



NEWSLETTER



Number 49: April 2013

Geoff Franklin

I write on behalf of all trustees and everyone who has been involved in WOCA over the years to say that it was with extreme sadness we learnt of the sudden recent death of Geoff Franklin, our caretaker. He worked so hard for the community centre for many, many years and the centre now feels very empty without him. His hard work, humour and endless knowledge of everything to do with West Oxford will be sorely missed by us all. Our thoughts go out to Patsy and the family.



Rebecca Huxley (Chair of WOCA)

WOCA Community Supper and AGM

5.30 Sunday 12th May

Featuring West Oxford Primary School Orchestra

A brief AGM will follow the feasting, then more fun until 8pm

This event is FREE but to be sure there is enough food for everyone please sign the list at the Community Centre or West Oxford School or email westoxfordcc@gmail.com (with 'AGM' in the subject line) stating the number of places wanted for adults and children—by 6th May if possible.

Please bring a pudding if you can!

We look forward to seeing you...



Oxford Festival of Nature 2013

West Oxford Fun Day | Oxford BioBlitz 2013

West Oxford Fun Day 12-13 July 2013

Botley Park (behind the community centre)

This year we are joining up with Science Oxford to create Oxford Festival of Nature, making this a brilliant event for everyone who's interested in the natural world as having fun!

As well as all the usual attractions and events, we will have a wide range of activities run by locally-based wildlife experts, including birds of prey, bat walks, tree trails, crayfish traps, worm charming and a walk through moth tent!

All this will contribute to a 24 hour BioBlitz, identifying all the living species that we can. In the 2012 BioBlitz Science Oxford found 777 species. Can we do better this year? There's only one way to find out!

Find out more at www.scienceoxford.com/live/oxfestnature/

Planning is well underway now, so please get involved if you'd like to.

CONTACT THE CENTRE IF YOU CAN HELP!

Woca Choca

The trustees of West Oxford Community Association have great pleasure in announcing the latest WOCA CHOCA awards:

The Easter WOCA Chocs go to **Isaac Bourne** and **Bertie Siddle** for all their hard work on the centre clear-up day

Many thanks, and enjoy the chocs!

Flexible Space to Rent

Space is available for long term rent at the community centre.

Good access to all amenities including an excellent café, car parking and toilets. Currently arranged as four small rooms, but could be rearranged as required.

Overall size 6.8m x 5m

£1050 per calendar month

For more information or viewing please call 01865 245761 or email westoxfordcc@gmail.com

WOCA COMMITTEE

Chair: Rebecca Huxley

Trustees: Martin Bourne, Anne Clilverd, Sarah Day, Vicky Hirsch, Rebecca Huxley, Gayle Lonergan, Jim McMahon, Geoff Morgan, Sheila Parry, Helen Reid, 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.

WOT'S ON AT WOCC...



West Oxford Community Centre

Weekly Updates on display in the Community Centre

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

WOCA has faced a problem at the centre that has been 'bugging' us for many years. The problem is that we do not have the space for buggies to be safely stored indoors. At busy times there are upwards of 40 buggies in the building, blocking fire exits and escape routes, which presents a serious safety issue for centre users.

From April 15th the Community Centre will be a buggy-free building!

More space for the kids to play!



Improved safety for centre users!

There will be a buggy park to the rear of the building by the café.

If you're worried about security then why not lock it up with a bike lock?

Activities for young children and their parents at the centre, and the provision of the café, are excellent ways for people to connect and get to know the place. After consulting with parents of children and organisers of children's activities at the centre, and weighing up the options, WOCA has reluctantly decide that a ban on buggies, with the provision of a buggy park, is the most practical solution. WOCA was particularly influenced by the experience of Elms Road Children Centre. A ban was introduced there some time ago for similar reasons, and has proven to be effective, without a decline in use. WOCA will be taking a sympathetic approach to the ban, and particular consideration will be made for situations such as when people arrive with sleeping babies.

West Oxford Art and Craft Courses

Sunday Mornings in the café at West Ox. Comm. Centre

7th April: Printmaking workshop

Experiment with collagraphs – printing without a press

21st April: Felt-making

Making a bag/purse/hanging from soft, carded wool

5th and 19th May: Mosaic—two morning course

Create a mosaic by recycling old crockery

9th June: Simple machine sewing

Make a simple item. An introduction to using a machine.

23rd June: Decorative papers and boxes

Decorating paper for wrapping or other craft projects using

printing, sponging etc. and making small boxes/containers

Cost £22 per morning including materials and refreshments

Adults and accompanied children aged 8 and over

Book early! £10 deposit req'd in advance to secure your place!

