



Florence Park Newsletter

Nov 24–Feb 25



Hello! This newsletter is made by neighbours for neighbours. **Get in touch** if you can help to put the newsletter together in future - florenceparknewsletter@gmail.com

90 Years Celebrations

Open Doors

Long time resident and local historian Sheila Tree celebrating 90 years of Florence Park (and also 75 years of the Community Centre!) at Open Doors in September 2024.



Tea Dance

On Saturday 9th November we're celebrating 90 years of the Florence Park estate with a 1930s Tea Dance in aid of THIRST - [The International Roundtable for Sustainable Tea](#)

Tickets cost: £11 for adults and £7 for children. Your ticket includes: *Dance Card, Full Cream Tea, Dance Class, 1930s songs around the piano, Fancy Dress competition*
www.tickettailor.com/events/florenceparkcommunitycentre/1445735

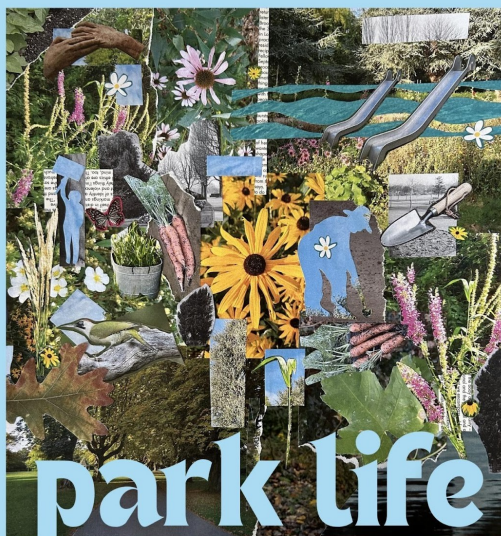
THIRST is an independent charity working with tea companies, other charities and governments to transform the tea industry to make it resilient and fair for all.



Florence Park at the Museum and late night special

MOX are hosting a museum late event in November to celebrate the opening of this exhibition. The celebration event is on Friday 15 November, to tie in with the city-wide Christmas Light Festival, and is a free drop-in event between 6–8.30pm. We will have a few fun activities on in the museum, some live music, as well as the galleries being open. We'd love for you to come and celebrate with us!

The recent deluge with its overwhelming floods showed just how caring the residents of Campbell Road are. Rushing to the aid of those unfortunate to be threatened by rapidly rising water in gardens and worse in houses. Helping move furniture, cars, collecting and filling sand bags desperately trying to stem the flow. Checking vulnerable neighbours and helping when the waters finally receded with the drying and cleaning needed. What stars my neighbours are.
Sheila Tree



People and Nature in Florence Park and Cutteslowe

Photographic Exhibition
12 October 2024 - 4 January 2025

MOX
Museum of Oxford

Museum of Oxford, Town Hall, St. Aldates,
Oxford, OX11BX
Monday - Saturday
10am - 5pm

**New bus over Donnington Bridge!
More inside ...**



Florence Park Road Community Orchard

An exciting new project is coming to Florence Park! There is a proposal to create a community orchard using some of the green verge space on Florence Park Road. This would be a novel way to replace a number of recently felled mature trees that have become diseased in the last 15 years.

The proposal is to plant multiple fruit trees on many of the empty grass verges on the road. These could include apples, pears, plums, cherries, etc. Tree projects of this type are crucial in providing an amount of food security for a community. Additionally, street trees provide a good amount of natural shade and help cut pollution.

Although fruit trees may not be considered 'in keeping' with our existing grand mature trees on Florence Park Road, planting large trees is no longer considered a viable approach, as they are at a higher risk of not surviving beyond the early years, take a long time to reach a good size, and are at risk from an increasing variety of tree diseases. The preferred strategy is to plant a wider variety of trees, to limit disease spread should something take hold.

The initial orchard planting is fully funded from the King Charles III Community Orchard fund, and will be delivered by Oxfordshire County Council who will purchase and plant the trees, and provide early life care for the first few years. After that, events could be arranged to bring the local community together around harvest time, to pick and share the fruit with residents and local food groups. A regular harvest could also help with making use of fruit from trees in our residential gardens – many apples from our garden trees regularly go unused, so residents could choose to donate their fruit to a community harvest.

If you are interested to know more, please e-mail us at floparkorchard@gmail.com

Florence Park presents...

