

# THE BRIDGE

August 2024



A local bridge by Tom Barry

**This monthly magazine covers people and events in our area of the Cotswolds, and is delivered free of charge to residences and businesses in Aldsworth, Asthall, Asthall Leigh, the Barringtons, Bradwell Village, Burford, Field Assarts, Fordwells, Fulbrook, Holwell, Northleach, Sherborne, Shilton, Signet, Swinbrook, Taynton, Upton, Westwell, Widford and Windrush with a wider national and international readership.**

*Volume 15, Number 7, £1.50.*

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## EDITORS' NOTES

### Openings

We expect that most readers will remember where they were when they heard that Jeremy Clarkson is buying the Windmill, the watering hole next to the roundabout at this end of the Witney by-pass which used to have a sign modestly asserting that it was "Probably the best carvery in the world." Cue much excitement in the popular press. The Oxford Mail headline was "Jeremy Clarkson buys new pub near former dogging hotspot." Not the most polite way to describe Asthall. Concerns were immediately raised about whether there would be traffic problems if it attracts the same sort of visitor numbers as went to his Diddly Squat farm when it opened. Speculation followed about a new name, with the Dog Inn being suggested.

However there is a newer kid on the block in the form of Highway on Burford High Street which at the time of writing is due to open on 24 July. More on that within. The green shoots of recovery seem to be popping up on the High Street with children's store Lucky and Gray, Little Madhatter, Davenford Cafe and No. 31, a sort of workers' co-operative on the site of the much-missed Mrs Bumbles.

### Mystery Solved

Last month we reported that we had been contacted by Jeanette who had found us via our website and said she had a photograph marked "Taynton" on the front and "My grandmother's cottage" on the back. She had made several fruitless visits in an attempt to locate it. We are delighted to say that we had three swift replies. One came from a reader whose grandfather had lived in the same cottage, one who sent us a Google Streetview image of it and, to hit the jackpot, one from the present occupier who said she would be happy to invite Jeanette for a tour of the property. It's amazing what you can find out through The Bridge.

### Money Corner

From time to time we are asked about the finances of The Bridge, does it make money, do we get paid and so on. Just to set the record straight, **The Bridge is run, produced, edited, proof-read and distributed by a team of volunteers who are not paid anything for what we do.** The main expenses are printing and some incidental items such as stationery and website fees. The cost is mainly met by advertising, which we try to limit to about 30% of our content. We also get some donations from kind readers and we have in the past received grants from Burford Town Council and the Burford Festival. We are, of course, very grateful for all donations. Thanks to this we manage to break even taking one year with the next and we are able to distribute The Bridge free of charge, unlike some local magazines which charge a subscription.

### THE BRIDGE TIMETABLE

The closing date for entries to the editorial sections of the magazine is 10th of the month preceding publication. Please send articles and information to:

[editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk](mailto:editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk)

Alternatively, you can leave letters and articles at the Burford Post Office for us to collect.

**Advertisements** need to be booked before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please contact:

[advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk](mailto:advertise@thebridgeburford.co.uk)

## BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

### Our Firefighters

I was delighted to present Coronation medals to a further four firefighters in Burford, making eight in total, who qualified by over five years' service. We are so lucky to have our fire station and the firefighters based locally, with so many giving long service. It was great to see just how much of a camaraderie they have, doing such a difficult job in support of our community. Example below!



### The Pavilion

We are still awaiting safety inspections of the pavilion. Once they are complete, we will form a committee to work on the future of that site. We will be asking residents and interested parties to join the committee, and will consult you all once the committee have agreed proposals for the use of the site. The next problem will be funding, but first let us agree the best solution for Burford for the site.

### Councillor Vacancy

As advised last month, we have a vacancy for a councillor. We will be considering applicants at our meeting on 7 August, so there is still time to apply if you wish. Please apply by email or post to Christina, our town clerk, at [town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk) or by post to Town Clerk, The Tolsey, 126 High Street, Burford OX18 4QU, with your CV, and also what skills you can bring to council and why you wish to join the council.

Finally, after the election we now have a new MP. Burford Town Council is not political, but as always we will work with our new MP, just as we work with our county councillor and our district councillor to get the best support we can for our residents of Burford.  
*Peter Higgs – Mayor*



**Don't forget to look at our website [www.thebridgeburford.co.uk](http://www.thebridgeburford.co.uk) too for updates on local news, previous features and topical photographs**  
**And for more photos about Burford events do look at Burford Life on Facebook**

## WODC COUNCILLOR REPORT

I apologise for the absence of a report from me last month. I wrote to encourage you to vote in the general election and to remember to take your ID. But I never sent it to The Bridge! Luckily, your editors made up for the omission and, as they say, the rest is history.

After the campaign comes the long business of winding down and taking down the stake boards and posters so the Cotswolds can look normal again. However, the success of Charlie Maynard, now our new MP, has consequences. The one most relevant to me is that he will no longer serve as a district councillor and therefore the role of executive member for planning falls vacant. Yes..... I have taken it on, which means that the development of the new local plan will be in my portfolio, as well as oversight of the day-to-day planning function.

Let me quickly say that this does not mean that I have any further influence over planning decisions. These are mainly (92%) taken by planning officers under delegated authority, or by the planning sub-committees (8%). My role on the Uplands Planning Sub-Committee remains as a normal member. I can advise on the planning process, but cannot give you an opinion on a particular application.

I also want to mention that WODC has announced that the next funding round for Westhive is now open. This is the perfect time to start planning your project, gather your supporting information and explore the resources available on the Westhive platform.

This crowdfunding initiative helps communities drive the changes they want to see in their local areas. Whether funding is needed for a play park, wellbeing group, energy project, or sports club, the council is supporting local businesses and organisations to back projects they believe in, contributing up to £10,000 per project themselves.

Westhive is further strengthened through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund via the Community Infrastructure Fund, introduced as part of the government's Levelling Up scheme. This fund backs projects that align with the council's core values and create a meaningful impact on the health and wellbeing of people in the district.

Westhive projects need to be local and serve a community purpose. They can be simple and creative, like a community garden, or more ambitious, like hosting large community events or support groups. Do look at the Westhive platform which showcases the projects that have successfully crowdfunded with us (at <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/westhive>).

*Hugo Ashton*  
*District Councillor for Burford, Fulbrook and Taynton*  
[hugo.ashton@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:hugo.ashton@westoxon.gov.uk) or 0771 2490517



## OCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

### July Full OCC Council Meeting – Thames Water Motion.



At the July meeting I seconded the motion, with Councillor Povolotsky, passing a no-confidence resolution in Thames Water and calling for the company to be restructured.

This was supported by the majority of the OCC Council on a day when Thames Water admitted that their dumping of raw sewage had risen fourfold since last year

and increased dividend payments from £45m last year to £196m to its mainly overseas shareholders rather than investing in more infrastructure. Furthermore the company announced that it would run out of money within a year unless more funding was forthcoming (its shareholders have to date refused to invest more funds into Thames Water). It is clear that the company now needs to be restructured and the current management replaced. The new government hopefully will strengthen the powers of both OFWAT and the Environment Agency to effectively monitor and control Thames Water's woeful lack of sewage controls.

### Burford Bridge and HGV Weight Limit

Discussions are continuing with OCC Officers to discuss the repairs to Burford bridge which have begun and to implement better and safer pedestrian access to the bridge to improve the current lack of space for pedestrians.

The County-wide HGV study continues and little progress has been made which remains frustrating to us all in Burford. Data collection is the current priority and recommendations may be made at the end of this year or in 2025.

### Liberal Democrat/Green Administration Strategic Priorities

The Liberal Democrat/Green administration that runs OCC has claimed progress has been made in 2023/24 against its nine strategic priorities, particularly on climate change. However, critics observe that by far and away the most-complained about issue by residents is the state of the roads and drains, yet these are not mentioned in the list of priorities. The latest 'Residents Survey' shows that 'Maintenance of roads' was rated by 67% of residents as one of their four most important council services, but just 19% were very or fairly satisfied. The overall satisfaction with the council is 39%.

### OCC Headcount Continues To Rise

2018-19 4959, 2019-20 5079, 2020-21 5087, 2021-22 5116, 2022-23 5310, 2023-24 5378.

Agency workers are in addition to these figures. There were 446 for 2023-24.

[OCC Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson, Burford & Carterton North](mailto:nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

[nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk) and [nfuk3@gmail.com](mailto:nfuk3@gmail.com)

### WE ARE ON X/TWITTER

To get the latest news follow us on X (the platform previously known as Twitter) @BridgeBurford or go to our website [www.thebridgeburford.co.uk](http://www.thebridgeburford.co.uk).



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

We have certainly been decluttering, after our May speaker Helena McBride, who gave some interesting tips and advice.

A group of 30 members, friends and partners visited Kelmscott Manor in July. A very interesting tour where we had the manor house to ourselves with three guides, one of whom was a member's husband. We saw the many designs of William Morris, the needlework of his wife and work his daughter May continued and designs that are still used today. We had a lovely light buffet lunch at the café there.

