

## WOMBATS

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

The WOMBATS reading/book group ....

...is now 'up and running'.

The group meets monthly at the West Oxford Community Centre from 8-10pm on a weekday evening. The next meeting is the 25<sup>th</sup> September. We meet to discuss, informally, a book we've all read over the previous month (first up is Yann Martel's *The Life of Pi*). We still have a few places left to join the group, 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](mailto:Oxbookclub@bigfoot.com) for more details.

### Musical Brunches

If you came to the jazz brunches earlier this year, you'll know how enjoyable they were. We have scheduled two more series of musical brunches, one in the autumn and one in the spring (3 talks each at 3-week intervals). This autumn we will be focusing on three great jazz musicians illustrated by three different enthusiastic experts in the field. The music will be great and will be introduced by an interesting talk, which will enhance your experience of the playing. The brunches are informal, friendly, and accessible. ALL welcome.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October** - Debbie Reynolds on Annette Hanshaw. Hanshaw was a wonderful singer of the 1920s and Debbie is an expert on her life and music. She will talk, drum and sing, while West Oxford favourite Nick Gill accompanies on the piano.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November** - Martin Litton on Jelly Roll Morton. Martin is an international expert on Morton's jazz piano style. This will be a high quality performance by an esteemed musician coming to us from Hay-on-Wye.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November** - Thomas "Spats" Langham on Ukulele Ike. Unusually, the ukulele will take centre stage in this fun session performed by the characterful "Spats", who will also be accompanied by the familiar Nick Gill on the piano.

Spring performance dates will be **17 January, 7 February, 28 February** – programme details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

ALL brunches start with coffee, tea, and delicious Eggs Eggsetera croissants at 11am, with music and talk beginning at 11.30am. Price £3 (includes brunch); children – free.

**Oxford Touring Theatre Company** will present a stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Bleak House* at the Community Centre on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November starting at 7.30pm. Recommended for adults and young people 12 years & up.

*Bleak House* is a story of the mists and fog that surrounds the world of Chancery and justice, a satire on the abuses of the court system - the delays and the costs that brought misery and ruin on most of its suitors, and of course, significant profits to the lawyers and judges! Incorporating coincidence, murder and mystery, lost and found orphans, lords and ladies, *Bleak House* is a masterpiece of social comment and intrigue. **FREE ADMISSION!**

**The Allotment Association** had a terrifically successful open day on 30<sup>th</sup> August to celebrate 150 years of allotment gardening in West Oxford. A steady stream of visitors enjoyed a great array of stalls. A vast pile of produce was completely sold out, and everyone went home with full baskets of tasty, wholesome, locally produced fruit and veg.

A beautiful commemorative booklet, full of luscious photographs, delicious recipes, and nuggets of gardening advice has been produced. Printed copies have sold out, but a reprint has been scheduled and orders for more are being taken by Elizabeth Newberry (793360 or emnewberry@connectfree.co.uk). You can also sign up for a copy in the allotment shop on Sunday mornings 10-12.

Bonfire Night party - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at the Twenty Pound Meadow site (Botley Rd) starting at 6pm. Bring a bottle to enjoy and share! ALL WELCOME!

### News from St Frideswide's Church

**Many thanks** to all who contributed so generously to the June Gift Day.

**Father Sweeney's last Sunday service** as Vicar of St Frideswide will be Evensong on Sunday 28 September at 6pm. All welcome. Best wishes to Father Sweeney for a long and happy retirement. Discussions between the Churchwardens and the Bishop of Oxford about a new priest for the Parish continue.

The **Harvest Thanksgiving** will be on Sunday 28 September at 11.15am.

### West Oxford Wildlife Group - [www.wowg.org.uk](http://www.wowg.org.uk)

**Butterfly surveys** - The group carried out three surveys of the West Oxford butterfly population. We recorded numbers and names of butterfly species found in a sweep south of the Botley Road. A table summarising our results is available on the WOWG website.

**Tumbling Bay bridge** - With finance and administrative permissions finally in place, we expect work on the piles for the new bridge to start at any time. Listen out for the noise!

**West Oxford Nature Plan** - Almost ready – the data will inform Oxford City and County Councils in their decision-making.

**AGM** - Everyone is welcome to come to the Annual Meeting of the West Oxford Wildlife Group at 8 p.m. on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at West Oxford Community Centre. Our completed Nature Plan will be presented to the City Council and refreshments will be served.

### West Oxford Community Primary School

**NEWS:** Talented teaching assistant Dorraine Brown-John was awarded a Certificate of Distinction for her work running an after-school netball club. The School was given a Bronze Eco-Award for its environmental review and actions. The nursery garden is again a winner in the Oxford in Bloom competition. Congratulations to staff and pupils for all their hard work!

**ACTIVITIES: Family Learning Weekend** filled with art, craft and sports workshops. Saturday 11th October. Contact the School for details, or just show up.

**Parenting course** Mondays at 7pm - learn about positive parenting ideas and meet with other parents in a relaxed setting. Contact the School if you are interested in taking part.

**Toy Library** - Mondays 2.45pm - 3.15pm in the canteen (to the left of the School).

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

**Harvest Festival** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am with refreshments to follow – bring and buy harvest produce. All welcome.

