

# THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 Spring 2017



This beautiful picture was created by local artist Scharlie Meeuws. Scharlie is a published poetess and digital artist who loves to "paint" on her computer, creates large canvases and often converts her unique designs into textiles. She uses cottons, chiffons and silks to create unusual scarves, kaftans, dresses and tops. But her greatest passion is her courtyard garden, where she, together with her husband, brings her own magical stone and clay sculptures to life.

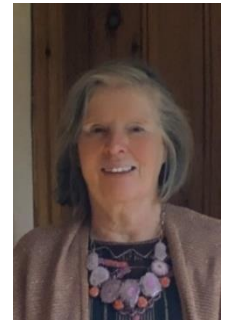
Scharlie can be contacted by emailing: [scharliem@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scharliem@yahoo.co.uk)

See over for more examples of her work.





Three more examples of work by Scharlie. (Photographed right). Scharlie is a member of the Faringdon Art Society, who's Chair Karen Spence is anxious to hear from anyone interested in Art to contact her. Please read below.



## Faringdon Art Society

We hear that many local people believe that Faringdon Art Society is only for the experts and professionals. NOT TRUE! Many of our members do not paint at all or they are just starting their journey in creating art! Founded in 1964 for all those interested in art in Faringdon and The Vale, Faringdon Art Society (FAS) is run on a 'not for profit' basis and currently has over one hundred members.

The F.A.S.

- Exhibit members work, online and at their annual exhibition
- Organise trips to national galleries and workshops regularly throughout the year
- Hold a painting in company sessions every Wednesday morning
- Organise workshops

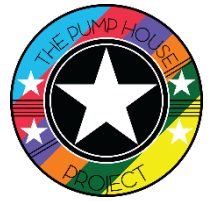
In short the society welcomes anyone with an interest in art, whether two or three dimensional and whether they be a beginner, leisure artist, a professional, or just someone that enjoys seeing their work.

For more information, please visit our website at:  
[www.faringdonartsociety.org.uk](http://www.faringdonartsociety.org.uk) or please contact us, we would love to hear from you and we always welcome new members.  
 Karen Spence on [faringdonartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:faringdonartsociety@gmail.com)



*Karen Spence. Chair*

# Introducing our new Project Coordinator



Hi Everyone,

I decided after 20 years of working in a variety of positions within large corporations, to have a new direction and become involved in our ever-expanding community.

Initially I was a volunteer and could not resist becoming a permanent member of the team; The Pump House Project is a true inspiration and has given me a new zest for life. I have a wealth of experience in project work, administration and marketing and I endeavour to continue the excellent work initiated by Kealy Whenray as Project Coordinator.

My husband Ben and I moved to Faringdon in November 2015 with our numerous pets and we really enjoy living in this welcoming and diverse town. I intend to develop my creative skills by promoting the Project and instigating new ideas to get more people involved and raise important funding.

The Pump House Project is a place where everyone, no matter what their age, gender, and background can come and be themselves, meet new people, be creative and explore their many talents. I am excited to be part of this brilliant Project.



Lucy can be contacted at [info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)

Lucy & Ben

## The Object of the Charity

To secure the establishment of the Pump House Theatre as a community centre and to provide and maintain as such to the inhabitants of Faringdon and surrounding villages without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or political, religious or other opinions and to facilitate its use for meetings and classes and other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the quality of life for its residents.



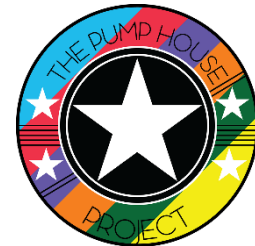
# Want to make a difference to your town?

In reaction to the closure of the current Children's Centre, a group of community members are working on plans to provide a brand new Children's Centre that will be based at The Pump House Project.

