



**WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER No 10, JUNE 2003**

2003

SATURDAY 12th JULY, 2.30 to 6.30 PM

West Oxford Community Centre / Botley Park

Attractions to Include:

**Live Music and Dance from around the world
DJ workshop
Alphonso the puppeteer
Balloon Modelling
Juggling
Fun Fair
Tug of War
Inflatables
Displays by Centre Users
Morris Dancers
Pottery, Glass, and other Craft Stalls
Refreshments
And much, much more!**

**Volunteers Welcome
If you can help, phone 247561.**

Following the FUN DAY at about 9pm (dusk),
there will be a free showing of a **family feature film**
in Botley Park. Title to be confirmed.



News from St Frideswide's Church



Fr Robert Sweeney has announced that he will be retiring later this year following almost a quarter of a century of ministry in West Oxford. We are sure that all West Oxford residents will be wishing him a long and happy retirement. The Churchwardens are currently discussing with the Bishop of Oxford how the parish will move forward.

May's Christian Aid lunch raised £125: thanks to all who contributed.

The Annual Gift Day will take place on Saturday 21st June. Money raised will help rewire the church. Many thanks again to all who contributed last year—come and see the fruits of your generosity.

Summer service times will be posted outside the church.

Ward Councillor Susanna Pressel (01865 554001) Writes:



Central, South & West Area Committee will meet at West Oxford Community Centre on Tuesday 8th July at 6pm, beginning with a public 'have your say' session, so come along and speak about your local concerns and suggestions. For information, see www.oxford.gov.uk.

The next meeting of the **Pensioners' Forum** will be on Tuesday 8th July 10am-12 noon at the Town Hall.

Earl Street: the City Council has earmarked £36,000 for an underground pump. Experts are investigating how it should be set up to best advantage.

Changes to **rubbish collection** days—the City Council's contractor failed to produce the usual leaflets this year: at the end of August, rubbish will be collected on Friday 29th.

Botley Park paddling pool has had to be closed because of health and safety regulations. New filters, etc. would apparently cost £60,000 to install. Anyone with suggestions for a cheaper solution should contact Susanna.

Or why not come to the monthly councillor surgery?—third Saturday of every month, 11AM to 12, West Oxford Community Centre.

Congratulations to West Oxford under-12s **football team** who have finished their second season unbeaten AND who have won their League!



Local BTCA registered coach, Chris Dallender (sponsored by Fischer), will offer adult/junior summer **tennis coaching** at the Botley Park courts. Classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm (£5/head). Bring own racquet. Phone Chris on 07747 618153 or email dallender.c@virgin.net for further information and details of start dates.

Alternative Venues West Oxford is blessed with two social clubs, the Democrats in North Street (246086) and the Railway Club off Mill Street (244528). Both welcome new members and have function rooms available for hire by local people.

Oxford City Council Countryside Service events:

Port Meadow flora walk and talk Sun 22nd June 10.30 AM, —meet at Walton Well Rd.

'Bugworld' Sat 13th September, 2.30 to 4.30 PM, West Oxford Community Centre - an entertaining introduction to the weird and wonderful world of insects and creepy crawlies by George McGavin of the Oxford University Museum.

Oseney Court: a housing association has been given permission to develop the site. There will be 10 houses and 34 flats including 24 units for older people. There will be rooms suitable for a day care centre. Part of the delay has been caused by local councillors' work to ensure provision for older people.

WOMBATS

West Oxford Music, Ballet, Art & Theatre Society



ART WEEKS

OXFORDSHIRE VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL

'Exciting Collection!'

'Excellent Display'

'Interesting and unusual—lovely!'



A group of seven local artists received support from WOCA and WOMBATS to work together to create this exhibition in the Mary Town Room of the Community Centre. It got off to a great start with the 'Have a Go' launch, organised by Lois Muddiman, where people had the opportunity to try out a variety of artistic techniques with an uplifting jazz accompaniment from Nick Gill. The exhibition itself displayed a rich and diverse mixture of media and techniques confirming that West Oxford has more than its fair share of enthusiastic and creative artists.



George—Don't Do That!

Saturday 28th June at 7.30pm

West Oxford Community Centre

WOMBATS brings you a celebration of the life of entertainer Joyce Grenfell. Catherine Flye of the Interact Theatre Company and Ian Clarke will recreate a host of Grenfell's familiar, funny and endearing characters in music, song and the spoken word. Peter Saunders will narrate.

