



THE BRIDGE

April
2021

A monthly magazine covering people and events in our area of the Cotswolds, and delivered to Aldsworth, Asthall, Asthall Leigh, the Barringtons, Bradwell Village, Burford, Fordwells, Fulbrook, Holwell, Sherborne, Signet, Swinbrook, Taynton, Upton, Westwell, Widford, Windrush. *Volume 12, Number 3, £1.50*



A spring view in Asthall which was photographed by Derek Cotterill

Porridge. Don'tcha love it? The perfect way to start the day. At Bridge Towers our recipe includes oats, oat bran, milk, water and a pinch of salt. Oh, and lashings of honey. Your recipe may be better. As The Lad might have said, at least ours moves about on the plate.

We've certainly done our porridge, in the custodial sense, over the last year and through three lockdowns. At the end of last year in the days of tier 4 (remember that?) some of the local pubs were contemplating being closed until March. Little did they realise that they would not be able to open fully until 17 May. And it's been tough on places such as the Cotswold Wildlife Park who have been denied their usually busy Easter trade.

Did you see the meteorite which streaked across the night sky at 30,000mph and created a sonic bang audible across southern England? We didn't notice a thing. Apparently it was tracked by the UK Fireball Alliance, one of our lesser-known societies. As this was the first such incident in this country for 30 years, they must be very patient observers. We were reminded of the story of the schoolboy who allegedly wrote in his scripture essay that "Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night".

Speaking of school essays, we have an announcement on that subject this month, and something of a focus on the environment. The traffic debate rumbles on, and slowly things are reopening. Perhaps we shall soon escape from porridge.

Editors



Farmer George

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enquiries@bestinhorticulture.co.uk



USEFUL CONTACTS + INFORMATION

Please note that some hours of opening may not currently be correct

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.burfordurgery.co.uk

Burford Town Council
 Tolsey Office open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.00 am and 11.30 am 01993 823647
 Email town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk
www.burford-tc.gov.uk

Burford Visitor Information Centre 01993 823558
 Currently closed

Carterton Health Centre 01993 841718
 NHS 111
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
 Mon-Fri 2.30-4pm
 Saturday 11.30am - 12 noon

Churches
 Anglican St. John the Baptist 01993 823788
 Roman Catholic 01993 823219
 Church of SS John Fisher and Thomas More
 Methodist 01993 867301
 Baptist Church 07967 362885
 Friends Meeting House 01993 823398

Citizens Advice Bureau 08444 111444
 Email bureau@wocab.org.uk
Dial-a-Ride Service
 For Information 0845 3101111
 Email oxdar@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Emergency Services
 Police – non essential 101

Environment Agency
 Floodline 0845 988118
 Emergency 0800 807060

Hall Bookings
 Baptist Church Hall 07967 362885
 Burford Town Bowls Club 01993 822330
 Fulbrook Meeting Place
 Chris Wright 01993 822803
 Taynton Village Hall - Anne Thompson 07584 021171
 Methodist Church Hall Anne Weir 01993 823395
 Warwick Hall Bookings and Information
www.warwickhallburford.org

Library 01993 823377
 Currently closed

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/burfordlibrary

Member of Parliament 01993 702302
 Robert Courts robert@robertcourts.co.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

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 Monday to Saturday 07.30-18.00
 Sunday 07.30- 17.00

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Southern Electric (Freephone) 08000 727282
Thames Water 0800 3169800

Tolsey Museum
 Currently Closed

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
 Derek Cotterill 01993 823188

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

Witney Police Station, Welch Way 01865 841148
 Open Monday - Friday 10am-6pm
 Closed Saturday and Sunday

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

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Miscellanea



We are approaching the end of the local authority year so we have the usual pressure to “get something done” before year end. This year, of course we might, just might, also be seeing the end, or the beginning of the end, of the plague. “cc” used to stand for “carbon copy” or “cubic capacity”. Now it is

capitalised – “CC” – and stands for the “Curse of Covid”. All this excitement meant that the March council meeting was a whirlpool of competing cross-currents exacerbated by the news that two members of the public had announced their intentions of attending. In fact only one turned up. The non-attende was probably concerned about his blood pressure.

Far and away the most important issue was the condition of the Shilton Road, especially its verges, consequent upon the construction of the building of the estate opposite the garden centre. It is in a dire state. The Shilton Road Residents Association has a very professional “before and after” video* showing what a delightful road (more of an avenue or boulevard really) it was and what a horror it is now. OCC, as owner of the road, has the major interest in ensuring that the carriageway, the pavements and the verges are restored to their previous tip top condition and the developers and utility companies, as principal diggers-up, must recognise their responsibilities to make good properly.

Dogs off the lead on the Rec came up again. We have asked WODC whether they would be prepared to make a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which would make allowing a dog off the lead on the Rec a criminal offence, enabling the dog to be confiscated and a fine of up to £1000 levied. The big question is who would do the confiscating and levying? The police hate enforcing these sorts of laws because they are labour intensive, while WODC hates enforcing them because of the expense (there is only one PSPO in the whole of West Oxfordshire at the moment). So the answer would seem to be BTC. This is interesting! We would have to set up a Kennel Club or something similar to house the offending hounds and hold monthly auctions. No doubt the Burford Emporium would make room for a small consideration. Unfortunately BTC would not be allowed to keep and spend the fines; they accrue to HM’s Treasury and pay down the CC debt. WODC has not yet come back to us substantively but we are not holding our breath.

There was intense discussion concerning the resumption of face-to-face (“ftf”) council meetings. Everybody would prefer ftf meetings under ordinary circumstances. You can read the body language of speakers and listeners much more easily, the highly valuable collegiate ambience can develop naturally and

you do not have to worry about Cllr Fatfingers being unable to find the mute button (usually under the cat) or worse, standing up to make a point wearing his leopard skin shorts. The problem, as ever, lies with the government. The law is that all council meetings must be ftf. This law has been “suspended” (all you constitutional lawyers stop shouting now!) until May to allow councils like us to pay Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet and Webex vast amounts of money for the privilege of letting us waffle. But, as at the time of writing, the government has not extended the suspension so we may have no option but to revert to ftf. A tissue, a tissue, we all fall down!

I will not over-excite you with the AOB.

John White - Mayor

*See <https://youtu.be/VN9rQ6ATcCM> - Ed



The Town Clerk has apologised to local Burford Medallists for unaccountably missing Alan and Eileen Trinder from the list. Both are valued assets to the town including support at local events.

Here is the list of previous holders:

The late Reg Bishop, Mr and Mrs Lomas, Eileen Curtis, Audrey Bayliss, Clare and Christopher Baines, Avery Baines, Grev and Kath Wain, Candy and Bob Dodge, Jack Rose.

Current holders:

Chris Walker, Peter Gould, John Marks, Keith Davies, Penny Barraclough, Raymond Moody, John Yeatman, Barbara Agg, Charles Williams Jnr, Peter Harris, David Woolley, Barbara Jeacock, John Spencer, Alice Temple-Bruce, David Buckland, Veral Marshall, Cedric Reavley, Manfred and Gabi Schotten, Phil Adams, Alan and Eileen Trinder.



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www.burfordlitfest.co.uk

THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

14 April Virtual Lecture via Zoom

“Fantasy Comes from the Ghosts: Gaudi and Other Catalan Architects”

With Jacqueline Cockburn

In the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and, until further notice, our lectures and other events are being presented via Zoom (see below for more information).

Antoni Gaudí is well known and much loved. In this lecture his work will be explored in detail. It will demonstrate how he engaged with nature and worked with extraordinary ceramicists, iron workers, tilers and decorative artists. We will look at his public and private buildings and his relationship with a wealthy and demanding patron. Private, shy and retiring, he was also humorous and witty in his extravagant style. However, it will also be the aim of this lecture to uncover some of the other architects working in Barcelona over the turn of the twentieth century including Domenech y Muntaner and Puig y Cadafalch. Attention will be paid to several significant and ravishing buildings and some less well known buildings in Barcelona.



