

# The Fulbrook News

## Our Quarterly Newsletter

March 2023

Number 92



**We thought that, after a long winter, our readers would like a foretaste of spring, so here's a picture of aconites in the village taken by David Foster**

**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](mailto:fulbrooknews@gmail.com)**

**Next Issue: June 2023, Copy Date – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

*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,

Aren't all the snowdrops magnificent this year? The colourful displays that are now appearing with crocuses and aconites in bloom (see our cover photo) also offer some welcome cheer after what has seemed to be a long winter and dreary with unusually cold weather. Fulbrook reached the dizzy depths of -11 degrees C on December 15th, with snow and ice which persisted for far longer than we should have liked. Only to be followed by a cold long dull dry spell, thankfully punctuated by a few sunny days and one or two very heavy downpours when we least expected them. Perhaps unrelated to this, or maybe as a consequence, there has been a nasty cough and cold virus that has sometimes persisted for weeks, yet more Covid infections and other bugs to keep us isolated in our homes. Coupled with the sudden high electricity and food costs it has been a challenging few months.

One of the really positive and lovely things to emerge from this bleak time has been the Warm Welcome Lunches in the Fulbrook Meeting Place which have been taking place every Thursday since mid November. This has grown from a few people trying it out to now 14 people or more coming together each week and enjoying a hot lunch of homemade soups and bread followed by cakes, tea and coffee. There is always a lot of chatting and plenty of laughter too. Some come regularly, others pop in when they can, but everyone is welcome and there is no need to book - just turn up. The lunches are free but donations are gratefully received. Do come and give it a try, lunch is from 12.30pm and the Fulbrook Meeting Place is the back half of the church which serves as our village hall - we should love to see you.

We should like to extend our sincere condolences to the families and friends of all those who have sadly passed away recently. In particular we remember Anne Hoyle who contributed much to the village and church for many years (see obituary on page 6), Michael Preston and Charlie Stevens. Our condolences also go to the family of Michael Clewett, an architect who lived in Fulbrook for some years and did work on a number of houses in and around this area. We also give our thoughts and good wishes to others in the village who have been ill or are waiting for operations and hope they will make good recoveries.

We have a number of events to look forward to and take part in, so watch out in the Newsletter for information about these so you can put the dates in your diaries. There will be the Spring Village Clean Up on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April, the Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, the Coronation of King Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> May and the Village Summer Barbeque on 16th July.

Also to watch out for is that the bridge is to be repaired sometime in April (no confirmed date yet), but at the same time there will be some bollards installed to provide better protection for pedestrians on the bridge (see the Parish Council Report). The bridge is likely to be closed for two days while the work takes place.

The latest planning application for housing development on Cole's Field in Burford has yet again been refused but is likely to result in yet another appeal. This site is important not only because of its aesthetic contribution to the townscape from Fulbrook but also because of the complex underground springs on the site which are in delicate balance, the lack of adequate infrastructure at the sewage works and in other services to accommodate additional population which affect us all.

Finally we want to say a big THANK YOU to all our volunteer Distributors of this newsletter without whom you would not be reading this. Thank you to all of you.

Lyn Bibbings-Burns

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The Parish Council continues to work on your behalf to maintain our rural idyll. Regretfully, one of our councillors had to resign as her workload pressure just proved too much. Thus, we do have a vacancy. If you wish to put yourself forward, please contact our parish clerk.

The council was very pleased at the response to our consultation with you about the Burford/Fulbrook bridge, and we have decided to back the most realistic option which is to use road markings and flexible bollards to direct vehicles towards taking a central path over the bridge rather than edging too far towards pedestrians. We are also taking the opportunity to get the pedestrian footpath on the bridge properly tidied up to make it safer.

The Oxford Mail covered the story here:

[www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23289217.oxfordshire-narrow-bridge-get-new-protection-walkers/](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23289217.oxfordshire-narrow-bridge-get-new-protection-walkers/)

In addition, the parish council is applying for a 20mph speed limit on the A361 as it passes through the village. Speeding is the most occurring issue when consulting or speaking with you. With a fair wind in the right direction, we may stand a chance of achieving this!

The parish council has started to discuss housing needs in the village, and from informal discussions and experiences it seems that a few small houses are needed to meet the need for a) newcomers to Fulbrook who wish to purchase a small family home that they can afford, and b) to meet the needs of older residents who may wish to downsize but have a strong desire to stay in the village. If you have any thoughts on this matter, please let Sarah, our parish clerk, know (clerk@fulbrookvillage.net).

### 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 or call me on 07484 178143.

*Sarah Ebeling, Parish Clerk*

### Fulbrook Forum needs new committee members

For those of you new to our area, the Fulbrook Forum offers a chance to meet other members of our community and listen to a local speaker. Talks typically last about 45 minutes, followed by refreshments. All are welcome and no membership is required. We plan to hold about 6 meetings per year.

We normally meet in the Fulbrook Meeting Place which is at the back of the Church at 3pm on a Thursday. The present Committee members are Oliver Sharpley (Chair), Laurence Balbes (deputy chair) and Professor Peter Burns. **We need at least another 2 volunteers to join the committee (we have had one expression of interest from our request in the December issue, but we need at least one more).**

The tasks of the committee are not onerous. We have two planning meetings a year to plan our programme of speakers and a refreshment rota.

