



NEWSLETTER



Number 52: December 2013



Goodbye from Ailsa...

I will be having a WOCA café leaving party on 14th Dec to say goodbye to all my lovely customers - everyone welcome in the café from 6, please bring your own nibbles/drinks as I will be on the other side of the counter for once!

...and hello from Ingrid!



I am thrilled to be joining WOCA in January to run the café. Ailsa will be a tough act to follow and I am really looking forward to an exciting challenge, making a great community café a continuing success story.

Allow me to say a few words about myself. I am originally from Paris but have been in Oxford now for 18 years. I live in East Oxford which also has a strong community, so I am very aware

of the benefits it can bring to its residents. I have a catering background but it has been by running the East Oxford Farmers Market café that I have realised that this is the thing for me!

The WOCA café is already thriving thanks to a great ethos and exciting menus -- and I very much intend to keep it that way. I am aiming to make fresh, healthy, affordable food, to serve it in a friendly, welcoming manner, and to deliver a good cup of coffee!

There will be some refurbishment in the kitchen during January -- a bit of a make-over, including the purchase of a professional stove -- and the café should be up and running in time for the 2014 Pantomime.

During December I will be spending some time in the café with Ailsa (Tuesdays and Thursdays), so do please pop in to say hello -- I am looking forward to meeting you all.

Any questions, menu suggestions, or catering bookings for 2014, please email me: ingridgaitet@fastmail.fm



Another WOPA production!

Come and join in the fun! Beauty and the Beast -- a panto by West Oxford for West Oxford.

Thursday 23rd January 6.30pm, Friday 24th January 7.30pm, Saturday 25th January 3pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets priced £6 for adults and £4 for under-16s will go on sale shortly after Christmas and will be available from Eggs Eggsetera.

More information on our website www.wopa.me



wokidzklub@aol.co.uk

07415898452

9th November 2013
10am-12noon and then
every Saturday...

£5 per hour.
Reductions
available for
siblings.

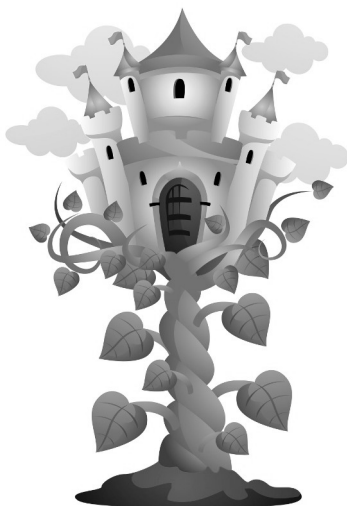
West Oxford Community Centre OX2 0BT

WOT'S ON AT WOCC...

Weekly Updates on display in the Community Centre

Monthly Updates on community notice boards by 'Supersaver' and 'Cartridge World'

The Jack and the Beanstalk Science Show



Friday 3 January, 11am or 2pm
At West Oxford Community Centre
£5 per person / £16 group (up to 5 people)
Fee-fi-fo-fum! We're going on a Jack and the Beanstalk science adventure!
There'll be flashes, bangs and exciting experiments in this interactive family science show, as we explore the science behind one of our favourite fairy tales.
Suitable for ages 5-11
Booking recommended at
www.scienceoxford.com/live or
01865 810000.

FREE MICRO-CHIPPING FOR DOGS



...provided by the DOGS TRUST on the afternoon of Sunday 26th January at the WOCC.

More information at the Dogs Trust web site - www.chipmydog.org.uk

Our Neighbourhood Policing Team will be there too.

West Oxford Academy

The academy has been going for an incredible seven years and is now in its 14th term and we celebrated our 100th talk at the end of last term. This term's final dates and talks are:

3 December: Why the Camino? Why make the pilgrimage today?

10 December: He's not the Messiah! The dangers of cinema's depiction of leadership.

Local residents have given many surprising, informative and entertaining talks, and I am sure there are still people who have a favourite topic they would like to share! So if you – or a friend or neighbour – would like to contribute please get in touch with me as soon as possible. We need speakers if the academy is to continue! Also, previous speakers are very welcome indeed to contribute new talks.

There is a full list of the first 100 talks here: <http://westoxfordacademy.blogspot.co.uk/>

Also, if you just are curious about the Academy and want to find out more, or would like to help delivering flyers, please do get in touch. Please contact me, Susan Hutchinson, either by email: allat32@gmail.com or phone 792358.



