

Parklife

BIODIVERSITY WORK WINS AWARDS

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March 2022

Howbery Business Park - Wallingford

MARCH 2022

Parklife



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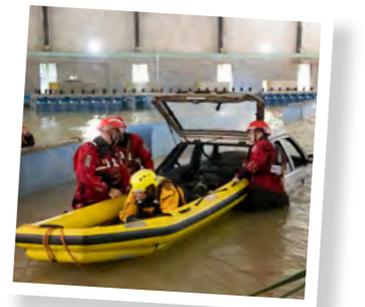
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Looking forward to more fun



It was so encouraging to see more people returning to the park during the summer and autumn. Omicron of course stopped that for a while but we hope that from now on we'll be seeing more activity on the park with the chance for some fun leisure activities.

We've already planned in dates for workshops run by Nurture Landscapes – see p11, having managed to restart them last year with honey extraction and wreath-making. The Howbery Park Sports and Social Association is also starting to think about the year ahead, and already planning some sporting activities. We've also just let out our allotments for the year.

We're planning to take part in the Treebilee to mark the Queen's 70th anniversary by planting an elm. Having been fortunate that our well established elm has not been struck by Dutch elm's disease, we hope that another elm will thrive on the park and help re-establish the species.

If you are out and about in the park, I hope you'll be able to spot some of the differences that the biodiversity programme is making. By focusing on a different area of wildlife each year, we are able to monitor our progress and

think that changes are becoming more visible to the casual observer. We've had reports of an owl perching on top of one of the boxes installed last year, for instance. It's also been a real joy to see how Puddleduck Nursery has organised some of its activities around our annual focus areas.

We've also been really pleased to welcome new tenants in the last months and to see You HR Consultancy and Ecoserv Group move to bigger premises on site. The park is now almost at full occupancy again.

Finally, the café is planning to treat your taste buds with some themed weeks – check out the plan on p9.

Donna Bowles, Estates Manager

Honey for sale

It's been a bumper year for honey, with our bees producing 130 jars.

We still have some for sale at £5 per jar (cash only). To purchase honey, please see Donna at the Estates Office.



New tenants

A warm welcome to our new tenants:

