



**PUMP HOUSE PROJECT**  
Registered Charity Number 1151905

**THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT**  
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# NEWSLETTER



Did you know that over 400 people participate in activities at The Pump House Project every week?



Community Information Network



The Pump House Project

## URBAN MOVEMENT ACADEMY

Session will include Parkour, Freerunning, Dance, Acrobatics and more...

**AGES 7 - 10**

Every SATURDAY during term time, £8 per session

SESSIONS	TIMES
to guarantee a place block bookings must be made via <a href="http://www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk">www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk</a>	12.30pm - 1.30pm Ages 7 - 10
	1.45pm - 2.45pm Ages 11 - 14
	3.00pm - 4.00pm Ages 15 - 18

Block book to receive a free session and to guarantee your place. Drop in sessions are dependent on space each week.

The Pump House Project  
Swan Lane  
Faringdon  
SN7 7AF



Instructor: Jonny East

This is the first new quarterly on-line newsletter, full of information and news from the Trustees and Users at The Pump House Project, a no profit charity based in Swan Lane, Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

# Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter which we aim to produce quarterly, in an effort to keep the community we serve up to date with what we are up to in the old theatre.

The Pump House Project was officially registered as a charitable incorporated organisation in May 2013. Originally conceived as a social action project, its aim was to provide a base from which many new and existing groups could operate and provide Faringdon and its surrounding villages with a wide range of sporting, cultural and social activities for all age groups.

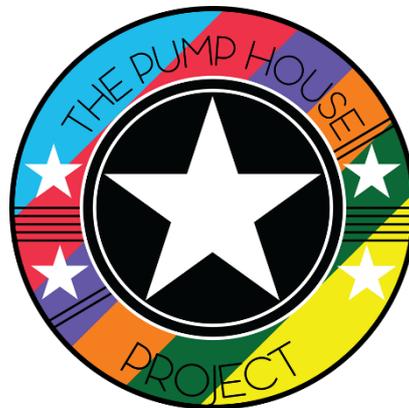
We were incredibly fortunate to receive the early support and advice from Lord Faringdon and Faringdon Town Council, who bravely agreed to 'lend' us the old theatre which had lain empty for at least 15 years.

With their financial support and that of a number of other trusts and local philanthropists we were able quickly to rewire, re-plumb and heat the building and open in July of that year. Crucially, many of the local youth groups who were to use the building were key in helping in its renovation.

We have now been fully operational for three years and provide an enormous range of activities, from scouts and cubs to community choir, dementia café and the popular Wednesday coffee morning.

We take pride in actively encouraging young people to start up activities and businesses under our umbrella. We have a part time Project Manager whose job it is to encourage and oversee a myriad of user groups and to ensure compliance with an equally broad range of regulatory issues. And then there are the many brilliant volunteers and local businesses who have donated everything from their expertise and enthusiasm to kitchens and radiators! Finally we now have a Board of eight trustees who give generously of their time and support in keeping the whole show on the road.

We run on a shoe string and are totally reliant on donations for the modest running costs. We do apply for grants for specific projects and both the craft and computer workshops which start in September are financed by the Big Lottery Fund and Sovereign Homes respectively. We also hold fundraising events; most recently an evening with Sofka Zinovief at Faringdon House and another with Rory Bremner at Buscot Park. The most recent fundraiser took place on September 17<sup>th</sup> at The Pump House; an evening of 60s, 70s & 80s Soul music and dance.



Olivia Bloomfield  
Chair of Trustees



# CRAFT AT THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT



I am Nicky Brown. I have teacher's blood running through my veins and a crafter firmly in my heart. I love sharing my crafting knowledge and seeing the success in others who learn something new. So when the



opportunity arose to run craft sessions at The Pump House Project, I jumped at the chance. The venue was perfect with lots of space to craft in and the remit was to be all inclusive and free to attend. It began with the Piano Project in 2013, where community groups transformed old pianos into art works and this year The Community Crochet Garden involved 60 plus crocheters, who invested 2500 hours to make over 2000 flowers and so far raising £800 for The Pump House Project Charity.

Our Wednesday morning 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. What has been equally wonderful to see are the social and emotional



benefits of crafting together, from providing a familiar and secure place for anxious crafters to come to, to enabling widowed and lonely or new people to the town to make instant friends with a shared interest, to inspiring the uptake of new crafts and giving people a valid "me time" hobby, to the shared positive experiences in being part of a larger community craft project, to empowering talented crafters to become teachers.

