



Botley Road, Oxford, OX2 0BT  
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## WEST OFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No 5, MARCH 2002

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WOCA's AGM will be held at the Community Centre at 6.30 PM on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2002. We will be electing a new committee for 2002/2003. The existing committee have put in a great deal of work sorting out all the teething problems from the move to the new centre and the Association is in a good state financially. We will have more time in the coming year to concentrate on fun and community activities, so now would be a good time for new committee members to put themselves forward at the AGM. The committee meets once a month, and all current members would agree that it is a very worthwhile activity.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 18/3/02** Blood Doning Clinic  
(11.30 AM to 8.30PM)  
phone 0845 77117711 for details
- 26/3/02** Osney Allotments AGM  
7.30PM
- 2/5/02** City Council Elections
- 18/5/02** Barn Dance in aid of  
Education & Democracy  
in S Africa (evening)
- 20/5/02** Blood Doning
- 31/5/02** West Oxford School  
Jubilee Art Exhibition –  
on a golden theme
- 2/6/02** St Frideswide's Church  
Jubilee Lunch
- 3/6/02** WOCA Royal Jubilee  
Event
- 8/7/02** Blood Doning
- 20/7/02** West Oxford Fun Day



### FANCY DRESS

WOCA will be holding a children's fancy dress competition to celebrate the Jubilee, as part of the event being planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The costume on the left appeared in the West Oxford Coronation celebrations of 1953.

## THE PERCH AT BINSEY

Binsey Residents' Association are very worried by proposals to change the Perch Public House in Binsey. Developers want to replace much of the garden with a car park and a large restaurant block. This must surely mean more traffic on Binsey Lane and less of a welcome for West Oxford people walking and cycling up to the Perch's garden with their children. Binsey people are very opposed to the idea and ask for the support of their West Oxford neighbours in opposing the planned changes to the Perch. Please write with comments to Roy Thompson, Planning Control & Conservation, Ramsay House, St Ebbe's OXFORD OX1 1PT (his reference 02/00081/FUL & 0100080LBC). For maximum effect, any letters should refer to planning grounds for rejecting the proposal. According to Binsey Residents' letter of 26 February 2002 these would include following:

- There is no compelling reason for this development in Green Belt;
- There will be disruption of a Conservation Area;
- There will be a great increase in traffic;
- A Grade II listed building will be transformed from its existing state;
- The car park may cause drainage problems in a floodplain.

It will help Binsey Residents' Association if you send a copy of any letter to their Secretary at Manor Farm Cottage, OXFORD OX2 0NG. The developers are pressing on as fast as ever they can, so please write to the Planning Authorities as soon as possible.



Under the new system, Area Committees of local councilors are responsible for important decisions about Council Services. The committee covering West Oxford will meet at the Town Hall at 6PM on 12 March, 9 April and 14 May (the second Tuesday of each month). A typical agenda includes Planning applications, the Local Plan, service standards, a presentation on benefits and a review of the policy on renovation grants. There are opportunities for members of the public to address the committee: please contact Lyn Lawrence on 01865 252219, email, [southwest@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:southwest@oxford.gov.uk).

### **WILDLIFE**

West Oxford Wildlife group meets at 8PM on the third Thursday of each month at the Community Centre and would welcome new members interested in preserving the local environment. The group has just been accepted for a jubilee grant. This will cover a joint

project with Oxford Preservation Trust to restore the land behind Toys'R'Us to something more like its original wetland state, in order to attract a wider range of birds, plants and insects. Contact Julia Hamer Hunt on 240904.

## RECYCLING

Kerbside recycling should soon be extended to the blocks of flats in our area. Susanna Pressell (554001) is keen

to have the system used as much as possible and asks anyone who has any problems to report or suggestions to make to contact her.

## FLOOD DEFENCES

Since the 2000 floods the Botley Road area has been officially “identified as being economically viable for flood defences”, which should mean that government money will be available for improvements. The Environment agency is working on its engineering brief (assisted by the local knowledge provided by West Oxford residents at last July’s ‘flood walk’) which should be ready by this Autumn.

Thames Water have cleared and checked all the foul and storm drains in Duke St, Earl St and from Bridge St to Mill St. The City Council is also involved in gully cleaning: any problems needing sorting out should be reported to Phil Dunsdon at City works (252933).

## BRIDGES

The County Council’s Bridges Office will be at work this summer repainting the bridges and parapets. It has not yet been decided what colour to paint Osney Bridge. If you have any ideas, especially if you can remember what colour it used to be, please phone the Bridges Office on 815641.

## FERRY HINKSEY ROAD

The council have put forward two traffic calming schemes to improve safety on the Ferry Hinksey Road, especially for children going to and from West Oxford School. The formal consultation period has now closed, but Susanna Pressell would still like to hear from anyone who has any views on the matter, as it may still be possible to take these into account.

