



THE BRIDGE

May
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 4, £1.50*



We like bridges and we have some lovely ones in our area but Mike Russell thought we would be also be interested in this one located in the Cairngorms. It was constructed in 1717 and spans a fast-running river. In view of its being damaged, Mike commented that it would have required a resolute attitude of the villagers to cross it!

It was good to see our local shops and other businesses reopening under stage 2 of the government’s roadmap. Let’s hope that enough visitors will be drawn here to give a boost to our flagging tourist economy. The reopening of hairdressers must have been particularly welcome and they have been busy attending to shaggy locks which have been untended since December.

Most of the shops now seem to be open but sadly one victim is the Visitor Information Centre. We now know that WODC has rubber-stamped the recommendation of their tourism review that the VIC should not reopen. Other methods will have to be found to communicate to visitors what this area has to offer. Another casualty, previously announced, is TSB which will close its doors on 10 May.

Elsewhere art exhibitions, craft fairs, sculpture gardens, music, walks, the library, the Wildlife Park and cricket are all kicking off (well, not for cricket, obv’s). It’s all beginning to look a bit like normal.

Normally at this time of year BTC holds an open meeting to enable outraged residents to harangue their councillors and throw cabbages at them. For the second year running this has not been possible because of you-know-what and instead their reports appear in this edition. Questions, comments and cabbages should be directed to the Tolsey. Joking apart, we are fortunate to have so many dedicated parish, town, district and county councillors who give freely of their time to keep our communities running smoothly. So a big vote of thanks to them.

Editors



01993 220 579
burford@taylorandfletcher.co.uk

Taylor & Fletcher



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James Skinner
Residential Sales Manager



Alison Denny
Residential Sales



Celebrating 2 years in Burford

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Job Advert: School Governor

Windrush Valley School is a small private school based in West Oxfordshire providing education to children from age 3 to 11. We are currently seeking to appoint a governor to serve on the School's Governor Advisory Board, reporting to our proprietor, Ingenio Education and starting in September 2021.

The role of the governor is to ensure the best possible education for every child and to contribute to the work of the advisory body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all the pupils.

The successful applicant would ideally have human resources and or health and safety expertise along with a good understanding of the education sector and school setting. Details of all the responsibilities and required skills and experience may be viewed in the job description which is available to download from the School's website: www.windrushvalleyschool.co.uk

If you are interested in being part of a team working to shape the future of this thriving school please submit your **CV** along with a **supporting statement** to Mrs Kathryn Hawtin by email: info@windrushvalleyschool.co.uk and for further information by telephone on 01993 831793.

Closing Date: 30th June 2021

Our school and all its staff are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children. This post is subject to safer recruitment practices including an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.



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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.burfordsurgery.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

Carterton Health Centre NHS 01993 841718
 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
 Fullbrook 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
 Click & Collect only
 Tuesday 13.00- 16.00
 Thursday and Friday 10.00 - 13.00

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

Post Office TBA

Recycling Centre
 Dix Pit, Lynch Hill, Stanton Harcourt
 Open 7 days a week 8am - 5pm
 Thursday late night until 8pm
 Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Southern Electric (Freephone) 08000 727282
Thames Water 0800 3169800

Tolsey Museum
 Opening 18 May 2021
 Monday Closed
 Tuesday - Sunday 2pm - 5pm

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
 Open Monday - Friday 10am-6pm 01865 841148
 Closed Saturday and Sunday

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

MEMORIES OF PRINCE PHILIP

When remembering the life of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh it is, perhaps, inevitable that memories will go back a long way, but was it really so long ago that I stood on the rostrum at the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff with my friends in the England relay team, and watched him walk athletically towards us to present us with our gold medals? He was as much at home there among the young athletes as anyone there; he was 37.



I was lucky to meet him on several other occasions, at receptions and presentations, and he always had some easy banter to put everyone at their ease; but there was a lot more thought and preparation behind the relaxed, jokey style than we knew. I remember once commenting on the fact that he was always wearing the *Amateur Athletic Association* tie when I met him, and he told me that every day he had a line of ties laid out so that he could change into the appropriate tie of whoever he was to meet next. If he had six 30-minute slots arranged to meet different groups in rapid succession, he would not only have done his homework on who they were and why they were there, but he was also wearing the appropriate tie when the moment came. In his 20,000 public engagements, did Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh hold the world record for the greatest number of quick tie changes in history? This was, of course, only a tiny, almost unnoticed part of what he did, and his support and encouragement of us was only very minor in comparison to the great impact that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, for example, had on millions of young people's lives to whom it gave goals and a structure, and the promise of that sense of personal achievement that follows a difficult task successfully accomplished. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, had a way of connecting to the people he met, and even to those who only knew him from afar, and who now feel a kind of emptiness, knowing that he is no longer there.

When I heard of his death at Windsor, was I silly and over-nostalgic, to go to my cupboard and take out the medal in its pale blue box that he handed me on that day in

Cardiff when I was an 18-year-old, and let my memory run back over all those years? Perhaps . . . but it was a very great privilege and a pleasure to have shared, however briefly, some of my best moments with such a remarkable man – a man with such vitality, and loyalty, a man who encouraged so many, and in so many ways, and who did so with such warmth and wit, and who took the trouble to find a way of paying his respects to everyone he met by wearing the right tie as a sort of symbolic bond between himself and them. One can only imagine the loss and pain suffered by Her Majesty the

Queen, but it is a loss shared in their own way by everyone who met him, or who were helped by him, all of whom must now feel that the world is a poorer place for his passing.

Peter Radford

Squadron Leader Tony Picking who lives in Fulbrook has fond memories of the late Duke of Edinburgh. Having joined the RAF a few years after WWII Tony flew a variety of aircraft, instructed on many and was a test pilot on some. However one of his most rewarding postings was as personal pilot to the Duke of Edinburgh. For three years in the late 1960s Tony flew Prince Philip, accompanied by the latter's staff, around the world to every corner of the Commonwealth. The Duke was particularly keen to present Duke of Edinburgh Award medals and certificates personally to the young people who had succeeded in the scheme.

Tony tells me that at that time he flew the Hawker Siddeley HS 780 Andover, a twin-engined turboprop transport aircraft. The Queen's Flight was then based at RAF Benson, near Wallingford, South Oxfordshire. He got to know Prince Philip well and after three years as his personal pilot Tony retired from the RAF having completed twenty two years service but kept flying as a business pilot and subsequently while a director and chairman of air services companies.

Clendon Daukes

THE BRIDGE TIMETABLE

The closing date for entries to the editorial sections of the magazine is 10th of the month preceding publication. Please contact:

editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk

Alternatively, you can leave letters and articles at Bumbles Post Office for us to collect.

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

advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk

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. Items 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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BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL

“Red: the blood of angry men

Black; the dark of ages past!”

Les Miserables

I may be over-dramatising slightly but we actually had a whiff of controversy at our April meeting. Not the iniquities of OCC or WODC this time but the colour of the Tolsey. Redecoration of the exterior is long overdue. We have received an acceptable quote from a local outfit so the big question, and the one which stirred the emotions, is what colour shall we paint the council offices and museum? Traditionally it has been white and some favoured the continuation of the tradition. Others advocated a change, nothing extravagant, possibly a “fresh beige” or “mild yellow”. As the Tolsey is listed and preserved (so are some councillors one might think) we will have to comply with the Approved Colour Chart of the Conservation Department of WODC (technically “Design Guide 19: Traditional Paint Colours) but this is no constraint because the ACC is fairly wide ranging including our very own “12.B.17. Willow-Burford Green”. In best bureaucratic fashion we deferred the decision to give time for the ACC to be consulted and, it occurs to me, time for you to let us know what colour you would like your Tolsey to be. Answers, please, to Maggie Andrews – town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk – or on a postcard to The Tolsey.

It wasn't all fun and games. We heard again of the trials and tribulations caused to the residents of Shilton Road by the roadworks, or lack of them, connected with the new development and will bring pressure to bear on OCC once more. We heard that our campaign to rectify the western pavement of the High Street had born fruit, or at least a small crab apple, in that we have been offered a site meeting with senior officials which we will take up. For those of you who do not follow the council minutes with the assiduity which they deserve, we have started a campaign, in conjunction with the Burford & District Society, to remedy the western pavement. I use the term advisedly because it is not just a question of repairing the potholes. The whole pavement needs realigning because the camber, which has always been bad but seems to have got worse of late, is now so extreme that mobility scooters, buggies, wheelchairs and so forth are in danger of toppling over. Our senior citizens should not face the Wall of Death every time they go shopping, our mums should not have to fear their babies being ejected from their prams under the thundering wheels of an HGV which should not be there anyway and our zimmer frame users should not have to negotiate a slope which would test a teenage skateboarder every time they want to use the pedestrian crossing. It is bad enough trying to get across in the nine seconds the law allows anyway!