If you feel you can help, please contact Oliver Sharpley at fulbrookforum@gmail.com

If you would like a reminder about a week before each meeting, please e-mail fulbrookforum@gmail.com to join our mailing list.

*Oliver Sharpley*

## **HISTORY GROUP**

At our latest meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January we had a very welcome visit from David Woolley who said that he may become a regular visitor.

Robin Campbell showed us some photos that Tricia Picking had given him, which she had found while clearing her house in preparation for her recent move to Surrey to be nearer to her daughter. The photos included aerial pictures of the village, Pytts House and the Church taken in 1979 by Peter Murfitt, Tricia's first husband.

He also showed us a map of Oxfordshire dated 1610 and the 1819 Enclosures map showing the area around Fulbrook.

He is considering whether to donate these items to the Burford Archive.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Triggers House, Meadow Lane. We would like to increase the size of the Group, so if you would like to learn more about the history of our village, please come and join us.

*Laurence Balbes*

## **A request for help from the Editorial Committee**

In the December issue I mentioned our rather difficult financial situation with revenue from advertising, which is our main source of income, having fallen in recent years while our costs have risen. We have sufficient funds to cover the printing costs of the March and June issues but we

may struggle when we have to pay for printing the September issue.

We would therefore like to invite donations from any readers who value the Newsletter and wish to help us. Please send a cheque payable to Fulbrook Newsletter to our treasurer Laurence Balbes at Meadow Way Cottage, Meadow Lane, Fulbrook, Burford OX18 4BS or send the money directly to our TSB bank account; sort code 30-91-43, account number 00074712 using Donation as the reference. Thank you in advance.

*Laurence Balbes*

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

### **Through a glass, darkly**

In my dream I see a weary man who is staggering backwards over a desolate stony plain. He is dragging a worn paliasse on which are piled his treasures.

These are pebbles from the plain, memories of his journey, and as he adds so he loses some. They come to rest in his wake, indistinguishable from their neighbours.

He does not seem to notice their loss.

Rarely he looks over his shoulder, to see where he is going, but it is always the same barren plain – perhaps a little darker now.

John Hoyle





theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

2023 is going to be a milestone year for the FaB WI. We have been in existence for 105 years and are part of the fabric of the area. Its spiritual home since 1947 has been the Burford Warwick Hall having met there each and every month excepting the period of its recent rebuild. This January we are starting an exciting new chapter when we change our location to the recently restored Burford Baptist Church in Witney Street. Nothing else will change; we remain the same open and friendly group of women we have always been, looking forward to many more years empowering women to expand their horizons.

Our first meeting for 2023 was an in-depth discussion and debate around four Resolution Options from which one will be chosen by the nation-wide membership for the Central National Federation to take forward. Our discussions took place initially in small groups where we took apart the various options looking for their importance to us here in Burford as well as the impact we, as a large lobbying organization, could bring to bear on the issues locally, nationally and internationally. The floor was then open for wider debate after which we were left to make our own individual decision on how to vote. The issues ranged from improving the working conditions for tea workers on plantations, addressing the scourge of on-line gambling to water security here at home. As we have mentioned in the last report one of the four resolutions looking at water security was tabled by our own President, Jennie Craven, so our choice may be biased.

As a reward for such a serious January meeting we all met again on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January at the Burford House Hotel for a very sociable New Year's Supper. We were given a very warm welcome by the staff and the food was simply delicious.

The FaB WI committee are already working on a wide ranging programme of talks, practical events and activities for the coming year. There will be something to cater for all interests and hopefully to tempt us all to try something new and as always there is a whole range of courses and activities run by the Oxfordshire Federation and Denman on Line to enjoy.

March brings our AGM which will be accompanied with the reward of a fun Beetle Drive and cake. Following the cake theme, in April 'The cake Tutor', Sally Davies, a lecturer at Birmingham University, will talk and demonstrate 'Vintage Cup-Cake Decoration'. There will be a hands-on activity for all. In May there is a talk from the Pearl Lady, Frances Carlaw, about this beautiful and eternally popular jewellery. Finally in June we are taking a Tree Walk around the Blue Cross grounds near Carterton. Plenty to look forward to.

**The FaB WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Baptist Church in Witney Street at 7.30 p.m.** and warmly welcomes visitors to all of our meetings. For further information please visit our web-site: [thefabwi.org.uk](http://thefabwi.org.uk) or FB page search 'The Fulbrook and Burford WI (FAB WI)' or contact our President, Jennie Craven, on [thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk) or Mobile 07710 103015.

*Angela Weller (a FaB WI member)*

# Fulbrook News and Views

From the Editorial Team.....

In this issue we include a tribute to Anne Hoyle who has died at the age of 79, a 'thank you' note to Tricia Picking who has left the village, information about the village Spring clean-up and the Plant Sale 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!

## A Secret History of Fulbrook

Sorry, but we haven't been able to include a Secret History of Fulbrook article in this issue. We hope to resume the series in the June issue.

## Anne Hoyle 1943 - 2022

It was with sadness that we paid our respects to Anne Hoyle at her funeral on 6<sup>th</sup> January. She was a valued member of our community and will be fondly remembered. The Editorial Committee offers its condolences to her husband, John and her family.