Oh and all this crafting is FREE (wherever possible we use donated and recyclable materials) and always with cups of tea and homemade cake on hand supplied by our in house Community Coffee Shop. So we look forward to seeing lots of new faces at our new Craft Connections Workshops where there will be a variety of craft to try, led by a variety of tutors.



Nicky Brown

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 For more details on this terms workshops please join our Craft Connections Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1078213882274887/>

**'KEEP CRAFTING'**



# 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. Imagination is a vital part of childhood so together we'll dance in the snow or dive under the waves, and trek through a rainforest.



We have a vast wealth of equipment and songs - many unique to us - and you'll never experience the same lesson twice. Every element of our program has been meticulously designed with your baby's development in mind. The first

year of your baby's life is one of the most important, when, soon after birth, the brain starts creating two million new connections every second! We love sharing our knowledge with you, regularly explaining what we're doing and why, as understanding more about your child's development will really enhance what's already a very special time.



You can join us at any point, and we'd encourage you to begin as soon as you feel able. Because routine is important, every session is structured to follow the natural play-rest-play



cycle of babies. What's great about this is that each week you'll have the opportunity to chat with others in a relaxed manner. Which is brilliant for forging friendships as the weeks go on, sharing tips and experiences at a time when you'll probably really appreciate the support.

**We've done the research; so you can enjoy the fun.**

Baby Sensory & Toddler Sense Wantage

Phone : 07800 568040

Email : [wantage@babysensory.co.uk](mailto:wantage@babysensory.co.uk)

Web site : [www.babysensory.com](http://www.babysensory.com)

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/BabySensoryWantageHungerfordAndMarlborough](http://www.facebook.com/BabySensoryWantageHungerfordAndMarlborough)

**Tuesday at The Pump House Project**

# 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.

Our activities are all to do with good citizenship and team work. Our aim is to make a difference to our community and the wider world. To do this we have great fun fundraising for various charities both local and worldwide and taking part in community projects throughout the year.

This year - among other things - we are learning some first aid skills, planting and selling crocuses for the Rotary “End Polio Now” campaign, making poppies for Remembrance Sunday, filling shoe boxes to go to those less well off than ourselves, making Christmas cards to give to the residents of Ferendune and learning a carol or two to sing to them when we visit in December.

Last year we raised £375 which enabled us to send a Literacy Box abroad containing items for learning such as exercise books, pens, paints and even footballs. These items that we all have many of in our schools are a rarity in many countries. The previous year we funded a Water Barrel to go to Kenya which meant that the children there did not have to carry heavy buckets of water on their heads but could roll the barrel from the river to their village.



We all take great pride in wearing our RotaKids uniform but the thing that we are most proud of is that we are making a difference to the world – you are never too young to do that!

If you would like to learn more about our club or would like to come along to The Pump House Project one Friday, please contact Lauz Kent by emailing: [info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)



Rotarian Shaena Whitney  
Youth Services



## **BECOME A FRIEND OF THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT**



*If you run a Company in the Faringdon area, we would love you to consider becoming a Friend of The Pump House Project.*

*We hope to encourage as many businesses and enterprises from Faringdon and the surrounding local area to support the project through a monthly donation of £25.*

*Here are some of the benefits that you would enjoy:*

- You would be associated with a vibrant and effective local charity that is providing valuable services to the community.
- By becoming a Friend, your company would show that it takes its place in the local community seriously and wants to play its part in developing activities to benefit everyone.
- We would promote your company's association with TPHP through this newsletter, our website, Facebook page and Twitter.
- We would invite 2 members of your company to attend a unique Pump House Project event as our guests.
- We would also give you the opportunity to support another event held by TPHP as the main sponsor.

To become a "Friend" we would ask you to set up a monthly Standing Order for £25 for a period of 12 months or contribute a one off payment of £200.

To find out more about becoming a Friend of The Pump House Project please contact: [info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)

*If you would like to support The Pump House Project as a private individual, we would love to hear from you. Any single donation, or monthly SO, large or small, will be gratefully received, as it allows us to support and develop the activities that we provide to our community.*



*Thank you*

*Andrew Brown*





**Oxfordshire  
South & Vale**

The Citizens Advice service provides the information people need to solve the problems they face. As a secondary goal, we work to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. We give advice but we give clients options which empowers them to choose for themselves, thus empowering them.

