



www.woca.org.uk

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**WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER No 6
JUNE/JULY 2002**

WEST OXFORD

FUN DAY !

***SATURDAY 20th JULY 2002, 12 noon to 4PM
At West Oxford Recreation Ground/
West Oxford Community Centre***

Attractions will include:

**African Drumming
Jazz Band
String Quartet
Juggling
Stilt Walker
Stalls**

**Sports
Café
Inflatables
Bungee Run
Obstacle Course
Treasure Hunt
Mask Making**

**Balloon Modelling
Monkey Music
Toddler Music
Beat the Goalie
Aerobics
Karate**

**Celia Benson School of Dance
Hebborn's Fun Fair**

**Children's Fun & Games
School Portrait Exhibition**

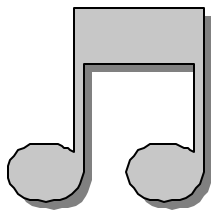
WOMBATS



West Oxford Music, Ballet, Art & Theatre Society

A group of West Oxonians came together early in June to start 'WOMBATS' as part of WOCA. We hope to promote events which you can just turn up to see, and also the kind where you can join in. The meeting was convivial and enthusiastic (- thanks to all those who turned out on a rainy night -), with very many ideas put forward. We are currently arranging to put a couple of events with local interest in the autumn: a silent film of Oscar Wilde's play *Lady Windemere's Fan*, with live musical accompaniment, and the première of some specially composed music on local themes. Further ahead we are hoping to hold 'jazz brunches' on Saturdays early in 2003 – these will be a talk on various aspects of jazz with live musical illustrations.

In addition, there was a great deal of interest in participatory activities. Others may follow, but we thought it would be best to start with:



WANTED!! Keen, enthusiastic young players for the new West Oxford Orchestra, to be launched in the autumn – if you are at grades 3 to 5 and want to have some musical fun, contact Lynton Appel on 01865 251890 (2 Riverside Road).

An 'All-Comers' Choir' which would meet once a week or so from the autumn.

A Play reading group to meet monthly or fortnightly from the autumn.
(contacts to be announced in the next WOCA newsletter)

To learn more about WOMBATS generally, please contact Athene Reiss on 246060, or visit the WOMBATS page on the WOCA website (www.woca.org.uk) which is now running.

LOCAL ARTIST EGERTON WOOD will be exhibiting his latest work at the Radcliffe Observatory, Green College, Woodstock Road: 10 AM to 4 PM (except Sundays) 22nd July to 3 August 2002.

WEST OXFORD WILDLIFE GROUP

The AGM was a great success with an interesting talk – with slides – on local nature matters by Malcolm Graham and Carl Wallendszus. Since then, we have been busy with:

The West Oxford Floral Survey: WOWG is recording the types and numbers of wild plant species to be found locally. So far we have sampled an area from the Botley Road to the southern part of Binsey Lane, the riverbank north to Binsey and the King George Field, Hinksey Meadow (including the Old Meander) and part of Willow Walk. Some hundreds of species have been identified so far – a full report will be published on the wildlife group website (www.wowg.org.uk).

The final survey walk will be on Sunday 14th July at 10.00AM (please check for a notice at the Community Centre nearer the time to confirm the precise time) starting at the Oatlands field end of Alexandra Road. We plan to cover Tumbling Bay, the rest of Willow Walk and the causeway across to ‘The Fishes’. No special clothes, tools or knowledge are needed and it is all very informal – so come along for an hour or two, enjoy the walk and learn about the plants and flowers that surround us in West Oxford.

North Hinksey Meadow wetland project: This exciting local project aims to re-create and diversify wetland habitats in the remains of the old river channel – the ‘Old Meander’ – in North Hinksey Meadow. At the moment it is silted up and too dry for wetland plants and animals. We plan to create a number of seasonal pools and re-introduce a variety of characteristic wetland habitats to attract a different range of plants and invertebrates. Plans for work and funding are well advanced and we should announce a start date – probably in late summer 2002 – soon.

The website (www.wowg.org.uk) has further details of these projects, together with information on local meetings and links to other Oxfordshire wildlife and conservation groups. Alternatively, contact Julia Hamer-Hunt on 240904. Our next meetings will be on 18th July and 20 September at 8PM at the Community Centre.

WOCA AGM

The Annual General meeting of West Oxford Community Association, ably chaired, as ever, by John Power, was held on 15th April. We heard reports, elected a new committee and approved the 2001 accounts (copies may be obtained from the Community Centre office), but also held a less formal discussion of where the Association has been and will be going. Our Centre is among the most used in Oxford with many activities taking place there. Particularly since the doctors have moved in, the centre is able to run at a modest surplus. We aim to continue providing a facility for the many activities which run themselves, while also attempting to expand what is on offer (see WOMBATS on page 2.) If anyone has any ideas about how we could develop our activities, please come along to a committee meeting (second Monday of every month – except August) – we are in the unusual position for a Community Association of actually having a certain amount of money to support appropriate projects.