Mike Rattley of Geowynd

Ben Seymour of Vercel

Richard Harper of the Equipment Calibration Business

Environmental work earns innovation award

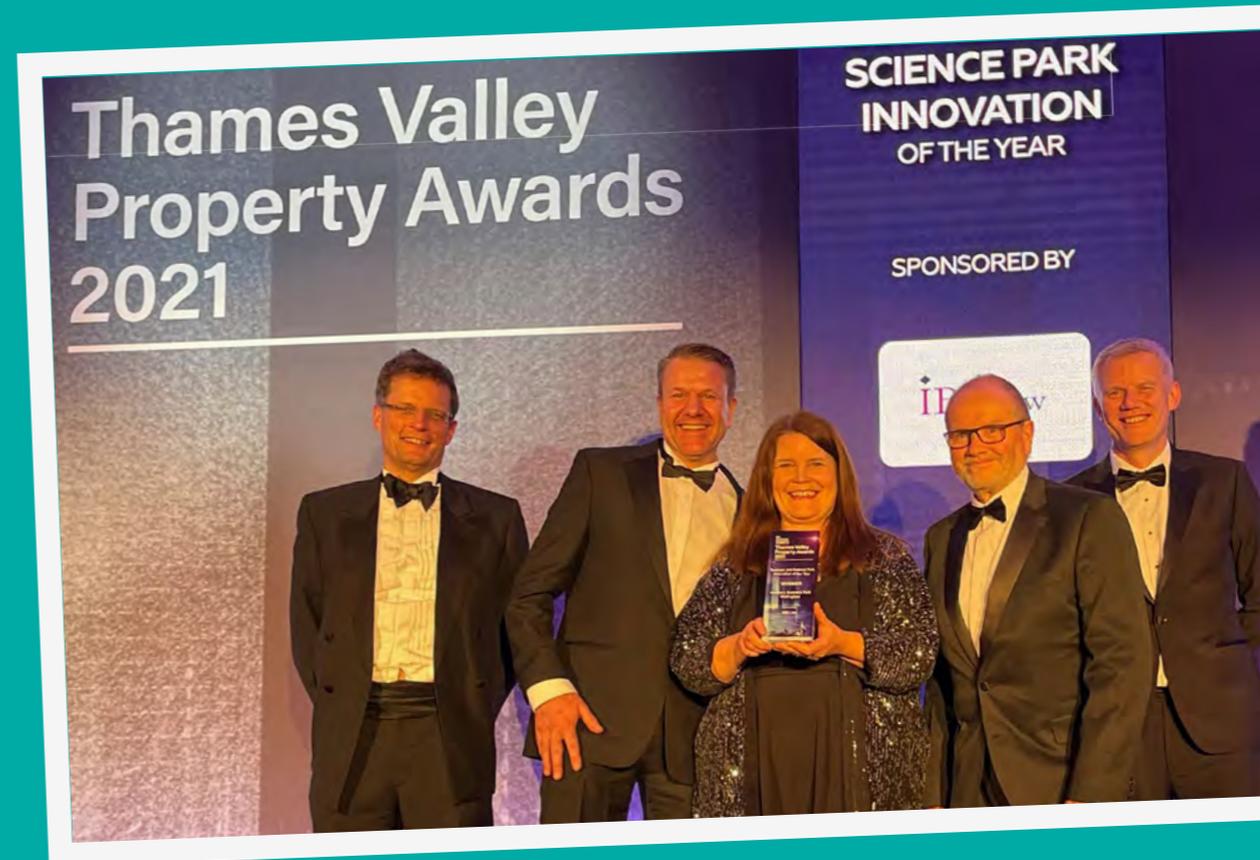
We won the Business and Science Park Innovation of the Year at The Business Magazine's Thames Valley Property Awards in recognition of our biodiversity and environmental programmes and work to create a sustainable environment.

Many of our recent initiatives have come under the Nurture Biodiversity Award scheme, for which we pick a different type of wildlife to focus on each year. We have completed one year of championing bumblebees and a second year focusing on birds. This year we will concentrate on hedgehogs.

In another eco-friendly move last year, we introduced battery powered equipment to reduce our fossil fuel consumption. This equipment can be charged directly from the park's solar panels, and is extremely quiet, making it less disruptive to wildlife.

Our programme of continued improvements for the natural world also includes adding new bug hotels, and taking measures to preserve and manage our many existing trees and plant new ones. The honey bees in our hives, which were introduced in 2016, are thriving, and we use their honey for certain dishes in the Manor Café.

"Our ethos has always been to make Howbery an attractive place to work and to tie this in with climate targets like net zero emissions," said Bruce Tomlinson, Chief Executive of HR Wallingford Group, which owns Howbery Park. "We were the first business park in the UK to have a solar farm and we are reducing our impact on the environment through initiatives on energy use, recycling and materials."



Receiving the award: (from left) Bruce Tomlinson, Paul Middleton, Donna Bowles, Mark Baxter and Graham Leeming.

Biodiversity initiatives recognised at National Landscape Awards

In partnership with our grounds maintenance team, Nurture Landscapes, we were winners at the 2021 BALI National Landscape Awards. The Nature Conservation & Biodiversity Enhancement category recognised our work to improve the biodiversity of the park.

Our participation in the Nurture Biodiversity Award scheme gives our work a clear structure, as we focus on one area of conservation each year. This is just the kicking off point for ongoing work in that particular area, which then continues. For instance, this year we have again taken part in the Big Garden Birdwatch.

In parallel to the award scheme, we continue to encourage biodiversity through a variety of other initiatives. For instance, to support our honey bees, Nurture Landscapes planted sainfoin near the hives last year. This plant is proven to be beneficial to the health of bees and other pollinators in reducing the impact of disease. As it produces high levels of nectar across a longer flowering period it attracts a wide range of bumble and honey bees, butterflies and other invertebrates.