Jacqueline is managing director of an art tours company, running residential courses in Andalucía, in the art and culture of the region. She is a course director and lecturer at the V&A and lectures at the Royal Academy, Christie’s Education, the Art Fund and the London Art History Society. Her specialist field is Spanish art, but she also lectures on European art 1790-1950. She has recently published *A Taste of Art, London* (Unicorn Press 2019).

Members will be sent the Zoom invitation via our newsletter. Guests are welcome to join us with a suggested donation of £5 per person. To book, see our lectures page on the website.

For more information on how to join the Zoom lecture, please contact Frances Sparkes on 01993 823943 or by email, publicity@theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk. To learn more about The Arts Society Cotswolds and to keep abreast of any additional activities, please go to the website www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk *Frances Sparkes*



ART AFTER COVID

The North Cotswold Arts Association is a group of artists and crafters who normally meet monthly in Burford as well as holding two annual exhibitions. We are hoping to return to our monthly meetings at the Warwick Hall on Wednesday 14 July, providing Covid derestriction goes to plan. Over the past year members have been kept in touch with regular newsletters and at the end of last year we were able to offer monthly demonstrations by professional artists using Zoom. These have proved popular with members as a way of getting new inspiration during a time when some of us have found it hard to find ways to keeping going with our art. Having been unable to exhibit in 2020, the association is preparing to hold our members’ exhibition later this year at the Warwick Hall from 26 August – 4 September.

Anyone interested in joining the NCAA and to participate in our Zoom meetings prior to July is very welcome. Please contact our membership secretary Fran Buckel on 01608 644425 or email her at fran.buckel@btinternet.com.



The Warwick Hall will re-open in a limited way as from Monday 12 April, which is the earliest date for community centres to re-open on the HMG roadmap. Café Fifteen will then be open for take-away and garden service. There is seating for 18 at tables and 15 on benches with coffee tables in the garden; indoor service is not permitted until Monday 17 May at the earliest according to the HMG roadmap. Private meetings obeying the social distancing guidelines will be able to go ahead, as will children’s indoor activities.

Nearly all regular events have postponed until after 17 May, but Dance United (07804 689 219) are hoping to start their weekly dance sessions for children on Tuesday 20 April (16:30-18:30) and Thursday 22 April (10:00-11:00) and Rock-a-Tots (01993 823 788) is hoping to restart on Tuesday 20 April.

Contact the Warwick Hall office on 01993 224 783 for further details.

Rory Darling - Bookings & Facilities Manager



BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

Another first, an Extra Talk in April

Katherine Alcock's virtual tour of Oxford in February was such a success that many members asked if they could hear more from Katie, yet our 2021 Programme is already complete. We have therefore decided to add an extra bonus Zoom event to this year's programme, at no extra cost, in the hope that this will help to lighten the 'stay at home effects' of the restrictions for our members.



Tuesday 20 April at 7pm via Zoom
The Lost Palaces of London.
A virtual talk by **Katherine Alcock**



London has been the centre of royal power and intrigue for over a thousand years, and the grandeur of the fortresses and palaces that still stand continue to inspire wonder and amazement in locals and visitors alike. But what about those palaces that fate saw fall and falter? Join Blue Badge Guide and historian Katherine Alcock on a journey back in time to uncover the stories and locations of some of these palaces and explore the events that led to their rise, and eventual fall.

Once again this will be a members only event. The links will be sent on Monday 19 April. New members are most welcome. The membership application form can be downloaded from our website www.burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk or requested from cedric.reavley51@gmail.com



Wednesday 19 May Self-drive visit to the Painswick Rococo Garden Pre-booking essential. We will meet there at 1.45pm.

The Painswick Rococo Garden is a unique 18th century garden set in a hidden valley with lovely views of the surrounding countryside. Designed in the 1740s as an English country gentleman's pleasure garden, it was a place for holding intimate garden parties. Laid out in a valley around Painswick House, the garden is now the country's only complete surviving rococo garden. Since 1984, an ambitious restoration programme has transformed the garden from a woodland wilderness into a stunning place to escape the busy world.

If all goes to plan with government's 'Unlocking the Lockdown' timetable, the 'Step 3' arrangements should permit us to meet outdoors on 19 May. We are consequently anticipating that this visit will be popular and therefore suggest that those who are interested, should download the booking form from our website www.burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk and send it to Julia Hart, julia.hart1000@gmail.com or 07779 109 761, as soon as possible. The admission cost is £8 per person. It is anticipated that a limited café service should be available.



This is a self-drive visit. The satnav reference is GL6 6TH, or follow the brown tourism signs on all major approach routes. Painswick Rococo Garden is 15 minutes' drive from junction 11a of the M5. Parking is free.
Peter - Chairman - petermartin@btinternet.com



The Women's Institute has existed for 106 years, our Burford branch for 103 years. It was set up initially to help women deal with the challenges of war, throughout which women showed strength, ingenuity, resilience and imagination. It gave women an opportunity to meet, to do, to act, to have a voice, and it championed skills and encouraged education in what was then a very male dominated society.

Today we are much more than a monthly meeting to listen to a speaker and have a cup of coffee. Being a member of the WI runs far deeper. It's a champion of women's skills, a campaigning force to be reckoned with and a beacon of strength and support throughout the hardest times. It is much more than the sum of its members. It offers fun and friendship with a family of like-minded women.

This year of lockdown has taught us to value the human contact we have lost. We have met together virtually or by phone caring for each other throughout. Our committee has worked to keep us connected and through our Oxfordshire Federation were able access a wide range of online talks and demonstrations. Last month these included Indian Cookery, Shakespeare's London, Cliveden, Antarctica, the Work of the Magistrate, Young Rembrandt, Easter Flower Arranging, the Fabulous 50s and an Afternoon of Magic. This is not all but a flavour; how could you be bored? If this isn't enough there is also 'Denman at Home' offering a huge range of on-line practical courses. Many of us throughout lockdown have learned new skills and met new challenges.

Hopefully we will be back meeting at the Warwick Hall on the second Tuesday of each month very soon. If you would like to learn more visit our website thefabwi.org.uk or contact Jane Arnell via gjaarnell@icloud.com or 01993 822755. You will receive a very warm welcome.
Angela Weller (a member).

SHILTON ROAD DEVELOPMENT

In the March edition of The Bridge we wondered whether the information about the new houses in Shilton Road, Burford, being heated by gas was wrong. We stand corrected. We are told that they will indeed be heated by gas which will be transported to the development by tanker lorries and stored in large communal tanks. We must confess that it never occurred to us that in the era of the Green New Deal new houses were still being equipped in such a way.

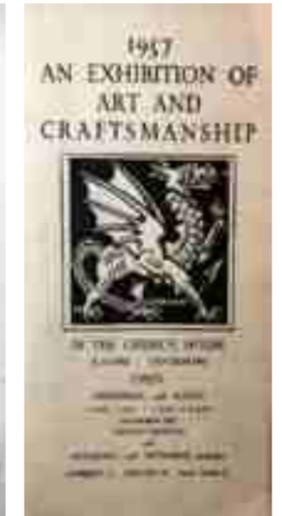


Editors



TOLSEY MUSEUM

We can only imagine what preparations were being made, some sixty-five years ago, for an exhibition of art and craftsmanship, in August of that year; A similar but smaller event was arranged in 1957.



Printed by G. H. Peates of Burford, the first catalogue contains details of around 241 exhibits, including paintings, furniture, wrought ironwork, hand woven and block-printed textiles and pottery, from 117 crafts people, local and far-off, professional and amateur.

Of more than 140 items for sale, prices ranged from an affordable five shillings for a printed poem, up to a hefty 50 guineas for a bronze bust by Edgar Frith, whose sculpture studio was near the bridge. Furniture on display included standard lamps, bookcases, a nest of tables, chairs, a refectory table, garden seats, wattle hurdles and gates for the garden. Paintings were varied in subject, and by many artists; prices of those for sale ranged from six to 50 guineas.