Funds have already been secured for staff costs for three years. *We need enthusiastic community members to become charity trustees, steering board members and volunteers* to ensure the project is a success. If you have any

special skills or just want to make a difference to your town, please contact Sally Thurston by calling: 01367 24028 or emailing Sally at:

[sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)



The 'Place' will operate from the room under the stage area at TPHP, recently cleaned and painted by volunteers. Large screen television kindly donated has been installed, creating a friendly and comfortable area for the various activities planned by Faringdon Town Council



# One of those Wednesdays

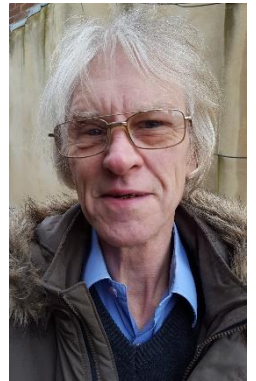


When I was asked to write something for the Pump House Project Newsletter, I thought 'yeah' why not. Later it dawned on me that this wasn't quite as easy as it seemed at the time. The dilemma was simple, but for me The Pump House Project is not that easy to describe, I've tried in conversations and failed, so, all that leaves is my own thoughts.

It all started one Wednesday morning early last year. I'd known about the old theatre for years and often thought what a waste, although it was a mystery I was glad to hear of The Pump House Project.

In January 2016, the company I worked for moved and I had time to spare. So, this particular Wednesday morning found me there, having coffee talking to strangers – don't recall what about, but it must have been interesting, as since then Wednesday mornings are booked.

You might ask why? That's the hard bit, the best description I can think of is; weekends when I was little, involved family visitors or visiting. While us kids played, the grownups would be talking and having tea and at the same time maybe knitting, sewing and doing other useful stuff. Come 4 o'clock on a Saturday it was wrestling on TV, all quiet for the football results, or on Sunday 'Songs of Praise. Those days were about family, belonging and caring, and if anything, that's what it's like - *belonging to something special*.



Shaun Godfrey

One Wednesday last year was just the beginning.



## You're Invited!!

If you haven't visited TPHP yet, why not do as Shaun did back in January last year? Come along to our Wednesday Morning Cake Café, and maybe make new friends, enjoy the family atmosphere. Enjoy a hot drink and a fresh homemade cake for just £1.

The Pump House Project is open 7 days a week, for details see:

[info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)

### MAKE NEW FRIENDS



# Here are just a few of the many activities that take place at The Pump House Project every week

**DISCO DOTS**, is a fun morning disco for the under 5s. Come and start your week (twice monthly) with a boogie. The tiny toddlers just love it. £1.00 per adult with refreshments included. 9.30am to 11.00am.

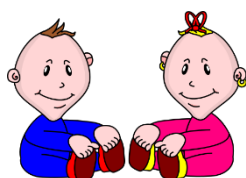


**DANCE YOURSELF FIT** Choose between **FITSTEPS** or **COUPLES DANCING**. Thursdays at 7.30pm and Fridays at 11.00am Phone/Text: 07769 229084 Email: [sharone.wilson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sharone.wilson@yahoo.co.uk) Sharon is a trained ballroom and Latin dancer **SO MUCH FUN, YOU DON'T EVEN REALISE YOU ARE GETTING FIT!**

**The Pump House Project RotaKids** We are all about making a difference. We are the youngest members of the Rotary “family”, we are girls and boys aged 7 – 11yrs and we meet on a Friday afternoon 3.45 – 5 p.m. For more details at [info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)



**CAKE CAFÉ** 9.30 – 11.30 am at TPHP every Wednesday morning. Come along, enjoy a natter, play cards or scrabble, enjoy the craft session, make new friends or just relax with a newspaper. Free Wi-Fi. A warm welcome awaits you. Join our monthly lottery.