More info: Vicky Hirsch 724315 vicky.hirsch@virgin.net



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

The café is now open at 8 in the morning and serving breakfast including porridge, homemade granola and eggs and bacon; we also have some shelves of homemade goods and other favourite products, so if you really liked the marmalade you had with your toast you can take some home with you! As always feel free to make suggestions for things you would like in the café.

Put a Spring in your step!

Always wanted to start jogging but never quite got going? Perhaps you plan to enter a Race for Life or another run this year and you need to start training?

Whatever your reason, let us give you a helping hand to get jogging!

Tuesdays, 6.45pm

Contact Sarah 07786268720/missarahlay@gmail.com

Thursdays, 6pm (women only)

Contact Jo 07894 338291 joanna@fe-line.co.uk

Both sessions meet at West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road.

Led by a friendly and qualified jog leader, these sessions last up to an hour and absolute beginners are very welcome.

So dust off your running shoes West Oxford and join in the fun!



Cheeky Monkey Show is coming! Weekly classes start Thursday May 2nd from 10am (50 minute session). £4(refreshments included). Suitable for pre school (6 mths–4 years). Energetic, Original, and Lots of Fun!



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.

Artweeks 2013

wocART are once again exhibiting in the Mary Town Room during Artweeks from Saturday May 4th to Sunday May 12th, 12-6 each day except Thursday (12-8). This year, 5 local artist explore the theme of "boundaries". Art workshop for children, 1.30-3.30 on Sunday 5th May. Artweeks brochures available from Eggs etc, WOCA and elsewhere locally from early April.

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 Church is considering arranging to have a section of the church grounds consecrated so that people would be able to have their ashes buried there. Because the church grounds are bounded on two sides by water it is not allowable to bury bodies there. We would like to hear from local people about what they think about this and if you would welcome the proposal. Please let us know by 12th May 2013 via the contact details below.

St Margaret's, Binsey www.friendsofbinsey.com
9am Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month.

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

Sundays 10.30: Eucharist each Sunday
www.stfrideswidechurch.org.uk ☎ 242345
email revclare@btinternet.co.uk

Music and crafts at St Frideswide Church

Thursday 25th April with the St James Singers performing Atlantic Bridge, a lively programme song and poetry by this acclaimed a capella ensemble.

Thursday 30th May Music through the Church's Liturgical Year. Organ recital by David Eldridge St Frideswide's organist and Director of Music Both at 7.30pm. £5 on the door (includes a glass of wine and nibbles).

Saturday 11th 10am ~ 3pm May Craft Fair and Gift Day: A wide range of crafts for sale and demonstration by the craftspeople, herbs and cut flowers, tombola, children's activities and more. Plus a chance to hear the magnificent Hunter organ played. Morning coffee, afternoon tea, and light lunches served.

If you would like to come and sell and display your craft please contact Anne on riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk or Oxford 725906. There is no charge for a stall but we ask for 20% of any sales you make.

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

West Way Community Concern

West Way Community Concern has been set up by a group of local residents who feel that the community served by the West Way shopping centre needs an independent voice to represent its needs and wishes to the developers (Doric Properties) and the planning authority (The Vale of White Horse). Since forming in February, we have

- Been welcomed by the North Hinksey Parish Council as a representative voice for the community that uses West Way facilities.
- Set up an email address to contact us westwayconcern@gmail.com
- Set up a website which we will keep updated as the project progresses at www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com
- Designed a survey which will be available at the end of March to the community of West Way users.

The survey is the most important step we have taken. You can collect survey forms from one of many shops in West Way who are displaying our poster in their window. Completed forms can be dropped off at these shops or at the Botley Library. Alternatively, you can fill in the survey on-line at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/west_way_community

It is really important that as many of those as possible who use the shopping centre contribute to this survey. It will be used to show the strength of community feeling about the various elements of the proposed development. This will give us strong backing to influence the outcome of the consultation process.

We plan to hold a public meeting at Saints Peter & Paul Church on Wednesday 22 May at 7.00pm. Also, on Saturday 13 April, we are holding an open day at Seacourt Hall from 10am to 1pm when you can come along, let us know more about your thoughts on the development and ask any questions about how we plan to present your views.

We will circulate further details of meetings and other news shortly.

WEST OXFORD C P SCHOOL

Ferry Hinksey Road ☎ 248862
headteacher.2533@west-oxford.oxon.sch.uk
www.westoxfordschool.co.uk

West Oxford Primary School is 100 years old! Did you or someone you know attend or work at the school? We'd love to hear from you. Please contact Hayley on 079-82121338 / hhayle@hotmail.co.uk

News from Woodlands Pharmacy

Unfortunately I have to have an operation in March, so I will be out of action for about 6 weeks. However it will still be business as usual and the same high standards will remain at the pharmacy. Thank you all for your help and support.