Saturday 16th Nov
7.30 - 11.00pm

Presented by
Larry Lounge
~~~  
Live music by  
**Cheesy Steve**

**1970s  
Variety  
Night**

Prizes for  
best dressed!

at *Florence Park Community Centre*  
Cornwallis Road, Oxford OX4 3NR

Want to do a short act? Email us by 30th September  
[comeandhavefunoxford@gmail.com](mailto:comeandhavefunoxford@gmail.com)

Tickets £5 / £8 / £10 from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

**manos  
puestas  
Trio**

Hot Club Jazz Bossa Nova Bebop Rumba

**November 30th 2024 Doors 8pm**

Florence Park Community Centre  
Cornwallis Road  
Oxford  
OX4 3NH

<https://square.link/u/rVUpPNv1>

Tickets £12 on door £11 adv



**Dr Aude Echaliér**  
(Ph.D.)  
Biochemist - Medical Herbalist  
Natural Health  
Consultations

**NATURE-ALLY**

Tel. 07570405867 |  
<https://nature-ally-clinic.square.site/>

**Treatments for fatigue, insomnia, IBS, stress, brain fog, chronic diseases, and much more**

Not sure how medical herbalism could help you? **Book a free chat**

Consultations at the **Iffley Turn Practice on Wednesdays**

**Book on** <https://www.iffleyturnpractice.co.uk/> or **01865 251233**



*The Cows* by Frankie Upton

## Florence Park Art Show

I was really impressed with the art show. There is amazing talent here in Florence Park. The variety of subjects was really impressive and everyone is amateur and there are many beginners. I know people say that everyone can sing. I wonder if that also applies to being able to paint. I'm sure that in my case it doesn't. I bought some postcards and have framed my favourite although all were good so it was difficult to choose. Please find the wonderful painting of 'The Cows'. I love it.  
*Avril Alexander*



# Buses Back on Donnington Bridge



Some of you will remember the long winter of 2022 when Stagecoach axed the 16 bus service which had connected communities across Donnington Bridge with affordable shops, leisure venues, health services and much more. A robust campaign caught the eye of the county council and Oxford Bus Company as well as local media and in June 2022 we welcomed the first number 46 to leave Florence Park for Donnington Bridge and beyond with music, song and chocolates for the driving team.

Fast forward to August 2024 when, with little notice, the county council had to put a weight limit on the bridge, which needs structural repairs to remain safe for heavy vehicles. With a sense of despair and deja vue the 46 Bus Campaign creaked back to life. Within a few days of launching a petition online we had 550 signatures and in no time at all we've hit 660, supplemented by paper petitions in community venues along the route.

Our approach was 'no blame just a solution' and we've already had a limited success: County councillors Brad Bains and Charlie Hicks put their heads together with the council's transport department and came up with a partial solution within weeks.

From 14 October the 46A mini bus service has trundled between the Cowley Centre and Speedwell Street linking communities across the bridge.



For times and the route, see [www.oxfordbus.co.uk/services/OXFC/46A](http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/services/OXFC/46A)

The service operates hourly only on weekday mornings. But it's a start. We thank Brad and Charlie for getting us this far but most of all we thank everyone who signed the petitions. The councillors have acknowledged that the voice of residents has had a major impact on their ability to act so quickly.

That's not the end of the story. The weight limit remains in place on Donnington Bridge with no known schedule for repairs to the bridge. So we are still campaigning for a full service over the bridge. To campaign effectively we need to demonstrate a clear need for a full service. We can get the banners out again if we have to, but the best way to demonstrate need is for people to use this new mini bus service to cross the bridge.

**Show the 46A some love - Use it or lose it!**

*Judith Secker, on behalf of the 46 bus campaign*

**Little Edens** returns to the Museum of Oxford after a successful staging last year. The Florence Park Rent Strike began in September 1934, when hundreds of residents withheld their rents in protest at the conditions of the newly built estate in East Oxford. Fred Moss built 600 houses to meet the needs of the hundreds of men and women starting work in Oxford's growing motor industry. These workers had migrated from South Wales, Tyneside and the North, areas hit hard by the Great Depression. The families moving in soon discovered that their homes started to fall apart. After months of ignored complaints the residents embarked on a bitter rent strike, facing intimidation and evictions. The play is written by Peter Cann and directed by Tim Eyres.

Little Edens is on Saturday, December 7, 2.30pm and 5.30pm. Tickets available from the museum shop or website.