*Photo of Anne taken at Rosebank Care Home in July 2020*

Professionally she was an accomplished dental surgeon, a consultant orthodontist and a scholar. Most importantly for Fulbrook she was instrumental in many village initiatives. Our thanks go to Anne Weir who has sent us her special memories of her friend, Anne. Read on .....

### MY MEMORIES OF ANNE HOYLE by Anne Weir

As soon as she retired, Anne settled down in Fulbrook. She was determined to become a member of the community.

The first opportunity for helping came with Fulbrook Church. From 1662 there were just three bells in the tower. Anne began an appeal to have a new bell-frame with a ring of six which was installed in 2004.

In the Fulbrook Newsletter for December 2007 there is an article by Anne about the bell-ringers, one of whom was Anne herself. She had even persuaded Tricia and Tony Picking to join. In the June 2014 Newsletter is a photograph of a new bell donated in honour of John Hoyle's Mother who was deaf. Around

the base is the inscription "He that hath ears to hear let him hear". Anne was the inspiration, but John was her faithful helper.

Anne was full of life. Once, when there was a Scottish country dance in Burford Church, she wanted to get it started and persuaded me to partner her in "The Dashing White Sergeant" and, when at John Anderson's funeral a selection of Scottish songs was played, she wanted me to hum the tunes out loud!

She was keen to join local groups like The WI and the Fulbrook Fellowship. Any "worthy thing" attracted Anne, especially to do with nature. She would drive me to a flower festival or even once made me buy a book about fungi.

Anne decided to have an allotment in Shipton. John, her husband and faithful help mate assisted with the heavy work. Once she bought too many raspberry canes to fit her section and she gave us the six spare which are still the best in our garden. Her own garden was tiny and we usually benefitted from her excess plants.

In 2011 on wandering through the churchyard a new idea came to Anne. She decided that certain areas that are near the wall are rarely used and so they have now been separated by a rope to prevent them being cut. She insisted that this was to allow us to examine the wild flowers, of which she had recognised 30 different types.

Anne and I were products of World War II. Our fathers were in the army. I was born just before and Anne during 1943. One year John and Jackie Harrington organised a jazz concert in the church. Anne and I were entranced, remembering our youth.

When Jim and I came to Fulbrook in 1977 I joined the Burford Methodist Church, the service of which was familiar to me as I was brought up in The Church of Scotland. However, I decided to go to our Fulbrook St James' Church (It starts earlier at 9.30 and it is lovely to hear the bells as you approach). Anne was brought up in The Church of England. One day I sat in a seat near the back and she tried to persuade me to move nearer to her. I didn't realise that historically this back pew was reserved for the Church Warden. I began to sit near Anne who offered to teach me how to sing the psalms. I began to notice that Anne was having difficulty with the page in the hymn book. Then, one evening during the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve, the door opened and Anne was standing there with the key looking lost and at this point I realised there was something wrong. She still came to church each week and I offered to accompany her. John suggested that to Anne, but she said "Not yet". She knew that she was suffering from dementia.

John continued to support Anne faithfully until she had an accident and damaged her wrist. She needed hospital treatment and it was decided that Anne should be cared for at Rosebank Care Home in Bampton. This was during the Covid time, so visiting was difficult. John visited, but eventually she didn't recognise him.

One last thing that Anne did for Fulbrook Church was to map the graves in the churchyard. John Radcliffe is full of praise for that. Anne had decided exactly where she'd rest there. It was fitting to hear the church bells ringing for her funeral.

## **Ram Babu 1938-2022**

Many of us will remember fondly Dr Ram Babu who lived for some years here in Fulbrook at Elm Farm Barn. He sadly passed away in August 2022. He was a good friend of Fulbrook, always ready to help when the need arose. He loved Fulbrook, but moved due to illness to be nearer to family.

His good friend and partner Christine Neve wrote to us as follows:

## **Tribute to Ram**

*Dear Friends*

*One thing we all have in common is our love for Ram.*

*I know of countless examples of what a good doctor he was and how he loved his work. He really cared about his patients and about people in general.*

*I found him a kind, gentle and generous man with a good sense of humour - one of many things I already miss.*

*He shared with me how very proud he was of his daughters, and delighted in his grandchildren - not forgetting his sons-in-law.*

*I am very grateful that we were able to visit different parts of Europe. We really enjoyed our time travelling together and also the times we spent as a couple in our individual homes in Wales and England.*

*On a number of occasions in recent years Ram has said to me "I have had a good life".*

*I thank God that I knew Ram, and for his love and friendship. He will not be forgotten.*

*May he now rest in peace.*

*Christine G. Neve*

Whilst it is always sad to hear of a past resident's passing, we thank Christine for her letter and send her and Ram's family our sincere condolences.

## **PASTURES NEW**

Many of us were very sorry to hear that Tricia Picking was leaving the village. She moved in December to be near to members of her family in Surrey and we wish her lots of joy in her new home in Dorking.

Fulbrook owes Tricia a huge debt of gratitude for her service to the village. She was Chairperson of the Parish Council for many, many years and, indeed, led the Steering Committee to produce The Village Appraisal, started in 1996. It was a huge undertaking and, once printed in 1999, a copy was delivered to every address in Fulbrook at the time. Her time as Chair of the parish council also included, for some years, the role of Parish Clerk, which requires many hours of administration. It's true to say that she 'stepped up to the plate' where others could not.

