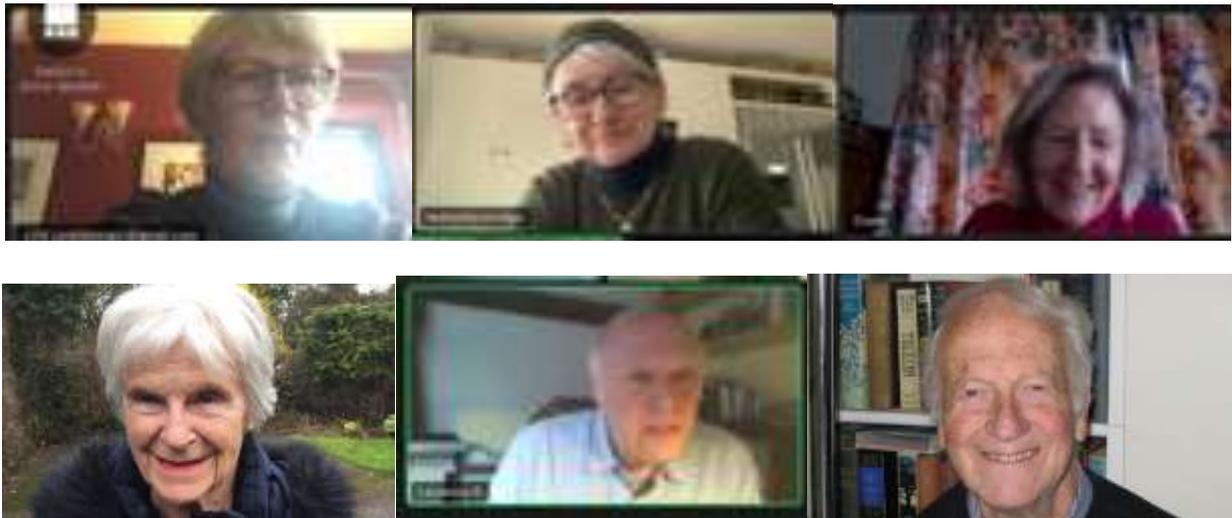


The Fulbrook News

Our Quarterly Newsletter

March 2021

Number 84



The editorial committee thought that those readers who know us only by the names in the box at the foot of page 2 might like to be able to put faces to our names, so here we are at our Zoom meeting to plan the current issue, clockwise from top left: Lyn Bibbings Burns, Lesley Beveridge, Diana Brown, David Foster, Laurence Balbes and Jenny Jones

A note from the Editorial Committee

Many of our regular contributors still have nothing to send us due to coronavirus so this issue again looks rather different from usual. Please bear with us until the situation returns to some sort of normality.

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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The Fulbrook News is distributed free to every household in the village. Subscription copies are available by post at £5.00 per annum from the distribution office at Dolphin House, Westhall Hill, OX18 4BJ

Dear Readers,

The good news is that the Covid vaccinations are coming along well and the Government's target for the top four priority groups was met by February 15th; now the over 60s can look forward to invitations to receive their vaccinations. I had mine done at Carterton Surgery and I must admit it was extremely efficiently arranged and a huge relief to have had it although, of course, one must still be careful.

Despite the freezing weather in the second week of February, we can also count ourselves lucky to have escaped The Beast from the East (Mk 2). The snowdrops and aconites are putting on a good show and the crocuses are trying. However, a few weeks back we had some black ice on Westhall Hill and poor Martin Vessey slipped and had a nasty fall giving him a "U" shaped fracture of his sacrum as well as a pelvic fracture. He is mending slowly and hopes to be out with Posie, his devoted dog, in a couple of months' time. This is a lesson to us all to be careful when there's ice about. The trouble with the black ice is that it is so difficult to see.

Sadly we have lost a much loved member of our community, Christopher Rose. He had been ill for some time, and our thoughts and sympathy go out to Wendy. Many people stood at the roadside to pay their respects as the cortege drove by to the funeral in Fulbrook Church. See his obituary on page 10. Our sympathies are also with Richard Marsh whose mother has just died. For those who remember Andrew Aitken who lived at Cotters Bow for a while before moving to Leeds, the news is not good. He is in palliative care with throat cancer and is extremely ill.

We must now say goodbye to Joan Lilly who moved to Oxford on 20th February. She will be missed and we wish her well. She has left us a wonderful legacy of wild flowers which she painstakingly planted along our verges and footpaths. Now we welcome Robin and Sue Campbell who have moved into Windrush End. They have a golden retriever called Chloe and two sons who live in Oxford and we hope they will be happy here in Fulbrook.

Lucy Staveley's tree planting agenda is going from strength to strength as you will see from her article on page 13. Also the campaign to save the Windrush from pollution is beginning to bite – see Victoria Marsh's article on page 11.

We extend our thanks to Lyn Bibbings Burns and Sarah Ebeling for their helpful, informative and encouraging e-mail newsletters. Thank you for going to so much effort on our behalf. We are still looking for a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator now that Jim MacAllan has retired from the role. Let us hope that someone out there is prepared to follow in Jim's very capable shoes as guardian of the village. He did a wonderful job and it was very good to know someone was there to get in touch with should one have any worries, from scams to break-ins; he was always ready to help.

Jenny Jones has suggested some good reads which she found inspiring and uplifting in these strange times: Captain Tom Moore, Prince Philip's biography and our own Brian Kay's "Music, My Life". With the weather being so cold and wet and not being able to get out into the garden I can think of nothing better than settling down to a good book and Fish and Chips from the Carpenter's Arms!

Diana Brown

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from young Samuel Staveley. Spending money in our local area helps everyone keep going.