## Can you help crowdfund our cooker?

Florence Park Community Centre is in urgent need of a new commercial cooker for our kitchen. Our ageing cooker is broken and potentially unsafe. We have been given an interest free loan by an anonymous and concerned benefactor. Now we need to repay that generous loan of £2,500 which includes responsible removal and recycling of the broken cooker plus installation of the replacement.

Our weekly Over 60's lunch club and monthly community Sunday lunch are just two of the projects which can't run without a cooker. This, and our concern for the safety of others who hire the community centre, is why we've taken the unusual step of accepting the loan. It means that we can go ahead and install the cooker during our shut down over Christmas and New Year.

The community centre is unfunded – every penny spent has to be raised by us. Your donation, however big or small, will be much appreciated

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/floparkcc-replace-our-broken-cooker>

**WINTER MARKET**

11am >>>> 3pm

**SATURDAY**

**23<sup>rd</sup> NOV**

**FLORENCE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
Cornwallis Rd  
OX4 3NH

CAKES AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

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

# What's On at Florence Park Community Centre



## **ZUMBA: Mondays 9.30–10.30am**

Join Nuria on Monday mornings for uplifting Zumba [nuria.myfitnessclass.com/classes](http://nuria.myfitnessclass.com/classes)

## **Fit for the Over 50's Class: Mondays 1.30pm**

Award winning bodyweight/equipment based exercise class. Call Carl on: 01865 920460 or email: [carl@livinginfitness.co.uk](mailto:carl@livinginfitness.co.uk). Booking essential to secure a space.

## **Starling Yoga: Mondays 5.30–6.30pm**

Explore a range of postures, breathing techniques & mindfulness practices. Contact <https://www.starlingyoga.co.uk/offerings> booking preferred, £8, £10 or £12.

## **Oxford Ukuleles: Mondays 7.30–10pm**

Email [info@oxfordukuleles.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordukuleles.co.uk) or see [www.facebook.com/groups/OxfordUkuleles](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OxfordUkuleles) or [oxfordukuleles.co.uk](http://oxfordukuleles.co.uk)

## **Book Group: Third Monday of the Month 2.30–4pm**

Florence Park Book Group welcomes anyone who enjoys reading and discussing books. Members get to choose a book so there is a diversity as well as occasional poetry months.

## **Florence Park Flower Club: every fourth Monday 8pm**

## **Low Cost Acupuncture: Tues, Weds, Thurs & Fri from 9.30am**

Curious about Acupuncture? Suffer with aches, pains, headaches, tension, stress or depression? Book a session today. Sessions cost £16.50, last about 30 mins and will be done in a group setting. For more information and reviews contact Joe: [joe@holistic-health.org.uk](mailto:joe@holistic-health.org.uk) or [www.holistichealth.org.uk/booking](http://www.holistichealth.org.uk/booking) or [www.facebook.com/holistichealthox](http://www.facebook.com/holistichealthox)

## **Buttercross Theatre Adult Drama Class: Tuesdays 6.45–8pm**

If you have an interest in the performance arts arena, come and step into a world of meeting new people, boost your self-confidence, self-esteem, develop your hidden talents and let your creativity run riot. Find your voice through our fun filled sessions. We work on improvised performance, script work and acting for film and tv. Contact us at [hello@buttercrosstheatreproductions.co.uk](mailto:hello@buttercrosstheatreproductions.co.uk)

## **Florence Park Baby Coffee Group ("Cake Club"): Wednesdays, drop in 10am-12pm**

A friendly hang out space for parents to take themselves and their new (not yet mobile) baby/babies, where you are served fresh coffee, teas, homemade cakes and biscuits. Free entry, donations welcome. Run by the Florence Park community Association. Contact [cakeclubfpcc@gmail.com](mailto:cakeclubfpcc@gmail.com) or [florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com)

## **Florence Park Toddler Club ("Toddle Time"): Wednesdays, drop in 12.15–2.15pm**

A friendly hang out space for parents and their crawling and walking baby/babies where you are served fresh coffee, teas, homemade cakes & biscuits. Free entry, donations welcome. For babies that are mobile to 2yrs. Run by the Florence Park community Association. Contact [cakeclubfpcc@gmail.com](mailto:cakeclubfpcc@gmail.com) or [florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com)

