

Produced for the parish of St. Michael & All Angels, Summertown
July 2017

Bowling - a sport for all seasons and all ages

Tucked away on the Marston Ferry Road, between some halls of residence and The Cherwell School, is The Oxford City and County Bowls Club. There are two traditional outdoor greens, lined by a trellis of roses, but there's also an indoor green with a laser-levelled, carpeted floor, opened in 2002, where players can bowl all year long.



Club coach Rosemary with young players Zoe and Giles

Club coach, Rosemary Phelps, is keen to dispel the myth that bowling is only for older people: "This is a sport for all ages, our youngest players can be eight years old while others are playing regularly into their late eighties."

There are about 500 indoor members, with about 150 playing outdoors in the summer months. Rosemary

explains: "We have members who play internationally, nationally, and in county leagues. Others prefer to play socially at the club. We have a restaurant that serves lunches several days a week, a bar, and a billiard table. It's a good place for people on their own to come and have a drink or coffee without feeling awkward. It's possible to just be a social member."

The club opened in 1933 with two outdoor greens and a clubhouse leased from St John's College. The freehold was bought in the mid-1970s and the original indoor green was built in 1978.

The sport is good for concentration, balance and fitness. Coaching is available on Friday evenings from 5 to 7pm, and there is equipment for beginners to borrow. The good news is that those joining now or during the summer months won't need to pay a subscription until October.

Contact: www.oxfordbowls.co.uk; 01865 379116



Enjoying a friendly match against Marlowe

Driverless car software firm comes to Summertown

Oxbotica, a leading firm in autonomous vehicle software development, has recently opened an office in Mayfield Road. There are currently around 35 staff, with this number planned to grow to 60-80 as the company scales up its activities through the year. According to Dr Graeme Smith, CEO: "The vibrant community of Summertown is a great place to be, with a rich talent pool coming straight from the university, and exciting developments for the testing of autonomous cars around the city."



The Oxbotica team with their first test vehicle

Oxbotica, a spin-out from Oxford University's Robotics Institute, has a test facility at Culham. It is leading the consortium of organisations, known as DRIVEN, which plans to trial autonomous vehicles on public roads, culminating in a non-stop journey from London to Oxford by 2019.

The core product is not the physical vehicle, but 'Selenium', a robotic brain that can, in principle, control any moving vehicle. An array of sensors on the vehicle enables Selenium to know exactly where it is, and what is around it. With this information, the software instantly decides how the vehicle should move. Also, Selenium's artificial intelligence capability enables it to learn from its observations and mistakes, and share that experience with other connected vehicles running the same system.

Oxbotica has already trialed shuttle vehicles in pedestrianised areas in Milton Keynes and Greenwich. Road trials within Oxford may start later this year. The next big step, as part of the DRIVEN project, is to develop a fleet of six autonomous but inter-communicating vehicles that will ultimately make the planned London to Oxford trip.

For more information: www.oxbotica.ai



Cotteslowe food bank for local people

Cotteslowe residents, Mark and Sarah Roberts, have set up a food bank to provide practical help for their neighbours. In January this year they established the GPSG Food Bank Oxford. Mark, who worked as a chef and manager in restaurants in Oxford for over 30 years, collects food from Sainsbury's in Summertown, the Northgate and St. Clements, as well as from Sofea, a food distribution centre in Didcot, and takes it to a store near his home in Cotteslowe.

Anyone wanting to use the food bank needs a referral from a doctor, social worker or similar. They then contact Mark by phone and call around to his store, which is usually open on Mondays and Wednesdays.



Mark at the food bank store

Old and young can benefit from this service. Mark says: "We know that we are helping families. We've been in the same position ourselves – waiting for money to come in and struggling to feed the children."

Food donations can be left at the drop-off points in Sainsbury's. The charity also welcomes cash donations and would be particularly grateful to be given a van to enable Mark to collect more food and even provide deliveries for the housebound.

Contact: Mark Roberts: 01865 556566; email: grieving24@yahoo.co.uk

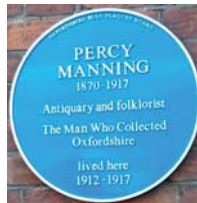
Depression support - can you help?

Oxford Depression Support Group is seeking kind volunteer hosts to offer their homes as a meeting place to allow people suffering from depression and anxiety to talk and share with others in a safe and confidential space.