Finally, we are looking to recruit one more parish councillor, so if you think you can be of service please do drop a line to Sarah our parish clerk!

With best wishes to all

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

Peter Burns, Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

FROM THE PARISH CLERK

FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council continues to wish you well during these challenging times. At the time of writing, we are still in 'lockdown' but the vaccine rollout seems to be providing some very bright light at the end of a very dark tunnel. Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy a summer of normality (but in the meantime, please do keep up to speed with the latest government health advice). Our Parish Council meetings continue to be mediated through Zoom ensuring our responsibilities to you are met.

Please be aware that you are not only invited, but encouraged to join in as observers to our parish council Zoom meetings. For dates and details please contact our parish clerk on clerk@fulbrookvillage.net.

Discussions indicate that the following two items generated most interest going forward:

1. The children's playground in Meadow End is in need of some refurbishment and possibly rethinking. Any suggestions (via email to the Parish Clerk) would be most welcome.
2. Regarding speeding in the village, we will be going ahead with installing an additional vehicle activated speed indicator on the A361 somewhere near to the Meadow End side of the village. Research seems to suggest that such cameras are effective in reducing speeding.

As a village, we seem to be doing well in supporting our local businesses ranging from the Carpenter's to Rusty Relics, Wellness (Ursula continues her classes on line) and the latest start up: newspaper deliveries

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 he reminded us in the December 2020 issue, after 11 years of being the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Fulbrook, Jim MacAllan stepped down from the role at the end of December.

The village really needs someone to take over these important responsibilities and Jim will gladly show the ropes to anyone who would be willing to step up.

Please contact Jim at jimmacallan@aol.com if you would like to know more about what the role entails.

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

Second sight

It may be just a consequence
Of failing sight with age, when
Sometimes I catch a glimpse around
The very edge of vision.

And see, or think I see perhaps.
(As though a screen has shifted)
A little bit beyond the maps
Of this world, to the next.

No furnaces nor angels there
But just a hint of fear
Unknown, maybe unknowable,
But very very near.

John Hoyle

Hooray for the kindness of neighbours

The Marsh family wish to thank everyone in the village and beyond, as far as Swinbrook, Burford and Taynton, who responded so quickly to our SOS call on Thursday 11th February.

We lost sight of Minnie, our puppy, from our garden at midday or so, and found that a delivery driver had left our gate open when he left, so assumed she had run out and down the lane and over the hills and far away. Terrifying.

But the response, which was immediate from all whom we told, was amazing and within 20 minutes, messages on WhatsApp, Facebook, the email from the Parish Clerk (Sarah, thank you!) appeared, all generated by friendly neighbours doing their best and trying to find her, as well as driving the lanes with treats in pockets in case they came across her. It was action stations and eventually she was found hours later by our nearest neighbour, John Hanney. The Carpenters Arms also played their wonderful part and let us put up a poster and rang to see if all was well later.

Medals all round for being the most generous village, it was a wonderfully kind response.

Thank you everyone.

The Village Network

When Gavin suffered a sudden heart attack in late October our family was thrown into disarray and shock, to say the least. The messages and gestures from many in the village were much appreciated and throughout the hospital stay and his operation I felt that I was not alone. Some callers apologised for 'bothering me' but actually their interest and concern were most welcome. So, a huge thank you to everyone for being there.

I can report that he is making good progress and well on the way to recovery.

Lesley Beveridge

Fulbrook News and Views

From the Editorial Team.....

In this issue we include an obituary to a much loved and respected member of our community, news from the Burford and District Society, the Burford Festival and the Burford Archive, a message from our local MP Robert Courts 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 Shopkeepers

A walk down to Burford at the moment is an absolute joy! Most of all because we meet people, albeit socially distanced, either in the shops or on the way. We realise how important it is to be able to converse and indeed shop. The businesses in Burford have undoubtedly been hit by this pandemic, but in fact those that have been allowed to remain open have given us a lifeline at this incredibly difficult time.

Our shopkeepers have all appreciated the local support so here are some **Conversations with.....**

Reavley's, The Chemist

The team: Jean, Jane, Sarah, Alison (Manager and pharmacist), Dawn (pharmacist), Trudie (pharmacist), Becky (dispenser), Madison (dispenser) and last but definitely not least, Cedric, who stands in to cover when required.



The ladies all feel comfortable in the shop with the new screens, which allow them to continue a friendly relationship with the customers. They enjoy interacting with the lovely regular local people who like to chat or even have a moan, which we've all been guilty of lately - quite right too! They feel very fortunate to be able to work at a time when most of us have to stay at home and they provide a much needed medications resource. There are 3 pharmacists and 2 dispensers.

The shop opens 7 days a week, which puts pressure on the staff to work different days, some of the team are part time and they have their scheduled working hours. They do need to be flexible so that the needs of the pharmacy can be met. This is where Cedric helps as a trusty backup and he is very much a part of this well-oiled and cooperative team. The pharmacy has expressed an interest in dispensing the COVID-19 vaccination in the future.

On days off they catch up on housework and some are required to address the home-schooling effort! The saying 'no peace for the wicked' springs to mind!

The Cotswold Cheese Company

Jan is the owner of the franchise of The Cotswold Cheese Company in Burford and she has two other members of her team: Jacquie and Noosh. It has been 5 years since Jan took on the business and during that time she has considerably broadened the range of products on sale. This is one of 3 Cotswold Cheese shops and Jan is mindful to be true to the style they all project, although she has the autonomy to expand.

There are definite advantages of stocking local produce wherever possible and this translates to lots of interest from her customers, especially where tourists are concerned. Brexit has certainly affected some of the cheeses from abroad owing to supply and pricing changes, but for the most part she stocks British cheeses. She is very grateful to her lovely locals for their support.