At the Bali Award Ceremony: Estates Manager Donna Bowles with Nurture Landscapes' Robin Sergi (left) and Ben Nash.

Bird watch sightings

In January we took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch.

The top 10 sightings at feeding stations across the park over an hour were:

- 6 blue tits
- 6 robins
- 5 long tailed tits
- 5 redwings
- 4 wood pigeons
- 4 blackbirds
- 3 carrion crows
- 2 green woodpeckers
- 2 great spotted woodpeckers
- 2 nuthatches

Birds boxed off at Howbery

In recognition of completing a year of initiatives to support birds on the park, Nurture Landscapes presented us with a second inscription – the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) – on our Biodiversity Award.

Over the last 12 months, we have installed four bird feeding stations, monitoring stations, three tawny owl boxes and other new boxes for songbirds. We also participated in last year's Big Garden Birdwatch and surveyed the plants and trees in our grounds to check there are plentiful berries and grains for birds to feed on. By completing these initiatives we met criteria set out by Nurture Landscapes and the BTO.

The second inscription on the award, which has six petals, joins that of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust logo, which we earned the previous year for our work championing bees.

Nurture's Biodiversity Manager Simon Blackley said: "The year-by-year approach is giving real structure to Howbery's biodiversity work, and encourages everyone to think about the needs of one particular area of conservation for a year. I'm particularly encouraged to see the bird feeders next to the café's terrace, allowing people inside and out to observe the birds. This meets one of the aims of the scheme – to raise public awareness."

The focus year is just the starting point for ongoing work – we won't suddenly stop supporting them. This year we are planning to add more bird boxes and the Nurture Landscapes team will continue to monitor them. Already this year, they have spotted an owl on top of one of our new owl boxes. Plus we took part again in the Big Garden Birdwatch – see p5.



Front row (from left): Howbery Park's Operations Manager Mark Baxter, Estates Manager Donna with the Award. Back row (from left): Nurture Landscapes' Contracts Manager Robin Sergi, Biodiversity Manager Simon Blackley, and Howbery Technical Services Manager Paul Middleton.



Hedgehogs form spine of biodiversity scheme

We are quilled to be focusing on making our grounds hedgehog friendly this year, as our third year working on the Nurture Biodiversity Scheme.

We've got to work already, installing six new houses for hedgehogs, built for us by the Men's Shed charity plus another built by head gardener Ben on site. We've also put British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) stickers on our strimmers to remind the gardeners to check for hedgehogs before using them – as strimmers are often to blame for hedgehog injuries. We'll also be checking to ensure that they have a plentiful food supply in the park and safe corridors to travel through it. Our initiatives will be working towards criteria set out by Nurture Landscapes and the BHPS.

"Hedgehogs need support as their numbers have been dwindling over the years," Nurture's Biodiversity Manager Simon Blackley explained. "Their numbers dropped by about 70 per cent from the 1970s to the 1990s, and a further half of the population of native hedgehogs were lost from the British countryside over the last two decades. There are thought to be various reasons for their decline over the last decades: the removal of hedges from fields, a drop in the number of insects that they eat, and the combined use of pesticides, fertilizers and fungicides. Plastic litter is harmful to them too."



Robin and Ben from Nurture Landscapes install a hedgehog box.

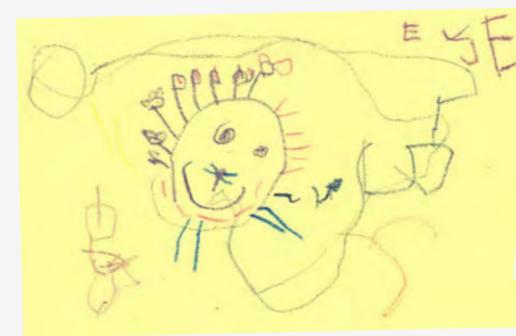


Children embrace the hedgehog theme

The children at Puddleduck Nursery have been drawing some great hedgehog pictures – following our theme to support the spiky creatures this year.

