

Art on the Park

Park resident Janet Lane explains her burgeoning career as an artist:

I have been painting, exhibiting and selling for the last 12 years locally and belong to the Whiteleaf Arts Group in Princes Risborough. I paint at class – sadly there is no time at home, since other ‘painting’ (i.e. decorating!) takes priority!

I work in acrylics and have just started using gauche and experimenting with Art Deco-type drawings. I mainly paint landscapes and seascapes in the manner of the Impressionist painters – focusing on use of colour.



One of my biggest influences is Turner, who, in my eyes, is underrated when compared with Monet. My background is not with the arts, but science, and I am currently working for a pharmaceutical

company, Nycomed, here at the Park. My previous career was as a schoolteacher.

Selling is not my priority for painting but it's nevertheless very satisfying and spurs you on to do the next one! Three of my paintings have gone abroad - two to the States and one to Denmark. It is interesting to meet up with people who have bought my paintings and who inform me what pleasure they gain from them.



Janet Lane 01865 784510, jala@nycomed.com

Welcome

This is our first edition of SPark - thanks to Matthew Bedall of Winton Capital for being the bright spark who came up with the name 'SPark' - he wins a bottle of champagne!

We are grateful to all our contributors, please feel free to send articles and photos (high resolution) to us for publication. We would also welcome your ideas and feedback for future issues.

Please contact:

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Kilimanjaro Kerry



Between 21st and 31st October, Oxxon Therapeutics' Kerry Perks will take part in an expedition to climb the world's largest free-standing mountain, the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The climb will raise money for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Kerry will be one of 34 people taking part in Macmillan's Kilimanjaro Hiking Challenge, which will take participants from the equatorial jungle and lava towers of the surrounding Rift Valley, to the snowy summit of the stratovolcano, which stands at an imposing 5,896 metres.

"Climbing the infamous and mystical white giant of the Masai promises to be an extremely testing physical challenge, especially as we will be trekking and camping in remote and dramatic conditions, from the hot Savannah to the icy glaciers, whilst also coping with extreme

altitudes," says Kerry.

With regard to her work for Macmillan Cancer Relief, Kerry explains: "Many of us know someone who has had cancer, and I am doing this both in memory and in celebration of those who have suffered from, or survived this awful disease. I am prepared to take on the most difficult challenge of my life so far in order to help Macmillan improve the lives of those who currently have cancer and those who will be diagnosed in the future."

There are one million people of all ages living with cancer in the UK, with 1 in 3 people being affected by the disease at some point in their life. There are currently 739 new cases being diagnosed each day. According to research, these figures are expected to increase, meaning that 5 million more British citizens will get cancer by the year 2020.

"Macmillan Cancer Relief," says Kerry, "is working towards the day when everyone will have equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer. The charity funds specialist Macmillan

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Encore for volunteers

Clelia Lambourne explains how you can help during the Year of the Volunteer:

2005 is the Year of the Volunteer. You may have seen articles in the media regarding this, and maybe you have given no thought to it at all, or even thought it a load of baloney. But rest assured, the world would be a sorer place without volunteers.

Volunteers of course work in all aspects of life – but here we shall discuss volunteer work at the theatre. I myself have volunteered at the Oxford Playhouse since 1989. I had black hair back then, but time (and not the work – I promise!) means that I am now grey. The Playhouse, which provides access to everyone, is run as a charity, and is a very welcoming place, not least because the volunteers provide a warm welcome, not because they have to be there, but because they choose to be there.

My time at the Playhouse has been most enjoyable, even when I've forgotten what's on. One evening, I turned up to a play called *Trainspotting* thinking that it was about trains. Needless to say, I was a little confused when I was confronted by stands and posters promoting AIDS awareness and leaflets on HIV and the effects of drugs. "So it's not about trains, then?" I asked innocently.

My embarrassment would have been longer lived had Robbie Williams and his entourage not turned up on the same night. To avoid any major scenes, we had to sneak Robbie into the theatre undetected – and after the play he stayed to have a drink with the cast and the staff. What a lovely boy he was.