On Tuesday 10 September we are back in the Baptist Church and have a fascinating speaker giving us an insight into 'Behind the Tape – Crime Scene Investigation'. Our speaker will be Hayley Scott, an ex-crime scene investigator, who worked examining crime scenes for 14 years with the Metropolitan Police in London. We'll hear all about what a CSI does and then learn all about fingerprints and how to code them. Hayley shares some real stories from her time in the police and there will also be a chance to ask her any questions.

She brings her skills and great enthusiasm for forensic science, learning about how to investigate a murder scene with how to powder and lift finger mark evidence, examination of the murder victim, testing DNA and analysing witness statements.

Hayley has received five-star reviews for her talks. Recently, from the West Oxfordshire WI, "She gave a fascinating insight into the world of crime scene investigation and what goes on behind the yellow tape. Her presentation was extremely interesting and held our members' attention throughout, prompting many questions and much discussion regarding her work and background. She intrigued us with some of the methods used by CSI, demonstrated how finger marks are revealed, and made us laugh over some of the hilarious mistakes made by criminals. Highly recommended."

We are always keen to welcome new members and guests are always very welcome to any of our meetings for a suggested donation of £5. So, we look forward to welcoming any of you interested in crime scene investigation.

The FaB WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Baptist Chapel in Witney Street at 7.30 p.m. For further information please visit our website thefabwi.org.uk or contact our President, Jennie Craven, on thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk or Mobile 07710 103015.

Jennie Craven



Tolsey Cards

## BURFORD TOLSEY MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

### How well do you know Burford Tolsey Museum's collection?

- What birds, once considered as pests, were eaten toasted?
- Who was the mother of the Earl of Burford?
- What Burford treasure was taken to the USA and donated back to the Museum?
- Who would use a kibble and a chad?
- There is a spit in the fireplace – where can you find another in the museum?
- What were cranked irons used for?
- What musical instruments did the Titcombe family make for the Grenadier Guards?
- Who would use a donkey to help her stitch?
- There are examples of Thomas and Henry Bond's work in the church. What are they?
- What personal items do we have that once belonged to Warren Hastings (1732-1818)?

If on reflection you find that your knowledge of Burford's heritage could do with a boost then welcome to the Burford Tolsey Museum to discover the answers to the above. We are open every day (volunteers availability permitting) from 2-5pm. Free of charge, although we invite and rely on donations to finance our operations.

If however you know most of the answers you are warmly invited to become a Museum steward. By using our new online diary, you can now pick and choose your times, to work around your availability. For further information please contact me at the number below.



### Greeting Cards

The main image above, 'Impression of Burford High Street', painted by Helen Bryce in the 1920s, can now be found on one of the three new greetings cards published by, and exclusive to, the Museum, each costing £2.50. The other two cards, opposite, which are blank inside for your personal messages, feature the famous Burford Dolls' House and one of our fascinating samplers. All cards together with our range of Burford-related books can be ordered online on [www.burfordtolsey.org/shop](http://www.burfordtolsey.org/shop). Postage is free within three miles of the Burford Tolsey Museum.

Clendon Daukes - 01993 823533

## WILDLIFE MONITORING AT SHERBORNE



The Sherborne estate is one of the richest habitats anywhere in the Cotswolds. Across the landscape, we play host to some of the rarest mammals, reptiles, butterflies and birds in the area. In fact, many of these species are on red and endangered lists, so everything we do at Sherborne is with this in mind, ensuring that not only diverse habitats are maintained for these species but that we are also diligently and carefully monitoring their numbers to ensure future preservation.

The Wildlife Monitoring Project at Sherborne is a unique and widespread wildlife survey operation. Between April and September, we survey for birds and butterflies, as well as a range of mammals, reptiles and moths. Our recent moth trapping event at Lodge Park showcased several of the interesting species that call this area home.

This work wouldn't be possible without the support of the local communities around us and our fantastic volunteers. We have a team of five volunteer wildlife monitors, who follow survey methodology from leading wildlife agencies such as the British Trust for Ornithology and Butterfly Conservation.

There are seven farms on the Sherborne estate, and during the late spring and summer period we gradually work our way around the landscape. We are looking to count numbers and we also then report this back to local land managers and farmers. We also have visits from elsewhere, and for the second year in a row we have a PhD student from Reading University with us studying yellow wagtail ecology. The UK has lost 66% of its yellow wagtails since the 1970s, but we have a population here, which shows just how important it is that we manage and look after the ecology in this part of the world for future preservation of rare species. Using the information we get from the surveys, we speak to farmers in the area on how to improve the landscape for wildlife.

If you would like to know more about these surveys, get in touch with us at [sherborneestate@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:sherborneestate@nationaltrust.org.uk).

Jacob Little - National Trust

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## PARADISE LOST A STORY OF LADY HAM

Lady Ham is a very attractive Elizabethan house near Burford's medieval bridge, alongside Little Ham and Mouseham. It received extensive publicity in 1992, when it was offered for sale at £875,000 and described as 'a superbly restored 16th century residence standing in approximately 20 acres with a frontage to the River Windrush and Mill Race.' The most famous inhabitant in modern times was Compton

Mackenzie, a prolific novelist and a founder of the Scottish National Party. In 1904 it had been a kind of paradise for him; but as they say, if you want to stay in Paradise, 'there must be no Eve.'

At the time Mackenzie was reading Modern History at Magdalen College, Oxford. He and a friend were so struck by the beauty of Lady Ham that they decided to rent it for two years, at a rent of £14 10s per annum. A little later they bought it for £1,400, partly as a sort of 'monastic retreat'. In his autobiography Mackenzie described the previous owner as 'a grumpy old gentleman called Sylvester, the last of a long line, one of whom had built the Lady Chapel in Burford's church. Hence the name Ladyham - Our Lady's field by the water'.

There was a complication. Mackenzie fell in love with Ruth Daniel, daughter of the bursar of Worcester College, Oxford. Mackenzie described how it had been decided that he and Ruth could only become engaged when they were both 21, but that they could go for a walk together twice a week. However, when Ruth was reported for sitting on his knee, the couple became engaged more rapidly.

Sadly, when Mackenzie declared that he wanted to be a writer, Ruth's mother broke off the engagement. Ruth never got over this. She entered an order of nuns and never married. On the other hand, Mackenzie soon married another woman, though he wrote that his relationship with Ruth was 'one of the greatest love affairs of all time'.

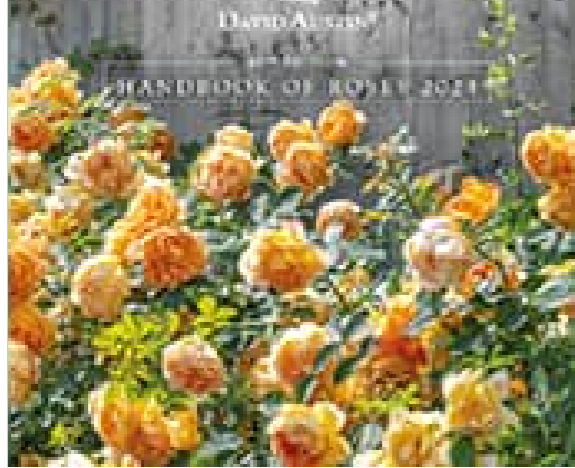
We learn all this from Mackenzie's autobiography and from Andro Linklater's *Compton Mackenzie, A Life* (1987); but Mackenzie also wrote about it in his novel *Guy & Pauline*, published in 1915. He went on to publish dozens of novels, as well as plays, histories and biographies. Eventually, after the publication of *The Monarch of the Glen* (1941) and *Whisky Galore* (1947), he was knighted.

After the relationship with Ruth failed, Mackenzie soon sold Lady Ham and determined that he would never go back, thinking that it was not a good idea to return to a place where he had once been so happy. On the sole occasion when he did nonetheless return, he found the house much altered and the visit was a great disappointment to him.

Stephen Cooper - Chairman of Burford & District Society



## BURFORD & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



Everyone enjoyed our recent visit to David Austin Roses in Albrighton, Wolverhampton in June. The weather was kind to us, no rain and not too hot, just pleasant. We were treated to a tour of the extensive show gardens by two guides. This included a visit to David Austin's private garden which has been recently restored following a period of neglect. Then on to the greenhouses where new roses are produced, taking roughly ten years and £2m per rose (I'll never complain about the cost of roses again), just a further ten years left on the exclusive licence before anyone can produce the same rose. The roses in the gardens were magnificent, healthy due to the stripping of all the leaves at the beginning of the year and the removal and replacement of about ten inches of mulch. We were then left to search the sales area to find our favourites, and boy, did we fill the coach!

Then came the Summer Show on 6 July, following on from the wettest day and night I can remember in July, garden flattened! But, although there were fewer exhibits this year, we still came up trumps and managed a good show. Jane Tunnell-Westmacott won the Silvertop Cup for the most points overall, Jan Cohen won the Quilters Cup for the best specimen rose and the Cheatele Cup for the vase of mixed flowers from the garden, Jane TW won the Richard Cumming Cup for the best delphinium and the Joy White cup for five herbaceous stems of garden flowers.