Besides her local cheeses she displays a varied number of local beers, liqueurs and spirits - the Gibson's Raspberry is my personal favourite. The pottery section in the shop is a riot of colour with bowls, jugs and various accessories. This line is very popular during the summer months.



Jan describes the pandemic as a bizarre situation for us all and she took the decision to close at the beginning of the first lockdown, feeling that people like to browse and would therefore be at risk in such a confined space. Since then she has organised a very smart system of screens and all parts of the shop are accessible with a clearly defined route to the counter. She is making sure that customers and staff are kept as safe as possible. The screens are sympathetic and the ethos of the shop is preserved.

She and her husband have 2 sons living in Australia and a daughter at home. Due to the pandemic she had two planned visits cancelled - but, as she says, it is what it is. Days off are spent at home in Chipping Campden and out walking the dogs: a Golden Retriever and the daughter's British Bulldog (she likened the pair to Beauty and the Beast!).

Finally, when asked about her favourite cheese she prefers the traditional ranges of Caerphilly or Wensleydale. Also two new local products, Moreton and Chedworth, are particularly good.

The Bakery on the Hill

Annabelle Rose Williams lives in Sarsden and works in the bakery part time serving behind the counter and waitressing in the cafe when it is open. She splits her time between Burford and the other shop, The Bakery on the Water, in Bourton. She describes this job as her favourite one ever and she bravely said that it has saved her mental health. Many young people are struggling at the moment and Annabelle is delighted to be out of the 'very dark place of last year'. The team she says is great and they believe in her, which has boosted her confidence. So, Clare and Graham own the business but the team consists of: Matt, Cat, Veronica, Richard, Keary, Clare M and Caitlin.



She loves meeting the locals who regularly come in, some especially for the speciality breads and pastries: Cotswold Ale bread on Wednesdays is very popular. Customers call to order and they can sell out by 11am. The bakers are up at 3am (they live in Oxford and Gloucester) and start baking at 5am - each batch takes 2 hours.

After studying Fashion Illustration at university, Annabelle now spends most of her time off as a graphic illustrator and exhibits and sells her work. She's had 11 jobs in her young life and this one she says is the very best of the best!

The Burford Farm Shop

Graham has worked in the Burford shop for 25 years, and before that in the Tetbury branch of the company. There are 6 shops in all: 3 branches in Cirencester, Northleach, Tetbury and Burford. Here in Burford branch there are teams of 3 staff working in 2 bubbles.

The Burford branch expanded to incorporate the farm shop about 2 years ago and the aromas of hot sausage rolls and pies drifts into the street enticing us in. This has resulted in a smaller butchery and nowadays the freshly made sausages are delivered from the Cirencester branch. The addition of the aged Angus beef cabinet is a fitting backdrop to the butcher's counter. All of the beef is supplied by Millers of Speyside. Although business is quiet at the moment people come in mostly on Fridays and Saturdays to buy the celebrated joint for the weekend and stock up as well. Graham's favourite meal is the Sunday roast with all of its trimmings. He says it's a good way to get the family together.

Graham and his wife, Debbie, have a son and a daughter, both in their late twenties. He transferred to the Burford branch after the first child was born and the family home is in Northleach. Their son has been trying to arrange his wedding and the latest date is set for September when the two will be married at Aldsworth Church followed by a reception at The Bay Tree - fingers crossed it will be allowed to go ahead. Many days off are spent in the garden - Debbie is a keen gardener and Graham gets plenty of jobs to do! Gardening is one way to keep fit, but the other much more pressing activity is walking the dog - a Welsh Terrier (although Graham says that the dog takes him).



Burford Farm Shop is now very popular with locals and, when allowed, tourists. One of the reviews online comments 'It's the best sausage roll I've ever had'.

The Co-op

I know that many members of the Fulbrook community use the Coop on a regular basis and even more so at the moment. It provides many of us with our regular essential items of food and other needs. I spoke to Lottie who is the Team Manager working under the Branch Manager, Sam. The team is 15 strong and the full-timers work an 8½ hour shift. Lottie and Andrew, from Fulbrook, posed for this photo in the shop's rear access where most of the deliveries are made and collected. Work has its hazards as can be seen from Lottie's bandaged hand - it became trapped as she tried to rescue a slipping bottle of beer - well caught!



Lottie was keen to point out that they do try to stock many local products, or British home grown, and that this branch offers the widest range of produce and sells the most items of all of the surrounding branch stores. There have been no stock shortages and they remain as busy as ever. Certainly an essential journey for most to make.

Lockdown has added extra pressure for the staff as they must at all times maintain social distancing without inconveniencing the customers. In busy periods a member of staff monitors the number of shoppers to ensure everyone's safety - this means a maximum of 10 customers at any one time. According to Lottie it's a balancing act between the rules and needs - they are very customer focussed, but always encourage people to do the right thing. Some customers have been very grateful for home deliveries.

Lottie lives in Fairford and is fond of "A quiet life". She likes walking with her two dogs, Bella and Narla. Like many of us she hasn't dressed up for a year, but did put on some make-up for a FaceTime session with some girlfriends over a cocktail - it all counts as fun at the moment.

Mrs Bumbles & The Post Office

For the past few weeks we have had the pleasure of the return of our Post Office and what a welcome gesture from all involved with its resurrection. Last April when local people learnt of the closure of the Post Office in Burford, Sally and Steve set to work - work being the operative word - to take it on together with providing a newsagents. It has been an uphill struggle to get it going but they have triumphed with the help of some local benefactors helping to crowd fund the considerable costs that the Post Office insisted upon. One very instrumental person in all this is Paul Miller, of Fulbrook, and Sally, Steve and Lesley, all pictured here, commend him most sincerely for his efforts.