The foreword to the 1956 catalogue stated that previous exhibitions had proved of real value to the artists and craftsmen of the district, especially in giving encouragement to young artists, resulting in sufficient orders to keep them busy through winter months. 'It would seem that there is an increasing demand for simple and well-designed hand-work at a moderate cost; and of such work we have made a special feature.

This exhibition included the Craftsman's Doll's House which was first displayed in 1939, and later famously visited by Queen Mary. The music room had now been constructed, and both eventually came to the Tolsey when the museum was established in 1960, where it has become a firm favourite with visitors, young and old alike.

We hope that as the country emerges from Covid-related lockdown, visitors will soon be able again to enjoy this and all the other exhibits in the museum.

Chris Walker, - tolseymuseum@yahoo.co.uk

Burford 1090-1990 Celebrations

The year is 1086; the Domesday Book had been commissioned by the king so that he could know the financial and human resources of his realm. At this time, Burford was an unremarkable place that had been given to Odo the warrior Bishop of Bayeux, by William, his half brother, as a reward for fighting for him at Hastings. Burford was recorded as having "8 hides, land for 20 ploughs, 3 serfs, 22 villeins, 18 bordars and 12 ploughs. There were two mills of 25 shillings. 25 Acres of meadow, pasture 1 league in length and breadth. It was worth £16." Burford with eight hides would have formed a comfortable manor to support a knight.

A year or two after the Domesday Book was published, William died and his second son became king of England. Odo took a prominent part in the Barons Revolt against the new king and lost. Odo's land was forfeited and Burford was part of a reward given to Robert FitzHammon who realised the potential of greater profit in this small settlement by a river crossing. FitzHammon therefore granted to Burford a charter establishing a merchant guild. This charter changed the nature of Burford and it was this charter that was celebrated in 1990.

Those of you who know me will have realised that although I have a passion for Burford's rich and varied history I am no academic. As always my thanks to Raymond and Joan Moody for allowing me to précis the information from their excellent book *A Thousand Years of Burford*.

To return to the celebrations: for the purposes of convenience we took 1090 as the moment this historic charter was presented to Burford. No exact date is recorded but this is very close.

In June 1990 many summer events would have taken place and the idea to put them together, in a month-long celebratory event, was conceived. My memory of how the original idea came about is blurred; it may have been in The Highway, at a council meeting, or from the scout group, it doesn't really matter, but the whole of Burford was involved. There wasn't a large committee; we relied heavily on the goodwill of the town and surrounding villages.

It started with a procession of floats, and vintage cars travelling slowly from Priory Lane up the High Street, culminating at the recreation ground which was full of bursting with events and attractions. When the vintage cars arrived at the Rec the floats were still leaving Priory Lane! Can you imagine closing Priory Lane and the High Street for a morning in high summer?

Putting this article together has evoked many memories of those who are no longer with us and were instrumental in making the carnival such a success. Colin Boyle, Bill McElligott, and Bill Robertson. Two stalwarts of the WI, Peggy Adams and Phyllis Yeatman. Grev and Kath Wain - who could forget all those wonderful street parties in Guildenford they organised? There were so many more, the passage of time has dulled my memory, forgive me.

Burford, of course, continues with the fine tradition of town events. St John's Fair in the Priory grounds, street parties in Guildenford and the Scout Fete might be a distant memory but the ever popular Burford Festival continues in bringing Burford together.

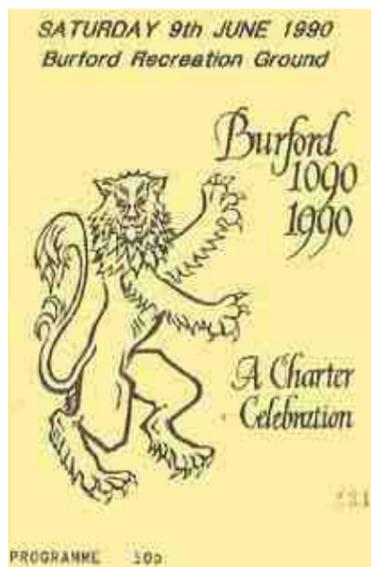
One thing that the Burford Archive page has taught me is the huge appetite that the Burford residents have for their heritage. The archive will collect, preserve and share our history and stories not only for future generations to enjoy but also with a world audience, to allow others to appreciate how lucky we all are.

If you would like to discover more or re-live the 1990 Charter Gala celebrations, Maurice Eldridge has made a 25 minute DVD of the 1990 carnival celebrations which is available to buy for £5 each. Very generously, Maurice is donating all proceeds to the archive funds. They are available for collection, or free delivery in Burford or they can be posted (UK P&P £1.50).

To order yours, simply contact me on 07899 837482 or cohen4sp@btinternet.com.

The April edition of the free digital Archive News, released on 15 April, will contain many more photographs. To receive your copy, simply email your name to peteremartin@btinternet.com, stating '1990 Gala - yes please'.

David Cohen




SATURDAY JUNE 9
to
SUNDAY JULY 8 1990

A diary of events to celebrate the ninth centenary of the granting of Burford's Charter

| | | | |
|-------|---------|---------|---|
| Sat | June 9 | 12.30pm | PROCESSION of floats High St CARNIVAL recreation ground |
| Sat | June 9 | 7.30pm | CONCERT Burford Church; Burford Orchestra |
| Sun | June 10 | 11.00am | SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING Burford Church |
| Tues | June 12 | 7.30pm | QUIZ for Burford Braids; Warwick Hall |
| Thurs | June 14 | 7.00pm | CHILDREN'S EVENING Warwick Hall; Musical Mystery Tour |
| Fri | June 15 | 6.30pm | PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE; stalls, barbecues |
| Fri | June 15 | 8.00pm | RECITAL Methodist Church; Brian Etheridge & Christopher Tadman-Robins |
| Sat | June 16 | 8.00pm | STREET PARTY Guildenford; presentation of mugs |
| Sun | June 17 | 10.45am | UNITED SERVICE Methodist Church GARDENS OPEN 1pm to 6pm |
| Wed | June 20 | 7.30pm | WINE AND CHEESE PARTY Countrymen garden, Sheep Street |
| Fri | June 22 | 7.30pm | THEATRE Burford School; Arthur Kincaid in a one-man show |
| Sat | June 23 | 2.50pm | ST JOHN'S FAIR Priory; stalls, children's amusements |
| Sun | June 24 | 7.30pm | CONCERT Burford Church; Verdi's Requiem |
| Fri | July 6 | 7.00pm | FLOWER FESTIVAL preview Burford Church |
| Sat | July 7 | 10.00am | FLOWER FESTIVAL Methodist & Burford Churches to Open Sun |
| Sun | July 8 | 7.00pm | CONCERT Priory; Burford Singers & Holywell Trio |

Exhibitions will also be presented in the library, the Burford Gallery and the Tolsey Museum. Further details of all events will be in the festival brochure available from Burford shops and library or telephone Burford 3295 or 2305.



Thanks to your generosity the phase one building work needed to provide Burford with an archive to safeguard and share its 1000 years of stories is scheduled to start in early spring. Whilst this is a major step forward we still need to raise the balance of the funds to complete the building work before we then refocus our efforts to commence raising the money for phase two, for the fitting out and equipment.

