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Deadline date to submit: 8th February

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Cover photo: Photo of alpaca at Bishops Court Farm, Dorchester

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Adverts will continue to run unless cancelled.

Hello Everyone.

Welcome (or should that be WOWcome?) to February's edition of Window on Wallingford.

This month on **page 5** the **Mayor Cllr Marcus Harris** gives us an update of Wallingford Town Council news.

It's a Busy Spring at **The Wallingford Bookshop!** See **page 5**.

Meanwhile, if you are planning a spring clean and want to sell your second hand bike whilst also helping a local charity you can find out more on **page 7**.

On **page 7**, **Homebase Property** have moved location and look forward to welcoming you to their new office.

Talking of moving, **AGE UK**, **The Young at Heart Club** are moving to a new venue in Wallingford, find out where on **page 10**.

Wallingford Volunteer Drivers are recruiting, could you help? **page 15**.

If you are looking for some Bordeaux-fuelled-inspiration **Grape Minds (page 19)** have a special offer for all you WOW readers!

Happy New Year – if it's not too late to say that!

Chris xx

Thank you to all of you who replied with lovely photos to Naomi's request ...you can see a selection on **page 17**.



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Message from the Mayor



Wallingford
Town Council

Well what a year! We started 2022 as we finished 2021 with the threat of Covid hanging over us and as the year unfolded, that started to recede to something more manageable but has yet still taken its toll on us all.

With this disruption, my Councillor colleagues offered me the chance to remain as Mayor for another year which I have enjoyed greatly and which concludes in May when we have full Town Council elections.

This year has seen us reshape the way our Council operates and start to lay the ground work for redeveloping the Regal, refurbishing the Town Hall and supporting the Bull Croft Working Party to build an exciting new play area, pavilion and steps/bridges that protect our historic ramparts in the Bull Croft.

In the last 18 months the new Town Clerk has reorganised and built an amazing team to work on Community, Tourism, Business Development, Parks & Estates, Meetings, Grant Applications, Administration, Finance, Events, Town Information and a lot more. I hope in 2023 you will find us even more open to conversations about how this town progresses, celebrates, works and plays.

There are elections in May next year and we are keen to attract a good selection of residents to stand for office. If you have a view on how this town should be run or how we spend your money then why not come along and see what it's all about?

Town Council is a purely voluntary, non-political group of residents who give a minimum of one Monday a month to town matters, although there is a lot more to do if anyone fancies a challenge. Wallingford elects 16 councillors every four years and one of those becomes Mayor for the year. We are planning an open day in the new year where you can meet some of the existing councillors and see if it might be something for you.

In the meanwhile, on behalf of all the Wallingford Town team and Councillors, may I take this opportunity to wish you a all a very prosperous and peaceful 2023.

Cllr Marcus Harris (Mayor of Wallingford)

It's a Busy Spring at The Wallingford Bookshop!

Spring is traditionally 'a time of plans and projects,'* and the bookshop is no exception. We have lots of fun planned!

Book Club

Our friendly book club takes place on the last Monday of each month at the wonderful Wallingford Tearoom. Oxford author, Simon Mason, joined us on 30th January to discuss *A Killing in November* and its sequel, *The Broken Afternoon*, which is published on 2nd February. Our next meeting is on **Monday 27th February**, when we'll be discussing *Leviathan*, by Rosie Andrews, Historical fiction with just a touch of gothic magic, perfect for those dark February evenings. Pop into the shop to find out more, or to pick up your copy of the book with some goodies!

A Complicated Matter - Event with Anne Youngson in March (Date TBC)

Anne Youngson is the author of the Costa First Book Award-shortlisted *Meet Me at the Museum*; BBC Radio Book Club pick, *Three Women and a Boat*; and the story collection, *The Six Who Came to Dinner*. Her new novel *A Complicated Matter*, is an astonishingly wry, observational tale of Rose Dunbar, who is evacuated from McPhail's Passage in Gibraltar to Kensington's Grand Palace Hotel in 1939. Thrown into a foreign country in the midst of war, Rose has to find her own way and discover where she truly belongs. This will be ticketed event. Anne will talk about the role Gibraltar played in the war, and the inspiration behind her book, and is happy to answer questions and sign copies of this beautiful meditation on what it takes to find our place in the world. Pop in or email us to book tickets and reserve your place.

World Book Day – 2nd March

It's time for us to draw straws to find out which lucky team member gets to construct the World Book Day cardboard bookshelf (which is the cause of much mithering from the team to much amusement of many of our customers). We're looking forward to visiting some wonderful local schools this year to run book fairs and chat to pupils about the amazing World Book Day books (and of course books in general). We'll also be swapping World Book Day tokens for Word Book Day books in the shop, so pop in with your token and pick up a little magic!

*Leo Tolstoy – *Anna Karenina*

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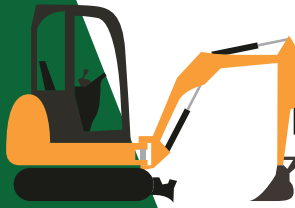
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Secondhand Bike Sale



We are looking for any donations for our **Massive Secondhand Bike Sale on Sunday May 14th 2023** as part of **Wallingford Car Rally**. If you have a bike that you would like to donate then please contact me and I will arrange to have it collected from you. We accept children's and adult bikes, scooters, bike accessories, wheeled toys etc.