We had the sad news that our Visitor Information Centre will not reopen. This is madness in the name of progress. WODC accepted a review of tourism by Publica which concluded that everything must go digital. So tens of thousands of visitors and potential visitors who would spend money in our shops, pubs,

cafes and hotels cannot now ask a human being for advice but must go online. At a time when everywhere, including Burford, needs help to rebuild its economy WODC decides to destroy a major underpinning of our tourist income flow. We and the Chamber of Trade will do our best to fill the gap starting with pressing WODC to give us a substantial part of the £100k they say they will save by shutting our VIC. That will give you some clue as to the real reason for their otherwise unbelievable decision. Perhaps we need something like the French Revolution after all.

Enough! Let's concentrate on spring, summer and reaching the end of the road (map).

John White - Mayor



BURFORD TIME CAPSULE

Your suggestions are needed please



Conversion work will start on the Archive this month. The lodging of two time capsules within its walls would dovetail perfectly with the community facility we are committed to create. Cedric Reavley has already contacted the primary school asking for their participation in creating one capsule and it would seem only right that you, as a Burford and District resident are also given the opportunity to suggest topics to be included in the town capsule. It may be about the events of the last two years, your favourite picture, a memory or an event that has taken place; your choice is unlimited. The final selection will be made by the Archive committee.

The capsules will be placed behind brass plaques detailing when they were “interred” and when they should be opened.

I'm never one to miss an opportunity to fund raise and so; if you would like to write a personal memory, sealed in an envelope, then this could be included at a cost of £10.

Please email me at cohen4sp@btinternet.com with your ideas as to what we should include and if you wish a personal memory to be included.

Thank you
David Cohen

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL AGM

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 01/05/2020 – 30/04/2021

I don't propose to bang on about You-Know-What or, at least, not much. It struck shortly before the end of last year and bedevilled everything we tried to do this year. Inevitably, much of what your council did during the year under review was in the nature of fire-fighting.

Community Service

Each councillor took responsibility for his or her ward ensuring that nobody needing help went unaided. This they did by appointing street managers and gathering in volunteers. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved and the amazing response of the Burford volunteer brigade everybody needing assistance got it. We can be proud, as a town, of how the residents demonstrated their kindness and sheer humanity at a time of significant crisis.

Closures

TSB announced that it was closing its Burford branch in May 2021 and was deaf to all pleas for reconsideration.

Nick Mills, who has run the post office and newsagent for as long as we can remember, decided to retire and leaves with the heartfelt gratitude of all who used these facilities. Nobody immediately sprang forward with an acceptable offer to take over the business so it closed. After a short interregnum a pop-up PO was installed in Mrs Bumbles. It is hoped that a full service post office will open next door during 2021/22.

The Visitor Information Centre was Covid-closed by WODC. Tourism is under review by WODC including the future of our VIC. We have made and will continue to make strenuous objections to permanent closure.

The library was Covid-closed by OCC. We are apprehensive about its future but The Friends of Burford Library continue to fight for reopening.

HGVs

The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, imposing a 7.5 tonnes weight limit on HGVs in the High Street, went live on 5 August 2021. Enforcement started in the following October following installation of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera and new CCTV cameras. There is no doubt that there has been a marked decrease in HGV traffic. The actual numbers will have to await further traffic surveys. The final decision will be made in spring 2022 by OCC.

Speed Limits

After months of negotiation we finally achieved a 20 mph limit on all Burford roads north of the A40. We also achieved a reduction in the limit on the A40 going past the school but not by enough. We failed to persuade OCC to replace the footbridge over the A40 serving the school. OCC opted to save money rather than lives and installed a "Puffin" crossing rather than a new bridge which makes it even more important to fight for a really low speed limit.

Developments

Nothing new and major, thank goodness! Building started on the site opposite the garden centre and is continuing. Shilton Road itself and its verges and walkways have been

badly damaged and responsibility for making good is proving controversial.

And finally

The three people who have always worked their socks off for Burford have had an exhausting year thanks to You-Know-What. They have carried on regardless, taking on extra emergency-related tasks, and remain cheerful and unfazed. Maggie Andrews, the Clerk to Burford, John Yeatman, our Responsible Financial Officer and David Buckland, our Lengthman. The whole town is in their debt and so am I.

John White - Mayor

PLANNING REPORT

Applications for the last year have mainly been for home extensions and upgrades. The Planning Committee have dealt with each application on its individual merit, bearing in mind that Burford is in a conservation area with many listed buildings.

The Shilton Road development offers many affordable homes to local families who are expanding or who wish to remain in the Burford parish. West Oxfordshire District Council are well on course to beat building targets for new homes, including affordable housing in the West Oxfordshire area.

Pavilion report

Whilst the letting of the pavilion last year was down, it remain very popular with our local football team Clanfield FC.

Councillor Taubenheim.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

This year due to lockdown the streets have been tidy and almost free from litter. There have been sightings of rats in some areas mainly because of overflowing waste bins. This is being closely monitored.

The narrow footpath after the white gates in Witney Street is badly overgrown rendering it almost non-existent, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road which can be hazardous. This has been reported to Oxfordshire County Council 'Fix My Street'.

Cemetery report

The cemetery remains well kept with stone walls being repaired or rebuilt, the driveway levelled and trees and hedges trimmed back. Many available burial plots have been identified which means there is no immediate need to extend the field above. Quotes have been obtained for this work should an extension be necessary. Headstones are regularly checked for safety. Thanks go to our Groundsman David Buckland for keeping the cemetery well looked after - many visitors comment on its tidy and tranquil setting.

Councillor Tunnell-Westmacott.

RECREATION GROUND TOWN AGM REPORT

General

The protracted lockdowns have stifled regular life but our Rec continues to facilitate some normal activity in our daily exercise with a deal of socially distanced interaction with others. Our Lengthsman Dave Buckland continues to do sterling work keeping the grounds tidy. Thank you, Dave.

Westfield

The contractors doing the puffin crossing on the A40 replacing the bridge to the school needed a site compound in Westfield for construction. The town granted it to facilitate the works. That is now complete and the measures to make good taken. This will give the town an access to the field that is now properly paved with a solid sub-base that will aid water dissipation of the field which has caused problems in the past. In future we will be able to unload the pallets for the bonfire event far easier. Thanks to Drayton Construction for their cooperation throughout the project, with an extra special special thanks for the removal of the mound of earth between the Scout Hut and the Bowls Club that's been there far too long.

Play Ground

Plans to completely refurbish are still in progress.

Boys' Football

Boys' football has suffered due to lock down but should be up and functioning by May, and as their season has been curtailed, they intend to continue as long as weather permits this year.

Councillor Frank Triggs - BTC Recreation Ground Chairperson

THE FALKLAND HALL CHARITY (REG.NO.213532)

Report for the year January to December 2020

The Falkland Hall was originally built as a large merchant house in 1558 by Edmund Silvester. It became the Falkland Hall at around the time it was sold by the Recreation Society to the Town Institute in 1920. Over the years the ground floor was used as a hall for meetings and entertainment, and the top floor was a Men's Institute.

In the 1960s the hall had become neglected the then trustees commenced letting the building on a commercial basis.

A new trust scheme came into being in 1974 and ran until the present scheme was sealed on 11 February 1985 as the Falkland Hall Charity. The title to the land and building is vested in the Official Custodian for Charities in trust for the Falkland Hall Charity.

Under the 1985 Charity Scheme, the trustees have the option to use all or part of the building as a community centre, or lease the building for the best rent possible.

The trustees must firstly apply the charity's income in meeting the proper costs of administering the charity and of managing its property (including the repair and insurance of its buildings). After payment of these costs, the trustees shall apply the remaining income as they think fit for any charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the town of Burford and the neighbourhood thereof.

A bank account is held with TSB bank in Sheep Street, Burford. Investments are held in funds with M&G Investments and CCLA COIF charity funds. The Extraordinary Repair Fund is held within these investments.

The commercial let is managed by Marriott's Property LLP

During 2020 the trustees fulfilled the requirements of the charity scheme.

The trustees have purchased The Old Barn, Swan Lane, Burford for conversion to a Burford Community Archive for the town, with a studio apartment providing income to make the project sustainable. The conversion is set to start in April 2021.

Major support for the project has been received from West Oxfordshire District Council, Burford Festival, Burford & District Society, private trust funds, individual donors and a range of enthusiastic community fundraising. The trustees have set up a project website:- burfordcommunityarchive.org

David Cohen - Chairman - January 2021



I am delighted to be writing to you all from an open bookshop! It feels wonderful to have all the doors open on Burford High Street.

Restrictions may have stopped play for the first quarter of 2021 but we have been busy and so have authors and publishing houses. Our shelves are positively blooming with books from beautifully bound classics to the latest releases.