She also represented Fulbrook for the Burford and District Society, another responsible and high profile role. Members of the Fulbrook Fellowship, now the Fulbrook Forum, were grateful for the offer of her lovely garden in which to hold their annual strawberry tea parties.

Tricia is an opera lover and with her husband Tony became a friend of Longborough Festival. Every year she arranged for a group of us from the village to go to see one of the many performances in the annual programme. The evening was always a great success and we'd roll up at Longborough with picnics, in our finery, to enjoy the performance and the camaraderie.

Tricia will be sadly missed as she always took part in any village activity, among others organising quiz evenings in the Fulbrook Meeting Place and supporting all of the annual events. She is very community orientated and as a true 'Fulbrookian' we hope that she will carry on her interests and take some of the flavour of our village to her new environs.

*Lesley Beveridge*



# **FULBROOK SPRING** **VILLAGE CLEAN-UP**

**PLEASE COME AND LEND A HAND**



**SATURDAY 15th APRIL 2023**

**at the Fulbrook Meeting Place**

**10.00 a.m.**

**This Spring the Amenities Group would welcome help from all in the community who can spare an hour to clear pathways and verges especially leading to country walks as brambles and hedgerows are already overgrown.**

**Gardening gloves and tools such as a spade, brush, secateurs or shears and a wheelbarrow are always handy to bring with you. Then join friends afterwards at the FMP for a welcome coffee and home-made cakes.**

**For further information, please contact any Parish Councillor or Malcolm Taylor on 01993 824179 or 07788 391665.**

**8<sup>th</sup> March, AGM at 10.30, Lecture at 11am**  
**In person at The Warwick Hall, Burford and by Zoom**

### **Vita Sackville-West and Sissinghurst with James Bolton**

The Arts and Crafts gardens created, in particular by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, set a standard against which English gardens would be measured for the next 60 years. Sissinghurst, created and gardened by Vita Sackville-West, novelist, poet and garden writer, and her husband, Harold Nicholson, from 1930 to her death in 1962, is the perfect example of this style; wonderful plantsmanship set within a framework of hedges and vistas.

This lecture looks at the life of Vita Sackville-West and the extraordinary garden that she created which nearly 60 years after her death continues to charm and delight.

Our speaker, James Bolton, set up a garden design business in 1992 and he now lectures extensively on garden history.

This hybrid lecture will be held at the Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford, OX18 4RZ at 11am (following the AGM) and via Zoom. Please be seated by 10.50 for notices of upcoming events. Numbers are no longer restricted but booking is really helpful for planning.

Further information will be circulated via the newsletter and bookings can be made via the website ([www.theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk)). Visitors are welcome, space permitting, for a suggested donation of £10. Coffee is available in the Warwick Hall.

For more information contact Frances Sparkes on 07834 769080 or [publicity@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk](mailto:publicity@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk)

To learn more about The Arts Society Cotswolds and to keep abreast of any additional activities, please log into the website [www.theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk)



### **There's always a good reason to Volunteer – what's yours?**

The Burford Tolsey simply couldn't function without the assistance of scores of volunteers in numerous roles, who enable us to open to the public and conserve the collections for today's and future generations to enjoy.

Since the Archive's official opening, we've concentrated our efforts on developing and testing its new operations. All has gone so well that we can now invite everyone who might be interested in assisting with one of our exciting roles to a very special **Volunteers Reception, which is to be held at 6.30pm on 6<sup>th</sup> April at the Baptist Chapel, Witney.**

At this reception you will not only be able to meet the existing members of the Team but also learn about our plans and the exciting specific opportunities on offer; all of which can now start as soon as you are available.

There really are volunteering opportunities for everyone to enjoy being involved in ranging from :

- front of house visitor welcoming, to backroom IT
- sorting & cataloguing artefacts and documents, to recording and transcribing individuals' memories of times past
- leading tours, to making outreach visits to residential homes
- tending the garden, to helping to arrange an exhibition

and these are just a sample

Furthermore, all of this voluntary work can be fitted around whatever time you have available and could even involve working from home.

Clendon Daukes - 01993 823533

### Self Guided 1 hour Burford Walking Tour



Fulbrook News readers, together with visitors to the Town, can now download their own self-paced circular walk around Burford of just under 1 mile(1.4 km) to discover many of Burford's most interesting buildings for £4.99 (pay online).



### 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30 pm - Richard Martin – Zoom talk

#### 'Half the wealth of England rides on the back of sheep'

"Half the wealth of England rides on the back of the sheep" is a well-known medieval saying, and all around the Cotswolds are vestiges of that wealth, including the glorious 'wool churches' (of which St. John the Baptist, Burford of course, is an example).

But how and why did that wealth arise, and what happened to it?

These are small questions, with big and very interesting answers, that Richard Martin will attempt to supply.

### 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm – Priscilla Frost – Zoom talk

#### 'Thomas Willement, Gothic Revivalist & Oxfordshire

Discover Thomas Willement (1786 – 1871), a Gothic Revivalist Interior Designer who is often referred to as "the Father of Victorian Stained Glass", yet relatively few are aware of his work

Like many early 19th century provincial stained glass artists, he began as a plumber and glazier. The two jobs, now separate trades, being at that time linked because both required the skills of

working with lead. He became one of the most successful of England's early 19th century stained glass artists.