Our advice is free, independent and confidential. In a typical year we help 2.5 million people with 6.2 million advice issues and have 20.7 million visitors to our website. You will find us on the high street and in community settings to give advice face to face. You can reach us over the phone and increasingly via webchat on the internet. We have existed for 75 years but we are a modern service, evolving to meet society's changing needs.

Statistics show that we solve 2 in 3 of the problems people present to us, be they issues at work, with the welfare system, paying back debts or housing problems. We also solve 1 in 2 consumer issues, where goods are faulty or people need help exercising their rights and getting redress. Our service reaches some of the most disadvantaged members of society.

Through the help we give, we turn lives around. Prior to obtaining advice, people often feel anxious or depressed. Citizens Advice helps to improve lives, with four out of every five clients saying we helped to diminish their worries and restore their confidence.

### Founding Trustees

**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.**

Please call us on Advice line 03444 111 444, or visit the Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale website at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)

Joseph Mailler  
IT Manager/Advice Session Supervisor

**THE WITNESS SERVICE** is also operated by Citizens Advice. Being a witness (a victim is also a witness) and going to Court can for many be a very stressful experience. Apart from my duties as one of the trustees at TPHP, I am also a fully trained and experienced Witness Service volunteer at the Oxford Courts and would be happy to help you or a family member/friend who



has concerns about being a witness.

Witness Service operates independently from the police and the courts, and we have a strict confidentiality policy. I will make myself available at our Wednesday coffee mornings, or if you prefer you can call the Witness Service at Oxford courts on 01865 240957. *Please be advised that on no account must you share your evidence with me or anyone at Witness Service.*

*John Nightingale*  
Witness Service

# A unique, stand-alone charity

The Pump House Project in Faringdon is a unique, stand-alone charity that is based in a refurbished theatre in the heart of the town centre. Established since 2013 we have become a hub to an ever growing population in Faringdon.

The Project aims to continuously create a versatile and vibrant, multi-purpose activity centre for the town and its surrounding areas. It is an all year round facility, which endeavours to engage with groups and individuals from all sectors of the community with relevant, affordable and inclusive access.

An average of 400 people use the facility every week, hosting local children's groups, an all-ages weekly community café, baby and toddler sessions, urban movement classes, singing, yoga, tai chi, exercise classes for the over sixties, a dementia café and many more. We work in conjunction with a variety of local and national agencies including The Scouts Association, Sovereign Homes, Age UK and the Town

Council's Youth Services to organise a variety of initiatives including a 'Digihub' opening in September. We are a completely self-funding organisation which is recognised and supported by businesses and individuals alike.



This small Oxfordshire town has a remarkable history notable for its eccentricity and humour. In recent times Lord Berners,

resident of Faringdon House, brought immeasurable colour to the area, and his legacy and emblem, the 'pink pigeon' is still evident today. Lord Berners would have been 133 years old on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

We are pleased to have this new opportunity as we move into our 4<sup>th</sup> year to welcome you all to our first ever Pump House Project Newsletter.



Lou Smith  
Founding Trustee

What does £1 buy nowadays? Very little indeed is the answer, well on a Wednesday morning at The Pump House Project, it will purchase coffee and a delicious home-made cake.



Also a time to have a natter, maybe a game of cards or Scrabble, enjoy the craft sessions operated every week, maybe take your laptop and enjoy free Wi-Fi. Just pop in, a warm welcome awaits you. Please join us.



*\*We need volunteers to help on a Wednesday morning.....please\**



We are very pleased to have this opportunity to be able to introduce ourselves to you but also to let you know about what is happening at [The Pump House Project!](#) We are your local Community Information Networkers for the Vale; Sonia Robinson and Mandy Richens.



We are here to help with any information or advice that you may need, whether it be looking for a new social opportunity, to advice on benefits or help around the home. You can find us at the Pump House Project the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month. Please come along just to say Hi or if you need some help then do ask us at the café

We have been running a regular [monthly drop in](#) session at the Community cafe on a Wednesday morning since the cafe started and we have recently 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. Maybe you would like to learn a new skill or need help with staying safe on line, shopping, sending pictures to family, setting up email etc, we will have an I.T. volunteer on hand to help you.

The drop in runs on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, from 9.30am – 11.30am. Sonia or Mandy will be there for information and advice along with our I.T volunteer for any gadget help you need.