Lesley runs our Post Office and there were 4 large PO bags waiting for collection at the time of our chat - testament to the need for it! Sally has been deemed suitable to embark on a training course to become our Post Mistress when it relocates and it will open 7 days a week from 7am to 5:30pm.



Moving down here from Longridge, Lancs some 11 years ago Lesley happened upon the PO when it was on the High St - "That's the kind of place where I want work" she said to her husband. Well, the rest is history and now we have her back doing the job she loves. The best bit is meeting the customers and being part of what she describes as the hub of the community. She and her husband live in Carterton and enjoy life 'down south'. Actually her Dad was born in Oxfordshire.

The lockdowns have all proved very busy for Lesley and she likened last March at the PO to Christmas. This is largely due to online shopping and the inevitable returns that people make. She is very happy with the way things are progressing and she says "The busier the better".

Mrs Bumbles was taken on by Sally and Steve 7 years ago after Sally retired from teaching. She is a trained Cordon Bleu chef and a qualified teacher of Food Technology so this was a great challenge for her to take on. She says that Steve takes care of the paperwork and she runs the shop and catering. Sally is very keen to promote and use local suppliers for the fruit and vegetables wherever possible creating a wide variety of produce. The outside display makes a colourful and cheery addition to the High Street.



Meal deliveries began with the Time Out sessions at the Warwick Hall. Each Monday, John Harrington, Sue Chandler and Jess Whitman developed and ran activity sessions for anyone in the community wishing to take part. It was very popular and Sally at Mrs Bumbles catered to provide lunches. Clearly the pandemic has put paid to that for the time being, but Sally then cooked lunches to order for local people, particularly those needing to shield. Indeed the Sunday lunches are still very popular and she delivers to a 10 mile radius.

The new venture is the newsagents which will open in the next door property once the various legal matters have been settled. Steve has already completed the agreement with W H Smith for the supply of newspapers. Hopefully, the new shop will be open for business in April with the Post Office taking its rightful place.

Sally has two daughters and a son. Daughter Nicola and granddaughter River live in Australia, whilst Claire is in Dubai and expecting a baby in June. Sally's son lives in London. Steve has 3 daughters to date and 7 grandchildren with another due in May. They celebrated Claire's wedding in Sri Lanka last February.

Sally's favourite part of the job is meeting customers and a recent visit from David Beckham and another from Ellie Goulding put Mrs Bumbles on the social media map, which Sally pointed out "Is all good for business". There lots of plans for the future afoot, which we await with bated breath.

Lynwood & Co Cafe

I had quite a job getting this piece about Niall at Lynwood & Co due to a steady stream of regular customers, which was good to see.



Niall travels in from Cheltenham 4 days a week to run the shop and cafe and his colleague Olivia comes in at the weekend. The Manager is Danni. The production kitchen is now based in Carterton and all of the produce is delivered each day before Niall starts work at 7:15am, ready for the 8am opening.

Flat white is the most popular coffee and the carrot cake goes down extremely well, whilst the sourdough is a real speciality. The playlist Rare Grooves was playing when I finally caught up with Niall, which he had selected for the day and it lent real atmosphere to the place.

Days off concentrate on taking Niall's 2 black labradors for walks.

Compilation by Lesley Beveridge

Obituary, Christopher Rose

Christopher and Wendy came to Fulbrook in 1989 and Christopher played a full part in the life of the village. We should like very much to recognise his contributions to social and spiritual life here, his skills and his character. He has been described by a friend as 'effortlessly stylish, whatever the season' and by another as 'a striking figure, a ready smile and a wicked, utterly infectious, sense of humour'.

Christopher was dearly loved, respected and valued; he was a man of diverse interests and passions, he devoted himself to his painting, dealing in antiques, restoring almshouses in Brighton, directed a theatre production of 'O what a lovely War' in Dulverton and loved music, film, theatre, vintage cars, tennis and badminton, and most of all, his family and his dogs.

Christopher was born and grew up in Oxford, and went to school at Wycliffe College in Stonehouse, Glos. He went on to Bath Academy and then on to St Martin's, London, to study Art and then lived in Brighton and Dulverton, eventually returning to Oxfordshire to set up the Cotswold Antiques Centre in Stow-on-the-Wold in 1986 which he ran until 1994.

He met Wendy, and they married in Stow Church in 1987, moving to Shipton Downs Farm in 1989. He rented an art studio in Burford and went on to have an exhibition of his works at St David's Hall in Cardiff in 1993.

Amongst all these activities he had a rare gift for developing friendships, many of which lasted a lifetime. He, with Molly Woolley, Diana Brazier and the late Chris Radcliffe, founded the Fulbrook Fellowship and he went on to Chair it for 15 years until 2016, ably supported by Helen Hyslop, Committee Secretary for many years, organising interesting monthly talks and as a meeting and discussion place for anyone in the village who wanted to come. He loved the community here and the Cotswold countryside which he sought for quiet contemplation and renewal.

The church was an important part of his life and the church here in Fulbrook nurtured his faith journey which was vital to him. There were some aspects of that journey with which he struggled. He wore his heart on his sleeve, unfailingly kind to others and aware of the quirky, less than perfect parts of himself. He contributed to church life as a member of the Parochial Church Council for two terms of office, as a reader and intercessor for many years and as a member of the Benefice Choir for 10 years. Music remained an important part of his life.

He did not seem to change. Despite the cognitive issues that caused him such frustration in his last decade, when he described his memory as 'shot to pieces', he remained the same person, kind and gracious. His last illness lasted a year, and Wendy nursed him devotedly throughout.