During my time, I've met many great actors and royalty. One night a girl asked me if Jude Law had gone to the Circle Bar. "I don't know. What does he look like?" I replied to the young lady, who turned out to be a girlfriend of his called Sienna Miller.

There've been many such stories that I could tell you, but why don't you also become a volunteer usher and have your own adventures and stories to tell? All a volunteer need do is turn up at the theatre some 50 minutes before a show starts. You will be given information on the play, go through the evacuation procedure, and each person will be given a role for the evening.

Roles vary between tearing tickets as patrons enter the auditorium, answering questions and directing people, selling programs before the show and during the interval, cloak room duty, selling ice creams during the interval and helping with evacuation if necessary. You may even have the pleasurable task of telling audience members not to take photos and to switch off their mobiles. At the end of the show, volunteers report any problems and pick up litter. The volunteers are the eyes and ears of the management team, who wouldn't be able to do their duties without you.

In return, volunteers get to see the show, meet interesting people and make new friends. The rewards far outweigh the time that you give up, and, if you do volunteer, you need only commit to a minimum of two performances per month. Given that you also get complimentary and/or discount tickets for shows, that's not a lot to ask at all!

If you are interested, please get in touch with Beth Irvine at the Playhouse 01865 305 300; beth.irvine@oxfordplayhouse.com

Clelia Lambourne 01865 784760, clambourne@jakemp.com



News from the Oxford Nursery

Nursery manager Dawn Farrell shares some stories about the Park's youngest members:

Did you know that, nestled in the nether regions of Sanders Road, you will find an oasis of young, enquiring and budding scientists? Did you know that it was discovered just the other day that caterpillars eat leaves? It was also reported that 'it's windy out there!' (and it's not in here). What a lovely job it is to engage with such fresh minds and to witness children experiencing some kind of 'Eureka!' every day.

Not only do we have scientists, though. We also have an amusing cast of aspiring actors here, each ready to entertain any available audience. Take an average potty time, for example, and you will hear wonderful renditions of 'Twinkle Twinkle' reverberating around the bathroom walls. And they're all becoming increasingly aware of their potential for stardom. For example, one little two-year old saw herself in a photo recently. At the time she was wonderfully surprised ("Oh look! It's me!"),



but no doubt she'll be striking all the poses before too long.

It seems that youngsters understand equal opportunities far better than we adults sometimes. One little lad, who has a brother, started to tell us one day about his 'sisters.' "What are their names?" asked the carer, assuming that the boy had an obvious longing for a sister, and all too keen to use her up-to-the-minute equal opps training to reassure him that his younger sibling brother was the best thing since sliced bread. "Matthew and Allan," replied the lad. There's obviously no danger of discrimination in that

family!