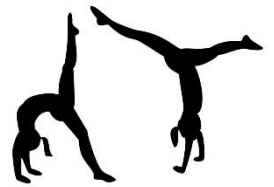
**BABY SENSORY** Our multi-award winning classes will introduce your baby to a world of sensory exploration. It's a magical world, full of glowing balls, light shows, puppets, bubbles, rainbows, petals, massage, signing and songs. Phone : 07800 568040 Web: [www.babysensury.com](http://www.babysensury.com) Email: [wantage@babysensory.co.uk](mailto:wantage@babysensory.co.uk)

**Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale**, operate from *The Pump House Project* every Wednesday from 10 am to 11 am drop in, and 11am to 12 pm for 'pre booked' appointment. The Citizens Advice service provides the information people need to solve the problems they face. Our advice is free, independent and confidential.



**Urban Movement** is the only session of its kind in Oxfordshire. Come and join our mixed ability sessions, learning Parkour, Free running, Dance, Acrobatics and more. Drop in sessions are available for £6 dependant on availability and are on a first come basis on the day. Led by Jonny Last, trained gymnast and circus skills instructor. Every Saturday at 12.30pm onwards during term time.

Contact: [info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)



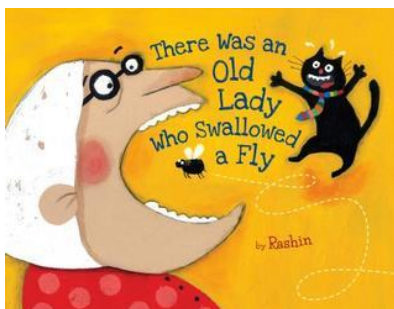
**CRAFT CONNECTIONS** Our Wednesday mornings 9.30 – 11.30 (term time only) crafting sessions have proved that Faringdon is full of talented people of all ages and the craft created has been amazing. TPHP is a perfect venue with lots of space to craft in and the remit was to be all inclusive and free to attend. To book a Craft Connections workshop place or enquire about becoming a paid tutor please contact [nickybrown65@gmail.com](mailto:nickybrown65@gmail.com) or call 07787 532013 [www.facebook.com/groups/1078213882274887](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1078213882274887)



We are here to help with any information or advice that you may need. We have been running a regular **drop in** session at the Community cafe on a Wednesday morning since the cafe started and we have combined this with a **Gadget drop in**. So if you have a tablet, phone, laptop etc.

that you have questions about, then please bring them along to get some free help and advice. Gadget drop in operates on the first Wednesday of each month.

**Dementia Oxfordshire** is part of the Age UK Oxfordshire family and they are now running a Memory Cafe at The Pump House Project. This runs on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month from 10.30am – 12pm.



**Singing for Fun.** We have been reminiscing quite a lot recently, which tends to lead to more songs and laughter. One minute we're creating beautiful harmony in the round with Jubilate Deo and tapping out rhythms to a Caribbean welcome song, then there is a rebellion and suddenly there's competition as to who can remember all the words to 'There was an old lady who swallowed a fly'!

"Singing adds enjoyment to life. When you sing in the company of others you forget your worries and feel better afterwards. That's what this hour on a Wednesday morning is all about". Come along at midday and join us. Oh, and its fly, spider, bird, cat, dog, goat, horse...

*For more information on this and all our activities, go to: [info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk).*



# TESCO



## Afternoon Tea and Music At The Pump House Project

### TESCO FARINGDON SERVED UP A TREAT FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AT THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT

Around 50 residents from our community enjoyed a tea party on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Tesco store manager Mr Guy Bexon and Community Champion Mr Trevor Nye were on hand to help serve up the tea, coffee, cold drinks complemented with delicious cakes, fruit and sandwiches. Some guests, enjoying the music slipped on their dancing shoes and took to the floor. Guy said: *"The donation is part of the store's commitment to support local charities and community groups and we are delighted to be able to help in this way".*



TPHP trustees are delighted to announce that Faringdon's Tesco store is providing 12 months of support for The Pump House Project. Store Manager Guy Bexon presented

trustees with a cheque for £500 to help fund the activities we provide. The store is also providing healthy snacks and drinks for the twice monthly Disco Dots disco for the Under 5s for the next 12 months.