If you have popped in you will know that we have extended our stock for children and young adults which now fills our first room, and our back room is now devoted to our adult range. Although we like to guide you around our books with shelves including Fiction, History, Politics and of course our Man-Cave selection, we encourage you to browse all our shelves because your new favourite book or that perfect gift might just be sitting on a shelf you are not normally drawn to.

Madhatter Top Ten Paperbacks for Spring 2021

- Dark, Salt, Clear by Lamorna Ash**
- A Theatre For Dreamers by Polly Samson**
- One Two Three Four by Craig Brown**
- All Our Broken Idols by Paul Cooper**
- Mistresses by Linda Porter**
- Wanderland by Jinni Reddy**
- Cardboard Cowboys by Brian Conaghan**
- Double Lives by Helen McCarthy**
- The Lost Pianos of Siberia by Sophy Roberts**
- American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins**
- Just Like You by Nik Hornby**

You can find more recommendations on our blog at www.madhatterbookshop.co.uk and don't forget to SAVE THE DATE for BURFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL 23-27 September 2021

Stay safe, shop local, Love Bookshops
Kim

WODC COUNCILLOR ANNUAL REPORT

This is a brief resume of the year's activities and events: Covid-19 has meant that all council meetings have been virtual and no visits to planning sites, offices or other face-to-face or group activities have taken place. Many Publica staff (WODC) have been assigned to Covid support tasks in order to distribute grants and monetary aid as per government policy, distribute food parcels to the vulnerable and find accommodation to get the homeless off the streets and protected. WODC has purchased some hostel accommodation for this purpose as well as using hotels.

This winter we have seen a considerable amount of rain and water coming down the River Windrush such that Island House was flooded, the church was placed at risk and the car park was continuously flooded from 23 December 2020 until February 2021. One lesson learnt is that the speed of flow through Burford bridge is important. If the mill stream is sluggish the bridge arches choke and water rises up the ramp alongside the bridge towards the lower High Street. Flooding there affects approximately 15 properties so it is important that the mill stream can flow speedily.

We have confirmed one long-term Burford family in their house after a tussle with Cottsway (their records were wrong) and have moved another to modern accommodation following subsidence of their normal property; that took a mere two years to argue and complete.

Listed buildings are proving a great problem as they are not receiving the attention they require to keep them in good order; for example 20 Taynton (List No. 1200755) which is disappearing back into the landscape. It is prominently located in Taynton, seen by all, but compare its dilapidated state today with the photograph on the Historic England website which was taken for the Images of England project 20 years ago.

Another building which worries us locally is 121 Burford High Street (List No. 1267018). It was probably built in the 1400s along with the Highway Hotel and House of Simon, its neighbours. Now it is deserted with broken windows, a rotting fascia and a suspect roof. Again look at the photograph on the Historic England website taken 20 years ago.

Derek Cotterill - April 2021



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

LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBIT IN THE WARWICK HALL



Friday 4 - Saturday 19 June 10.0 am to 4.00 pm daily (closed Sundays)

I live in Bourton-on-the-Water and paint in watercolour and mixed media. My work includes local scenes and views of the Cotswold countryside as well as still life, flowers and animals. My work also includes scenes of her native Yorkshire and the Lake District.



I have recently enjoyed branching out into contemporary work with prints, strong colours and incorporating gold leaf. I trained as a textile designer and after a career in the world of antiques, as a specialist in fine portrait miniatures, I returned to my first love, painting. I work from my own studio in Bourton-on-the-Water where I welcome visitors, by appointment. In normal years I hold an annual exhibition there but due to Covid restrictions cannot do so at the moment.

I am delighted to welcome my guest exhibitor, Sandi Garrett, whose work will be shown at this exhibition alongside mine. Sandi is also a local artist and is well known for her wonderful pastel portraits and studies of animals. She takes commissions for pet portraits which brilliantly show the character of each animal. Specialities are portraits of dogs, cats and horses but she captures all animals and birds beautifully.

We plan to be available at the exhibition to meet you and answer questions.

www.judyharden.co.uk - judy@jbharden.plus.com



BURFORD ARCHIVE

Wonderful news Thanks to your support, the building conversion work needed to provide Burford with a living archive to safeguard and share its 1000 years of stories will start on 19 May. This is a great step forward, but we still need to raise the balance of the funds needed to complete the building work and then to finance the fitting out and equipment. If you feel able to help us with a donation, of whatever size, we would be most grateful. The details of how are shown below.

[Clendon Daukes cddaukes@gmail.com](mailto:cddaukes@gmail.com)

Facebook Burford Archive page

Since July 2020 the Facebook Burford Archive page has made daily posts; mainly postcard, photos, posters, adverts and articles from early 19th century newspapers.

The average daily viewing, according to Facebook, is 585, some reaching over a thousand, one achieving 3000. This is amazing as only 226 people subscribe to the page, meaning that the posts are shared around the globe, to others with an interest in Burford.

One of the great joys of these two sites is the banter between subscribers and the huge amount of information contained in the chat. The answers to the questions posed and peoples' memories are being collected as they provide first hand knowledge of contemporary Burford.

The most popular posts are memories of school days, stories from parents and recollections of grandparents. When the banter flows a picture of Burford becomes vivid, highly amusing and reinforces my opinion that Burfordians are a special close knit group who shared the highs and lows of growing up. Three generations in the cemetery to be deemed a local seems about right!



Just inside the arch on the right is a small hole in the wall, where my mother would keep her treasures."

I then posted this picture which was the first time the hiding hole had been seen for 80 years.



A perfect example of the interaction between archive and followers was when I posted an innocuous photo of an arch at the side of the Oxford Shirt Company in the High Street, Burford. It elicited the following reply:

"The building on the right, which used to be Muriel Beech Thomas's shop, was formerly where my great grandparents lived. My mother (Doreen Haggett) would play there as a child."

Another recipients of the Archive News told us *"I now live in Sheffield, a lot of my family including my father, grandparents and great grandparents are buried in Fulbrook Church Cemetery. My father and aunts grew up in Westhall Hill Manor; my grandfather, T.W. Pearman, was a farmer as was my great grandfather William Henry Pearman. My grandmother, Mabel Pearman, was the daughter of Leonard Lomas who was also a farmer and Butcher and owned the butchers shop in the High Street which is now Castles."*

Please continue to tell us your stories; everyone's personal tales and memories bring our living archive to life and are just as important as the deeds, charters and documents that chart our history.

Sponsor a Roof Slate – a real once in a lifetime opportunity

Our invitation for you to dedicate a slate to be fitted to the roof of the new Burford Archive, to a family member or a friend, has got off to an excellent start. Inscriptions will be added with a permanent marker to the back of each slate, (i.e. on the inner side which will not be open to the elements) to enable them to become a wonderful 'forever memento or gift'.



All subscribers will be sent a digital photograph of their inscribed slate(s) to keep or share with those they have mentioned. But that's not all, a copy of all the images will be retained for perpetuity in the Archive records for future generations to discover.

The cost : One tile £10, Two tiles £15. Three tiles £20

This offer will only be available for a few weeks, before the work commences on the roof.

To arrange, your dedication, please contact David Cohen cohen4sp@btinternet.com or tel 07899 837 482 The information we require is (1) your name, (2) your short message or dedication, for each tile, of no more than 8 words.

Methods of payment are shown below. Please quote the reference as 'Slates'.

David Cohen

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>

12 May Virtual Lecture via Zoom

**“Cathedrals, Safe Places to do Risky Things”
with Janet Gough**

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).



A ravishingly illustrated virtual tour of the Church of England’s magnificent 42 cathedrals, jewels in the crown of our built heritage, some recognised as World Heritage Sites. You will be treated with an overview of visual history and architectural evolution including some surprising stories and extraordinary treasures. The changing role of cathedrals in society both in the past and present day is also reviewed.

Janet was the Church of England’s Director of Church Buildings and Secretary of the Church Buildings Council and Cathedrals Fabric Commission for eight years. She has worked at Sotheby’s for nine years, was a trustee at the Churches Conservation Trust, the Museum of Fulham Palace and the Friends of the V&A and guided and lectured at the V&A.

Currently a trustee of the Priory of St John (Hospitallers) and a commissioning editor for Scala Heritage Publishers, Janet received an OBE for services to heritage in January 2017.

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

MUSIC IN COUNTRY CHURCHES

Music at Bibury – 21 and 22 May 2021

Music in Country Churches was set up as a charitable trust in 1989 with the active support of The Prince of Wales. The Trust has two aims: to arrange weekends of music in rural churches of exceptional beauty and interest and to raise funds thereby to assist those churches with the costs of their repair and maintenance. It has given concerts in over 55 churches and raised more than £500,000.



The parish church is so important, defining many moments in our lives, and Music in Country Churches aims to preserve this heritage. The pandemic forced our parish churches to close and left many musicians unheard and so now, as we emerge from the pandemic, they need support more than ever before.

Music in Country Churches will begin its 2021 concert season by returning to Bibury with two concerts in St Mary’s Church on **21 and 22 May**.

Last year’s concerts were cancelled because of the pandemic. Now, a year on, Music in Country Churches is delighted to be able to return to the Cotswolds. It is doubly exciting as, providing the current opening up plans after Lockdown do not change, these will be among the first live music events for 2021 anywhere in the UK. For some of the performers this will be the first time in a while that they will be performing in front of a live audience. Many concertgoers might well not have been to concerts for well over a year.

The programmes for these concerts will not only celebrate live music starting up again, but also provide an opportunity to reflect and take stock after the challenges we have faced over the past year.

On Friday 21 May Richard Watkins & Friends will celebrate the horn, an instrument with countryside associations. They will play works by Britten, Vivaldi, Mozart and others. On Saturday 22 May strings players from the English Chamber Orchestra will play the Mendelssohn E-flat octet, Four Novelletten by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and finish by sending you on your way into the early summer evening with music by Percy Grainger.

To ensure that the venue and concerts are as safe as possible seating will be physically distanced according to government regulations and therefore audiences will be necessarily a smaller amount, and the concert programmes shorter. There will be two concerts of the same programme on both evenings (5pm and 7pm) and the music will be interspersed with brief talks on church architecture by the designer and architectural historian Matthew Rice. We are hoping that refreshments will be available.

Ticket prices are £25 a seat (you can book for up to six in a bubble of two households) and seating will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Tickets on sale now. To book, visit www.musicincountrychurches.org.uk, or telephone 0333 666 3366.

Philip Burnett - Director

Painswick Rococo Garden

**Wednesday 19 May. Pre-booking essential.
We will meet there at 1.45 for 2.00pm.**



This year’s visit will be to the Painswick Rococo Garden, which was recently featured in the BBC’s Countryfile. It 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 around Painswick House, the garden is now the country’s only complete surviving rococo garden. You will be able to enjoy the results of their ambitious restoration programme which was started in 1984 and has transformed the garden from a woodland wilderness into a stunning place to escape the busy world.

Fingers crossed that this visit couldn’t be better timed to take place on Wednesday 19 May, which is two days after Step 3 of the government’s ‘Unlocking the Lockdown’ timetable and permits us to meet outdoors. We already know that this event is very popular and therefore suggest that those who are interested, should first check the availability of spaces with Julia Hart (julia.hart1000@gmail.com) prior to downloading the booking form from our website, because places are limited.

This is a self-drive visit. The satnav reference is GL6 6TH, or you can 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.



Annual Garden Party

Tuesday 15 June. Members Only

Looking further ahead our June event will be our annual, members only, garden party, which this year is being held in the beautiful garden of Greyhounds, in the heart of Burford, courtesy of Michael Taubenheim and Christopher Moore.

New Members

Welcome to the 26 new members who have recently joined us. When we are finally able to once again meet in person, our new venue will be the Warwick Hall. The good news is that it has a greater capacity than the Methodist Church, which was our previous home for many years. Consequently we are very happy to announce that additional new members will be particularly welcome. An application form can be downloaded from our website and the annual fee which includes the above free garden party is £10 for a calendar year. If this all sounds interesting, our full programme of events can also be seen on our website or on our notice board on the High Street (on the wall to the right of the Stone Gallery).

Peter Martin

SCULPTURE EXHIBITION IN KINGHAM

1 – 9 May 2021



<https://www.sculptureatkinghamlodge.com>

There is a fantastic opportunity to visit the stunning private gardens and architecture of Kingham Lodge for its biennial sculpture exhibition. Set in five acres of beautiful grounds, over 400 sculptures are displayed as you would like to see them in your own garden. In addition to some of their completed pieces, Martin Cash and Piotr Gargas will be demonstrating stone sculpture throughout the week. Prices of sculpture start at £10 so there is something for everyone!

Entry is FREE but to ensure Covid safety you must pre-book your tickets from:

<https://www.sculptureatkinghamlodge.com/exhibition-timed-sessions/>

The above two pieces seemed appropriate for our current plight... ‘Waiting Man’ and ‘Here Comes the Sun’.

Martin Cash



HELP US TO LEARN WHAT'S LIVING IN THE WYCHWOOD

A longer version of this article also appears on the magazine's website thebridgeburford.co.uk under Community/News where the various links can be found.

Garden Butterfly Survey

All is not well in the butterfly kingdom. Overall, there has been a decline in numbers over the last 10 years and the monitoring of this change has never been more important.

We have very few reports of butterflies across West Oxfordshire and the Wychwood Forest area compared to other parts of Oxfordshire. We want to encourage and support the recording of butterflies in this area, and the easiest place to start is in your garden.

Butterfly Conservation's Upper Thames branch has put together a handy identification guide to butterflies you might encounter in the Wychwood Forest area. To view the guide see the website as above. To start recording what you see, visit <https://www.gardenbutterflysurvey.org/>, create an account, and note down the butterflies you have spotted. If you'd like to record additional sightings while out and about, the easiest way to do it is by downloading the iRecord Butterflies app. You can find out more about the app by watching this short video: <https://youtu.be/cuJc721MxzM>

If you have any questions, please email info@wychwoodproject.org.uk.

Reptile Surveys in Witney and Charlbury

Excitingly, we've recently set up reptile surveys at Wigwell Nature Reserve, Charlbury, and Foxburrow Wood, Witney. If you would like to take part, all you'd need to do is take a 40-minute walk around the survey route and record anything you find underneath them.

We'll provide full training beforehand, so you don't need any prior knowledge to help. If you have any questions, please email info@wychwoodproject.org.uk.

Otherwise, click on the links below and follow the instructions to sign up. Thank you!

[Foxburrow Wood, Witney](#)

[Wigwell Nature Reserve, Charlbury](#)

Alongside each survey we're running an event with our expert herpetologist, Neil. He'll be walking round each survey route and explaining everything you ever wanted to know about the UK's reptiles. He will also ensure that you have the opportunity to see typical specimens and some more unusual animals up close. Learn more and book from the website:

[Foxburrow Wood: Saturday 22 May, 10am-12.30pm](#)

Record hedgehogs with Hedgehog Street



Hedgehogs are emerging from hibernation, so look out for these loveable creatures in your garden! Sadly, their populations are in rapid decline—though their exact numbers are uncertain.

There are lots of things you can do to help hedgehogs, from leaving water and meaty dog/cat food out for them to making 13x13cm holes in your fences to help them roam from garden to garden. Amazingly hedgehogs roam around a mile each night, so holes in fences make a real difference.

PTES's Hedgehog Street website and app is full of information about hedgehogs and how you can help them. Go to the website or download the Hedgehog Street app to find out more.



Work Parties

We run regular volunteer work parties at the following times, carrying out crucial conservation work on one of our sites under Toby's expert supervision. Until the rule of six is lifted numbers will be restricted to five volunteers so please let us know if you are planning to come along. If you would like to help out but only have weekends to spare, please contact toby@wychwoodproject.org.uk to see what we can do.

Wigwell Nature Reserve: 2nd Wednesday of each month, 10am-12.30pm.

Foxburrow Wood: 4th Thursday of each month, 10am-12.30pm.

Woodstock Water Meadows: 4th Friday of each month, 10am-12.30pm.

Woodstock Water Meadows: 2nd Saturday of each month, 10am-12.30pm.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with our Forest Fair, which we are hoping will take place on Sunday 29th August. If you'd be willing to give a few hours of time in exchange for free tickets and a great deal of gratitude, please get in touch with miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk.

Walks in the Wychwood Forest

Lots of us have been exploring our local area during lockdown. If you are interested in the walks around the Wychwood Forest, or walking the Wychwood Way, take a look at some of these routes through some of the most scenic areas: Wychwood circular walks

If you would like to purchase the very popular guide to the Wychwood Way, a 37 mile circular trail around the heart of the ancient Royal Forest of Wychwood, please go to The Wychwood Way guidebook [Wychwood Project](#)

GUIDED WALKS WITH THE COTSWOLD VOLUNTARY WARDENS

Coming Soon!

Subject to the gradual easing of lockdown in England the Cotswold Wardens are aiming to restart the guided walks programme in a safe and careful way. As such, from mid-May, details of the walks available will be on the website (below) where walkers must reserve their place through the booking system as numbers will be capped to keep the walks manageable.

<https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/guided-walks/>

The walk leaders are very much looking forward to, once again, guiding walkers around our lovely local countryside.

[Sheila Wasley](#)



TAYNTON GARDENS OPEN AFTERNOON

Sunday 27 June - 2pm to 6pm
OX18 4UH



Many of Taynton's most lovely gardens will be open.

A ticket for admission to all the gardens is £5 each, with children admitted free.

Home-made teas will be available in the garden of Taynton House.