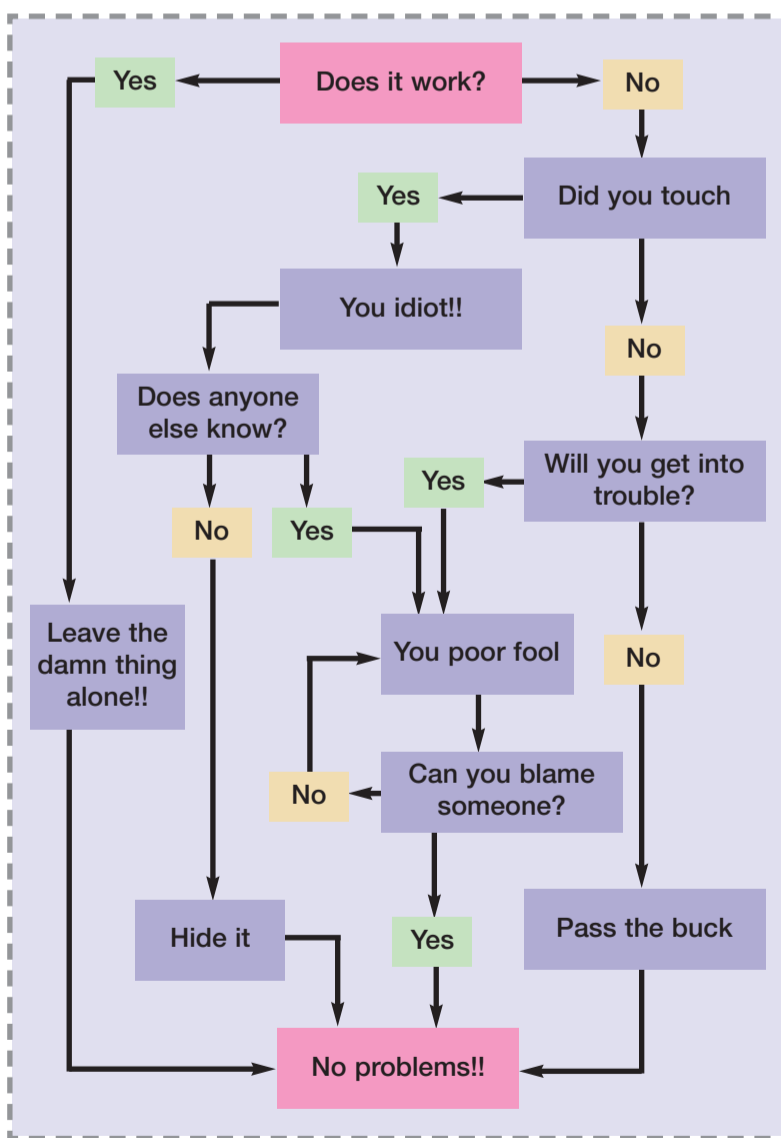
But perhaps the most astute comment of late came from another of our young scholars, who can never be criticised for not extending or developing a colourful use of language. "I'm a farty pants," exclaimed the little chap. Either this bright button really is a smarty pants, or he was trying to explain something far more revealing. I'd like to think the former.

Looking forward to sharing a few more nursery gems next time...

Dawn Farrell 01865 396792
www.oxfordnursery.co.uk

The Decision Engine...

a 'cut-out and keep' special



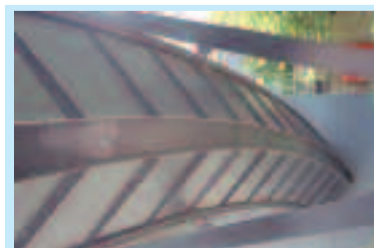
Netball News



The OSP Netball Club is having a good year. After being promoted last year, we came third in our new division for the winter league, and currently have two teams playing in the Oxfordshire summer league.

Netball in the summer months is more informal than during the rest of the year, and it is highly enjoyable to play outside at the Science Park where we have our own court on site. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join, please contact Liz Heard: liz@santec.co.uk

Congratulations also go to our two netball brides - Dr Katie Palmer (née Binley), of Oxford Biomedica, a company on the Park, who married Stuart in May, and Dr Jenny Roycroft (née Bendall) who married Jon in June.



Win a Bottle of Champagne!!

Spot the location of this structure on the Park and win a bottle of champagne. If you know the answer please email Shannon at Shannon.Blaszko@oxfordsp.com.

Competition ends 15th September 2005
(thanks to Richard Harrop for the photograph)

Science Park takes part in award-winning educational programme

The Oxford Science Park is a key player in providing opportunities for young people to discover more about making a career out of science. For about 2 years now, the SP has been home to the Industrial Trust's Open Industry programme in Oxfordshire.

The Open Industry programme allows both students and teachers to make highly focused, educational visits to companies, including these that research and develop advances in many scientific fields, and which are based right here on the Park. The visits allow students to link the knowledge that they gain in the classroom with the application of that knowledge in the world of work. What is more, the visits highlight to the younger generation the potential for careers in these scientific areas.

Although the Industrial Trust only introduced the Open Industry programme in Oxfordshire in January 2004, already 2,000 students and teachers from 22 local secondary schools have taken part, and the scheme has already been picking up awards for its contribution to education in the county.