Anyone can enter the Spring or Summer Shows, just 20p per entry, so, come on, get ready for the Spring Show next year, the first Saturday in April. The schedule and criteria are on the website, [www.burfordhorticultural.com](http://www.burfordhorticultural.com) or contact Jan Cohen, [jancohen4sp@gmail.com](mailto:jancohen4sp@gmail.com), or 01993 822288, you don't have to be a member but there are other advantages like discounts at various nearby garden centres. If you are interested in joining, please contact Nigel Barraclough, [nngbarraclough@hotmail.com](mailto:nngbarraclough@hotmail.com), 01993 824949.  
*Jan Cohen*

## GUIDED WALKS WITH THE COTSWOLD VOLUNTARY WARDENS

Details of the walks available are described on the website (below). Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary. Additional walks may be published on the website.

<https://www.cotswoldsaoib.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/guided-walks/>

### Walk with the Grandkids Thursday 15 August

**Moderate: 3.5 miles 3 hours Starts 10:00am**

Starts Stonesfield Village Hall OX29 8HA

*If you are on grandparent duty, bring your charges on this walk and learn lots as you enjoy the countryside. If you don't have any grandchildren you are just as welcome.*

### Andoversford on the Gloucestershire Way – Blackberry Walk – Tuesday 20 August

**Moderate 3.5hr 6.5ml**

The walk heads across fields to Shipton Solers, Shipton Oliffe. We then follow the Gloucestershire Way to Hampen, where we pick blackberries on the old road that crossed the railway bridge – this road is closed due to the weak bridge. We then head back to Andoversford via Syreford with the opportunity of picking more blackberries along the way. At the time of writing, the Royal Oak in Andoversford is not open – you will need to drive into Charlton Kings or Northleach for lunch, if needed. Bring coffee/snack and a tub for blackberries.

Starts: 9.30am Andoversford – Station Road, GL54 4HR. OS Map ref: SP 024 198.

W3W: foremost.munched.easygoing

### Finstock, Cornbury and Charlbury Circuit

**Thursday 22 August**

**Moderate: 7.5 miles 4.5 hours 10:00am**

Start: road parking near Finstock School OX7 3BN

*A circular walk from Finstock through Cornbury and on to Charlbury*

### Chipping Campden Town Walk – Every Tuesday and Thursday starting from Tuesday 28 May to the end of September – Easy 1.5hr

We will walk along the High Street and provide a historical tour of the town. From the granting of Campden's Charter in the 1180s, the growth of the town and its magnificent buildings, to the arrival of the Arts and Crafts movement. Refreshments available in the town after the walk.

**Start:** 2.00pm on Tuesdays and 10:00am on Thursdays. Meet at the Market Hall in the centre of town. OS Map ref: SP 151 392.

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. STRENUOUS – may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed. Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.

*Sheila Wasley and Rosemary Wilson*



"I love borders. August is the border between summer and autumn. It is the most beautiful month I know." Tove Jansson.

You must forgive us our manic gaiety this month - there is so much bookishness to celebrate with the arrival of our new shop 'Little Madhatter' in the next few weeks and tickets now on sale for Burford Literary Festival.

We have taken the leap to split the Madhatter – our current bookshop at 122 High Street will shortly become a space devoted to books for grown-ups. From politics to fantasy and history to mystery our shelves will be packed with books to suit every taste and literary desire. In early September we will open our doors elsewhere in Burford to be the home of our new children's bookshop, aptly named Little Madhatter. We are so excited to bring you a BIG selection of books for small readers as well as a glorious selection of toys and lots of family fun and games.

Little Madhatter will also play host to our new weekly story time for toddlers, book clubs for years five and six and, for the grown-ups, look out for our Games Nights. We are also delighted to be able to bring you many more literary events for 2025. All our events will be appearing on our Diary at [www.madhatterbookshop.co.uk](http://www.madhatterbookshop.co.uk)

As well as Little Madhatter we are thrilled that you can now purchase tickets for **Burford Literary Festival 2024**.

Burford Literary Festival is fast gaining a reputation as one of the finest bijou litfests in the UK. By keeping audience size intimate each event feels more like a conversation with our authors and allows us to use venues across Burford from historic buildings to private drawing rooms.

For 2024 we are thrilled to be bringing you a diverse range of authors including Sir Laurie Bristow who will be talking to you about his book *Kabul: Final Call*; Esther Freud who will be joining up with Alex Pheby and Susie Boyt to discuss *On the Couch: Writers Analyse Sigmund Freud*; and Flora Soames, Paul Seabright, Julie Cohen, Sue Leigh and many more to make up a wonderful literary weekend. Please do save the date 27-29 September – tickets are available from [www.burfordlitfest.co.uk](http://www.burfordlitfest.co.uk) or pop into Madhatter Bookshop. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you there.

*Kim Harvey*

## ALICE'S BOOK GROUP

In her excellent book, *The Golden Thread, how fabric changed history*, Kassia St Clair leads us on a journey from the neolithic cave where fur garments are laced together to the inside of a moon walk space suit. Along the way we learn of fantastic garments spun from spiders' webs and go-faster materials for swimming costumes.

This is not, however, a dry catalogue of different threads. The chapters each delve into the social history connected to a fabric, so the book is almost as much an anthropological and historical study as a dissertation on thread. This means it is "a lovely book to dip into, easy to pick up and read at bedtime" - a virtue much appreciated by Alice's Book Group. It is also very nicely written; one is gently led into the various topics, absorbing much random knowledge.

Everyone thought it was a good book, even if for one or two it was "not my sort of book," but even the less enthusiastic had found something of interest. Indeed we all had a subject that had especially grabbed the attention, whether it was the skills and otherwise unwrapping an Egyptian mummy and how the linens used were constructed and how they were revered, or some horrific statistics about the use of slaves in the cotton fields of the southern United States – though, of course, there were not so many states then. Lace making and the feuds about it was another fascinating section which had held the attention of all the readers, equally the aforementioned slippery swimming costumes and the controversy of their introduction.



There was only one member who had ventured into the pages of reference at the back, the rest of us were daunted by the huge number, but St Clair is obviously a diligent researcher. One wonders if she actually travelled to all the countries she covers, for she beautifully conjures up an image of place.

In the final chapters there is consideration of the disadvantages and benefits of man-made fibres, and the effects on the planet of their increased use, also of recycling and reuse of clothes.

An animated discussion is an indicator of an interesting book, and this book generated much talk, the subjects ranging from the personal garments of the group to international politics.

Something different next month: *100 Poems on the Underground*, and we all are to learn a poem, or at least read it aloud next meeting.

*Veral Marshall*

## EDITORIAL POLICY

*As is customary with publications, the decision of the editors on what can and cannot be published is final. In particular, they will edit or decline to publish anything which in their opinion includes personal attacks on any individual, is expressed in unduly partisan language or is offensive, in bad taste or potentially defamatory. Opinions expressed by contributors are entirely their own and the appearance of any letters or articles in The Bridge does not indicate that the editors agree with them. Items may also be edited and may be rejected. Where items or services are offered for sale, or advertised, the provider is responsible for ensuring that the goods or services are safe and of good quality. The editors may refuse to publish advertisements or other statements about unsuitable items or services. The Bridge does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of advertisements and does not endorse any goods or services which are advertised. All items submitted for inclusion must give the name and address of the writer and an email address or telephone number. By submitting any article, announcement, letter or advertisement to The Bridge you are deemed to have agreed to the above.*

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## COTSWOLD HOME ARTISTRY

To celebrate National Care Home Open Week, the staff and residents at The Cotswold Home in Burford donned their gardening gloves and created some show pieces worthy of the Chelsea Flower show! Introduced for the first time this year, this Elizabeth Finn Homes competition set out to engage staff, residents, volunteers and families whilst creating beautiful garden decorations to brighten up the front porches and entrances of the eight homes in their portfolio. Each home was tasked with developing a creative approach linked to the Elizabeth Finn Homes values of Bring Love, Welcome All, Inspire More and Act with Purpose whilst also reflecting aspects of the company strategy and its unique profit for purpose model.



Entrants were encouraged to acquire a range of suitable vessels to use as plant pots, these were then decorated and planted to create colourful and attractive additions to their outdoor spaces. The Cotswold Home managed to transform an ironing board, a set of tyres, a range of boots and a chair, amongst other items.

Residents and visitors in the local community were intrigued and delighted both during the building and the final showcasing of the display. Focusing on sustainability commitments, the display is made wholly from recycled items, the highlight being 'Roseabella', the ironing board lady. The home will receive a new ornamental bird bath for their garden as the winning prize.

[Sara Armitage - www.elizabethfinn.co.uk](http://www.elizabethfinn.co.uk)

### NEW TO BURFORD AND AREA?

Welcome. The Burford & District Society will be happy to deliver your free copy of the 'Living in Burford & District' pack with details of many of the local facilities, clubs and societies. Simply email your name and address to [lizannjack@gmail.com](mailto:lizannjack@gmail.com).

# LENTHALL CONCERTS

Since our last concert in March the committee has been busy contacting artists and, as we write in early July, we are now in the final stage of confirming the programme for the Lenthall Concerts 2024-25 season.