## **Kids Martial Arts: Wednesdays 6–7.00pm**

For 6yr+, first lesson free. Contact Matt Hills for information or to sign up 07790180137

## **Mechanical Animals: Every third Wednesday 8–10pm**

Enjoy a range of live, unplugged music. [www.instagram.com/mechanicalanimalsacoustic](http://www.instagram.com/mechanicalanimalsacoustic)

## **Florence Park Talks: Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm**

Florence Park Talks present a series of illustrated talks aimed at those with curious minds. The subject matter is broad and varied. These talks are free to attend, although we encourage you to donate a minimum of £5 per person. The collected funds go towards the running costs of the Florence Park Community Centre. Social Pub bar is open all evening. Contact Mick on 07874 926633 or [florenceparktalks@gmail.com](mailto:florenceparktalks@gmail.com) for further information on how to book in advance.

## **Nippers & Slippers: Thursdays 10.30am–12pm**

Weekly drop-in for babies & parents. No need to book. Intergenerational stay, play, chat and relax. Collaboration between the Community Centre and the ISIS—held at the ISIS Care Home across the road from the Community Centre on Cornwallis Road.

## **T'ai Chi sessions: Thursdays 5.45–6.45pm**

Contact Anne for more information: [taichi@annemack.org](mailto:taichi@annemack.org), tel: 01865-714849 or [taichi-in-oxford.co.uk](http://taichi-in-oxford.co.uk)

## **ArtFlo: Thursdays 7–9pm**

Relaxed art group. £6 per session, materials provided. Contact [artflo.oxford@gmail.com](mailto:artflo.oxford@gmail.com)

## **Social Pub open to all in the Lounge: Thursdays 7:30pm**

Join us for a drink and a chat. Board games available. Optional music and bridge on select nights.

### Country Music Jamming: Second Thursday of the month 7.30 pm

Bring your instruments (acoustic only) and your voices. If you'd like to teach a song, please bring some music, the chords, and words if possible. Contact [viv.peto@retired.ox.ac.uk](mailto:viv.peto@retired.ox.ac.uk) with any questions or just turn up.

### Draft Acoustic session: Third Thursday of the month 7.30pm

### Bridge Group: Last Thursday of the month 7.30pm

Do you fancy a friendly game of bridge? Come and join our informal bridge group. Contact [viv.peto@retired.ox.ac.uk](mailto:viv.peto@retired.ox.ac.uk) for more information.

### Pilates with Jane: Fridays 9.30–10.30am

Contact Jane on [janecallawaypilates@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janecallawaypilates@hotmail.co.uk) to sign up (booking essential). [clevermovement.co.uk](http://clevermovement.co.uk)

### Over 60's Free Lunch Club: Fridays 12–2pm

Please do get in touch to discuss with Rachel coming along and joining [fpccover60@gmail.com](mailto:fpccover60@gmail.com) or 07864 028 591. Run by the Florence Park community Association.

### Klub Kakofanney: First Friday of the month 6–11.30pm

An eclectic mix of musical genres, experienced artists as well as up and coming new bands, both from Oxford and further afield, playing their own original music. [www.klubkakofanney.co.uk](http://www.klubkakofanney.co.uk) (Will be second Friday in January)

### Las Ocas: Saturdays 10am–12pm

A Spanish playgroup for young kids between 1 and 5 accompanied by an adult. Songs, crafts, games and stories, all in Spanish. For children who already have exposure to Spanish in their lives, but everyone is welcome. £5 per family. Find more information on Instagram @lasocasoxford, Facebook, or email [lasocasplaygroupoxford@gmail.com](mailto:lasocasplaygroupoxford@gmail.com)

### Oxford Maternity Library: Last Saturday of the month 12–3pm

The newly re-formed and not-for-profit Oxford Maternity Clothes Library is just that. It makes so much sense –rather than buying new clothes that you'll only get a few months use out of, you can hire a whole wardrobe for next to nothing. See their Facebook page for details: [www.facebook.com/oxfordmaternityclotheslibrary](http://www.facebook.com/oxfordmaternityclotheslibrary)

### Singing Saturdays: Monthly Saturdays 2–4pm

An easy-going and accessible workshop for all women's voices. Sing an eclectic mix of acapella harmony songs old and new from near and far. Expect clear teaching by ear so there's no need to read music. Perfect for anyone who wants to try something new in an encouraging non-judgemental environment but also a great opportunity for people who already like to sing but don't want the commitment of a regular choir. All abilities welcomed. Singing makes you feel good whatever the weather. [www.emilyschoirs.co.uk/](http://www.emilyschoirs.co.uk/)