The awards have not been limited solely to the programme. Companies participating in the scheme have also received their fair share of credit, with the Science Park's own Sharp Laboratories of Europe Ltd recently receiving a similar Investors in Education Award from the Oxfordshire Education Business Partnership. This time, Faringdon Community College nominated the company, in recognition of the support that the Laboratories have given to the school through the Trust's Programme.

Furthermore, the success of the Industrial Trust in Oxfordshire has also led to developments

schools and businesses in Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire.

In addition to these successes comes praise from the participating schools themselves. Christopher Bryan, headmaster at St Birinus School in Didcot, explains: "I received excellent feedback on the visit to Sharp Laboratories of Europe Ltd, which proved to be extremely stimulating for the group. Likewise, the planned visit to Didcot Power Station, together with the proposed visits to Rutherford Appleton Laboratories and AEA Technology will do much to enhance the awareness of our pupils to the tremendous opportunities available in science and technology industries in the locality."

Christopher continues: "Above all, the Trust's personal commitment and enthusiasm for these activities is a wonderful inspiration to staff and pupils alike. Their on-going support is genuinely appreciated."

It is not only the students that appreciate the visits, however, with the companies themselves also gaining much from the Open Industry programme. "It is wonderful to see how enthusiastic members of the lab are about these visits," says Dr Stephen Bold, managing director of Sharp Laboratories Europe Ltd. "It is a chance for us to share the excitement of our research. The questions keep us on our toes, and everyone enjoys the interaction. I can't think of a better way to meet our objective of connecting industry and education.

And that should be a goal for everyone in the private sector who wants to attract the best talent."

It appears that the current success of the Open Industry Programme, not only in Oxfordshire, but in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, is only the beginning. Commenting on the programme's achievements, Dr Kevin Stenson, Industrial Trust's regional director, says: "There is much more work to be done in order not only to inspire young people, but also to add value to the learning experience in the region. More partners will make it possible for the Trust to facilitate the development of even more effective links between local businesses and schools."

The Industrial Trust works in partnership with a number of other organisations including

wealth generation, including scientific ones. The Industrial Trust is a charitable trust.

If you would like to get involved, or learn more about the Industrial Trust's Open Industry programme, then please contact:

Kevin Stenson 01865 712 753
kevin.stenson@sharp.co.uk



Industrial Trust recently won an Investors in Education Award from the Oxfordshire Education Business Partnership, following a nomination by Peers Technology College in Littlemore for the impact that the Open Industry in-company educational visits have had on science education in the school.

further afield. In September of last year, the Industrial Trust was invited to become a consortium member of MOB EBLO Ltd, the Education Business Link Organisation for Milton Keynes. After joining the consortium, the Trust has started to pilot the Open Industry programme with a small number of

the Enterprise Advisory Service, the Institute of Physics, the Oxford Trust, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Year in Industry. In addition, 40 local businesses currently support the Industrial Trust in a number of different ways, including offering in-company educational visits for local students, offering professional development placements for local teachers, joining the regional membership scheme, and offering in-kind support.

Adds Kevin: "I am very grateful to all of our partners for helping us to achieve all that we have achieved in a relatively short space of time."

Open Industry is part of a wider programme from the Industrial Trust to educate and inspire young people of all abilities to seek careers in all fields of

Student Feedback

"I learnt how much efforts goes into manufacturing products."

"I learnt about the dramatic increase in technology over the past 5 years."

"I understand polarised light"

"I learnt about the properties of crystals of LCDs"

Year 10 Science Students, St Birinus School, Didcot



Come and help us make a big splash....



Oxford Science Park Speedboat Challenge

Friday September 23rd is a date to put in everyone's diaries on the Park. Between 12 and 2 pm the Park will hold a Speedboat Challenge and lunchtime barbeque on the lakes by the Danby Building.

Twenty teams representing companies on the Park will battle it out to win Operation Speedboat and become the first holders of the specially crafted glittering trophy.

Participants will be in teams of

four and will be able to practice before their races, with a specially designed inflatable course to be installed on the lake.