Proceeds from this event will go to the West Oxford Wildlife Group.

Tickets (£7.00/concessions £5.00) can be booked from Tickets at Oxford in person at the Oxford Playhouse box office on Beaumont Street or by phone on 01865 305305 or over the internet via the Tickets Oxford/Playhouse website www.ticketsoxford.com. For those local people who cannot use Tickets at Oxford, Joe has very kindly offered to hold a small number of tickets at Eggs Eggsetera. Tickets are limited—book now. For more information see www.wombats.woca.org.uk.

West Oxford Book / Reading Group

Do You Love Books and Reading?

Would you like to meet up with other book lovers in an informal group and setting to talk about a book you've all read? WOMBATS is setting up a new book group to start in September. It will meet monthly at the Community Centre on a weekday evening to be determined by the members. The only costs will be the purchase of one paperback book a month plus a small sum for refreshments.

The group will be informal and friendly, and concentrate on reading accessible fiction. If you are interested please contact Ann at OxBookclub@bigfoot.com or on 0797 4313567.



FUTURE EVENTS

Oxford Touring Theatre in 'Bleak House' Sat 1st November
More Musical Brunches and Art Exhibitions for winter 2003/04

Allotment Association - 150th Anniversary Celebrations

A Visit to Henry Doubleday Research Association's Ryton Gardens will take place on Wednesday 16th July. A £10 fee will cover coach and entrance fee, which will include a tour of the Gardeners' Question Time garden, the seed library, and more. The bus will set off at 4pm and return at about 10pm, and there will be time for a bring-your-own picnic supper. Tickets are available from the allotment shop; on Sunday mornings 10-12 or Wednesday evenings 5.30-6.30, or ring Anne on 724906. All welcome, but ticket availability is limited, so book now.

Allotment Open Day on Saturday 30th August. There will be tours of the allotments and various stalls including a plant stall, fruit and vegetable stall, cake stall, white elephant, and old tools, a children's treasure hunt using the allotment map, a raffle, plus a design-a-scarecrow competition for the children.

A **commemorative booklet** including recipes, allotment memories, photos and useful gardening tips will be published. Any contributions for the booklet should be handed to Elizabeth Newbery, Plot 91 or email e.m.newbery@connectfree.co.uk.

The year's celebrations will conclude with a **Bonfire Night party!**

West Oxford Wildlife Group's current activities include renovating Tumbling Bay Bridge, conducting a West Oxford bird survey, and ongoing monitoring of Hinksey Meadow meander. The next meetings will be on Thursdays 19th June and 17th July at 8pm at the Community Centre. All welcome. See www.wowg.org.uk for more details.

West Oxford Primary School

invite all members of the community to come along and join in the fun at:

A Bingo evening on Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm in the school canteen.

A Family Treasure Hunt on Sunday 29th June at 2pm.

The Friends' Barbecue on Friday 4th July on the Botley Park next to the Community Centre. Refreshments, games and fun stalls will be available from 6pm to 8pm.

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly on Friday 18th July at 9.15am (refreshments afterwards).

WOCA Committee News The 2003 AGM was ably chaired by John Power and got through all the usual business in record time. Lois Muddiman (Chairman), Hanjo Glock, Roy Hoare, Jim McMahan, Miranda Miller, Glynis Morris, Athene Reiss, Martin Rush, Julie Smith and Steve Stuart were elected to the committee for 2003/04. Dawn Williams and Gwen Davies retired from the committee and we are very grateful to them for all their work. The treasurer reports that WOCA's finances continue to be sound. If you would like a small grant from WOCA for a local project, then get in touch. Many thanks to Jenny Jones and the West Oxford School Singers for providing a delightful pre-AGM musical entertainment.

There will be various **SUMMER PLAYSCHEMES** at the centre: phone 245761 for details.

Oxford Preservation Trust is organising an open day at **Oxford Castle & Prison** - Saturday 14th June, 12 til 4.

Regular Activities—There are so many activities taking place every day at the Community Centre that we don't have room to list them all here. Please see the notice boards in the Centre or phone 245761 or see www.woca.org.uk.

If you would like local information to appear on the Community Centre website please do submit material in good time to webmaster@woca.org.uk. Contributions for the September issue of this newsletter should be sent to the Community Centre (marked for the attention of Athene Reiss) or to athenereiss@hotmail.com by 31 August.

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