

The Fulbrook News

Our Quarterly Newsletter

June 2019

Number 77



Sculptor Martin Cash demonstrating his skills outside the church for the Artweeks exhibition

In this issue:

- The latest news on our clubs and activities
- Advance news of The Burford Festival
- Report from the FaB WI
- Fulbrook News and Views with your views, comments & articles from within Fulbrook
- What's going on at the FMP & the Diary
- News and forthcoming events from Fulbrook Church, including a welcome for our new benefice Vicar
- News from Burford School
- A new recipe from our resident Chef plus a wine to accompany it recommended by our new resident sommelier, Siobhan from The Carpenters Arms
- Do read on

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

Next Issue: September 2019, Copy Date – Monday 12th August 2019

The Fulbrook Newsletter 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,

Only the other day I commented on how much I appreciate living in this village. Whenever I go into Burford I meet other villagers who are always happy to give me the time of day. It makes such a difference to the routine of fetching a newspaper! In fact I have recently learnt that many of us in the village have been getting our house alarms serviced, which is very reassuring and a reminder to do it.

Once again we have been busy in the village with events: the Plant Sale and The Boot Band concert, both on 11th May and the Arts Week held in the church from 18th to 25th May. Read on for articles on how they all went. We have been informed that there will be another Saints' Day Supper - see details in the FMP News section on page 13.

On Friday 22nd March many of us from the village attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Michael Brown, who sadly passed away on 9th March. Burford Church was packed to the gunnels (not a parking spot to be found in the whole of Burford), where we heard warm tributes to Michael from his long-standing and dear friends. His obituary appears on page 11, kindly provided by his wife Diana.

It is also with sadness that I report the death of Anne Powell-Jones whose memorial service was held in St James the Great Fulbrook on Friday 10th May. Anne was featured in our 'Conversation with....' in March 2016. As a classics scholar her passion was a love of Latin and Greek and she was well known for her collection of antique books. She will be sadly missed by us all and we offer our condolences to her family. Her son, Henry, gave a very moving address at the service and her daughter, Thea, read Dover Beach by Matthew Arnold.

The Fulbrook News congratulates their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex on the birth of Archie Harrison Mountbatten Windsor and we send very best wishes to the family. It's good to hear that Harry is engaging in the chores of fatherhood! Some of us are very glad to be rid of them!

The newly donated bench seat has now been installed and looks lovely. Our grateful thanks go the FaB WI for their generous gift marking 100 years of their existence. It is inscribed along the back of the seat.

Our dear Joan Smith turned 100 on 23rd June. She was guest of honour at a lovely tea party held in Cathy Mardon's garden, arranged by Cathy and Angela Weller. Music was provided by Martin Weller and his band - read the full story on page 18.

We welcome our new benefice vicar and his family. Tom and Anna Putt will be moving to Burford in the near future with their 3 children Ellie, Sam and Abbie. We look forward to meeting them here in Fulbrook.

We are very excited to learn that Sally Wyatt, our extremely talented local artist, has had not one but TWO of her paintings accepted in the final selection process for the Summer Exhibition at The Royal Academy. This is indeed an achievement and we wish her luck in getting an acceptance. Well done Sally.

Lesley Beveridge

A note from the editorial team: We apologise that this edition of the Newsletter is being distributed slightly later than usual. We aim to distribute the Newsletter during the first week of the month but Burford School, who print the Newsletter for us, was closed for half-term during the week from 27th to 31st May so the earliest we could deliver the Newsletter to the school for printing was Monday 4th June.

Editorial Team:

Hon. Secretary & Distributor:

Jenny Jones, Meadow House, Meadow Lane, 823492

Hon. Treasurer & Compiler:

Laurence Balbes, Meadow Way Cottage, Meadow Lane, 823990

Advertising Manager:

Lesley Beveridge, Meadow View, Arkel Close, 824352 (**Editorial this issue**)

Local Correspondents & Distributors:

Diana Brown, Dolphin House, Westhall Hill, 822147

Lyn Bibbings Burns, Garden House, Dolphin Lane, 823640

**FULBROOK, OXFORDSHIRE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman:

Wally Ingleby 822192

Councillors:

Peter Burns 823640 (VC)

Malcolm Taylor 07788 391665

Bob Warner 822761

Parish Clerk:

Jo Glyde

(fulbrookpc.clerk@aol.co.uk)

Pipkin, Beech Grove, Fulbrook, OX18 4DF

Telephone 823023

www.fulbrookvillage.net

at the back of the church and the following dates have been set for the next meetings:-

15th July, 23rd September and 18th November 2019 at 7.00 pm

All are welcome at these meetings.

Don't forget the website www.fulbrookvillage.net

Walford Ingleby

Chairman

From the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Kim Kekwick is going to be the new Fulbrook Parish Clerk from June 1st 2019. To contact Kim the e-mail address will remain the same fulbrookpc.clerk@aol.co.uk and the mobile number is 07792 020903.

The Parish Clerk sends out a fortnightly e-mail to those who ask for it, detailing events in the village, planning applications and other information from West Oxfordshire District Council. If you would like to be added to this list please e-mail fulbrookpc.clerk@aol.co.uk

Jo Glyde

Parish Clerk

AMENITIES GROUP

Plant Sale: 11 May 2019

Our annual Plant Sale took place on the 11th May at Woodgrove House. Please see my article on page 19 for further details and photos of the event.

Malcolm Taylor

THE FULBROOK FORUM

7 March 2019: I chose to climb by Wendell Jones

Wendell, who is a retired accountant, entertained us with an interesting talk about his 60 years of climbing experience and how it impacted with the various stages of his life and career. He spent his childhood in Neath, South Wales where he developed his first taste of hill walking, and then more serious climbing in the Lake District where he survived an aerial excursion landing on the rocks of a waterfall, thanks to his bulky rucksack. Having survived the fall, he then walked a mere 7 miles back to a farmhouse! Undaunted this soon led to a lifetime of European and North African climbing experiences. He described the eight mile Cuillin Ridge on the Isle of Skye to be one of the best climbs in the UK. He interspersed his climbing experiences with some of his memorable reminiscences: WW2, the 1953 North Sea flood and

FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

This is my brief overview of the Parish Council activity in the past month. Points to Note are:-

- Amenities Committee:- PLANT SALE, the plant sale took place on May 11th at Wood Grove House by kind permission of Richard and Sue Newport. A strong contingent of volunteers assembled on Friday 10th May to erect the marquee and layout all the furniture. Cake stall, Bottle stall, Bric a Brac all did well as usual but turnout was slightly less than previous years. The plant stall was manned by David Foster, Joan Lilly, and Richard Newport. Final figures not yet available but I believe were in excess of £1000.00.
- O.V.O. energy Women's tour cycle race will be coming through Fulbrook on June 12th at 13.50. The Parish Council has been asked to request a good turnout of supporters and try and make it somewhat of a Carnival atmosphere. This is on a Wednesday so anyone willing to help would be greatly appreciated. It happens to coincide with a peddlers' bike ride day so perhaps we can coordinate their presence to cheer on the riders. Including among their number Olympic and World Champions.
- Gigaclear Superfast Fibre Broadband:- Work will start in Westhall Hill during June to install cables for the provision of the above to all houses in that area.
- New Councillor, we still have one vacancy on the Council which must be filled before June 21st, so come on and try your hand at steering the village to yours and the local resident's wishes. It's great fun and full of opportunities to meet more people in the village.
- Please let the Parish Council know what you think about any of the above or other issues. Meetings of FPC are held at the Meeting Place

the Harrow and Wealdstone rail crash (the worst ever in Britain). Wendell seemed to think nothing about cycling to the Alps complete with all of his climbing kit. He demonstrated bravery, resilience and a true sense of adventure.

