the fruity cookbooks, *The Apple Cookbook*, *Fruits of the Hedgerow* and *Wild Food*, using summer and autumn fruits. *Charlotte’s Puddings – One for Every Day of the Year* could be the book for you.

If you would like to know more about the club, please contact Jillysoft@hotmail.com or Jfpalmer45@btinternet.com.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF BOOK LOVERS

6 March will see one of the biggest events in the Library’s calendar.

On that day Burford Library will be supporting World Book Day, having organised a competition for local school children who have been asked to ‘design a book cover using favourite book characters.’

Over 100 countries from around the world support World Book Day, a concept introduced by UNESCO as an annual celebration of books and reading. Its goal is to offer every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own.

Our Burford Library Manager has been busy collaborating with our local primary school and the Friends of the Library have donated book tokens for prizes. A local children’s author will judge the entries. Long live the printed word!

Maureen Percival



THE BRIDGE TEAM

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

Advertising Manager	Karl & Ann Morris
Commercial Artist	David Mostyn
Editors	Gordon & Elaine Elliot
Founder/Chief Distributor	Clendon Daukes
Proof Reader	Judy Cumming
Roving Reporter	Ruth Reavley
IT Adviser	Pete Freeman

THE BRIDGE TIMETABLE

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

editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk

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

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

advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk

You are invited to enter artwork of any medium to

THE WINDRUSH ART EXHIBITION

A Celebration of The River, Wildlife, Village and Church

in aid of

THE FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH

at Windrush House Gallery, Windrush, OX18 4TU

12th – 17th APRIL 2025

DRINKS hosted by **THE FRIENDS** on
Saturday 12th April

at Windrush House Gallery, 4.30pm – 7.00pm

13th – 17th April Exhibition open from 10.30 – 4.00

Exhibitors will include

Artists from the Windrush area & Sherborne CofE Primary School Art Club



Percy McGuigan

Rupert Aker

Lucy McMillan Scott

ALL MEDIUMS and ABILITIES WELCOME: Paintings, Prints, Photography, Pottery, Needlework

Entry for Adults: £10 per artwork **Entry for children under 12: FREE**

25% of picture sales to The Friends of St Peter's

Contact Jo Neil for entry information: j.neil299@btinternet.com

ENTRY FORM

for WINDRUSH ART EXHIBITION 12th – 17 April 2025

Please return your form as soon as possible - **FRIDAY 21st MARCH LATEST**

All artwork to be delivered to Windrush House by **FRIDAY 4th APRIL LATEST**

All types of art are welcome: paintings, drawings, mixed media, needlework, pottery, sculpture.

Paintings or prints preferably in frames, but mounted work can be displayed in browsers.

Contact: Jo Neil j.neil299@btinternet.com tel. 07852 917130

	ARTIST'S NAME and email/phone no.	TITLE OF ARTWORK	MEDIUM (eg. watercolour, oil, pen, mixed media, fabric, clay)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