We are thrilled that Nicholas Korth, principal horn with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, will open our season on Wednesday 16 October. He will be playing the Brahms Horn Trio and Beethoven's Horn Sonata, together with a violin sonata by our musical director, Michael Bochmann. Amongst the other artists booked for the season we have David Owen-Norris, pianist and BBC broadcaster. We are on the point of receiving confirmation that Raphael Wallfisch, one of our greatest cellists, who studied at the same time and college as Michael Bochmann, will be joining us and, once again, we have secured the return of the outstanding students from Wells Cathedral Music School. Last season's performance was hugely enjoyed by those who attended and this year they join us with a programme of wind and string ensembles.

Great value season tickets will once again be available. Check out our website for details - [www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk](http://www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk). Tickets will be available shortly from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk).

We look forward to seeing you.

[Sarah Duckworth](mailto:Sarah.Duckworth@lenthallconcerts.org.uk)

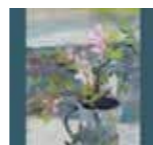
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## POETRY IN BURFORD

**By way of the heart: more conversations about poetry with Sue Leigh (the fourth in a series)**  
**Thursdays 3, 10, 17 and 24 October 2024**  
**10.30-12.15**



I have had two collections of poetry published, *Chosen Hill* and *Her Orchards*. *Simmer Dim*, a pamphlet of poems inspired by time spent on Shetland, has just



been published by Evergreen Press. I teach at the University of Oxford.

Over four sessions, we will read and discuss our responses to a variety of poems. There will be all kinds of voices, from the past as well as the present. We will be looking at the work of Wilfred Owen, R.S. Thomas, Ted Hughes and Liz Berry among others.

What is a poem? We will be thinking about some kind of definition. And we will also consider why poetry has such a profound effect on us. Sound, imagery, diction and form will be an important part of our discussions as well as the time and context in which the poem was written.

The course will take place in the Friends Meeting House, Pytt's Lane, Burford OX18 4SJ.

Each session will include a fifteen-minute break. Contact me, if you are interested, at [suleigh262@btinternet.com](mailto:suleigh262@btinternet.com). The course costs £90 for all four sessions, which includes handouts of all the poems we will study.

[Sue Leigh](mailto:Sue.Leigh@lenthallconcerts.org.uk)

## LIL RICE SPINS A WHEEL OF CIRCUS DELIGHTS



Lil Rice was clearly born to be in the circus. The daughter of artists, granddaughter of costume and set designer, Peter Rice, and Pat Albeck, fashion and textile designer in the 1960s, and niece of legendary Nell Gifford, founder of Giffords Circus, in her own words setting up a circus was more destiny than choice.

We meet in the beautiful, creative studio where she works, a room adorned with costumes, posters, paper bird

mobiles, artefacts from previous Giffords shows, vintage photographs, framed artworks by her father, Matthew Rice and dressers filled with the iconic pottery designed by her mother, Emma Bridgewater. A more inspirational creative setting could not be imagined!

After a short stint at university studying philosophy and theology, Lil wrote to Nell and her then-husband, Toti, asking if she might help out at the circus instead; clearly her future lay in more creative dreams. 'Helping out' turned into singing, acting and front of house roles, and then an opportune meeting prompted enrolling at the National Centre for Circus Arts in London, where she was trained in the ropes, straps and tightwire. It was while she was at circus school that she met Charlie Wheeler, a Cyr wheel artist, and Lil decided this would be her specialist skill, graduating in 2015.

Since then, Lil has performed all over world, setting up an all-female Cyr wheel theatre company, Alula Cyr, which featured synchronised tricks and up to a world record-breaking three people performing simultaneously in one wheel.

Lil returned to Giffords in 2018 to help Nell during her illness, eventually managing the circus and taking up Nell's pre-booked commitments after her tragic death. It was there that she met circus 'Sauce' restaurant chef, Dave Cross, now Lil's partner. Another performer, Sam Goodburn, approached her soon afterwards and she decided it was time to move on to new pastures: Fools Delight Circus was born.

The circus format would be predominantly a dinner show, with guests sat at tables and served delicious food prepared by Dave while enjoying the acts before them. Sam, clown and circus ingenue, joins them for the shows when not engaged with other performance groups. So today, at an idyllic old dairy farm, people come to witness the seemingly impossible marvels and delights of Lil's own circus.

The latest show, Spinster, was inspired by a previous show, Hag, which was performed in 2022, featuring witches and the power held by women. But Lil is clear that this is not the ranting of an 'angry feminist' - more a show which highlights the respect for what women can and do achieve. 'Spinster' plays on the original meaning of the word: someone who spins. Spinning is associated with creating threads, loom work and the rich tapestries women historically created in communal groups. All the acts for this show will include some form of spinning.

Tickets are available at [www.foolsdelight.co.uk](http://www.foolsdelight.co.uk) and QR code opposite and performances run from 3 - 18 August in Bampton. Spinsters can also be seen at the Big Festival in Kingham from 23 - 25 August.

[Joanna McKerlie](mailto:Joanna.McKerlie@foolsdelight.co.uk)



## MONET IN NORTHLEACH

Ross King talks about Monet's Water Lilies; the intense frustration Monet experienced at the difficulties of capturing the fugitive effects of light, water and colour; and how they also reflect the terrible personal torments Monet suffered in the last dozen years of his life.

Friday 6 September, Northleach Church, 6.30pm.

Tickets £12/£15 at [northleachevents.co.uk](http://northleachevents.co.uk).

[Jane Quelch](mailto:Jane.Quelch@northleachevents.co.uk)



## CRAFT IN ACTION BURFORD

**Warwick Hall, Burford, OX18 4RY**  
**Saturday 24 August 2024 10am - 4.30pm**

We are returning to the Warwick Hall this month, so why not come along and see what is on offer? Craft in Action pride ourselves on having handmade crafts available, and you will see genuine crafters behind their tables.

Entry is free, dogs are welcome and there is easy access for wheelchairs

Facebook @ Craft in Action, website @ [craftinaction.co.uk](http://craftinaction.co.uk)

[Helen Wallis](mailto:Helen.Wallis@craftinaction.co.uk)

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## SUMMER EXHIBITION OF THE NORTH COTSWOLD ART ASSOCIATION

From Monday 26 August to Sunday 31st a superb eclectic mix of paintings, arts, crafts and glassware will be on display and for sale. We are open from 10am and 5pm every day in the Warwick Hall by Burford Parish Church. Come along free of charge.

There is also an excellent cafe for lunch or snacks.

[Jeni Smith](mailto:Jeni.Smith@northcotsart.org.uk)

## MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

### Notice To Students And Parents – Grants Available From Burford School Foundation

Burford School Foundation (“BSF”) BSF is a Burford charity to help you, the residents of Burford and school students and parents. Our charitable purposes are, broadly, to benefit:

- (i) the educational institutions in Burford (i.e. the three schools, scouts and similar providers of education and training); and
- (ii) to give grants and bursaries to young people (under the age of 25) of Burford and district or attendees of Burford schools.

Typical help we give to young people is finance to help them through their education and/or to help them buy equipment they need for their further or higher education - be it technical, practical or academic. For example we give bursaries for several years to assist students with their general expenses whilst attending college, university or other training institutions, or undertaking apprenticeships. We also give grants to students to enable them to buy computers or software, art material, musical instruments, books, or to cover travel expenses to aid their studies. If you are interested in applying please contact Lisa Evans [lisa.evans@pearson.com](mailto:lisa.evans@pearson.com); or phone her on 07816 906 370

### Volunteers Welcome

All the trustees of Burford School Foundation are local volunteer residents. We welcome applications from volunteers to join our trustee body. We are looking in particular for people with skills and experience in dealing with property, especially old/listed buildings, as well as people with company/charity secretarial and/or governance skills. If you are interested in finding out more please contact [Carolyn Walton carolynwalton@btinternet.com](mailto:Carolyn.Walton@btinternet.com) or phone on 01993 822 296.

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Zoe Mustoe and her family are raising money for the Wiltshire air ambulance by holding a cake sale under the Tolsley. All proceeds go directly to the charity in memory of Zoe's brother.



## ART EXHIBITION IN BURFORD



The Seasons Art Class Burford warmly invites you to their end of course art exhibition. The free exhibition will be held at Burford Town Bowls Club on Wednesday 7 August between 1pm and 3pm. Visitors will be welcomed with a glass of fizz on arrival.

The exhibition will showcase work that was created over 14 weeks with The Seasons Art Class Burford; a friendly and supportive art course for grown ups. In the art course, students developed their artistic skills, learned about styles of composition and specific artistic mediums. Students will be showing their beautiful artworks which will include romantic landscapes and characterful illustrations in various mediums.

Beginner and Improver level artists are welcome to join the next course in September. Students develop creative skills through learning how to use pencils, oil pastels, watercolours and acrylic paint. The 14 week course take place on Wednesdays at Burford Town Bowls Club. Tuition, demonstrations and support is given throughout the course and everyone can expect a sociable and supportive environment to work in. Spaces are limited so booking is essential.

Find out more or book your place on the September course by contacting Chally Spokes on 01865 426625 or by emailing [theseasonsartclassburford@gmail.com](mailto:theseasonsartclassburford@gmail.com) [Challoner Spokes](mailto:Challoner.Spokes).

### FarmED CAFE

Gareth Rhodes, former Executive Chef at Soho Farmhouse and Head Chef at COYA in London has taken charge of the kitchen at the FarmED Cafe, a farm-to-fork eatery based at the regenerative demonstration farm and conference barns near Chipping Norton.