### Sunday Lunch: First Sunday of the month 12–3pm

The Social Pub bar will also be open for a lunch time pint or glass of wine. Profits fed back into the Community Centre to help sustain our lovely classes & events. Run by the Florence Park community Association. All welcome but please book if you can - [www.tickettailor.com/events/florenceparkcommunitycentre/1435056](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/florenceparkcommunitycentre/1435056)

## Special events

- ★ Saturday 9 November Tea Dance
- ★ Friday 15 November 7.30pm – Divine Schism featuring Trust Fund, Hugo Manuel, Riley Meyer, and Josie Turner. Book here - <https://wegottickets.com/event/630483>
- ★ Saturday 16 November 7pm – Florence Park Social Club's Variety night! Come along and see what talents your neighbours have!
- ★ Saturday 23 November 12-3.30pm – Winter Market – many stalls, bar and café available
- ★ Saturday 30 November 8pm – Manos Puestas
- ★ Saturday 7 December – Family Christmas Movie
- ★ Friday 13 December – Songs of the Season – come along and sing some seasonal favourites
- ★ Thursday 19 December – Solstice Sing
- ★ Friday 20 December - Florence Park Social Club's Family Rave Night
- ★ Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January to Saturday 1 February 2025—Pantomime!



**ZUMBA®** with Nuria!

@ FLORENCE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Mondays, 9:30am**  
**£7 per class**

Book now at <https://nuria.myfitnessclass.com>

Any questions?  
email: [nurifranchy@hotmail.com](mailto:nurifranchy@hotmail.com)  
tel: 07717 393122  
@zumbawithnuria  
@zumbawithnuriaoxford

Florence Park  
Community Centre  
Cornwallis Road  
OX4 3NH

Zumba is a dance class that is fun, energetic and makes you feel amazing. Zumba is perfect for everybody and every body. Zumba mixes low-intensity and high-intensity moves for an interval style, calorie-burning dance fitness party. Once the Latin and World rhythms take you over, you'll see why Zumba fitness classes are called exercise in disguise. Super effective? Check. Super fun? Check and check.

## Exciting times at Boundary Brook Nature Reserve this Autumn and Winter

### Get involved with the Grassland Restoration and Living Libraries project funded by Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment.

Oxford Urban Wildlife Group are enriching the grassland mosaic on the nature reserve and have begun building a series of living libraries, designed to both aid propagation and help people see and learn wildflowers and grasses close up. Art workshops over the summer saw the creation of beautiful new floral signage alongside volunteer work parties collecting seed and mowing and clearing meadow land.

Grasslands are important habitats for a huge number of invertebrates and many threatened species on the reserve, like the Slow worm and the Brown hairstreak butterfly. Wildflower-rich grasslands are a vital resource for bees, butterflies and pollinators. Many rare species also rely on mosaics of more open sunlit grassland near to taller vegetation and scrub such as you find on our vital site.

OUWG will be running volunteer work parties and skills training courses through the year, removing invasive perennials, collecting seed, planting plugs, sowing seed and propagating plants as well as winter woodland work. Get involved to act for nature!

Oxford Urban Wildlife Group (OUWG) run Boundary Brook Nature Reserve, anyone can take up OUWG membership via the website [www.ouwg.org.uk](http://www.ouwg.org.uk), £5 a year (£8 families, concs available). The site is always accessible to OUWG members to enjoy walks in the restorative wildlife sanctuary, with a wide range of free events on site including conservation work skills training, species ID and creative sessions in nature. The site plays an active role in the local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Regular events include Thursday morning volunteer conservation work parties, 10.30 am to 1 pm.

Hedge laying Training courses Saturdays 7th December and 18th January 2025, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Email OUWG on [info@ouwg.org.uk](mailto:info@ouwg.org.uk) to get involved and find out more.



Hemp Agrimony in the grassland



Please help us buy a new cooker if you can!

## Inktober challenge

I am an illustrator and I live in East Oxford. I have been an illustrator for many years, illustrating for a wide variety of clients in a design company and as freelance. I have returned to my art practice after 8 years working as a teaching assistant in Oxford.