USEFUL CONTACTS + INFORMATION

Please check hours of opening which are subject to change

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS			
Thur 27 Feb	Friends of Burford Library Pub Quiz	Royal Oak, Burford	7.00pm
Tue 4 Mar	Pancakes	St John the Baptist Burford	10.30-12.00
Tue 4 Mar	First Chair & Standing Pilates contact hellowellnessity@gmail.com	Warwick Hall	3-4pm
Wed 5 Mar	Free Auction Valuation (Chorley's Auctioneers)	Cotswold Hall Northleach	10am-12pm
Thu 6 Mar	World Book Day	Burford Library	
6-8 Mar	Ceramics Exhibition by Claudia Clare	The Old Prison, Northleach	10am-6pm
Fri 7 Mar	Hedgehog Talk by TV speaker	St Nicholas Church, Asthall	7pm
Mon 10 Mar	100th Birthday of Elsie Garratt	Interview next month	All day!
Tue 11 Mar	FABWI AGM then pizzas and games	Baptist Church Burford	7.30pm
Wed 12 Mar	AGM for Rissington Gardening Club and talk on Foraging for Wild Food	Great Rissington Club House	7.30
Wed 12 Mar	TASC talk - Renaissance Courtship	Warwick Hall	10.50am
Sat 15 Mar	BEAGles Event - Land, Energy, Transport and Community	Warwick Hall	10.15-4pm
Fri 21 Mar	Rissington Local History Society Talk - The shaping of the Middle Earth	Upper Rissington Village Hall GL54 2QW	7.30pm
Fri 21 Mar	Talk - Hidden Treasures in Parish Churches	Fulbrook Church	6.30pm
Sat 22 Mar	Kathleen Ferrier Whattalife! northleachevents.co.uk	Northleach Church	7.00pm
Tue 25 Mar	Nicola Cornick talk - Jane Austen's connections in the Vale of the White Horse	Burford Library	7.00pm
Sat 29 Mar	Burford Orchestra Concert www.burfordorchestra.org.uk	St Mary the Virgin Church Witney	7.30pm
Sat 5 April	Burford Horticultural Society Spring Show	Bowls Club, Tanners Lane,	TBA
Sun 6 April	Burford Singers - Brahms, Mendelssohn +	St John the Baptist Burford	
Fri 11 April	Opera at the Movies - London Festival Opera northleachevents.co.uk	Northleach Church	7.30pm
12 - 17 April	Windrush Art Exhibition OX18 4TU	Windrush House Gallery	10.30-4pm
Tue 15 April	Burford & District Society talk about Burford and its buildings	Warwick Hall	7.00pm
Sat 3 May	Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir tickets from jpw@jass.co.uk	St John the Baptist Burford	TBA
Thur 8 May	FABWI celebrate VE Day 80th Anniversary	TBA	TBA
20-22 June	In the Footsteps of the Mitfords	Asthall Manor	TBA
Wed 2 July	Much Ado About Nothing	Asthall Manor	TBA
26-28 Sept	Burford Literary Festival	TBA	TBA

Burford Recreation Pavilion (Children's Events) 01993 823647
Burford Pre School 01993 824031
Burford School 01993 823303
Burford Primary School 01993 822159

Burford Surgery 01993 822176
www.burfordsurgery.co.uk

Burford Tolsey Museum
 Open seven days a week
 April to October 2-5pm
www.burfordtolsey.org

Burford Town Council
 Tolsey office open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.30 am and 11.30 am
 01993 823647
 Email town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk
www.burford-tc.gov.uk

Carterton Health Centre NHS 01993 841718
www.nhs.uk

Centre for Carers in Oxfordshire 01295 264545
www.oxoncarers.org.uk

Chemist Reavley's 01993 823144

Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital
 Burford Branch 01608 642547

Churches
 Anglican St John the Baptist 01993 823788
 Roman Catholic 01993 823219
 Church of SS John Fisher and Thomas More
 Baptist Church 07967 362885
 Friends Meeting House 01993 875214

Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2787908
 Email admin@cawo.org.uk

Community Transport
 Volunteer Link-Up 01993 776277
 Oxfordshire Comet 01865 323201

Emergency Services
 Police – non essential 101

Environment Agency
 Floodline 0845 988118
 Emergency 0800 807060

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

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

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

Member of Parliament
Charlie Maynard 07487 708681
charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

Oxfordshire County Council
 General Enquiries 01865 815573
 Highways 08453 101111
 Faulty Street Lights 0800 317802
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
 Oxfordshire County Councillor
 Nicholas Field-Johnson 01993 878309

Post Office 01993 822174
stephencolter@aol.com

Recycling Centre
 Dix Pit, Lynch Hill, Stanton Harcourt
 Open 7 days a week 8am - 5pm
 Thursday late night until 8pm
 Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Southern Electric (Freephone) 08000 727282

Thames Water 0800 3169800

Travel
 Rail Enquiries 08457 484950
 Public Transport Enquiries 08712 002233

West Oxfordshire District Council
 General Enquiries 01993 861000
 Out of Hours 01993 705056
www.westoxon.gov.uk

West Oxfordshire District Councillor
 Hugo Ashton 07712 490517

Witney Hospital Minor Injuries 01865 903841
 Open 10.00am – 10.30pm daily
 Last Patient seen at 10pm