Our Estates Manager Donna Bowles was delighted to be asked to pick the winners – see below. “I’m really impressed with what they’d done, and delighted that the nursery is taking an interest in biodiversity,” she said.

The prize for the three winners is to put their handprints on a hedgehog box that we are placing in a woodland corner in the nursery’s outdoor area.



Menu themes at the Manor Café

The café is planning some tasty themes for the coming weeks. Here are just a few to mention:

- **7-13 March** is British Pie Week, where there will be a selection of meat and vegetarian pies on offer.
- **17 March** will have an Irish dish on the menu to celebrate St Patrick's Day.
- **12 April** will have a Chinese themed menu.
- **22-28 May** is British Sandwich Week and to mark the occasion there will be a special baguette filling each day.

There will also be some new baguette fillings appearing on the menu at other times.

The menu is updated daily – <https://manorcafeathowbery.touchtakeaway.net/menu> - and you can pre-order online too.

Who's who in the catering team

Our friendly catering team is a versatile bunch and, while they all have their main roles, they all chip in helping out when needed on the service counter or prepping in the kitchen.

Their main roles:

Mark Baxter, Operations Manager, has overall responsibility for catering, along with his other roles of managing security and cleaning on the park.

Alison Mitchell, Catering Manager, organises the team, sorts out catering-related admin and runs the operation.

Mark Harper, Head Chef, plans menus, orders supplies, organises deliveries and of course is in charge of the cooking.

Amy Allaway, Assistant Chef, preps in the kitchen, fills in for Mark as chef, is in charge of baking home-made cakes and runs the deli.

Dawn Robinson, Catering Assistant, spends most of her time on hospitality, providing the catering for meeting rooms in the Manor House, the conference centre, tenant offices and HR Wallingford's Kestrel Building.

Mel Thornton, Catering Assistant, is usually to be found behind the counter in the Café.



(From left): Dawn, Mark H, Mel, Mark B and Alison.

Solar charged tools cut emissions as well as greenery

Our grounds maintenance team, Nurture Landscapes, is now using battery powered equipment – which can be charged directly from the park’s solar panels – to reduce our fossil fuel consumption.

This new equipment is particularly useful as it is extremely quiet which makes it less disruptive to the wildlife. This also makes it ideal to use in areas of the park which are close to meeting rooms and offices.

The new additions to the park include electric hedge cutters, strimmers, leaf blowers and a Yamaha UMX Electric Utility Vehicle.



New battery powered equipment in use on the park.

Solar stats

Our solar farm produced 708,803kWh of electricity in 2021 with 116,691kWh being exported back to the National Grid.

These results compare with 2020 when we produced 824,163kWh of electricity with 196,960kWh exported back to the National Grid. In terms of the total electricity used on the park that was generated by our solar farm, the average was 26% in 2021, and 31% in 2020.

It’s not surprising that 2020 produced more power than last year, given that the Met Office recorded record sunshine values in two consecutive months in 2020 – April was the sunniest since 1929 and May the sunniest on record.

There’s been some record dull months in the last two years too. August 2021 which was the dulllest on record going back 60 years, and October 2020 was the fifth dulllest going back to 1929.

A drone view of our solar farm.





Nurture workshops are back

We restarted our workshops with Nurture Landscapes last year, kicking off with honey extraction in September.

It was a productive summer for our bees and we ended the event with 130 of jars of honey. We still have some available to buy for £5 each from Donna in the Estates Office (cash only) .

Tenants got into the festive spirit in December at the wreath-making workshop, creating some very impressive wreaths.

Looking ahead this year we already have dates in our diary for the next workshops:

- **Seed to plate – 6 April**
- **Honey bees for families – 13 April**
- **Hanging baskets – 8 June**
- **Honey bees for families – 13 July**

Details on how to sign up will be announced closer to the event.



Tenants have a go at extracting honey.



