

NEWSLETTER

Number 36: December 2009

West Oxford Community Centre Regular Activities

Mondays: Messy Play 9.30-11.30am; Monkey Music 9.45-11.30am; Chinese Older People 12 noon-3pm; Yoga 6.30-8pm; Belly Dancing 6.30-8.30pm; Samantha Meditation 8.15-10.15pm

Tuesdays: Easy Exercise for 50+ 9.30-11am; Post-natal Pilates 11.45-12.45pm; Brownies 5.30-7.30pm; Pregnancy Yoga 6.30-7.30pm; Tae Kwon Do 7.30-8.45pm; Yoga 7.30-8.30pm; West Oxford Academy 8-9pm

Wednesdays: Circle Dance 10am-12 noon (from Sept); Saltbox Music Co 1.30-3.30pm; Woodcraft Pioneers 6-7.30pm; Aikido 8-9pm; Overeaters Anonymous 7.30-8.45pm

Thursdays: Chinese Happy Place 1-3pm; Marianna Dance Academy 4.45-5.30pm; Elfins 6-7.30pm; Scottish Dancing monthly from 15th October

Fridays: Parent & Toddlers 9.30-11.30am; Toy Library 10.45-11.15am; Hilary's Music 11am-12 noon; Mother and Baby 11.30am-12.30pm; Baby Clinic 2-3.30pm; Elfins 5.45-7pm; Bingo 7-9pm; Kickboxing 7.30-8.30pm; Alcoholics Anonymous 7.45-9.30pm

Saturdays: Qi-Gong 10am-1pm (monthly); Youngstar 1-2.30pm

Sundays: Tae Kwon Do 11am-1pm; Citywide Family Church of God 1.30-3.30pm; Narcotics Anonymous 4.30-7pm

Thriving Sustainably Event

This event on 17th October was a great success. The organiser, Michael Soth, had this to say, "A big 'thank you' to everybody who helped to make that extraordinary day what it was. I have had a stream of emails and messages from participants to say how much they enjoyed the day and found it inspiring and helpful. This was only possible with the generous help and support from a variety of local people, neighbours and friends as well as the staff of the Community Centre and the Primary School, plus a dedicated group of largely local volunteers."

"Thanks are also due to the local press and radio who covered the day well, took a real and supportive interest and helped to let people know about it, both beforehand and afterwards. The overall impression I got from organising the event was that there seems to be a real groundswell of interest and initiatives towards sustainability, with communities no longer waiting for politicians to take the lead, but tackling climate change from the ground up, and we can be proud of our local initiative Low Carbon West Oxford who are showing how it can be done effectively and as a joint effort."

"This may explain why the numbers of participants were well beyond our expectations: the turn-out on the day was overwhelming, with all the events being full to capacity, although there were three or four events happening in parallel throughout most of the day. I'm sure this was also due to the calibre of the

presenters who had offered to give their time, energy and expertise for free, and the feedback has been that people learned a lot, got engaged

and left inspired. Rather than going over the same old ground of what people knew already, the expert presenters at the event provided more in-depth input and substance, and there seemed to be a real hunger for that."

Anybody interested to become involved in future activities, can email him at michael@thrivingsustainably.org.uk



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Season's Greetings!

Find all the seasonal event locations, times and dates inside this edition of your local newsletter

St Frideswide's & Binsey Church,
details on page 2,
West Oxford Community
Primary School,
on pages 2 & 4

West Oxford Community Primary School



On Thursday, 3rd December, the school will be hosting a production of "Peach Boy" by the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company, see below for details.

The school bazaar will be held on Saturday, 5th December, 11am-1pm, see back page for details.

The school's own productions will be held on Monday, 14th December at 1.30, Tuesday, 15th December at 1.30 and Wednesday, 16th December at 6.30.

End of term assembly, to which all are welcome, is at 9.10am on Friday, 18th December

St Frideswide's with Binsey (Church of England)



Father Anthony Rustell was licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St Frideswide's with Binsey on 19th October by the Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard. The service also included confirmations and a baptism. Fr Anthony has been Priest-in-Charge at SS Peter & Paul, Botley for a number of years and will continue in this role. The two parishes are likely to be formally joined next year. As a result of these new arrangements, there are some slight changes to service times, which are now as follows.

St Frideswide's, Botley Road: Sundays 10.15am- Parish mass (15 minutes earlier than previously). Tuesdays 7pm and Thursdays 12.30pm- Simple said mass.

St Margaret's, Binsey: Second Sunday of each month, 9.00am- Mass. (Previously first Sunday of the Month.) Evensong at Binsey has now finished for the winter and will resume next spring.

Elim Church

Sunday services are at 10.30 am. A Sunday School for 3-11 year olds runs during the service.

Toddler Group

Mondays 10am - 12 noon

A new group for parents and carers and the little ones that they look after.

£1 per family to cover refreshments.

Contact: 247746 or e-mail: info@oxfordelim.com

Elim Church, 84, Botley Rd

Diary dates:

Saturday 21 November: 10am – 12 noon: St Frideswide's coffee morning. Cakes, jams and fair trade produce will be on sale – ideal for stocking fillers!

Christmas services:

Sunday 13 December: 3.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Binsey.

Sunday 20 December: 6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols at St Frideswide's. Traditional Christmas carols and Christmas readings. With junior choir. Wine & mince pies follow the service.

Thursday 24 December: 3.00pm Children's Crib Service at St Frideswide's. We build the Christmas crib and tell the Christmas story.

Thursday 24 December: 11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Frideswide's. Come and join us in celebrating Christ's birth with the traditional blessing of the crib, carols and Eucharist.

Friday 25 December: 8.30am Eucharist at Binsey.

Friday 25 December: 10.15am Mass of Christmas Day at St Frideswide's. Celebrate Christmas day with your favourite traditional carols, a sermon, and the Eucharist. All are most welcome!

Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company
presents...

PEACH BOY

Thursday 3rd December

West Oxford

Community Primary School

Free to families in West Oxford

Ring the school on 01865 248862 for details

Jazz Brunches

The New Year will see the return of the entertaining and popular jazz brunches run by Nick Gill at the community centre. At the shows, Nick talks about popular entertainers and composers, all illustrated with songs at the piano. Why not come along for coffee, croissants, and crooning?



The dates for the brunches are:
Saturday, 16th January, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Saturday, 6th February, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Saturday, 13th March, 10.30am - 12.30pm
For more details, see the notice board at the community centre closer to the times.

Council News

Your city councillors are Colin Cook (721844, cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk) and Susanna Pressel (554001, cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk). Susanna is also your county councillor. They hold a West Oxford ward surgery on the third Saturday of each month from 11am til 12 noon at the community centre.

Susanna has arranged for signs to be erected in the "rural" section of Binsey Lane to discourage excessive speed. She is also keen to hear about traffic exceeding 20mph in restricted streets and ideas for safety improvements in Ferry Hinksey Rd.

Compost

Sheila Parry is your local volunteer Master Composter and can help with most, if not all, your compost questions. Get in touch with Sheila on 07989 961095 or e-mail sheila_parry@hotmail.com Help do your bit for the planet and produce brilliant compost for your garden or house plants!

Binsey Lane Allotments

Many of you will remember the allotments on Binsey Lane. The freehold has now passed from Oxford City Council to Christ Church. Michael Soth is keen to gather local interest to turn this site into a Community Garden, that is one big shared allotment rather than separate, individual plots.

On the recent Thriving Sustainably Day, Julia Wright from Garden Organic gave an inspiring presentation on how communities in Cuba manage to grow food together in a highly productive, sustainable way with minimal input of fossil fuels. Michael thinks it would not be too difficult to make this into a demonstration site for sustainable local food production.

Anybody interested, please email him:

michael@thrivingsustainably.org.uk

Reducing Flood Risk

The Oxford Flood Alliance expect to hear whether they will get the go-ahead for the £100 million scheme early next year.

In the meantime there is some other good news: some very important work at Redbridge has been completed with more to come and some streams and ditches in the Botley Road area have recently been cleared. The City Council have completed the groundworks for temporary flood barrier behind Bullstake Close. The Environment Agency is planning another set of "short term measures" to begin about a year from now. The County Council is still to raise the level of the road at the entrance to Earl Street. This could well help to protect one of the most vulnerable streets of all, but the work has not yet been programmed. Councillor Pressel is endeavouring for a date to be fixed soon.

It is important that everyone who might be at risk from flooding registers for automatic flood warnings. These can be sent by phone call, text message, email and/or fax, preferably all of these. Relatives who live elsewhere can also get the messages. To register phone the EA Floodline on 08459 881188.

For more information, please contact Susanna Pressel or see www.oxford.gov.uk and www.oxfordfloodalliance.org.uk.

West Oxford Academy

The Academy will be back in January 2010. If you are able to give a talk in January or February, or know someone else who could then please contact Susan Hutchinson: allat42@gmail.com or 792358

Community Centre Café

West Oxford Community Centre Café was put up for tender during the summer months, and My Life My Choice was the successful bidder.

The co-ordinator of My Life My Choice, Mark Smyth, had this to say, "You may have heard of our charity already, but if not, we hope to meet you all very soon at 'My Café.' We are run by and for people with learning disabilities and we run projects that enrich and empower our lives, and gets us included into the community, which this café certainly will do."



"We're learning the trade at the moment and between now and Christmas we will be opening the café up one day a week to help build our confidence and to begin to meet and get to know you all in West Oxford."

"We hope you will be patient with us, but we really hope you will have a café to be proud of, with an exciting launch around Easter 2010."

If you would like to find out more about My Life My Choice, or would like to get involved in some way please contact them on 01865 204214 or email office@mylifemychoice.org.uk



Christmas Bazaar

11 am - 1 pm SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER
WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL,
FERRY HINKSEY RD

Come along for delicious food,
Christmas stalls, Christmas gifts and
Father Christmas in his grotto

Card Aid

The annual Card Aid store at St Michael at the North Gate City Church on Cornmarket Street in Oxford is now open. The Oxford shop raises money on behalf of over fifty charities, including 'City of Oxford charities.' In Card Aid stores, 100% of profits from the cards go to charity. For more information: www.cardaid.co.uk

Volunteers are always welcome at West Oxford Community Centre. There is a wide range of potential for voluntary activity, ranging from practical things like decorating, even cleaning, to working in the Café, supporting the administration of the organisation or running an activity. All volunteers will receive an appropriate degree of training (usually talking the work through with someone, but potentially also training opportunities like a food hygiene course). WOCA has policies concerning health and safety, equal opportunities, and the protection of children and vulnerable adults. These can be found on www.woca.org.uk or can be obtained from the Centre Manager (245761; woxford@oxford.gov.uk).

Community Centre users must assure themselves that they are happy with arrangements for any activity that they are participating in, particularly where they are responsible for a child or vulnerable adult. If you have concerns, contact Lois Muddiman 203550; lois@muddiman.plus.com For more information about Community Centre activities, e-mail woxford@oxford.gov.uk, see www.woca.org.uk, or ring 245761, or stop by the Community Centre on the Botley Road. Grants for community projects are available from the Community Association. Application forms are available in the Centre office or on www.woca.org.uk. We WANT to support you, let us know how we can help. The only absolute requirement is that grants must benefit local residents.

Committee Members: Lois Muddiman (chair), Jim McMahon, Miranda Miller, Martin Rush, Vicky Hirsch, Rebecca Huxley, Sheila Parry, Anna Pearson, Geoff Morgan, Louise Siddle, Kelly Faye, Susanna Pressel, and Colin Cook.

Contributions for the next issue of this newsletter can be left at the Community Centre (marked for the attention of Steve Wride) or e-mailed to newsletter@woca.org.uk. If you would like local information to appear on the Community Centre website, please send it to webmaster@woca.org.uk.

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