Witney Police Station, No front counter
www.thamesvalleypolice.uk

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 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 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	Warwick Hall	07831 301886 Amir Hashimi
Burford Badminton Club	Tuesday nights 8-10pm	Burford School - fun, social, all abilities	Vijay 891043 vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Burford Crafters	3rd Wednesday of the month	Burford Library 2.30-3.30	Judith Butcher 01993 824194
Burford & District Society	Meet 7 times a year	Warwick Hall at 7.00pm	Bert Clough 07943 720668
Burford Town Bowls Club	Friendly Roll-up Mondays from 6.30	Bowls Club Tanners Lane	Jan Bolton 07547 633391 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 thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
Fulbrook Coffee am	Every 3rd Thursday	Fulbrook Meeting Place 10.30 - 12	Lyn Bibbings 823640
Fulbrook Fitness Group	Thursday (wef Sept 2021)	Fulbrook Meeting Place 9am	Pat Ferrett 822892
Horticultural Association	Fourth Thursday	Bowls Club - times vary	Janet Copley 01451 844210
North Cotswold Arts Assoc.	Every 2nd Wednesday	Warwick Hall	2-4pm
Pickleball - fun, social sport	Mon 11-1pm, Thu 10-12pm, Fri 8-10pm	Charlbury Community Centre	Vijay 01993 891 043 or vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Pilates Class	Wednesdays 10.00am	Burford Baptist Church	Elizabeth Jarvis cotswoldpilates123@gmail.com
Pilates Class	Thursdays 9.30am. Suitable for men and women; Tuesdays 6.15pm - 7.15pm	Warwick Hall	Elizabeth www.wellnessity.co.uk 07932 981023
Rhyme Time	Friday 9.15-10.00 am Term Times	Burford Library (for under 5's)	Carol-Amy Holdcroft 823377
Rock-a-Tots	Tuesday during Term Time 9.45-11.15	Warwick Hall	www.burfordchurch.org/rockatots
Rotary Burford & Kingham	Monday	The Burford Golf Club	John Smith 07717 883182
Signpost - Coffee and Help	Every Wednesday in term time.	The Warwick Hall, Burford 10.00 - 12 midday	Opportunity to raise worries confidentially
Scouts	Thursday (term time)	Scout Hut 6 - 8pm	Alex Gill 07762161769 burfordscouts@gmail.com
Scrabble	1st Tuesday of each month	Burford Library (free soft drinks)	7pm
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 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 Dan Boyle

CHURCH SERVICES

BURFORD BENEFICE

St John the Baptist, Burford

02 March	
Benefice Holy Communion (CW)	9.30am
All Age Service	11.00am
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall	7.00pm
09 March	
Choral Matins (BCP)	9.30am
Holy Communion (CW)	11.00am
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall	7.00pm
16 March	
Holy Communion (CW)	9.30am
Morning Service	11.00am
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall	7.00pm
23 March	
Morning Prayer (CW)	9.30am
Morning Service	11.00am
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall	7.00pm
30 Mothering Sunday	
Morning Service	11.00am
Evening Service in the Warwick Hall	7.00pm

Every Wednesday at 10.30am we have Holy Communion Service followed by Coffee & Company in the Warwick Hall

St James the Great, Fulbrook

09 March	
Morning Prayer (CW)	9.30am
16 March	
Matins (BCP)	9.30am
23 March	
Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am
30 Mothering Sunday	
Benefice Holy Communion (CW)	9.30am

St John the Evangelist, Taynton

16 March	
Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm

St Nicholas, Asthall

09 March	
Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm
23 March	
Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm

St Mary, Swinbrook

02 March	
Holy Communion (CW)	11.00am
09 March	
Morning Service	11.00am
16 March	
Morning Service	11.00am
23 March	
Morning Service	11.00am
30 Mothering Sunday	
Morning Service	11.00am

St Oswald, Widford

No service this month

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

ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE

Sunday Mass: 9.30 am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday - 10.00 am
Thursday - 10.00 am

Ash Wednesday (5 March) - 6.00pm

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
Wednesdays during term time only 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

serie o Choral Matins ill tae plae at t ohn the Baptist Churh at 9.30am on unday. ll are elome.