Making wreaths in December.

Unusual sightings on the park

There were some unusual sightings on the park last summer with the Nurture Landscapes team spotting a grass snake in the compost area, and a regular visitor chancing upon a seldom seen white-letter hairstreak butterfly.

The butterfly was spotted by Alan Brampton, who used to work for HR Wallingford and has been observing wildlife on the park for almost 50 years. The butterfly is so called because of the 'W' marking on the underside of its hind-wing. Its caterpillars feed on elm, so the species has had a harder time since the arrival of Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s. Luckily we still have a healthy elm in our grounds. Alan believes that the 'wilding' of parts of the grounds has greatly increased the diversity of butterflies and other insects.

An extra large bumblebee also arrived on the park with the installation of 'Hattie' the sculpture. A white tail bumblebee, she reflects our continued commitment to the conservation of bees. Nurture Landscapes created her using spare materials and an old boat propeller as wings.

Hattie, the Howbery bumblebee sculpture.



The white-letter hairstreak butterfly.



Snake in the compost.



Lawn turns into outdoor cinema

It was blue skies for Style Acre's outdoor cinema when the charity hosted screenings of The Lion King and Mamma Mia on the Manor House lawn.

The Lion King was open to everyone to come along for an afternoon of Disney fun, and Mamma Mia was an exclusive screening for Style Acre. It was an enjoyable way to spend a September afternoon, and there were popcorn and snacks too.





Newcomer strides over hurdles to profit

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic having complicated the setting up process for The Equipment Calibration Business, the company is now turning a profit and has settled on the park.

The company was set up in October 2019 by Phil Carter, David Castle, Richard Harper and Peter Green, with Richard as the sole director working full-time for it, initially from home. The immediate first hurdle for the company was to gain UKAS accreditation to enable it to provide calibration services to UKAS accredited test laboratories. The already lengthy process was further delayed because the first lockdown halted in-person visits, resulting in the company only receiving its first accreditation in July 2020.

Once the company gained an extension to its UKAS accreditation in October 2020, Richard started visiting clients across the UK to calibrate and service their Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) testing equipment – kit that ensures the safety of electrical and electronic devices used in commercial, industrial, automotive, military and aerospace industries by checking that they are not susceptible to electromagnetic interference.

The Equipment Calibration Business, however, suffered another blow in January 2021 when partner and joint founder Phil Carter passed away from Covid-19. An industry stalwart, the company had been his brainchild. He had suggested the idea to Richard who was seeking to return to work in EMC equipment calibration and testing, after having been made redundant.



Richard Harper in his new office.

“We made a great start in in our first year of working with new and existing clients, and I needed a more stable base with space to store equipment, so I moved into Howbery,” said Richard. “There is even space for my dog in the office – he sleeps happily under my desk and enjoys a walk in the grounds – and my brother is the café’s chef. I am hoping to add to our UKAS accreditation and then be able to move into a larger space on the park in two or three years’ time.”



Environmental organisation chooses Howbery with expansion in mind

Having navigated the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ecosystems Knowledge Network decided to move to Howbery Business Park to give it the flexibility to expand on site.

Through events and advice, Ecosystems Knowledge Network helps a diverse network of 3,000 professionals to learn from one another about harnessing the value of a restored environment to tackle challenges such as flood risk reduction and public health improvement. In the past year, its work has taken on an even greater importance and relevance.

During the pandemic, the independent charitable organisation has successfully adapted to hosting all its training courses and conferences online. While it could only accommodate around 200 attendees at face-to-face events, it has been able to welcome up to 1,000 attendees online.

In light of the growing demand for its services, the organisation was prompted to search for a more suitable location in which it could expand, which led it to Howbery Business Park.

"The park is the ideal place for us to grow," explains Bruce. "Its facilities cover all our potential expansion scenarios and gives us great flexibility for the future. We have been more productive since arriving at Howbery. The quietness of the grounds is a welcome change from the perpetual noise of the city as we can now work without disruptions. I also believe that the best meetings are not across a table but on a walk. At Howbery, we can meet people and have important discussions whilst we explore the beautiful grounds."



