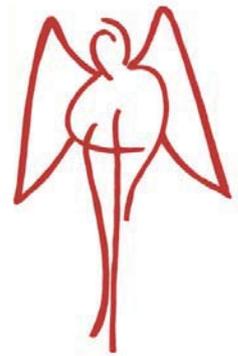


# the guardian angel

your community's news & views



Produced for the parish of St Michael & All Angels, Summertown  
July 2018

## New look Co-op with post office!



Kevin Sherriff and Richard Clements in the updated store

Historically some Co-op stores included post office counters in their shops and now, as local post offices are closing down, the community-friendly Midcounties Co-operative is taking on this role once again. Richard Clements, manager of the Midcounties Co-operative Food store in Summertown, and local councillor Jean Fooks have lobbied for years to convince the Post Office that a replacement was needed for the lost branches in Summertown - and finally they have succeeded!

The arrival of the post office has inspired a refurbishment of the Summertown store, which now includes a fast food franchise Chozen Noodle, and new Mediterranean and Polish sections as well as ranges of locally produced and organic foods.

Midcounties Co-operative Food has a policy of sourcing produce ethically so it pays UK farmers a realistic price as well as selling Fair Trade produce from overseas. What's more, all those 5ps paid for carrier bags, together with 10% of the local profits, are put back into the community via the Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund. Any local charity can apply and recent beneficiaries include Aspire, The Gatehouse and local schools.

All Co-op colleagues have the option of doing four hours' paid voluntary work a year. Kevin Sherriff who manages the new noodle franchise also spends some time delivering the Guardian Angel newsletter, while others help at charity events or give workshops on healthy eating. The Midcounties Co-operative is owned by its members and, as its mission statement says, it strives 'to enhance the lives of colleagues, members, customers and the communities we serve'.

## Farewell to Jean Fooks

Oxford's retiring Lord Mayor, Councillor Jean Fooks, was fêted with flowers and prosecco at a tea party thrown for her by the Cutteslowe Community Association to celebrate her long career as our local councillor. Three speakers praised her tireless work for the community, particularly her tenacious fundraising for community groups.

Jean graduated in physics from Somerville College, Oxford in 1961 and initially became the first female scientific officer at the then Radio and Space Research Station at Slough. More scientific work followed, including working at the European Space Centre at Darmstadt, Germany. While her children were young Jean taught maths and physics before eventually working in Oxford for various university departments doing data analysis on mental and physical health records.

Jean became a city councillor for Summertown in 1992 and a county councillor for Wolvercote and Summertown in 2001 so she has been using her problem-solving skills to help our community continuously for over 25 years. She was Lord Mayor from May 2017 until May this year.

Jean has been a governor at Frideswide and Cherwell Schools and has served on the committees of the North Oxford Association, Cutteslowe Community Association and Wolvercote Young People's Club. She feels that if community groups can work together they can achieve more, and has been pleased to be a part of that process. The return of a post office to Summertown after a gap of ten years has been a real achievement.

Now Jean is retiring to Dulverton in West Somerset where she intends to enjoy gardening, walking and campaigning to preserve the beautiful Exmoor National Park.



Celebrating 25 years of service



Oxford's Lord Mayor  
2017-2018

This is **your** newsletter; if you would like to contribute in any way, please email:  
[guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

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## Neighbourhood plan update

After five years' work, and based on input from local people through public meetings, consultations and questionnaires, the draft Summertown and St Margaret's neighbourhood plan was submitted to the city council in January.



Proposals cover housing; health and community; transport; environment; and retail and business. They include planning guidelines that will influence council planning applications, and community policies and projects.

On 20th March the council endorsed the draft plan subject to a council-led public consultation and a review by an independent inspector whose recommendations will be included in the plan's final version. This will then be voted on in a referendum by all eligible residents in the area, probably in early 2019. Once approved, the plan will be in force for 15 years.