4 April 2019: The Evolution of Veterinary Practice by John Penfold, the developments and changes since the 1960s.

A run over cat lying beside a naked woman with a mole on her buttock. A bloodhound eating a cow's placenta. Milking parlours manned by naked cowmen and cowgirls. A 12 bore shotgun pointed at him when attending a requested visit for a sick dog. A topless nun with her arm buried inside a calving heifer. Rescuing a pony caught in a sinking bog. Being arrested by the police as a suspected murderer after delivering a calf. These were some of John's experiences in his amusing and interesting talk. He worked as a Veterinary General Practitioner in Sleaford, Cranleigh and finally Stow-on-the-Wold. Unfortunately, in 1991, at 49, John suffered a head on collision with a German bus driving on the wrong side of the road. This forced his early retirement from Veterinary General Practice. Less than 2 years later he joined the Ministry of Agriculture Fishery and Food, dealing with outbreaks of fowl pest and then TB in cattle. He formed a close bond with many farmers in his Herefordshire patch, but after seeing three farmers go bankrupt, and subsequently commit suicide, due to inadequate compensation for slaughtered cattle with TB, he quit the MAFF.

2 May 2019 Heraldry: From Jo Cox MP to Meghan Markle by William Beaver

The Fulbrook Forum goes from strength to strength, finding those amongst us willing to unlock their experiences and talents to enrich our learning. It continued this month with the recently retired editor of the world's only journal for craftsmen who, wait for it, create heraldry.

On Thursday, 2 May, Dr William Beaver bid us construct a virtual museum of heraldry in our minds' eye. Off we then went to discover that far from being fusty, faded and arcane, heraldry is very much of today.

He convinced us that heraldry is 'silent power' with examples from the lives of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Sussex and Jo Cox, MP as well as dissident Catalonians, Putin's Russia and nation building from Finland to Macedonia.

With the framework of our mental museum to guide our further steps, we learned more about the craftspeople who create organisational and personal heraldry today. Example after example, he went through a dazzling catalogue of exquisite or downright odd creations from belt buckles to bedspreads, imaginative, but all still within the bounds of the ancient rules of heraldry.

He addressed head on the question 'What is all this to do with us?' Pointing out the fast-coming democratisation of designing and granting arms around the world, even in hide-bound jurisdictions controlled by the College of Arms, he left us to consider the gift we could give our families, in perpetuity, by taking arms ourselves without plunging into penury.

Our next meeting in the Fulbrook Meeting Place:

6 June 2019 The history of the Wychwood Forest and the role of the Wychwood Project in conserving it and maintaining its traditions by Toby Swift

The Fulbrook Meeting Place is in Fulbrook Church which is up Church Lane, off the A361, opposite the Fulbrook War Memorial.

All welcome, no membership required, just a donation of £2 please which includes refreshments.

Please put our future meetings in your diary. If you would like a reminder about a week before each meeting please e-mail fulbrookforum@gmail.com and we will put you on our list.

Oliver Sharpley

HISTORY GROUP

At our latest meeting on 13th May, we discussed the suggestion that when the new Burford archive is open, we should offer the Fulbrook Parish Minute Books currently held by the History Group to be stored in the archive so that they are more accessible to anyone wishing to refer to them. We agreed that this would be appropriate.

We also agreed to discuss with the Parish Council where the rest of the History Group records, currently held by Maurice Eldridge and Anne Weir, should be stored.

We would like to increase the knowledge in the village of the records and information that the

History Group holds and perhaps attract some new participants to the group.

We therefore agreed to accept the invitation from the Parish Council to have a table at the Annual Parish Meeting to display a selection of the Parish Minute Books, Cocklands Press albums and other photos and records held by the group.

This was done successfully and attracted a lot of interest so those who attended the meeting now have a better knowledge of what the History Group does.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 12th August 2019 at 7.30 pm at Triggers Cottage, Meadow Lane.

We welcome guests to our meetings, so if you are interested in the history of the village or if you have any information to contribute to our research you are welcome to join us.

Laurence Balbes

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, MAY 2019. Safer Communities, Safer Fulbrook

LOCAL ACTIVITY UPDATE

A quick review of some of the ‘Local Neighbourhood Happenings’ covering the usual topics of cold callers, burglary, vehicle thefts, and of course, a ‘too-healthy spectrum’ of scams (something which we seem to have to live with because of the increasing use of social media channels and the increasing deviousness of criminals!).

Cold Calls

A person purporting to be an antiques dealer has been leaflet dropping in the area, offering to view antiques at your home. The answer here is to refuse entry to all cold callers. Also, the old favourite of ‘Nottingham Knockers’ have been seen around and some of those still try quite an aggressive sales approach, if you are concerned please call 999.

Burglaries

There have been a series of break-ins (houses and outbuildings) in the areas of Burford, Shilton, Swinbrook, Westwell and Carterton. To help protect your property please download your FREE Home Security Guide from the Thames Valley Police website

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/>

Vehicle Thefts

These occurred in Burford (4) and Fulbrook (1 in the car park of the Carpenters Arms Pub)

Scams

The scam subjects doing the rounds are phishing emails supposedly from the TV Licensing regulators, Virgin Media re invalid billing information and telephone calls claiming to be from the police re cloned credit/debit cards,

Details of these criminal acts have been circulated by email to those members of the Fulbrook Neighbourhood Group. If you wish to be copied on these emails then please contact me by email at jimlmacallan@aol.com

MOBILE PHONE SCAMMERS

Mobile phones are being aggressively targeted by scammers with bogus texts – but could you spot a fake? The way we use mobile phones can make us vulnerable. You may be busy or travelling and your reaction to a message may be entirely different to when you are sitting at home concentrating at your computer. This lower level of concentration can limit our ability to interrogate the information fully e.g. we cannot see where a link will lead when tapped.

