

# News from South Oxford Community Centre

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WINTER 2012

Now in our **75th year**, South Oxford Community Association looks after the Community Centre in Lake Street. This is a space provided for the benefit of local residents to use for leisure, meetings, and learning.

The centre has to be self-financing - we pay all our own staff costs and bills. Even so, we offer very affordable room hire, and are proud to support many groups and organisations in the area.

We want the Centre to be open to as many local people as we can, and this has prompted us to start our own projects - these include Bingo, Stitch & Chat, and Artweeks.

Our management committee is friendly, and we are always looking for new members. Please contact our chair Gill Garratt if you'd like to get involved.

## Hinksey Rail Bridge - Access for All?

Have you ever wished you could get a buggy, bike, or wheelchair easily and safely across the railway bridge that joins South Oxford to South Hinksey?

The bridge is due to be replaced (with a higher one) by Network Rail when they carry out electrification works on the line. Our two communities are petitioning to use this once in a generation chance to install a ramped bridge that is accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

People from South Hinksey need to access the Health Centre, local shops, schools, and public transport. People from South Oxford want easy access to the countryside. Hundreds of needless journeys are made by car because the bridge presents an insurmountable barrier for many.

Network Rail say they only have the money to replace the bridge on a like-for-like basis. We are urging them to work together with our local councils to find the necessary money (e.g. via grants) to transform access between our communities.

**To lend your support, please sign the e-petition linked from the community centre homepage:**

[www.southoxford.org](http://www.southoxford.org) or go to  
[www.tinyurl.com/a3poane](http://www.tinyurl.com/a3poane)



**Let's make this a thing of the past!**

**SOUTH OXFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

in partnership with

**ST EBBE'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**INVITE YOU TO A**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**AT**

**ST EBBE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL,**

**ON**

**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER AT 7PM**

We have invited representatives of local groups and organisations, as well as local councillors, to come and listen to any concerns you may have about what is happening in the neighbourhood. Issues on the agenda include the proposed football pavilion on Grandpont Rec; Hinksey rail bridge; children's safety and parking issues at the crossing point outside Grandpont Nursery; and flood planning. Please email or phone the Centre office if you would like to suggest other topics or would like more information.

Refreshments available, all welcome.

**YOUR COMMUNITY - YOUR VOICE!**

## South Oxford News Round-Up

### South Oxford Car Club is go!

Would you like access to a car without the hassle of owning one? Then South Oxford's brand new car club is for you!

- There will be **two cars** available, parked in dedicated bays in **Salter Close** (off Whitehouse Road) and on **Wytham Street** (between Lincoln and Sunningwell Roads).
- The car club will offer convenient, pay-as-you-go driving: members can just book a car online, collect it from its reserved space using a smart card, and drive away. Payment is by monthly direct debit.
- Car club users avoid all the hassle and expense of running a car. If you use your car for less than 15 hours a week, you could save money by joining the car club instead.
- Car club membership also encourages people to think more about their journeys, only using a car when they really need to.

The Club has been set up by Low Carbon South Oxford and will be run and managed by Co-wheels, who also run East Oxford and Headington Car Clubs.

To find out more, come to **the official launch** at South Oxford Farmers' Market (in Lake Street Community Centre) **on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 9.30 – 11.30am.**

To join the club, or for detailed information about charges, visit the Co-wheels website:

[www.co-wheels.co.uk](http://www.co-wheels.co.uk)

### Swap Shops

Over 100 South Oxford residents came along to Low Carbon South Oxford's second Swap Shop in September, bringing unwanted items which included a microwave, 5 litre tub of white emulsion paint, a child's high chair, and some killer high heels!

Total stuff brought in weighed 483.5 kg. Most items were just what someone else wanted. We took good leftovers to the Heart Charity and had only 9.5 Kg of unusable stuff for landfill.

Do come to our next Swap Shop - watch out for posters in January and have a new year clear out!

### Giving the Community a Voice

The Community Association has organised two successful community forum events so far this year.

Events held at the Community Centre in Lake Street and at St Luke's Church attracted a lot of interest from local residents. Topics included the lack of pedestrian access to Redbridge recycling centre, and problems with our parks and open spaces. There was also the chance to share information about home insurance difficulties associated with living on a flood plain.

Don't miss your chance to have your say at the next forum at **St Ebbe's School on Wednesday 28th November at 7pm.** Your Community - Your Voice!

### Christmas Café

South Oxford Community Association invite you to their Christmas Café, **on Saturday 8th December, 4.30-6.30pm.**

The Little Oxford Big Band will be playing again for us, after their great performance last year.

There will be a café serving tea, coffee, cake, mulled wine and mince pies. Local art will be on display. A voluntary charge of £1 per adult will be requested, to support the band's costs.



**Please join us for this fun event, and get in the mood for Christmas!**



## Farmers' Market

September saw the launch of a Farmers' and Community Market at the Centre. It takes place on Sunday mornings from 9.30am-12.30pm and has been well received by local residents.

Organisers have been concentrating initially on providing basic food stuffs sourced within a 30-mile radius. They hope to expand to make the market more exciting, and to tie in with local events.

**Volunteers are needed to staff the market and to help with its development.** If you'd like to get involved, please contact:

[southoxfordfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:southoxfordfarmersmarket@gmail.com)

or come on a Sunday and talk to the Duty Manager who will be easily distinguishable in a yellow high-visibility jacket.

## Celebrate with Playgroup

Lake Street Playgroup invite parents past, present & future, and Friends of Playgroup to a fabulous Christmas Party at Folly Bridge Brasserie on **Thursday 29th November.**



Tickets are £30 and include fizz on arrival, a delicious three course dinner, entertainment in the form of two hilarious poets, and some cheesy tunes to bop away the rest of the evening.

There will also be an Auction of Favours kindly donated by parents and Friends of Playgroup.

Tickets are limited and only available in advance from [phoebhart@gmail.com](mailto:phoebhart@gmail.com) or [charlotteandtomgilman@btinternet.com](mailto:charlotteandtomgilman@btinternet.com)  
£5 after dinner tickets also available

## You don't have to be an Artist to take part in Artweek!

Thank you to all the talented local artists who displayed their work this year during Artweek - our exhibition just keeps on growing and getting better every year. If you would like to take part next year, either as an exhibitor or as a volunteer, please get in touch with Gill Garratt via the Centre.

## St Luke's Big Project

St Luke's Church in Canning Crescent has exciting news about our Big Project, a plan to refurbish and extend the building. We are closing the funding gap and are confident we can reach our target. So we have appointed a builder and will start building works in February 2013. The works are scheduled to take until the end of October 2013, and while we are in exile, we have been kindly offered space for our midweek groups and Sunday services at South Oxford Christian Centre.

St Luke's is an important hub for Cold Harbour, and functions as a community centre as well as a church. The new design will upgrade our building and provide an extra room, and much needed new kitchen, toilets, office, and storage space. For more information, or if you would like to help us close the gap (we have £50,000 left to find!) please visit our website [www.stlukesoxford.org.uk](http://www.stlukesoxford.org.uk) or call us on 01865 251616

## Are you looking for occasional work?

The Community Centre in Lake Street is looking for a reliable person to join us as a **relief caretaker**, at a rate of **£8 per hour**.

Duties include locking and unlocking the building (mainly in the evening), and dealing with customers who have hired rooms.

The post would especially suit someone who lives locally.

We also have opportunities for voluntary work - if you are free to help with some gardening, decorating, or leaflet delivery, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more, contact Debby at the Centre.

South Oxford Community Association is a registered charity, no. 304351