I have been taking part in the Inktober drawing challenge for 2-3 years, which has really helped me produce work and hone my style. As I write this, I am two thirds of the way through this year's Inktober challenge: the month-long daily drawing challenge where you are given a prompt for each day. I have decided to have Oxford as my own theme this year, and it is such an interesting subject!

There are no rules and you don't have to do all of them, but I do and it really pushes me to come up with ideas and I have managed to complete the challenge on 31 October for the last two years: it's hard, but it feels such an achievement that it is worth all the late nights!

There are many drawing prompt challenges available, and in fact, the first one I did was in 2020, set by Broad Canvas, the art supplies shop in Broad Street, Oxford. It is completely up to you how much effort you want to put into it, which is what makes it fun. You can publish them online on Instagram or just keep them to yourself, but I have found them to be an amazing way to kick start creativity and get back into the habit of drawing regularly. It has been a springboard for setting me back on my artistic path and if anyone is wondering how to get back into art, I can really recommend them.

My website is [www.lorraineberkshire-roe.co.uk](http://www.lorraineberkshire-roe.co.uk). All my Inktober work can be found on there.



## Flo's – The Place in the Park

A community owned hub in the heart of Florence Park. A place for the community to gather, eat, learn, explore, play and enjoy. We offer a range of weekly activities as well as a community café, plastic free refill shop and our onsite Forest School Nursery.



### Flo's Café 9 am – 5 pm, Monday – Sunday

Delicious freshly cooked brunches, curry, soups, sandwiches and salads. You can sit and eat in our cosy space, or takeaway to have in the park or at home. On the weekends, we have a special Syrian-inspired menu and there's always lots of yummy cakes and pastries – plenty of gluten free and vegan options too!

### Flo's Refill Shop 11 am – 5 pm, Tuesday – Saturday

Shop local and plastic free. A wide range of household cleaning and hygiene products, beans, pulses, cereals, nuts, seeds, spices, flour, eggs and bread.

### Community Meals on Monday 12 – 2 pm each week.

Any item on our food menu is offered 'pay-as-you-can' donation or free. Just ask at the till.

### Monday Stay and Play 9.30 am – 11.30 am each week. (term time only)

A chance to gather with your little ones and enjoy watching them grow through educational play.

### Nature Explorers 11.30 am – 12.30 pm each Monday (term time only)

Each week we learn about a different theme in the natural world, enjoying stories, crafts and games.

### Welcome Wednesday Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 11.30 am – 2 pm

A free lunch for over 65-year-olds hosted in Flo's Café. Come for a bowl of soup and a cup of tea. Option to sit at our chatty table to meet and engage with others.

### Walk Talk and Tea 2 pm each Friday (meeting at Flo's)

A friendly, accessible walking group to explore the local area, learn and share. Open to all. (Please contact us if you have any accessibility needs). Enjoy a drink and a slice of cake in Flo's Café with the group after your walk.

### Gardening Group 10 am – 12 pm each Friday

Join our team of volunteers and help us keep Flo's green spaces looking beautiful. No experience is necessary just a willingness to muck in!

### First Friday at Flo's 4 – 7 pm on the First Friday of each month

A family friendly community event. Each month has a different theme with activities to enjoy. Hot food available from our friends at Oxford Community Action Kitchen as well as 'make your own pizza' with The Pizza Midwife.

### NEW! Flo's Christmas Market 6 – 9pm Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

A festive evening of shopping from small, local, independent businesses. You'll find a mix of ceramics, cosmetics, homewares, gifts, cards, candles, art, and children's clothes. Mulled wine and mince pies will also be served. We'd love to see you there!

For more information on these and other 'one off events' take a look at our website [www.flosoxford.org.uk](http://www.flosoxford.org.uk) or follow us on Instagram @flosoxford.

### Register to take part in the Florence Park WINDOW WALKABOUT!

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 23-25 February, 6 - 9pm

Decorate your windows in any way you like and light them up each evening for people to enjoy. Black paper and coloured tissue paper work well but anything goes! There's an easy 'how to' guide at [florenceparkwindowwalkabout.weebly.com](http://florenceparkwindowwalkabout.weebly.com), or contact the team on [florenceparkwindowwalkabout@gmail.com](mailto:florenceparkwindowwalkabout@gmail.com)