Kind Regards Pupinder S Ghatora MPharm MRPharmS Managing Director
Woodlands Pharmacy 74 Botley Road, Oxford, OX2 0BU
☎ 242649 Fax: 01865 543 177 Web: ww.yourepharmacy.com

HEBBORNS FAMILY FUN FAIR BOTLEY PARK

FRIDAY 10TH UNTIL SUNDAY 12TH MAY 2013

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY TO ENJOY

Victorian Carousel ~ Bumper Cars ~ Twister ~ Waltzer ~ Giant Slide ~ Lady Birds ~
Swing Boats ~ Tea Cups
Plus lots more....

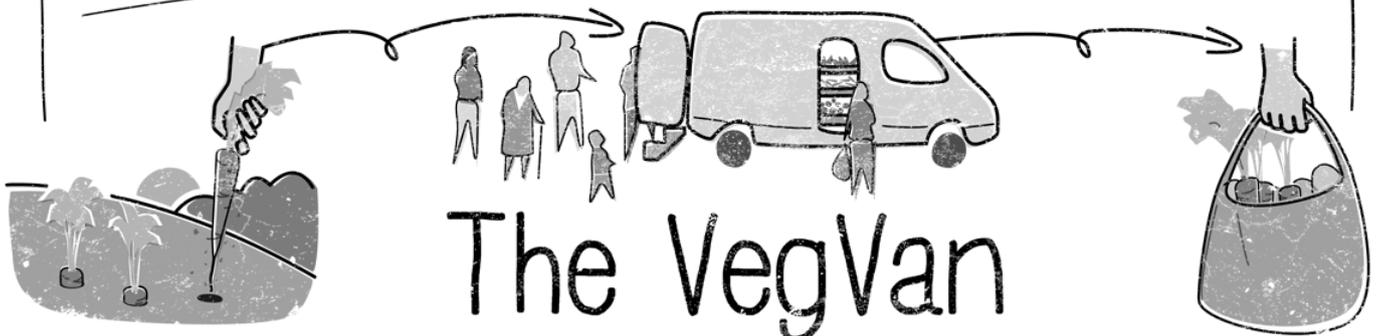
BOTLEY FUN FAIR £1.00 SPECIAL
ALL RIDES ARE ONLY £1 per ride EVERY DAY

Setting up will start on 7th May and finish on 13th May. Any enquiries, Tel no: 07791676157 Hebborns Amusements

ALL AMUSEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE FOR ANY EVENT

Real food: from the farm to your plate

Fresh fruit & vegetables from local farmers



The VegVan

Mobile Greengrocer's Shop

at OXFORD RAIL STATION main entrance
Every Friday 3.30-7pm



07579 965 374
www.cultivateoxford.org

Come and see us!

TILLY OF HENRY ROAD (after TS Eliot)

There's a buzzing down the road
Like a telegraphic code
As the residents begin another day
Saying 'Tilly – where is Tilly,
Cos the night was very chilly,,
We must find her or we can't get on our way'

All the early morning walkers
And the Botley Park stalkers
They are searching high and low
Saying 'Tilly – where is Tilly ,
You are such a silly billy
We must find you or we just can't go.'

Then the Tumbling Bay grannies
Look in all their nooks and crannies
As the hopes of finding Tilly start to wane
Then Tilly will appear
And there'll be a massive cheer
She's been busy in Binsey Lane

She gives one tinkle
Of her 'Tilly bell'
That says 'I'm a real cool dude!
Just been out for a stroll
On my morning patrol
In the local neighbourhood.'

Then she'll saunter down the street
For her morning 'meet and greet'
She just loves to be the centre of attention
As they stand there in a huddle
She'll enjoy a friendly cuddle
And a squeeze that helps to ease out any tension

When the days are warm and sunny
She will find it very funny
To enjoy a cat nap under all the cars.
And she loves to eat al fresco
Whilst you're buying food at Tesco
And to sleep out in the park beneath the stars

But when the winter wind is blowing
And the nights have turned to snowing
She'll be sleeping on your warmest radiator
She'll be dreaming of the shrew
Which she's placed inside your shoe
That she'll nibble for her breakfast some hours later.

She will have her little spats
With the other dogs and cats
There are days that she comes home with knocks
and bruises
But it's true that by and large
It is Tilly who's in charge
And the other cats and dogs who are the losers.