*The food and refreshments were provided free of charge by Tesco Faringdon*

Lou Smith expressed the Project's gratitude saying "We are exceptionally grateful for the amount of support and generosity that TESCO is giving to the Project, I have always liked the ethos of 'Every Little Helps', and in our particular case that couldn't be more true".



### Every Little Helps

TPHP held this event as part of its work to provide a wide range of community activities for local people of all ages and abilities, and thanks to all those that attended and of course Tesco's generosity, we raised £309.

Music provided by D.J. Shaun Godfrey (pictured right)





# sELFie doors



## A Community Art Project for the Folly Fest weekend

sELFie doors is one of our current FUNdraising activities, where you can get your whole family involved in this extraordinary event, turning Faringdon into a place of sparkle and magic by creating your very own family focussed fairy/elfie. sELFie doors will appear magically around the town for Folly Fest. Follow the sELFie door trail to see where your fairy has installed your door.

Over that weekend there will be a family craft workshop and a Fairy and Elves Disco at The Pump House Project.



**HOW TO GET INVOLVED:** Buy your blank door template for just £2 from either Tesco in Park Road, or The Pump House Project in Swan Lane. Decorate it to represent your family, your hobbies, or just go magically wild.

Return it to Tesco or TPHP by July 20<sup>th</sup> 2017.

For details

[www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk/events](http://www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk/events)



*Explore the magical kingdom you helped  
create over Folly Fest weekend*

Kindly supported by Tesco and Howdens Joinery.