An interview with Gareth will be featured in the September issue.  
*Editors*

## BEAGles

*This month, in a departure from our usual newsletter format, we have the following Windrush Reflections, by Annie Jenkin, Windrush Project Officer of The Cotswolds Rivers Trust. Andy Hayter*

Through the past eight seasons I have walked along the length of our beautiful River Windrush from its inconspicuous beginnings in the rolling limestone hills of the North Cotswolds to its emergence onto the lias clays of the Thames floodplain. Our river, the lifeblood of our region, has formed through the synergy of place, people, and time. Across the millennia its precious resources of water and food have drawn animals and people to its shaded banks. This ancient landscape bears the imprint and relics of ancient settlements from pre-neolithic man, through Roman times and the industrial revolution to the modern day.

A multitude of springs emerging from the Oolite limestone aquifer above Guiting Power is where the Windrush begins. These springs, known as sacred places by traditional societies, bubble out clean, clear water. I have often kneeled and scooped this cool, life-giving waters into my hands to drink, delighting in its coolness and sweetness. Throughout the year the river and landscape change in a subtle succession of life.

In spring nature is awoken, bringing hazel trees shrouded in mustard catkins and buttercup yellow clumps of marsh marigolds and maybe the sound of a cuckoo. The summer heralds an abundance of life and traditional floodplain meadows sing with a subtle palette of flowers and grasses dotted with extravagant bright pink orchids and buzzing insects. Underwater, emerald snaking fields of ranunculus adorned with bobbing white flowers are reminiscent and worthy of John Everett Millais' painting *Ophelia*. The damp mists, fungi and earthy aroma define the cooler autumn months where reds and gold leaves take centre stage. Winter is a time of quietening, but yet the river still flows, silently.

***This river, our river, is a gift. And yet all is not well.***

My recent job as Windrush project officer has been an empirical task involved surveying, measuring, and recording of the river to identify opportunities to improve its health. There are so many pressures. Abstraction for rural industries and water supply, pollution, climate change and warming water and physical modifications such as weirs and mills which fracture the river into sections. My role has also involved close working relationships with local communities, landowners, fishermen, business owners, councillors and a tapestry of organisations tasked with the protection and restoration of nature. It is they; it is we who are the custodians of the river today and for the future. The responsibility is in our hands.

For me understanding this can appear a daunting and unattainable task. Despair is prevalent. However, I have seen a welling up of goodwill towards our beautiful river. This needs to be a collaborative task. Every one of us makes up a piece in the jigsaw. My personal starting point has been to travel beyond a scientific measuring of our river and move towards developing a relationship with it. *“Great love springs from great knowledge of the beloved object” (Leonardo DaVinci)*. I have moved beyond my job role to dive deeper, to embrace my opportunity, walking quietly and alone along the river to make space to hear and learn what the river is telling me. Hearing it asking the unspoken question “How are you today and how can I help?” Understanding it and speaking it out.

We can all do that.  
*Annie Jenkin*



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## NEW CHILDREN'S STORE IN BURFORD

Lucky & Gray is an award-winning, independently owned children's store located on the Burford High Street. This is our second store that builds on the success our first store, located in the Derbyshire market town of Melbourne.

Launched in 2021, Lucky & Gray is a children's clothing brand and store that brings together a considered selection of things for little ones. We work closely with amazing children's brands that share our vision for ethically sourced and beautifully made products. We pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service in a unique shopping environment that both grown-ups and children love to explore. Our approach to children's retail was recognised in November 2023 when we were awarded as the 'best independent children's gift retailer' at the prestigious progressive preschool awards. We are passionate about physical retail and creating modern spaces for people to come and enjoy. We are delighted to be part of the Burford High Street and look forward to welcoming you in store. *Amber and Rich*.  
[Website: luckyandgray.co.uk](http://luckyandgray.co.uk)



## CHARITY CRICKET IN SWINBROOK



Swinbrook Cricket Club and Burford Fire Station will be holding a Charity Cricket Match and a Fun Day on Sunday 18 August at Swinbrook Cricket Ground, OX18 4DX.

The Charity Cricket Match starts at 2.00pm. There will be tombola, candy floss and of course a fire engine.

The club house has a bar and serves a good range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and various snacks and BBQ serving burgers, hot dogs and other food.

The event will raise funds for Sobell House Hospice which provides specialist palliative and end-of-life care to adults living in Oxfordshire with a life-limiting illness, and support to their family and friends.

Sobell House Hospice Charity Ltd, Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LE.

*Paul Andrew*



You can keep up to date with the news in our area by registering for news updates on our website. You will then receive an email link whenever a new post appears on our website. Stories in recent weeks have included the following:

- Jeremy Clarkson has bought the Windmill
- Election Results in our area
- National Park for the Cotswolds?
- Photographs from the Open Gardens
- Surprise royal visitor to festival
- Highway Inn to Reopen

Registration is simple - just look for the button on the front page of our website: [thebridgeburford.co.uk](http://thebridgeburford.co.uk)

*Editors*

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

### Pavilion Project

I will await with great interest 'What is the future of The Recreation Ground Pavilion'.

The pavilion was of great interest to me, when I did my stint as a BTC councillor. I was always in favour of BTC seeking a long term financial 'loan' to build a new pavilion. It is at the end of structural life and indeed suffers its design limitations. If a major funding percentage could be put forward by BTC, then National Lottery, Sport for England and the FA could be approached to help fill any financial gap, along with a long-term appeal to Burfordians for support in the project. I have always felt a purpose-built and multi-use facility would earn its keep. I would also put this forward; we have in Burford many talented people that could oversee design and construction of such a project. Also, if this could be made a community project, building costs could be greatly reduced. As we know, it would be 'think of a price and triple it' if it was a purely BTC project that was put out for tender.

*Phil Bush*

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### Festival Thanks

Quite a lot of letters in The Bridge are about complaints of one sort or another so I would like to offer a positive note. I thought this year's Burford Festival was brilliant. I especially enjoyed the open gardens and I take my hat off to all the gardeners for their hard work to make them look so good. The talks and other entertainments were wonderful. Many thanks to the Festival Committee and to all the other helpers who put so much hard work into it. I can't wait until the next festival in 2026.

*Pamela Clare*

## NEW CURATE FOR BURFORD BENEFICE



Tim Adams recently arrived in Burford as the new curate in the Burford benefice which includes Taynton, Fulbrook, Swinbrook, Asthall and Widford. Tim tells us that he grew up in High Barnet in north London. He studied mechanical engineering at Bath University where he met his wife Kat who was on the same course. After graduating he spent the next eight years in Maidenhead. For the first two of these he worked as a ministry apprentice at St Mary's Church, a large church which has around 500 adults and 150 children worshipping every Sunday. He then spent three years commuting to High Wycombe where he had a job with a ventilation company. After that he returned to the Maidenhead church where he took responsibility for the Sunday evening service which was attended by a mixture of young and retired people. During that time he went through the process of being selected by the Church of England for ordination into the ministry. This led him to Oak Hill College in Southgate, returning to his north London roots. He was ordained earlier this year.

Tim manages to fit in some relaxation by playing sport (he played at outside centre for the Oak Hill rugby team) and watching it, especially American football. He also enjoys listening to podcasts on a variety of subjects.

Tim and Kat have two children: Josh, who is four and will be starting at Burford Primary School in September and Livvy (Olivia) who is two and "a ball of energy". The family are very excited to be in Burford which is their first real experience of rural life. At the time of our conversation they were still unpacking their final boxes and meeting people. They have been delighted by the warm welcome they have received and are looking forward to their time here.

*Editors*

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### TRUSTING EACH OTHER

I heard a wonderful story from 1950 of Burford trust in 1950 from Cathleen (96), the mother of one of my school friends. Cathleen recalls being accosted one afternoon by an older lady in the butcher's, while using her ration book to buy two sausages. This was a famous Burford resident called Katharine Briggs, who asked Cathleen if she was the new French teacher at Burford school, and invited her to tea at the Barn House. Over tea, this Burford trustfulness was established, after Katharine ascertained that Cathleen, like herself, was a graduate of Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford.

On this tenuous connection alone, she immediately asked Cathleen if she would look after her cat in their house after Christmas for several months while she went to France with her sisters.

As a young, impoverished teacher Cathleen said the prospect of moving from her cramped and dingy digs was appealing in all ways except she dislikes cats. However when she arrived at the Barn House after Christmas to take charge, she was told the cat had died. Despite this the Briggs sisters not only left her to live in their house when they went away, but kept her on when they returned. Cathleen recalls the parties, amateur plays and the richness of life the Briggs sisters enjoyed.

I see such trust everywhere in Burford similar to that shown to Cathleen nearly 75 years ago. Despite occasional scary incursions and thefts, we are blessed with a social cohesiveness and an amazing community spirit. One night I got up at 1.00 a.m to make a cup of tea, switching all the lights on. In the morning, finding my car door open, the house CCTV showed a burglar searching my car but then running away when I had switched the house lights on. Fortunately a rare event, and maybe all we can do is enthusiastically engage technologies like CCTV to capture evidence and dissuade outside unwelcome incursion. Despite recent thefts I feel Burford is safe and continues to be a place where we trust and help each other.

