



Oxford & District

Registered Charity Nos 1139257/SC041990
Registered as a limited company in
England and Wales 07451571

Dear Friends

Christmas may have been three-and-a-half weeks away, but that didn't stop us getting into the festive spirit. And we had good reason to be happy and hearty when we gathered for our December Open Day.

First, we were entertained by the lively Rebukes ukelele band at the Northcourt Centre in Abingdon, then we made our way to the nearby Spread Eagle pub to enjoy a wonderful Christmas meal. What a day it was!

The musicians entertained us for an hour, starting with a series of popular songs, then donning their Christmas hats and other regalia for some festive music. As usual, we all joined in the singing.

Then it was off to the Spread Eagle. We feared we might have had difficulty getting the larger wheelchairs through the doors and passageway, but we needn't

Group Newsletter Spring/Summer 2024

have worried – everyone made it inside. We sat down at four tables, all close together, and enjoyed an excellent meal.

Then it was back to the Northcourt Centre for the Christmas raffle, with bottles of drink galore as prizes, and a welcome cup of tea or coffee, bringing a wonderful day to an end.

You can see pictures of the Christmas lunch on Pages 2 and 3 and a picture of the ukelele band on Page 4.

60th ANNIVERSARY

We are celebrating our 60th anniversary this year, having been formed in 1964, 11 years after the national Multiple Sclerosis Society.

It appears we forgot about our 50th in 2014, but 10 years earlier, we marked our 40th with a tea party at Lady Margaret Hall, with guests including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Bryan and Beryl Keen. Let us know if you have any ideas for a 60th celebration.



There were Christmas decorations, crackers, streamers, and colourful hats...





...and the food at our Christmas lunch at the Spread Eagle pub was good too!





The Rebukes ukelele band donned their Christmas hats to herald the start of the festive season at our December Open Day

OPEN DAYS

We start our 2024 programme with a talk by Robert Buckeldee on the Crown in Oxfordshire at our first Open Day of the year at the Northcourt Centre in Abingdon on Friday, 2nd February.

Robert is a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of our county, one of the important team which represents the King at various events. He will describe the role of the Crown at the local level, from feudal times to modern times, and explain how it continues to have a positive impact on communities and volunteering today.

In March, we welcome Hugh Warwick and possibly other visitors – his talk is on hedgehogs, what are they and why we should care about them.

In April, by popular request, we will welcome back Andy Simpson who will entertain us with a morning of music on his guitar.

See our Dates for Your Diary section for details of other speakers, entertainers and visitors later in the year.

QUILT SPECIALLY MADE IN MEMORY OF ANGELA



This attractive patchwork quilt was expertly created in memory of Angela Cusden who, as we reported in the last newsletter, has sadly died.

It was designed by one of Angela's long-term friends, Jane Prowse, and will be auctioned at our February Open Day.

Angela, originally from Walsall in the Midlands, and Jane, from Deal in Kent, first met when they started training at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford in December 1969.

When they were nearing the end

of their training, both applied to become state registered nurses at St Mary's Hospital at Paddington in London and both were accepted.

They kept in touch over the years and when Jane heard that Angela had died, she offered to make a quilt in her memory to raise funds for those with MS.

With the agreement of Angela's husband, Alan, we have decided to auction it and sell it to the highest bidder. If you are unable to come to our February Open Day and would like to bid for it, please let us know.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All Open Days take place, 10am-4pm, at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, OX14 1NS.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Fri. 2nd February | OPEN DAY – Robert Buckeldee.
The Crown in Oxfordshire. |
| Fri. 1st March | OPEN DAY – Hugh Warwick.
Hedgehogs – What are they and why should we care? |
| Fri. 5th April | OPEN DAY – Entertainer Andy Simpson.
Country music. |
| Fri. 3rd May | OPEN DAY – Nicholas Brazil.
A journey along the Thames. |
| Fri. 7th June | OPEN DAY – Ann Sharman.
History of chocolate. |
| Fri. 7th July | OPEN DAY – Annie Thompson Lynch.
Unsung heroes. |
| Fri. 2nd August | OPEN DAY – Graham Sutherland.
Feisty females. |
| Fri. 6th September | OPEN DAY – Entertainer Cody.
Country music. |
| Fri. 4th October | OPEN DAY – Yvonne Crane.
Meet the Guide Dogs. |
| Fri. 1st November | OPEN DAY – Ian Scott-Hunter.
The role of a Royal Footman. |
| Fri. 6th December | OPEN DAY – Christmas.
Arrangements to be confirmed. |

Don't forget to bring your own lunch to our Open Days. Our thanks to John Lowe, who gave us a fascinating talk at our November Open Day entitled 'Where are the boys tonight?' about the impact of the First World War on a community. Please let us know of any speakers or entertainers you would like to hear at our Open Days. Happy New Year to everyone!

HELP AT A GLANCE

MS Society helpline – 0808 800 8000 (Freephone)

MS nurse advice line – 01865 234461

ouh.ms@nhs.uk

(The advice line is an answer machine service monitored 9am-5pm, Mon- Fri)

MS specialist nurse – Sue Barnden

01865 737465

ouh.cnsns@nhs.net

Continence (bladder and bowel) nurse – 01865 904303

MS Therapy Centre

37e Milton Trading Park, Abingdon

01235 832023

Carers Oxfordshire – 0845 050 7666

MS resource centre – 0800 783 0518 (Freephone)

MS Trust Library & Information Service – 0800 032 3839

NHS Direct - 111

Medical Emergency - 999

OXFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICERS

Group coordinator (Chairman) / Newsletter Editor

John Chipperfield

01865 374877

mjpchipperfield@yahoo.co.uk

Administration volunteer

(Secretary / Minutes)

Jo Hawtin

01865 373907

jo.hawtin@ntlworld.com

Finance volunteer

(Treasurer)

Brian Hawtin

01865 373907

brian.hawtin@ntlworld.com

Transport Volunteer

Karen Bellinger

01235 534159

bellingerkaren@hotmail.com

Fundraising Volunteer

Alan Cusden

01865 723420

alancusden@yahoo.co.uk

Committee Volunteers

Dorothy Warner - 01235 554448

14doth@gmail.com

Sara Nugent – saraholloway2017@yahoo.com



A look at the past – above, members enjoying a summer picnic at Millets Farm, near Abingdon, in 2012, and below, preparing Christmas floral decorations under the direction of Brenda Franklin in 2015.