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

Company Name	Business Type	Phone
Antiques @ The George	Award winning, friendly antiques centre	01993 823319
CJD Architects	Chartered Architects	01993 823646
Hickman Brothers Landscapes Ltd	Garden Design and Construction, Landscape and Garden Supplies www.hickmanlandscapes.co.uk	01993 822226
Jenny Smith	Spanish & French tutor. Building confidence GCSE/KS2. Experience in schools; DBS check held.	07908 602547
Kendall & Davies Solicitors	Expert, friendly, client-focused legal services with offices in Burford. www.kendallanddaves.co.uk	01993 822025
Taylor and Fletcher	Estate Agents / Chartered Surveyors / Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers / Commercial Agents / Rural Specialists	01993 220579
Mallams Auctioneers Ltd	Auctioneers and Valuers	01242 235712
Pauline Carter BA AmusLCM CTABRSM MISM	Piano Teacher	01993 774568
Peter Garratt	Painter and Decorator	01451 810376 07788 896496
StayCotswold	Holiday/Short Lets, Relocation, Corporate Stays, Property Search, Sales & Lettings. www.staycotswold.com	01993 259444
Thomas Ellis-Rees	Clock & Barometer repairs. tellisrees@gmail.com	01993 822132
Vick's Byway Garage	Bushey Ground, Minster Lovell, Witney, OX29 0SW. MOTs by arrangement	01993 823142
VJ Hancock & Co Ltd	Certified Accountants / Chartered Tax Advisers www.vjhaccountancy.co.uk	01993 822817
Lionheart Later Life Planning and Probate	Wills – Lasting Powers of Attorney – Trusts and their registration – Fixed fee Probate – Equity Release and Free Financial Advice. www.lionheartlaterlifeplanning.co.uk	07769 730616.
ElWell	Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition Helping people stay independent as they get older	01865 238185
Burford Foot Clinic	Chiropody Castles Yard, Pytts Lane, OX18 4SJ	07884318091
Tony Williams	Welding/Brazing/Soldering & Metalwork Home/Garden & General repairs & alterations	07722334696
Fairways Cotswold Explorer	for all your Airport & Cruise transfers	01993823152 07751472125
The Stone Gallery	Makers of Gold and Silver Jewellery, agent for Georg Jensen. Paperweights & Pictures. www.stonegallery.co.uk	01993 823302
NFU Mutual	Insurance Pensions Investments - Call your local Witney agency	01993 776716
Patti Good	Therapist, Teacher & Healer Free Online Guided Meditation Classes www.pattigood.com	07880 998568
Radnor Martin	Estate agents covering Burford and the surrounding villages	01993 765115
TC Garden Services	Gardening, Landscaping, Patios, Decking, Fencing & Gates, Raised Beds. Contact Tony for a free quotation. www.tcgs.uk	07771 888304
Samantha James	Regarded organic - Private Hairstylist - Experienced. Email - samloujam@googlemail.com	07772 601495
J Coles Plumbing & Heating	For all your plumbing emergencies/needs and bathroom refurbishments.	07947693427
Oxford Construction	Building, Groundworks and Project Management Services Email; enquiries@oxfordconstruction.co.uk	01865 922001
Grimebusters	Dirty carpets? Upholstery? Call Grimebusters - your local professional cleaners. Competitive rates. Free estimates.	01993 868924
Woodgrove Estates	Contemporary offices to let in Fulbrook. office@woodgrove-estates.co.uk	01993 640004
Piano with Victoria	Lessons for all ages and abilities in Burford. ABRSM + improv / songwriting lessons.	07737493980
Funtastic French, Lou Rutterford	French Language Coach. www.funtasticfrench.co.uk	07913 905484



Mum & Me Bouquet Workshop & Afternoon Tea
Saturday 29th March 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Warwick Hall, Burford



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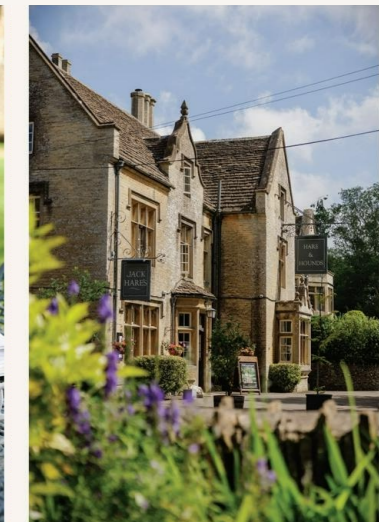
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