To support our appeal in our social media pages we have borrowed from Kitchener's First World War poster. If you feel able to make a donation, of whatever size, the details of how are shown below. Do please Gift Aid your contribution. It provides a significant boost to our funds by adding 25% to your donation and can give you, the donor, some tax relief. Thank you. *Clendon Daukes* cddaukes@gmail.com

Bank Transfer: Falkland Hall Charity
Sort Code: 30-91-43 Ac No: 00157448
Cheques payable to: Falkland Hall Charity and sent to: John Yeatman, 5 The Leaze, Burford.
OX18 4NE johnyeatman@aol.com 07968019813
A Gift Aid form can be found at <https://burfordcommunityarchive.org/index.php/ga>



FRIENDS OF BURFORD LIBRARY

Well, what news? Oxford Library Service is actively planning the reopening of some libraries following 12 April outlined in the government's road map for easing lockdown. Burford, along with other small libraries, will probably not be amongst the first group to reopen. However, the Home Library Service has been established and anyone who would like a home book delivery should contact Carol-Amy Holdcroft, our library manager, on 01993 823377 or on burford.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Some encouraging news. It was World Book Day on 4 March. Because of lockdown and school closures, children did not get their usual steer towards various activities, including the very popular chance to dress up as their favourite characters. However, that did not stop 20,000 children taking part in an online pre-event, 20 times more than attended a single event in previous years. So, there are young readers out there: we must do all we can to retain and increase their numbers by making our library an attractive hub for their activities.

Something to look forward to: Burford will be staging a literary festival between the 23rd and 27th of September. Plans are still fluid at the moment but I feel sure that the library will be closely involved with it. Stay wary; stay well.

Elizabeth Mortimore



BURFORD AND KINGHAM ROTARY

As everyone will not be surprised to learn, the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 have had a severe effect on the way our club has functioned over the last 11 months. Rotary works best when we get together. All of our fund raising and community volunteering projects have been postponed. As a result, we have not been able to raise money to help support local and national charities at a time when they have all suffered financially, or to provide assistance at local events. We very much look forward to doing this soon.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter we planted 4,000 crocuses on the verges on The Hill in Burford to mark World Polio Day. I am very pleased to report they are just beginning to bloom.



We have had our club AGM confirming that Ros Richardson will be our president from July 2021 and Colin Stringfellow our vice president.

We have entertained on Zoom both our district governor and area governor Simon Hamilton, both offering advice and support to grow our club going forward.

Two speakers to look forward to:

29 March - The inside story of Glastonbury festival.

17 June - The Weird Fish Lady, Gloria Barnett - an Environmental Talk.

Why not think about joining one of our Zoom meetings? If you would like to become involved with your local Rotary Club in Burford, all you have to do is email our secretary, John Smith jpw.smith@jass.co.uk .. Or make contact via our website. We will be very pleased to see you.

Our meetings will be held on Zoom for the next few months. Please ask John who will send you a link. However, if you feel that Zoom is not for you, then we can contact you when we start meeting normally again.

Ros Richardson



To quote Gerard Manley Hopkins 'Nothing is so beautiful as spring' and on 12 April as we throw open the bookshop doors and welcome spring in it really will feel like a new awakening.

When we closed our doors on Christmas Eve we could only speculate at when we might be open again. We have been busy reading and ordering lots of exciting new titles for 2021 as well as keeping our virtual shop up to date on www.bookshop.org which goes from strength to strength in its support for independent bookshops.

As well as new titles for 2021 we are delighted to bring you books from our top ten now released in paperback including *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stewart, *Such A Fun Age* by Kiley Reid and the long-awaited *Becoming* by Michelle Obama which is now available in paperback and has also been adapted for younger readers.

The Midnight Library will be our next Book Club read so if you want to get involved please do get in touch or drop in to Madhatter Bookshop.

Finally, we are delighted to be organising the Burford Literary Festival and the list of authors from the world of fiction, non-fiction and children's literature is growing. For tickets go to www.burfordlitfest.co.uk *Kim - Madhatter Bookshop, 122 High Street, Burford* www.madhatterbookshop.co.uk

FACING THE FUTURE

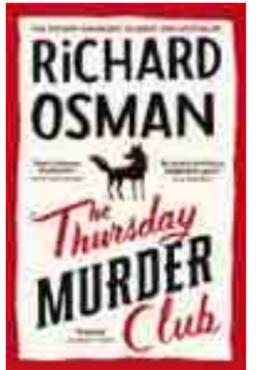


As if the reality was not bad enough local Man About Town, Michael Taubenheim, downloaded this app to show what he will look like next week in a few years.
Editors

ALICE'S BOOK GROUP

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman received more mixed reviews from Alice's Book Group than any other book we have read. For a book so highly hyped it is interesting to read public reviews on line where it is apparent that it is indeed a marmite novel. Our members either loved it as a beautifully written story with, despite the murders, a heart and a benign view of mankind, or thought it dull, boring, fanciful with staccato sentences and with totally unbelievable characters and plot.

Being of the former opinion, I must defend it; this is a whimsical story of an assorted group of retirees who are fortunate to live in a lovely retirement complex. They are, however, all of sound and lively mind so each Thursday meet to solve past murders which have baffled the police. Then to their guilty delight there is an opportunity to solve a real murder.



Richard Osman can speak successfully with different voices. His retired nurse is totally believable as she notes the minutiae of life in the complex. We see unorthodox detection methods as the pensioners utilise personal talents and life experiences. I forgave their unlikely activities and the unprofessional conduct of the constabulary because Osman makes them so human, but others found it highly irritating. As more murders follow, all of which are treated in a restrained manner, clues are there, though some red herrings are also swimming about, back stories are comprehensive and the reasoning faultless. Character is well rounded, and mostly they are good people though several have been oppressed by events.

There are few laugh out loud moments, but lots of smiles, and it is witty as well as quite thought provoking. I was not alone in thinking it unusual and refreshing that the motive for each murder was some form of love.

This is Richard Osman's first book, and, as one reviewer said "his first and best yet!" Osman's Very Clever Television Persona gives no hint of his humanity. Apparently his inspiration was an afternoon spent in an old peoples' home and seeing the liveliness of the residents.

There is a sequel and some have pre-ordered and some will give it a wide berth; if it is of a similar length as the first it should be an interesting brief read for anyone who wants to know if they are a marmite lover or hater.

The next book is also quite light, possibly reminiscent of Rumpole of the Bailey, though with a more contemporary touch: *Walden of Bermondsey, Where There's Smoke*, by Peter Murphy.
Veral Marshall

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOURS BY NOT LIGHTING BONFIRES



West Oxfordshire District Council has seen a major increase in complaints about bonfires and is calling on residents to be more considerate of those with respiratory conditions and people in self-isolation.

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "These are difficult and challenging times for us all whether you are adjusting to life and work at home, isolating yourself or looking after loved ones. Most of us are spending more time at home and while having bonfires can be tempting, they carry risks for vulnerable members of our communities. Bonfires cause issues for your neighbours, especially those with respiratory problems, people who are shielding themselves from COVID-19 or anyone who may have contracted the virus.

Burning doesn't just affect the vulnerable. Bonfires and drifting smoke are a nuisance for neighbours wanting to spend time in their gardens or keep windows open.

Cllr MacRae added: "Please be considerate of your neighbours and use alternatives such as composting. You can put most of your garden waste to use - a successful compost heap needs lots of brown material as well as green. Don't burn it, use prunings and dry material to improve your compost heap."

If considered a waste offence or statutory nuisance, it may result in enforcement action and fines.



DOUBLE JEOPARDY



LONG ARM OF THE LAW

The following article was recently printed in a magazine for retired police officers (NARPO). It was written by Geoff James and is reproduced here with his kind permission. Geoff grew up with his parents in Holwell and attended Burford school.

Something a bit different

By Geoff James

The copy of an old grainy photo (I still possess the original) was of a scene in a film of an American World War Two romance, entitled *This Above All* which featured the late actress Joan Fontaine and the late actor Tyrone Power. Miss Fontaine played the part of a young and attractive lady of the British aristocracy whilst Tyrone Power played the part of an American serviceman who had deserted his regiment. While 'on the run', 'Power' meets up with and falls in love with 'Miss Fontaine' and the story revolves around their romance against the background of the War and 'Power's' ongoing efforts to avoid recapture.



The photo was taken on the minor road from the A40 (just west of where Burford School now is) to the village of Westwell. Hiding behind the dry Cotswold stone wall in the foreground is Tyrone Power whilst the uniformed policeman (complete with cape) riding his bicycle on the adjacent road and obviously looking for the 'escapee' was none other than War Reserve PC 53 Norman James, my dad, who was stationed at Burford at that time. My late dad, who presumably obtained permission from the force to be so involved, did not arrest his man on this occasion, as far as I am aware, despite being so close to him.