**25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm – Carol Anderson – Zoom talk**

**'Over the hills to glory: the story of the Ascott Martyrs**

The Ascott Martyrs were a group of women who were sent to Oxford Prison in 1873 for "rioting in Chipping Norton". These tenacious women were arrested for their role in attempting to persuade local farm workers to unionise but were later pardoned by Queen Victoria and returned home as martyrs.

All talks last 45 minutes (+ 15 minutes for Q&As) and cost £5.00 per household. They are exclusively delivered via Zoom and can be bought online on [www.burfordtolsey.org/events](http://www.burfordtolsey.org/events)

Peter Martin [peteremartin@btinternet.com](mailto:peteremartin@btinternet.com), [www.burfordtolsey.org](http://www.burfordtolsey.org)

**HELP NEEDED**

The Church of St. James the Great has been here for the comfort and solace of all villagers and visitors for many years, however it does not have a Sexton to look after the Church Yard. This job falls on the shoulders of our Church Warden who is long past the age of retirement.

Even if you don't want this job perhaps you could help? The upkeep of the Church is a heavy job for an old man! The ivy needs pulling off the gravestones and the Garden of Remembrance needs attention, plus the removal of branches and brambles etc and it generally needs a tidy up.

If you have a spare moment do just wander along with a pair of secateurs! Or contact John Radcliffe on 824044.

**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](mailto:nicolahillmanart@yahoo.co.uk). Thank you.

*Nicola Hillman*

# Fulbrook Plant Sale

Saturday 13 May 10:00 – 13:00

## The Carpenters Arms

The Fulbrook Plant Sale 2023 has a new person at the helm, Jean Smith, and exciting new stalls to enjoy as well as our old favourites.

Proceeds this year will go to the people and places of Fulbrook.



- Lawn Games
- Plants
- Homemade Cakes
- Bottle Stall
- Bric-a-brac
- Raffle
- BBQ – from the Carpenters
- Tea and Coffee

Contributions for the following will be gratefully received:

- Plants – Carpenters Arms on the day from 9:00 am
- Homemade Cakes
- Bottle stall
- Bric-a-brac (good stuff that you would like to buy)
- Raffle Prizes

For any offers of help please call Jean on 07950 694639.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May.



## **Dig for Victory ... or at least to help the Plant Sale!**

If you are planting seeds or sorting out your garden this spring, it would be fantastic if you could remember the plant sale and grow a couple of extra plants to donate.

The plant stall includes everything from veg, herbs, fruit trees, shrubs, bulbs, bedding and even house plants. We can only raise funds for the village if everyone takes part and helps to make the stall a veritable jungle of green loveliness!

I may have a few spare pots if anyone needs extras, and things like yoghurt pots make great improvised pots too. Please contact [sue@rsbjn.co.uk](mailto:sue@rsbjn.co.uk).

To donate your spare plants please bring them from 8am directly to The Carpenters Arms on Saturday 13 May, or drop them in to Woodgrove House on Friday 12 May.

Many thanks for your help  
Sue Newport



## **Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire opens up new opportunities for volunteer advisers to provide vital support in the community**

Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire is looking for volunteers from all kinds of backgrounds to support local people with their problems. Issues might include debt, housing, benefit and employment problems. With the increase in the cost of living, the need for more volunteers to help people is vital.

The West Oxfordshire charity supported 8,823 people last year to help resolve their problems. Every week the charity gives free, independent and confidential advice from trained advisers.

Volunteers are often looking for new ways to gain valuable experience and enhance their skills, or to enjoy the opportunity to work with and meet different people. They find it rewarding to support local people and make a difference to their lives.

Right now, Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire is looking for volunteers to become advisers. This involves taking calls, responding to web chat, meeting clients face-to-face, and working with colleagues to provide the best support possible for people who contact us. Each adviser works with each client to understand their individual needs, then, with professional support from qualified and experienced supervisors, undertake research to find the best advice to give.

A comprehensive training programme will be given. Generally volunteers are asked to contribute at least 8 hours per week, which can be done flexibly either in the central Witney office, our HUB on Station Lane, Witney, or even from your own home.

Citizens Advice volunteers come from all walks of life and choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. They include students; people getting back into work after career breaks; people with part-time jobs; carers; and people who have retired. People simply need a desire to help.

**Teresa Archer, Chief Officer at Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire said:**

“Our wonderful volunteers are the heart of our service - the work we do to support people in the community simply would not be possible without them.

“As a volunteer, you’ll learn about a range of issues affecting local people, like debt, housing, benefits and employment. We provide all the training and support you’ll need to work with us to help people solve their problems.”

“It’s a challenging but highly rewarding role. If you’re keen to build on your skills and do something that really makes a difference, we’d love to hear from you.”

**Tim, a volunteer at Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire said:**

“I find that at Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire you get all the benefits of what you loved at work without any of the things that made Monday mornings such a hang-up. Like sales targets! And commuting! Now I personally get to do more of what I knew I should have been doing more of all along...like helping other people that aren't as lucky as me. I've found it an enjoyable place to work with lots of interesting challenges along the way.”