Worryingly ‘spoofing’ scams, which is when a fake message manages to enter a chain of genuine messages from a company you deal with regularly are on the rise. Many ‘spoofs’ are designed to scare recipients in to taking action such as alerts that someone has hacked your social media account, email account, bank account or PayPal account or your iTunes account is frozen or your TV licence is unpaid. All of these are designed to get you to part with important and valuable personal information. If you click on the embedded link fraudsters may put you on a ‘sucker’ list and you will be bombarded with even more scams. The tactics used by fraudsters range from ‘too good to be true give-aways’ to highly sophisticated confidence tricks - e.g. HMRC tax refund (and we could all be tempted to click on that link let’s face it!).

But not all unsolicited messages are scams – some are (albeit unwanted) heavy handed marketing or cold selling - e.g. injury claims from companies you have never contacted, PPI, etc. Nonetheless PLEASE be wary of any messages you don’t recognise – think twice act once!!

5 ways to beat the scammers

- Be careful with your data – criminals can and do piece data together from a range of sources e.g. social media accounts
- Never click on links – even if they appear to be from a trusted source
- Do not reply – you will likely be added to a ‘sucker’ list
- NEVER share Pins or Passwords with anyone
- Report suspected scams to Action Fraud (tel: 0300 123 2040 / website: www.actionfraud.police.uk)

In the meantime, stay safe and if you see something, report it! In an emergency dial 999. Otherwise contact Thames Valley Police on 101.

*Jim MacAllan, Email: jimlmacallan@aol.com
Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator for Fulbrook*

THE FULBROOK NEWS – THE FUTURE

Most of you will know that our newsletter is produced quarterly, delivered free to every household in the village and funded entirely by advertising. Of late some of our advertisers have discontinued their support and this leaves us wondering how we will manage to cover the printing costs in the future - we have enough in the account to complete this year’s print run.

In each issue we include a recipe and from this month we will also have a sommelier’s suggestion of a wine to accompany the dish. So, an idea from the Editorial Committee is to publish a book of the tried and tested recipes that have appeared in the Newsletter over the years - there are quite a few! We would be grateful for your comments on such a project, which we would hope to launch with the December issue and have on sale in time for Christmas.

Of course, if any of you avid readers have any other suggestions to keep our newsletter alive please don’t be shy. Let us know what you think.

Do you wish to continue receiving The Fulbrook News?

Here is the latest contribution from our resident poet Joanna Lynham:

Self-interest

Why does he draw in pencil?
asked the teacher
looking at me suspiciously

Other children use coloured chalks –
something must be wrong

Childhood trauma?
arrested development?
birth of a sibling?

She was still talking as I left

Later I asked my grandson
why do you
only draw in pencil?

I draw in pencil, was the reply
because I can’t reach
the chalks!

JL



This month we welcomed Matthew Timms from Timms Wealth Management Ltd, a Senior Partner Practice of St James's Place Wealth Management. Matthew discussed who pays what and when, the new residents nil rate band, tax efficient wills, business relief schemes plus much more. Along with these subjects, one of the most interesting topics were the pitfalls and myths! Matthew was joined by Philippa Rumary from Woodstock Solicitors. Both speakers have over 20 years' experience in their chosen fields, this was evident from their knowledge while presenting and answering attendee's questions. It gave us all some food for thought when planning for our futures.

Monthly Meetings:

The next meeting is our annual Garden Party on Tuesday 11th June. Please contact myself on 07967 817994 for more information.

Tuesday 9th July: Self Defence with Graham Matthews.

Walking Group Friday 7th June – Alvescot Loop

This walk includes a disused railway line, peaceful meadows and returns with views of Broadwell and Kencot. Please note the routes are subject to change depending on weather and conditions so it is always worth checking with Sue Newport first: 07966 153797 sue@rsbjn.co.uk The start time is 10am from the Carpenter's Arms, Fulbrook on the first Friday of each month. Non-members and well behaved dogs are always welcome.

The Lunch Club Tuesday 18th June 12pm: Held at the Cotswold Gateway Hotel, this is open to non-members as well. Contact Angela Weller on 01993 822012 or at wellersativy@hotmail.co.uk

The Book Club Tuesday 21st May 7:30pm: This month's book is Tangerine by Christine Mangan and the discussion is also open to non-members. Contact Sara Hall at the Madhatter Bookshop for further details.

Guests are always welcome and it is a good way to "try before you buy!" There is a suggested donation of £4.50 per meeting. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 7pm aiming to start at 7.30pm in the Old Hall in the Warwick Hall. More information about us can also be found on www.thefabwi.org.uk

Frankie Fowkes
President

Fulbrook News and Views

From the Editorial Team.....

In this issue we include a tribute to Michael Brown who died recently, a report on a taster menu evening at the newly re-opened Carpenters Arms, news of the Burford Festival 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 conversation with

Anne and Jim Weir

(pictured here on their 50th wedding anniversary in 2012 with their dog Jess, sadly no longer with them)



A chance meeting after both responded to an advertisement for teachers in Montreal, Canada turned into what Jim describes as “a mutual attraction that developed into marriage” for Anne and Jim. In their own words they describe how it all began:

Jim: “In 1959 I was interviewed for and appointed to the post of History teacher at Burford Grammar School and settled happily teaching History and PE. The school at this time had one of the oldest Combined Cadet units in England - commanded by an ex RAF Squadron Leader who taught Chemistry with the second in command being an ex Royal Navy officer who taught Music. By happy chance my National Service had been with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and I could contribute drill instruction and weapon training.

We had a new Head of PE in my second year, a Canadian who spoke highly of Quebec and three of us went back with him to Quebec at the end of the year and were employed by the Protestant School Board of

Greater Montreal with 1200 students. I had to settle into a completely different system and at our first meeting of History staff I asked what we should cover in the first year - the response was “to page 120”! The school had expanded beyond its limits and was allocated a floor for some classes in nearby Willingdon School and I was transferred there.”

Anne: “I was born and raised in Rutherglen, Glasgow in 1938. From 1939 until 1945 my father served in the Army, first in the Scots Guards and then the Royal Scots Fusiliers. Consequently, I didn’t know my father until I was seven years old. I remember running to meet him at Glasgow Station and hitting my head on the barrier. After secondary school at Rutherglen Academy, where I was Sports Champion and Dux medallist, I trained to be a Primary School teacher at Jordonhill Training College. My teaching career began at Rutherglen Spital School (short for hospital) and I was there until I saw the advertisement recruiting teachers, placed by the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal.

I was allocated Willingdon Elementary School where there was a high proportion of Jewish children - it was in a wealthy area. The Head of the school insisted on keeping classroom doors open during lessons and I first saw Jim marching along the corridor past my classroom with a newspaper under his arm.”

They were married on 22nd December in Montreal and David, their first child was born in 1964. In 1965, making the journey by sea, they decided to return to the UK, particularly to be close to Jim’s family.