Coincidentally, the film was first released on 12 May 1942, the day after I was born!

On leaving school Geoff joined the police service as a cadet stationed at Burford and had a forty year career with the Oxfordshire and Thames Valley Police. Norman became a Special Constable. With three other Specials, namely Fred Smith, Mike Henderson and Don Evason, he supported the regular officers at Burford; one sergeant and four constables of which I was one (and not forgetting the Morris Minor police car!). Norman retired in 1970.

Allan Tuckwell

NEW VISITOR ATTRACTION FOR WEST OXON

As some readers may have already heard, exciting plans are being made to open the UK's first Disneyland at a site in the Windrush Valley. The Walt Disney Corporation believes that, with foreign travel becoming more complicated as a result of Brexit and the increasing popularity of staycations, this is the ideal time to invest in our area.

A Disney Corporation spokesman, Wilbur Janowski, said: "We believe that there is a big market out there for holidays combining traditional Disney entertainment with a look at quaint rural traditions in the beautiful Cotswold mountains. As soon as we found out that Burford has been called the sixth most idyllic place in Europe, we thought, sure thing, that's the place to be. Yes, sirree."

We understand that the main site for the park will be in the area between Burford and Taynton and it is hoped that not too many homes will have to be demolished to make way for it. It will be centred around "Village Green England", a re-creation of 18th century country life featuring locals in smocks and straw hats, cows being milked, sheep shearing and miscreants in the stocks being pelted with cow dung. It is not yet known if there will be a full-time village idiot or whether the other actors will have to take it in turns. The Windrush will be dammed to make a lake as part of a water resort.



Some new hotels will have to be built including one to the north of Carterton provisionally called the "Shilton Hilton". Disney hope to arrange for the RAF to vacate Brize Norton airfield so that it can be turned into an airport for overseas visitors.

The park should provide many employment opportunities in the area as Disney will be looking to recruit people to appear as characters in the various rides and shows. A Madhatter's Tea Party exhibit is thought to be a natural fit, given the existing bookshop of that name. They will be looking for suggestions as to which locals would be best suited to play Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy and Dopey [surely a shoo-in for members of Burford Town Council - Ed]. "We sure could use a Snow White as well", says Janowski. "Or at a pinch anyone called White could do the job."

Disney hope to start construction work around the beginning of April next year.

Michel Souris

SWEET TREATS IN WINDRUSH

Unusually for a small village in the Cotswolds, Windrush now has three different food businesses operating from home, largely thanks to the pandemic lockdown.

New to the village, Amie Bougen found herself at home with two pre-school children and partner, Ryan, after Covid forced her to rethink her career options. Being an enterprising individual, Amie turned her artistic and creative culinary talents to crafting hand made cakes adorned with edible flowers and exquisitely hand painted artisan macaroons presented in small wooden crates for a discerning clientele.

Anne always enjoyed baking and painting so it seemed the obvious combination. Her customers love the unusual, floral designs and often order for special birthdays or anniversaries which is a lovely treat after being confined to home for so long.

Her signature macaroons take much time and patience to create - not just baking, which is a tricky process in itself, but careful assembly with French or Italian buttercream and labour intensive hand-painting.

Perfect for anyone or any occasion, ideal as a hostess gift or to treat a friend in need of love and support, Amie takes orders online at <https://www.cotswoldcottagebakes.co.uk> or via messages from her Instagram account, [@cotswoldcottagebakes](https://www.instagram.com/cotswoldcottagebakes). Email Amie at hello@cotswoldcottagebakes.co.uk or call her on 07879550898.

Joanna McKerlie



SAVE THE DATE

The Taynton Gardens Open Afternoon will take place on 27 June. More information will be in the next issue of The Bridge.

Editors



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

WHAT LIES BENEATH OUR FEET

The Cotswolds region is known for many things, one of which being the golden-yellow stone used to build many of the local towns, villages and churches. This stone was extracted from quarries, many of which – now being disused – have been filled in and covered over. This now leaves little evidence of what was once a thriving Cotswold industry and which would have employed many people of the area. When we refer to a ‘quarry’ most people would automatically think of a large hole in the ground. However some of the stone was actually dug from underground, out of sight of daylight - in other words it was mined¹. This was usually done either via tunnels dug into the hillside or directly from the side of an existing quarry.



Across the Cotswolds region there are a number of locations where the stone was mined in this way although there are few traces left on the surface, unless you know where to look. Members of a local caving club (the Gloucester Speleological Society or GSS²) have been investigating these sites for many years, including one near the village of Windrush.



The GSS first entered the Windrush mine in 1980 and then gradually, over a period of years, explored, surveyed and mapped the whole mine. This exploration identified that there was potentially still a lot more of the mine yet to be found but this was likely to be behind many of the roof falls blocking various passageways.



One of the aspects of the Windrush mine that is particularly interesting is the wide variety of graffiti that has been written on the walls and ceilings. These graffiti date mainly from the mid-19th century and the early years of the 20th, and were drawn mostly by the quarrymen and some of their visitors. Horses were used to haul low carts transporting the quarried stone from the mine – the ruts left by the wheels are still clearly visible in some of the passages. A number of years ago the GSS decided to record for posterity all of the graffiti within the mine and to then try to identify as many of the names involved as possible. This graffiti-recording project has then led onto the history of the mine itself being researched, the idea being to produce a book on the subject – currently ongoing and will be ready later in 2021.

With the graffiti survey still continuing, further discoveries were also made – usually by digging through roof falls. These discoveries have probably doubled or tripled the size of the original known mine.

The mine complex has three entrances, suggesting that there were originally three separate mines. Historical records show that stone was being quarried from one of them, on land leased from Lord Sherborne, as early as 1720. Regulations for operating the mine came into force at the end of the 19th century, and mining ceased, due to the necessary safety measures being too expensive.

A talk by Jon Maisey and Joe Duxbury to members of the Burford and District Society in 2014 on the subject of the Windrush mine was very well received and showed that there is a lot of interest in this little-known subject.

The GSS is still actively investigating other underground sites in the Cotswolds. Over recent years the club has carried out site investigations for the BBC, the National Trust and local landowners in order to identify other underground sites of interest. The GSS can be contacted for any other sites that may need investigating.

¹ ‘mine’ is not the correct term as a quarry is still a quarry whether open to the skies or not, but ‘mine’ is a term that most people can easily understand and so is most often used.

² www.gloucester-speleo.org
Jonathan Maisey, Joe Duxbury

WODC COUNCILLOR REPORT

Crossing the Windrush River

The chairman of Barrington Parish Council rightly asks for Oxfordshire and Gloucester County Councils to plan and implement a regional solution for HGVs. Back in the 1990s and early 2000s such a group existed called the Freight Quality Partnership (FQP) run by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and supported by a transport consultancy, other counties and hauliers. It surveyed HGV routes and made the first move towards the Burford HGV ban by getting Burford deleted from international haulier maps and SatNavs. Those hauliers controlling logistics from HQ in the drivers’ own language to telemetry equipment in the cab of the HGV stopped going through Burford and used the OCC recommended route signposted on the A40 to Northleach and along the Fosseway, A429, to Stow. A small step forward.

The latest HGV ban through Burford has air quality as a high priority. Burford High Street was a whisker below the EU 40 micron limit but Chipping Norton Horsefair was well above. The 600 HGVs a day traversing Burford were split 50/50 A361 Chipping Norton and A424 Stow-on-the-Wold. Taking 300 a day off Chipping Norton’s roads was predicted to lower the air pollution to about half the EU 40 micron limit. It certainly improved the pavement eating and drinking environment in Burford for the short time we were able to enjoy that life since the ban started.



How it used to be

Burford is a small community, 1300 inhabitants and about 600 dwellings, but the scope of the HGV ban is extensive. Signposting on the M40 and over a wide radial distance had to be installed and paid for by the project. Naturally the project received some financial assistance from other communities along the route who would derive advantage.