Howbery stalwart starts coaching in the park

Graham Watt, who has worked on the park for 20 years, is now offering professional life and career coaching here to help people make decisions and navigate change.

Coaching is now widely recognised as a powerful tool for professional and personal development. It offers a safe space to reflect and gain insight – to shine fresh light on your ambitions, explore options, and come up with a plan to bring them into reality; to realise your potential and generate the momentum that drives change.

My approach to coaching is based on integrity and connection. I hold powerful conversations that build confidence and produce results. And that are fun – after all, we're talking about building the future – it should be exciting! I take a holistic view of life and work, so I support wide-ranging conversations to serve personal as well as professional development.

Having worked at HR Wallingford, I am now at the Environment Agency where I also do some of my coaching, through Defra's internal network. I started coaching because I believe in the power of conversations, and noticed that I was using a coaching approach in my previous role as a team leader.

To expand my expertise, I've completed the Certificate in Professional Coaching Skills from Coaching Development, London - which is accredited by the International Coach Federation and have just started on the Diploma course.

In offering coaching sessions at Howbery, I'm keen to make use of the grounds. Why not try a walking session where we use the natural environment to refresh our spirits and stimulate new ideas?

If there's something that's bothering you, or that you're stuck with, get in touch and let's see what we can do to get you going again.

More details: mycoachgraham.com or email mycoachgraham@gmail.com.





Fire crews train in HR Wallingford facilities

HR Wallingford welcomed Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service to Howbery Park in November to host its water rescue training.

The firefighters spent a week in one of our basins, which are more usually used for global engineering projects. We generated waves to simulate flooding and open water conditions.

The service has previously used a number of open natural water courses such as lakes and rivers to train their crews in a wide range of environments that they are likely to encounter on emergency calls. However, with the increased risk of flooding in urban environments, the use of our facilities meant that conditions could be replicated to the service's specifications in order to safely carry out the training in a single location with a clean water source.

Their training covered two broad categories. The first was rescuing people or animals who have got into difficulty in water. The second was firefighter safety in and around water, teaching crews what to do in the event they fall in at an incident and need to rescue themselves.

One of the exercises carried out in the basin was to maroon a vehicle in the water and place a 'casualty' in it, who was then rescued by the crews. This simulated people being caught in a flash flood, a situation where it is extremely difficult to anticipate the depth and flow of flood water.



Fire crew rescue exercise.



Dengue-forecasting system racks up awards

Our dengue-forecasting system D-MOSS won a number of awards in 2021, including: the Computing's Digital Technology Leaders Awards, UK IT Industry Awards, and the E&T Innovation Awards.

Dengue fever puts almost half the world's population at risk. D-MOSS predicts where and when the mosquito-borne disease will strike so that its spread can be controlled. It uses earth observation data, combined with weather forecasting and hydrological modelling.

The system, hailed as a flagship project by the United Nations Development Programme, is fully operational in Vietnam and is being rolled out across a number of other Asian countries. It is funded by the UK Space Agency's International Partnership Programme, part of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's Global Challenges Research Fund.

Brunel Summer School returns to the park

We were delighted to welcome back Flood and Coastal Engineering degree students from Brunel University, having had to pause our annual summer schools in 2020.

The students learnt directly from our scientists and engineers, in classroom and practical sessions, using our state-of-the-art facilities to solve practical challenges. We also arranged field trips to encourage them to apply their learning in a real world context.



Students learn about the remote-controlled ARCboat.

Puddleduck Nursery focuses on birds

Puddleduck Nursery has been busy with bird-related activities over the last few months, fitting in with the park's focus on our feathered friends.

We wanted to make sure the birds and other wildlife in our gardens had enough food to get them through from January to the spring months. Ben, the park's head gardener, very kindly built us a bird table with some wood that was donated to us from local builder's merchants, Jewsons.