*Karen Gadd*



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### LA BELLE EPOQUE?

This poster from the first-ever Burford Festival fashion show illustrates what the well dressed local ladies were reading back in 2011.

Thanks to Perryn Bruce for disinterring the image. We understand that Alice masterminded the event.

*Editors*



## ART IN WINDRUSH



Casual visitors to the beautiful village of Windrush may not realise that it is the home to a thriving centre of artistic endeavour. The person behind this is Josephine (Jo) Neil who runs art courses and holds exhibitions, one of which will take place this month.

More on that in a moment but first some background. Jo's father, James Fletcher-Watson, was an architect who studied under Lutyens but became a distinguished painter in watercolours, a skill he practised during wartime service in India with the Royal Engineers. After the war he worked as an architect in Norwich and at the same time his reputation as an artist grew, leading to several one-man exhibitions. He became a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours and of the Royal Society of British Artists. He, his wife Gill and their two young children moved to the Cotswolds in 1972 where he continued both aspects of his work. Following a very successful exhibition in the USA in 1975 he retired from architecture to concentrate on painting. He also took up teaching painting. He was generous with his teaching and never spoke of his "pupils", always referring to his "painting friends". Concerned that the use of watercolours might die out, he founded the Pure Watercolour Society (PWS) whose members would meet and work together. He championed "plein air painting" - something associated with the French Impressionists - in other words working in the open air to show the light and its changing and ephemeral qualities. They would meet together and work in a group in locations such as the Cotswolds, the Lake District or the Scottish Highlands.

Jo grew up in Windrush and took a degree in Publishing and Visual Studies at Oxford Polytechnic, now Oxford Brookes University, and became a children's book editor and amateur artist. After marriage and the birth of her two children she lived elsewhere but also took up running

painting courses, something that could be fitted around her commitments with her two children. When her father died in 2004 she took up the baton and 15 years ago the family moved back to the parental home in Windrush. The PWS continues and has around a dozen members. Its leading light is David Curtis, who works as a plein air painter in both oils and watercolour. He is a member of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters and of the Royal Society of Marine Artists, and is patron of the PWS. Jo is secretary of the PWS and its driving force. She runs regular one-day and residential courses in Windrush with themes such as boats and harbours, wild flower meadows and rural buildings. She also organises an annual get-together for PWS members, either to paint as a group or to hold an exhibition. This year there is an exhibition and sale of framed and unframed watercolours, prints and cards taking place on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 August. Having seen some of the delightful paintings which will be on show, we are looking forward to a visit.

*Editors*

### AN EXHIBITION OF WATERCOLOURS

Framed and unframed work

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 August 11am -4pm

Drinks - Meet the Artists during the day  
12-16 August by appointment early **only**

**Windrush House, Windrush OX18 4TU**

Tel: 01451 844425

## MORE JAMES FLETCHER-WATSON WATERCOLOURS



## IN PRAISE OF PLUM



*It is never difficult to distinguish between a Scotsman with a grievance and a ray of sunshine*

*Roderick Spode? Big chap with a small moustache and the sort of eye that can open an oyster at 60 paces.*

*He was a tubby little chap who looked as if he had been poured into his clothes and had forgotten to say 'when!'*

Fans of the writer will instantly recognise these as the words of Pelham Grenville ("Plum") Wodehouse (1881-1975), author of more than 90 books and regarded by many as the funniest writer in the English language. He is best known for his stories of Jeeves and Wooster, which have been televised at least twice and which use the classic device of a servant who is much cleverer than his master. The well meaning but dim Bertie constantly gets into scrapes from which Jeeves, who relaxes by reading Spinoza, effortlessly rescues him.

Equally good if not better (IMHO) are the series set in Blandings Castle, a stately home in an Arcadian Shropshire owned by the dotty Clarence, Earl of Emsworth, whose main interests are his dahlias and his prize pig, the Empress of Blandings. His tranquil life is constantly interrupted by tyrannical sisters, suitors for younger females, impostors, and his pigman George Cyril Wellbeloved, not to mention thefts of jewellery and silver.



The television versions are welcome if they bring more readers to the books but they have the big disadvantage that they consist of dialogue. The true delight in Wodehouse's writing is in his narrative voice which shows his genius as a master of English prose. Every page seems to contain a gem. Opening *Summer Moonshine* at random (p.114 since you ask) I find the following:

*Her bright, rather prominent hazel eyes were glowing unpleasantly, her face was hard and her manner had now come to resemble that of a leopardess which has just been deprived of a T-bone steak.*

If you are a beginner, you could try *Summer Lightning*. There is nothing to beat one of these books if you wish to relax after a hard day. Be warned that it can be tricky if you read on public transport as you may get some odd looks from fellow passengers when you burst out laughing. But let's end with the words of the master:

*I turned to Aunt Agatha, whose demeanour was now rather like that of one who, picking daisies on the railway, has just caught the down express in the small of the back.*

*Gordon Elliot*

## NEW SHOP OPENS IN BURFORD

### A Celebration of Local Talent

A collective of small independent businesses has come together to open a new shop on Burford High Street. The shop, known as No. 31, opened its doors on 6 June and hosted a launch event on 20 July.

No. 31 is a collaboration of 13 small independent businesses, situated in a beautiful 13th-century building on Burford High Street. Together the brands offer a curated selection of high-quality products from beautiful homeware, candles, and skincare to gorgeous knitwear, jewellery and children's items. Customers can also enjoy freshly prepared, locally sourced food by **Nutmeg & Thyme**. Previously located in Christmas Court, Nutmeg & Thyme is Burford's only 100% vegan and gluten-free food outlet, allowing customers to enjoy something a little different.

No. 31 is a celebration of local talent and showcases the following brands:

- Anne Michelle Jewellery: Handcrafted Fine Jewellery
- Reclaimed Fibre Art: Hand Tufted Art
- Sitaarah: Organic and Natural Skincare
- Cotswold Knit: Artisan Knitwear
- The Phive: Kids' Creative Learning Tools
- Ducky Zebra: Sustainable Childrenswear
- Salt and Steel: Neutral Homeware
- Hello Time: Award-Winning Stationery
- Stowsmith Candles: Hand-Poured Soy Candles
- Wild At Heart: Bags and Accessories
- Flora & Fauna: Fresh and dried flowers
- Cotswold Hipster: Luxury leads, collars and pet accessories
- Nutmeg & Thyme: Plant-Based and Gluten Free Food

Lynn Newland, owner of No. 31, shares her excitement: "I am delighted to offer a new shopping experience for the residents of Burford and visitors. We have brought together 13 local, independent brands, all brimming with talent, to create a unique dog-friendly shop with a fantastic range of high-quality products, alongside freshly prepared food and coffee." *Sally Dear*



## ON THE HIGHWAY



By the time you read this we suspect that a fair number of readers will have paid a visit to Highway, Matthew Freud's latest addition to the High Street. (Note that it is just called Highway, like its sister establishment Bull\*\* down the road. Definite articles are clearly becoming an endangered species). We had a sneak preview with Adam Painter, who designed the interior together with his wife Ellen. They are also the team behind Bull and similar themes have been carried through with soft linens and lighting. There is a 30 seat tapas restaurant which is designed to be cosy, informal and convivial and a private dining room (see above) for up to ten people. Tapas was chosen as it is a type of food not otherwise available in the area.

One of the attractive features is a new bar which will just be for those looking for a drink, not shared with diners, and will have a hatch for serving customers who sit outside in the street. In the winter there will be a roaring fire. The existing 11 bedrooms have been completely refitted without any structural alterations and plastered with tadelakt\*.

Rebecca Riley, the previous manager of the Highway and now general manager of both Highway and Bull, told us: "We are thrilled to announce that The Highway Inn's doors are back open, and we can't wait to welcome our cherished local customers into the newly refurbished space. While we've given the place a fresh new look, we've made sure the wonderful team remains the same and it still feels like home. Enjoy catching up at our stunning new bar and savour the exciting new tapas-style dishes in our restaurant. Thank you all for your patience during our renovation—we can't wait to see you again!"

