

the guardian angel

your community's news & views



This publication is produced by a team at St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, a member of the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership.

Queen's Baton Relay Celebrations!



We've touched it too!

Great excitement spilt over all day on June 6th in Cutteslowe and Sunnymead Park. Finally, after seven months on its worldwide journey through 69 Commonwealth countries and territories, the Queen's Baton had reached Oxford, and us! In brilliant sunshine England Badminton stars Heather Olver, 28, and Kate Robertshaw, 23, accompanied the baton to the Park, where ten-year-old friends Ellie Parris and Elanor Reid and Chloe Brain, nine, were part of the welcoming party from Cutteslowe School. Hundreds of children from primary schools in the wider Oxford community had arrived for their personal link to the Commonwealth Games which will be opened by the Queen on July 23rd in Glasgow. St Aloysius schoolchildren had walked 1.6 miles, carrying the Commonwealth flags they had made. The procession of the Batonbearers was accompanied by music from the irrepressible Samba Band of Larkrise Primary School. Then followed dancing and a multitude of wide-ranging sports activities laid out across the park by various Oxford sporting groups, which the children simply revelled in. Said one teacher, 'Controlling their excitement for today has been like a military exercise!' The four Oxford Batonbearers, who included



Baton bearers: Simon Price, Ian Warland, Juliet Field and Johnny Pemberton

Summertown's own Juliet Field, were all chosen for their intensive involvement with sport and charity work for their communities. Juliet says "We're only the tip of the iceberg of those people who

volunteer in sports activities in the community in Oxford. I'm thrilled to be selected to represent all those people. You need a wide base of grassroots, recreational sport in order to find and develop the talent for international competition." At 3 pm the Cutteslowe Summer Festival was officially opened by Oxford's deputy Lord Mayor,

Affordable Tennis on your doorstep

The existence of Alexandra courts is a well kept secret, but if you go down Middle Way and turn into Alexandra Park, you will find ten lush grass tennis courts and six hard courts. They owe their maintenance to an unusual partnership between Norham Gardens Lawn Tennis Club (NG) and Oxford City Council. NG hosted the first British doubles championships before they moved on to Wimbledon, and is now in its 84th year. In 2000 St John's terminated their lease at Benson Place and in 2004 NG negotiated a deal with the council for the use of Alexandra Courts in return for an annual fee.



Determined net play

NG do their bit for the local community by clearing litter from the Alexandra Park's playground, basketball court, parking area and, of course, tennis courts. A group of NG juniors regularly sweep the hard courts, using a leaf blower provided by the council! The club has also paid to have the hard courts professionally cleaned.



Junior tennis coaching

While OCC has been maintaining the grass on the courts, NG have provided some new nets. What a team! The really good news is that there is affordable tennis on your doorstep. The hard courts are available all year and the grass is playable from April to September. You can gain additional benefits by joining the club. Coaching, club sessions, matches, social activities, and the opportunity to enter the ballot for Wimbledon tickets are all available to members for a modest fee. Contact: www.norham.org.uk.

Tony Brett who welcomed the Baton to North Oxford and spoke of the common bond sport gave people in all countries. The arena was now open for local residents to join the sporting activities, to dance in a Zumbathon, browse the various community stalls or to just sit and enjoy the atmosphere.



Do you know these Gardens?

St Michael and All Angels church gardens, Lonsdale Road have been cherished by previous generations. The lawns, flower beds, shrubs and trees are still maintained almost entirely on a voluntary basis and patches of garden are adopted by individuals under an 'adopt a plot' scheme.

Our current policy is to create a haven of peace and quiet in a very built up suburb of Oxford. As well as creating a visually attractive garden, we use flowers and foliage for decorating the interior of the church. Some areas of the garden are deliberately left to grow wild to encourage insects, small mammals and birds.



With its garden benches, picnic table and spacious lawn area, we are delighted to see the garden enjoyed by local residents, local workers at lunchtime and Summertown visitors. It is especially gratifying to see children

playing in the garden and young people chatting around the picnic table on a Summer's evening. We trust our efforts will continue to be appreciated for decades to come. Interested in being a garden volunteer? Please contact Steve at stevehunter777@btopenworld.com.



Polly, Phil and Fliss Weaver with their adopted plot

Room 51



I live in Waterways (should that be in, on or at?) and have just discovered Room 51. This community space is for hire, with a special rate for Waterways residents starting at £5 per hour. The room has tables, chairs and a small kitchen and is a great place for parties/events for up to 30 people. The room is available from 9.00 am to 9.30 pm every day – there is a lift, disabled facilities and accessible parking. The entrance is next to Kids Unlimited in Clearwater place. So I am now thinking what I might use it for...Knitting club? Yoga? Book club? For those of you with children, it has already been used for children's parties. To book or look email WRARoom51@gmail.com.