All proceeds support

The Pump House Project





# How do we fund The Pump House Project?

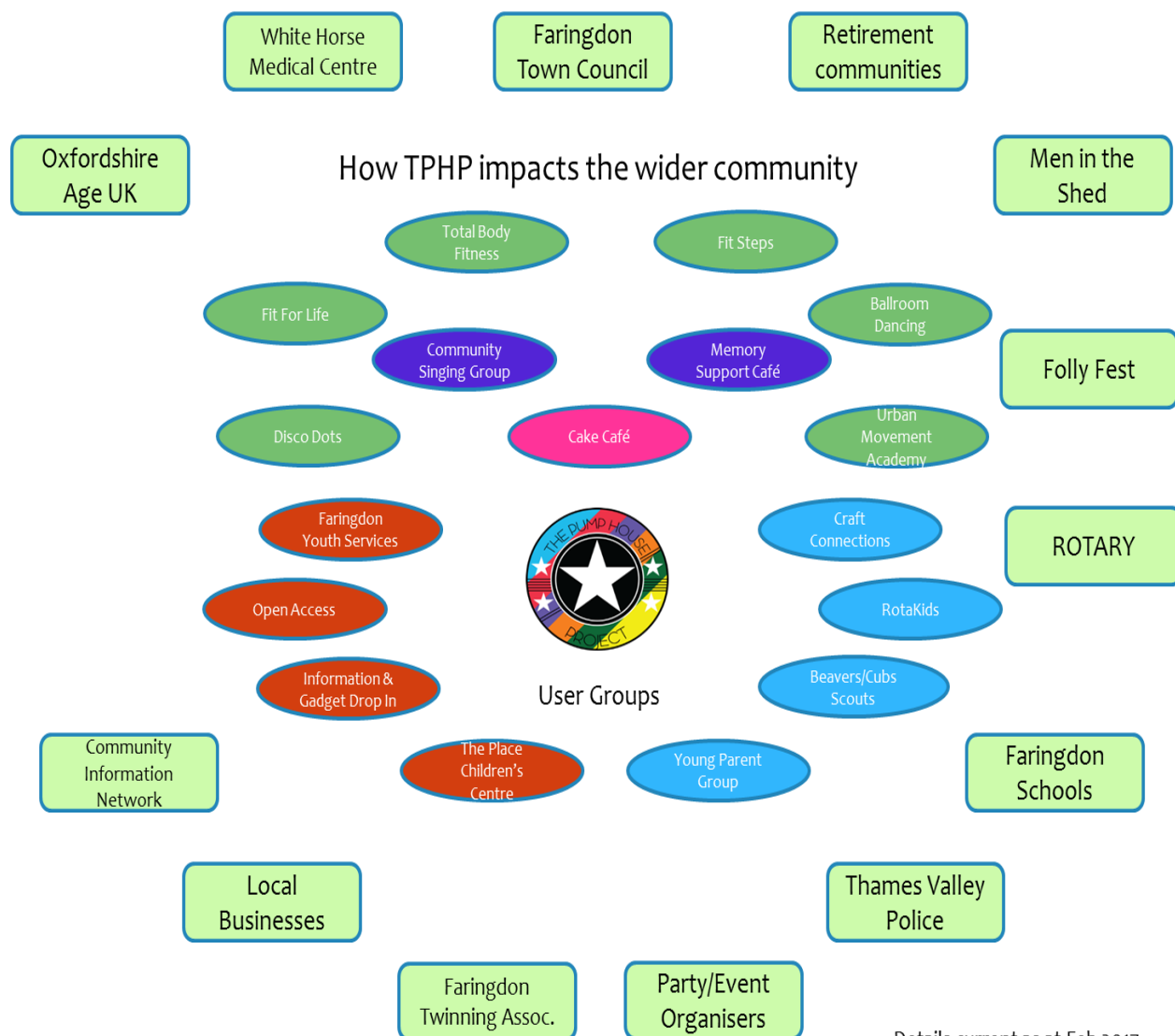


## SOME FACTS

It costs approximately £17,000 p.a. to run the project. We currently receive around £3,500 p.a. in revenue from our User Groups and Hall Hire, and in 2016 we received £6,000 in donations and ring fenced grants amounted to £3,200. Plans are in hand to maintain, hopefully increase this level of funding in 2017. This however, leaves a shortfall of around £4,300 just to stand still.

Clearly more funding is essential if we are going to survive and grow, and this is raised in numerous ways. The regular Wednesday cake café, our bi-monthly disco, children's clothes sale, afternoon tea & music, the 200 club lottery and 'Friends of TPHP' initiatives are just some. 'The Place' run by Faringdon Town Council will be another valuable source of income for 2017.

Our thanks to our user groups and to everyone who have and who are supporting us financially and with your free time.





# A Pump House Project fundraiser at Al - Roche restaurant

Thanks to Samira and Sayed at Al-Roche, the wonderful Lebanese restaurant in Faringdon, we were able to host a fundraising dinner on Saturday 25th February. It was a wonderful night, with a group of supporters enjoying a superb buffet, provided free of charge by Samira and Sayed.

It turned out to be a night of mixed emotions however, as it was also the closing night for Al-Roche. Samira and Sayed are moving on from Faringdon after 2 and a half years, so it gave us an opportunity to thank them for their support of the project over this time and to wish them well for their future.

As well as a delicious buffet, we enjoyed entertainment from local magician Peter Wentworth, and we ran a raffle, with a wide range of excellent prizes donated by businesses located in the town centre. These prizes ranged from gift and meal vouchers, to fresh food and drinks. One of the most intriguing donations, provided by Jason and Claire from Vintage Goth Shadows on London Street, was two tickets to one of their Victorian Séances. However, the biggest laugh of the evening was reserved for Mike Wise (our hugely supportive Mayor of Faringdon) who was the lucky recipient of a full shave and hair styling