To find out more and apply, visit [citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk](http://citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk) or contact [training@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk](mailto:training@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk)

## BURFORD ORCHESTRA

Presents

# A Spring Concert

**Beethoven**  
Egmont Overture

**Mozart**  
Oboe Concerto  
(Soloist Andrew Gray)

**Sibelius**  
Symphony No. 2

Conductor Rhian Frankcom

**7.30pm, Saturday 25 March 2023**

Venue: St Mary's Church, Witney  
Tickets: £9, U16s £1, available in advance  
from TicketSource via the QR code  
Email: [info@burfordorchestra.org.uk](mailto:info@burfordorchestra.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01993 883490 for more information





## NEWS FROM FULBROOK CHURCH

### and a Warm Welcome to All

**Dear friends and neighbours,**

It was wonderful to be able to share the joy of Christmas in a family carol and crib service with well over 100 people attending again this year, after the Covid restrictions of the previous two. We are also pleased that the Carpenters had carol singing for the village again this year - a lovely addition to our whole village celebrations.

During this winter there have been many factors which have made it very difficult for many people - the extra-cold weather, the cost of fuel, the continuing rise in the cost of food - even the most basic items, and shortages of some everyday items including eggs and milk. The Parochial Church Council was anxious to make sure that the church had a role in easing difficulties for villagers in whatever way it could. However, it was also faced with similar difficulties - the rising cost of fuel and costly maintenance of a 900 year building whose stone gets easily eroded by extremes of weather, but only limited income. (Please see the article in this issue by the Treasurer on the cost and funding of the church). An interesting solution was proposed - activities were already regularly held on Thursdays in the church, so why not extend these and have the church heating on all day, but just for that day, and on Sundays for the service. This resulted in **WARM WELCOME THURSDAYS in the FULBROOK MEETING PLACE** (the area at the back of the church which acts as the Village Hall). Keep Fit classes are held from 9-10am, coffee mornings follow once a month, the Fulbrook Forum meet periodically in the afternoons and the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council hold their meetings in the evenings.

The obvious gap in the programme was lunchtime, and so it was proposed to trial a weekly lunch, with homemade soups, bread, cake and hot drinks on offer to welcome anyone who wanted to come to share a hot meal and some company. This has been an absolute joy for all concerned and has now become a regular fixture at 12.30pm every Thursday. **Please do pop in and give it a try - you will receive a warm welcome from everybody there.** We are extremely grateful to all the people who make soups and bake bread and cakes each week. The lunches are free, but donations are gratefully received.

**THERE ARE STILL FREE THURSDAY AFTERNOONS AVAILABLE FOR OTHER VILLAGE ACTIVITIES IN THE FULBROOK MEETING PLACE - Please contact Lyn Bibbings if you would like to use it. Lyn 01993 823640**

The money from any donations received is split between the church (to help pay the heating bill) and BESOM. Besom is a Christian charity that bridges the gap between those in need and those that want to give - whether it be time, goods or money. The name Besom comes from the bundle of twigs to make a broom - a symbol of their intention to 'sweep away suffering'. They collect money and donated goods to put into food parcels for those who are struggling - after illness or accident, with the cost of living or in an emergency situation. They also collect furniture, baby clothes and children's clothes in good condition.

There is always a box in the church (and it's open every day) where donations of tinned and dry goods can be put - please donate something if you can. At the moment they are particularly keen to receive whole meals in a tin - for example chicken casserole, chilli con carne etc and tinned fruit, sponge puddings, custard etc. Besom is the local charity that we regularly support with money and goods, and we are so thankful to everyone who has given to this cause. If you want to know more, or have furniture, clothing or time to give please see their website [witneybesom.org](http://witneybesom.org)

**Church SERVICES for EASTER and beyond**

**Everyone is very welcome at each of these services, and to meet and chat with others afterwards over coffee and biscuits.**

The Church in Fulbrook is for the whole village - do come and share the joy of EASTER with others - a warm welcome awaits you.

<b>Date and Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Type of Service</b>
<b>5th March Lent 2 BENEFICE SERVICE BURFORD. NO SERVICE IN FULBROOK TODAY</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion
<b>12th March Lent 3 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Common Worship
<b>19th March Mothering Sunday Lent 4 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Book of Common Prayer
<b>26th March Lent 5 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer
<b>2nd April PALM SUNDAY BENEFICE SERVICE IN TAYNTON</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion
<b>7th April GOOD FRIDAY FULBROOK</b>	2.00pm	Meditation
<b>9th April EASTER DAY. FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion, Common Worship
<b>16th April Easter 2 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
<b>23rd April Easter 3 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer
<b>30th April Easter 4 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion, Common Worship
<b>May 7th Easter 5 BENEFICE SERVICE IN BURFORD</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion
<b>May 14th Easter 6 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Common Worship
<b>May 21st Easter 7 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Book of Common Prayer
<b>May 28th, Pentecost, FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion, Common Worship
<b>June 4th TRINITY BENEFICE SERVICE IN TAYNTON</b>	9.30am	Holy communion
<b>June 11th Trinity 1 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Common Worship
<b>June 18th Trinity 2 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer
<b>June 25th Trinity 3 FULBROOK</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer



**BURFORD  
SCHOOL**  
FOUNDED 1571

Burford School is delighted to announce that tickets are on sale for two fantastic events. We hope that many of you will join us.

### ***Play On!***

On Monday 6, Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 March at 7.00 pm in our Main Hall, a talented cast of over 25 students in Year 11 -13 will perform *Play On!*

*Play On!* is a comedic reimagining, with songs, of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Set in a fictional school, a class of struggling and bored Year 11 students are persuaded by their English teacher to perform *Romeo and Juliet*. Through rehearsals and a performance, these students see their real-life relationships become transformed by the characters they are playing, resulting in much laughter, fighting, tears, and possibly even some true love!