Everyone on the Park will have already received entry forms, rules and times for the races so they can plan their lunchtime around supporting their teams.

Even if you don't manage to be one of those (un)lucky ones piloting the boats there will be

plenty to see and do. Various activities such as Giant Jenga are on offer and a barbeque should keep you going in between the races.

To have your chance to spray champagne over your fellow competitors on the winning podium please ask for details from your company's Facilities Manager or,

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Robert.Horsfield@oxfordsp.com

Kilimanjaro Kerry continued

nurses and doctors, buildings for cancer treatment and care, and a whole range of social care, including grants for those with financial difficulties."

Besides her own costs to take part in the event, Kerry must raise a minimum of £2,900. Two thirds of this initial sum will go directly to Macmillan Cancer Relief, together with all money raised beyond this sum. Adds Kerry: "I hope to raise much more than this and I hope that people from the Science Park will support me in my challenge, which is nothing compared with the challenge that cancer patients face each day."

Kerry has already raised money by holding a party for the event and a very successful coffee and cake morning at the Magdalen Centre which raised £310. Kerry is also hoping to organise other events such as a Ball, treasure hunt, walk, a chocolate party and a raffle on and around the park, "I have to raise £2000 by the end of August and at present am only half way there. If you would like to make a donation, then please go to my website www.justgiving.com/kerrylou. Every penny really does count!"

Kerry.Perks@oxti.com

Services

ACCOUNTANTS Julie King on 07887 613309 – Julie@4-kings.co.uk and Claire Newell on 07736 680161 part-time self-employed service to companies in the Magdalen Centre.

ADMIN FACILITIES Fax, photocopiers, binding facilities, A4 laminator, conference & meeting rooms all available in the Magdalen Centre.

ATM Cash Machine is located in the Restaurant area of Magdalen Centre.

BANK COURIER Nat West Bank run a weekly courier service to their High St branch every Wednesday. Items can be left in a sealed envelope with Sally at Magdalen Centre reception.

BUSES The 105 will run 3 peak time buses daily (two in the morning and one at night). The 106 will continue to run every hour. This will not travel via Kassam Stadium but will go on to Berinsfield. A temporary bus stop has been installed on the old Nursery site and buses will also pick up from there.

CAR VALETING Oxford Car Valeting operate within the Science Park Wed-Fri. Please call Michael on 07796 523577.

CHRISTIAN GROUP The OSP Christians group meet alternate Thurs 12.30-1.15, in MCS. Contact OSPChristians@gmail.com.

DOCTORS SURGERY (Blackbird Leys) 778244

DRY CLEANING Sophia's Laundry & Ironing Services call at the Centre Mon and Thurs to collect/deliver. Items can be left with Sally.

JAPANESE CLASSES in Magdalen Centre, Thurs 5.45-7.00pm. Please contact Mr Masaomi Yanagisawa masaomi.yanagisawa@nifty.com

MOBILE LIBRARY fortnightly from Jan 2006 at The Nursery between 10.40-11.30am - videos, dvds, cds & books.

THE OXFORD NURSERY at Sanders Road on the Science Park provides high quality day-care and pre-school education for children from 0-5 years of age. They currently offer a discount for parents who work on the Park. Tel: 396792

OSTEOPATHY offered to Science Park companies by Monica Franke, call 07970 119721.

PLASMA SCREEN situated in Magdalen Centre reception. Occupiers can run Presentations for part of the day.

PUBLIC TELEPHONES 2 are installed in MC reception in the east wing corridor.

RECYCLING Available in MC - aluminium cans, cardboard & paper shredding.

SELF-SERVICING VENDING machines (located in an alcove off MC reception) Soft drinks, tea/coffee, chocolate & crisps and filtered water.

WIRELESS ACCESS available in Magdalen Centre restaurant area, link, boardroom and conference rooms.

