



# NEWSLETTER



Number 44: December 2011

## WOCA Harvest Supper Delight



The WOCA Harvest Supper, held in October, was very well attended and a fun-filled occasion. It was a real community celebration: The vegetables for the meal were generously supplied by our neighbours on Osney, Botley and St Thomas' Allotments, the main meal was cooked by Ruth Lyster the West Oxford School dinner lady, and served by WOCA committee members. Music was provided by the Knights of Mentis, and the hall was adorned with Centre Assistant Gervase Wood's rambling vine. People brought along their own contributions to puddings - so it was a real team effort! Many thanks to all who made it such a success!

## Want to help WOCA?

WOCA needs local people who can make sure we continue to provide and promote activities and events local people really want.

There are many other ways to get involved: You don't have to become a member of the committee to help - for example you could help with newsletter delivery, offer your Access database skills, start a new club...just bring your enthusiasm, ideas, skills, and commitment!

If you are interested in helping, please contact the community centre (contact details overleaf).

## WOCA COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Rebecca Huxley

**WOCA Trustees:** Carol Brady, Sarah Day, Vicky Hirsch, Rebecca Huxley, Lara Lambert, Jim McMahon, Geoff Morgan, Sheila Parry, and Louise Siddle.

If you wish to contact the committee, they can be reached through the Community Centre.

**Grants** for community projects are available from the WOCA. Grants support projects beneficial to people in West Oxford, and for example can be in the form of help with rental of rooms at the Centre. Application forms are available from the Centre office or on the website at [www.woca.org.uk](http://www.woca.org.uk) We want to support you - let us know how we can help.

## PETER PAN

### The West Oxford Pantomime

A WOPA production

Our performances will take place in January 2012  
at the West Oxford Community Centre

Put these dates in your diary and look out for posters in West Oxford soon

Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm & 7:30pm

Pre-performance and interval drinks

Tickets go on sale after Christmas  
from Eggs Eggsetera

Log on to our website to keep up to  
date with the news

[www.wopa.me](http://www.wopa.me)



## Have you visited WOCA's New Look Website?

**For information on WOCA, the community centre, booking rooms, the wider world of West Oxford, and much more, visit**

**[www.woca.org.uk](http://www.woca.org.uk)**

# WOT'S ON AT WOCC



## Weekly Updates on display in the Community Centre

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

**Mondays:** Messy Play 9.30-11.30; Monkey Music 10.00-12.00; Chinese Older People 12.00-3.00; Pilates 6.30-7.30; Zumba Class 8.30-9.30

**Tuesdays:** Gentle Moves Exercise for 50+ 10.00-11.00; Brownies 5.30-7.30; Tae Kwon Do 7.30-9.00; Yoga 8.15-9.30

**Wednesdays:** Zumba Class 12.30-1.30; Saltbox Music Co 1.45-2.45; Perform Workshops 4.00-6.00; Woodcraft Pioneers 6.00-7.30; Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30; Overeaters Anonymous 7.30-8.45; Aikido 8.00-9.00

**Thursdays:** Chinese Happy Place 1.00-3.00; West Oxford Elfins 6.00-7.30; Oxford Spiritist Study Group 8.00-9.30

**Fridays:** Parent & Toddlers 9.30-11.15; Elms Road English Conversation Group 9.30-11.00; Hilary's Music 10.45-11.45; Elms Rd Baby Group 11.30-12.30; Baby Clinic 12.30-1.30; Elfins 5.45-7.15; Christians for Mission 6.15-9.15; English as a Second Language Class 6.30-7.30; Bingo 7.00-9.00; Alcoholics Anonymous 7.45-9.30

**Saturdays:** Russian Classes 10.00-12.00; Qi-Gong 10am-1pm (last Saturday of month); City Councillors' Surgery 11.00-12.00 (third Saturday of month); Tai Chi 2.00 - 3.00

**Sundays:** Chess Club 11.00-1.00; Tae Kwon Do 11.30am-1pm; Citywide Church of God 1.30-3.30pm; Narcotics Anonymous 4.30-7pm; Karate 6.30-7.30pm

## Blood Donors

The next sessions will be on

**Tuesday 20 December**

**Monday 9 January**

Please give generously!

## West Oxford Academy

West Oxford Academy will start its 11th term on Tuesday 17 January at 8pm in the Community Centre cafe. We meet weekly between 8pm and 9pm for two eight week terms starting in October and January. The talks — all by local residents — last about 20 minutes and are followed by a discussion and wine.