WEST OXFORD CP SCHOOL A CELEBRATION OF WEST OXFORD



The children of West Oxford School used their artistic talents to celebrate West Oxford over the Jubilee Weekend. Their work was exhibited at the Community Centre. The younger children created crowns using a variety of found and recycled materials. Older children looked at photographs of well-known landmarks from West Oxford and then created their own pictures. They made collages, oil, pastels and cold water dye pictures and also black and white tonal drawings. All the work was done under the guidance of artist Emma Reynard. This picture of the school is just one of the many items included in the exhibition: to see it, and others, in

colour (on your computer) go to www.woca.org.uk. The children are currently making portraits of local personages for exhibition at the West Oxford Fun Day on 20th July.

The school has also held a very successful International Day on the 21st of June, which included music, dance and an international café. The annual fund-raising car boot sale was held in the school car park on 30th June. The summer barbecue will be taking place at 7PM on Friday 5th July on the Oatlands Road recreation ground: all local residents are very welcome to come along.

BLOOD DONING

– sessions have been booked at the Community Centre from 1.30 to 3.25 PM and 4.30 to 7.15 PM on: Monday, July 8, 2002, Monday, September 9, 2002 and Monday, October 28, 2002.

INTEGRATED TRANSPORT

– **the following may be of interest to local people, but please check times, etc. with the relevant transport companies before setting out:** The Oxford Express and Thames Trains have combined forces so that passengers who buy a day return ticket between Oxford & London on Thames Trains can travel back overnight from London to Oxford on coaches operated by the Oxford Express. Train passengers may use their ticket on five overnight journeys of the Oxford express departing Victoria Coach Station at: 2400, 0030, 0130, 0230, &

0440 hrs. The following Thames Trains Oxford - London Day return tickets will be accepted onboard coaches of the Oxford express for FREE travel back to Oxford on departures from London between midnight and 6am each day : Standard & First Class Day return tickets, Cheap Day return tickets and Oxford - London One Day Travelcards. The last direct weekday train to Oxford from London (Paddington) departs at 23.48 hours.

BENCHES: WOCA has been in contact with the Parks and Green Spaces Department of the Council about putting up one or two benches. Any suggestions as to where the benches ought to go would be most welcome. It has been suggested that one bench could commemorate Mary Town, who was a great supporter of the Community association and local causes for many years.

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP PROJECT – OXFORDSHIRE

Fay Dashper (Compost Development Officer) and Kate Aydin (Community Action Group Development Officer) of Oxfordshire County Council specialise in:

- Helping people find other uses or new owners for unwanted items
- Helping people find the best way to reduce the rubbish they produce
- Advising on composting - reduce your rubbish up to 40% by composting kitchen and garden waste, cardboard, and paper
- Creating community projects involving all ethnic, age and socio-economic groups.

They aim to achieve their objectives by:

- Working in liaison with key community members and groups
- Giving talks or demonstrations at community events, working with local authorities and not-for-profit organisations and listening to community members
- Raising awareness of waste management, including home and community composting, projects using recycled materials/recycling themes; tool exchange schemes; paper-making workshops and furniture recycling initiatives.

For more info please contact Kate or Fay:

Fay Dashper: Tel: 01865 815499. Email fay.dashper@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Kate Aydin: Tel: 01865 815959. Email kate.aydin@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

AREA COMMITTEE/COUNCILLOR NEWS



The Council Area Committee which covers West Oxford meets at the Town Hall on the second Tuesday of every month at 6PM. However, the September meeting, on the 10th, will be at West Oxford School in the Ferry Hinksey Road: the agenda will focus on the Botley Road area. What do you think should be discussed? If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact our local City Councillors, Susanna Pressell or Colin Cook, or our County Councillor, John Power – or why not come along to the monthly councillors' surgery at the Community Centre. The Area Committee secretary is Peter Denchfield (tel 252402). The provisional Area Committee agenda for the July 9th meeting includes Planning applications, the Night Shelter, Area Committee publicity and matters relating to Community Centres.

COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS:

SUSANNA PRESSELL 554001, spressel@lmc.co.uk

COLIN COOK Day 272548, evening 721844, ccook2@oxford.gov.uk

JOHN POWER 247153, john@powerj.fnsnet.co.uk

**MONTHLY SURGERY Third Saturday of , 11AM till 12 Noon,
at the Community Centre**

There is also a new telephone number for our Community Beat Officer WPC Jean Thompson – 266361 or 266362.

Planning News: Susanna Pressell reports: Lamarsh Developments Ltd had applied to build 5 new 'retail units' with 300 parking spaces in Lamarsh Road. A similar application had been rejected at the local level in 1997, but the company appealed that decision and won outline permission. At the 11th June Area Committee meeting, the company applied to vary the scheme. Council planning officers recommended approval, but many local residents attended the meeting, bringing a lengthy petition. After an impassioned debate the Councillors on the Committee voted to reject the application in view of changes since 1997.