Christopher Rose

Born Oxford, 2nd August 1935

Died Fulbrook 10th January 2021



Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP)

WASP has been very busy on many fronts over many months, lockdown notwithstanding! You may have seen some headlines and articles in the local press as well as nationally in The Guardian and The Times this last autumn, highlighting that government figures have themselves revealed that “Every river in England is polluted” (The Independent, 17th September 2020). Other leaders have been entitled, “Rivers of Shame” and “River Rats” (The Times, 30th October).

Since Ashley Smith gave a briefing at the Fulbrook Forum a year or so ago we have begun to find strong traction with other river groups and national charities, such as Surfers Against Sewage, who are also exposing the frequency and volume of untreated sewage spilling by the water companies and begun to make their own investigations too and to raise awareness nationally, up and down the country.

Our group seeks to uncover the truth about the frequency of untreated sewage spilling into the Windrush and other tributaries of the Thames (which is joined at Newbridge) and alert the Environment Agency and galvanise it to take enforcement action where this is clearly doing environmental damage. In spite of local MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (MP for The Cotswolds) asking questions of the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, to date it has appeared that the guardian of the environment has been turning a blind eye to the matters which are raised in the arena of sewage pollution, or at least is so straitened financially that it cannot spread itself across its regulatory remit effectively enough to stop this behaviour and require the water companies to follow strictly the terms of the permits they operate under for each Sewage treatment works or Sewage Pumping Station. You may have heard Emma Howard Boyd (the Chairman of the Environment Agency) on Women’s Hour last October, bemoaning that “*you get the environment you pay for*”. We don’t think this is an excuse. We are also concerned by various indications that the water companies are the “tail wagging the dog” in this regard and that it is no coincidence that a senior executive at the Environment Agency left to join a water company (Southern Water) which is under criminal investigation by the watchdog.

Most recently, the Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, has published a Private Members’ Bill which was designed to tackle river pollution from untreated sewage and improve water quality. In 2019, raw sewage was discharged into rivers across England and Wales for over 1.5 million hours, compromising these vital habitats for wildlife and endangering the health of people who use our rivers for recreation, dog walking, wild swimming, paddling, fishing and the like.

While the government has committed to restoring at least three quarters of our waters to their natural state, we are a long way from that with fewer than one in six of our rivers in good health. This threatens the aquatic life and iconic species that rely on these precious habitats, such as freshwater fish, kingfishers, otters and dippers. The Bill placed a duty on water companies to ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers and proposed measures to upgrade urban drainage infrastructure to separate household sewage from surface water drainage, helping therefore to reduce the risk of overflows.

Unfortunately, the Second reading of the Bill in the House had to be postponed because of Covid restrictions, although there was cross party support for it and it seems the Government is behind its aims. It has yet to be seen if it is truly realistic that it can pass into law before the summer recess. It seems unlikely to us. DEFRA have, however, appeared to respond to the clamour for change which is now coming from across the country by setting up the Storm Discharges Taskforce although we are not yet aware they will compel the water companies to cease this practice and to invest in their infrastructure. Terms of reference are not yet published. Environment minister Rebecca Pow MP and Robert Courts MP seem to be in support.

However, the latest ray of sunlight is that the same MP, Philip Dunne, who brought the Bill, is Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee. The Committee has launched a public inquiry into water quality in our rivers and called for evidence to be submitted so that panel interviews can be held and a report made, with recommendations to the government before the summer recess.

Any queries or contributions please get in touch with us at WASP.

Victoria Marsh

Snowdog

On looking out of the window on the morning of 18th December, the ground was covered in snow. This prompted Pauline and I stay in bed with another cup of coffee! On rising later we found this snowdog outside our front door courtesy of Skyler Lee!



A most pleasing find which brought a welcome smile to us at a not very cheerful time. The high atmospheric pressure and the low temperatures meant snowdog survived until 7th January due to sublimation.

Bob Warner

Living with Lockdown in 2021

Where to start?

There are pros and cons to enduring this current lockdown during the depressing months of January and February; lamps are lit, blinds are drawn, the wood burner is blazing away, G & T or glass of wine poured with dinner on a tray and either catch-up or Netflix for company.

On paper it doesn't sound so bad, but it's very lonely. Missing the family and no friends round for supper. It's too cold for gardening or going for lengthy walks. There can be no drinks or meals out and socialising is down to a bare minimum (only a bubble for which I'm very grateful), perhaps a masked chat if we 'bump' into a friend in Burford!

The first lockdown, though lengthy, was infinitely more bearable: books to read, many happy hours spent in the garden with flowers and birdsong. There were long walks, coffee mornings in Upper End and our cocktails on Sunday evenings - we diligently followed socially distancing rules.

BUT, there is a light at the end of the tunnel - **vaccinations** and the prospect of meeting up with families and friends after so very long.

Cathy Mardon

Success for the 2020 Tree Challenge!

I'm approaching the end of my 2020 tree challenge. Together with the Wychwood Project, we've been giving away trees and planting small copses and hedgerows of native trees with a vision to link up the landscape, and enhance the networks for nature. Recently, we've been working with the Blue Cross to regenerate their site and improve the natural environment for the animals there and also with the Swinbrook estate, already a haven for wildlife, to plant a shelter belt along the A361 and various smaller copses. We've had lots of local individuals planting one or more trees in their gardens, Burford School have planted heritage fruit trees, Burford Town Council planted on the Rec - it all adds up! Fingers crossed, and all things permitting, we will have exceeded our target and have planted upwards of 2200 trees by the end of March, plus a further 2000 hedging trees. Trees of course aren't the only solution to our biodiversity crisis; nature needs a variety of habitats, but in the right place they certainly help.