We would love to get as many houses as possible signed up to take part in the 2024 Florence Park WINDOW WALKABOUT. If you would like your house to go on the Walkabout map please get in touch or follow the QR code.

More info coming nearer the time via NextDoor, our Facebook group, the community centre and Flo's.



## Our Neighbour Nature – Flamenco at the Farm

I met a lady at the city farm a few weeks ago who has been living nearby for 7 years and had only just discovered it. Her eyes were wide with wonder as I showed her around. I know exactly how she feels. I am addicted to the place. For me, and so many others, it is one of our precious community hubs, summed up beautifully by our neighbour Lucie, the early driving force behind the farm:

*What makes me happiest is seeing people coming together at the farm and connecting with each other. Being in nature is the catalyst for connection. I love seeing people strike up conversation, over a common task or simple love of the place. There is lots to do and engage with, but equally importantly, beautiful spots just to sit and appreciate nature.*

There's Anglo Nubian goats and a mixed flock of hens, and sometimes sheep. We also have another herd ... of volunteers. After the recent flood, it was heartwarming to see so many pull together to plant seedlings after the loss of crop. Vegetables and eggs are for sale 10am-1pm on Saturdays and if you arrive early enough, there is cake.

Each of the goats at the farm has their own character. One of the ladies has a particular way of standing on the milking stall and will often accompany my singing with a turn of flamenco, gently stomping a beat. Another considers herself Queen of Oxford City Farm and her herd. She will headbutt her courtiers out of the way if there is fresh hay to be had!

There is something about caring for these animals by hand that feels primeval and necessary. Who would have thought shovelling woodchip over poop to give the chooks a new dining room floor would fill me with such joy?

Get in touch with [volunteering@oxfordcityfarm.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@oxfordcityfarm.org.uk) to find out more, or pop in during our weekly sessions on Fridays and Saturdays, 10am-1pm



Florence Park 2024 panto. Photo courtesy of Hugh Warwick

## It's panto season again – oh no it isn't – Oh yes it is!

We are delighted to announce that this year's panto at Florence Park Community Centre is Aladdin – that is, a lad that lives in Cowley. Nell Hook is returning to direct us, and rehearsals have started. If you would like to be involved in this production, for example, making costumes and props, or front of house, please contact me on [viv.peto@retired.ox.ac.uk](mailto:viv.peto@retired.ox.ac.uk)

Performance dates for your dairy:  
Wednesday 29 January to Saturday 1 February 2025. Tickets will be on sale in January 2025.



## FLORENCE PARK TALKS 2024/5

Florence Park Talks presents a series of illustrated talks aimed at those with curious minds. Free to attend, although we encourage you to donate a minimum of £5 per person. Email [florenceparktalks@gmail.com](mailto:florenceparktalks@gmail.com) if you want further information on how to book in advance. Or call Mick on 07874 926633.

13<sup>th</sup> November – Chris Paul from Pegasus Theatre will show a film entitled **"THE CHILEAN DIASPORA: THE HISTORY & POLITICS OF EMIGRATION"**. A discussion will follow.

27<sup>th</sup> November – Olaf Bayer takes us back to ancient Wessex, the Romans and before – **"THE ARCHEOLOGY OF EAST OXFORD"**. Olaf has unearthed new discoveries that alter our perspective on our ancestors.

11<sup>th</sup> December - **"THE HISTORY OF JAZZ MUSIC"** is being covered by George Marshall who explores the Skat style of singing. Be prepared for a sing-along.

8<sup>th</sup> January – **"THE SAMARITANS IN OXFORD"** – A talk by Tony Woolstone on the excellent work undertaken by this local charity. Further details to follow.

22<sup>nd</sup> January – **"DOWNWARD SPIRAL"** – John Bowers of Brasenose College recently authored a classic text exploring the recent depressing and not inevitable collapse of public services in the UK

12<sup>th</sup> February – Michael Stimpson has researched local cricket history and published a book on the subject **"THE CRICKET PROFESSIONALS OF OXFORD"**. Temple Cowley is well represented.

12<sup>th</sup> March – **"THE TOTAL PITS" - THE REMARKABLE HISTORY OF THE HEADINGTON QUARRY. THE VILLAGE THAT BUILT OXFORD.** Raconteur extraordinaire from Quarry parish, Maurice East, returns with a talk to get that chip on his shoulder off his chest, to mix a metaphor. He has recently undertaken original research about his neck of the woods.