



**WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER NO 12, December 2003**

On 11 November, a new bridge across Tumbling Bay was formally opened by the Lord Mayor. Access to Tum has been severely limited for some years as the old footbridge decayed and the new bridge was needed as part of a wider effort to manage the area for wildlife and community recreation.

West Oxford Wildlife Group (WOWG) also presented the Lord Mayor with a Nature Plan for West Oxford. This can be viewed on WOWG's website <http://www.wowg.org.uk/>.

Congratulations to WOWG who worked so hard for so many months to make this happen! If you want to get involved come along to the next meeting on Thursday, 11 December at 8.00pm, 57 Bridge Street.

A special 150th anniversary celebration of Tumbling Bay will be held at the Community Centre on Sunday February 1, 2004.

The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Pat Stannard, and Mrs Alice Jones cut the ribbon on Tumbling Bay Bridge (above). Malcolm Graham, of WOWG, shows the Lord Mayor the Nature Plan (below).

Malcolm writes: Affectionately known to locals as Tum, Tumbling Bay is back in business following the building of a new footbridge across the Bulstake Stream. The bridge has been built thanks to Landfill Tax credit funding from the Waste Recycling Environmental Group Ltd and grants from Oxford City Council and the West Oxford Community Association. Hidden away behind Botley Park, Tum is one of the City's oldest leisure facilities, opened 150 years ago in 1853 by the City Council as a river bathing place for men and boys – women and girls were only allowed in after 1892! Tum was a lively summer resort for generations of local people until growing affluence, wider leisure opportunities and health scares reduced the number of swimmers. The bathing place was officially closed in 1990 and Tum began to moulder away with its weirs decaying and the last wooden footbridge collapsing in 2002. The new timber bridge, built by Miles & Co., of Mapledurham, provides public access, including wheelchair access, to the whole site and the Tumbling Bay will now be managed so as to preserve and enhance the semi-natural feel of the place and to increase its wildlife value still further.

News from St Frideswide's Church

The special evening service on 1st October to mark Fr Sweeney's retirement was attended by many well-wishers. We presented Fr Sweeney with cards from the Sunday school children, a contribution towards a trip he will be making to Germany and some port bottled in the year he started as Vicar here.

We are most grateful to Fr Ricky Martin (ex-chaplain of Magdalen College School) and to Canon Wilfrid Browning for taking services following Fr Sweeney's departure. Discussions with the Bishop of Oxford about future arrangements for the parish continue.

The Autumn Bazaar raised £310 which will be used on repairs to the church lighting: many thanks to all who contributed.

Main Christmas services in West Oxford:

Sunday 21st, 6pm, St Frideswide's - Carol Service with nativity play & refreshments.

Christmas Eve, 7pm, St Thomas' - Crib Blessing with carols and mince pies

Christmas Day - 9.00am, Binsey and 10.15am, St Frideswide's, Holy Communion.

Please see church notice boards for details of other services.

West Oxford Community Primary School

Toy Library: In the School canteen, on Mondays from 2.45-3.15 (term-time only). Come along and borrow some of the **amazing new toys:** puppet theatre, pirate ship, dressing up clothes, playmobil ambulance and helicopter, Barbie, Ken and beach buggy etc. Also, if you have any good quality toys that you would like to sell or donate to the library please call 01865 251727. See you there!

Hooray Hooray Music (for pre-schoolers) Mondays 2-3pm in the canteen.

Parenting Classes aimed at all sorts of parents run weekly at the school. Do join us!

Volunteer Sought to help run homework club once a week after school. Can YOU help?

To **contact** the School, email: headteacher.2533@west-oxford.oxon.sch.uk or ring: 248862.

Office Space to Let! At West Oxford School. One VERY large, high-ceilinged room with car parking. Contact the headteacher (see above details).

Ward Councillor Susanna Pressel (554001) - holds a monthly councillor surgery at the Community Centre on the 3rd Saturday of every month 11am to noon.

The next Area Committee meeting at West Oxford Community Centre will be on 9th March 2004. Have your say on local government.

The Gatehouse is a drop-in centre providing food, shelter and company to Oxford's homeless and poorly housed population in St Michael's St, opposite the Oxford Union. Jennifer Crouch, a resident of West Oxford, encourages you to get involved or to contribute if you can, particularly during the cold months of winter. You can ring her on 203240. The Gatehouse website on www.oxfordgatehouse.org.

Car Club - would anyone like to collaborate with Osney residents on the launch of a car club? We seek to replicate a successful model elsewhere in Oxford, through Avis, but for each car in the pool, we need to secure 15-20 users and something like 40 hours usage in an average week to make it feasible. Please let Pauline Martin (01865.250870) have your name and contact details if you'd like to know more. Or see www.osneyisland.org.uk.

"A Little Plot of Heaven" - that's the fab Allotment Anniversary Booklet, or the perfect stocking filler. There aren't many copies left and it won't be re-printed .. available via the Allotment Shop, Sundays 10 am -12 noon or contact Elizabeth Newberry, 793360. West Oxford Community Association was delighted to present the Allotments Association with a set of lights to guide people towards the allotments hut (and the delicious curry within) at their successful **Bonfire and Fireworks**. The Allotments association will be happy to lend anyone in west Oxford the lights - please contact John Power (247153).

Gardeners! West Oxford School would like to know of anyone who might be able to run a gardening club with children. Please contact the headteacher (see above details).