Andy organising the raffle

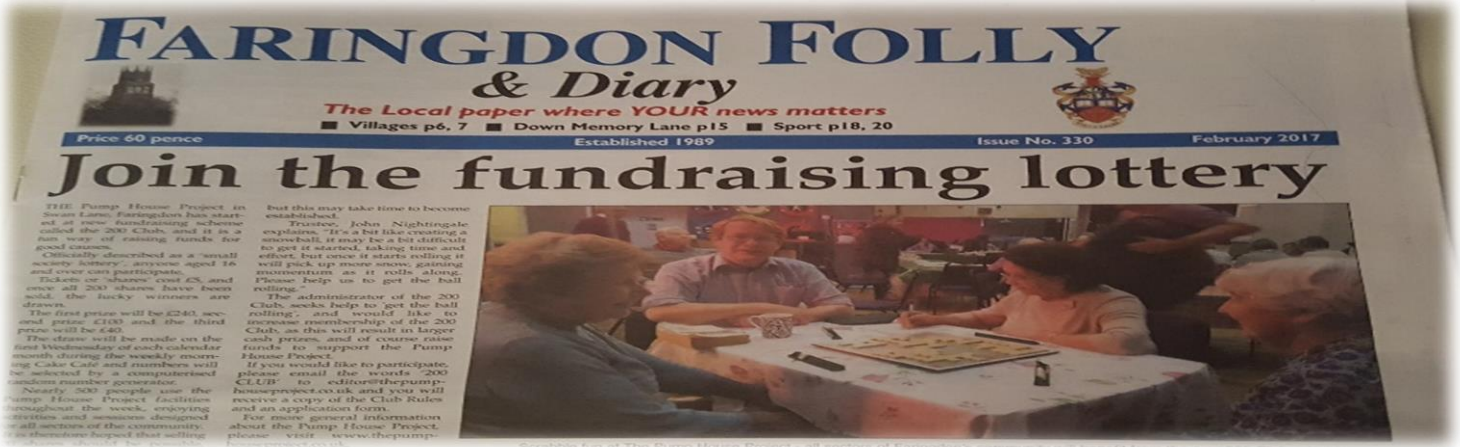


The raffle winners

voucher from Morton & Meads. We are all looking forward to seeing the new Mike, next time he attends one of our events!

On behalf of all of us at The Pump House Project, I would like to thank everyone that attended and especially to Samira and Sayed, for helping us to have such a successful and fun evening, which raised over £800.

Andy Brown  
Trustee



We have now sold 90 shares in our 200 Club, this is a good start, but it is just a start, we need to grow so that more attractive prize money is available, and increased funds to support The Pump House Project.

## Free Share Number Awards

During the month of March 2017, for every new member you introduce, you will be awarded a Bonus Share Number, which will be entered into the April draw, free of charge, increasing your chances of winning a cash prize.