We also run a [Singing for Fun](#) class which follows on from the community cafe, every Wednesday term time from 11.45am – 12.45am. We have a fabulous teacher Emily Marshall, who brings us all together to enjoy singing a variety of songs. No experience necessary or even a good singing voice required, just come along to this fun and relaxed class! £2 per person (1<sup>st</sup> session free).



[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. This is an opportunity for people with a Dementia diagnosis to come along with their carers for coffee and cake, a chance to chat to Dementia advisors, join in different activities etc. If you would like to attend, for further information or to book in prior to attending please ring Gilly (Dementia Advisor) on 07557 430879.

We look forward to seeing you at our Drop in sessions at **The Pump House Project** whilst enjoying a coffee and Cake on Wednesday mornings, or you can contact us on:

**Sonia Robinson 07827 234 414 or Mandy Richens 07827 235 429**

# DANCE YOURSELF FIT!

COME ALONG TO A WEEKLY CLASS

\*\* First session FREE \*\*



Choose between **FITSTEPS** or **COUPLES DANCING**.

**FITSTEPS** is a fitness class delivered through dance. No partner work and all abilities welcome – you don't even need to be co-ordinated! Devised by Strictly Come Dancing stars, Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe, along with Mark Foster – the well-known British swimmer, **FITSTEPS** is based on Ballroom and Latin dance steps to music, eg Cha Cha Cha, Tango, Jive and many more.

An enjoyable and fun way to dance your way to fitness.

**Fridays at 11.00am at The Pump House Project, Swan Lane, Faringdon.**

OR

**COUPLES DANCING – Latin American and Ballroom Dancing** FEAR THE DANCE FLOOR? WANT TO LEARN THE BASICS? WANT TO IMPROVE? Then this is the class for you. From complete beginners to more experienced, everyone is catered for with individual teaching of steps to each couple's ability enabling them to build up routines at their own pace.

A class designed to be "strictly" fun.

**Thursdays at 7.30pm at The Pump House Project Swan Lane, Faringdon.**



**SO MUCH FUN, YOU DON'T EVEN REALISE YOU ARE GETTING FIT**

**FOR DETAILS OF ALL CLASSES:**

Contact Sharon Wilson, a trained ballroom and Latin dancer.

For more details:

Phone/Text: 07769 229084

Email: [sharone.wilson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sharone.wilson@yahoo.co.uk)

**"KEEEEEEP DANCING!"**

Note : Classes also take place in Lechlade on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Wednesdays at 10.00am – and you can mix and match!



Sharon Wilson

## “The Pump House Project is such a diverse and unique space”

Although I have been the Manager of The Pump House Project for a short time, what I’ve discovered is that everyone is passionate about the projects that take place here. Its success is based on its ability to be courageous, creative, innovative and determined and what’s wonderful is that everyone shares The Project’s ideology about how things should be, as more often than not they are for people just like them too.



It is so rare that you get to work for an organisation where you can walk in every day and know that you are making a difference to the community in which you live. For me it’s pretty simple. I plan on continuing the success of The Pump House Project, by running even more projects, as well as by introducing equipment such as table tennis tables and a DigiHub computer suite, which will appeal to users of all ages.

I’m also keen to regularly connect with our community to serve their needs. I hope to run holiday activities that meet The Pump House Projects aim; to be low cost and for all ages and abilities. I’m also hoping to set up projects that ‘Bridge the gap’, where toddlers and the elderly interact through story telling and play, which has overwhelming positive implications for both.

The Pump House Project is such a diverse and unique space, which is only going to get bigger and better. In the near future we aim to make the space accessible to all, by giving attention to the areas that would benefit from ramps and by constructing shelters to house pushchairs from the rain and the like. I’m proud to be the manager of such an inclusive space and welcome your thoughts on how we can continue to move The Pump House Project forward.



Lauz Kent  
Project Manager

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### SPECIAL MENTION

We are extremely fortunate to have many willing and enthusiastic volunteers, but we have one guy who deserves a special mention. His name is Chris Fairfull. Chris is one of those rare people whose willingness to help is extraordinary. Chris would say, “Yes, I’ll do that”, before he even knows the task!



The Pump House Project benefits hugely by having Chris on board, not only is he prepared to ‘go that extra mile’, he does it with a smile on his face, Chris has many valuable skills and TPHP is very lucky to have him.

