



NEWSLETTER



Number 50: June 2013

WOCA presents~

West Oxford Fun Day 2013

1-5pm Sat 13 July Botley Park

Live music, food, drink, stalls, children's activities,
birds of prey, tree trails, crayfish traps, bug safari,
worm charming, a fun dog show and much more!



Blackbirds, Alton Road 2012
Poster design: Vicky Hirsch 2013

For more information ring: 245761 email: westoxford@gmail.com



Oxford Festival of Nature 2013

West Oxford Fun Day | Oxford BioBlitz 2013 www.oxfordfestivalofnature.org

WOCA COMMITTEE

Chair: Rebecca Huxley

Trustees: Martin Bourne, Anne Clilverd, Sarah Day, Vicky Hirsch, Rebecca Huxley, Gayle Lonergan, Jim McMahon, Geoff 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.

This year's fun day, which includes the 2013 Oxford BioBlitz and Festival of Nature, is all set to be a great day (and night) out!

FRIDAY

Activities kick off on Friday evening and include the fantastic guest speakers 'Hedgehog' Hugh Warwick (author and hedgehog guru), bee extraordinaire Ivan Wright (of Shotover Wildlife) & bird expert Dr Alan Larkman (of Oxford Ornithological Society).

Later on in the evening (just in time for the dusk chorus) you can head outside for a guided bird identification walk, a walk and talk on bats (armed with bat detectors) and a chance to get involved with night-flying insect trapping, which will hopefully attract some of our elusive yet beautiful native moths.

SATURDAY

Saturday morning presents the rare opportunity to get up close and personal with local birds during a mist/netting bird ringing session.

Then, at 1pm, the West Oxford Fun Day gets into full swing. All through the afternoon there will be a huge variety of wildlife oriented activities and things to see and do, as well as entertainment, demonstrations, music, some excellent food options, and beer supplied by Compass Breweries.

*N.B. All activities are free and open to all, though some activities require advance booking; please see the Oxford Festival of Nature website for more details.

www.oxfordfestivalofnature.org

Twitter @scienceoxford

West Oxford Fun Day relies most of all on people for its success.

Without our sponsors and volunteers West Oxford Fun Day would not be possible.

**CONTACT THE CENTRE
IF YOU CAN HELP!**

WOT'S ON AT WOCC...



Weekly Updates on display in the Community Centre

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

WOCA Community Supper and AGM



Fierce concentration displayed on the faces of young musicians from West Oxford Community Primary School, as they entertained the crowd before their meal at the AGM. The orchestra had a grant from WOCA some years ago to help get it off the ground, and it goes from strength to strength.

The event was another great success, very well attended, with over 100 people enjoying a delicious main meal provided by Ailsa and Tom from the WOCA Cafe, and a wide range of lovely puddings brought by fellow diners.

Christmas Market 2013 at WOC - call for local artists and craftspeople

WOCA's first Arts and Crafts Christmas Fair is fixed in the diary for the weekend of November 23rd and 24th. We would like to hear from any West Oxford artists or makers interested in taking part.

We'd like to involve as many local artists and craftspeople as possible so please get in touch. Expressions of interest to westoxfordcc@gmail.com.



Open 8 00 – 5 00 Tuesday - Friday
10.00 - 2.00 Saturday

Contact Ailsa on 07810 780820

Email: ailsa@woca-cafe.org.uk

WOCA Cafe is on Facebook and Twitter

Website: www.woca-cafe.org.uk

News from Ailsa

WOCA Cafe/Hogacre Common Eco Park Hogacre Common launched their new cafe, The Hog Roast, on Sunday 9th June and we're thrilled that they've decided to use food provided by WOCA Cafe as part of their aim to create 'Oxford's most environmentally friendly cafe'. The Hog Roast will be open every Sunday from 11-4. You can find directions and more information on their website, thehogroast.org.

WEST OXFORD TAI CHI
THE COMMUNITY CENTRE BOTLEY ROAD
CONTACT J.AENJIEN@OUTLOOK.COM
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME ALONG AND JOIN IN

Every Thursday

Between 4.00pm

And 5.00pm

No charge

All Welcome

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.

For any enquiries regarding WOCA or the use of the centre, or if you have an idea for a positive activity

Keith on 01865 245761

Email westoxfordcc@gmail.com

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

Website www.woca.org.uk

CHURCH NEWS

St Frideswide with Binsey

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

Sundays 10.30: Sung Eucharist with a Family Service on the first Sunday of each month

www.stfrideswidechurch.org.uk ☎ 242345

email revclare@btinternet.co.uk

St Margaret's, Binsey

www.friendsofbinsey.com

9am Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month.

Organ Recitals at St Frideswide

27th June A Celebration of German Music given by Nicholas Freestone

25th July An Organ Omnibus given by David Phillips

Both at 7.30pm £5 on the door which includes a glass of wine and nibbles

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

Family of God Church

We have been associated with WOCA for more than 2 years. We meet at the centre every Sunday from 1.30 pm till 3.30 pm.