She's the cat with personality
And the toast of her locality
She's the lord of her West Oxford abode
She's the hostess with the mostest
Queen of feline pin up posters
She's Tilly of Henry Road

Tony Talbot

West Oxford Beer Festival – Saturday June 22



On the evening of Saturday June 22 the Community Centre will play host to the annual West Oxford Beer Festival (or WOBfest).

Now in its third year, this mini-festival will feature a range of local ales alongside other refreshment and food provided by Ailsa from the West Oxford Café.

WOBfest brings together local residents for an enjoyable evening, whilst raising money for the West Oxford Community Primary School Playground Appeal.

Tickets for this year's WOBfest will go on sale towards the end of April, priced five pounds each. Your ticket gains you entry, and the price includes a commemorative pint glass for you to keep. Entrance will be by ticket only.

You will be able to purchase tickets from Eggs Eggsetera, Pearce Alder (look out for our posters when they go up!) or by contacting us direct by emailing: david@wobfest.co.uk

Alternatively you can send us a message via our Facebook page (just search for "WOBfest"). If you click on the "like" button you will get all our updates.

Please also get in contact if you are interested in helping out - selling tickets, pouring pints, or by becoming a beer sponsor, either corporate or individual. Without our sponsors and volunteers WOBfest would not be possible.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at WOBfest, for what promises to be another great evening.

Low Carbon West Oxford News

Bring & Take 20th April from 10.30am to 12.30pm
West Oxford Community Centre
Bring goods from 10.30am to 11.30 am only, and take goods anytime from 10.30am. The event aims to help reduce, re-use and recycle. By reducing the amount of goods we buy, swapping them when we no longer need them and recycling what's left over, we reduce the amount of stuff going to landfill, reduce our community's carbon emissions and save money. There will be competitions and seed swaps, and activities for kids such as energy and waste-themed gadgets to try out on the Green Schools Bus. We will hold free, private energy advice surgeries to deal with householders' and tenants' specific energy enquiries about their homes. Please let us know if you would like to book a free 20 minute session (details below).

Open sessions - all welcome!

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) or perhaps join our committee.

The next session is on Monday 20th May, 8pm – 9.30pm in the Community Centre Cafe. Theme – food and waste. We'll discuss meat- and cheese-free Mondays, talking with allotment holders about possible joint activities, and reviewing the Spring Bring & Take. There will also be a demonstration on saving energy by cooking with a pressure cooker by a local 'chef'. Bring your own mug for a sample for the chef's minestrone soup.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Call LCWO on 07531500955 or email: info@lcwo.org.uk

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
01865 725906 riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk**

WEST OXFORD BOWLS CLUB

Would you like to join us?

West Oxford Bowls Club is looking for new members - beginners or established bowlers.

We are a friendly group with many social events organised throughout the year.

Please feel free to come along to the Bowls Club (behind the Community Centre) on Monday evenings at 7p.m. starting in May. You will receive a warm welcome! If you are a novice you might like to try out our taster sessions.

For further information please contact the Club Chairman, Mr. David Carter, on (01235) 527 002

Interested in regular paid work with our friendly team?

WOCA is looking to recruit Centre Assistants to offer occasional help at weekends, for up to 6 hours a week. Successful applicants will need to be reliable, friendly, trustworthy, flexible, and have the community's interest at heart. Duties include locking/unlocking the centre, basic admin tasks, dealing with enquiries, and cleaning. Experience of work in a similar environment is desirable.

For further information and an application form, call 245761 or email westoxfordcc@gmail.com

Help us harness the power of our river.

Will you help us raise the funds so we can build a community owned hydro scheme at Osney Lock?

We need to raise the money to build the scheme by 7th May, or risk losing the opportunity for our community for ever.

By investing in Osney Lock Hydro you'll be helping to

- Build a hydro scheme at Osney Lock
- Generate clean, green electricity
- Bring environmental and social benefit
- Get a financial return for your investment

We need to raise the funds now, to fit with Environment Agency works scheduled at the site to replace the buck gates this summer.

To learn more about the project, and how to invest, visit Osney Lock Hydro website www.osneylockhydro.org.uk

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

We are planning WOCA's first Arts and Crafts Christmas Fair this year in the hall on November 23rd and 24th and would like to hear from any West Oxford artists or makers interested in taking part. There's no commitment at this stage: practical details are still being worked out and we're currently only looking for expressions of interest.

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

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, Roger Dudman Way, Venneit Close, 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 WOCA costumes, props and scenery? Please contact info@wopa.me

Have you got news for us? News for the June issue, deadline June 7th, can be left at the Centre, emailed, or sent via the WOCA website

If you can help please contact us - details page 2

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 cllrspresel@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.