In spite of Covid restrictions we've managed to organise small and socially distanced planting almost every weekend since late October and many weekdays as well. It's such a lovely way of getting out into the countryside, chatting and meeting new friends, and the sense of achievement at the end of the day is immense! Do please get in touch if you'd like to know more or come along and help to plant a few trees before the end of March. No pressure whatsoever to plant lots of trees, every one in the ground is a help!



Lucy Staveley

Wednesday March 10th AGM (10.30) and Lecture (11am) via Zoom

Understanding Egyptian Art: Wall Reliefs and Murals

With Eileen Goulding

Egypt has a wealth of artefacts dated to its ancient past that today can be classified as art. This lecture examines one genre, the magnificent representational art displayed in the wall reliefs and paintings found in their tombs, drawing on examples from the Old, Middle and New Kingdom Periods. It identifies the techniques, materials and different styles used and demonstrates its progression through the millennia to demonstrate how their accomplished artisans achieved the beautiful artworks we can still see today, more than 3,000 years after the burial tombs were sealed.

About our speaker:

Eileen has an MA from the Department of Archaeology at the University of London, is a published author and an authority on the ancient cultures of the world. She specialises in the History, Culture, Myths & Legends of the Ancient Worlds.

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, TASC lectures are now given “virtually” via Zoom. Members receive an ‘invitation’ via the newsletter but non-members are welcome for a suggested donation of £5 either by cheque or by booking via the website on the lectures page.

Wednesday 17th March

Special Interest Day: Music in the Great Art Collections of Europe with Peter Medhurst.

Three talks will be presented, starting at 10.30 and finishing at 3pm at a cost of £15.00

Many of the great – but smaller – European art collections are tucked away in side streets, country houses and provincial towns, known often only to connoisseurs and local communities. With an eye to important paintings, musical instruments and pictures with musical content, Peter Medhurst explores some of these quality galleries, and examines moments from the Mauritshuis in The Hague, The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, The Dulwich Picture Gallery in London, the Vleeshuis in Antwerp, and the Ca' Rezzonico in Venice. The lecture is illustrated throughout with music.

To book and pay, please go to the Special Interest Day page on our website where there is a booking link.

For more information, please contact Frances Sparkes on 01993 823943

publicity@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

or

www.theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

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 Nicola Hillman know either by phone on 01993 823260 or by email to nicolahillmanart@yahoo.co.uk. Thank you.

Nicola Hillman



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

Local Nature Recovery Networks

One of the few benefits of lockdown has been the opportunity to join online talks and webinars, and for me I have zoomed in to a number of fascinating talks on the environment. These have been alarming (in terms of the massive amount we need do to restore biodiversity in our local area and beyond) but sometimes very encouraging. I wanted to share one such talk by the Eynsham Nature Recovery Network. The community of Eynsham has come together and formed a Nature Recovery Network. The idea is based on 'charity begins at home' – by improving our own gardens and streets, drawing on local expertise and bringing in external help when needed, very quickly you are dealing with a much larger land area and everyone reaps the benefits. The network includes individuals, community groups, local businesses and councillors in Eynsham and the surrounding parishes and together they have worked wonders! They only started in 2019 and already they have done surveys on a wide range of birds, animals and plants and are using the data gathered to create a baseline from which to set and monitor targets and to influence planning (of course the proposed Garden Village is a key priority for Eynsham); they've planted community orchards, wildflower meadows and ponds; they're testing the Water Quality (supported by the wonderful WASP), they've started nature activities for children, families and people with Autism and learning disabilities and they're working with schools and all sorts of different community groups – the list goes on. The most important thing they wanted to highlight was that there's a role for everyone – there's a great deal of expertise in the town in all fields and together with enthusiastic generalists they are moving mountains.

Could we take on a similar challenge in Fulbrook and Burford? If you'd like to be part of something similar, please get in touch lucy.staveley@gmail.com, 0792 986 1712.

Lucy Staveley

What is the purpose of the Church Electoral Roll?

It's that time of year again. The time of year all clubs and organizations hold their Annual General Meetings to review their year, sign off their accounts and elect their officers. It could be the Horticultural Society, the WI or the local council. They all have to hold an AGM. None of us really want to attend these meetings; there is always the fear that someone will ask us to take on a job and let's face it they can be a bit tedious.

Our village church is no different. Everyone who comes to church and holds the church dear has the right to have their name on the Church Electoral Roll. Having your name on this list gives you the right to vote at the Church's AGM and elect the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This is the managing committee for the Church headed by our vicar, Tom Putt. You could even put yourself forward to be on the PCC and take an active role in the life of our Church.

The Church Electoral Roll is currently being updated by our Electoral Roll Officer Lesley Beveridge as it is each year before our AGM. It is, however, just a list of Church members and is not the same as the National Register of Electors that West Oxford District Council compiles each year. The latter importantly gives us the right to vote in all local and national election in the United Kingdom.

If you are not currently on the Church Electoral Roll but are interested in being added and think you might be eligible please contact Lesley Beveridge, tel. 824352, before the 24th March to discuss it further and get a registration form.

Angela Weller and Lesley Beveridge (Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer for St. James the Great, Fulbrook respectively).

