

## What do We Do?

South Oxford Community Association (set up in 1937) 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.

We are a charity, and offer subsidised rates for groups working for the benefit of the community.

The centre has to be self-financing - we pay all our own staff costs and bills, as well as buying equipment and maintaining the interior of the building.

Our management committee is friendly, and we are always looking for new members. Please contact our chair Gill Garratt for an informal chat if you'd like to get involved - call the office on 242666.

## Artweeks 2011

This May, the Centre once again hosted an exhibition of work by talented local artists of all ages. This was our fourth display for Artweek and one of the most diverse, with painting (Martin Beek, Marian Carrigan and Carol Bowyer); photography (Debby Forbes, Ben Garratt and Aubrey Cole); pottery (Georgina Howes, Aline Stanway, Eva Smith); creative craft (Naomi, Abigail and Jenny Pine); a contemporary sculpture called 'Blast Off!' from the children of Lake Street Playgroup and, as if all this was not enough, an audio exhibit from Bruno Guastalla.

At the late opening visitors were entertained by a performance from Azut and the classical guitar playing of Kevin Jackson.

Our special project this year was to 'Design a Logo' for the Centre, and visitors young and old rose to the challenge. Our new logo, inspired by one of these designs, will be revealed in our next newsletter. In the meantime we will be displaying some of our favourites on our website and Facebook page.

Thank you to all the people who gave so generously of their talent, time and enthusiasm and all the visitors who came to support us. **If you would like to be involved in next year's Artweeks, please contact [enquiries@southoxford.org](mailto:enquiries@southoxford.org) or phone 242666.**



## Interested in a Car Club?

Would you like easy access to a car without the hassle of owning one? If so, please help us get a car club going in South Oxford.

### Why a car club?

- A car club offers convenient, pay-as-you-go driving: just book a car online and collect it from its reserved space using your smart card.
- If you use a car for less than 15 hours a week, joining a club could be significantly cheaper than running your own car.
- Sounds good? Then please help by registering your interest at [www.commonwheels.org.uk](http://www.commonwheels.org.uk). Ideally, let us know too at [lowcarbonsouthoxford@gmail.com](mailto:lowcarbonsouthoxford@gmail.com).

### Could you help by leasing your car?

- We will be able to get a car club going sooner if people are willing to lease their own cars to it.
- Cars need to be less than 8 years old, with central locking and an immobiliser.
- Commonwheels take on all the running costs (servicing, MOT, road tax and insurance). In return the owner has 60 hours per month free use of the car.
- If you use your car for less than 15 hours per week, you should save money by leasing it to the car club.
- If you have a car you might consider leasing, or an off-road parking space** we might be able to use, please contact Helen Graham at [lowcarbonsouthoxford@gmail.com](mailto:lowcarbonsouthoxford@gmail.com)

**Want to know more?** Visit [www.oxcar.org.uk](http://www.oxcar.org.uk), or [www.commonwheels.org.uk](http://www.commonwheels.org.uk) or email us at [lowcarbonsouthoxford@gmail.com](mailto:lowcarbonsouthoxford@gmail.com).

## South Oxford News Round-Up

### Posters in the Park

In the Spring, the City Council Parks Service were concerned about the impact of flyposting on the appearance of Hinksey Park, and proposed a ban on the use of the laminated posters that many local groups have traditionally used to advertise fundraising events.

Representatives of the Community Centre, Playgroup, and the school associations discussed possible solutions with our local councillors, as we felt that a ban would undermine the feeling of community in South Oxford.

As a result of this, we're pleased to report that an agreement with the Parks Department has now been reached.

Posters can be placed up to 3 weeks before an event, and must be removed within 7 days after the event has taken place. A list of local groups who can put up posters is being held by Debby in the Community Centre. Please contact her if your group would like to be added to the list.

There is also a new free-standing poster board in the playground, funded by the Council.

It's great that common sense has prevailed, and that local residents can easily find out what is happening in their community.



### Tanks in the Yard

In the Spring, Hinksey Pool were informed by Thames Water that they must reduce the rate at which waste water is discharged into mains drains in Lake St. If they were not able to do this, the pool would close.

The Community Association agreed to help the Council solve the problem by allowing two vast water storage tanks to be installed underground in the back yard of the Community Centre. Waste water from the pool will be collected in these and then released gradually into the main drains in a controlled way.

This work has obviously been very disruptive for our users, visitors to the park, and local residents, but was essential in order to secure the future of Hinksey Pool.