Burford is not yet free from HGVs on the High Street and back lanes but we commend Barrington’s call for action, note that they have a 7.5 tonne limit already which is ignored, and would wish to see the HGV regional solution move forward not backwards.

Derek Cotterill - 10 March 2021

MRS BUMBLES DIARY

A few months ago I told you all about the ghost we seem to have in Bumbles

Long time Burford residents have since told us that the building has always been thought of as being haunted. The story revolves around a jilted lover being cast aside by her fiancé and jumping out of a window or into a well in the basement. Whatever you may think of the story, and to be honest it doesn’t sound very likely to me, the ghost is at it again.



Taps on the shoulder, stock that moves locations and disappearing utensils, amongst other things, have all started up again. The ghost definitely does not like change, even tables or display units being moved seems to agitate her, and moving a post office in on a temporary basis has really upset her.

Hopefully, she will decide to move next door although I don’t think Lesley would be too thrilled about that.

We are at last getting closer to relocating the post office next door which, as you know, will be the location of both the new post office plus the newsagents.

Well, closer is a relative term.

We have all the necessary planning approvals and consents but trying to get all our ducks in a row has proved challenging. The operation of the post office has been flawless – it’s open 9am - 1pm at present - and moving this into Bumbles on a temporary basis has worked very well for everyone.

However, everything is taking much longer than expected. The problem earlier in the year was apparently Brexit and the excuse for the non-arrival of stock, equipment and even problems in getting insurance cover are all now being blamed on Covid.

Anyway, we will continue to battle on - there’s definitely light at the end of the tunnel - and we will be in the new post office sometime in April by which time we hope that the ghost will have calmed down a bit or moved on to a new home.

Steve Colter



Well done, Steve, on the other side of the road.

BURFORD SCHOOL

A warm welcome back

It was wonderful to welcome back all of our students after the third and, hopefully, last lockdown! Over 90% of them signed up to the lateral flow tests provided by the government. In order to get back into the classroom as quickly as possible we ran the first testing in the week prior to 8 March. School staff helped out with this enormous task and everything went off very smoothly. The students were all excited to see their friends and teachers and everyone soon got back into in the swing of school life, enjoying lessons and taking part in the sport and music extra-curricular activities that were permitted.

Getting out and about

Students from a variety of year groups began their online training sessions to prepare them for their D of E expeditions taking place later in the year. The training involves the skills of map reading, food and cooking, understanding the weather and the countryside code and handling equipment. Once completed, subject to government restrictions, current planned locations are Boars Hill, the Chilterns, Shropshire, Dartmoor and the Brecon Beacons.

Hole in one!

Extra-curricular sporting success continues for our students. We were delighted to hear that Louis, in Year 9, has been selected to be part of the U18 Elite Wiltshire county golf team. Playing off a handicap of six, Louis has been looking forward to getting out on the golf course again.

Bank of England



Our A-level Economic students enjoyed a virtual visit by Stephen Burgess, senior manager for the Micro Financial Risks Division at the Bank of England, early in March. He took questions on a range of subjects including Covid, Brexit and the role of the Bank in the UK economy. As an experienced member of the Bank of England, Mr Burgess was able to give the students a fascinating insight into the varied challenges facing the Bank in recent times.

Heritage orchard

During the students' absence we have been busy planting heritage fruit trees in our former allotment. Lucy Staveley, from Project 2020, generously donated

some money from the project, enabling us to plant a small orchard which we hope to enjoy in years to come. Varieties include Beauty of Bedford (apple), Burford Red (apple), Swan's Egg (pear) and Shepherd's Delight (plum).

Reading Week

Various competitions and workshops took place during Reading Week. Students enjoyed virtual talks with the school's Patrons of Reading – Ian Johnstone and Martin Stewart. Author Sarah Oliver introduced Year 9 students to journalism and the publishing process whilst former patron Jo Cotterill shared her passion for reading and introduced her latest book to those in Years 7 and 8. Students made good use of their World Book Day vouchers to purchase exciting and engaging stories in a variety of genres.

450th Birthday

Preparations are now firmly under way as we look to celebrate our 450th birthday later this year. We will be posting details of events to which you are invited as we move towards the summer.

Lyndy Dennis - Marketing Assistant
www.burford.oxon.sch.uk

BURFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the local community. My name is Adam Clark and I am the new headteacher at Burford Primary School. It was a very strange start for me in January, with my first task being to shut the school for most of the children. Fortunately we were able to fully reopen to all children from Monday 8 March, and I have been really impressed with how the children have settled back in to learning in the classroom. I met most of the children remotely in my live PE sessions and seen the fantastic work they completed at home, but it is not the same as seeing them in the school. I am really enjoying getting to know the children and the community around our school.

We are incredibly fortunate with the site which we have here, as we are very well equipped to adhere to current restrictions but make the school day as normal as possible for our children. We have plentiful outdoor space for our children to learn and play in. The children are enjoying being able to play outdoors again and making full use of our lovely Paddock area.

It is an incredibly exciting time for the school at the moment and I have been really impressed with the enthusiasm which I have felt from the whole school community about supporting our school to provide the best possible education for our children. As our school continues to develop and grow, we are looking for volunteers to join our governing body. If you would like to support us on our journey, please do get in touch with the school.

*Adam Clark -
Head Teacher
Burford Primary School*



BURFORD PRE-SCHOOL CELEBRATES WORLD BOOK DAY

We have just welcomed back all our children, who have resettled very well after a tough start to 2021.



It was beautiful to see them dressed up in their fancy dress costumes to celebrate World Book Day.

As a pre-school we put particular emphasis on stories and spend a lot of time reading and talking through the stories, characters and meaning with all the children. Children who spend time listening to stories at a young age tend to grow up with a love for reading books.



The children also enjoyed seeing their teachers dress up as the Hungry Caterpillar, one of our classic favourites.



We are welcoming new children aged 2-4 years old to our nurturing and vibrant pre-school. We have an ethos that children learn best through play and use this ethos planning the days and the children's development targets.

We include our session times and welcome parents to contact us to enquire further about a placement for their child. Viewings can be arranged at specific times with safety measures in place.

*From the Burford Pre-School Team
Ola Caless*



BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

NEW TO BURFORD AND 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 town's local facilities, clubs and societies. Simply email your name and address to pwoxfordshire@gmail.com

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, 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. Articles may also be edited for clarification or length 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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THE BRIDGE TIMETABLE AND CONTACTS

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, articles and any donations at Bumbles Post Office in Burford for us to collect.

Advertisements need to be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication. Please contact:

advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

THE BRIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL ESSAY COMPETITION

A New Initiative With Burford School

“Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet, and never before have we had the power to do something about that... The future of humanity and indeed, all life on earth, now depends on us.” - Sir David Attenborough

According to a January 2021 survey by the UN Development Programme and Oxford University, 81% of people questioned in the UK regard climate change as a global emergency. This awareness is no doubt partly due to the ceaseless campaigning on the issue by Attenborough and other well known figures. Attention has also been drawn to it by the fact that the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP26, is going to be held in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November. (If you're wondering, COP stands for Conference of the Parties, i.e. those who have signed the UN treaty on climate change).

The Bridge has in its small way tried to cover this issue by publicising a variety of local environmental initiatives. However we are now taking this further and are pleased to announce a new environmental essay competition in conjunction with Burford School.



The competition is in two sections, the first for pupils in years 7 to 10 and the second for years 11 to 13. They will be asked to write an essay of up to 1200 words on one of the following topics:

For years 7 to 10

- Three things the school and/or local community could do to tackle climate change
- Why we should reintroduce (suggest an animal) to the Cotswolds
- Fast fashion should be banned

For years 11 to 13

- At a crossroads: what might happen if we don't tackle climate change now
- You have just been given a farmer's field near your house. What will you do with it?
- President Biden has been seeking advice on climate change from a 14-year-old athlete, Anna Hursey from

Cardiff. If you were Anna what advice would you be giving the President for his speech at the Earth Summit on 22 April?