Open 9 00 – 5 00 Tuesday - Friday
10.00 - 2.00 Saturday

Contact Ailsa on 07810 780820

Email: ailsa@woca-cafe.org.uk

Contact Ingrid for events after 21 Dec:
ingridgaitet@fastmail.fm

WOCA Cafe is on Facebook and Twitter

Website: www.woca-cafe.org.uk

Geoff's Bench

At the WOCA AGM I mentioned our fundraising for Geoff Franklin, our hard working caretaker, who sadly died last March. We are renaming the old doctors' rooms as the Geoff Franklin



Rooms but we are also raising money for a bench to honour Geoff. This will sit out the front of the centre where Geoff so often stood, mop in hand.

Please drop any donation into the office at the community centre or on line at <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/woca>

Rebecca and the trustees



Keith on 01865 245761



westoxfordcc@gmail.com



Call in! Office usually open Monday - Friday, 1.30 - 6.30 (except Wednesdays)



www.woca.org.uk

MORE NEWS FROM WOCC...

Bike crisis at the centre? Forgot your bike lock? Discover you've got a flat tyre?

WOCA can help!

Thanks to donations from the good people at Warlands Cycles, you can now borrow the community bike lock, or the community bike pump, from the office if you find yourself in need of them.



Fundraising Yoga Session for Adults and Teens

A one hour rejuvenating and relaxing Hatha-inspired yoga class

Learn techniques to help you unwind and de-stress
No experience necessary and yoga mats provided

Date: Saturday 7th December

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Mary Town Room, at the Centre

Cost: £5 per person

All profits to go to the Alzheimer's Society

Wear loose comfortable clothing, and don't eat a large meal before you come

Annabel Dunstan

☎ 07790 216 441



Community Clinic News and Celebrations

After lots of ideas for a name that captured the aim of our clinic, we decided on one that we feel fits us really well - the Oxford Community Health Hub. We are also opening our doors a little later than planned due to delays with the City Council's property department. Our sincere thanks go out to Susanna Pressel for her support in getting the project moving again!

Thoughts at the community clinic are moving towards the New Year, a time of new beginnings and looking at how you would like your life to be. Our launch party and clinic opening will be on the 4th of January from 11am to 3pm. This will be a great opportunity to see the transformation of the GP's surgery into a community clinic, meet our practitioners and find out how they can support you in your New Year's resolutions. There'll also be lots of healthy, tasty snacks to try too. On Sunday 5th January we are running a day of taster sessions at the hub, and you can book your places at the open day for these.

There will be lots of leaflets arriving at the community centre before Christmas sharing with you all the information you need to know about the treatments we offer and how to book a session.

We hope you are all warm and well as the coolness of winter arrives, and wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.



CHURCH NEWS

St Frideswide's, Botley Road (opposite the community centre)

Sundays 10.30 - Sung Eucharist

www.stfrideswideschurch.org.uk ☎ 242345

email revclare@btinternet.co.uk

St Margaret's, Binsey www.binseystmargaret.org.uk

9am Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month.

Evensong every Sunday at 4.30pm during BST.

St Frideswide with Binsey

St Frideswide Church, in the Botley Rd, is our local Church of England. The Grade 2* listed Victorian building has a Hunter organ, judged of such significance that Heritage Lottery gave the church £50,000 towards its restoration five years ago. Information about the church, its architecture, history and fabric can be found on our website in the section on church history. As can a history of the organ.

The church is in urgent need of refurbishment, most importantly the installation of an effective heating system to preserve the fabric of the building and the organ and enable the church to be a warm space for use by the whole community. The work will cost a significant amount of money. If you can help in anyway please let us know.

Clare Sykes Rector

Elim Church

Sunday services 10.30 am including Sunday School for 3-11 year olds

Toddler Group Mondays 10am - 12 noon £1 per family

☎ 247746

e-mail: info@oxfordelim.com

Elim Church, 84 Botley Rd

Our Christmas Services

22nd Dec 3.30 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight, Binsey

24th Dec 3.30 Christmas Eve Crib Service at St Frideswide

Wednesday 25th December Christmas day 9 am Eucharist at Binsey and 10.30am Eucharist at St Frideswide

Low Carbon West Oxford (LCWO) news

- **Ensuring that no one in West Oxford sees a winter without warmth or has health problems associated with living in cold houses.**
 - Do you need advice and information about keeping well and warm during cold weather? Help with high energy bills?
 - Do you know the range of practical local and national support available for improvements to homes and heating systems?
 - Do you want to know about how to make your home more energy efficient?