Would you feel able to host an occasional two-hour meeting, once a month or less, and provide tea/coffee and biscuits? If so, **please ring:** 01865 552640 (evenings and weekends). Do also get in touch if you feel that joining the group could be helpful to you.

Celebrating a great collector

A blue plaque has recently been unveiled at 300 Banbury Road to mark the former home of Percy Manning, a folklorist, antiquarian and prolific collector of historical artefacts. Manning's collections cover all



periods from the prehistoric to modern times, and span both material objects and documentary records. Objects he donated to the Ashmolean Museum include Stone Age implements, Roman coins, pottery and a collection of truncheons. Those at the Pitt Rivers include weaponry and household objects. The Bodleian Libraries now hold his collection of historical records of Oxfordshire life and history, including sports and pastimes, customs and beliefs.

One of Manning's great research interests was Morris dancing, in fact he was largely responsible for reviving the tradition at a time when it was in danger of dying out, so it was appropriate that, after the unveiling by Manning expert, Mike Heaney, entertainment was then provided by the Icknield Way Morris Men.

yourstruly... Sarah Gristwood Headteacher, Cotteslowe Primary School



Sarah writes: My biggest inspiration for becoming a primary school teacher was my own reception teacher, Miss Britten. I have many happy memories of my time at primary school, but it is Miss Britten who stands out the most.

Now in my seventh year at Cotteslowe, I look back on the journey we have made and my time as deputy headteacher proudly. A highlight for me is hearing the children sing, and their enjoyment at producing the whole school CD.

As headteacher, I am particularly enjoying getting to know each of the children and their families, and leading a team of staff committed to providing an exciting and inspiring education for them. My aim is that every child is supported to achieve their personal best and has high aspirations for themselves.

Outside of school I have two young children and enjoy walking my dog and baking (and eating!) cake.

D L HANCOCK LTD
Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons
 Established 19 years and still independent

WE ARE NOW OXFORD'S ONLY
 INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTOR

A caring traditional **24 hour service** provided by Mr. Hancock and his team personally

Serving Oxford and all Surrounding Areas

Private Chapel Of Rest

Mercedes Fleet of Funeral Cars

Tel: 01865 767780 (24 Hrs)
 126 London Road, Headington,
 OXFORD OX3 9ED
www.dlhancock.co.uk

Member of The National Association of Funeral Directors

Perfect Choice Funeral Plans

SALES & LETTINGS

Oxford 01865 511444
oxford@carterjonas.co.uk

Carter Jonas



NOA is there for you

Next door to the Ferry Leisure Centre and beside the Summertown car park is the North Oxford Association community centre. The centre hosts an intriguing range of classes for adults and children including music, martial arts, Italian, fitness, poetry and much



Sarah (centre) with students Sadia and Houda

more. NOA's community development consultant, Sarah Levete, explains: "We try to respond to requests from the community. For instance, I'm running a free ESOL (English as a second or other language) conversation group, and we're hoping to start a community craft class in September."

NOA has several rooms available to hire including a large octagonal hall. Membership costs £12 a year and entitles you to discounts at local retailers as well as other benefits. NOA is managed and largely staffed by volunteers so there are lots of opportunities for people of all ages to get involved.

Contact: www.northoxfordassociation.co.uk; 01865 552295

Memories of 333

The building work at 333 Banbury Road is due for completion in September and a new chapter in the life of the early 19th-century villa, once a leading conference centre in our area, will begin.



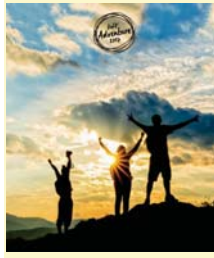
If you would like to view the new building, which now provides a sixth form site for d'Overbroeck's school, you can look around on Saturday 9th September when the school will be open to the public as part of Oxford Open Doors. In the meantime, do you have any memories of events you attended at the building – perhaps even an occasion that was particularly important in your life? If so, the school is collecting favourite memories from over the years and would like to share them with students and staff as they move into their new home.

Please contact: sarah.jex@doverbroecks.com; 01865 310000.

Cool for school

Cherwell students are going for bronze - and gold!

This year more than 50 students from The Cherwell School will be entering the challenging Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. 43 students are aiming for a bronze award and eight are going for gold.



Many months of training and commitment go into three compulsory areas: voluntary work, the development of personal skills, and physical activities.

A major event for each award is an expedition in a remote rural area, using planning and map orientation skills. No phones with

satnav are allowed!