Bee Friendly Gardening Tips

Gardening for bees and other pollinators

Bee facts

250 species of bees in the UK
224 wild solitary bees
25 wild bumble bees
One domesticated honey bee

Trees you can plant this winter to help pollinators

Male grey willow (sallow) *Salix cinerea*
Goat willow *Salix caprea*
Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*
Service trees: *Sorbus torminalis*, *Sorbus domestica*
Apple *Malus* sp - any, fruit bearing, or ornamental
Cherry Plum - *Prunus cerasifera*
Wild Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna/laevigata*

Gardening tips

Leave the dead plant stems over winter. Hollow stems may be used by bees for over wintering.]
Provide flowers throughout the year – some bees emerge as early as February.
Buy organic to ensure bulbs and plants haven't been treated with neonicotinoids.
Have a flowering lawn.
Provide a source of water for bees.
Leave a patch of bare earth – mason bees gather mud to build egg cells.
Include a variety flower shapes – different species have different tongue lengths..

More information can be found at:

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/>



NEWS FROM FULBROOK CHURCH and a Warm Welcome to All

Since the most recent lockdown Fulbrook Church has been closed for in-person services except funerals. However, online services continue in the Benefice and Diocesan - please see details of how you can join in below. We are also very much hoping to be able to have a service in church for Easter Sunday. If anyone in Fulbrook needs help or support - shopping, a phone or distanced doorstep chat or a bowl of hot soup for example, please do not hesitate to call one of the Churchwardens - **Lyn Bibbings on 01993 823640 or 07941 26955 or John Radcliffe on 01993 824044.**

Before Christmas we had been hoping to have a carol service followed by a Hog Roast at the Carpenters. Unfortunately the coronavirus restrictions put paid to that ambition for the time being. However, there are plans afoot to have a party at the Carpenters in the Summer, using all the carefully planned socially distanced seating outside, as soon as we are able - so some fun and friendship to look forward to whenever that may be - watch this space!!

One thing we were able to continue with was the raffle which still took place. This was in aid of St Mungo's, a charity which supports young homeless people to get back on their feet. We have to give a massive thank you to everyone who donated prizes, money or who took part in the raffle which raised £280 in total. Brian and Gilly Kay won the star prize of a meal for two at the Carpenters, and others won six other prizes of wine and chocolates very generously donated by others in the village. The initial funds raised were a £190, but the Carpenters then added another £90 from their own contributions and collections made at the pub, so a special thanks to them.

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 £1,000 from Church income. **During the pandemic demand for food parcels has more than doubled.** 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 non-perishable food and toiletries**, especially tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned meals, instant coffee, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, loo paper, toothpaste and brushes. **Donations of money are also very welcome and buy food vouchers for clients to be able to choose their own food (non redeemable for alcohol).** To donate money please do so via the Besom website- www.witneybesom.org where you will also find further information.

With grateful thanks to all who donate.

Weekly online Church Services in the Benefice

Benefice services from Burford

There are two online services each week. The 9.30am traditional service of morning prayer and a more contemporary family worship service at 11am. A limited number of people can also attend the 9.30am service in person. To book please contact the Church Office churchoffice@burfordchurch.org or 01993 823788.

Both services are available to join in live at those times by following this link: www.burfordchurch.org/sunday-services-1. Scroll down to find the service you would like. **Note:** these services are available to view at other times, along with all services and sermons via the Burford YouTube channel. You can subscribe to this by scrolling further down the Sunday services page to find the link.

NEWS FROM FULBROOK CHURCH (Continued)

Thought for the week from Swinbrook

This is a traditional service and the thought for the week is available by following this link: <https://swinbrookat11.org/>

A New traditional BCP Evening Prayer service from Asthall

A number of people locally have asked for more traditional services in the Benefice. In an attempt to satisfy this interest we are offering a monthly traditional evening prayer service using BCP liturgy at Asthall@6 on Zoom. Rather than a discussion there will be a conventional sermon. You can also join this service by telephone for Audio only.

To join these services please contact Roy Tarbox for further information and to be notified of services by emailing roytarbox@gmail.com.

Diocese service

To join others from around the diocese in a service at 10am follow this link: <https://oxforddiocese.online.church>. This is available at other times by clicking on the YouTube or Vimeo links on that page. You may also download an order of service.



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

2021 AGM It was a great relief to all that notwithstanding the frenzied excitement that surrounds the fiercely fought competition for places on the committee, that the AGM passed without any accusations of vote-rigging or placard carrying dissenters invading the Council Office.

2021 Programme. By now everyone should have received the new Programme which is also on our website.

Memberships are due for renewal. May we please urge everyone to complete the standing order and the Gift Aid sections to enable us to claim an additional 25% contribution from the Government. New members are warmly invited – annual fee is £10 per person. Application form downloadable from our website.

Next Meeting, Tuesday 23rd March. Tibesti Mountains Expedition 1965

This expedition to the Tibesti Mountains (in the central Sahara) was backed by Sandhurst backed with certain conditions, one of which was to experiment not having a nominated leader!

Join us to hear Brig. Clendon Daukes give an enthralling account of this extraordinary, never attempted before (or since) expedition into the depths of a hitherto unexplored region of the Sahara Desert during one of the hottest summers ever recorded.

We are anticipating that this meeting will take place via Zoom. If the restrictions change before then, we will separately notify everyone by Mail Chimp.

Zoom. If you are new to Zoom, then you may find the Guidance Notes on our website, helpful <https://www.burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk/zoom-guide>.

Weds 19th May. Visit to Painswick Rococo Garden - self drive, meet there at 2pm

Peter Martin, Chairman peteremartin@btinternet.com

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COIN BOX COLLECTION

What a year! One of the inevitable outcomes of COVID lockdowns has been the decline in the use of cash, and therefore the number of coins in our pockets and purses. Nevertheless, after careful counting of the silver and copper coins, a larger number of notes than usual (which are always welcome,) and a very generous donation, I banked the magnificent total of £811.59. This is a fantastic result and will help in the wonderful and very important work The Children's Society does with vulnerable and needy young people. Thank you to all my loyal coin box holders. I will be hoping to open the boxes again at the end of the year so please keep up the good work!