Jim continues: “I left Anne and David in Glasgow and went to look for work travelling by coach from London to Wales. When it stopped in Burford I had time for a quick courtesy call at Burford School and was delighted to be restored to my old job, where I was to remain for the next 32 years. I followed Mrs Agnes Simpson as Head of History on her retirement in 1979.”

The young family moved into Windrush Cottage in Fulbrook until they found a house to buy in Finstock. It was here that on 1st November, 1966 that Anne went into labour with what they both thought to be her second child.

Anne tells us what happened: “We went to the hospital in Chipping Norton where they took me in to give birth. Jim had to go to work as it was a school day. I underwent the usual examinations only to be told that there seemed to be many arms and legs! Then Edward was born and it was soon discovered who the proud owner of the other set of limbs was, John. Jim rang the hospital and was told of Edward’s birth and was only later to discover that there were twins”.

Lynn was born in 1967 and when she reached secondary school age the family moved back to Fulbrook and settled for the lovely Triggers Cottage in Meadow Lane. Anne returned to teaching and took up posts in Primary Schools in Finstock and Stonesfield and Shipton-under-Wychwood.

Burford Grammar School became a bilateral school before taking the status of Comprehensive. Jim notes the rapid expansion of the school as the US Air Force left Brize Norton to be replaced by the RAF along with their families. Anne completed an Open University course in English and History, taught French at Charlbury School and ended up teaching the remedial class at Burford Comprehensive - lucky them!

In 1992 Anne retired to immerse herself in community projects. The History Group proved an excellent opportunity to discover the rich tapestry of life in the village and she consulted with Maurice Eldridge, a local historian, to write a book ‘Harvey’s Tales and other Fulbrook Memories’. This was a great success with a limited print run of 100 all being snapped up very quickly. Anne is very interested in preserving the memories and anecdotes of Fulbrookians. In her book she refers to Joan Smith’s War giving us an interview with Joan as she remembered her war years. At 100 now Joan can still recount a tale or two from her youth.

The Methodist Church has benefitted from Anne’s involvement and she now manages bookings for the hall. Over the years she has been a keen churchgoer and attends the monthly Methodist service, although the congregation is sadly dwindling. In addition, she particularly likes the services at Swinbrook and is also a regular worshipper at Fulbrook.

Their retirement has been greatly enhanced by the addition of seven grandchildren: Beth (23), Ilona (22), Isla (21), James (20), Emily (19), Drew (19) and Mia (17). Two of them are following in Anne and Jim’s

footsteps as teachers whilst Isla and James are still following university courses. Emily has decided to become a chef and is about to start her career in Sloane Square, London. Drew is in the Army as a member of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Mia has just left school.

Jim can have the last word: “Since retirement I have been content to garden whilst Anne has continued to be a very active local participant.”

Quick Fire Questions:

Line of Duty or Victoria?

Jim: Line of Duty

Anne: BBC 4

Gardening or baking?

Jim: Gardening

Anne: NOT baking

Treasure Island or Wuthering Heights?

Jim: Treasure Island

Anne: Eriskay Where I was Born by Angus Edward Macinnes

Staycation or vacation?

Jim: with limited movement I like to stay at home

Anne: Great Rail Journeys through the Outer Hebrides

Supermarket or local produce?

Aldi nowadays - great quality and very convenient with everything in one place

Beer or cocoa?

Jim: Beer

Anne: Cider

Pub or dinner party?

Both: pub except on Friday family nights!

Bravo the Carpenters

I'm sure all of you who have been into the Carpenters since it has re-opened will applaud Tom, Siobhan and Monique for making it a great place to meet with friends and enjoy a fabulous meal. We are so fortunate that Fulbrook now has a **great** pub and I know that word is getting round to other nearby villages that this is the place to go to.

During the winter I despaired whenever I walked past the forlorn looking Carpenters but now it is with great relief that Tom and Siobhan have taken up the challenge and it is up to us to support them.

Whether you want just a lunch time snack or dinner, the food is fantastic.

Jan Park

Charity Coffee Morning Raises £860!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported my coffee morning in aid of Belmont Special School in Cheltenham. Despite the grey skies lots of people came along, drank coffee and ate cakes, and I was delighted that £430 was raised for The Friends at Belmont Special School (Registered Charity 1172082).

Our company Decode Logistics Limited is matching all funds raised, which means a tremendous **£860** in total will be donated to Belmont.

Belmont Special School supports children from 5 to 16 who have a range of moderate/severe learning difficulties, behavioural challenges and medical needs. They do a fantastic job for all the pupils, and our son Joe has attended since 2015.

The rather damp and chilly weather meant that many people were unable to enjoy the gardens and Woodgrove Lake. Don't panic though - we are hosting the **WI Coffee Morning** at Woodgrove House on **Tuesday 13 August** – do come along and hopefully it will be a lovely sunny morning in the garden. Everyone welcome – WI, guests, menfolk and children.

Sue Newport

Thank you!

I would like to thank all the kind people in Fulbrook who helped me and Michael in numerous ways during his last illness. The support, understanding and friendship was enormous and I honestly don't think I could have coped at all without you. It went on for a long time and you were wonderful throughout.

Diana Brown.

Michael David Meredith Brown

2nd August 1936 - 9th March 2019

Michael was born and brought up in Devon, although his parents came from the north of England. He has a younger sister and three nephews of whom he was very fond. He was sent away to boarding school in Hampshire, then to Radley College, near Abingdon. He met his wife Diana in London, they married in Fulbrook and have one son, Hugo, and one granddaughter.

He studied Law at Christ Church, Oxford and then trained as a solicitor because “He wanted to help people” - something he did often, both within the working day and outside the constraints of the office. He worked for various solicitors in London, Banbury (where he was the North Oxfordshire Coroner, indeed he was the first Coroner to give asbestos poisoning as the cause of death), Witney, Stow-on-the-Wold, Chipping Norton and Oxford for Cole & Cole with whom he was a partner. He then joined Kendall and Davies in Burford.

Besides being a solicitor, Michael had a committed sense of public duty. In Wigginton, where he lived before coming to Fulbrook in 1993, he served on the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council as Church Warden and was involved in charities there and in Burford. Here in Fulbrook he and Diana regularly attended church together, where he took his place on the rota of readers. As an undergraduate he was involved with the Church and early on a Sunday morning he would disappear off to the Cathedral to take part in the service, performing duties as a Sacrostan.

He loved music, particularly that of Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss. He didn't read many books, but he could listen to an opera and 'read' it as if it were a book - completely immersed and at one with the music.

Although quiet and not given to telling jokes, he possessed a keen wit. He particularly enjoyed satire and was an avid follower of Private Eye, having been a school friend of Peter Cook. He was not shocked by earthy humour, but was never a fan of cruel humour and was never heard to use humour against anyone.