The bronze award students had two days hiking in the Black Mountains as part of their training and will complete their qualifying expedition in the Brecon Beacons this summer.

The gold award expedition includes four days of hiking. At this level, a residential experience of a shared community activity is also included and the students are now busy planning this part of their adventure which could be either in this country or abroad.

Northern House children learn important life skills

Year 6 pupils at Northern House School have recently visited the A&E department of the John Radcliffe Hospital as part of the Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools (IMPS) project. The aim of IMPS is to minimise the number of accidents that lead to death or disability. The programme targets children between the ages of 10 and 11. It empowers them to take responsibility for managing their own risk and equips them with the skills to cope in an emergency.



The Northern House children learnt basic first aid and resuscitation, what to do if someone chokes or becomes unconscious, and how to prevent accidents happening in the first place.

Windmill Windows Est 1999

www.windmillwindows.com / Tel: 01844 237070

"A local family run business established in 1999 serving all of Oxfordshire, specializing in supplying and installing a complete range of products in all materials, including uPVC, Composite, Timber and Aluminium.



All our quotes are free of charge and obligation free."



FindersKeepers™

Property. Property.

Whether you're looking for a new home or a new tenant, contact us now.

01865 311011

north@finderskeepers.co.uk





St Michael & All Angels Church

"No matter where you are on the journey of faith, you are always welcome at St Michael & All Angels!"

Sundays

8am Holy Eucharist – a short service.

10am Parish Eucharist – with choir and hymns. Have coffee/tea and a chat afterwards.

Children's Church – meets in the church during 10am Eucharist. **We have a Godly Play session on the fourth Sunday of every month. On the first Sunday of the month** the children participate in the All-age Eucharist.

6.30pm Taizé Worship – a short, meditative candlelit service which includes chants and silent prayer.

Weekdays

9am Silent Prayer

9.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays 10am – 12 noon: Baby and Toddler Group

Drop-in play for children and chat for grown-ups! Contact Juliet Field on 01865 552640.

Thursdays 10am: Holy Eucharist

Coffee/tea and biscuits are served afterwards.

Thursdays 5.30pm: St Michael's Choristers age 3+.

Term-time only. Contact Alice on 07791 328108.

Thursdays 6.30 – 7.45pm: Adult Choir Practice.

Contact Stephen on 07717 852020.

Saturdays 9am: Men's Breakfast

An informal social on the first Saturday of every month.

Contact Steve on 01865 552475.

Contact details

The Revd Gavin Knight (vicar)
The Vicarage, 33 Lonsdale Road, Summertown
01865 556079 / 07833 251939

Church & Hall bookings

Parish Office open Monday and Wednesday: 9am – 12 noon
Leah Mattinson – Parish Manager
Email: office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk
Phone: 07745 130956 or 01865 311762



To book the church or the upper and lower church halls (with kitchens) email: bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

A caretaker for the church hall

There are two Summertown church halls, an upper and a lower hall, both located in the same building on the corner of Banbury and Portland Roads. The halls are used to host a great variety of events from pilates to puppy training and they have never been so well used as they are at present.



Gavin and Carlos outside the hall

The building has stood the test of time. Built from the stone and the roof of the first parish church in Summertown, St John the Baptist in Rogers Street and Middle Way, it was erected in 1925.



Carlos with some of his paintings

More recently, the church has recruited a caretaker to oversee the safe provision of services. Carlos Caban is a local resident, an artist, actor, gardener and all-round helper! He hails from New York where he worked in the prison service. Now he guards our much-prized heritage.

The building will soon be accompanied by three flats which will be located in the car park. The developers begin work in August. Although the car park will be taken over during the construction period, normal use will resume after the building is completed.

... and taking care of the church

This building project has enabled the church to continue to do what it has always done - provide amenities for the local population - by contributing funds to the new Threshold Project and facilitating the completion of the existing church building after more than 100 years.

Why is this so important to the church and community? The Revd Gavin Knight believes these developments to be necessary "because the church exists for those outside of it! So we want to build a place of welcome, community, wellbeing and creativity."

A place of welcome: The new Threshold will become a hub, inviting the local community to enter and engage.

A place of community: It will provide a meeting area, a kitchen, an office, and toilets to make St Michael's more hospitable for everyone.

A place of wellbeing: The Threshold will be offered to local care and health organisations for meetings, talks and consultations.

A place of creativity: It will enhance St Michael's growing reputation as a venue for music and the arts.

The Threshold Project will begin construction in July.