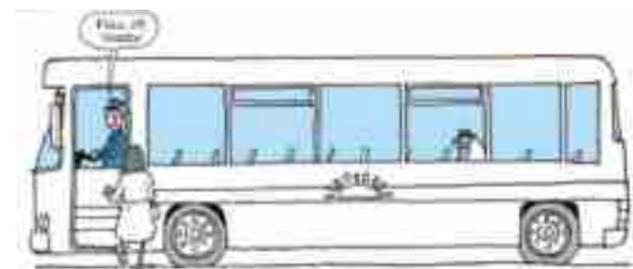
All proceeds are for the maintenance and upkeep of Taynton church.

We look forward to welcoming you to Taynton.

COVID NOTICE

Based on the "Road Map" for relaxing the COVID restrictions, we expect to be able to hold the Open Gardens at the end of June, whilst respecting any continuing restrictions.

As from 1 June 2021 up to date information about any changes to the Open Gardens will be available on the visitor information page of the Taynton village website at <https://taynton.info/visitor-information>



VILLAGER COMMUNITY BUS

We restarted all our bus services on 12 April. We are looking forward to meeting our passengers again albeit still wearing masks and social distancing.

[Keith Gowing](#)

CHARITY CRICKET MATCH



Swinbrook Cricket Club and Burford Fire Station will be holding a Charity Cricket Match and a Fun Day on Sunday 11 July 2021 at Swinbrook Cricket Ground, OX18 4DX.

Charity Cricket Match starting at 14.00hrs in aid of SeeSaw



SeeSaw provides grief support for children, young people and their families in Oxfordshire. Through appropriate and timely support, SeeSaw can help to reduce the emotional, psychological and mental health consequences of bereavement. Young people are then able to face the future with hope.

Registered charity no: 1076321
Paul Andrew

BURFORD ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

Burford Almshouse Charity is interested in purchasing a small house (ideally a bungalow with one or two bedrooms in Burford) and will consider ex-local council houses. Preferably it should be in decent repair and close to facilities.

Please contact our Secretary, Anne Youngson, at 07946-273-902, anneyoungson@btinternet.com.
Anne Youngson

craft in action

COVID permitting

Warwick Hall, Burford, OX18 4RY

Saturday, 8 May 2021

Craft in Action is a non-profit-making organisation. They were established in 1973 and their aim is to offer a friendly atmosphere where the exhibitors are happy to talk about and, where possible, demonstrate their craft.

So why not go along and see what is on offer?

Craft in Action pride themselves on having handmade crafts available, no bought in goods are allowed, so you will see genuine crafters on show.

Entry is **free**
open from 10am until 4.30pm
Helen Wallis



At last....we can make plans to re-open daily from Tuesday 18 May, 2-5pm and until October (except Mondays unless Bank Holidays).

Whilst the museum has been closed to the general public since November 2019 and denied the opportunity to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee last year, work has continued behind the scenes, both within the Tolsey and through close involvement with the developments for the Burford Archive (BA).

As many readers will know, thanks to generosity of so many supporters of the archive appeal, the town's long-held ambition to establish a living archive is now turning into a reality. This is great news because many of the links between the existing museum and the new archive facility are inextricable and there will be a great opportunity for the museum and the archive to work in partnership for the greater benefit of the local and wider community. The new building will not only have the space for new activities but also be able to accommodate archive material recently acquired from various donors within the town, together with other collections which have been offered, to join the existing corpus of primary and secondary material relating to the history of Burford and the locality.

To further the intent of developing a resource that will appeal to as wide a section of the community as possible, over the next few weeks the Tolsey Museum committee together with BA team will be considering the feasibility and practicalities of establishing a possible single entity. This in turn could call for some changes to be made to the overall management and operations. This is very much an exciting case of, 'watch this space' for further details.
Chris Walker - tolseymuseum@yahoo.co.uk

ASTHALL MANOR



Photos by Anna Greenacre

on form unlocked opens on 2 May, so please book your tickets online.

We are admitting 50 people per hour, but if this feels excessively cautious, once we get going, we may well release a few more spaces for the weekends. There are 31 sculptors; sadly, we had to go ahead without the European artists, because Brexit rules were still too unclear.

Because we have used no indoor spaces, we have been creative with how we have placed some smaller sculpture that would normally have found a place on a ballroom windowsill or a gallery cabinet. We actually have more works outside (220-230 - installation is still in progress, and there are usually some last-minute changes) than we had in 2018.

So although this is an extra show, squeezed into an odd year, and although we are holding some surprises in reserve for 2022, it feels as enchanting and magical as ever.

The other difference, of course, is that we are opening in May instead of June. The garden will be slightly less exuberant, but there will be peonies and other delights.

Rosie Pearson



Swinbrook sign for ramblers or possibly indicating a new Chinese restaurant.

FRIENDS OF BURFORD LIBRARY

Well, here is the news we have all been waiting for. This is the information exactly as it was sent to us, your library committee.

We are delighted to announce that Burford library will reopen on 19th April. This will be on a Click & Collect basis temporarily due to limited space for social distancing. Details of Click & Collect are available on our website or by calling the library on 01993 823377.

The temporary opening hours will be manned by OCC Library staff as follows:

Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>13.00-16.00</u>	<u>10.00-13.00</u>	<u>10.00-13.00</u>

Safety measures will remain in place for the protection of customers, volunteers and staff.

All library loans have been extended to 10 May, at which point all loans will be due for return or renewal. No library customers will be penalised as a result of having to self-isolate, or being unable to travel to return library loans.

We look forward to welcoming all of our customers back to the library!

So, come 20 April (we will open on the Tuesday) we will all have to practise walking in Indian file through the library to pick up our books which we have previously ordered on Click and Collect. We look forward to seeing you and to a swift return to our familiar system.

Elizabeth Mortimore



CAR BOOT SALE

May Bank Holiday Monday

31 May 2021

Burford Cubs/Scouts car boot sale in the West Field, Burford

8.00am to 1.00pm

All buyers and sellers welcome

Breakfast/Catering

Lavatories



Michael Taubenheim 07711 342608
(Chairman)

A SPECIAL OCCASION CAKE



The past twelve months have been extremely challenging and for some more than others possibly with health or financial anxieties.

If you know of someone in the Burford and District area who needs a bit of a boost, whatever the age, and has a special occasion on the horizon, or is just in need of a treat, I would like to offer a little cheer.

I enjoy making miniature cakes, as in the example photographs, and will make one especially to give to your friend or neighbour at no cost, delivery included.

Please email or call me, to chat about it in confidence.

thecakenetwork1@gmail.com 07549 199709
Pamela Wilson

NB: My cakes are produced in a kitchen handling all named food allergens; therefore, regretfully, I cannot offer allergen-free cakes.

UPTON FIREHOUSE MOVES OUTSIDE

A local restaurant took all of its tables outside to seat 120 when they reopened on 14 April.

The Upton Firehouse is a large barbecue restaurant and has taken this step so that they could finally open their doors again now that restaurants and pubs are allowed to serve groups of six outside.

The venue, on the outskirts of Burford opened for breakfast and lunch from Wednesday April 14 to Sunday with a Pizza Night on the Wednesday evening and also a new special set barbecue menu on Friday night.

Sam, 32 and Jak, 27, took over The Firehouse in spring 2019 and also an outside catering business and cook for private clients as well as events, something else they are hoping returns over the course of the summer.

For more information or to make a booking, please visit theuptonfirehouse.com or call 01993 823612.
Sam and Jak



THE MOUSE WHO CAUGHT A GUDGEON

Down by the stream, there was a burrow and in that borrow was a mouse. Every day, the little mouse would head to the stream to fish. Its rod was a twig and on that twig was a cotton bobbin connected to a small feather tied to a size twenty hook.

The next day, the mouse headed to the stream to catch some minnows for supper but, unlike usual, he had not seen any sign of life in the stream. He cast his rod out. He didn't realise that below the depths, something big was lurking, waiting, watching, and starving. He could see a shadow circling his bait but before he could think, the tip of his rod was shaking; moving faster than an athletes heartbeat.

The creature on the end of the hook was almost dragging him in! The line went slack then tight once more. He had chosen the right twig as it was willow so it was very bendy. He knew that once the fish took a gulp of air it would be game over for it. He recognised its markings; it was a Gudgeon. The mouse tried to land it but it was just too big! He jumped into the water and lifted the fish to the surface. He climbed out and carried the fish home. Instead of eating it, though, he put it into a pond. Every day he would feed it and take good care of it. But that didn't stop the little mouse from fishing for his supper every day after that.

Harrison Davies, Age 11, Wychwood Primary School





BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

New to Burford and area?

Welcome. The Burford and District Society will be happy to deliver your free copy of the 'Living in Burford and 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

NB For Parish Church Services please refer to our website
www.thebridgeburford.co.uk

ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE 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. Please refer to www.catholicchurchburford.org.uk for details.