Michael loved cars. He was probably the only 17 year old to take a driving test in a Rolls Royce. He was an extremely good driver, having done some rally driving at some point in his youth and liked to drive fast. So good in fact that he was once stopped by policemen on the M5 for exceeding 100mph, given a mild rebuke, complimented on his driving and allowed to continue. He used to service his own cars until the days of modern electronics came when reluctantly he had to hand them over to the garage.

Michael was, through and through, the personification of a Gentleman: charming, beautifully mannered, kind, loyal and hard working. Always interested in others, he undertook many kindnesses and helped many people in a quiet and unassuming way. He was extremely generous and had a particular dislike of meanness in all its forms. He was a loving, kind and gentle husband, father and grandfather - taking a particular delight in the company of his granddaughter Laura, with whom he had a strong bond.



A poem in memory of Michael

A good man gone, but who's to blame
A good man gone, a crying shame
A good man gone, in all but name
A good man gone, thank God he came.

John Hoyle



NEWS FROM FULBROOK CHURCH

After a long process of recruitment over the winter we are now looking forward to welcoming our new benefice Vicar, the Rev Tom Putt. Tom is currently the Associate Minister in Yeovil and Chaplain at the 6th Form College. He is married to Anna, and they have three children Ellie, Sam & Abbie, who they hope will be able to attend the local primary school in Burford.



Tom trained at Oak Hill and was a Curate in Kirk Ella & Willerby, two villages just outside Hull. Tom has been involved in leading the Children's Ministry at the Keswick Convention for 12 years which is where he met Anna. Anna was a School teacher before they had the children and has had lots of involvement with all the churches they have been a part of. She is also a Trustee of Keswick Ministries.

Tom will receive his license at an induction service in Burford on 9th July and **everyone is encouraged to attend.** Watch out for further details.

We are hoping that Tom will be visiting and preaching in Fulbrook soon after his arrival, although he has a number of existing commitments (including a holiday!) that he has to fulfil during July and August – please watch this space for details in the next edition.

Regular quiet prayer for Fulbrook, every 2nd Monday, 6.30pm – 7pm

Everyone is most welcome to join in these prayers to ask for guidance and help in developing and growing our church congregation. **These will be on 10th June, 8th July, 12th August and 9th September.**

Regular quiet prayer Thursdays 5pm

Everyone is most welcome to join in these prayers. If you would like prayers to be said for anyone please notify either John (01993 824044) or Lyn (01993 823640), the Churchwardens, or put their names on the pad on the small table to the left of the entrance door, and we shall ensure they are remembered in our prayers. **Please ensure you have their consent before mentioning anyone's name.** We shall be praying for all those in Fulbrook who are ill or in need.

Regular church services

| Date | Time | | Details |
|-------------------------|------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 02 June | 9.30 | Morning Prayer (MP) Common Worship(CW) | Oliver Strange, curate, preaching |
| 9 th June | 9.30 | Holy Communion HC/CW | Cedric Reavley preaching. |
| 16 th June | 9.30 | Trinity. (MP)Book of Common Prayer (BCP) | Oliver Strange preaching |
| 23 rd June | 9.30 | HC/BCP | TBC |
| 30 th June | 9.30 | Benefice Service, TAYNTON | No service in Fulbrook. |
| 7 th July | 9.30 | MP/CW | Gerard Moate preaching |
| 7 th July | 6pm | Taizé service (Ecumenical) | Service of prayer and contemplation |
| 14 th July | 9.30 | HC/CW | Oliver Strange preaching |
| 21 st July | 9.30 | MP/BCP | Oliver Strange preaching |
| 28 th July | 9.30 | HC/BCP | Oliver Strange preaching |
| 4 th August | 9.30 | MP/CW | Roy Tarbox preaching |
| 11 th August | 9.30 | HC/CW | Oliver Strange preaching |
| 18 th August | 9.30 | MP/BCP | Oliver Strange preaching |
| 25 th August | 9.30 | HC/BCP | Cedric Reavley preaching |



NEWS FROM THE FULBROOK MEETING PLACE

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Boot Band concert held in the FMP on 11th May 2019 was a great success, with everyone who attended enjoying a great upbeat musical evening which featured traditional and folk music, including the band's own compositions and modern music. Nick Hooper was on guitar and vocals, Susanna Stalling on vocals and double bass and Judith Hooper, composer and instrumentalist. A glass of wine and light refreshments were provided and a great time was had by all! £1065 was raised towards the upkeep of Fulbrook Church and a further £65 for the Charity Aspire which provides practical help to people who have been paralysed by Spinal Cord Injury. Very many thanks go to Diana Lethbridge and John Radcliffe for organising the event and selling tickets, and to Jo and Phil Glyde and John and Jacky Harrington for all their hard work on the day.

Saints Day Supper – 3rd August 7.30pm We shall be selling tickets for this fundraiser and celebration of our Church's Saint's Day – St James the Great. This will be a four course themed meal with a glass of bubbles to start and, based on past events, will be a lot of fun. There will only be 40 tickets available at £25 so book early to avoid disappointment! See Lyn Bibbings Burns 01993 823640 or John Radcliffe 01993

REGULAR EVENTS – everyone is very welcome to come to these.

There is a lively weekly Keep Fit 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!

On the 4th Thursday each month there is a coffee morning at 10.30am, with conversation, coffee and delicious biscuits – just turn up for a warm welcome.

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.

Burford Festival Finale Concert by The Burford Singers

Mozart: Overture to the Marriage of Figaro
Bob Chilcott: Dances of Time
Shostakovich: Piano Concerto no 2
Alexander l'Estrange: Songs of a Rainbow Nation
Beethoven: Choral Fantasia

Sunday, 16th June 2019, 7.30pm
Church of St John the Baptist, Church Green, Burford OX18 4RY

Burford Singers with
Maria Marchant – soloist, Shostakovich Piano Concerto
Cotswold Chamber Orchestra, Leader: Kate Bailey, Conductor: Brian Kay

Tickets reserved at £23, £19, £15, unreserved £10. Online booking at
www.burfordingers.org.uk/box-office (Booking fee applies)

Booking in person (unreserved tickets only) at The Madhatter Bookshop 122, High Street, Burford OX18 4QJ
Full details on our website www.burfordingers.org.uk
Details are also on the Burford Festival website at www.burfordfestival.org

*Catherine Martin
Burford Sinaers Publicity*

FULBROOK MEETING PLACE
DIARY OF EVENTS June to August 2019

JUNE

| | | |
|---------------|----------|--|
| Friday 4th | 7.30pm | Bellringing practice |
| Thursday 6th | 3pm | Fulbrook Forum – All welcome |
| Monday 10th | 6.30-7pm | Informal prayers for Fulbrook- All welcome |
| Thursday 27th | 10.30am | Coffee morning- all welcome |

JULY

| | | |
|---------------|----------|--|
| Sunday 7th | 6pm | Taize service. All faiths welcome |
| Monday 8th | 6.30-7pm | Informal prayers for Fulbrook- All welcome |
| Monday 15th | 7.30pm | Parish Council meeting |
| Thursday 25th | 10.30am | Coffee morning– all welcome |

AUGUST- Every Thursday Keep Fit 9 –10am All welcome £3

| | | |
|---------------|----------|---|
| Friday 2nd | 7.30pm | Bellringing practice |
| Saturday 3rd | 7.30pm | Saints Day Supper – social and fundraiser (see page 13) |
| Monday 12th | 6.30-7pm | Informal prayers for Fulbrook- All welcome |
| Thursday 29th | 10.30am | Coffee morning– all welcome |

Every Thursday a Keep Fit group meets to exercise with music from 9-10 am. Led by Pat Ferret, it is £3 a session – and a lot of fun as well as being good for you! Contact Pat for details on 01993 822892.