SPORT & LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES:

BADMINTON every Mon 7.00pm. Blackbird Leys Sports Centre contact tim.wilson@sharp.co.uk

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL contact robert.winlow@sharp.co.uk

BRIDGE at lunchtime Magdalen Centre, contact Rtysen@jakemp.com

TENNIS on Sharp's court, call 747711

NETBALL OSP Ladies Teams – contact Liz@santec.co.uk

PILATES in Magdalen Centre, Mon & Wed 12.15-1.00pm, £4.00 per session. Contact Jenny on mail@fitnessathome.org.uk

RUNNING AT LUNCHTIMES Copies of local maps/guided run of routes from the Park suitable for lunchtime runs contact ian.macpherson@oxfordsp.com or Tel: 784006.

BOWLPLEX (next to Kassam Stadium) offers discounts for OSP occupiers: Mon-Fri before 6.00pm £3.50 per person, Mon-Thurs 6.00-10.00pm £4.00 per person. Business card or compliment slip necessary to prove OSP member. You are allowed up to 5 family or friends.

OZONE MULTIPLEX CINEMA offers adult tickets to OSP members for £4.50 (normally £6), ID. Weekly film updates are available on www.ozonemultiplex.com or call 0870 4443030 to book. Again identification required.

OZONE HEALTH & FITNESS CLUB 20m indoor pool, sauna/steam/spa, variety of classes. Special rates for OSP occupiers: contact 0870 443 1234

SUGAR & SPICE – nail and beauty salon now at The Fitness Centre, Kassam Stadium. Contact 01865 775817 for more details.

Confessions of a Science Park Ranger

Robert Horsfield provides us with a light-hearted report on the Science Park's very own football team:

The past season at SPR has been a strange one. The first time I noticed this was when I mentioned my end of season holidays to our Chairman. I had just booked a break in Ibiza for the wife and myself, but upon hearing my plans, the boss did a Fergie and threw a flip flop at me. "You ain't going nowhere, sonny," he bellowed. "There's a new season starting next week."

I couldn't believe it. There I was, contemplating topless bathing, all night parties, and the sunny delights of the Mediterranean – only to be wrenched back to the frozen wastes of our training ground in Wheatley. Two seasons in one year seemed a bit odd – but then again the Chairman wouldn't think twice about making us play another season if it meant an extra bit of sponsorship money for those new shirts.

Our 'player'-manager, Simon 'El Siminio' Harris had been off scouting in Europe a lot during the (first) season. Some of the

lads felt a bit undermined by this apparent lack of faith in our silky skills – as if the only thing we had in common with David Beckham was the nasty bruise developing where that flip flop had struck me on the cheek. Still, as we started the (second) season, it seemed that the only thing that El Siminio had brought back from the continent was a year-round tan. Without a foreign star in sight, it was the same old faces in the dressing room, with the same old hangovers and the same, cigarette-fuelled, coughs and wheezes.

After a poor first season, in which our flying start had turned into a relegation battle played out in the bitter cold of mid-winter, our second season has gone much better. Highlights have included a thunderous left-footed strike from Kevin Stenson, the man they call 'The Doctor', since he has the skills of a surgeon (but the morals of a butcher). This was equalled by another wonder goal from our new loan midfielder, Andy, also known as 'Handy', and who has helped to rejuvenate a somewhat tired team. Either

that or the special serum developed in one of the Park's labs is doing its job.

The new, expanded format of the league has seen the Rangers travel far and wide so far, but following our promising start, we feel confident that we can go one better than our Cup semi-final appearance of last year. Who knows? Maybe we can travel the length of the Road to Wembley (or the Millennium Stadium, if you're being pedantic) and have the chance to bring some more silverware back to the Park...

"On a more serious note, Science Park Rangers are playing their 3rd season in the Champion Soccer 5-a-side league and are currently doing very nicely with 2 wins from two games, 2 goals conceded and 16 scored. The current team consists of players from OSP residents including Pipex, Oxxon Therapeutics, Sharp Labs, Chiron and others. The squad is looking very competitive this year and has high hopes of bringing silverware back to the park. We will keep you posted."

Simon.Harris@santec.co.uk