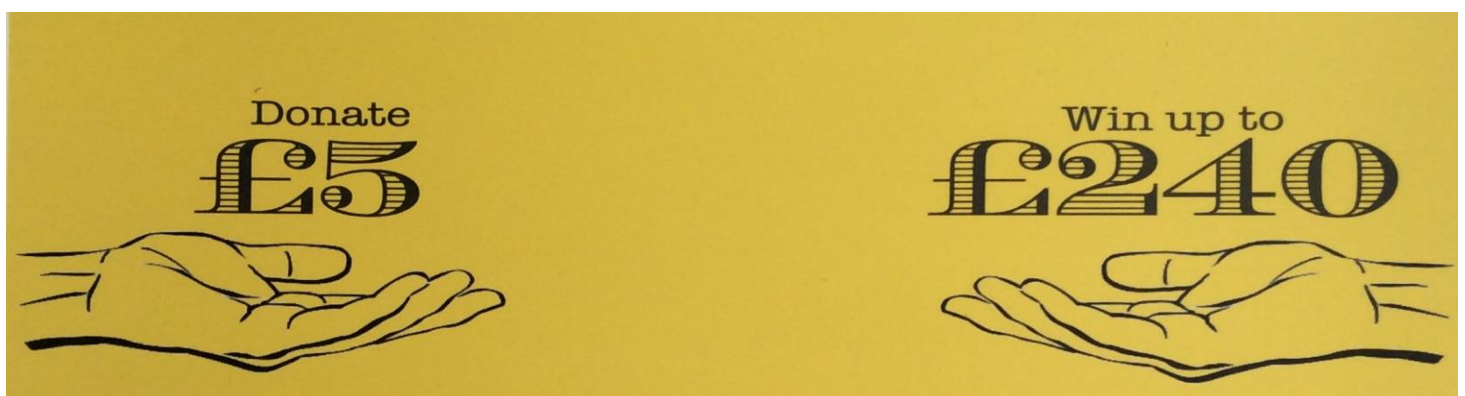
Please help us



We are extremely grateful to all those of you that have signed up and are participating in this fun way of raising much needed funds for TPHP, please ask your friends, family and work colleagues to join, and collect your bonus share numbers.



For an application form, please email the words '200 Club' to:  
[editor@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:editor@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)



a benefit for The Pump House Project

# SOUL NIGHT No.5

We're back with the best soul music in town  
- Stax of Northern and Motown

with DJ  
Citizen Cane

**Licenced Bar**  
**Buffet Food available**

**Tickets £5**  
from Dawn's Barber Shop  
or on the door on the night

**7-11  
Saturday 6 May**

**The Pump House Project** Swan Lane  
Faringdon SN7 7AF

Our last disco evening in February was a huge success, so make a note in your diary for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017

We count ourselves very fortunate to have a guy who supports TPHP with such enthusiasm, a man skilled at the job he clearly loves, his passion for music and dance is obvious.

*Mr Al Cane, known professionally as DJ Citizen Cane.*

I'm reliably informed that to prepare for these popular Soul Nights, it can take Al over 12 hours, so, on behalf of everyone that will enjoy and dance to the best of Soul music and Motown in and around Faringdon, we say



*Thank You Very Much*

*DJ Citizen Cane*





## The High Sheriffs' Association of England & Wales

### The High Sheriff's Awards



Each year, the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire makes awards to people who have done great things in their community, and this year it was brought to the attention of Mrs Sarah Taylor, this year's High Sheriff, that Lou Smith is one of Oxfordshire's great people! Lou's nomination was successful and on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February the award ceremony took place at The Blue Boar Lecture Theatre in Christ Church University, Oxford. The High Sheriff considers it a great privilege to be in a position to make these awards and to say thank you from the County to individuals who make such a difference to our communities.



Lou Smith

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### Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

At 8am on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, a bitterly cold morning, Nicky Brown of TPHP, presented Mr Timothy Stevenson, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire with an introductory Pack containing details about the activities at TPHP. The occasion was the opening of the new Aldi store in Faringdon

Included in the pack was information and a sample of our Fairy Door initiative which is about to be launched in Faringdon, climaxing at Folly Fest in June. Mr Stevenson said that he was aware of TPHP, and congratulated all those involved.



Nicky Brown and Timothy Stevenson



## Community Project by Waitrose

Thanks to the generosity of Waitrose customers, and the Community Project operated by Waitrose supermarket in Faringdon, already enough donations have been received to enable us to purchase a brand new dishwasher which has been installed at The Pump House Project.



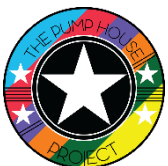
On the left is the donation box, into which Waitrose customers choose which community project they would like to support.

On the right is the brand new dishwasher that TPHP has been able to purchase, now installed in TPHP kitchen and working a treat.

To Waitrose Supermarket and its customers, a huge big **THANK YOU**



*The trustees of The Pump House Project, would like to express gratitude to all local businesses for their genuine interest and support.  
It is truly appreciated.*



THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH



# Editors Comments

I would like to pay tribute to the many volunteers who work tirelessly for The Pump House Project, on virtually every page of this Newsletter you will read about something that a volunteer has achieved. 'Things don't just happen', they usually require many hours of dedication, skill, perseverance and patience. I sometimes think this Country would not function without its volunteers, TPHP certainly would not.