Every Thursday there is **Quiet prayer at 5pm** –everyone welcome

For bookings and further information call:

Lyn Bibbings Burns 01993 823640

E mail: lynbibbings1@gmail.com

Burford Orchestra

Burford Orchestra’s summer concert, on Saturday 29 June, 7.30pm at Burford School, is dedicated to works inspired by Romeo and Juliet – Shakespeare’s famous star-crossed lovers. We will start with Tchaikovsky’s Fantasy Overture followed by a selection of pieces from Prokofiev’s ballet, including the instantly-recognisable Dance of the Knights (known as the theme tune for the TV series the Apprentice) and finish with the spectacular Symphonic Dances from Leonard Bernstein’s West Side Story.

Tickets cost £9 with £1 entry for under 16s and are available online from TicketSource. Contact info@burfordorchestra.org.uk or Sarah on 01993 883490 for information. Doors open 7pm, refreshments available.



A big thank you to everyone who has bought tickets. The speed of uptake has been tremendous.

Now that you made your first selection of events, can we tempt you to a few of the jewels on offer that you may have over-looked in the first flush of excitement when absorbing the programme.

World premiere - Letters from Broadway

How often do you get the chance to attend a world premiere? This short theatrical production is based on the almost daily letters full of humour and wit that in 1965 Hazel Douglas, the British actress, sent to her husband back home. They fascinatingly reveal the tensions and exhilarations of appearing on Broadway in 1965 in the play *All in Good Time*, including the challenges of working with the redoubtable theatrical knight Donald Wolfitt, which was both daunting yet rewarding.

Diane Setterfield

A great opportunity to hear Diane, author of the brilliant bestselling book *The Thirteenth Tale*, discuss her new novel *Once Upon a River*, an exquisitely crafted multi-layered mystery brimming with folklore, suspense and romance, as well as the urgent scientific curiosity of the Darwinian age.

Our garden speakers: George Schoellkopf & Anna Pavord.

Have you ever realised what an influence English gardens have had on gardens abroad? George is flying in from New England, to describe how he fell in love with the English garden, and set out to create his own at Hollister House in Connecticut. Then Anna Pavord, renowned gardening correspondent and author, will transport us to Tuscany with wonderful images of places and people, to tell the story of the migration of English-speaking expatriates who delighted in the restoration of Italian gardens in the early 20th century.

Jo Ruxton / A Plastic Ocean

As part of the Festival's environmental theme we are proud to welcome Jo Ruxton who began the Plastic Ocean project 10 years ago. At that time no-one could anticipate the powerful effect the film *A Plastic Ocean* would have after its release in 2017 and screening in over 60 countries. Be inspired by Jo, CEO of Plastic Oceans UK, who will provide a 'behind the scenes' insight into the production of the film and also the key environmental issues and developments over the last 10 years.

A screening of this film will follow at the Club House at 8pm, but was nearly sold out at the time of writing.

All the King's Men Workshop

If you really want to get into the Festival spirit, join the other fun seekers who have bought tickets to attend the one-hour workshop being given by All the King's Men to learn about creating a cappella arrangements and then actively participate in one number at the subsequent evening performance. Combined tickets now on sale for the workshop and the evening concert for only £15 (£13 for the concert alone). For an extra £2 only, the workshop is the bargain of the Festival and what is more, you can now book in confidence knowing that you will most certainly not be alone.

The Songbirds Trio

The Songbird Trio's aim is quite simple. It is to delight you with their enthralling '*Incurable Romantics*' programme of vocal music encompassing a wide variety of well-known opera hits and songs, including works from Purcell, Mozart and Puccini to Kurt Weill, Joni Mitchell and Doris Day.

www.burfordfestival.org

www.ticketsource.co.uk/burford-festival

Carpenter's Arms Taster Menu 'Feast Night' Review

The proposition for a taster menu is fraught with difficulty. For the restaurant the gamble is on taking sufficient bookings leading to a profitable event; for the customer, value for money and expectations being met is the key to a happy evening.

A brave commitment then, from Siobhan and Tom, the new tenants at the Carpenter's, and big leap of faith from the supportive Fulbrook residents who ventured out to the event.

The evening consisted six courses with matched wine curated by an expert from the Oxford Wine Company. The starter was a fascinating dish of heritage tomatoes, goats cheese mousse and a cherry tomato bomb



This was followed by torched mackerel with burnt cucumber and pickled kohlrabi (and the inspiration for this edition's recipe)

The main course was local lamb loin and foraged wild garlic, with a witty play on mint sauce: a caviar, or pearls of mint jelly. Really delicious with the lamb perfectly pink.



Dessert was lemon and green tea parfait, followed by whiskey smoked brie. The event was really carefully choreographed, a fulfilling evening of which Siobhan and Tom should be proud. Whilst expensive it easily met expectations and I look forward to the next one with some pleasure!

Peter Burns

Burford School News May 2019

A Musical Triumph

In March the cast of our musical extravaganza, *Beauty and the Beast*, played to packed houses over the course of six performances. Students, family, friends and visitors from as far afield as Yorkshire, Somerset and Hampshire witnessed outstanding talent, fabulous costumes, a wonderful set and the superb orchestra. Helping make it all possible were our sponsors, Burford Garden Company. Our heartfelt thanks go to them and the local businesses who generously gave to our raffles.

Tales from Arabia!

Rehearsals for the forthcoming Drama production *Arabian Nights* have occupied many of our younger students this term. Don't miss these mystical tales of love, riches and genies. Performances will take place in the Arabian tent from **24-26 June**. Tickets are available via ticketsource.co.uk

Best for Business

Once again it has proved a fantastic year for our business entrepreneurs. As part of the National Tenner Challenge run by Young Enterprise and supported by the Business Growth Fund, Burford was announced as National Tenner Challenge Winners 2019 in the following categories: *'Roll-a-Coaster'* - *Best for Sustainability* age15-19 and *'Hearty Herbs'* - *Best Team* age 15-19.