This then kick-started our mini-projects for both nursery and home. Our preschool children mixed seeds, meal worms and lard to make the birds some fat balls, and our toddler room made bird feeders to take home.

This got us thinking and we decided as a nursery to sign up and take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. For this we took our children out in groups on 28 January, around Howbery Park, to log down the birds that we saw.

We have very much loved learning about why it is important to feed our birds, what different types of birds we have, and exploring the park.

The children take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.





The benefits of undertaking HR audits

2022 has so much potential when considering how we move further out of lockdown and continue to adjust to new 'normal' ways of working.



When was the last time you audited your employee personnel files or wider human resources (HR) infrastructure? Are you comfortable with your level of grip and control when considering your future organisational development (OD) strategy and plans for growth and evolution?

These are common areas that we analyse through applying our expert audit tools for clients to ensure their employee and employer wants and needs are met and align to overall strategic goals.

We enable clients to pinpoint where they can be more efficient, increase productivity, gain competitive advantage as a model employer of choice, and attract / retain high performing talent.

Emerging trends continue around: enhancing health, wellbeing and employee engagement; advancing systems and digitalisation; development more strongly linked to meaningful appraisal systems; and much more.

Our work arising from the impact of Covid-19 had led us to critique our services and products, which in turn have: enhanced clients' abilities regarding flexible and agile ways of working; refined 'total reward' packages for employees; created more meaningful commitments to all aspects of equality, diversity and inclusivity; and upskilled those responsible for people management.

As a tenant at Howbery, we would like to support our neighbours and offer to help you focus for the year ahead by sharing our learnings in HR and OD that are common and relevant for any organisation – 'it's all about the people', as our strapline states.

We would welcome you getting in touch and visiting us at The Lodge. Let us provide our informed guidance for what you want to achieve within your organisation. You could even undertake our free HR Health Check.

Visit our website to complete the audit at <https://youhrconsultancy.co.uk> or email alice@youhr.co.uk to book a confidential, no obligation session with an expert member of our team.



Style Acre's plethora of events

Style Acre has a whole range of events, activities and fundraising taking place in 2022, in the wake of lots of activities last year.

After a difficult couple of years due to the pandemic, the events and fundraising calendar at Style Acre is back in full swing for 2022 and we would love to see lots of our Howbery Park community joining in. All our events are run to help us continue our work supporting people with learning disabilities and autism. Please do support us and come along where you can.

Our fun-packed events programme for the year ahead includes a Platinum Jubilee Celebration at Boundary Park, Didcot, a Masquerade Ball in October and of course our annual Santa Dash with lots more in between.

We are also entering into a range of events and activities across Oxfordshire and are looking for people to sign up and fundraise for us. The events include the Blenheim 7K in May, Bike Oxford in July and the Oxford Half Marathon in October. If you would like to take on a challenge this year and raise much needed funds to support people with learning disabilities and autism then get in touch with one of the fundraising team.

We would also love to speak to any team/company that would like support in organising and running their own fundraising events and/or getting involved in corporate volunteering and supporting.

To get in touch with Style Acre about events, fundraising and volunteer opportunities, please email Anne-Marie Hicks, Fundraising and Marketing Manager on community@styleacre.org.uk or call 01491 827593.

Full details of all our events and fundraising activity once confirmed will be available on our website www.styleacre.org.uk and social media channels.



Looking back over 2021

Style Acre runs three community hubs which are subsidised through fundraising. One hub (Turnstyle) is based here in Howbery in the Evenlode building, with main offices upstairs. The other two are in Didcot (T2) and Banbury (SABRe). We also have a shop in Wallingford and a tea room in Blewbury, which offer work placement opportunities for the people we support.

After emerging from lockdowns in early 2021, our day hubs gradually restarted many old and new activities. By the summer months people were raring to get back out into the world and started back in activities such as bowling, swimming, karate, horse riding and, importantly for so many, seeing friends. The summer was full of wonderful trips to wildlife parks, the seaside, and waterparks. Dancing and creativity also came back in a big way with Turnstyle resuming its music and dance session.