ACTIVITIES AT WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE



West Oxford Music, Ballet, Art & Theatre Society (2003-4 Season)

The **WOMBATS Reading/Book group** meets monthly at the West Oxford Community Centre 8-10pm on a weekday evening. The next meeting is Thursday 27th November. The group is informal and friendly and we get together to discuss a book we've all read over the previous month (Recently: 'The Life of Pi', 'Oryx & Crake', & 'Daughter of Fortune'.) We have a few places left, so if you love to read and would like to get together with others who do as well, then please contact Ann on 0797 4313567 or email Oxbookclub@bigfoot.com for more details. (The only cost is the purchase of one book a month.)

Musical Brunches

Most of 2003's musical brunches featured jazz music, so for 2004 we are branching out into the Baroque era. For our Spring season, 'Minerva' will perform European music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They will discuss the instruments and playing styles of the period.

17 January - Go for Baroque!

The whys and wherefores of "authentic" performance.

7 February - A Festival of Flutes and Fiddles

28 February - Love, war, joy and despair in early instrumental music

Indian dance classes for adults with Sonal Barot. Sundays 5-6pm. All welcome. For more information email cthompson@oxford.gov.uk or phone WOCA on 245761.

Would you like to learn a simple yet effective Self Healing Therapy, an ancient Chinese Energy Exercise known as **Wild Goose Qigong**? Khim Guan teaches this profound and unique skill to people who want to take responsibility for their own health. Monthly classes start in January 2004. For more info, email: khimg3@hotmail.com or phone 07775 995 184.

Kids Art recommences after Christmas on 15th January 8-15 years 4-6 Thursdays. New Teacher – Anne Marie Hamilton. Only £2.50. Open to all kids 8-15 years. Contact the Community Centre (245761 or woxford@oxford.gov.uk) to RSVP, or just show up on the day (Mary Town Room). Great variety of activities and welcoming atmosphere!

Chinese Older People's Group meets Mondays 1-3pm.

The Community Association is pleased to announce a Christmas Tea for older people from 2pm to 4pm on Tuesday 16 December. Only £3.00. Nick Gill will entertain on the piano. Please phone 245761 to book a place.

The **Mother and Baby** Group meets Mondays 10.30am -12 noon. It's for babies up to about 18 months. Contact Sara on 429601. There is also a **Mother and Baby** group on Wednesdays 3-4.30pm, a **Parent and Toddler** group Fridays 9-11.30am and **Messy Play** Mondays 9.30-11am.

Following their successful inaugural meeting last month, the West Oxford branch of **Cyclox** will meet at the Community Centre on Tuesday 16th December - to discuss how to improve conditions for cyclists in our area at 7.30pm. For more information, see www.cyclox.org, or phone 07792 375423. All welcome.

In the new year, you will be able to play **badminton** at the Community Centre. We will mark out a court, and there will be equipment available to borrow for a small deposit (£10.) There will be a £5. room fee for an hour of play!

There is also **table tennis** equipment for playing on the court behind the Community Centre. You can borrow it for free from the café or the office in return for a £5 deposit.

Grants for community projects are available from the Community Association. Application forms are available in the Centre office or on www.woca.org.uk. The Committee will consider applications on the first Mondays of January, April, and September. We WANT to support you, let us know how we can help. The only absolute requirement is that grants must benefit local residents.

WOCA Committee – If you would like to discuss anything about the Association or the Centre, please talk to a committee member: Lois Muddiman, Hanjo Glock, Roy Hoare, Lynn Carter, Miranda Miller, Athene Reiss, Martin Rush, Jim McMahon, Glynis Morris, Julie Smith, Steve Stuart or Sioux Dellow; or to Marelyn Clarke or Richard Grant who work in the office.

Regular Activities at West Oxford Community Centre

Sundays Roman Catholic Mass, 9.30-11.30am, SFL, 11-12.30pm,
Tae Kwon Do, 11.30am-1pm, Indian Dance, 5-6pm, NA, 4.30-7pm

Mondays Messy Play, 9.30-11am, Mother & Baby, 10.30-12 noon, Family
Yoga, 4-5pm, Chinese Older People, 1-3pm, Flair Dance, 5.50-6.30pm,
Pilates, 6-7pm, Step Aerobics, 6.30-7.30pm, Karate, 8-10pm

Tuesdays Easy Exercise for 50+s, 9.30-11am, Active Matters (alternate weeks
from 9/9), 9.30-3pm, Lunch Club, 12.30-2pm, Portrait Class, 1-3.30pm,
Brownies, 5.30-7.30pm, Massage Class, 7.15-10.45pm, Tae Kwon Do, 7.30-8.45pm

Wednesdays Creative Dance, 10.30-12 noon, Mother & Baby, 3-4.30pm,
Junior Youth Club, 6-7.30pm, Yoga, 6.30-8pm, St John Ambulance, 7-9pm,
OEA, 7.30-8.45pm

Thursdays Open Door, 9.30-11.30am, Tinnitus Group (9/10, 13/11, 11/12), 11-12noon,
Aerobics, 6.30-7.30pm, Lip-Reading Group, 6.30-8pm, Upholstery, 7.30-9.30pm

Fridays Parent & Toddler, 9-11.30am, Health Visitor Baby Clinic, 1.30-4.30pm,
Ceila Benson School of Dance, 4-6.30pm, Kickboxing, 7.30-8.30pm,
Bingo, 7-9pm, AA, 7.45-9.30pm

Saturdays Mini Tennis, 9-10am

For more information ring 245761 or e-mail woxford@oxford.gov.uk.

Contributions for the March issue of this newsletter can be left at the Community Centre (marked for the attention of Athene Reiss) or e-mailed to athenereiss@hotmail.com by 15 February. If you would like local information to appear on the Community Centre website, please send it (in good time) to webmaster@woca.org.uk.

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