*Editors*

*\*Us neither - apparently it's "a natural lime-based plaster indigenous to the Marrakech region of the foothills of the Atlas Mountains" - Ed.*

*\*\*We have just learnt that BULL has won the prestigious MuddyStiletto award for best boutique stay in England. Editors†*

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**CHARITY SALE**

Saturday 31st August  
10am - 3pm  
The Tolsey, Burford

Quality Bric-a-Brac, Clothes,  
Collectibles etc. In aid of:  
Shilton Old School Village Hall  
(Cash preferred)  
reg.charity 272023

Mike Russell kindly sent us these two photos from Taynton: blackbird having a bath and a female sparrow feeding juvenile



## DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat 27 July	Craft in Action Fair	Warwick Hall Burford	10.30-4.30
Sat 27 July	Windrush Valley Flower Show	Great Barrington Village Hall	1pm +
1-19 August	Fools Delight Circus <a href="http://www.foolsdelight.co.uk">www.foolsdelight.co.uk</a> (see within)	Bampton	
Wed 7 Aug	Burford Bowls Club		1-3pm
10 August	Cake Sale for Charity	Under Tolsey Burford	11-4pm
10-11 Aug	Windrush Art Exhibition (see within)	Windrush Village Hall	11am-4pm
Tue 13 Aug	FABW1 Garden Party	Sue Newport's Garden	TBA
Sun 18 Aug	Cricket Match for Charity (see within)	Swinbrook Cricket Ground	2pm +
23-25 August	Spinster (see within)	Big Festival, Bampton	
Sat 24 Aug	Craft in Action	Warwick Hall	10-4-30
Mon 26 Aug	Repair Cafe (see within)	Burford Bowls Club	10-12noon
Mon 26 Aug	Scout Car Boot Sale	West Field,	
26-31 Aug	North Cotswold Art Exhibition	Warwick Hall	10-5pm
Sat 31 Aug	Charity Sale Quality Bric-a-Brac	Under Tolsey Burford	10-3pm
Thur 3 Sept	First of Poetry Series (see within)	Friends Meeting House Pytts Lane, Burford	TBA
Fri 6 Sept	Monet in Northleach (see within)	Northleach Church	6.30pm
Tue 10 Sept	FABW1 Talk on Crime Scene Investigation	Baptist Church	
Wed 11 Sept	TASC - Talk on the Sculpture of Antony Gormley	Warwick Hall	10.50am
Tue 17 Sept	Burford & District Society Talk - Travels with my Art	Warwick Hall	7pm
Wed 25 Sept	The Water Gypsy	Baptist Church <a href="http://www.burfordtolsey.org/shop">www.burfordtolsey.org/shop</a>	
Thur 26 Sept	Horticultural Assoc Talk - New Plants from Old	Bowls Club	2.15pm
Wed 16 Oct	Lenthall Concert - Brahms and Beethoven	Burford School	

PLEASE remember to give us **DAY, DATE and TIME** when providing information about forthcoming events to ensure the full and correct details are published. Thank you.  
Editors

This information is sometimes out of date but included as a prompt for people to remind us what Clubs, Societies and Regular Events still exist and who is the contact for them.

## USEFUL CONTACTS + INFORMATION

Please check hours of opening which are subject to change

### REGULAR LOCAL EVENTS, CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Aerobics	Monday and two on Thursday	Warwick Hall Monday 6.15pm, Thursday 11.45 and 6.15pm	Gill Hames 822971 gillianhames46@gmail.com
Astally Arms	Last Friday of the month	Memorial Hall Asthall Leigh	From 7.00 pm
Badminton Group	<b>Monday</b> nights	Burford School 8-10pm. Friendly, all abilities	Kevin 704655 scareyradar@yahoo.co.uk
BEAGles aka Burford Environment Action Group	Third Monday of the month	The Prince of Burford	7.30pm
Burford Bridge Club	Every Tuesday Joining Fee £30 Monthly Session Fee £12.00	Warwick Hall Contact 07831 301886 bbc/office@mail.com	5-7pm
Burford Badminton Club	<b>Tuesday</b> nights 8-10pm	Burford School - fun, social, all abilities	Vijay 891043 vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Burford Crafters	3rd Wednesday of the month	Burford Library 2.30-3.30	Judith Butcher 01993 824194
Burford & District Society	Meet 7 times a year	Warwick Hall at 7.00pm	Bert Clough, Secretary 07943 720668
Burford Town Bowls Club	Friendly Roll-up all Mondays	Bowls Club from 6.30 pm	Pat Walker 01993 822330 patr47@btinternet.com
Burford Trees care/planting	4th Sunday of the month	Community Allotment - Tanners Lane	lucy.staveley@gmail.com
Coffee and Company	Every Wednesday	St John the Baptist Church 10.30 - 12 midday	Diana Peters 01993 822785
Cub Scouts	Mondays (term time)	Scout Hut 6 - 7.30 pm	Mandy Bielby 07941 470465
Fencing	Tuesdays	Bradwell Village 7-9pm	Keith Money 01982 448295
Fulbrook & Burford WI (FaBWI)	Second Tuesday of every month	Burford Baptist Church Hall	Jennie Craven 07710 103015 thefabwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
Fulbrook Coffee am	Every 3rd Thursday	Fulbrook Meeting Place 10.30 - 12	Lyn Bibbings 823640
Fulbrook Fitness Group	Thursday (wef Sept 2021)	Fulbrook Meeting Place 9am	Pat Ferrett 822892
Horticultural Association	Fourth Thursday	Bowls Club - times vary	Janet Copley 01451 844210
North Cotswold Arts Assoc.	Every 2nd Wednesday	Warwick Hall	2-4pm
Pickleball - fun, social sport	Mon 11-1pm, Thu 10-12pm, Fri 8-10pm	Charlbury Community Centre	Vijay 01993 891 043 or vijaysmobile@gmail.com
Pilates Class	Wednesdays 10.00am	Burford Baptist Church	Elizabeth Jarvis cotswoldpilates123@gmail.com
Pilates Class	Thursdays 9.30am. Suitable for men and women	Warwick Hall	Elizabeth www.wellnesscity.co.uk 07932 981023
Rhyme Time	Friday 9.15-10.00 am Term Times	Burford Library (for under 5's)	Carol-Amy Holdcroft 823377
Rock-a-Tots	Tuesday during Term Time	Warwick Hall	9.45 - 11.15 www.burfordchurch.org/rockatots
Rotary Burford & Kingham	Monday	The Burford Golf Club	John Smith 07717 883182
Signpost - Coffee and Help	Every Wednesday in term time.	The Warwick Hall, Burford 10.00 - 12 midday	Opportunity to raise worries confidentially
Scouts	Thursday (term time)	Scout Hut 6 - 8pm	Alex Gill 07762161769 burfordscouts@gmail.com
Scrabble	1st Tuesday of each month	Burford Library (free soft drinks)	7pm
Soup & Pudding Club (currently suspended)	Every 2nd Tuesday	Baptist Church, Witney Street	Gill Crippen 07967 362885 or 07793 012215
The Arts Society Cotswolds	2nd Wed (not July/Aug)	Warwick Hall 11.00	publicity@theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk
The Wychwood Lodge of Freemasons	3rd Thursday Sept-April	The Masonic Hall 31 Sheep Street	Mike 868302 / Allan 822240 wychwood988@outlook.com

**Burford Recreation Pavilion** (Children's Events)  
01993 823647  
**Burford Pre School**  
01993 824031  
**Burford School**  
01993 823303  
**Burford Primary School**  
01993 822159

**Burford Surgery**  
01993 822176  
[www.burfordsurgery.co.uk](http://www.burfordsurgery.co.uk)

**Burford Tolsey Museum**  
Open seven days a week  
April to October  
[www.burfordtolsey.org](http://www.burfordtolsey.org)

**Burford Town Council**  
Tolsey office open Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday between 9.30 am and 11.30 am  
01993 823647  
Email [town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@burford-tc.gov.uk)  
[www.burford-tc.gov.uk](http://www.burford-tc.gov.uk)

**Carterton Health Centre**  
NHS  
01993 841718  
111  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

**Centre for Carers in Oxfordshire**  
01295 264545  
[www.oxoncarers.org.uk](http://www.oxoncarers.org.uk)

**Chemist** Reavley's  
01993 823144  
**Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital**  
Burford Branch  
01608 642547

**Churches**  
Anglican St John the Baptist  
01993 823788  
Roman Catholic  
01993 823219  
Church of SS John Fisher and Thomas More  
Baptist Church  
07967 362885  
Friends Meeting House  
01993 875214

**Citizens Advice Bureau**  
0808 2787908  
Email [admin@cawo.org.uk](mailto:admin@cawo.org.uk)

**Community Transport**  
Volunteer Link-Up  
01993 776277  
Oxfordshire Comet  
01865 323201  
**Emergency Services**  
Police – non essential  
101

**Environment Agency**  
Floodline  
0845 988118  
Emergency  
0800 807060

*Please let us know if any details need amending.*  
[editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk](mailto:editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk)

**Hall Bookings**  
Baptist Church [gill.crippen@googlemail.com](mailto:gill.crippen@googlemail.com)  
Burford Town Bowls Club  
01993 822330  
Fulbrook Meeting Place  
TBA  
Taynton Village Hall - Lexi Young  
07909 913994  
Warwick Hall Bookings and Information  
[bookings@burfordchurch.org.uk](mailto:bookings@burfordchurch.org.uk)

**Library**  
01993 823377  
Tuesday 13.00 - 18.00  
Thursday 10.00 - 13.00  
Friday 10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.30  
Saturday 09.00 - 13.00  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/burfordlibrary](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/burfordlibrary)

**Member of Parliament**  
07487 708681  
Charlie Maynard [charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk)

**Oxfordshire County Council**  
General Enquiries  
01865 815573  
Highways  
08453 101111  
Faulty Street Lights  
0800 317802  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Oxfordshire County Councillor  
Nicholas Field-Johnson  
01993 878309  
**Post Office**  
01993 822174  
[stephencolter@aol.com](mailto:stephencolter@aol.com)

**Recycling Centre**  
Dix Pit, Lynch Hill, Stanton Harcourt  
Open 7 days a week 8am - 5pm  
Thursday late night until 8pm  
Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