### Low Carbon South Oxford

Low Carbon South Oxford is a new Community group which aims to help local residents and organisations work together to lower their carbon footprints and so improve their local and global environment. We have a Committee guiding the direction of the group as a whole, and small groups looking at Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Food, Greener Homes, and Waste Reduction. We are keen to start a group focusing on community-scale renewable fuels.

We run a Low Carbon Living Programme, in which your carbon footprint is calculated and you then come to a series of sessions giving carbon-busting ideas and information, at the end of which participants are invited to come up with their own pledge.

After a year, your footprint is calculated again, to see how much your contribution to greenhouse gases has been reduced. If you would like to know more about any of these activities, or go on the mailing list, please email Helen Graham at: [lowcarbonsouthoxford@gmail.com](mailto:lowcarbonsouthoxford@gmail.com)

If you can have skills you would like to share in website design/maintenance, administration, fundraising, etc., do let us know.

### Hogacre

Hogacre Common is a new community eco park working closely with Low Carbon South Oxford to make a space for carbon reducing initiatives in the heart of Oxford. We are located beyond South Oxford Adventure Playground, off Whitehouse Road.

On site we have a 1000 tree wood recently planted and absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> while providing a new tree filled space for residents to enjoy. Other developments include a community garden, beehive, a new Forest School site and in the near future, electricity generation from wind power and an orchard. For more information about Hogacre Common or to get involved, contact Ben Haydon at [hogacrecommon@gmail.com](mailto:hogacrecommon@gmail.com)



## Playgroup

Playgroup caters for children from 2.25 - 4 years old, and is continuing to thrive. We are now offering **two afternoon sessions a week 12-2.30pm**, in addition to our current five mornings 9.30-12.00.

We also have some fundraising events coming up:

**Fireworks – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 5.30pm.** Limited number of family tickets available. Food and refreshments with pyrotechnics more suited to little people and no burning guys.

**Indulgence Night – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7.30pm.** Moving to a Saturday night this year and expanding over 2 floors offering therapies and a wide range of stalls with an 'Eye to Christmas'. Food, bar and raffle. Tickets priced at £5 each and limited in number – come and Indulge with us.

More details about Playgroup from:  
[lakestreetplaygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:lakestreetplaygroup@hotmail.com) or Tel: 727939.  
Or contact Mark Seal – Chairperson on 07831 162581.

### South Oxford Community Centre Bingo



**Wednesdays  
2pm to 4pm**

**Doors open 1:45; eyes down 2:15**

'a great time to catch up with old friends or meet new'  
'good value' 'a good afternoon's fun'

**All welcome  
Contact Debby Forbes  
01865 242666**

### Job Opportunities at the Centre

\* We are currently looking for relief and permanent **caretakers and cleaners**. Ideal for someone who would like a few hours' work to fit around other commitments (e.g. when the kids are at school).

\* We also need people of all ages to **deliver future newsletters**. We pay £5/100 newsletters. Please contact us to be put on our list.

For more details, call Debby on 242666 or e-mail us.

## Art Club

Come and join in with this new club if you are interested in any kind of art. We meet on the first Thursday of each month, alongside the Home Craft Club in the Lower Hall. There are materials available at a small cost, or bring your own.

For November and December, Art Club will be running each week, allowing more time to make Christmas cards or other gifts - do come along and join in.

For more information contact Debby Forbes at the Centre: 242666.

## Home Craft Club

Christmas is nearly upon us; why not join the Home Craft Club? We have many templates, materials, and ideas, with loads of help for beginners.

You can make cards or be more adventurous with a hand-made item. You might want to try knitting, sewing, or needlework.

If you are doing something that requires a lot of room, e.g. cutting out material, then we have the space as well as an extra pair of hands to help. Want to jazz up a plain t-shirt or top? Then come along for ideas and advice.

The cost is free to all members of the South Oxford Community Centre, and £1.00 for anyone who has yet to join. Thursdays 1.30 to 3.00pm Lower hall. Contact Debby Forbes at the Centre for more details: 242666.



### Coming Soon!

#### Table-top & Car Boot Sale

Sat. 19th November, 2-4pm

Pitches/tables only £5. Book early to avoid disappointment.

#### Christmas Cafe

Sat. 17th December, 4.30-7pm

Seasonal refreshments, beer, raffle. Live music from the Little Oxford Big Band. A great family event!