The students enjoyed a trip to the Bank of England to receive their awards.

Incredible Iceland

In April, thirty Sixth Form Geography students enjoyed an unforgettable visit to Keflavik Iceland, visiting some of its magnificent tectonic wonders. The action packed trip kicked off with a walking tour of Reykjavik, taking in the largest church in Iceland, City Hall and the Alþingi Houses of Parliament. Day two saw the students at the Hellisheidi Power Station followed by and a dip in the steamy 40°C waters of the Secret Lagoon geothermal pool and hot spring.

On the final day, students enjoyed taking part in the interactive exhibition at the Lava Centre and briefly stopped at Eyjafjallajökull which erupted in 2010. They then climbed the 200ft Skógafoss waterfall, dodged waves at Reynishverfi black sand beach and saw the impacts of climate change on the Sólheimajökull glacier tongue. The trip concluded with a bracing walk behind the Seljalandsfoss waterfall. A fascinating and informative trip was had by all!

Showcasing Talent

Do join us for our **Art & Photography Show** and our **Design & Technology Exhibition** after half term. Both exhibitions are a celebration of some wonderful, creative work. Dates for both will be posted on our website. Entry is free and refreshments will be served.

Boarding House Lunch

This year's final lunch for the senior members of our community will be held on Wednesday 26 June. Please contact Mrs Imms by Tuesday 18 June on 01993 823283 (boarding@burford.oxon.sch.uk) if you would like to attend.

Lyndy Dennis
Marketing Assistant
www.burford.oxon.sch.uk

St. George takes a back seat for Joan's 100th birthday.

This April 23rd was a beautiful, sunny and warm. During the afternoon around forty friends, family, neighbours and carers gathered together to celebrate the 100th birthday of Joan Smith, Fulbrook's oldest resident. The bunting and flags were hung, a World War 2 Jeep (complete with siren and loudspeaker playing Glen Miller) were ready for her arrival. The card from the Queen took pride of place next to the cakes and 'Saxophony' provided period musical entertainment to accompany the afternoon tea and bubbles. In Joan's words it was 'an incredible party'. She certainly seemed to have a great time.

Joan first came to live in Corner Cottage immediately after World War 1 with her parents and her sister Sybil. Joan attended Fulbrook village school later returning there to try her hand and teaching which didn't suit her at all she says. Her father, a Burford man by birth, purchased Wychwold in Upper End which he ran as a poultry farm until his death. Joan has fond memories of delivering eggs around the village on Saturdays with Sybil enjoying 'treats' as their rewards along the way. Joan has lived in the house ever since, except for a period of fifteen years during World War 2. She first served in 129 Regiment Anti-Aircraft Control tracking planes coming over from Germany thus providing advanced warning for our airmen and later joined the Women's Land Army serving on a Kent farm. She continued there for five years after the end of the war returning to Fulbrook to support her mother and father.

Joan remembers fondly her 25 years working for Helen Bryce at Cocklands Press in the village producing Christmas and birthday cards. She cycled there daily although she did have a car and enjoyed many holidays and outings in it as far afield as Scotland. When the press closed in 1979 she worked at Scotts of Stowe until the car gave up. She still talks of her dear friends Mwyndeg and Cora and holidays abroad especially in Greece, the walking group which also included Annie Purcell and sewing circle which included Joanne Lynham. She is also the last surviving member of the sewing group the produced the Burford Coronation Cope still in use for special occasions today by local clergy.

Joan has served her community in very many ways throughout her life and she is loved and treasured by us all now. Many she carry on singing at the top of her voice for many years to come.

Cathy Mardon and Angela Weller





NORTH COTSWOLD ARTS ASSOCIATION

Wed 12th June, 2 – 4pm Sheila Bryant will demonstrate 'Quick, unlaboured portraits in charcoal'

Wed 10th July, 2 – 4pm Caroline James will be showing us how to paint shadows

Wed 14th Aug An afternoon trip to Pegasus Arts in Stroud

Everybody welcome!

£5 guests inc refreshments

Contact Sandi Garrett on 01451 822550 or email alexa_buffery@yahoo.co.uk for more information

Fulbrook Plant Sale 2019

The Fulbrook Plant Sale of 2019 was again held in Woodgrove House, with grateful thanks to Sue and Richard Newport for the use of their front garden, as well as supplying the sausages in rolls and manning of one of the plant stalls, with many plants supplied by Hickmans.

Despite unfavourable weather forecasts earlier in the week, it remained dry and was a lovely way for the people of Fulbrook to spend a morning meeting up with friends as well as supporting the village by purchasing all that was on offer, which as well as the plants and sausages, included teas, cakes, bric-a-brac, 50/50, the bottle stall and of course the big raffle. This included a huge hamper from the MacAllan's, a fabulous fruit bowl from Jo Glyde, an excellent malt from Richard Lethbridge and lunch for 2 at the Carpenters, as well as very generous donations of prizes from the shops on Burford High Street.



A big thank you to all who helped setting up the Plant Sale and making it all happen on the day, especially to our youngest stall holders, Joe Newport and Rhys Cooper. However, the biggest thanks must go to David Foster, who spends a great deal of time and effort to provide many of the plants for sale each year and make the event what it is. Thank you David.

This year we raised £1,049, which is an excellent result from our small village.

The proceeds from the Plant Sale are used for the benefit of Fulbrook village, and include the upkeep of the Playpark and War Memorial as well as other Amenities projects.

I look forward to seeing everyone and anyone who couldn't make it this time, again next year.

Malcolm Taylor, Amenities Group

FaB WI Walks for 2019

This is our third year of monthly walks from The Carpenters Arms Pub. We are delighted that the group is growing, and by popular demand this year most walks include the opportunity for a coffee stop at the end of the walk. We alternate between walking directly from the Pub and carsharing to the start of a local walk. Meet ready to walk at 10am prompt.

Everyone – people and dogs - are welcome. Ages on the FaB walks have ranged from 13 to 80+ and it is a great opportunity for a natter and to make new friends. Some of us are doing the “Walk 1000 Miles” challenge so it is brilliant way to find new walks and clock up those miles.

The walks are organised on a voluntary basis and there is no charge for taking part. All you need is a pair of wellies or walking boots and some common sense when walking over muddy ground as everyone walks at their own risk.

Walks take place on the first Friday in each month and this year include:

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Fri 7 Jun | Alvescot (4.5 miles)* | Fri 1 Nov | Shilton (5 miles)* |
| Fri 5 Jul | Burford Watermeadows (4 miles) | Fri 6 Dec | Holwell / Westwell (4 miles)* |

* = carshare to the start from Carpenters Arms Pub, meet at pub at 10am

We have a Facebook group “FaB Walking” if you’d like to find out more about the routes and see where else people are enjoying walking throughout the year.

Look forward to walking with you soon!