The full programme will appear on the WOCA website soon, but I'm still looking for a couple of speakers, so if you have a subject you'd like to share with a friendly audience then please contact me. Susan Hutchinson, via email on [allat42@gmail.com](mailto:allat42@gmail.com) or call 01865 792358.

## New Year, New Cafe!

WOCA is delighted to announce that the cafe is going to reopen in the New Year, and will be run under licence by Ailsa Youngson. As well as her talent for catering, Ailsa impressed us with her friendliness and clear commitment to the local community. Ailsa herself says:

"I'm really excited about getting the cafe up and running again and I'm particularly looking forward to being able to meet everyone. It's very important to me that the cafe becomes an integral part of the Centre and provides the best possible service to visitors, so feedback and suggestions will be very welcome and I hope to create an approachable and friendly atmosphere where that can happen. I can't wait to get into the kitchen and cook some of my favourite things to share with people"

Pop in to the cafe and say hello - Ailsa will be very happy to meet you!

## Take the Strain out of your Event Planning!

If you're having a party, a meeting, or any kind of get-together, Ailsa can provide you with delicious, nutritious treats! For more information, you can contact Ailsa through the centre or via the WOCA website.

## More Developments at the Centre

### Increased security

We plan to introduce a change to the way rooms are accessed in the future. Centre users will be provided with an electronic 'fob', giving them access to the room they have hired for the period they have hired it. We aim to have the new system operational in early 2012. This is happening because we want to make the building more secure. There will be a number of advantages to centre users, including:

- Being able to leave belongings etc safely in the room
- Increased reliability of room availability
- No uninvited guests
- Rooms remain locked between events

### Recycling

Following very positive responses to our recent survey, we will be asking you to separate waste into non-recyclable and recyclable items. Many thanks for your cooperation and support with this initiative!

### Water Cooler

We have had a lot of feedback from centre users saying how much they would value easier access to drinking water at the centre. With this in mind, we are installing a mains-fed, filtered, chilled water unit in the lobby in December.

**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



[westoxfordcc@gmail.com](mailto:westoxfordcc@gmail.com)



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

[www.woca.org.uk](http://www.woca.org.uk)



## WEST OXFORD C P SCHOOL

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

The school would really like a person from the community to be a community governor. If you are interested, please contact the headteacher Julie St Clair Hoare at the school.

### West Oxford C P School needs your old DVDs and CDs

We're collecting unwanted CDs and DVDs to turn into cash to support the school's playground appeal - raising funds to turn the school's outdoor spaces into fun and inspiring places for children to learn and play. From Back to the Beatles, Demis Rousous to REM, if you have a CD or DVD (not videos) cluttering up your shelf, simply bring it into the Community Centre and pop it in the Music Magpie collection box. Thank you!

### A Message from Annabel Dunstan

I would like to say a BIG thank you to all those that came along to my family yoga fundraiser. We raised £65 for Alzheimer's Society which will be enough to help the charity distribute over 300 copies of the much requested fact sheet on 'living with dementia', or for 13 people to attend a monthly dementia cafe to meet with others and to socialise.

For queries on family yoga please contact Annabel on 07790 216 441 - if there is sufficient demand I will run more sessions in the New Year.

### Neighbourhood Police Have Your Say Meetings

The team will be available in West Oxford for advice as follows:

- Wednesday 28th December 1400-1500 Binsey Village, near the Perch
- Thursday 12th January 2012 1100-1200 West Oxford Community Centre
- Thursday 19th January 2012 1430-1530 West Oxford School



for all non-emergency enquiries



for emergencies

## CHURCH NEWS

### St Frideswide's with Binsey (Church of England)

#### St Margaret's, Binsey

Eucharist 9am on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 4pm** Service of Lessons and Carols by candlelight. Followed by the Parish Christmas meal at The Perch Pub. To book email [info@the-perch.co.uk](mailto:info@the-perch.co.uk) or call 01865 728891 and leave £10 deposit per person to confirm the booking.

**Christmas Day: 9am** Holy Communion

[www.friendsofbinsey.com](http://www.friendsofbinsey.com)

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

Sundays 10.30: Sung Eucharist

Tuesday 7.00pm & Thursday 12.30: Said Eucharist

**Christmas Eve 3 pm** Family Crib Service and Christingle

**Christmas Eve 11pm** Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day 10.30am** Christmas Eucharist

[www.stfrideswidechurch.org.uk](http://www.stfrideswidechurch.org.uk)

☎ 242345

## Elim Church News

Sunday services 10.30 am.

Sunday School for 3-11 year olds runs during the service.

Toddler Group Mondays 10am - 12 noon -

A group for parents and carers and the little ones that they look after. £1 per family to cover refreshments.