[www.summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk](http://www.summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk)

## Narrowboat living



Benji Ming, an actor, gardener and tree surgeon, lives on a narrowboat on the Oxford Canal near Summertown. He was lucky to get a mooring here in 1994 and enjoys the simple lifestyle and the sense

of community. A boat licence costs £800 and there is an extra variable payment for a mooring, but no council tax. Amenities along the river are provided by the Canal and River Trust. The boat has a water tank that can be filled from a tap on the towpath and power is provided by solar panels and the boat's engine. Benji's cooker is fuelled by bottled gas and he has a smokeless fuel stove for winter - although of course it's in summer that narrowboat living really comes into its own!

## Cool for school

### New head for Cutteslowe School

Lucy Phipps has been a teacher for a long time and feels very lucky to be the new head at Cutteslowe Primary School. She began her career as a peripatetic music teacher, teaching brass and woodwind instruments, and most recently was the Year 2 teacher and deputy head at John Blandy Primary School near Abingdon. When not hard at work Lucy enjoys walking and cycling with her family (pictured), reading, singing and walking her dog.



### Young playwright wins award

This year's winner of the Dan Hemingway Memorial Award at The Cherwell School was Georgie Newson-Errey (left) for her outstanding play



*Balloons*. The prize was established in memory of a talented former student and aims to encourage other young people who share his promise and ambition.

There were 23 other

highly creative entries including a musical composition, a wedding cake, paintings, poems, embroidery, and a stop-motion film. The judges agreed that it had been an exceptional year.

### International Baccalaureate - free places

In this 50th anniversary year of the International Baccalaureate, St Edward's School, in association with *The Oxford Times*, is offering two free day places to state school children in Oxfordshire. The IB isn't always readily available in the UK and the school is delighted to offer this opportunity to two pupils wishing to experience everything the IB has to offer. **For more details see:**



[www.stedwardsoxford.org/admissions/ib-diploma-bursaries/](http://www.stedwardsoxford.org/admissions/ib-diploma-bursaries/)

## Windmill Windows Est 1999

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### Apples for Oxford



The species of apple known as 'sweet' came to Western Europe from Central Asia about 5,000 years ago, but it was the Romans who introduced orchards, cultivation and grafting to Britain. The extraordinary genome of this species, which has more DNA than a human being, has enabled thousands of varieties of sweet apples to be produced and there are now over 2,000 varieties in the United Kingdom, with probably 20,000 plus in the world.

Our local area has a long history of apple-growing and would have been producing apples since Roman times and supplying the city of Oxford with fresh fruit for hundreds of years. The repeated cycle of storage, planting and protection for apples is convenient and much less work than producing peas or beans and in Georgian and Victorian times an orchard with apples that ripened in different seasons could, with intelligent storage, provide fruit all the year round. The canal came to Oxford in 1790 and the railway in 1844, and this enabled the delicate fruits to be transported economically to the city. When Summertown was built at the beginning of the 20th century, however, the orchards, which had provided a remarkable nature reserve for animals, insects and birds, began to disappear.

An apple tree can live for as long as 200 years so you may still have an apple tree from those old orchards in your garden. To discover the age of a tree, measure the circumference of the trunk - each inch roughly represents one year. The Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley can identify a variety of apple for you, and, for more information, a new edition of *The Story of the Apple* by local author Barrie E. Juniper, and David J. Mabberley should be available by the end of this year.

### Classic cars in Cutteslowe Park

Over 250 vehicles will descend on Cutteslowe Park on 12th August as part of the Cowley Classic Car show, an annual event organised by Oxford Isis Rotary Club. Initially the show was designed to showcase cars built locally but now you will



A 1929 Morris Cowley at last year's show

find all sorts of cars as well as commercial and military vehicles, buses and motorbikes. There will be a variety of stalls, as well as free bus rides and activities for children. The dog show and swing band are also very popular. If you consider your vehicle to be a classic then bring it along. There is no fee to exhibit but a donation to charity is appreciated. This year's charity is Footsteps, an organisation that works with disabled children.