Dan Boyle

NEWS FROM WEST OX ARTS

Oxfordshire Artweeks is the UK's biggest artist open studios and pop-up exhibition event. Last month, we featured three of our nine incredible artists (Hannah Vickery, John Seaton and Sarah Darby) who are exhibiting in the West Ox Arts Gallery throughout the whole of May and beyond Artweeks dates to the 5th June. Here we showcase the remaining six artists who will be featured in the gallery:



Faye Knight WOA

Faye is relatively new to painting and has produced a lovely selection of work inspired by the abundance of plants in her garden during last year's hot summer. Faye works in acrylic and other media and enjoys vibrant colour and texture inspired by nature. *The Twilight Garden, Acrylic*



Jenny Baxter WOA

Jenny is a silversmith, using traditional tools and techniques to create original pieces, inspired by the natural world. She enjoys using beads and unusual gemstones, and likes to explore the variety of finishes that can be achieved using different hammers.



Silvi Schaumloeffel WOA

Silvi's love of lush rich oil paint shows in the dynamic surface of her paintings. She uses sketches and memories and works with a great range of marks and brushes to create the rich effect. *Oil paint*



Julia Ogbourne WOA

Julia is an abstract and semi-abstract landscape artist, working mainly with acrylic paints, and is inspired by her internal response to the power and beauty of nature. *Calm amidst the storm, acrylic paint and oil and pastel*



Debbie Page OCG WOA

Debbie's beautiful and unusual ceramics are inspired by Korean Moon vases. She likes to explore the possibilities arising from the combination of glaze and smoke. Debbie uses white earthenware clay and crackle glazes to produce these original and delicate pieces. *Torn red moon jar, Raku*



Caroline Nixon WOA

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.

Autumn glory. Botanical contact print and natural dye on a satin and silk shawl.

The brochure will only be on the Artweeks website www.artweeks.org where you will also find details of all the artists across the whole county, with details of access, times and special appointments for visiting.

WOA is also producing a free downloadable Trail Map for all the studios and pop up events in this area including other WOA members in the villages nearby. You will also be able to pick up a copy from the gallery, at WOA venues, local shops and the library once everything is open. Visit WOA gallery Venue 45 on the Artweeks' website for more info and also our own website for more info: www.westoxarts.com

ARTWEEKS WEEK 1 (1 - 8 May) 11am - 6pm including Bank Holiday Monday 3 May-

Then 11.30-4.30. Closed on Mondays but open 31 May Bank Holiday 11.30am-4.30pm

Artweeks will run at WOA Gallery from 1 May to 5 June. The gallery is in centre of Bampton by the town square. We look forward to welcoming you for this outstanding exhibition!
Jenny Smith - 6 April 2021





LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The mayor reports that the issue of dogs on the Rec "came up again" at the council meeting.

We really do not understand this apparent vendetta against dogs and their owners. We walk our dog across the Recreation Ground and the dog walking field on a daily basis. Most times we have the whole area to ourselves. Sometimes there are people exercising their pets perfectly reasonably and safely. In the last nine years we have never seen any instances of dogs causing annoyance to other users of the Rec. Incidentally, not once during this time, have we seen the mayor or any council member on the Rec. to see the alleged problem for themselves. That is not to say it does not occur but in our experience it must be a very rare occurrence and does not justify draconian measures to introduce yet more controlling measures when we are already overburdened by unenforceable legal does and don'ts.

We fully understand that not everyone likes dogs and some may have a particular aversion to them but we should not overlook the fact that they have been "man's best friend" for thousands of years. They provide very welcome companionship, particularly for older people. They provide invaluable service to the police, emergency services, drug enforcement teams, the health services and the armed services.

Dogs, like humans, need exercise and by their very nature they do not get sufficient while constrained by a lead. Of course owners must act responsibly and keep them on a lead when they are likely to be a nuisance.



But on the numerous occasions when we are the sole walkers on the Rec it would be ridiculous to criminalise us if we were to allow our pet to run free for a few minutes.

We ask the council to rethink their attitude and not penalise the vast majority for the very very few occasions when there might be some concern. Surely the council has more important things to deal with.

It is interesting to note that dogs are allowed to run free in many places such as Oxford University Parks, Christchurch Meadow, the recreation ground and nature reserve in Carterton, Albert Park and Abbey grounds in Abingdon and many others. Burford Recreation Ground seems to be an exception.

Roy and Wendy Hill

1. A woman with six large dogs off lead on the recreation ground was not from Burford.
2. Holiday personnel from the caravan park come in the summer and walk their dogs off lead.

3. Notice from A 40 opposite the antique shops re dogs on lead on the ground.
4. Stile opposite Burford School to recreation ground, non-existent re notice dogs on lead.
5. Woman seen on recreation ground taking photographs of dogs and owners is illegal.*
6. Threats to confiscate dogs is very cruel. Sometimes a dog is the only companion of an elderly person.
7. Cruelty to the dogs, removing them from the people they know and love.
8. Football people leaving the gate open and driving at speed onto the dog playing field narrowly missing some dogs. However, footballers attract revenue so they come first?
9. When one dog owner asked politely that football personnel shut the gate, she received a barrage of abuse, told her dog had frightened his child and he took her photograph on his mobile phone. She left the field in tears.
10. I removed 18 golf balls from the dog playing field on 3 April 2021. If a dog had swallowed one it could have been in trouble entailing a visit to the vet.
11. Elderly people and children regularly walk and play in the dog walking field.
12. April 2021. Friends and I walking our dogs on lead in recreation ground. Dogs seized soiled baby's nappy. Waste bins overflowing.
13. Litter, plastic, drug abuse equipment left in both fields.
14. I came to Burford 1985. No incidence of a dog attacking and injuring anyone. No GP or A&E reports. P.S. Entrance to Falkland Close, Burford, Oxon. As you enter Falkland Close, there is an alley way on the left made of garden fencing. Leads nowhere. People have used it as a fly tip, old mattresses etc. resembles 'Trailer Trash City'.

Sandie Everard

**Our understanding is that taking a photograph of someone in a public place is not illegal unless the photograph is indecent or connected with criminal or terrorist activity. Taking a photograph of someone in a place where they have an expectation of privacy, such as their home or garden, is not a crime but may give rise to a civil claim under privacy laws - Ed.*

We are pleased that the Burford Town Council are trying to deal with the leadless dogs on the Rec as there are quite a few local places where dogs can run freely, including the large field immediately adjacent to the Rec. When dogs are running around, their owners may not notice the deposits left behind which are unpleasant for small children or those playing football. This area is supposed to be a pleasant recreation area for them too!

V. Lewise

The FaB WI is on the way back, there is light at the end of the tunnel as we emerge from our enforced year of hibernation.

Plans are afoot for our future meetings starting with a virtual get together in April. Not only a chance to catch up with friends but also be surprised or amused by our discussion topic, "One thing you're unlikely to know about me".

In May our committee has a Treasure Hunt planned around Burford and hopefully in June we will enjoy our traditional annual garden meeting. The WI may not all be about cake but this Easter members were challenged to make simnel cakes (traditional or otherwise) and share their results.



Those who know a little about the activities of the WI might be aware of their power as a national organisation to influence policy on pressing issues of our time. Each year a resolution is selected by the entire national membership. Some recent campaigns have included Alleviating Loneliness; Make Time for Mental Health; No More Violence Against Women; Care not Custody and Stop Modern Slavery. All these campaigns have supported the most vulnerable in our society. It is a reputation the WI is proud of. Some campaigns run for many years led by the National Public Affairs team. This year's resolution to be presented and debated at our AGM is a call to increase awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer amongst women and health care professionals. Annually 7,500 new cases are diagnosed and sadly 4,100 women die; some, sadly, unnecessarily because of late diagnosis and the inability to recognise the subtle signs of ovarian cancer. We look forward to the ongoing debate.

If you would like to learn more about The FaB WI please visit our website thefabwi.org.uk or contact Jane Arnell at gjaarnell@icloud.com or on 10993 822755. Angela Weller (a FaB WI member)

BURFORD OIL SYNDICATE

Another year has gone quickly by, (notwithstanding our social hibernation), because it is once again time for our much-anticipated May AGM. But whilst it will no doubt come as a great disappointment for so many, we have reluctantly concluded that of necessity, this year's extravaganza will once again have to be a virtual rather than an 'in-person' event. The arrangements are explained here.

Around 1 May our members will be emailed or posted the below papers that need to be considered at the AGM.

1. The 2020 Minutes
2. The Chairman's Report
3. The Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report

4. The names of those standing for re-election
5. The name of the Examiner
6. Our planned Order and Delivery Schedule for the next 12 months.

Where required, the items will already have been proposed and seconded, by the names shown.

All those standing for re-election and all the items specified will then be taken as 'Agreed' on 28 May unless I receive any contrary comments by 21 May. Similarly, any questions, suggestions or comments should also be sent to me (01993 822769 or peteremartin@btinternet.com) by this date.

Our membership fee (which yet again has been pegged at the eye watering figure of £5) for the period June 2021 to May 2022 is now due for renewal and can be paid by cheque or bank transfer – but it is essential with the latter, that your name is quoted in the reference.