We share the GOOD NEWS that JESUS is ALIVE!

He still SAVES, HEALS and DELIVERS

Come and experience wonderful praise & worship, preaching of the word, and great fellowship.

☎ 07427107691 Or 07785425918

Low Carbon West Oxford News

Join us on 8th July - all welcome!

Following a first, fun, informal open evening on 20th May, where we talked about food (and even sampled some cooked in a pressure cooker as we talked) and transport and other things, Low Carbon West Oxford invites you to its second open evening on Monday 8th July from 8pm - 9.30pm in the WOCA cafe.

We'll be focussing on trees and wildlife, improving biodiversity and protecting our natural environment, but are happy to talk about carbon cutting issues as well. Join us to hear about projects and activities we are planning in our community, discuss ideas, and help plan possible future activities. Open to all West Oxford residents - you don't have to be a member of LCWO but we hope you'll like what we're doing and will want to become one (membership is free) and perhaps even join our committee.

We look forward to seeing you there! Call LCWO on 07531 500955 or email: info@lcwo.org.uk to let us know you're coming (it helps with catering arrangements) or just turn up on the night.

Work starts at Osney Lock

Thanks to phenomenal local support enough funds have been raised to enable the construction of a community-owned hydro at Osney Lock.

Inevitably and regrettably the construction work will have an impact on local people and we, our contractors and the Environment Agency will take whatever measures we can to minimise any nuisance.

From 1st July between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, piling work will be undertaken to create the cofferdam that is needed for both the hydro's civil engineering work and the Environment Agency's work on Weir B (the weir at the site of the hydro; this maintenance work has been planned for some time and the construction of the hydro has to fit in with the Environment Agency's schedule for the work).

It is anticipated that the pile-driving will take around two weeks. Pile-driving works are currently scheduled to take place during weekdays between the hours of 8.00am and 5.00pm. However, we must stress that this is only an estimate based on anticipated conditions.

We appreciate that the noise of pile-driving can be intrusive, and we have therefore arranged for facilities to be available for local residents wishing to seek a quieter space to work or sit during the period of pile-driving. A room has been reserved for this purpose at West Oxford Community Centre, as well as offers to host people from residents based in parts of West Oxford further from the construction site. To arrange access please contact us via www.osneylockhydro.org.uk or by emailing info@osneylockhydro.org.uk.

During construction we will be working with the Environment Agency to control river flows. Plans are in place to manage flood risk and any impact on waterways navigation.

If you have any queries relating to construction, please call the information line whose number will be on the website. We hope the knowledge that the construction work will result in a valued asset for the community will go some way to mitigate any inconvenience.

The Osney Lock Hydro team



Did you enjoy the WOPA production of Cinderella? Would you like to be involved in the next production?

WOPA was founded in 2011 to provide an annual pantomime by West Oxford for West Oxford. We have had two incredibly successful years and we hope to improve year on year.

We are now looking for PRODUCTION CREW for our next effort.

Why should you get involved?

- You will meet and work with a diverse mixture of people from West Oxford
- It's fun!

You'll be 'putting something back' into the community

What do you need?

Tons of patience and a good sense of humour

If you would like to be involved and think you could offer some time to make the next production even better, then please pop along to the **West Oxford Community Centre Cafe on WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY at 7.30PM.**

We need to appoint the following: Director, Stage Manager, Costume Mistress, Scenery and Props Manager, Backstage Manager, Sponsorship & Advertising Manager, Publicity Manager, Choreographer and associated teams. Enthusiasm is more important than experience!

If you would like to be involved but cannot attend the meeting, please email info@wopa.me with your details.

Please note, potential performers, information regarding the auditions will be released during the summer

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 13th September, can be left at the Centre, emailed, or sent via the WOCA website

If you can help please contact us - details page 2

Neighbourhood Return Project

Do a good turn for your Neighbour. That's the aim of the new Neighbourhood Return scheme, which aims to act quickly to find people with memory problems, such as dementia, who have got lost.

We are looking for volunteers to join searches in their immediate area, who have a mobile phone which is regularly charged and has credit on it, and who can use text messaging.

We know everyone isn't available all the time, so the scheme aims to sign up as many volunteers across Oxfordshire as possible. If you aren't available when we alert you to someone missing, just text back 'no'. If you are free to help, our care centre will let you know where to search.

You can sign up at www.ourturn.org.uk or by phoning 0116 229 3118.

You will rarely or may never be called to help, but by registering, you will help carers to feel supported by their local community, and if someone in your local area goes missing, you could help save a life.

If you are a carer of someone with memory problems, you can register them using the contacts above. It's free.

For more information, contact Ben Simpson
ben.simpson@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

Heard of Hogacre? But not sure what it is?