To purchase your ticket to an evening of outstanding student performances, visit Ticketsource: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/burford-school](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/burford-school)

### ***Messa Di Gloria***

On Tuesday 14 March at 7.00 pm in our Main Hall, The Burford Institute of Music Choral Society will perform Giacomo Puccini's arresting *Messa di Gloria*, alongside a superb orchestra of local musicians.

The Choir consists of our students, staff, parents, carers as well as members of the local community.

On the night refreshments will be available from our cash bar, run by our brilliant Parent Teacher Association team, and you will also be able to enjoy complimentary canapes after the performance.

To purchase your ticket to what promises to be a fabulous evening of music, visit Ticketsource: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/burford-school](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/burford-school)

## **North Cotswold Arts Association**

### **Wednesday 8th March 2023:**

A Workshop 'Spring Flowers in a Flowing Lost/Found Style' by Local Artist Charmaine Williamson, Warwick Hall, Burford, 2-4pm.

### **Wednesday 12th April 2023:**

AGM and fascinating update on Kelmscott Manor, William Morris and the Pre-Raphaelites by Fiona Rossington, Warwick Hall, Burford, 2-4pm.



## **Burford Singers Classic Choral Favourites**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023, 7.30pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Church Green, Burford OX18 4RY

Burford Singers with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra perform Fauré's Requiem and Haydn's Nelson Mass

Leader: Kate Bailey, Soprano: Sarah Power, Mezzo: Emily Gray, Tenor: Peter Martin, Bass: Alex Ashworth, Conductor: Brian Kay

Tickets reserved at ~~£25~~ (sold out) £20, £15, unreserved £10

Online booking to 31<sup>st</sup> March (booking fee applies) at [www.burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/](http://www.burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/)

Booking in person (unreserved tickets only) to 31<sup>st</sup> March at The Madhatter Bookshop, 122, High Street, Burford OX18 4QJ

And on the door

Details on our website [www.burfordsingers.org.uk/events/](http://www.burfordsingers.org.uk/events/)

## **TRUSTEES WANTED - Campaign to Protect Rural England - Oxfordshire**

Do you care about your local countryside? Do you want to make a difference? Due to the retirement of current trustees, we are looking for an Honorary Secretary and a Board Member to join our team.

This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside.

Application deadline is **30 March 2023** in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Director, Helen Marshall.

E: [director@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:director@cpreoxon.org.uk), T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information: [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

## **Wychwood Forest Fair 2023**

The historic Wychwood Forest Fair is a fun, family-friendly event. From wood carving, axe throwing, and traditional archery, to pony rides, storytelling and falconry - there's something for everyone! There will also be the usual offering of great food, local beer, live music, and a wide variety of rural craft displays.

The fair celebrates and supports the conservation work of the Wychwood Forest Trust in creating spaces for nature and preserving the unique cultural heritage of the Wychwood.

Tickets will be available from the Wychwood Forest Trust website in due course:  
[wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk](http://wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk)

Date: Sunday 9th July

Location: Foxburrow Wood, Hailey, Witney OX29 9XL



## NEWS FROM THE FULBROOK MEETING PLACE

The FMP is the space in the Village that is used as a village hall as we have no other community building. It is located in the back half of the church and is there for everyone to use. However, in common with other ancient buildings (our church dates from 1120, so is 900 years old!) it can be a little on the chilly side. So this winter the FMP is going to be heated all day every Thursday to provide a warm space for village meetings and events.

We are calling this **WARM WELCOME THURSDAYS - and events are open to everyone in the village who wants to come. Please do venture across the threshold to find a Warm Welcome awaiting you.**

### **Every week**

**9am - 10am. Keep Fit class** - join the group for gentle aerobic, balance and stretching exercises to music. Please ring Pat Ferrett for more information 01993 822892.

**12.30 - 2pm. Lunch of soup and a roll, cake and tea/coffee.** No need to book - come and enjoy lunch and a chat with others over a hot home-made meal. There is no charge for this but donations are welcome.

### **Every month**

**10.30 - 12pm Coffee, chat and biscuits on the third Thursday of each month.** Please contact Gilly Kay or Lyn Bibbings for more information. Gilly - [gillykay.kay@btinternet.com](mailto:gillykay.kay@btinternet.com) for the December morning or Lyn Bibbings for those in the New Year. Lyn - 01993 823640.

Other meetings that periodically take place are the Fulbrook Forum, the Parish Council meetings and the Parochial Church Council.

**THE FMP is also available to rent (at very favourable rates) to villagers for parties, meals etc. There is a small kitchen, tables and chairs, WC available. Please contact Lyn Bibbings for any information about the FMP or events 01993 823640**

## **Burford & District Horticultural Association Spring Flower Show, 1<sup>st</sup> April, Burford Bowls Club**

All are welcome to exhibit spring flowers at the Burford & District Horticultural Association Spring Show. Exhibitors set up between 10 and 11.15am, Royal Horticultural Society judges will be judging between 11.20 and 1pm, and the public is invited to view between 1.15 and 2pm. This Spring Show there are 19 classes for narcissi, tulips, other bulbs, corms and rhizomes, spring garden flowers and pot plants. If you are a novice, advice is on offer as you set up. The welcome is very friendly and supportive. Whatever is in flower in your garden will fit into a class somewhere!