Anne Clilverd, a local experienced community worker working with Low Carbon West Oxford, is available to support you in accessing advice and information. Anne will be following up and building upon the work done last year. Expect some information leaflets through your door very soon. Please call to arrange a home visit if you would like to make sure you are getting all the help you may need.

Contact Anne on 01865 793049 Or email lowcarbon@hotmail.co.uk

- **Christmas drinks**

LCWO invites you to join the team for Christmas drinks on Monday 2nd December at 8pm in the Mary Town Room, West Oxford Community Centre. Come and find out the results of the BioBlitz (which many of you were involved with in July), test your memory in our quiz on the theme of climate change (with questions on entertainment, music, sport, geography, science and general knowledge!), and share your ideas for New Year's resolutions with a carbon cutting focus. All residents of West Oxford welcome!

Councillor Community Budgets

Councillor Community Budgets are an Oxfordshire County Council grant scheme developed within the Big Society framework. The scheme is designed to take advantage of councillors' local knowledge.

Each county councillor has a £10,000 councillor community budget for 2013/14 to support projects that matter most to their local community. It is up to councillors to decide how to spend their budgets, reflecting the principle that councillors are best placed to recognise and meet the needs of their local communities.

To apply for funding you must be a not-for-profit organisation looking to meet a recognised need in your community. Eligible organisations are able to submit requests for funding by completing a funding request form and passing it to their local councillor for their approval.

Applications will close in early 2014.

If you are interested in applying for funding then it is strongly recommended that you contact your local county councillor (Susanna Pressel - contact details on the back page) to check your proposal's feasibility.

More details at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/councillor-community-budgets

Can you help? -

Street Reps help WOCA deliver this newsletter. We have most roads covered now—just Botley Road west of Ferry Hinksey traffic lights, Bullstake Close, and Yarnell's Road currently remaining.

Sponsorship/Advertising do you have a bit of time to help get more sponsors and advertising for the newsletter? Would you like to place an ad with us?

Panto Storage Can you help with free or cheap storage for the WOPA costumes, props and scenery? Please contact info@wopa.me

Have you got news for us? News for the September issue, deadline 21st March, can be left at the Centre, emailed, or sent via the WOCA website

If you can help please contact us - details page 2

WOCA COMMITTEE

Chair: Rebecca Huxley

Trustees: **Matt Bird**, Martin Bourne, Anne Clilverd, Vicky Hirsch, Rebecca Huxley, Gayle Lonergan, Jim McMahon, Geoff Morgan, Sarah Morgan, Helen Reid, Kate Sant, Shan Saunders, and Louise Siddle. You can contact the committee via the Centre.

Grants WOCA supports community projects beneficial to people in West Oxford, including help with Centre room hire. Application forms available from the centre office or at www.woca.org.uk We want to support you - let us know how we can help.

Save WEST WAY

Say NO

to the Doric Proposals

From this....



To this?



Artist's impression based on information available

Plans for redevelopment of Botley by Doric Properties would destroy our neighbourhood centre – including Elms Parade and Field House – and replace it with a 7-storey complex with 600 student homes, underground car park, giant supermarket and 6-screen cinema. Local reaction has been strongly negative. Doric now say some changes are 'likely' but will not say what might happen.

You can help stop this!

Find out how at our website at <http://westwayconcern.wordpress.com>
Keep up to date on Facebook, www.facebook.com/WestWayConcern
Email westwayconcern@gmail.com

BOTLEY wants BETTER not BIGGER!

Are you aware of the huge changes being proposed for the centre of Botley? The plans proposed by London-based Doric Properties involve destruction of the existing buildings, fewer small shops, meaning Botley would lose many of the existing local shops and services we rely on. Elms Parade, Field House senior citizens' homes and St Peter and St Paul's vicarage would all be demolished (potentially via compulsory purchase if the landowners don't want to sell). Doric are expected to apply for planning permission for these developments in December.

Many local people think the scale of this development is completely inappropriate for a residential area like ours. It seems to be more about making money for the developers and Vale Council than about improving Botley for the benefit of those who live, shop and work here.

Not a done deal!