'The Place', a welcome initiative has been introduced, but in order for TPHP to be able to facilitate this, a huge amount of decorating and general DIY was required. The Fairy Doors initiative was not planned and will not be executed by fairies or elves, but by down to earth enthusiastic volunteers. The recent Soul disco and the one planned for 6<sup>th</sup> May will need many hours of voluntary work, including the DJ, running the bar, and the food preparation. Not forgetting that TPHP Accounts and Book keeping has to be completed – it doesn't just happen.

Read how TPHP is financed and just how crucial fundraising is, and in this Newsletter you can see examples of fundraising events, these can of course involve happy social events, as happened at the Al-Roche restaurant. Our 200 Club will provide much needed funds. Future events are planned for 2017.

Fundraising is a huge area where without commitment and vision, little would be achieved, and at TPHP, commitment and vision comes in bucket loads. Since becoming involved with TPHP, it is a privilege to be surrounded by enthusiastic people giving their time and talents to help TPHP prosper. As editor of this Newsletter, I am delighted to report and to make you aware of the work that takes place behinds the scenes at TPHP, in order to provide a venue for everyone, no matter their circumstance to meet and enjoy the huge variety of activities provided.



I have deliberately not named people for fear of missing anyone out, but I am going to make an exception by naming Lou Smith and Nicky Brown, who live and breathe TPHP, and have done so since its inception 5 years ago, they have become synonymous with TPHP. Lou's hard work within our community has rightly been acknowledged by receiving a prestigious award.

Both Lou and Nicky deserve our applause and gratitude for a job well done.

The next Newsletter will be our summer edition, out in June, when hopefully the sun will be shining.

*John Nightingale*  
Editor

# THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT TIMETABLE

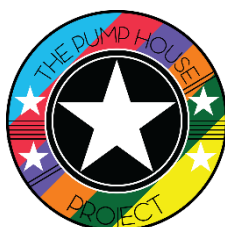
Monday	Disco Dots Memory Support Group Total Body Fitness	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays Every week	09.30 – 11.00 10.30 – 12.00 19.00 – 20.00
Tuesday	Baby Sensory “ “ The Place Cubs Scouts	Term time and some holiday dates 6 - 13 months 0 – 7 months 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> weeks Term time only Term time only	10.30 – 11.30 11.45 – 12.45 Mornings TBA 17.45 – 19.15 19.30 – 21.15
Wednesday	Cake Café Craft Connections Singing for Fun Open Access Youth Sessions	Every week Term time only Term time only Term time only	09.30 – 11.30 09.30 – 11.30 12.00 – 13.00 19.30 – 20.15
Thursday	Fit4Life: Tai Chi Fit4Life: Gentle Exercise Latin & Ballroom Dancing Beavers	Every week Every week Every week Term time only	09.45 – 10.30 11.00 – 11.45 19.30 – 20.30 17.30 – 19.15
Friday	Fitsteps RotaKids	Every week Term time only	11.00 – 12.00 15.45 – 17.00
Saturday	Baby Massage Urban Movement 7-10 year olds 11-14 year olds 15-18 year olds	Starting 13th May 2017  Term time only Term time only Term time only	10.00 – 11.30  12.30 – 13.30 13.45 – 14.45 15.00 – 16.00
Sunday	Available for Private Hire		

NOTE: The Pump House Project is available to hire for private functions and parties, our large hall is an ideal venue for all sorts of activities. Licenced bar and food available by negotiation.

Please contact Lucy Brown, Project Coordinator for details and to make a booking:

email: [info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)

or by phone: 07900 80065





*Thank you for reading our third  
Pump House Project Newsletter,  
we hope you have enjoyed them.*



*Your thoughts and  
ideas for future  
editions would  
be welcomed.*



## **THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT**

Swan Lane, Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7AF

For more information: [www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk](http://www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk)

To contact TPHP: [info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)

To contact the editor: [editor@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:editor@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)