

The Fulbrook News

Our Quarterly Newsletter

June 2021

Number 85



A lovely spring day in Fulbrook

This photo of her back garden was taken by Anne Weir on 12th April 2021

WANTED for publication! Please send us your articles, comments, ideas, letters, poems, whatever. This is your Newsletter – please send contributions to our email address: fulbrooknews@gmail.com

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Dear Readers,

What a relief that restrictions are gradually lifting and we can return to some normality. The Covid pandemic has been a difficult time for us all but Spring brings with it hope and renewal. Blossom abounds, the birds are singing and the owls are hooting! With our weather so unpredictable you just have to seize the moment and get out in the fresh air while you can and walk in our beautiful countryside. We are fortunate that there are so many places to explore in the Cotswolds and now that the pubs are open inside and out the added enjoyment of relaxation and refreshments beckons.

We have certainly had an abundance of rain lately which must have benefitted the many trees that were planted in our area earlier in the year.

It's good to see Martin Vessey walking round the village again with his dog Posie after his fall last year.

We are sorry to hear that Ursula Beele's Cotswold Wellbeing business had to close. She is however continuing her pilates classes via Zoom from France where she now lives. We wish her well.

Sarah and Ben Ebeling's family had a traumatic experience in March when their house in Meadow End caught fire in the middle of the night as a result of an electrical fault. Their son Max is to be congratulated on raising the alarm. They have had to evacuate their premises during repairs and the family are now living with Ben's mother. Sarah as you know is our Parish clerk and does a wonderful job. See Ben & Sarah's tribute to Max on page 9.

We send our sympathy to Lyn Bibbings-Burns whose father passed away on Easter Monday aged 97. He had had a good innings and was lovingly looked after at the Cotswold Home. She has contributed much to care for our community over the years for which we are so grateful. We also send our sympathy to Victoria Marsh whose mother has died, a further loss to the family after we reported the loss of her mother-in-law in the March issue.

We are sorry to hear that Hilary Tadman-Robins has been in hospital and hope she makes a speedy recovery after her two operations,

Phil Glyde too has been suffering from ill health and we hope he will soon feel better.

Vida and Sandy Forrest have moved from Fulbrook to Aberdeenshire in Scotland. We hear that Vida has had a fall and is now in a Care Home. Her many friends in the village would like to send their best wishes and hope she settles in well and will be well cared for.

Richard Williams moved into 'Ruslyn' in Beech Grove last August and we hope that he will be happy living here and participate in village activities,

There is a Feast night at The Carpenter's Arms on the 25th June which I am sure will be a great attraction and something to look forward to as well as other social events.

It will be wonderful to meet up with family and friends again after such a long time. In the meantime we look forward to summer and the lengthening days and freedom.

Jenny Jones

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In this edition of the Fulbrook News we have three important things to say.

First - speeding through the village: after considerable investigation and effort wending our way through the Byzantine corridors of power that characterise West Oxfordshire District Council, we are delighted to announce that the installation (scheduled for late June) of a vehicle activated speed warning sign will be installed opposite the Carpenter's Arms to remind drivers heading towards Shipton etc. that the speed limit is 30mph! The new sign has a data collection point so we can gather empirical evidence as to incidences of speeding and use these to make our case for further traffic calming measures.

Second - Children's playground: after some years of nothing more than maintenance and safety checking, the council is making a considerable investment to update the children's playground including new equipment, new games marking on the tarmac area and some repositioning of existing equipment. However, we

will need to raise a further £2,000 to achieve this worthwhile aim.

Fundraising is problematic at present, so we could either persuade a single generous individual or family to simply donate the entire sum, or several donors to make significant contributions, or do what we did for the Post Office and set up a GoFundMe type appeal. Whichever way we choose, it is not a huge amount of money for a village such as ours. Give it some thought please and contact me directly with your ideas

Third - another councillor: the number of councillors recommended for a Parish of this size is five and at present we only have four. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact Peter Burns directly. We are aware that there is a need for diversity and encourage female applicants.

**Don't forget the website:
www.fulbrookvillage.net**

Peter Burns, Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

FROM THE PARISH CLERK

I provide a fortnightly newsletter to all residents that wish to receive it, detailing what's going on in the village, Parish council news and anything else I think may be of relevance to you. If you would like to sign up to receive the newsletter, have something added or have any issues you would like to raise please feel free to email me on clerk@fulbrookvillage.net or send me a message/call me on 07484 178143.

Sarah Ebeling, Parish Clerk

THE FULBROOK FORUM

All meetings of the Fulbrook Forum since March 2020 and all future meetings have been cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus lockdown.