**Southern Electric** (Freephone) 08000 727282  
**Thames Water** 0800 3169800

**Travel**  
Rail Enquiries  
08457 484950  
Public Transport Enquiries  
08712 002233

**West Oxfordshire District Council**  
General Enquiries  
01993 861000  
Out of Hours  
01993 705056  
[www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk)

**West Oxfordshire District Councillor**  
Hugo Ashton  
07712 490517

**Witney Hospital Minor Injuries**  
01865 903841  
Open 10.00am – 10.30pm daily  
Last Patient seen at 10pm

**Witney Police Station, No front counter**  
[www.thamesvalleypolice.uk](http://www.thamesvalleypolice.uk)

## CHURCH SERVICES

### BURFORD BENEFICE

#### St John the Baptist, Burford

<b>4 August</b>	Morning Service (CW)	11.00am
<b>11 August</b>	Choral Matins (BCP)	9.30am
	Holy Communion (CW)	11.00am
<b>18 August</b>	Holy Communion (CW)	9.30am
	Morning Service (CW)	11.00am
<b>25 August</b>	Morning Prayer (CW)	9.30am
	Morning Service (CW)	11.00am

#### St James the Great, Fulbrook

<b>11 August</b>	Morning Prayer (CW)	9.30am
<b>18 August</b>	Matins (BCP)	9.30am
<b>25 August</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00am

#### St John the Evangelist, Taynton

<b>4 August</b>	Benefice Holy Communion (CW)	9.30am
<b>18 August</b>	Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm

#### St Nicholas, Asthall

<b>11 August</b>	Evening Prayer (BCP)	6.00pm
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#### St Mary, Swinbrook

<b>4 August</b>	Holy Communion	11.00am
<b>11 August</b>	Morning Service	11.00am
<b>18 August</b>	Morning Service	11.00am
<b>25 August</b>	Morning Service	11.00am

#### St Oswald, Widford

<b>25 August</b>	Evening Prayer(BCP)	6.00pm
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**9.30am and 11.00am services in Burford are also live streamed. Swinbrook Service are available to catch up on Monday. These can all be found on our website or YouTube Channel.**

*Tarnia Usher*

### ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE

#### Services in August

Sunday Mass: 9.30 am

Weekday Masses:  
Tuesday - 10.00 am  
Thursday - 10.00 am

15 August - Solemnity of The Assumption: 10.00 am

For updates please see [catholicchurchburford.org.uk](http://catholicchurchburford.org.uk) or the church noticeboard for details.  
*Dan Boyle*

### BURFORD QUAKER MEETING

Pytts Lane, Meeting for Worship every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.  
*Myra Ford 01451 810484, or Graham Hadley 01993 875214*

### BURFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Welcome to Burford Baptist. It's now a lovely warm space with a new heating system in place. We want the community to come and use our facilities and we are happy to negotiate rates for hire depending on the event.

We have a growing number of regular users including FAB WI meeting on the second Tuesday evening of the month and pilates meeting every Wednesday at 10am.

Both would welcome new people to join them at BBC.

Do get in touch.  
*Gill Crippen*

### SIGNPOST

Come and chat to someone over a cup of coffee about a matter you are struggling with. A team of volunteers from Burford Church will be available to listen and do their best to help.

All matters will be dealt with confidentially.  
The Warwick Hall, Burford

*A service of Choral Matins takes place at St John the Baptist Church at 9.30am on the second Sunday of each month. All are welcome.*

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

Company Name	Business Type	Phone
Antiques @ The George	Award winning, friendly antiques centre	01993 823319
CJD Architects	Chartered Architects	01993 823646
Hickman Brothers Landscapes Ltd	Garden Design and Construction, Landscape and Garden Supplies <a href="http://www.hickmanlandscapes.co.uk">www.hickmanlandscapes.co.uk</a>	01993 822226
Jenny Smith	Spanish & French tutor. Building confidence GCSE/KS2. Experience in schools; DBS check held.	07908 602547
Kendall & Davies Solicitors	Expert, friendly, client-focused legal services with offices in Burford. <a href="http://www.kendallanddavies.co.uk">www.kendallanddavies.co.uk</a>	01993 822025
Taylor and Fletcher	Estate Agents / Chartered Surveyors / Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers / Commercial Agents / Rural Specialists	01993 220579
Mallams Auctioneers Ltd	Auctioneers and Valuers	01242 235712
Pauline Carter BA AmusLCM CTABRSM MISM	Piano Teacher	01993 774568
Peter Garratt	Painter and Decorator	01451 810376 07788 896496
StayCotswold	Holiday/Short Lets, Relocation, Corporate Stays, Property Search, Sales & Lettings. <a href="http://www.staycotswold.com">www.staycotswold.com</a>	01993 259444
Thomas Ellis-Rees	Clock & Barometer repairs. <a href="mailto:tellisrees@gmail.com">tellisrees@gmail.com</a>	01993 822132
Vick's Byway Garage	Bushey Ground, Minster Lovell, Witney, OX29 0SW. MOTs by arrangement	01993 823142
VJ Hancock & Co Ltd	Certified Accountants / Chartered Tax Advisers <a href="http://www.vjhaccountancy.co.uk">www.vjhaccountancy.co.uk</a>	01993 822817
Lionheart Later Life Planning and Probate	Wills – Lasting Powers of Attorney – Trusts and their registration – Fixed fee Probate – Equity Release and Free Financial Advice. <a href="http://www.lionheartlaterlifeplanning.co.uk">www.lionheartlaterlifeplanning.co.uk</a>	07769 730616.
EIWell	Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition Helping people stay independent as they get older	01865 238185
Burford Foot Clinic	Chiropody Castles Yard, Pytts Lane, OX18 4SJ	01993 200980
Adam Carter Chauffeur Services	Local Private Hire Chauffeur <a href="http://www.adamcarterchauffeurservices.co.uk">www.adamcarterchauffeurservices.co.uk</a>	07920 135157
Tony Williams	Welding/Brazing/Soldering & Metalwork Home/Garden & General repairs & alterations	07722334696
Fairways Cotswold Explorer	for all your Airport & Cruise transfers	01993823152 07751472125
The Stone Gallery	Makers of Gold and Silver Jewellery, agent for Georg Jensen. Paperweights & Pictures. <a href="http://www.stonegallery.co.uk">www.stonegallery.co.uk</a>	01993 823302
NFU Mutual	Insurance   Pensions   Investments - Call your local Witney agency	01993 776716
Patti Good	Therapist, Teacher & Healer Free Online Guided Meditation Classes <a href="http://www.pattigood.com">www.pattigood.com</a>	07880 998568
Radnor Martin	Estate agents covering Burford and the surrounding villages	01993 765115
TC Garden Services	Gardening, Landscaping, Patios, Decking, Fencing & Gates, Raised Beds. Contact Tony for a free quotation. <a href="http://www.tcgs.uk">www.tcgs.uk</a>	07771 888304
Samantha James	Regarded organic - Private Hairstylist - Experienced. Email - <a href="mailto:samloujam@googlemail.com">samloujam@googlemail.com</a>	07772 601495
J Coles Plumbing & Heating	For all your plumbing emergencies/needs and bathroom refurbishments.	07947693427
Oxford Construction	Building, Groundworks and Project Management Services Email; <a href="mailto:enquiries@oxfordconstruction.co.uk">enquiries@oxfordconstruction.co.uk</a>	01865 922001
Grimebusters	Dirty carpets? Upholstery? Call Grimebusters - your local professional cleaners. Competitive rates. Free estimates.	01993 868924
Woodgrove Estates	Contemporary offices to let in Fulbrook. <a href="mailto:office@woodgrove-estates.co.uk">office@woodgrove-estates.co.uk</a>	01993 640004
Piano with Victoria	Lessons for all ages and abilities in Burford. ABRSM + improv / songwriting lessons.	07737493980

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enquiries@cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk

or book online at [www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk](http://www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk)



The Bear of Rodborough  
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T 01453 878522

The Swan Hotel  
Bibury  
T 01285 740695

The Lamb Inn  
Burford  
T 01993 823155

The Bay Tree Hotel  
Burford  
T 01993 822791

The Manor House Hotel  
Moreton-in-Marsh  
T 01608 650501

The Hare & Hounds Hotel  
Tetbury  
T 01666 881000

The Close Hotel  
Tetbury  
T 01666 502272

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email: [info@harryjamesgardens.co.uk](mailto:info@harryjamesgardens.co.uk)

[www.harryjamesgardens.co.uk](http://www.harryjamesgardens.co.uk)



ABOUT US  
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KITCHEN OPENING HOURS  
Tuesday - Saturday - 12pm-9pm  
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CONTACT US  
[info@thecarpentersarmsfulbrook.co.uk](mailto:info@thecarpentersarmsfulbrook.co.uk)  
01993 823 823  
Instagram: [The\\_carpenters\\_arms](#)  
Facebook: [The carpenters arms](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS  
Feast Night  
Friday 28th June, 7pm  
6-course tasting menu, £60pp  
Optional wine or cocktail flight, £40pp

Greek Night  
Friday 26th July, 7pm  
3 courses of Greek themed food, £40pp

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## THE CARPENTERS ARMS





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