At Binsey, the application to make major changes at the Perch has been withdrawn, as has the application to erect a 50' telecommunications mast near the church. However, it does look as if there will be a mast in Binsey – the planning department refused permission, but the applicants have appealed and won at a higher level.

People who have noticed the large extension at the back of 92 Botley Road may be interested to know that permission was refused at local council level, but this decision was successfully appealed by the developer.

NEWS FROM ST FRIDESWIDE'S CHURCH



We held a very pleasant parish lunch on the Jubilee Sunday in the Community Centre at which we were pleased to be joined by members of the congregation of St Thomas' Church. We are grateful to the Community Association for allowing us the use of the cafe. Work has started on the church floor: it is going well and is expected to be completed by late August. We are very grateful to St Thomas' whose services (Sunday 10.15AM) we will be joining during August while our church is out of commission. At the last count the Gift Day had raised £2,700 towards the church floor: many thanks to all those who contributed so generously (and also to Walter Mitty's for proceeds from their jubilee fete).

On 21st July our Sunday service will be moved from St Frideswide's to St Margaret's, Binsey. Plans are already in hand for the formal re-opening of St Frideswide's by the Bishop of Oxford in October.

During the disruption caused by the work on the floor, please see the church notice board for details of service times.

ROAD SAFETY NEWS



The County Council is looking for suggestions on where to put up 'Temporary Speed Identification Displays' (these are computerized displays which tell you if you are going too fast or 'smile' at you if you are driving at a safe and legal speed). Current ideas include the Botley Road, Binsey Lane, Mill St and the Ferry Hinksey Road. Susanna Pressell would like to hear from anyone who has any thoughts on anywhere these might usefully be installed.

The long awaited resurfacing and traffic calming work on the Ferry Hinksey Road is tabled to start in July.



COMMUNITY CAFÉ: The café continues to be open for delicious food and drinks at keen prices on most weekdays (11AM to 3PM).

Over the summer, it will also be opening on Saturdays (11 til 4) and Sundays (11 til 3).

OLDER (50+) AND WISER HEADS have taken to gathering at the Community Centre on Tuesday mornings from 11AM til 12 Noon for an informal coffee morning. Why not drop in?

www.woca.org.uk

WOCA now has its own website: please send any material which you would like to appear on the site to – info@woca.org.uk

**Regular Activities at West Oxford Community Centre
(subject to summer breaks) – contact the centre for more exact details.**

SUN: Society of St Peter (Roman Catholic Mass), 9.30 to 11.30 AM
Tae Kwon Do, 11AM to 12.30 PM (starts at 11.30 AM from 7th July onwards)
Calvary Chapel, 6 to 8.30PM (moves to 9.30AM start from 7th July)

MON: Messy Play – creative fun for young children, 9.30 to 11AM
Mother & Baby Group, 10AM to 12 Noon Monkey Music, 1.30 to 3PM
Junior Basketball, 4 to 6PM Aerobics, 6.30 to 7.30 PM
Girls' Youth Club, 6 to 8 PM Karate, 7.30 to 9.30 PM

TUES: Easy Exercise for the 50+s, 9.30 to 11 AM Art Class, 1 to 3.30 PM
Brownies 5.30 to 7.30PM Tae Kwon Do, 7.30 to 8.45 PM
Creative Dance, 10.30 to Noon

WEDS: Gentle Yoga, 10 AM to Noon Yoga, 6.30 to 8PM
Mothers & Babies, 3 to 4.30PM OEA, 7.30 to 8.45 PM
St John Ambulance, 7 to 9 PM

THURS: Older People's Club, 2 to 4 PM Basketball, 5 to 6 PM
Youth Club, 6 to 8.45 PM Circuit Training, 6.30 to 7.30 PM
Upholstery, 7.30 to 9.30 PM

FRI: Parent & Toddler, 9 to 11.30 AM Self Advocacy, 10 AM to Noon
Toddlers' Music, 10.30 to 11 AM West Oxford FC, 6.30 to 7.30PM
Celia Benson School of Dance, 4 to 6.30 PM Kickboxing, 7.30 to 8.30 PM
Bingo, 7.30 to 8.30 PM

Saturdays are kept free for one-off/special events. For room hire rates, please contact the Centre on 245761. We aim to keep rates as low as possible for local community activities. Please note that all bookings are subject to cancellation for public meetings and similar. Don't miss our website – www.woca.org.uk

NEW CLASSES FROM THE AUTUMN

Baby Music, 1.45 to 2.45PM, from 18 September, Gardening Class (7 to 9 PM) from 24th September, Lip-reading Class from 26th September. Kids' Art, Mondays, 3.30 to 5.30PM, starting September.

We are planning a NEW YOUTH CLUB for 8 to 12 year olds, which will probably meet on Wednesdays from 6PM to 8PM from September – if you would like to help or know of children who might like to join, please contact Susanna Pressell on 554001.

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.

This newsletter is issued quarterly. If you have any local news which you would like publicised, please send details, in writing, to the Community Centre, marked 'newsletter'.

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