If you would like a notification of when we are able to resume our meetings please e-mail fulbrookforum@gmail.com to join our mailing list.

Meetings take place at 3pm on the first Thursday of the month in the Fulbrook Meeting Place at the back of Fulbrook Church. All welcome, no

membership required. A donation of £2 please which includes refreshments.

Oliver Sharpley

HISTORY GROUP

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone all meetings of the History Group due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

We will let you know when we are able to resume.

Laurence Balbes

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

As nobody has come forward to take over the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator after Jim MacAllan stepped down at the end of December 2020, our local PCSO Darryn Moulding has kindly offered to provide us with some local crime advice until a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator can be found.

Local Crime Advice from Darryn Moulding, our Rural Police Community Support Officer

We are surrounded by beautiful locations in this area which are popular with both local people and people from afar. What may you need to consider when going to a local beauty spot to keep your vehicle safe from criminals?

Do you have any valuable possessions in your vehicle? Often, theft from motor vehicles occurs when criminals see something of high value, such as handbags, laptops, satnavs, wallets etc. Take your valuable items with you or keep them out of sight to minimize the risk to your vehicle.

If you are a regular visitor at a location, you may want to try to alter the time you arrive or the days you come so people aren't aware that your vehicle will be in a certain place at a certain time.

In Thames valley, we have also had a number of reports about people acting suspiciously around dogs, and potential dog thefts. It is important that we protect our dogs from anyone who may have the wrong intentions. Here are a couple of recommendations to increase safety:

- Keep your dog in sight at all times

- Try and walk with someone else if possible and safe to
- Take a mobile phone with you in case you need to contact anyone or you see anything suspicious
- Try and take different routes at varied times and days.

In the near future, we will be restarting the speed watch scheme in the village, if you are interested in volunteering for speed watch, please contact me on: cartertonneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or address your interest to the parish council.

If you would like to be in the know about local issues and the activities of the neighbourhood team, then consider joining the TVP_westoxfordshire Facebook group or signing up to the TVP alert scheme on www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Until next time, stay safe.

PCSO Darryn Moulding

Please ring 101 to report non urgent crimes, or 999 in emergencies.

Here is the latest poem from our resident poet John Hoyle:

Ladies and Gentlemen

Our subject this evening is pain;
Its effect upon judgement and skill
And how we may seek to retain
Our grip by an act of the will.

The pain I refer to is chronic
The sort that you live with for years
And ease with a swift gin and tonic
Or maybe a couple of beers.

Acute pain is different in kind
And will power's not part of the plot.
But judgement's the job of the mind
And physical skills can just squat
On the neck of that pain that's a grind.

John Hoyle



The FaB WI is at last emerging from its enforced hibernation and is looking forward to a bright future with an exciting and varied program for the coming year.

We kicked it all off with our May gathering, not our usual event in the Warwick Hall (we have to wait a little longer for that) but a highly entertaining Treasure Quest around Burford. In small teams of three or four we strode around the town unravelling fiendish clues. It may have been a bit damp but the company was good and we got to look at Burford in a very different way. For our next meeting in June we hope the summer might have arrived as we have our annual Garden Party meeting.

A full program of speakers and activities is arranged for the rest of the year and into 2022. These include a talk on the amazing work of Medical Detection Dogs in July, a workshop evening with the Lechlade Craft Barn in October, a talk on Asthall, Swinbrook and the Mitfords in November and in February Al Sylvester will present 'Southern Reach' the story of his adventure leading an RAF team unsupported to the South Pole. Throw in a Harvest Supper in September with Mrs Bumble's artisan products and a Christmas Celebration in December with '40 Years of Musical Theatre – Les Mis to Mamma Mia' and we have something for absolutely everyone.

The FaB WI meets at 7.30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, usually at the Warwick Hall.

If you would like to come and join us or would just like more information please visit our website thefabwi.org.uk or contact Ginny Renwick at fabwi.ginny@gmail.com or Jane Arnell at gjaarnell@icloud.com or 01993 822755.

Angela Weller (a FaB WI member)

Fulbrook News and Views

From the Editorial Team.....

In this issue we include a tribute to Max Ebeling from his parents Ben and Sarah, an article on Fulbrook Churchyard's Listed Tombs from John Radcliffe, a piece on the loss of their dog Max from Anne Weir, details of The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and much more ...

The purpose of Fulbrook News and Views is to highlight issues or interests within the village. For this to work successfully we need contributions from as many readers as possible. As you can see here, these can be of a serious, flippant or humorous nature. Please contribute!