Membership Application / Renewal forms can be downloaded from our website, in both Microsoft Word and Adobe pdf versions on the "Join Us" Page.

Whilst the preferred way for submitting new orders is online, for the next 12 months we are continuing to accept telephoned orders on 01993 822462.

Your continued support and understanding is much appreciated. Keep smiling, safe and of course, competitively topped up.

Peter Martin. (Chairman)

THE WARWICK HALL

The Warwick Hall is open to the public 9:00am to 5:00pm every day except for Sundays, and Café Fifteen will be open every day except for Sundays 10:00am-4:00pm for take-away and garden service (Tel: 01993 224 787). From Monday 17 May, the café will be able to offer socially-distanced indoor service, with the Rule of 6 or two household bubbles allowed to sit at the same table, and is hoping to be able to extend their opening hours to 9:00am-5:00pm.

Most regular events have been postponed until after 17 May ('Step 3' of the Roadmap-out-of-Lockdown'), but Dance United (07804 689 219) have started their weekly dance sessions for children on Tuesdays (16:30-18:30) and Thursdays (10:00-11:00) and Rock-a-Tots (01993 823 788) takes place on Tuesday mornings. On Saturday 8 May, Craft-in-Action will be holding a Craft Fair in the Old Hall (email: craftinaction@yahoo.co.uk). On Tuesday 11 May, the Fulbrook & Burford WI will restart their evening meetings in the Old Hall (email: fabwi.ginny@gmail.com). From Tuesday 18 May, the Thames School of Dance will be restarting their evening ballroom dancing sessions (email: simon.cn.paul@btinternet.com).

Contact the Warwick Hall office on 01993 224 783 for further details, or if you are interested in hiring any of the rooms in the building. The Warwick Hall's website is www.warwickhallburford.org

Rory Darling

OCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

Saving Our Windrush - Update



215,886 - is the total number of hours that Thames Water has reported dumping untreated sewage from its various overflows on 18,443 occasions in 2020 - a shocking number from a company that was until recently claiming to do this only in exceptional circumstances to stop sewage flooding people's homes.

215,886 is an increase on the around 110,000 reported last year and some of this is due to more monitors coming online - so it may get even worse in 2021 if more monitors are added.

Source of data supplied by WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution).

At the Burford sewage works, Thames Water has agreed to establish a time-lapse camera on the untreated outfall. They have also installed new reed beds as a tertiary treatment measure for the treated effluent (which is regarded as not very special). Burford Town Council and myself have requested a visit to the Burford sewage works to see this improvement, which WASP is organising, and I will report our findings in a later edition.



Image of Burford Sewage Works with a *Nocardia* (bacteria) problem which can affect effluent standards

The Witney sewage fungus spills from 2019, 2020 and 2021 are in the long queue of investigations and in the meantime nothing changes and Thames Water continues to pollute and make a healthy profit.



More sewage fungus in the Colwell Brook at Witney
Above extract from the [www. windrushwasp.org](http://www.windrushwasp.org) blog

The river testing equipment at Burford is working well and monthly comparisons will soon be available which will be provided by WASP. We are fortunate to have an active campaign group such as WASP to help monitor Thames Water's activities and sewage discharges and I will continue to work with them to ensure that changes are made to improve our river water quality.

Thames Water will continue 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.

Local Elections on Thursday 6 May

As you know, local elections are planned on 6 May and I will be re-standing as your local County Councillor. We have succeeded in implementing an HGV ban for Burford and also now continuing to challenge Thames Water for the on-going pollution of our River Windrush.

I wanted to thank you all for your support and help in the last four years and would hope to be re-elected for the Burford and North Carterton Division.

*Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson, nfuk3@gmail.com
nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk*

THE COMPLETE LIST OF CANDIDATES IS:

<i>Nicholas Field-Johnson</i>	<i>Conservative party</i>
<i>David Richard Melvin</i>	<i>Liberal Democrats</i>
<i>Rosie Pearson</i>	<i>Green Party</i>

ELECTION FEVER GRIPS WEST OXFORDSHIRE



Local elections will take place across the country on Thursday 6 May. Voters in our area will be able to vote elect a county councillor for the Burford and North Carterton ward (see above) and also for a Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley police area. There are also ten seats on West Oxford District Council up for grabs, though none of these are in our immediate area. Readers west of the border will be able to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire.

If you are unable to vote in person you can apply for a postal or proxy vote but if you have not already registered to do so, it will probably be too late for this by the time you read this.

CONGRATULATIONS



Mrs Diana Baskervyle-Glegg turned 90 at the end of March. She has lived in Burford for the past nine years, providing a traffic-calming service with her scooter as she drives back and forth along Barns Lane and Pytts Lane. After a colourful life as an author, freelance journalist and garden designer she is a stalwart member of the church congregation at St John the Baptist, Burford.

Rory Darling

BURFORD PRE-SCHOOL CELEBRATES EASTER



As a pre-school set in the heart of our local community, we love to celebrate many special occasions. We take these opportunities to have lots of creative fun with the children as well as valuable teaching points around each topic.

Recently we explored Easter, allowing the children to explore lots of outdoor adventure in our woodland area learning about the Spring. In addition, the children made their very own Easter bonnets at pre-school as well as lots of Easter craft.

Thanks to Morrisons, who kindly donated chocolate eggs on behalf of the Easter bunny, the children had a wonderful Eggstravaganza and Easter egg hunt. This is one of many events that our pre-school celebrate with the children, teaching them about the world around them in a fun and interactive setting.

If you have considered joining our pre-school, we welcome you to arrange a viewing with safety measures in place:-

01993824031 - Burfordpreschool@outlook.com

We are welcoming new members to our Pre-School Committee

If you would like to support our pre-school, we are welcoming passionate volunteers to join our committee. This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in supporting our pre-school in the Burford community.

*From the Burford Pre-School Team
Ola Caless*

MRS BUMBLES DIARY

Many years ago there was a television advert about a product called Smash. It was a small packet that contained dried potato flakes. You added boiling water to it. It then turned into something that resembled freshly prepared potatoes. I've just looked it up and it's still available. The advert featured a group of aliens in their spaceship. They were told how Earthlings prepared their potatoes. It was explained to them that humans had to wash, peel and cut up potatoes. Then, finally, they had to boil it and mash it. The advert - I've just realised that it was first shown over 50 years ago - ended up by showing the aliens falling around laughing about how primitive humans were. Why did they not just buy Smash? Much easier.

Until recently they would have had a good laugh at me. Until last year if I needed to deposit cash or cheques or pay a utility bill or the like I used to drive to the NatWest in Witney. I hunted for a parking space, walked to the bank, joined the inevitable queue, walked back to the car and then drove back to Burford. This took over an hour.

I then realised that I could do most of what I needed to do at a bank in a post office. You are probably smarter than me and know this already but I thought it was worth mentioning.

By the time you read this the only bank left in Burford will be closed.

Currently you can transact the majority of what you need to do at your bank in the post office in Bumbles between 9am - 1pm. In June we will be opening next door and will be open from 7am-5.30pm seven days a week.

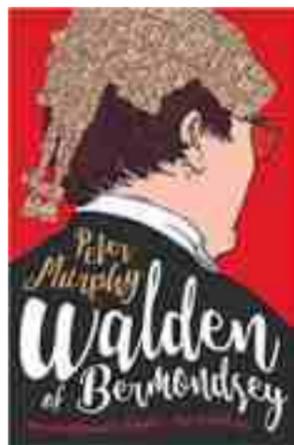
Sally and Steve Colter

ALICE'S BOOK GROUP

Judge Walden of Bermondsey by Peter Murphy was not universally loved by Alice's Book Group, but one understated comment: "not an author I will ever read again," did not wholly reflect the general response which was very warm rather than glowing.

Peter Murphy had a distinguished career in the law, and draws upon his experience to give us a series of stories told by Charlie Walden, resident judge in the fictional Bermondsey crown court. The book is full of gentle humour. Murphy affectionately portrays Walden's three fellow judges, each of whom appears to hold a slightly different, firm view on the law, but who in the final adjudication does mete and dole an equal justice to a varied crew of petty, serious and, frankly, daft criminals. All major characters are well sketched in, and the day to day affairs of the crown court are laid before us. The little victories the resident judge can achieve over "The Grey Smoothies," whose bureaucratic ambition is to save the taxpayer money at whatever cost to the safe and efficient running of the court, are so gleefully recounted that it is obvious Peter Murphy is a veteran of such encounters.

It is nice to read a fiction book where the main character is likeable, and Charlie Walden is a pleasant human who is often bothered by his job but who loves his life which he wryly describes. However, it is apparent the role of resident judge is no sinecure, for the buck stops at his desk and despite the support of a loyal staff, it is a lonely position. Whilst most of these imaginary court cases have a comic aspect and often have unexpected twists, an occasional unpleasantness is offset by the domestic minutiae of court and home life, and the kindly characterisation of the cast.