For other community ideas and events check out the website www.thewaterways.co.uk.

Still Cutting it at 80!

There has been a Lysters Hair Salon in Summertown for over 50 years. It has moved from South Parade to 256 Banbury Road and then to 272 Banbury Road, where Hugh Howe, semi-retired, helps his business partner, Jane James run the business. Jane's mother, Barbara, first started Lysters Salon and Hugh joined them in 1991.



Hugh's journey to Summertown started in the small Welsh mining village of Cwm. But it was an army friend who noticed Hugh's artistic nature and suggested a career in hairdressing. A trip to a Labour Exchange in London saw Hugh heading to 108, New Bond Street, where he became Vidal Sassoon's first 'Junior' on a handsome weekly wage of 39 shillings (plus tips!). Hugh's easy manner soon made him a favourite with the clients, leading Vidal to say: "Hugh, all we have to do is teach you hairdressing". Hugh's credo is that 'people who come in for a hairdo should leave as though they have had something special' – humour, advice, relaxation and friendship. Hugh is mentioned in two of Vidal's books, including: "I am sorry I kept you waiting,

Yours truly... Katherine Shock

Artist, Garden Designer and member of the local Jewish Community.

Katherine gave her first art exhibition aged 3, when the neighbours were charged 1d for charity to see paintings attached to her playpen! She exhibits at Oxford Art Weeks and in the University Shop. Her book, written with the poet John Elinger, "That Sweet City – Visions of Oxford" is available from Oxford bookshops. Katherine has studied at the College of Garden Design, and in 1994 became a Registered Member of the Society of Garden Designers. Since then she has designed over 1,000 gardens.



About 18 years ago Katherine had the idea of turning the space behind the Summertown Library into a sculpture garden. She put together a committee and the project was realised with funding from the relations of local resident and prolific gardener Miss Marjorie Turrill.

Katherine was president of the Oxford Jewish Congregation for 2 years, and still sings in the Synagogue choir. She is also interested in history, and is a member of the Oxford Jewish Heritage Committee.

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1-2pm, St Peter's church room,
First Turn OX2

(Top of the Woodstock Rd, on the left)



**Community
Information
Network**



Sally— Parkinson's won't stop me

You may remember Sally Bromley as an inspirational teacher at Frideswide Middle School, as well known for her creative teaching methods as for her accuracy at throwing a piece of chalk! Six



Sally skydiving for Parkinson's

years ago when she was 59, Sally was diagnosed with Parkinson's. Although it is a progressive and unpleasant condition that will be with Sally for the rest of her life, it hasn't all been doom and gloom.

She attends **Dance for Parkinson's**; Sally says *"English National Ballet come to Oxford and we exercise, based on the current touring ballet. Most of the session is carried out seated, and then we rise and march the length of the room. The best bit is forgetting that I've got Parkinson's for an hour and a half."* Sally is now **Chair of the Oxford and District Branch of Parkinson's UK**. She recently raised over £5,000 by doing a skydive "now that was really scary and I wouldn't have done it if I hadn't had the condition". **Oxford Parkinson's Disease Centre** is seeking to find early signs and symptoms, and Sally is a willing volunteer in their research, but they need more men over 40 (no need to have the disease) in the control group. To find out more please contact : oxford.sally@gmail.com [tel:01865 311302](tel:01865311302)

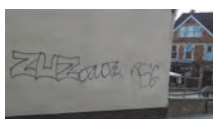
What's the Big Issue?

Clearly in our world there are many big issues; one right on our affluent doorsteps is the one John Bird addressed head on when he thought up 'The Big



Issue'. Homelessness. So do we buy The Big Issue? Do we stop and chat with Dan and Paul selling the magazine in Summertown, or with any of the other vendors at pitches around Oxford? Here's a hearty recommendation for all three. In probably one of the best magazines on the market, you'll learn about the homeless, their stories and experiences. There are also excellent articles on topical subjects and people in the news, wide-ranging arts reviews and thought-provoking correspondence and opinion pieces, as well as creative writing and art by Big Issue vendors. There always a challenging crossword and sudoku puzzle too. When read, donate it to a waiting room somewhere for others to discover and enjoy! www.bigissue.org.uk.

Unwanted Graffiti?



There seems to be more around Summertown recently! We welcome readers' ideas on what can be done. More in the next edition of Guardian Angel

Cool for School

St Edward's School

Maths teacher Henry Chitsenga

was honoured by Zimbabwe in May with a lifetime Achievers Award for services to philanthropy and education. He founded and promotes the Mwana Trust and SuchHope Charity, which has provided healthcare and education to thousands of deprived children in that country. Pupils at school have raised £35k towards this work since 2008!