Our Church Wardens

John Radcliffe and Lyn Bibbings-Burns have served this parish as churchwardens for many years and ensured that our regular services in church have been running smoothly. BUT what do we do when we want to hold a wedding, Christening or indeed a funeral? The first stop is the vicar and then *stuff* has to happen behind the scenes to enable the rite to proceed. When our dear daughter was married in St James the Great Church here in Fulbrook, the churchwardens helped us through the whole process and made sure that the actual day was one to remember (for the best of reasons). Due to the pandemic the carol service in the church could not happen - a huge disappointment to many of us in the benefice. On this occasion the church is always packed to the gunnels with families coming together to start the festive season with due respect for the reason we celebrate Christmas. The churchwardens not only make all of the arrangements for the event but in addition they marshal it so that we can all actually be squeezed in and seated.

Most of us have needed the support of our church community in one way or another and it is the willingness of volunteers in this role that makes the church accessible to us all. There are some of our loved ones buried in the churchyard and many families take great comfort in their closeness to on-going village life - it's as though they have left us but only briefly until we join them.

Finding solace in a peaceful retreat is valued by many and our church is such a place. So, it needs to be looked after whether it's the fabric of the building, the heating or the grass cutting in the churchyard. We all appreciate this heart of our village but many of us just know and accept that it's there. We don't see the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. It is John who has been responsible for the upkeep of the church and the churchyard, lovingly attending to all of the maintenance and general upkeep. Let's not forget one of the most important of all jobs: the heating. John makes sure that it's working properly so that any users of the building, and it is our Meeting Place as well as our Church, are comfortable. On many occasions when the flower arrangers have been tending their vases John will appear to check up on some detail that needs his attention - this happens on most days. Whenever we hear the church bells, John is up there in the belfry 'keeping fit'.

From the moment that Lyn moved into the village, she was out of the starting blocks in the race to get involved in our community. As churchwarden she looks after the safeguarding of the church family and the spiritual needs of us all when necessary. She is always there to welcome the churchgoers as they arrive, all looking forward to a fulfilling service together. Rotas have to be drawn up - otherwise how would they know whose turn it is to do coffee after the service (with

biscuits). Lyn has been known to polish the beautiful parquet floor towards the back of the church on her hands and knees so that it gleams. She is responsible for much of the administration of the church, which in itself is time consuming but rewarding. When an event takes place, Lyn focuses on the organisation and delegates roles when looking for contributions. A good example of this is the Harvest lunch or the very successful suppers held to mark different occasions. We can only take advantage of the social get-togethers if they are properly staged.

Sadly, it is the intention of both John and Lyn to retire as churchwardens next year. They have made an outstanding contribution, serving our community very well and will be missed by us all. So, here's an opportunity to register an interest in this most important and prestigious role. The following extract from the Diocese of Oxford website summarises the churchwardens' responsibilities:

Churchwardens are elected annually under the provisions of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, as the senior laypeople of the parish and congregation. Their term of office is one year, and they may serve for up to six consecutive terms of office, unless the Annual Meeting passes a resolution to set aside this rule. They are the Bishop's officers, and are admitted to office each year by the Archdeacon, on behalf of the Bishop. Their first responsibility is to the Bishop, usually via the Archdeacon. They, with the parish priest, are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish.

Churchwardens are vital to the health and wellbeing of our church communities. It is an important and, at times, a demanding role.

Churchwardens should:

- care for and support the parish priest, and be people to whom the incumbent can turn to for advice and support;
- try to ensure that the incumbent is relieved of unnecessary administrative and other tasks;
- provide feedback as a 'critical friend' for the parish priest;
- care for the congregation and encourage people in their Christian faith;
- help to resolve disputes or disagreements amongst the congregation or with the parish priest, or with the local community;
- when any concerns arise, they should consult the Area Dean and/or Archdeacon;
- hold a set of keys for the church;
- attend services regularly, and normally arrive in good time to support the welcome group, be present for any refreshments and assist in tidying up after services.

During a vacancy in a parish the churchwardens, along with the Area Dean, are responsible for ensuring that worship, pastoral care and mission continues in the parish and for supporting any assistant clergy, lay ministers, staff and volunteers in the parish in their responsibilities. The way in which churchwardens exercise their office will vary from parish to parish. Due to the safeguarding responsibilities of the role, all Churchwardens are required to complete up to the Leadership level of safeguarding training with the Diocese of Oxford.

Some of the duties our churchwardens have been carrying out include:

Meetings/Trusteeships

Meeting with the vicar on a regular basis and they became members of the PCC from the moment they were elected.

Administration

The PCC adopts policies regarding various aspects of running the parish and they ensure that these are adhered to.

Finance

Ensuring that proper systems are in place for managing all of the finances of the parish.

Mission

The PCC has a mission plan and they implement its clauses.

Pastoral Care

John and Lyn care deeply about the well-being of the members of the congregation and make sure that the pastoral work of the church is carried out.

Buildings and Contents and property

John has always made the upkeep of the church a priority.

Liturgy and Worship

Making sure that there is always a minister to conduct services and that other roles required for the services to operate are appointed.

Safeguarding

Paying attention to the specific needs of parishioners and making sure that risk assessments have been carried out.

It is said that our churchwardens are the glue holding parish and church life together and I think we can all second that.

Lesley Beveridge

Not all superheroes wear capes

In the very early hours of 19th March, our lives got turned upside-down when our house in Meadow End caught fire. Luckily our 15-year-old son Max was still awake and heard what he describes as a 'bang and crackling', he got out of bed and went to investigate and was fronted with a fire that had broken out in our consumer unit just near our front door. Without a second thought he calmly but swiftly worked his way back up the stairs and woke us up, then he proceeded to help his mum to wake his 3 younger brothers to evacuate the house via the back door. As we reached the bottom of the stairs, the smoke alarms activated but at that point the house was almost fully consumed with smoke.

Once outside I realised that I didn't have a phone to call the emergency services. Luckily, Max had already thought of that and, despite the fact that smoke and fire had started to work its way through the floorboards and into his bedroom, he had picked up his mobile phone when waking up his brother and was in the process of turning it on and unlocking it for me. I used his phone to call the fire brigade as we evacuated from the garden out onto the street.

Despite the fire and smoke damage taking almost everything that we owned, we are almost certainly all still here because of Max's quick actions that night. Even the fantastic fire crew that attended on the day and the Station Manager agree that Max's swift and calm actions early that morning, almost certainly helped to save our lives and we could not be prouder or more thankful to him for that.

Ben & Sarah Ebeling (Parish Clerk) - 26 Meadow End



Fulbrook Churchyard Listed Tombs

It is probably not generally known that we have four listed Tombs in our Churchyard, one of which is the Joseph Collyer Monument which stands to the left of the church gate against the churchyard wall. Originally it stood in the Chancel of the church until put outside possibly by the Jordan family on the erection of their own memorial many years ago. Thanks to Anne Weir and the Fulbrook History Group we have a great deal of information about Joseph Collyer and his family. It is thought the tomb was erected around 1694.



We had hoped to restore all four listed tombs but we were unable to get the necessary grants to do this. However thanks to the help and generosity of Church Care and Oxford Historic Churches we now have £12,000 towards the restoration of the Joseph Collyer Memorial which will be done by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation Ltd during the summer. We are still short of £400 so would be grateful for any donations towards meeting this figure. If you would like to help please contact me John Radcliffe 01993 824044 or Tom Douglas our Treasurer 823801. Cheques should be made payable to Fulbrook Parish Church Council.

John Radcliffe (Church Warden)

Max

In September 2018 Max came to stay at our house. He had been living with Peggy Hayward for five years and everyone knew him walking around Fulbrook with Peggy, dressed in his smart red harness. Max was a bouncy dog greeting everyone, even other dogs, enthusiastically. Peggy never knew exactly how old Max was. She thought he had lived with his previous owner for about eight years. So Max must have been about 13 years old then.

As soon as he arrived he settled in well and we loved having a dog again after losing Jess. We knew that we shouldn't have had a new puppy at our age but Max was just right. Every morning he and I greeted each other and then it was time for a long walk. Peggy had bought him a cosy Max-sized bed and a great selection of food and dog leads. When our family came visiting with other dogs, he was quite the charming host. Every evening Jim gave him his last biscuit and he settled down for the night.

On Thursday the eighteenth of February when we were walking up Swinbrook Hill I noticed that Max was tired about halfway up and I was also tired so we came home. He was his usual self, following me into the garden and greeting Lynn and Dean on their return. It was only when I noticed that he had not eaten his dinner that I began to worry and then Jim saw him fall down. He wasn't able to stand and so we took turns to sit with him, stroking him until he died. We put him in his little bed covered with my old blue jumper till we buried him in the orchard near Jess.



Anne Weir

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050

This summer will establish the direction of Oxfordshire for the next generation. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will define the development strategy for the county for the next three decades, including both the quality and quantity of housing and the broad locations for growth.

Time to take action.

This is our best, and possibly only, opportunity to influence development in Oxfordshire over the next 30 years – don't miss it! Waiting until actual planning applications come forward is too late – we need your help engaging now as policy is formed, so that we can give our countryside the best chance for the future.