Sue Newport

The Arts Society Cotswolds lecture programme

On March 13th, 2019, The Arts Society Cotswolds will hold their next lecture “Twentieth Century Sculpture in Britain: Adventures in Three Dimensions” with Dr. Justine Hopkins

Modern Sculpture is mysterious to many – abstract, distorted, difficult and sometimes inaccessible. However, this lecture reveals an understanding of how form, materials, technical skills and imagination uses a three dimensional language as expressively as any painter, poet or novelist to give us insights into the rhythms and meanings of life.

On April 10th their next lecture is called “The Beauty of Frames” with Julia Korner and covers a brief history of their development across Europe – their construction, conservation, materials and techniques

On May 8th the lecture concerns “Art UK: Uncovering the Nation’s Hidden Oil Painting Collection” by Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac. A project offers an insiders view of a project cataloguing every oil painting in public ownership in the UK.

On June 12, The Arts Society Cotswolds will hold a lecture entitled “Same Old, Same New...” with Alike Braine. Can old masters help us understand modern and contemporary work?

Lectures begin at 11.00 at the Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford OX18 4RZ. Non-members are welcome (suggested donation £10). For more information see our website www.theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk



Bird Aid Breaks Records Skylark and Yellowhammer Numbers Soar

Bird Aid is a West Oxfordshire initiative that works closely with the Wychwood Project to help feed our threatened farmland birds during the 'hungry gap' from January to early May. Bird Aid particularly targets help at three key farmland bird species: yellowhammers, skylarks and linnets.

These birds used to be able to feed on seeds in the stubble fields over winter before the land was ploughed in the spring, but the modern practice of immediate ploughing after harvest now makes it much harder for flocks of these birds to survive the winter.

Over the past 15 years, Bird Aid led by Louise Spicer has organised 12 feeding stations on farms in Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Over Norton, Hailey, Stonesfield and Crawley.

Paul Wren, an experienced local birder, is impressed by the positive impact Bird Aid has had.

"Having been made aware of the Wychwood Project's Bird Aid, I decided to go up to Highfield crossroads near Stonesfield to see what was around. Instantly yellowhammers were visible on the hedgerow tops, eventually the count reached 30, all coming to the seeded area. Linnets were present in good numbers (35) along with a few chaffinches, again all coming to the seed. Similar numbers were seen in subsequent visits emphasising how important this project is for farmland bird survival over the winter period. In addition there were 304 skylark up there, the biggest number I've seen in the county.

The Wychwood Project's Bird Aid, feeding in various locations, is a great project and is well worth locals taking an interest in."

30 volunteers from the local community distribute seed throughout the winter from November to early May. With advice from the RSPB and support from the Wychwood Project and generous donors, this venture has successfully attracted lots of farmland birds, including scarce tree sparrows and corn buntings in past years.

Bird Aid would welcome more bird watchers to help with the surveys from November to end of March. And the charity is also keen to hear from farmers or landowners who could provide a feeding site. If you would like further information on how to get involved please contact judy.anders66@gmail.com.

Another recipe from the cookbook of our resident chef Peter Burns:

Spiced cured mackerel with fennel and orange salad

Inspired by the taster menu at the Carpenter's Arms last month, this recipe is designed to tempt your summer taste buds out of hiding and is the perfect light lunch or fancy snack to accompany fun in the sun.

The recipe is straightforward (and curiously doesn't involve any cooking) but will require a bit of patience and courage; especially those of you who don't regularly take a blowtorch to your food... but I'm getting ahead of myself.

The process of curing with salt and sugar draws moisture from the fish, firming the texture and enhancing the flavour through the toasted fennel and coriander seeds.

Let's assume you take the trip to an actual fish shop and you get really fresh mackerel, I urge you to follow Tom's technique (he's the head chef at the Carpenter's) and keep the skin on and use a blowtorch to crisp it – something you will have seen on the likes of BBC's Great British Menu (can you feel the dizzy heights to which I am leading you?).

The extreme heat of a blowtorch will deliver a crisp, smoky skin, which protects the delicate, cured flesh.

Ingredients for the fish (two or four servings)

2 large fillets of mackerel

75g fine sea salt

75g caster sugar

1 tbsp fennel seeds, toasted and ground

1 tbsp coriander seeds, toasted and ground

1 tsp pumpkin seeds, toasted, to serve

Ingredients for the salad

1 bulb fennel, very thinly sliced (reserve the fronds)

1 blood orange

1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

2 tsp sherry vinegar
pinch of sugar

Method

1. Lay each mackerel fillet on a cutting board, skin-side up. At one of the corners of the thick end of the fillet, tease away the top membrane using your finger (imagine you are teasing the back of a sticker up). Once you've got enough to pinch between your fingers, peel down gently towards the tail. Repeat with the other fillet. Turn the fillets over and, using a sharp knife, cut vertically down each fillet, a couple of millimetres either side of the central line of bones, creating 4 bone-free fillets.
2. In a bowl, mix the fine sea salt, sugar and ground and toasted (effectively dry fried) fennel and coriander seeds.
3. Sprinkle $\frac{1}{4}$ of this mix into a dish, gently press the mackerel fillets, skin-side down, cover the fish with the remaining cure mix. Clingfilm and chill for 1 hour (you are now curing the fish!).
4. Put the thinly sliced fennel and fronds in a bowl of iced water for 10 minutes. Segment the orange over a bowl, catching any juice and the segmented orange pieces. Add the olive oil, sherry vinegar, seasoning and the sugar and stir gently.
5. Remove the mackerel from the cure and wash under gently running cold water. Pat dry with kitchen paper.
6. Put the mackerel fillets on a clean baking tray, skin-side up, and blowtorch until the skin is blistered and crisp. Alternatively, heat the grill to high and grill the fillets for 1 minute – but keep an eye on them!
7. Strain the fennel, pat dry, and toss it through the orange segments. Serve next to the mackerel fillets with a drizzle of dressing, a sprinkle of pumpkin seeds and a scattering of fennel fronds.

Extras

This depends to some extent on whether the dish is for a starter, snack, or main course. There is not much to add to such a delicate dish, but

*perhaps some very thin sourdough toast (for the older readers, this is a nod to Melba toast beloved of 1970s banquets) with some really good quality salt free butter
Bon appetit!!*

And a wine to accompany it, recommended by our resident sommelier, Siobhan from The Carpenters Arms:

Picpoul De Pinet is the largest wine producing appellation in the Languedoc. Located close to the Mediterranean Sea, breezes moderate the daytime temperature of Picpoul De Pinet. The soils are limestone with sandy soil deposits.

It is best drunk young and cool between 8-10 degrees.

I have paired it with Peter Burns' cured mackerel dish as mackerel is quite a meaty fish and it has great acidity which is definitely needed to cut through the natural oiliness in the fish. It will work great with the lovely fresh flavours of the fennel and orange.

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