Contact: [www.cowleyclassiccarshow.org.uk](http://www.cowleyclassiccarshow.org.uk)

### yourstruly... Philippa Bilton Radio commentator and spokesperson for Emily Wilding Davison



Photo: Zoe Broughton

Philippa was born in Harrogate and, after gaining a degree in Radio and Television Production, worked for the BBC in London. In 2003 she moved to Summertown with her young family. Philippa's great grandmother was cousin to Emily Wilding Davison, the suffragette fatally injured while

trying to pin a petition to George V's horse in the Epsom Derby, and in 2011 Philippa was asked to be involved in a television programme about her famous ancestor. Soon Philippa, dressed as a suffragette, was giving talks to schools, colleges and WIs about Emily's life. She continues to act as Emily's spokesperson and has been particularly busy during this centenary year for women's suffrage. Philippa also appears as a guest commentator on BBC Radio Oxford, and works part time at the Oxford Kitchen. She plans to write a book about Emily to encourage people to continue the fight for human rights.

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**St Michael & All Angels Church**  
*All are welcome!*

**Sundays**

**8.00 am Holy Eucharist** - a short service.

**10.00 am Parish Eucharist** - with choir and hymns. Have coffee/tea and a chat afterwards.

**Children's Church** - meets in the church during 10 am Eucharist. **We have a Godly Play session on the 4th Sunday of every month.** On the **1st Sunday of the month** the children participate in the All-age Eucharist.

**6.30 pm Taizé Worship** - A short, meditative candlelit service which includes chants and silent prayer.

**Weekdays**

**9.30 am Morning Prayer**

**10.00 am - 12 noon Tuesdays: Baby & Toddler Group**

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

**10.00 am Thursdays: Holy Eucharist**

Coffee/tea and biscuits are served afterwards.

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

Term-time only. Contact Alice on 07791 328108

**6.30 - 7.45 pm Thursdays: Choir Practice**

Contact Stephen on 07717 852020

**9.00 am Saturdays: Men's Breakfast**

An informal social on 1st Saturday of the month. Contact Steve on 01865 552475

**Contact Details**

The Revd Gavin Knight (vicar)  
The Vicarage, 33 Lonsdale Road, OX2 7ES  
01865 556079/07833 251939

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

**Parish Office**

Contact - Leah Mattinson  
Email: [office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)  
Phone: 07745 130956 or 01865 552738

**For Church Hall Bookings**

The upper and lower Church Halls (with kitchens) are available for hire.

We advise early booking.  
Email: [bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)



**Choir boy realises his dream**

The plan for a new parish church for Summertown was an ambitious Edwardian project. The church would house a congregation of nearly 1,000 people and include an ornate bell tower and a baptistery apse. The west end of the church would extend almost to the Banbury Road. St Michael's was to be the cathedral of north Oxford!



David Smith reading a prayer in the new toilets. Even the loos got a blessing!

Unfortunately, funds ran out, plans were discarded, and a temporary west end wall was quickly built to finish the building. It was this wall that young David Smith gazed upon, when he was a choir boy at St Michael's in the 1950s. He couldn't help thinking how much better the church would look if only the wall were replaced with something more attractive and appropriate. Little did David know that one day he would be the man to help make this happen!

At the consecration of the new extension by the Bishop of Oxford, David, who acted as clerk of works on the project, had a special duty - to say a prayer of blessing for the new toilet facilities. (St Michael's had survived for over 100 years with just one loo!)

As the vicar Gavin Knight said: 'The new pathway and glass frontage demonstrates our determination to be more accessible and transparent. We want the church to be used and loved. David has led us through the rapids and delivered a remarkable building for future generations. His dream has come true.'

**Green ramblings**

*Jan Cook of the Eco Church team writes:* Our team has been out with the local community enjoying local green spaces. On a spring walk in Cutteslowe Park we found a few clumps of delicate fritillaries; these only bloom in certain places and are not always easy to spot but someone had kindly marked one patch with some sticks. We also saw a swan's nest on the pond island.



A swan's nest glimpsed through the trees in the Trap Grounds

Another ramble on May Morning in the Trap Grounds was a feast for the senses as we listened to birdsong on a wonderful frosty, sunny morning; the song thrush held supreme while the reed warblers chattered below ... and many more birds joined in too. Then we spotted another swan's nest through the trees!

**If you would like to join us in our ramblings please contact [jancook720@gmail.com](mailto:jancook720@gmail.com) or visit [www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk/ecochurch/communityglobal](http://www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk/ecochurch/communityglobal)**