The closing day for entries will be 22 April, which is Earth Day 2021, the theme of which is “Restore our Earth”.

The competition will be judged by a panel consisting of:

- Lucy Staveley - she masterminded the 2020 Tree Challenge which under which 2020 trees were planted in our area last year
- Ashley Count - she is a librarian at Burford School where she runs a creative writing group and is a keen member of the school's environment group
- Ashley Smith - he is founder of Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP)
- The editors

The winners from the different sections will each receive a prize of £50 and their essays will appear in a future edition of The Bridge and on our website.

Editors

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The pandemic and the effects of Brexit have distracted us for a time from the huge threat that hangs over us all, that of climate change. But it is still here. The problem is so vast that it is hard to imagine that any small group of people can have much influence over it. Yet the entire population of the world is composed of small groups of people, and if all of them did their part we might achieve great things.

Burford is a small town with a very active and well-informed community, used to acting together, as the lorry ban and the festival show. Couldn't we devise our own plan to reduce carbon emissions?

For instance, do we need to keep the street lamps on all night? It is a waste of electricity, and prevents us from enjoying the night sky. If necessary we could have movement triggers on the lamp-posts, so that they would come on if people were in the streets, but otherwise we could simply use a torch if we had to go out after lights out.

As there is no gas in Burford we are forced to burn oil for our central heating. Could we consider a shared heating plan for the whole town? Until the mid 1930s the Witney Street Mill generated the electricity for the town's street lighting, and we have a fast-flowing river running through the town. Could we not find a way to use that energy? What about ground source heat pumps? Instead of making piecemeal attempts to change our boilers, couldn't we summon the imaginative engineers in our midst to devise a plan and show the world what can be done by an enterprising community? Could we get together and discuss the matter, without waiting for instructions from the government or local authority? What does the town council think of the idea?

Elizabeth Mortimer

OCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

Saving Our Windrush

River Testing Equipment Now In Place

I am pleased to report that Burford has now installed its own river testing equipment.

This is thanks to all those readers who have kindly donated to the Save The Windrush Campaign.



Councillor Nick Field-Johnson with Ashley Smith of WASP with testing equipment and testing the river near Burford

Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (“WASP”) will manage the sophisticated testing equipment, based in the Burford area, and will be responsible for the continual assessment of the river. This equipment will allow the local community, via WASP, to trace the releases of sewage from storm drains and elsewhere into our river and provide a comprehensive picture of the scale of pollution from what is described as the routine dumping of untreated sewage in some areas. This will include measuring turbidity or murkiness of the river as well as the dissolved oxygen levels, temperature, PH, conductivity and oxidation reduction potential. These are recognised indicators of sewage pollution and, as well as giving an overall running health check, will most importantly measure changes and provide an early alert to pollution incidents to help to track them down to the source.

Thames Water continues to be criticised for its continual dumping of raw sewage into our rivers, especially for the long-term events which, when caused by groundwater infiltration (as many are) are not legally permitted. Now that we have professional testing equipment the Windrush can be monitored and excess discharges identified so this effectively puts a great deterrent to pollution from any source in place.

The Continued Success Of The Burford HGV Campaign

It is good to report that HGVs are continuing to avoid Burford and there has been a significant reduction in the presence of HGVs in Burford.

There have been a number of reports and misrepresentations of HGVs in our surrounding areas. During the autumn, we did see a number of HGVs in our villages serving the local farms. Leafield has also reported an increase in HGVs but they have been reporting this since 2018 – well before the Burford HGV ban. This is because HGVs use Leafield in order to avoid Charlbury and its HGV weight limits and has nothing to do with the Burford HGV ban. Similarly, Crawley has reported HGVs but this is mainly due to the industrial estate in Crawley which the HGVs service and use.

The ban is continuing to work for Burford and our surrounding areas !

Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson nfjuk3@gmail.com or nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

HELLO ZOE!

WODC welcomes first all-electric vehicle



West Oxfordshire District Council has taken delivery of its first battery electric vehicle (BEV) – a new Renault Zoe R135 Iconic.

A positive step towards the council's ambition to be carbon-neutral by 2030, the vehicle's arrival comes just weeks after councillors approved the authority's climate change strategy at its full council meeting at the end of February.

The strategy sets out how the authority will respond to the climate and ecological emergency across the district over the next four years - including its approach to cleaner energy and low-carbon transport. Ubico, West Oxfordshire's waste and recycling delivery partner, will use the council-owned vehicle day-to-day. The Zoe's 52kWh battery has enough capacity for staff to undertake their work without the need to recharge during the day. Following successful trials, tendering has begun for the council's next vehicle – a fully electric powered road sweeper that will support West Oxfordshire's street cleansing function. The vehicle should be on the road in the summer.

NEWS FROM WEST OX ARTS

WOA Springs Into Action!

We are excited to say that we can see the end of lockdown as we prepare for Oxfordshire Art Weeks. This county-wide annual show is open to all artists, professional and amateur alike, for the whole month of May. If you're visiting, you might see flags or posters outside homes or village halls or, in our case, the lovely Gallery in Bampton. Across the county there will be a total of 250 venues to visit, plus 500 virtual exhibitions. This year there will be a stronger online presence on most social media platforms and virtual catalogue flipbooks replacing the printed version.

At West Ox Arts we will show nine artists with a wide range of 2D and 3D work for sale including paintings, textiles, and ceramics. As a taster, here are a few of the artists and what they will be showcasing:

Hannah Vickery WOA

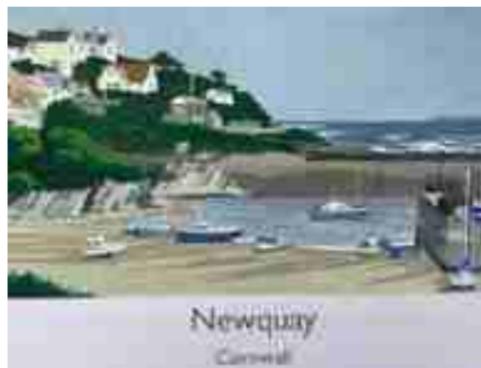
A Sense of Summer, Acrylic and mixed media



Having trained and worked as a graphic designer, Hannah now paints in acrylic and mixed media. Her work is inspired by her surroundings and inner life. Primarily abstract, her work leaves the viewer to engage with each painting on multiple levels.

John Seaton WOA

Newquay, Cornwall, Gouache



John returned to painting after retirement and is inspired by pre-war poster artists. Like them, he paints in gouache and is inspired by local scenes especially across South Oxfordshire on local walks.

Sarah Darby WOA

Silver sugar bowl with ceramic pot, Oil on panel



Sarah studied art and after travelling the world she worked as a children's book designer and art director for an Oxford publisher. Sarah works from life in her attic studio, using her travels as inspirational additions to her still life compositions, or en plein air in the Cotswolds.

Caroline Nixon

Autumn glory, botanical contact print and natural dye on a satin silk shawl



Caroline is a textile artist, using botanical contact printing. Inspired by nature, her art evolves with the seasons, using plants to dye fabrics to make wall art, home textiles and wearable art.

You can see more from all our artists on our website and Artweeks page here:
www.artweeks.org/festival/2021/west-ox-arts

We look forward to seeing you in May.
Jenny Smith (former editor of this illustrious publication!)

**West
OX
ARTS**

BRIAN HALL



Brian Hall died on 1 March. He was often described as 'Mr. Windrush', because of his many activities in the locality.



Brian came from a long line of blacksmiths and for most of his life carried on the family business, originally at the forge at Great Barrington and then in later years – well past retirement age – at a new building behind his home at Windrush. He was noted for his versatility. He would take on any job relating to metal work, and trained his son, David, who has now taken over the business.

Brian was an accomplished musician, for many years playing as a member of the Chedworth Silver Band. He would often say he got his musical gene from his mother, who played the organ at Great Barrington church for over 50 years. He was churchwarden of St Peter's Windrush for almost 40 years, and devoted most of his spare time to the upkeep of the church, churchyard and village green.