**CARS IN BOTLEY PARK** In the past there have been problems with cars parking on Botley Park and sometimes even driving across it. The City Council now hopes to provide a solution and bollards restricting cars to one end should be in place by March. As far as WOCA is concerned, our lease from the Council on the centre reserves a right of way across our car park for the council who have extended this to West Oxford Bowls Club.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY** If you would like to help set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or if your existing scheme would like to meet WPC Jean Thompson, our new Community Beat Officer, please contact Susanna Pressel on 554001. To report a crime anonymously, phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Noise complaints should be made to the Council on 252557/6 (daytime) or 742138 (out of hours)

**OSENEY COURT** Our local councillors are still working to have provision for the elderly included on the site, so don't give up hope yet.

## NEWS FROM ST FRIDESWIDE'S CHURCH



The work on the churchyard trees took place as planned in early December. We hope that no one was excessively inconvenienced and that the trees will look tidier and healthier once in leaf in the summer. Our Carol Service before Christmas was well supported and joyful occasion. We would like to thank WOCA for allowing us the use of the Community Centre Café for the parish lunch on the last Sunday before Lent.

Church of England services locally on Easter Day will be: **Communion - Binsey, 08.15, St Thomas' 10.00, St Frideswide's, 11.15: Evensong - Binsey, 15.30.** We look forward to seeing you. There will be a full list of other services for Holy Week outside each of the churches.

St Frideswide's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held after Evensong at 6.00PM on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April in church. We will be holding a coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid in the church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 10 AM. The annual Parish Gift Day will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Local generosity over the years has helped us greatly in looking after our Grade II\* listed church. Arrangements are in hand to renovate the church floor, but the work will be expensive. We therefore ask local residents who value their parish church to be particularly generous this year. It will make an enormous difference to the appearance of the interior of the church. (JKM)

**LOCAL COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES** Our local councillors hold ward surgeries at the Community Centre from 11 AM til Noon on the third Saturday of every month to deal with local residents' concerns.



**VISITS TO THE TOWN HALL** Members of WOCA committee have been made very welcome at the Town hall, firstly at the Lord Mayor's Christmas reception and also at an evening held by local councilors for representatives of local organizations. The latter included a very interesting tour of the Town Hall by John Power – if that doesn't get new people keen to join WOCA committee, nothing will.

## **DON'T BE SHY!**

WOCA would like to invite local performers, musicians and talented persons of all sorts to 'do your thing' at a soiree of entertainment for the local community at the Community Centre. Please contact Marelyn Clarke at the Community Centre on 245761.

## **WOCA GRANTS**

WOCA has been able to support various local organizations with funding support. The running of the Centre does generate a modest surplus which can be given to local good causes. In particular, we have recently received a windfall which we should use for educational or cultural projects. If you have any ideas for how to use these funds, please contact the Centre. The committee are very open to new ideas.

**The Jericho & West Oxford Doctors' practice** holds surgeries at the Centre every weekday morning and on Monday and Friday afternoons. A midwife clinic is held on Thursday afternoons. Child Health clinics are held on the first and third Fridays of the month from 2PM. On other Fridays, the Health Visitor holds a general advice clinic.

**The Community Café**, serving delicious food and refreshments at keen prices is open from 11.00AM to 3PM on weekdays.

This newsletter is issued approximately quarterly. If you have any local news which you would like publicised, please send details, in writing, to the Community Centre, marked 'newsletter'. The Centre will be closed over Easter week.

Regular activities at the Community Centre are shown on the next page. Notices at the Community Centre (many thanks to Olly Brundin for making and putting up the new notice boards) give more details of activities. If there are other activities you would like to see, why not come to a WOCA committee meeting to discuss them: the committee meets at 6.30 PM in the Centre on the second Monday of each month.

The Centre has a variety of rooms available for hire, but book early as many of the gaps are taken up for private meetings, etc.. For information on availability/rates, please phone 245761 or drop in at the Centre. Bookings may need to be cancelled in the event of public meetings called at short notice, etc..



## REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

### SUNDAY

9.30AM, Priestly Society of St Peter  
3 PM Body Alignment and Movement

11AM Tae Kwon Do  
6 PM Calvary Chapel

### MONDAY

9.30 AM, Messy Play  
1.30 PM Monkey Music  
6.30 PM Aerobics  
7.30 PM, Karate

10 AM, Mother & Baby  
4PM Junior Basketball  
6 PM, Girls Youth Club

### TUESDAY

9.30 AM, Easy Exercise for the Over Fifties  
5.30 PM, Brownies

1 PM, Art Class  
7.30 PM, Tae Kwon Do

### WEDNESDAY

10 AM, Gentle Yoga  
1.15 PM, Singing  
7 PM, St John's Ambulance

10.30 AM, Creative Dance  
3 PM, Mother & Baby  
7,30 PM, OAE

### THURSDAY

2PM, Older People's Club  
6PM, Youth Club  
7.30 PM, Upholstery

4PM, Basketball  
6.30PM, Circuits

### FRIDAY

9 AM, Parent & Toddler  
2.00 PM to 4.00 PM, Health Visitor  
6.30 PM, West Oxford Football Club

10 AM, Self Advocacy  
4PM, Celia Benson  
School of Dance  
7PM, Bingo.

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