The Reverend Mrs Walden plays her part. Her wisdom sometimes helps the judge unravel an unusual case, and he finds that quiet contemplation while she harangues her Sunday congregation often untangles a difficult problem. Their home life and regular visits to an Indian or Italian restaurant feel authentic. (We did think the Waldens were inordinately fond pasta as both seemed to spend a lot of time preparing and eating it.)

Altogether a nice book, which led to an interesting discussion of the British judiciary, and some of us may continue to follow the Waldens.

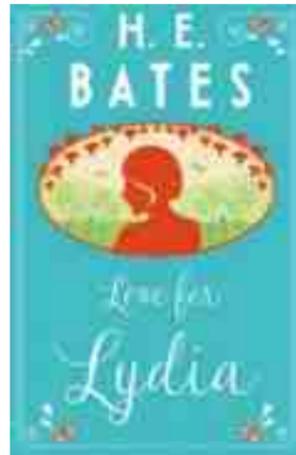
In need of slightly stronger stuff next, Elizabeth Taylor is considered one of the top 100 novelists of the twentieth century (no, not Mrs Richard Burton) and, as all of her work is well considered, we are each to choose a title.

Veral Marshall

CAROLINE'S CLASSICS

Love for Lydia by H E Bates

This evergreen novel truly deserves the much-touted phrase 'un-putdownable'. But this is no cheap thriller or nail-biting whodunnit; it's simply the totally immersive style of Bates' superb storytelling which is so beguiling. I can promise you it intoxicates all your senses as the main characters' lives play out against - and often tellingly mirror - the vivid lush descriptions of the seasons. This gives an almost claustrophobic feel, putting extra emphasis on the incisive dialogue.



Curiously but cleverly, the narrator's Christian name is never revealed. He is simply known as Mr Richardson, an unenthusiastic reporter in small-town Evensford in 1929, evolving in a time of huge social and economic change. He tells the story retrospectively in a doom-laden and resigned fashion - as if inevitable events merely happened to him. Indeed the enigmatic Lydia does 'happen' to the impressionable young man, ripe to have his heart shredded. She makes a highly symbolic, melodramatic entrance in a monogrammed Daimler with two elderly aunts, members of the fading aristocracy, to live at Aspen Park. The car, reminiscent of an Ice Queen's carriage, skids in the first snow after months of severe frost.

Transfixed by the car's arrival, watching passively through his office window, Richardson recalls: "It came suddenly on a darkened whirl of wind that flowered into whiteness. The wind seemed to twist violently in the air and snatch from nowhere the snow that was like white vapour, catching the Daimler broadside at the same time."

The eager aunts entreat Richardson to entertain their ingénue by teaching her to skate. Initially enchanted by her company, she tastes freedom on the ice as she masters the skill. It is the start of a rite of passage for the blossoming magnetic Lydia. In that moment the balance of power shifts. Suddenly angry her broken skate can't be instantly mended, Lydia mercurially flashes her smile at our hero. He recounts: "I suppose I was to see her smile in exactly that same way, engaging and disarming and transforming, hundreds of times afterwards, but it never failed to have the same effect on me. It had some curious quality of combining tenderness with a flash of compelling uneasiness. It was like sunlight on the surface of a knife."

As Richardson can't resist Lydia, it's useless for you to resist knowing the final outcome.

Caroline Fisher

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CJD Architects	Chartered Architects	01993 823646
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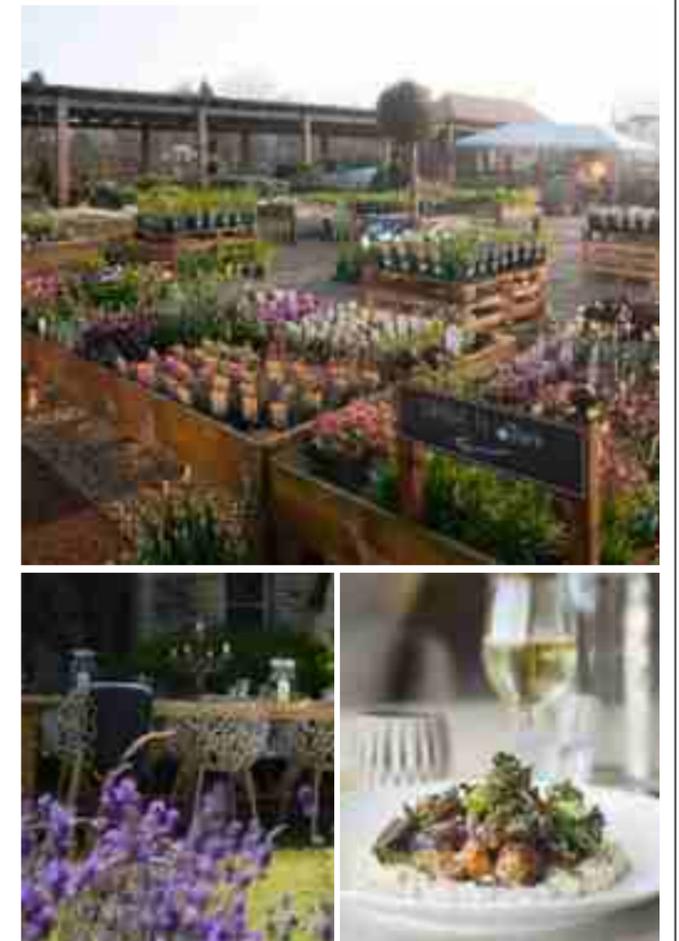
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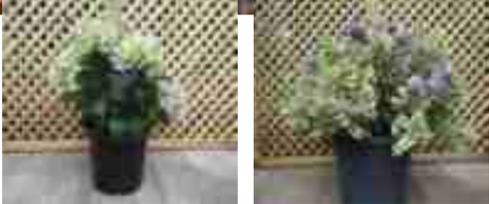


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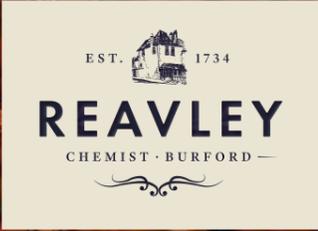


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May 2021



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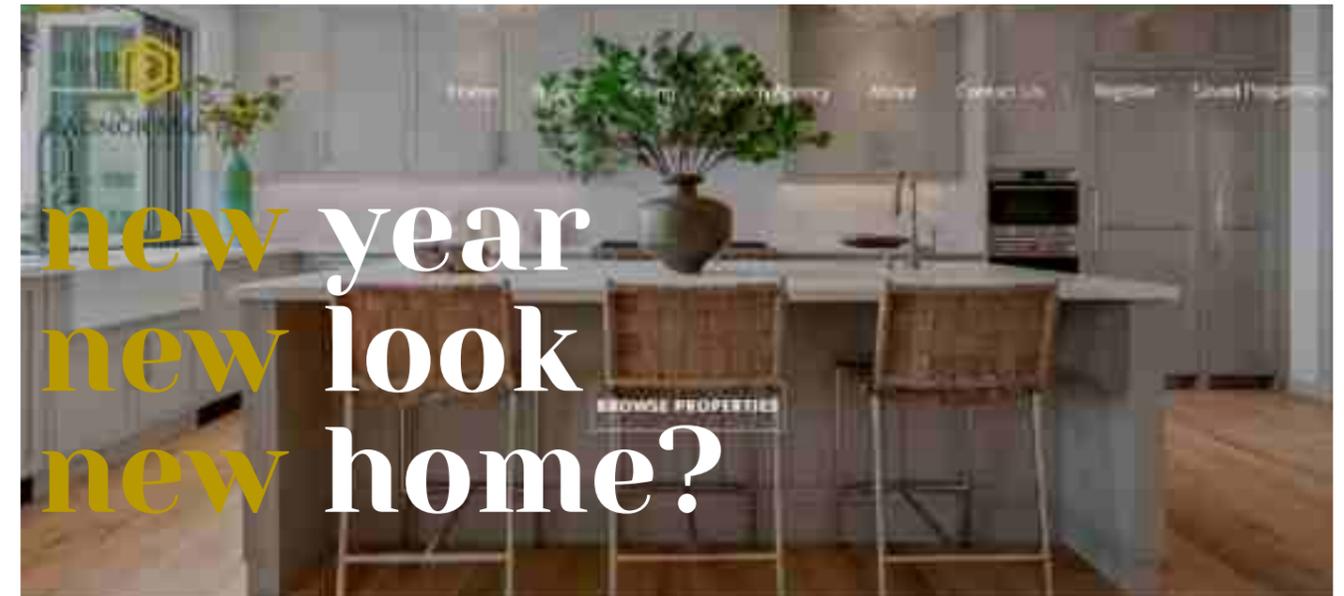
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