CPRE Oxfordshire has prepared an Oxfordshire Plan 2050 briefing, to help you engage and get involved in planning the future of Oxfordshire. Download a copy from our website here: <https://tinyurl.com/sm5dw2dk>

Local sound artists release Dawn Chorus Day 2021 recordings from the ancient Wychwood for Mental Health Awareness Week



Sound artists Richard Bentley and Loz Colbert have released immersive recordings of dawn in the historic Wychwood Forest on Dawn Chorus Day 2021, in collaboration with the Wychwood Project.

Rising at 3.30am on 2nd May, International Dawn Chorus Day, the artists travelled to Singe Wood near Hailey and Wigwell Nature Reserve in Charlbury to capture the sounds of the dawn chorus. Both sites were once part of the ancient Wychwood Forest, which covered much of West Oxfordshire.

Their recordings, which are free to stream at https://soundcloud.com/wychwood_project, provide an immersive experience of dawn at some of the area's most beautiful nature reserves, managed by the Wychwood Project.

Happy birds, happy people

Research by Dr Eleanor Ratcliffe of Surrey University has shown that listening to birdsong can be a mentally restorative experience, adding to a growing body of research demonstrating a close relationship between human wellbeing and the natural world. Lower noise pollution over the last year has sparked wider interest in birdsong, as it became more audible during lockdown.

Finch populations at Foxburrow Wood in Witney have soared since it was acquired by the Wychwood Project in 2012 and transformed from grazed field to community woodland; while bitterns recently returned to breed at RSPB's Otmoor reserve after a two-century absence from the area.

"A full-throated dawn chorus is one of nature's most miraculous sounds," notes Miranda Davies, Communications and Events Officer at the Wychwood Project. "We felt it was important to share this restorative soundscape as widely as possible because it's one of the wonders we are working to preserve and can really benefit wellbeing."

Reconnecting with nature

Recording the Dawn Chorus gave the artists a rare opportunity to get close to nature, a restorative experience.

"I was accompanied by a rather large and very curious badger, who sauntered across the bridge to see what I was up to - my closest encounter to date," notes Richard. "It was a beautiful morning for recording."

"In the dark I began to hear the sound of two deer 'barking' – one to my left and one to my right," recounts Loz. "The natural reverb that carried their sounds across the wood was incredible, and not being able to see the source of the sound made it even more powerful."

Wychwood Forest Fair

Due to a venue change, our annual Forest Fair will now take place at **Foxburrow Wood** on **Sunday 22 August**. The fair will be more open-air than in previous years and should be a great day out with lots to do. We'll be releasing more details over the coming weeks, so please check our website:

<http://www.wychwoodproject.org> or subscribe to our monthly newsletter: <https://wychwoodproject.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=377c74bed258bc1729c827649&id=330e26ea43> to stay in-the-loop.



Burford and Kingham Rotary

We were delighted to welcome Chippy Larder Founder Rizvana Poole to our Zoom meeting in May. We loved her enthusiasm and passion for this Community food waste project based in Chipping Norton.

As we come out of lockdown Rotary will be looking to collaborate with fundraising organisations by offering our help. So, we are hoping we can find ways to help with this type of project in the next few months.

On May 24th our incoming Chairman will set out plans at the Club's assembly for the coming year 2021-2022: Bringing Rotary out of lockdown. We are so looking forward to meeting face to face again. More about that next time.

Burford and Kingham Rotary are promoting the National Rotary Poster Competition for Primary Schools to Celebrate the COP26 Conference in Glasgow - Mitigating Climate Change through the eyes of children. Local primary schools should all have received Poster Packs; if you haven't and you would like to join in or hear more details about this great project, please contact jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk.

As we come out of lockdown and the new Rotary year begins with lots of exciting things in the pipe line, why not think about joining one of our Zoom meetings? If you would like to become involved with your local Rotary Club in Burford, all you have to do is email our secretary, John Smith jpw.smith@jasss.co.uk, or make contact via our web site. We will be very pleased to see you. Our meetings will be held on Zoom until the end of June. Please contact John who will send you a link. However, if you feel that Zoom is not for you, then we can contact you when we start meeting normally again.

Ros Richardson
Vice -President Elect

Burford School: 450th Anniversary Celebrations



With lockdown restrictions easing, we are delighted to be able to launch the celebrations for our 450th year. This is an exceptional milestone and places us amongst the very oldest schools in the country.

From just a handful of boys, based in what is now our Boarding House, the school has grown to its current strength of over 1450 students, with many exciting and noteworthy moments along the way - not least the inclusion of girls in 1925.