For many years Brian found time before work to distribute early morning newspapers in Windrush. A keen sportsman, he played football at Sherborne but was better known as an excellent cricketer, eventually becoming chairman of the Windrush Valley club. He was also a prominent freemason, based at Burford.

Brian was a committed and very productive gardener, particularly in the growing of vegetables. He was regularly a successful prize-winner at the

Barrington flower and fruit and vegetable show, where he was often involved as the host for the announcing of the prize-winners.

Brian was well known in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire as a notable church bell ringer. From the 1950s he rang bells to a very high standard. He organised the bell ringing, and carried out the necessary bell maintenance, at Windrush, Sherborne and the Barringtons. He also rang on Sunday mornings at Burford and helped with ringing and teaching at Friday practices and for other services, such as weddings at Burford, Fulbrook, teaching at Burford, Fulbrook, Taynton and Asthall (and in and around Cirencester). He often rang and conducted quarter peals, which are ringing continuously for about 45 minutes, and occasional full peals (which involve ringing for about three hours).

A private funeral was held on 19 March
Thanks to Nigel Harrison, Andrew McKerlie, Cedric Reavley, members of Brian's family and others who have helped by providing this information.

GWEN DIXON



Mrs Gwen Dixon (formerly Mrs Jack Fowler) died on 19 January aged 95. A Burford resident for 70 years, Gwen loved the town and entered into all it had to offer. With her enduring zest for life, she enjoyed all crafts as well as amateur dramatics and was proprietress of the Classica dress shop. A very creative lady with a wonderful sense of humour, she was such fun to be with and will be sadly missed by her children Ken and Sally, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A service of remembrance to give thanks for her life will take place in easier times and will be announced in due course.

Thanks to Michael Taubenheim for supplying this information and the photograph



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PARISH CHURCH SERVICES April 2021

St John the Baptist, Burford

*Please sign up at www.burfordchurch.org/sign-up before Saturday 9.00am

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1st April Maundy Thursday | |
| Holy Communion | 7.30pm |
| 2nd April Good Friday | |
| *Family Service | 10.30am |
| Meditation | 2.00pm |
| 4th April | |
| Holy Communion (BCP) | 8.00am |
| *Holy Communion (CW) | 9.30am |
| *Holy Communion (CW) | 11.00am |
| 11th April | |
| Holy Communion (BCP) | 8.00am |
| *Matins (BCP) | 9.30am |
| *Morning Service | 11.00am |
| 18th April | |
| Holy Communion (BCP) | 8.00am |
| *Holy Communion (CW) | 9.30am |
| *Holy Communion (CW) | 11.00am |
| 25th April | |
| Holy Communion (BCP) | 8.00am |
| *Holy Communion (CW) | 9.30am |
| *Morning Service | 11.00am |

Warwick Hall, Burford

Please sign up at www.burfordchurch.org/sign-up before Friday 9.00am

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| 4th April | |
| *Families Together | 11.00am |
| 11th April | |
| *Families Together | 11.00am |
| 18th April | |
| *Families Together | 11.00am |
| 25th April | |
| *Families Together | 11.00am |

St James the Great, Fulbrook

*Please sign up with Lyn Bibbings Burns

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 2nd April Good Friday | |
| *Meditation | 10.30am |
| 4th April | |
| *Holy Communion (CW) | 9.30am |
| 11th April | |
| *Holy Communion (CW) | 9.30am |
| 18th April | |
| *Morning Prayer (CW) | 9.30am |

25th April

* Holy Communion (CW) 9.30am

St John the Evangelist, Taynton

*Please sign up with Jo Knight

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| 4th April | |
| Outdoor Holy Communion (CW) | 9.30am |
| 18th April | |
| *Evening Prayer (BCP) | 6.00pm |

St Nicholas, Asthall

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 2nd April Good Friday | |
| Open 9.00am-6.00pm for private prayer | |
| 4th April | |
| Outdoor Holy Communion (CW) | 9.30am |

St Mary, Swinbrook

*Please sign up with Mo McKay

| | |
|--|---------|
| 2nd April Good Friday | |
| Open 9.00am-6.00pm for private prayer | |
| 4th April | |
| Outdoor Holy Communion (CW) | 11.00am |
| 11th April | |
| *Morning Prayer | 11.00am |
| 18th April | |
| *Morning Prayer | 11.00am |
| 25th April | |
| *Morning Prayer | 11.00am |
| 'Thought for the Week' https://swinbrookat11.org/services | |

Please only sign up to services marked with an *

All services are subject to change due to COVID. Please check our website burfordchurch.org before attending a service.
Tarnia Usher - Church Secretary

ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, 1 April - 6.00 pm Mass
Easter Sunday, 4 April - 10.00 am Mass
Due to social distancing measures booking is necessary - please see www.catholicchurchburford.org.uk for details.

Weekly Services

Tuesday - 10.00 am Mass
Thursday- 10.00 am Mass
Friday - 6.00 pm Mass
Sunday - 10.00 am Mass
Due to social distancing measures numbers are limited
Dan Boyle

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| Cameo Hairdressers. Burford Barbers & Beauty at Cameo | Find us at Christmas Court in Burford | 01993 822292 |
| Chipping Norton Vet Hospital | (Burford Branch) Large and small animal care | 01608 642547 |
| CJD Architects | Chartered Architects | 01993 823646 |
| The Cotswold Cheese Company | We sell Artisan cheese, delicatessen foods, wines, beers, gifts and fresh bread (Thurs, Fri & Sat) | 01993 823882 |
| EDIBLE IMAGE | Mini celebration cakes & cupcakes. Perfect for special occasions. Various sizes & shapes incl spherical. eoxfordshire@gmail.com | 07549 199709 |
| 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 |
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| Tayler and Fletcher | Estate Agents / Chartered Surveyors / Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers / Commercial Agents / Rural Specialists | 01993 220579 |
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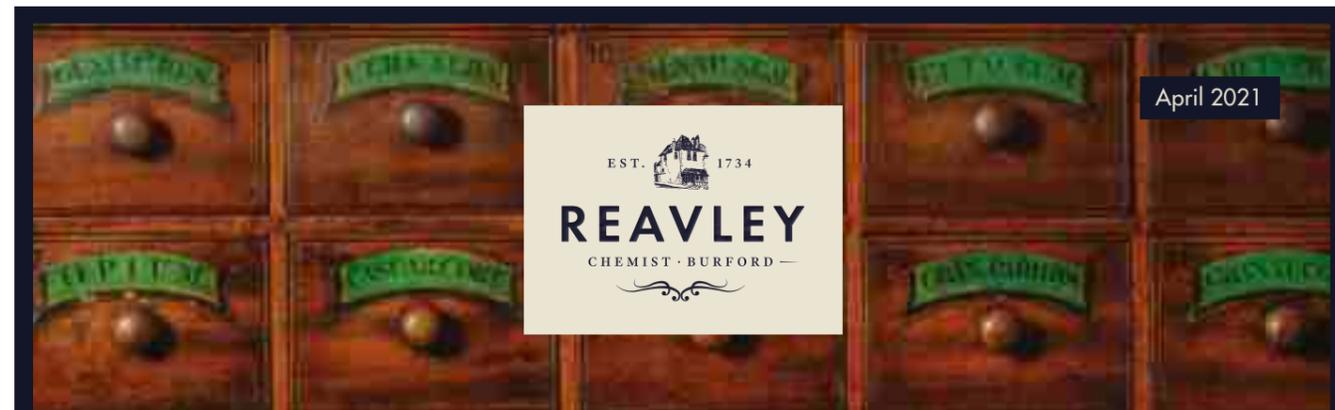
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April 2021

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BROWSE PROPERTIES

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*"Mum is well looked after, feels safe and comfortable.
Staff always pleasant and helpful"*

Son of resident, February 2020 Source: carehome.co.uk



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Inspected and rated

Good