But it's not a done deal! If we as a community do not want this development, we can and will fight it. There are many examples of communities successfully stopping such developments. West Way Community Concern is campaigning to get local people's voices heard. We support the regeneration of Botley, providing it is in keeping with the area and puts local needs first. The smaller-scale plans put forward by Vale last year would be a good starting point.

We will be presenting a petition to a Vale Council meeting in December to show the strength of local feeling.

What can I do?

If you don't think this development is right for Botley, it's crucial to make your voice heard.

- Write or email to Vale District Council officers, other local councillors, and Nicola Blackwood MP (addresses below)
- Write to the Oxford Mail or Oxford Times
- Sign the petition – even if you have signed one previously. They are in many of the Botley shops and cafes as well as in your community centre.
- Ask your friends and neighbours to sign the petition: we can supply you with copies.
- Be ready to object to the planning application when Doric submits it in December.
- To sign up for updates or offer help, contact us by email or via Café Aloha.
- Doric Properties have Facebook and Twitter pages - why not comment there?
- Donate to our appeal: funds are needed to co-ordinate the campaign. Any left-over money will be given to community projects. Cheques payable to West Way Community Concern can be left at Café Aloha, or see our website for how to donate electronically.

Useful addresses

- Matthew Barber, Leader of Vale Council: VWH District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JE, matthew.barber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
- Councillor Eric Batts: as above, or cllreericbatts@gmail.com
- Councillor Debby Hallett: as above, or cllr.debby.hallett@gmail.com
- Nicola Blackwood, MP: see back of newsletter

Para's 2013 Superb South Indian Fairly Traded Black and White Peppercorns!

This outstanding pepper comes from the Wynad Hills in Kerala. Grown to organic standards and sun dried, the corns are hand-picked only once they are ripe, unlike most systems which pick every corn in one go. The plantation employs some 90 people who in turn feed and support some 400 dependants.

I don't make any money out of selling the pepper: I simply want other people to enjoy it and to help secure the livelihoods of those who depend on the pepper.

Each vacuum packed 75g (2.64oz) bag costs £2.50 and has a shelf-life of 3+ years

**Available from Anne James
26, Barrett St, Oxford OX2 0AT**

☎ 725906 riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk

Easy! Chinese

- ☒ Classes for adults & youth (5-13 yrs)
- ☒ Led by an Oxford private school language teacher, with students aged 3-60+

Where: West Oxford Community Centre

When: Adults: Mon. 6:30-7:30pm, from Jan. 27
Youth: Sun. 1-2pm, from Feb. 2

Price: £12 / class (Private rates also available)

How: Email Kristy ch916@hotmail.com to book your seat, or for a free assessment

Discover how **easy!** and **fun!** Chinese can be

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

Register by Dec. 31 and get
10 classes for £80

OxClean 2014

Every year on the first weekend in March the Oxford Civic Society organises OxClean, with more than 100 groups across the City carrying out a litter-pick in their area. The City Council provides plenty of equipment and removes the rubbish.

WOCA would like to take part and has chosen to do so on Saturday 8 March at 2 pm. However, we do need volunteers to help, including children, who have been wonderful in past years.

Please contact Susanna now on 554001 or spressel@oxford.gov.uk if you might be able to help.

Thanks a lot.

Zumba® class

A fun, latin-inspired, easy to follow dance fitness workout.
No experience required. Wear something comfortable and bring a drink!

Drop-in class on Monday evenings at 8.30-9.30 £5 (£4 OAP/student)

Email denise@toplinefitness.co.uk or call 07748 600620 for more info.

Messy Play/Arty Crafty Kids

With some regret, after 10 years, Vicky will no longer be running Messy Play/Arty Crafty Kids after Christmas.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of so many young people's lives and thank you to everyone who has taken part over the years. If you are interested in taking it over please contact me at:

vicky.hirsch@virgin.net

Your Local Democratic Representatives

Your city councillors are:

Colin Cook, *12 Riverside Rd OX2 0HU

Email cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk

☎ 721844

Susanna Pressel, * 7 Rawlinson Rd OX2 6UE

Email cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk

☎ 554001

Susanna is also your county councillor.

They hold a Ward Surgery on the third Saturday of each month from 11.00 until 12.00 noon at the community centre.

Your MP is **Nicola Blackwood**:

* House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA Email nicola.blackwood.mp@parliament.uk

☎ 0207 219 7126

She also holds regular surgeries at the Community Centre.