To **contact** the School, email: [headteacher@west-oxford.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@west-oxford.oxon.sch.uk) or ring: 248862.

### ACTIVITIES ON AT WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Kids Art** Starts Thursday 25th September 4-6pm. 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](mailto:woxford@oxford.gov.uk)) to RSVP, or just show up on the day (Mary Town Room). Fab Fun for young people!

**Next Step** is a FREE course for everyone who wants to get back into learning or work but isn't sure how. It runs from 26th September to 22nd March on Friday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and they can help with childcare costs! Contact Joe Carter (778827 or [adult.bsu@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:adult.bsu@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or write to Joe Carter, Adult Basic Skills Unit, Blackbird Leys Library & Learning Centre, Blackbird Leys Rd, Oxford OX46 HT).

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.

**Indian dance classes** with Sonal Barot. Sundays 12 October - 7 Dec, 5-6pm. All welcome. For more information email [cthompson@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cthompson@oxford.gov.uk) or phone WOCA on 245761.

**Football:** The outstandingly successful West Oxford under-13s boys' team and the new under-10s boys' and girls' team are starting a new season of league matches. There's also an adult team. For more info, contact Susanna Pressel on 554001.

Would you like to learn a simple yet effective Self Healing Therapy, an ancient Chinese Energy Exercise known as **Wildgoose Qigong**? Khim Guan, who has been practising for the last 5 years and is a qualified instructor, will be holding a 3 hour Introduction Seminar and Workshop at the West Oxford Community Centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2003 from 10am to 1pm (monthly classes will follow). £10 to attend. For more information, email: [khimg3@hotmail.com](mailto:khimg3@hotmail.com) or phone 07775 995 184.

Do you wish you could play indoor **badminton**? Would you like us to schedule open evening badminton sessions at the Centre? If so, contact Roy Hoare on 724300.

A local resident who is a qualified **tennis** coach will be offering free coaching to young people aged 5-11 starting in October. Contact Susanna Pressel (554001) for details.

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

**Friends of West Oxford School Present – Activities for All at the School**  
**Prize Bingo** – Fun for all the family, everyone welcome. In the Canteen on Thursday 2nd October - Doors Open at 7pm; Eyes Down at 7.30pm. Refreshments available. Coffee and Muffin Morning for **new and prospective parents** of West Oxford Primary School and Nursery. Come along and meet other parents/carers – it's informal, just turn up. Wednesday 1st October at 9.30am.  
**Oxford Touring Theatre Company** will perform **Nutcracker** on 19th November at 7pm.  
**Christmas Bazaar** – stalls, activities, raffle, refreshments, games, and of course – Father Christmas. Sunday 30th November at 2pm in the School Hall.  
**Prize Christmas Bingo** – Thursday 4th December (as above).

**Ward Councillor Susanna Pressel** (554001) - The City Council is carrying out a survey of people's views of Botley Park. Please let Susanna know what you think of it and what improvements you would like to see. Her monthly councillor surgery is held at the Community Centre on the 3rd Saturday of every month 11am to noon.

Could anyone lend us a **photograph of Mary Town**? We have named a room in the Centre after this local powerhouse of a community presence and would like to put a photo up. We would also be interested in hearing from anyone who knew Mary or who knows a bit about her history. PLEASE come into the Community Centre office and talk to Richard or Marelyn.

**MANY THANKS** to everyone who helped with West Oxford Community Association's brilliant **FUN DAY!** Thanks for raffle prizes to: Medley Manor Farm, John Power, Eggs Eggsetera, Warlands Bike Shop, Pots Direct, and Roy Hoare. We raised £134. Thanks to the City Council for use of trestle tables and provision of film. Thanks to Osney Island Residents Association for the loan of gazebos. Finally, thanks to the C. Benson School of Dance for a delightful display of dancing and to 'Matrix DJ Project' for their music and antics.

**Grants for community projects** are available from the Community Association. Application forms are available in the Centre office or on [www.woca.org.uk](http://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— possible categories of activities include sport, the environment, social benefit, and local amenities. 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, Urdu Class, 10.30-12 noon, SFL, 11-12.30pm, Indian Dance, 5-6pm, NA, 4.30-7pm, Brass Roots, 5-7pm

**Mondays** Messy Play, 9.30-11am, Mother & Baby, 10.30-12 noon, Family Yoga, 4-5pm, Pilates, 6-7pm, Youth Club, 7-9pm (from October), 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** Open Door, 9.30-11.30am, 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, Older People's Club (alternate weeks from 18/9), 2-4pm, Basketball, 5-6pm, Aerobics, 6.30-7.30pm, Lip-Reading Group, 6.30-8pm, Upholstery, 7.30-9.30pm

**Fridays** Parent & Toddler, 9-11.30am, Pace Project, 9.30-12.30pm, Health Visitor Baby Clinic, 1.30-4.30pm, C 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, Urdu Class, 10.30-12noon

For more information ring 245761 or e-mail [woxford@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:woxford@oxford.gov.uk).

Contributions for the December 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](mailto:athenereiss@hotmail.com) by 15 November. If you would like local information to appear on the Community Centre website, please send it (in good time) to [webmaster@woca.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@woca.org.uk).

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