Today demand for places at Burford is extremely high and our students take great pride in attending the school. Whether you are one of our alumni, or simply a keen supporter of our historical school, we very much hope you will join us at one, or more, of the events we shall be holding in celebration of our anniversary from September.

Dates for your diary:

Alumni 450th Birthday Reunion – Saturday 9th October 2021

Christmas Music & Readings at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford – December 2021

Alumni Quiz & Curry Night – January 2022

Les Miserables Broadway Musical - March 2022

Grand Summer Ball – July 2022

Come and sing!

We are delighted to be gathering our hugely successful Community Choir together once again to perform at our Christmas evening at the Sheldonian Theatre. If you are interested in taking part (no auditions), please email Mrs Helen Jenkins BIM@burford.oxon.sch.uk and she will keep you posted with the rehearsal dates which begin in September.

www.burford.oxon.sch.uk

twitter: @burfordschool



Burford Primary School

'Respect, Aspire, Achieve'

Skipping into summer.

The children and staff at Burford Primary School welcomed Dan the Skipping Man to join them on Wednesday 5th May for a fun filled skipping morning. Each class had a session with Dan, utilising the school's fantastic outdoor space. They began by learning some basic skipping skills, games and tricks to help build their confidence before some had a go with the multiple skipping ropes.

The children had a brilliant day developing skills in the perfect socially distanced activity. Dan was really knowledgeable and supportive and encouraged those who were reluctant to have a go.

The skipping buzz was shared at home with parents feeding back how excited their children were about skipping and that it was great to organise a positive, fun outdoor activity!

It was great to have an activity which the whole school could be involved in during these difficult times. We really value the importance of outdoor learning at Burford Primary School, and it was wonderful to be able to help to inspire our children to be active and healthy.



Adam Clark
Headteacher

BURFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

HEAR FROM LEADING WRITERS & THINKERS

We are delighted to bring you a new festival for 2021. Burford Literary Festival has been created by Kim Harvey, self-confessed book-worm and owner of The Madhatter Bookshop on Burford High Street.

Burford Literary Festival sets out to bring the community of residents and visitors together through an inspiring programme of events with

over 40 authors covering a wide range of topics and genres including history, politics, the natural world, poets, pioneers, innovators and of course children's literature.

Talks, presentations and workshops will take place throughout the long weekend of 23rd-27th September where you can meet the finest writers in a magnificent setting.

Our full programme will be announced shortly at www.burfordlitfest.co.uk where you can register to be the first to get access to tickets for all the events.



Reading Shaped My Dreams and More Reading Helped Me Make My Dreams Come True

Ruth Bader Ginsberg



Looking forward to the Burford Festival 2022

Save the date: June 10-19 2022.

Very sadly we have decided that Burford Unlocked, the 3 day event we were hoping to organise in June this year, will have to go the way of the Glastonbury Festival and Britain's got Talent 2021. In the end the continuing uncertainties over when lockdown restrictions would end, difficulties in booking speakers, potential financial risks and most importantly the safety of everyone involved left us no choice but to cancel the event.

However, this does mean that we can now focus all our efforts on organising a full 10 day festival in 2022. Many of the events we were hoping to stage this year can be rolled forward. Of course, that still leaves lots of gaps in our tentative programme so the Organising Committee are very keen to receive your suggestions for acts, speakers, artists, and activities covering as wide a spectrum of interest, age and budget as possible. Please send suggestions to chairman@burfordfestival.org. Similarly we would love to hear from anyone who would like to help with running an event or joining the committee.

Bill Risebero, Chair, Organising Committee

WELCOME PACKS

If you know of someone who has moved into the village and would like to receive copies of the Fulbrook Village and Burford and District WELCOME PACKS, please could you let me know either by phone on 01993 823260 or by email to nicolahillmanart@yahoo.co.uk. Thank you.

Nicola Hillman



NEWS FROM FULBROOK CHURCH

and a Warm Welcome to All

WELCOME BACK to regular Church services in Fulbrook. We are open for a 9.30am service every Sunday and you will receive a warm welcome whether you are a regular congregant from the village, join us occasionally, have never been before or are a visitor to the area. The COVID regulations still don't allow us to sing during the services but we shall start singing again as soon as we are allowed to! We have been extremely fortunate to have Jo Glyde and Victoria Marsh who have sometimes sung for us, but we are looking forward to congregational singing as soon as possible so please start practising your singing in the shower!