Thank you Chris.

Chris Fairfull

The Trustees

# Pumped up on soul music

A Saturday night in mid September saw the second Soul Night at the Pump House Project when the old theatre was transformed into a nightclub for an evening of non-stop classic soul music from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

The dancefloor was busy for almost all of the four hours as one familiar tune after another hit the floor - from Marvin Gaye to the Jacksons and Aretha Franklin with some Northern Soul classics sprinkled into the mix.

DJ Citizen Cane had a busy and enjoyable time on the decks with some welcome selections from Mike Wise and requests from the floor.

The evening was billed as a fundraiser for the Pump House Project itself and Root & Branch, the mental health therapeutic centre in Watchfield, and raised over £400 for the two good causes.

The good news is that due to popular demand there will be another one in a similar vein on Saturday 26th November. Publicity will be going out in October and tickets will be available in advance.

Thanks to all who came and enjoyed another fine night out in Faringdon.

You won't want to miss the next one in November.



Next date  
Sat 26  
November





## Urban Movement

On 24<sup>th</sup> September we see the return of Urban Movement; the only session of its kind in Oxfordshire. Come and join our mixed ability sessions, learning Parkour, Free running, Dance, Acrobatics and more.

*Led by Jonny Last, trained gymnast and circus skills instructor.*

These classes fill fast, so be sure to guarantee your place by block booking. Block bookings receive a discount, offering one session for free. Drop in sessions are available for £6 dependant on availability and are on a first come basis on the day.

## THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT TIMETABLE

<b>MONDAY</b>	DISCO DOTS	Second Monday of each month	09.30 - 11.00
	DEMENTIA CAFÉ	First & third Monday each month	10.30 - 12.00
	BODY FITNESS		7.00 - 8.00
<b>TUESDAY</b>	BABY SENSORY	Term time only	10.30 - 11.30
	CUBS	Term time only	5.45 - 7.15
	SCOUTS	Term time only	7.30 - 9.15
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	COMMUNITY CAFÉ		09.30 - 11.30
	COMMUNITY CROCHET	Term time only	09.30 - 11.30
	FARINGDON YOUTH SERVICES	Term time only	6.30 - 9.00
<b>THURSDAY</b>	FIT FOR LIFE		09.30 - 11.00
	BEAVERS	Term time only	5.15 - 7.15
	LATIN & BALLROOM DANCING		7.30 - 8.30
<b>FRIDAY</b>	PARENTS & CARER DROP IN	Term time only	09.00 - 10.30
	ROTAKIDS	Term time only	3.45 - 5.00
<b>SATURDAY</b>	URBAN MOVEMENT	Term time only	12.00 - 4.00

## FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL



“I find it difficult to describe this project in terms of the magnitude of its social impact, but I congratulate those who organised it and the mutual support from those involved in changing the lives of their companions”. I recommend this project without reservation”

**Dr Mike Wise. Mayor of Faringdon**



## Editors Comment

I hope you have enjoyed reading our first Newsletter, and maybe surprised that so much goes on at TPHP every week and throughout the year. Many thanks to those that have contributed.

The object of this newsletter is to raise awareness of our small but very active charity in Swan Lane, Faringdon, and to support the many organisations and clubs that operate from TPHP building. Please forward this Newsletter to your friends and family members, the more awareness of TPHP receives the better. We are compiling a rapidly growing email database, and with the help of social media such as Facebook, hopefully many 1000's will eventually read all about, and therefore be aware of TPHP.

This Newsletter comes in three formats, it is digitalised, where pages turn at the click of a button, in PDF which allows the use of iPads and smart phones, and an abridged printed version, which can be found in various public places around Faringdon and our surrounding villages.

The front page of our Newsletters will in future be designed and produced by the 6<sup>th</sup> form art students at Faringdon Community College, their involvement with TPHP is most welcome.

I would very much welcome feedback and your thoughts on this edition and how you think it could be improved. The next newsletter will be our winter edition, produced early January 2017, so the deadline for contributions will be Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

Please send your contributions and/or your feedback to me at:  
[editor@thepumphouseproject.co.uk](mailto:editor@thepumphouseproject.co.uk)



John Nightingale  
Trustee & Editor

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## The Object of the Charity

Taken from the Charities Constitution

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.



THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT  
SWAN LANE, FARINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE, SN7 7AF  
Registered Charity No. 1151905



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