☎ 247746

e-mail: [info@oxfordelim.com](mailto:info@oxfordelim.com)

Elim Church, 84 Botley Rd

### What is Swishing?

It is lovely to have fabulous new clothes but buying heaps of new stuff is hard on the planet and your pocket too!

What's a woman to do?

Swishing is all the pleasure of shopping and none of the pain! We all bring nice, clean, presentable clothes that are lurking unloved in our wardrobe, and other women fall in love with them and give them a good home. You might bring one nice sweater and take two fab skirts, or hang a party frock on the 'Swishing Rail' and take a pair of crop trousers and a feather boa!

Lovely clothes for free...

## Come Swishing!

*Tickets £2*  
*From Ruth Stearns*  
*07767 692756*  
*(includes free glass of wine)*

**Friday 20th January 8pm - 10pm**  
**at West Oxford School**

*In association with Low Carbon West Oxford*

Poster designed by Yvonne Hinch

## Small Ads—Help cover our costs, and increase your local business profile!

To advertise in the newsletter (delivered across West Oxford)  
please contact the Community Centre (minimum £10 per advert)

### **Para's Fairly Traded South Indian Pepper** **The 2011 consignment has arrived!**

*These fiery peppercorns are grown to organic standards in Kerala, South India, an area with an established reputation for producing fine quality pepper. Beautifully packaged in cotton bags similar to those used by the local tribal people, they make wonderful presents.*

**Each bag is 200gms (8 ozs) bags and costs £5**

**Contact Anne James 26, Barrett St, Oxford**  
**OX2 0AT 01865**  
**725906 riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk**

## THE EPONA TRUST

**Registered charity number 1065013**

*Remember our stand at the fun day? A huge thank you to everyone for such incredible support, and here are a few lines about us:*

The Epona Trust works to relieve the suffering of horses, ponies and donkeys who are sick or elderly, or who have been abandoned, mistreated or neglected. Our Normandy based sanctuary provides them with life-long care in a tranquil and sympathetic environment and no animal is ever refused. We also work to improve equine welfare in the UK and across Europe, and we are currently involved in campaigns against the live transport of horses for slaughter and the killing of the ponies on Dartmoor.

To adopt a pony, become a member, make a donation or simply find out more, please visit [www.eponatrust.org](http://www.eponatrust.org) or phone 07786 159 934

Little Iris when he arrived Today: adored, happy and a bit muddy!



## Can You Help?

**WOCA** is developing a system of **Street Reps** to help deliver this newsletter in their area. We have most roads covered now, but there are still a few remaining:: Beckett Street, Bullstake Close, Gibbs Crescent, North Hinksey Lane, Osney Lane, Prestwick Place, Stanley Close, Yarnell's Road

Can you help? Please contact the Community Centre - details on page 2

## Now Available At the Community Centre...

### THE CHANGING FACES OF *West Oxford*



Malcolm Graham

Acclaimed local historian Malcolm Graham's book uses the memories of local people and other sources to look behind the mask of today's traffic jams and reveal the history of this fascinating area. It recalls a time when boys played football on the Botley Road, women in Osney Town sat outside their homes and knitted on summer evenings, children learned to swim at Tumbling Bay and the smell of Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade wafted through the streets. A time also when many

children slept three to a bed in cold houses. Copies at the centre office.



Assisted Reading for  
Children in Oxfordshire

DO YOU LOVE BOOKS?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A LIFETIME'S  
DIFFERENCE TO A CHILD?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND A FEW HOURS  
A WEEK READING 1-1 WITH CHILDREN  
IN SCHOOL?



**FIND OUT ABOUT JOINING  
OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS**

Visit our website - [www.archoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.archoxfordshire.org.uk)

Email: [info@archoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@archoxfordshire.org.uk)

TEL 01869 320380

## Have you got news for us?

News for the April issue,  
deadline March 31st, can be left  
at the Community Centre or e-  
mailed to

[westoxfordcc@gmail.com](mailto:westoxfordcc@gmail.com) You

can also email us local  
information to appear on the  
WOCA website

## Your Local Democratic Representatives

Your city councillors are:

**Colin Cook**, ☒ 12 Riverside Rd OX2 0HU

Email [cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk)

☎ 721844

**Susanna Pressel**, ☒ 7 Rawlinson Rd OX2 6UE

Email [cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk](mailto: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 noon at the community centre.

Your MP is **Nicola Blackwood**:

☒ House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA Email [nicola.blackwood.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nicola.blackwood.mp@parliament.uk)

☎ 0207 219 7126

She also holds regular surgeries at the Community Centre.