Thank you, Gilly Kay (823193)



Local artists launch community project to encourage fresh perspectives on nature

The Wychwood Project has launched a new collaboration with two local artists to explore how local communities experience the Wychwood. They would like to gather photos, videos, poems, or anything people would like to share about their favourite places in the Wychwood area, to explore perspectives on how we perceive our local environment. Contributions will be shared on social media and online, to encourage local audiences to explore new places around them and to see familiar places with fresh eyes—perhaps particularly valuable over the coming months.

If you have a favourite place, plant, or walk in the Wychwood area, artists in residence at the Wychwood Project Nimmi Naidoo and Flora Gregory would love to hear from you. The artists would like to invite anyone living in the Wychwood area to share photos, videos, poems or artworks reflecting the places they love in the Wychwood Forest, to form the basis of an innovative virtual artwork that explores how we see the environment around us. Using these contributions, the artists will create an accessible webpage that celebrates our local environment, encourages us to discover new spaces, and helps us experience familiar places with fresh eyes. The Wychwood Project will also share contributions on their Instagram channel, to inspire audiences to engage afresh with the natural world around them.

If you would like further information, or to talk to Nimmi, Flora or the Wychwood Project, please contact miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk.



BURFORD ARCHIVE

Thank you to everyone who has already generously donated to our project to establish the Burford & District Archive whose purpose is to collect and share the stories and the rich heritage of the local area. The next six weeks are critical as we must start the build in April if we are to access a major promised grant. The push to fund the "fitting out" will start later. Covid-19 has meant that all of our recent planned events have been put on hold and so if you are able to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated. To donate please visit our Virgin Giving site, www.burfordcommunityarchive.org/index.php/support. £10 to £50+ will make a huge difference to us. Thank you

If you would like to receive a copy of our FREE monthly e-magazine, Archive News (now opened thousands of times since its launch) please email peteremartin@btinternet.com quoting your name and writing 'yes please'.



Message from our local MP Robert Courts

I know how challenging 2020 was for all of us and that, in some ways, 2021 feels all too familiar. However, though we may be in lockdown now, there is light at the end of the tunnel. With three vaccines now approved for use in the UK, including our own local Oxford/AstraZeneca jab, we are now well on the way to vaccinating our top four priority groups in record time. At the time of writing, over 10 million people have been vaccinated and this grows every day. This is a hugely significant achievement which is testament to the inspirational leadership that has been shown by local NHS organisations, GPs and health coordinators. This, along with longer days, lighter evenings and the beginning of a beautiful West Oxfordshire spring is sure to lift spirits in this challenging time.

I have seen the excellent work of everyone at our local vaccination hubs for myself. The professionalism and efficiency they are showing is proving everyone's dedication to this vital cause. I am also encouraged that so many people across West Oxon are taking up the vaccine when offered. It is this dedication and resolve which speaks to me in these challenging times and shows me that we will overcome this.

We are also once again seeing the huge outpouring of community spirit and good will that warmed us all in 2020. I would encourage everyone to check in on family, friends and neighbours, particularly those who may live alone, the vulnerable and those separated from their loved ones. Sometimes even just a phone call can do the world of good.

My team and I continue to work hard from home on your behalf and we remain accessible throughout lockdown. Please do not hesitate to get in touch at robert@robertcourts.co.uk if there is anything at all we can do.

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

Goat's cheese with raisins and hazelnuts (one 20cm round or square cake, a small loaf, or 8-10 muffin style cakes)

Lockdown has seen a sharp spike in home baking. So far so good, but seeing yet another Victoria sponge emerge from the oven can induce feelings of déjà vu. So here is something completely different. A truly savoury cake to have as a mid-morning snack, part of an afternoon tea, or something to nibble on if you are running late for supper. Its probably too early to think of these as picnic treats, but reserve the thought: given the vaccine rollout we may, one day, be granted the right to public al fresco dining!

Ingredients

4 tbsp olive oil, plus a little extra for greasing
200g plain flour
1 ½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
100g grated parmesan (please use the good stuff!)
2 tbsp finely chopped parsley
3 eggs
100g plain yoghurt (full fat works best)
150g soft goat's cheese, roughly broken into small chunks
60g hazelnuts, toasted and roughly chopped
60g raisins or sultanas

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6.
2. Grease a 1.5-litre loaf tin with olive oil, line with baking parchment and brush the parchment with oil, too. (Alternatively, you can make this in muffin cases, or mini loaf tins, which simply need brushing with oil and dusting lightly with flour.)
3. Sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and pepper.
4. Whisk in the grated cheese and parsley.
5. In a jug, whisk the eggs, yoghurt and four tablespoons of olive oil. Gently fold this into the dry ingredients until just combined, being careful not to overmix, then fold in the soft goat's cheese, nuts and raisins.
6. Spoon the cake mixture into the prepared tin (or tins) and bake for 45-50 minutes, until golden and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. (Muffin cases or smaller loaves take about 12-15 minutes.)
7. Leave to cool in the tins for five minutes, then turn out on to a wire rack to cool completely.

Extras

This is an adaptation of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's recipe. As he suggests, you can vary the ingredients depending on what you have to hand. For example, use pecans or walnuts instead of hazelnuts; replace the raisins with finely chopped dried apricots and cranberries, which are particularly good with the goat's cheese.



Carpenters Arms

FOOD SERVING TIMES

Mondays – closed
(except bank holidays)

Tuesday – Friday
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Dinner 6 - 9pm

Saturday 12 - 9pm

Sunday 12 - 5pm

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