Ways to Wellness

There has been a lot going on over the past year at Style Acre to help boost everyone's health and happiness.

We've organised activities such as tennis, football, canoeing and gym tasters. We have also shared healthy eating recipes, trained staff in good nutrition and connected with nature and grown our own produce.

All the people that we support were also given a wellness journal which has monthly themed activities that bring people together virtually and in real life. We've also seen Ways to Wellness buddies build their friendships and we have increased our focus on mental and emotional health.



There has been a lot of growing, moving, nourishing and connecting happening. We are also excited to be planning our first ever Wellness Festival in July 2022.

For more information about health and wellbeing at Style Acre and how you could get involved, contact Anita Powell at apowell@styleacre.org.uk.

A breath of fresh air

Yasmin Strong from Grace and Gravity Studio highlights the importance of finding time to pause and breathe. A moment to slow down and re-assess.

We're fortunate to be based on this beautiful park. A serene setting which showcases natural beauty and wildlife all year round. So, when I need some headspace, I'll do one of two things: walk around the stunning grounds or hit the yoga mat to work away some of my tension. Both work wonders in different ways, both are mindful exercise, and both allow me to pause and breathe.

Connecting with your breath is so important for staying calm. Deep breathing increases the supply of oxygen to your brain and stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system, which promotes a state of relaxation. Breathing techniques help you feel connected to your body; they bring your awareness away from the worries in your head and quieten the mind. While there is a wealth of breathing techniques to explore in yoga practice, try simply breathing in for a count of four and out for a count of eight. This focus on the exhale is soothing on the nervous system, leaving us feeling more grounded.

So, whether you have 20 minutes free before work or want to switch off after a difficult day, we urge you to find time to breathe, or to make time in your schedule for a short walk outside or a yoga practice to help you hit reset. Your mind and body will thank you for it.

Grace and Gravity Studio runs yoga, wellbeing, and circus classes inside and in the grounds at Howbery. www.graceandgravity.studio



Association supports net zero health service

As sustainability takes ever greater prominence within our lives, The Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI) is supporting moves towards a net zero health service.

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) was a significant juncture for sustainability. Not only was it the first COP to be held in the UK, but it also resulted in key commitments to reduce carbon emissions across multiple sectors. In healthcare, a joint letter of commitment was signed by ABHI, and a group of CEOs from industry, trade associations and partner bodies, to support a net zero health service. This will see work in conjunction with the NHS, which, in 2020, set out its ambition to become the world's first carbon net zero national health system by 2045.

The letter recognises the role the health technology (HealthTech) industry must play in supporting the response to climate change, but also notes that tackling this agenda is complex. We know that improvements in the supply chain are a factor in reducing emissions, but, equally, technology has a significant role to play in delivering healthcare in a more sustainable way. Technology-enabled remote-care delivery and patient monitoring, for example, can help avoid unnecessary journeys and hospitalisation.

There are over 4,100 HealthTech companies in the UK, supplying a range of products from syringes and wound dressings to surgical robots and digitally enhanced technologies, with the vast majority of these companies classed as small and medium sized businesses. Changes to supply chains or manufacturing processes can be particularly costly to smaller businesses, while the challenge for larger companies can be sustainable reporting across multiple countries, as part of complex supply chains.

ABHI is therefore commencing a piece of work with the advisory firm Arup, to create a framework for HealthTech companies to use and apply to their own businesses. Not only will it inform ABHI's work going forward, but it will further establish a deep understanding of the issues critical to HealthTech amongst the ABHI team, that can be used to support the industry. This project has been funded directly by some members of the ABHI Board, which not only demonstrates the importance of the sustainability agenda, but is a strong indication of their leadership on behalf of ABHI's wider membership. To further support this work, ABHI is also recruiting a full-time sustainability executive to join the team.





News... News... News

A Note From The Editor:



Keep us posted – to include your news and stories in Parklife, please email them to me, Donna Bowles d.bowles@howberypark.com

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