The detailed show schedule can be found on the Association website: [www.burfordhorticultural.com](http://www.burfordhorticultural.com), or email the Show Secretary, David Cohen: [cohen4sp@btinternet.com](mailto:cohen4sp@btinternet.com)

It's a happy sociable occasion, and a great way to meet local gardeners – I hope to see you there!



## BURFORD and DISTRICT SOCIETY

**2023 Programme.** Our new Programme is out, but in the interests of the environment we have ceased to print a card version. Details of all events together with additional bonus background information can be found on our website, (see below).

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 21st March at 7pm. 'Influential 20<sup>th</sup> century women gardeners & designers in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds' – a talk by Katherine Bradley.**

Some of the beautiful gardens in Oxfordshire and Cotswolds have been designed by the increasing number of professional and amateur women gardeners during the 20th century. This talk will examine the influences on these gardeners and their designs.

These include the newly established horticultural colleges at the beginning of the 20th century, Gertrude Jekyll's and Vita Sackville West's designs and new technological and scientific advances. This will be illustrated by of the gardens created by Rosemary Verey, Norah Lindsay and Valerie Finnis.

Guests are welcome - £5 at the Warwick Hall door

**Tues. 16<sup>th</sup> May. Private self-drive visit to Honington Hall, Near Shipston on Stour** - meet there at 2pm. Pre-booking, which is essential, for the strictly limited number of 'members only' places available, is now open on our website.

**Memberships are due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan each year.** May we urge everyone to complete a standing order, it greatly simplifies our administration, (alternatively credit card payments can be made via our website). Please also complete a Gift Aid declaration, please, to enable us to claim an additional 25% contribution from the Government.

New members are warmly invited – annual fee is £10 per person. Application forms can be completed on, or are downloadable from, our website.

**Peter Martin, Chairman** petermartin@btinternet.com, [www.burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk](http://www.burfordanddistrictsociety.co.uk)

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

### Ultimate sausage casserole

The responses to foggy mornings, bone chilling weather and scraping ice off the car windows has got to include dreaming about a traditional British sausage casserole! This classic winter warmer has a modern twist giving the umami a bit of a boost. Always buy decent sausages for this dish; get fabulous Kelmscott Farm sausages from Burford Co-op if you can't afford the wondrous sausages from Castle's the Butchers.

#### Ingredients

- 2 tbsp. sunflower oil
- 6 or 8 thick pork sausages
- 100g smoked pancetta (or smoked streaky bacon)
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 100ml red wine
- 1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 1 tsp. sweet smoked paprika
- 1 tbsp. tomato puree
- 150ml chicken stock
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp. toasted fennel seeds, crushed
- 1 tbsp. honey
- 2 sprigs rosemary, finely chopped
- 1 x 400g tin cannellini beans (drained)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar

#### Method

1. Heat the oil in a heavy, thick bottom pan. Add the sausages and cook for around seven to eight minutes, turning until browned all over (they don't have to be cooked, just nice and brown). Put the sausages to one side and put the pan back on the heat.
2. Add the smoked pancetta (or chopped streaky bacon) and cook for two to three minutes, until they begin to crisp up.
3. Add the onions and cook for a further few minutes, until they begin to soften, then finally add the garlic and cook for another couple of minutes.
4. Deglaze the pan by pouring in the red wine and letting it bubble – using a wooden spoon to scrape in all the flavoursome bits and bobs from the bottom of the pan.
5. Add the chopped tomatoes, smoked paprika, tomato puree, chicken stock, Worcestershire sauce, bay leaves, fennel seeds, honey and rosemary, and the first round of salt and ground pepper. Stir to combine.
6. Add the sausages back into the pan and bring to a simmer. Loosely cover the pan and leave to simmer for about 20 minutes.
7. Stir in the cannellini beans and continue to cook for another 10 minutes until the sauce has thickened.

8. Remove from heat, check the seasoning and add a bit more salt and pepper if needed. Finally stir in the balsamic vinegar. Serve with fresh sourdough or other crusty bread to help indulge in this smoky umami winter warmer.

### Extra ideas

I'm sure you could use cut up smoked streaky bacon as a substitute for the pancetta.

I've recently come across ham stock cubes. I reckon you could use half a ham stock cube and one chicken stock cube to make the stock a bit more interesting.

Good sourdough is in plentiful supply in Burford, but don't forget that the 'Bakery on the Hill' in Burford high street does wonderful bread for the sauce mopping up operation but get there early as it can sell out!

<p><b>MARK BUFTON FORESTRY SERVICES</b> Logs for sale, garden &amp; tree work undertaken Tel: 01993 831989 Mob: 0797 154 0375</p>	<p><b>K. A. DAVIES &amp; SON</b> TIVERTON VILLA GILDENFORD, BURFORD OXFORDSHIRE OX18 4SE <i>Telephone: 01993 822511</i> <i>FOR ALL YOUR CUT FLOWERS</i> <i>PLANTS, SHRUBS</i> <i>AND</i> <i>GARDEN ORNAMENTS</i> <i>Tuesday Market</i> <i>under The Tolsey, Burford</i></p>
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Arms

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Email:

Moules frites every Wednesday

info@thecarpentersarmsfulbrook  
.co.uk

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