It has been a strange year of changing restrictions but we are hoping to be able to re-introduce our fellowship activities in the coming weeks. We shall soon again be offering coffee and chat after our services and are planning some events to share time and fun together when the weather is better and we can also sit outside. Watch out for news of these and something new: a Saturday cafe - come and meet others for chat and company with coffee, lunches and afternoon teas for sale; and something we have enjoyed before: a Saint's day supper to celebrate St James the Great's anniversary at the end of July. Look out for posters and notices on the notice boards for these. As you can imagine we have a close eye on the Government and Church guidance about when we can loosen our restrictions and will do so as it becomes possible to do so.

In the meantime we are still sanitising our hands, wearing masks and social distancing so let's look forward to a summer together!

Besom Box collections

We have been regularly collecting non- perishable food items for Besom in Witney - a Christian charity that provides emergency food parcels for those in need in the Witney and surrounding area. We also raised money for them at a Lent Lunch on the first Sunday of Lent last year, and they are our local charity that the Church supported last year, donating £1000 from Church income. We shall continue to leave the donation box outside the church door - which will be regularly emptied to take to Witney to continue our support for those in need during these very difficult times. **Please donate any non- perishable food items if you can - with grateful thanks.**

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to call one of the Churchwardens - Lyn Bibbings Burns on 01993 823640 or 07941 26955 or John Radcliffe on 01993 824044

A SINCERE THANK YOU FROM THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The Editorial Committee would like to thank Anne and Jim Weir for their very generous and totally unsolicited donation of £100 to the Fulbrook Newsletter, which will help us to meet our outgoings for the rest of 2021.

If any other readers would like to donate to the Newsletter, please send a payment directly to our TSB account, sort code 30-91-43, account number 00074712 using your name and Donation as the reference or send a cheque or cash to the Treasurer at Meadow Way Cottage, Meadow Lane, Fulbrook, Burford OX18 4BS.



NEWS FROM THE FULBROOK MEETING PLACE

The Fulbrook Meeting Place is the back half of the Church, our village hall, but is currently closed due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Regular events which will resume when the restrictions are lifted – everyone is very welcome to come to all of these.

**** Keep Fit Group** A lively **weekly** group that meets to exercise with music at 9 – 10 am every Thursday. Led by Pat Ferret, it is £3 a session – and a lot of fun as well as being good for you!

**** Coffee morning at 10.30am** on the **4th Thursday each month**, with conversation, coffee and delicious biscuits – just turn up for a warm welcome. £1 donation.

**** Fulbrook Forum – 1st Thursday of every month at 3pm**, speakers, discussion and tea - just turn up for a warm welcome - £2 donation.

**** Quiet prayer every Monday** at the back of the Church at 5.30pm.

The Fulbrook Meeting Place is our village hall and as such is available for hire, subject to conditions, at a very reasonable rate. If you are interested in hiring the FMP for a meeting, afternoon get-together or a family party, please contact our Booking Clerk, Lyn Bibbings Burns on 823640 or e-mail lynbibbings1@gmail.com.



BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

Introducing our new website

Now, all you will ever need to know about our Programme of Events for the year, who we are, what we do and how you can join and benefit from being a member, can be seen on our new site.

There are many new features including our latest news ('blogs' for the millennials), a new Gallery featuring photos of previous events, (are you on any of them?), even the last annual reports and accounts for those groupies for whom our annual AGM is one of the highlights of their year.

But that's not all, the new website incorporates facilities to register and pay for any events that need to be booked in advance and also to renew existing membership fees. Additionally anyone can now register to receive the free monthly Burford & District e-Newsletter and join our mailing list, and if you are new to Fulbrook, you can also request your own copy of a 'Living in Burford & District Pack'.

As if all the above was not enough, you can now download a free 'How to use Zoom' guide, and enjoy the links to over 30 local societies and organisations. It's all now there for you to discover and enjoy on <https://www.burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk>

Next Meeting, Tuesday 15th June. Annual garden Party 3 – 5pm

Our annual members only, Garden Party, is being held in the beautiful garden of Greyhounds in Sheep Street, courtesy of Michael Taubenheim and Christopher Moore .

This event will definitely take place, (regardless of the weather), because if necessary alternative covered facilities are available for all. Pre-registration, by simply clicking the button on our new website, is requested to assist us with the catering arrangements.

If you would like to join us that day, and you are not a member, there is still time to join. The annual membership fee is £10 and an Application Form can be downloaded from our new website.

Peter Martin, Chairman

peteremartin@btinternet.com



BURFORD ARCHIVE

WORK HAS COMMENCED. The building conversion work by Pethers of Burford started on the 10th May. This is thanks to the generosity of the donations and grants we have received to date. Our next goal is to raise the funds for all the additional work required plus the cost of the fitting out and buying the equipment required.