Here are 10 things you always wanted to know about Hogacre

1. Hogacre Common is a 14-acre eco-park, just a short walk from West Oxford, on the site of Corpus Christi's former sports ground.
2. It has been set up and is run by Low Carbon West Oxford, West Oxford Community Renewables and Low Carbon South Oxford, for the enjoyment of the communities of West and South Oxford.
3. The park is a beautiful green space and home to many exciting environmental projects, including...
4. Community beehives
5. Wildlife projects
6. Home to Forest School for local primary schools
7. A newly planted orchard (one of Oxfordshire's premier heritage orchards)
8. A 1000 tree woodland (planted by volunteers one rainy February day in 2011), including a hazel coppice
9. A wonderful community vegetable garden in the old tennis court – open to volunteers every Sunday afternoon!
10. ...and a beautiful **cricket pavilion** (with kitchen, and toilet) **for hire** for all sorts of events.

BREAKING NEWS: NEW CAFÉ IN THE PAVILION EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON – THE HOG ROAST CAFÉ - serving delicious soups, sandwiches and LOTS OF CAKE. The coffee is provided by UE coffee, an artisan wood-roasted coffee company based in Witney. It is hoped that coffee will be roasted over wood from our own hazel coppice once it matures.

And also this summer from 7th June - **The FIELD KITCHEN** pop up **Restaurant** returns - "An adventure, and experience and a gourmet extravaganza all rolled into one" – The Oxford Times. <http://thefieldkitchenoxford.com/book-now>. Book now to avoid disappointment!

BUT HOW DO WE GET THERE?

If you are going there from WEST OXFORD, walk down the Thames, towards Grand Pont, go under the railway bridge, turn right and walk up into Grand Pont Nature Reserve. Turn right again (up off the tarmac path) and head straight on until you get to the railway – turn left and follow the path which runs parallel with the railway until you come to the pedestrian bridge over the railway – Cross over and Hogacre is just ahead of you! If you know the way to **SOAP** (South Oxford Adventure Playground) or **Grandpont Nursery** head there, but continue down the path towards the railway bridge, cross over and there you are. There is also a map on the Hogacre website: <http://hogacrecommon.org.uk>

All the above events and activities are made possible by volunteers from our local communities. **You can get involved too. Just let us know what you would like to do. Email: hogacrecommon@gmail.com**




Coming soon...

Thursdays: 7.30 – 9.00pm Age 14 +

'FREE' Taster Session

£5 – Per Class Thereafter

Muay Thai is steeped in ancient history & the national sport of Thailand is characterized by use of the fists, knees, shins, feet & elbows, & ideal for those in pursuit of self-defense, to keep fit, & an intense calorie burn/weight loss. Our hands-on teaching philosophy enables a simultaneous cardio workout. We are a small established fully UK accredited, Muay-Thai Oxfordshire community, (Enhanced CRB). With us you can learn traditional /authentic Thai Boxing. Classes are all in a safe, fun, ego free, & relaxed atmosphere. No previous martial arts experience required, neither any pre-determined level of fitness. Monthly D/Debits are NOT essential & NO uniforms. Further info:

 Will (Instructor) 07594 371512
Email: kbrthaiboxing@gmx.com
Website: <http://www.kbrnthaibox.com/>
TWITTER: @KAITBURIN
FACEBOOK: <http://facebook.com/kaitburin.thaiboxing>

Para's 2012 Superb South Indian Fairly Traded Black and White Peppercorns have arrived!

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.

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

West Oxford Book Group

We are looking for new members to join our small, informal and local group, which meets monthly to discuss a mixture of books.

For more information contact Robert -

☎ 423785

Email robert@perfecttext.org

St Frideswide Church, Botley Road, Oxford

A Celebration of German Organ Music

Thursday 27 June 2013 at 7.30pm

Organ recital given by Nicholas Freestone

With works by J. S. Bach
Dietrich Buxtehude, Nicolaus Bruhns,
and Felix Mendelssohn

£5 which includes a glass
of wine and nibbles

STREETSPORTS

SUMMER 2013 PROGRAMME

FREE

8 JULY - 21 SEPTEMBER
FOR 8 TO 18 YEAR OLDS

WIN
PRIZES*

Just turn up and play, all equipment provided.

Sessions take place on Multi Use Games Areas (aka StreetSports cages).

Streetsport sessions are happening all over the city this summer, and some will be in Botley Park, behind the community centre!

The West Oxford sessions will start on Thursday 25th July and run each week (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th August) between 2 and 4pm

Get a free wristband at your first session!

Sessions may be cancelled if it's raining.

*Earn bounts points at every session you attend and redeem them for rewards and prizes - the more bounts you earn the more rewards you get! (See reverse for details).

INFO: www.oxford.gov.uk/streetsports

e: sportsdevelopment@oxford.gov.uk t: 01865 252729

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.