<http://www.subsaharanchildrenshope.org/>



Cherwell School

Year 9 Sports Leaders showed their true colours on June 6th, at the Queen's Baton Relay event in Sunnymead Park. Arriving well ahead of the hundreds of primary children, they set up a circuit of fun football activities ready to kick off after the Baton procession. "We've trained hard

for this," they said, "to know how to cope with all the excited children and to be good role models for them." Well done Milo, Josh, Ryan, Arthur, Kyle, Cameron and Michael!

Northern House School

The school hosted a week's music project jointly with St Nicholas School, Marston,



sharing knowledge of each others artistic insights and talents. It was led by Miranda Walton of the Oxford



Philomusica Orchestra. Carnival was the theme (for the World Cup in Brazil!) with percussion workshops of Latin-American music. There was dance, and expression of music through shape and colour and graphic scoring.

Cotteslowe Primary School



Just the outside areas to be completed in the next six weeks, but pupils and staff are already inside enjoying their new £2.5 million extension building, started in 2012

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Neighbourhood Forum Meeting

July 2nd at 7pm North Oxford Assoc. Diamond Pl. OX2

Public meeting to help shape how Summertown and St Margaret's might look in the future. Come and give your views on traffic, housing, retail, our community and its environment. www.summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk



yourparish

St Michael & All Angels Church

All are welcome!

Sundays

8.00 am Holy Eucharist - a short said service.

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

Children's Church - Meets in the church during 10.00 am Eucharist. **We have a Godly Play session every 4th Sunday.** On the 1st Sunday of the month the children participate in the All-age Eucharist.

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

3.30 pm 3rd Sunday of month: Messy Church
Cutteslowe Community Centre, Wren Road.

Weekdays

9.30 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am Tuesdays: Baby & Toddler Group
Play for children and chat for grown-ups!
Contact Juliet Field (see below for details)

8.00 pm Tuesdays: 20s/30s (Twenties Group)
For fellowship, fun and learning.
Contact Daisy and Yin at yinyaodong@yahoo.co.uk

10.00 am Thursdays: Holy Eucharist
Ministry of healing on the 1st Thursday of the month.

5.20 pm Thursdays: St Michael's Choristers age 3+:
Term-time only. Contact Alice on 07791 328108

6.30 - 7.45 pm Thursdays: Adult Choir Practice
Contact Stephen on 07717 852020

9.00 am 1st Saturday of the month: Men's Breakfast
An informal social group.
Contact Steve on 01865 552475

Contact Details

Revd Gavin Knight (vicar)
01865 556079 / 07833 251939

"No matter where you are on the journey of faith, you are always welcome at St Michael & All Angels!" Find us just off the Banbury Road opposite BBC Oxford.



The upper and lower Church Halls (with kitchens) are available for hire.
We advise early booking.

Contact Juliet Field
01865 311762 or email:
summertownchurchhall@tiscali.co.uk

ST MICHAEL'S SUMMER FAIR

Saturday July 19th 11am-4pm Lonsdale Rd

Stalls, Games, Plants, Teas, Bike Sale

Beer/BBQ tent, group photography

Join the fun, Raise funds for world's poorest!

At the Heart of It

It's been publicized on BBC Oxford, on Gavin's Blog and now in the Guardian Angel – St Michael's is undertaking the biggest community survey in its history! The church will ask those who live and work in the parish "what is the greatest need that we should be addressing in our part of north Oxford? How can the church make a difference to peoples lives in a practical way?". Gavin will be assisted in this survey by the Revd Charlotte Bannistert-Parker who is excited by such community engagement. "I am hoping that this work called **"At the Heart of It"** will reach out to our community and will be an answer to prayer. We do not know what the most pressing needs are yet but we are committed to identifying them and helping." Please contact Gavin or Charlotte to take part, no matter how small your contribution, your view will be valued. What do you want to see change? What provisions are most needed in your life?



The Trumpet shall Sound..

Shan't it? A question which the musicians of St Michael's Church hope to answer positively, beginning on **Saturday the 12th of July in church.** Bidding to add a trumpet stop to our splendid Willis organ, we launch our campaign with a fundraising concert of light, summery (and trumpety!) music starting at 6pm. Entry is free, with donations invited and **drinks in the garden from 5.30pm.** Come and support us as we aim to sound the trumpet!

Samantha's celebration



Samantha Stayte's ministry in Summertown and Cutteslowe began last year and she is the first curate that St Michael's has had for many years. Her apprenticeship lasts for 4 years and she is already



making a difference in the parish. On the 21st June, Samantha was ordained as priest. The ordination service was conducted by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd John Pritchard. in St Michael's Church; the first time in living memory for such a service to be held there. She was on her home territory and was applauded by a huge congregation alongside two other newly ordained priests from the Oxford deanery.

For parish news, services and events go to our website: www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk
For **Gavin's WEEKLY BLOG** send your email address to: vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk