

Produced for the parish of St Michael & All Angels, Summertown
December 2019

New bookshop for Summertown

Daunt Books are opening a new branch on the former site of the National Westminster Bank in January - and it is all due to a Summertown resident who bemoaned the loss of The Book House when visiting Daunt's bookshop in Marylebone High Street! As manager Brett Wolstencroft explains: 'We only go into areas where we're asked. We're not interested in being in competition with other booksellers.'

James Daunt opened his first bookshop in 1990 when he took over the handsome Edwardian premises originally built for an antiquarian bookseller in Marylebone. Since then the company has opened several more branches, mainly in London. All the shops have a distinctive look - wooden floors and shelves, book displays placed



A wide range of titles will be available

on tables covered with William Morris fabrics, and sympathetic lighting with hanging shades. Books are often arranged by theme with travel books, novels, maps, and biographies placed together.

Brett has been with the business from the start and

has found bookselling a very rewarding job. He has enjoyed introducing toddlers to books and seeing them return to the shop as they grow up. He says that Daunt's is coming to Summertown without any pre-conceptions; they will listen to customers and aim to adjust to the needs of the local community. Initially there will be a large children's section, and an eclectic mix of interesting and unusual books. Well-reviewed books should be easy to find.

The company has a relaxed management style and gifted staff are valued as the shop's chief resource. Everyone plays a part in the selection of books. Staff will be recruited locally - and that Daunt's customer from Summertown will not be the only one to welcome the opening of a new bookshop in our area!

For more information contact:
orders@dauntbooks.co.uk

Reduce waste with The Good Fill

Concerned by the waste generated by single-use plastic packaging on everyday shopping, local resident Philippa O'Connor has set up her own reduced waste social enterprise. The Good Fill



Philippa is happy to respond to requests for new products

started in August selling unpackaged store cupboard staples including cereals, pasta and nuts, and household items like laundry and washing-up liquids, as well as a range of herbs, spices and bathroom products.

Shoppers bring their own clean containers to fill and the price is calculated according to weight so people can buy as little or as much as they like.

The cleaning products are all from SESI (Sustainable Ethical Supplies Initiative), based in Oxford, and the food is supplied by the well-established cooperative Infinity Foods in Brighton. The products are keenly priced and most are organic. A reduced waste shop is labour-intensive, so Philippa is always looking for volunteers to help.

At the moment the shop is based in the new community space at St Michael's Church and opens on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. As in any social enterprise half of the profit must go back into the business or to charity. Eventually Philippa aims to have a permanent base in Summertown.

The Good Fill will be open between 10am and 1pm on Saturday 14th December at St Michael's Church. Christmas gift ideas will be available.

To find out more or to volunteer contact:
philippa.oconnor@gmx.com; visit www.goodfill.co.uk or follow on Facebook



Look out for the sign by the church in Lonsdale Road



Youth theatre celebrates sixty years

Since it was founded in 1959 the North Oxford Youth Theatre has been giving 10- to 17-year-olds the opportunity to develop their acting skills by taking part in a range of dramatic productions. There are no auditions and children of all abilities are welcome, including those with learning difficulties.

Founder, producer, and retiring chair Peter Bridges explains: 'It's a community activity, away from school, working with children from different backgrounds. It's also an opportunity for the children to work with adults who are not parents or teachers, and learn different levels of communication.'

A few former members have gone on to work in the professional theatre but most are there to have fun, gain confidence and achieve the best they can. The young actors learn about voice projection and the experience will help them give talks and presentations in their future professional lives.



Last January's production was *Bugsy Malone*

The annual productions include a drama festival in spring, a set of one-act plays in the summer, and a mid-winter play in January, usually a musical. This year it's *Monty Python's Spamalot*. The cohort is around 40, with approximately half girls and half boys, supported by a group of volunteers. Everyone is important, both the cast and the backstage team.

There are many voluntary positions available to provide help with production, musical direction, make-up, scenery, and general administration.

Vice-chair, administrator, and former member Ruth Banfield says: 'I loved performing as a child, and now I love seeing the kids enjoying themselves. It's great when it all comes together on the night.'

To find out more about joining or volunteering see: www.noyt.org.uk or contact ruth.banfield@ntlworld.com

Councils move towards zero emissions

The city and county councils have published revised proposals for an Oxford Zero Emission Zone to reduce pollution levels in central Oxford which frequently exceed legal limits and are primarily caused by transport, particularly buses. The first measures would be introduced by the end of 2020, ensuring that local buses meet the 'Euro 6' standard for nitrogen dioxide. By 2025 all taxis would be zero emission capable, and by 2035 all buses would be zero emission. The restrictions, initially applied during busy daytime hours, may extend to cars, vans and HGVs. The proposals will be finalised after further public consultations.



The councils have also recently released 'Connecting Oxford', proposals aimed at limiting car traffic and improving bus services in the 'eastern arc' including Marston Ferry Road, Headington and Cowley.

yourstruly... Dai Richards Documentary filmmaker, lecturer and volunteer



Summertown resident Dai Richards works as a volunteer advisor for Oxford's Asylum Welcome where he enjoys helping clients connect with British culture and find work. He also volunteers for Sanctuary Hosting and is currently providing a home for

an Albanian footballer on the Oxford United Youth Training Scheme.

Dai grew up in Bishop's Stortford and started his career as a barrister in London. He soon found this work too narrow and, wanting to engage with different communities and cultures, he took a job as a researcher for Thames Television - and never looked back. Always concerned with social justice issues, Dai has worked on BBC's *Panorama* and *Newsnight* and has made documentaries for numerous other television companies. He has also taught documentary filmmaking at the MetFilm School in Ealing and at Bournemouth University. The greatest loves of his life are his two twenty-something daughters - and Welsh rugby!

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Christmas cheer at Summer Fields

Every year a group of elderly people from local churches and residential homes are invited to Summer Fields school for a Christmas dinner and a performance of carols sung by the school chapel choir. This tradition dates



back to the late nineteenth century when the school was first founded by Archibald and Gertrude Maclaren.

Mrs Maclaren, a classical scholar and gifted teacher, was keen to establish warm links between the school and the parish and specified that there should be 'the putting on of a good dinner and tea for forty or more old people at the School'.

It's a good way for the boys to get to know some of the senior members of our community and a great way for everyone to celebrate the festive season.

Liscious - for a beautiful home

The Liscious pop-up shop is currently situated at 9 South Parade, next to Mamma Mia Pizzeria. Owner Fran Cundy hates waste so using a shop while it waits for a long-term let suits her philosophy. Fran remodels antique furniture, giving interesting and unusual pieces a new and stylish lease of life.

At Liscious you can both sell and buy antiques, or have your own favourite pieces of furniture renovated.

Fran can design the interior of a whole house, or just help you to add a few special touches. There is something in the shop for every budget including plants in attractive pots, and a selection of locally made jewellery.

To decorate your home this Christmas, Fran suggests bringing in sculptural branches from the garden, chalk-painting them, and adding small, sparkling decorations.



Cool for school

Cutteslowe's trip to Kilvrough



Year 6 pupils from Cutteslowe Primary School enjoyed an amazing residential trip to Kilvrough in South Wales recently. During the week they split into groups to go climbing,

abseiling and waterfall walking. The children made a trip to the beach to go bodyboarding in the waves and finished the week there, rock pooling and creating sand art. Evenings were spent orienteering and exploring the woods by torchlight. An incredible time was had by all - and even the rain didn't dampen their spirits!

Organ lessons for The Cherwell School



The decreasing pool of organists in the UK needs no introduction. And yet this is the instrument which Mozart honoured with the title, 'King of Instruments'.

Now Viscount Organs have kindly provided The Cherwell School with an electronic organ to facilitate organ studies and, from December, lessons will be available from Dr Nicholas Prozzillo, Choir Director of St Giles' Church. Dr Prozzillo is very much looking forward to working with Cherwell.

Contact: choir@st-giles-church.org

Sing with St Edward's!

St Edward's Singers is a non-auditioned choral society for pupils, staff, parents, friends and neighbours of the school.



The singers, led by the school's director of music and the arts, Alex Tester, meet on Friday evenings and rehearse for two concerts a year. The next concert is on January 19th at St Michael's Church when the choir will sing Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Bach's *Magnificat*. It should be a wonderful evening.

For more information see:

www.stedwardsoxford.org/beyond-the-classroom/st-edwards-singers

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

Sundays

8am: Holy Eucharist
Traditional language; no hymns.

10am: Parish Eucharist
With choir and hymns. Coffee/tea and biscuits are served afterwards.

For children
The Sunday club meets in the church during the 10am service. On the first Sunday of the month the children participate in the all-age Eucharist. Godly Play session on the fourth Sunday of the month.

6.30pm first Sunday of the month: Silent prayer

6.30pm all other Sundays: Taizé worship
A short, meditative candlelit service with chants and silent prayer.

Weekdays

8.30am Mondays to Fridays: Silent prayer

9am Mondays to Fridays: Morning prayer

10am - noon Tuesdays: Baby & toddler group
Drop-in play for children and chat for grown-ups. Simple lunch 11.45am on the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Juliet Field: **01865 552640**

10am Thursdays: Holy Eucharist
Coffee/tea and biscuits are served afterwards.

5.30pm Thursdays: Choristers' practice age 3+
Term-time only. Contact Alice: **07791 328108**

6.30pm Thursdays: Choir practice
Contact Stephen: **07717 852020**

8:30am first Saturday of the month: Men's breakfast
An informal social. Contact Steve: **01865 552475**

Contact details

The Revd Gavin Knight (vicar)
The Vicarage, 33 Lonsdale Road, OX2 7ES
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 **07745 130956** or **01865 552738**; office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

Church and church hall bookings
The church and the upper and lower church halls (with kitchens) are available for hire.
Contact: bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

Treasure within the church



There were gasps of amazement when the embroiderers at the Royal School of Needlework in Hampton Court Palace saw our

high altar cloth, which was taken to them recently for repair. At around 365 by 120cm (12 by 4 feet) this covering, known as a frontal, is unusually large. The design was made to an extremely high standard and is a wonderful piece of work from the Arts and Crafts period. It is stitched in red, cream and gold thread and adorned with artificial gemstones and a fringe of red and blue tassels.

Sadly the years have taken their toll and parts of the fabric had become badly damaged. Restoration of the altar cloth was long overdue.

The RSN not only brings historical pieces back to life but



also creates new commissions for the future. The school has been a centre of excellence for hand embroidery since 1872 and prides itself on keeping embroidery skills alive. It runs over 150 courses in various locations and is the only

institution in the country offering a degree in embroidery.

Thanks to the painstaking work of the RSN's expert team of embroiderers our altar cloth will soon be restored to much of its former glory, and a piece of national heritage will have been preserved for future generations to enjoy. **For more information contact:**

www.royal-needlework.org.uk

Sharing the light

The sharing of light is a powerful corporate act of hope, whatever faith or other perspective you may hold. At St Michael's, we celebrate the fact that Christmas offers us all an opportunity to share common hopes and visions. There is no better time to come together to sing, to



meditate, and to listen. We understand that the world is bigger, better and more beautiful than it sometimes may seem. Come and share your light too at our special Christmas service:

Lessons and carols by candlelight on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm at St Michael's.