SPONSOR A ROOF TILE. Our invitation for you to dedicate a slate to be fitted to the roof of the new Burford Archive, to a family member or a friend, has got off to an excellent start. Inscriptions will be added with a permanent marker to the back of each slate, (i.e. on the inner side which will not be open to the elements) to enable them to become a wonderful 'forever memento or gift'.

All subscribers will be sent a digital photograph of their inscribed slate(s) to keep or share with those they have mentioned. But that's not all, a copy of all the images will be retained for perpetuity in the Archive records for future generations to discover.

The cost : One tile £10, Two tiles £15. Three tiles £20

This offer will only be available for another few weeks, before the work commences on the roof. To arrange, your dedication, please contact David Cohen cohen4sp@btinternet.com or tel 07899 837 482 The information we require is (1) your name, (2) your short message or dedication, for each tile, of no more than 8 words.

DIARY DATE FOR DONORS TO THE ARCHIVE Please keep 6 -8pm on **Friday 30th July** clear in your diary to join us for a special event to not only celebrate the progress we have made with our fundraising but also to hear our exciting future plans.

David Cohen 07899 837482

Here's the latest recipe from our resident chef Peter Burns:

Chocolate and cherry tarts

These spectacular luxurious tarts are just the ticket for a fancy afternoon tea (after the post-pandemic hugs have been dealt with). The recipe seems quite complicated but isn't; trust me. You can even make the pastry and compote the day before. There are three major components which coalesce to form a memorable treat.

1) Hazelnut pastry

- 150g plain flour
- 50 ground hazelnuts
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch salt
- 100g cubed cold butter
- 25g icing sugar
- 1 egg

Method

- Put the dry ingredients in the bowl of a food processor and whizz round for about 30 seconds.
- Add the cold cubed butter and pulse until it becomes a breadcrumb like texture
- Add the egg and pulse until it all comes together
- Tip out and form into a flattened ball. Clingfilm tightly and fridge it for at least an hour

2) Hazelnut ganache

- 75ml single cream
- 100g dark chocolate (broken up)
- 75g milk chocolate (broken up)
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 50g hazelnut butter

Method

- Tip all the ingredients into a heatproof bowl and set it over a pan of barely simmering water
- Stir gently and constantly to make a silky smooth mixture
- Let it cool a bit then transfer into a piping bag until ready for use

3) Cherry compote (makes a whole batch)

- 175ml red wine
- Juice and peeled zest of a large orange
- The aromats (1 bay leaf/ 1 cinnamon stick/ ½ split vanilla pod/ 2 star anise)
- 30g caster sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornflour
- 1 shot of Kirsch, vodka, or sherry
- 1 can dark cherries in syrup (drained well and patted dry)

Method

- Put the red wine, aromats, orange juice/ peel and sugar in a pan together with the juice from the can of cherries
- Bring to the boil and simmer gently until reduced by about half
- Strain the contents into a clean jug (use a J Cloth in the sieve if needed) return the clear liquid to the pan
- Mix the cornflour with the alcohol of your choice until it is a smooth runny paste
- Carefully add into the simmering liquid until it thickens nicely and the cornflour is fully cooked out

- Add the cherries and mix it about a bit until the fruit is very slightly broken up
- Place in a jar with a lid and it will last for up to a week (what you don't use in the recipe can be eaten with plain yoghurt as a dessert)

Making the tarts

- Roll out the pastry quite thinly either using flour or two sheets of clingfilm and cut twelve discs. Press them gently into tart tins. Cut some baking foil of a size that will facilitate blind baking. Rest these in the fridge for twenty minutes and bake at 185 for about ten minutes, take them out of the oven, remove the foil and pop them back in for two minutes to finish off...
- Put a tablespoon of cherry compote in each tart case
- Pipe on the ganache and garnish either with chocolate shards, a fresh cherry, or chopped pistachios (something that will make them pretty!

Hey presto! They're ready to serve...

Extras

The recipe is the official one from Will Torren's book of afternoon teas. However, when I made them, I put the ganache in first and the thickened compote as a garnish sitting on the top. Also, and controversially, I made a single flan (plus a few boat shaped ones) rather than individual tarts (shock, horror). I'm not sure which one will work best for you but have fun trying



Carpenters Arms

FOOD SERVING TIMES

Mondays – closed
(except bank holidays)

Tuesday – Friday
Lunch 12 - 2.30pm
Dinner 6 - 9pm

Saturday 12 - 9pm

Sunday 12 - 5pm

Fulbrook’s local family friendly pub run by Siobhan, Tom and Ryan.

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