If you have a bike you would like to sell then bring it along to the Kinecroft on the morning between 9.00am and 10.30am. You will get 75% of the selling price and The Treehouse School will get 25% if it sells.

If it doesn't sell it costs you nothing. If you are looking to buy a bike put the date in your diary!

More details from joryman@btinternet.com • 07747801264

HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Spring is starting and the days are getting longer. At the Henley stamp club, we are preparing for our annual auction where you will be able to obtain fantastic material. This year we can proudly announce that we have over 800 lots of excellent quality. Come along to our preview meeting on **February 22nd 2023** for what will be auctioned on **March 8th**.



To learn more about stamps and postal history why not visit us at Bix one Wednesday evening? You can then meet people who find postal history and the story of stamps fascinating too.

Wednesday 8th. February – We have a guest speaker to show aspects of "Tasmania"
Wednesday 22nd. February – Pre-view evening for the auction on the 8th. March evening.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Further details can be obtained by phoning Brian on **01491 681739** or on our website www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

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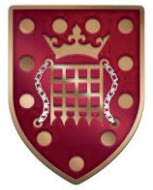
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High Steward of Wallingford's Award for Community Service



As High Steward of Wallingford I am delighted to request nominations for an award that recognise the outstanding contribution made by an individual or an organisation in establishing, maintaining and promoting the highest standards of community service in Wallingford.

The individual or organisation must be able to demonstrate that they have made an outstanding contribution which benefits residents and the community of Wallingford. They need not themselves live or be based in Wallingford, but the benefit from their work should be shown for a sustained period in the town. Nominations should describe how the nominee has addressed values such as (but not exclusively); helping the disadvantaged, promoting inclusivity and participation in community life, and supporting Wallingford as a town which encourages vibrant community activities.

Nominations should, as far as possible, be from a member of the public independent of the person/organisation being nominated, but where this is not practicable, the person making the nomination must make clear their relationship to the nominee. Self-nominations are not allowed. A nomination statement should be no longer than 500 words and may contain referees. Where referees are included, it is the responsibility of the person making the nomination to ensure that permission has been obtained from the referees for them to be contacted.

Nominations should be posted to the **Town Council at 8a Castle Street, Wallingford OX10 8DL** or sent by email to **senioradmin@wallingfordtowncouncil.gov.uk**. In both cases they should be clearly marked **'For the attention of the High Steward'**.

This is an annual award. For the 2022 award, nominations are requested by Monday 3rd April 2023 and the winner will be notified by Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

Ken Lester

Sign up for low-cost broadband – Citizens Advice tip

Citizens Advice Henley has expressed concern that people in need are not taking advantage of cheap broadband and mobile phone schemes set up specially to help them.

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Statistics show that only 1.2% of those eligible to register for these low tariffs have done so, although they could save over £100 a year.

Social tariffs are provided in the same way as normal phone and Internet packages, but at a lower price. Network providers liaise with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to ascertain customers' eligibility, and the DWP is required to provide only the necessary information, so that personal information remains safe.

At the time of writing, not all telecom companies offer social tariffs but it is possible for those who qualify to switch to a supplier that does provide them. The usual fees for switching contracts, leaving a contract early or terminating them have in many cases been scrapped for those on benefits who qualify for these tariffs – but check with your supplier to make sure.

More information is available on the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk or you can call Adviceline on 0808 278 7907. You can also go to www.gov.uk and search for "cheaper broadband" or to www.ofcom.org.uk (search "social tariffs").

Scouts 

Scout Christmas Postal Service 2022

Thank you to all that kept us busy delivering your local cards. We had another successful year delivering over 2500 cards and raising over £1000 to be shared by the local groups involved. We look forward to providing the service next Christmas.

Very best wishes for 2023 from all of us at 2nd Wallingford Scouts.

The Young at Heart club are moving to a new venue in the dining room at the back of the Dolphin Pub, 2 St Mary's Street, Wallingford. Our last meeting at the Masonic Hall in Goldsmith's Lane where the club has been for many years, will be on 14th February. We would like to say Thank you very much to the Masonic Hall committee for hosting us.

The Dolphin pub has been supporting the club for the last few years by hosting our Christmas lunch, providing staff at the Jubilee party we held in the summer and serving tea and coffee for the club members every month. They have now offered us a lovely room in which to meet, chat and be entertained in and we will be moving there from 14th March.



Why not come along and join in – **we meet 2.00- 4.00pm** for an hour of a speaker or entertainer, have a break for tea/coffee and a chat and then finish with a raffle and Bingo. We are a friendly group who welcome new people over the age of 50. It's pay as you go, £3.50 and **we meet once a month on the second Tuesday of the month**. Hope you can join us!

If you would like any further information, please ring Rachel Poole, Age UK Oxfordshire on 07827 235460.

Riverside Repair Café, Saturday 18th February, 10am-1pm

If you have something broken or needing repair, and would like help learning how to repair it*, you are welcome to bring it to the third Riverside Repair Café, **Saturday 18th February, 10am-1pm**, in the garden of **Eastgate House, 1 High Street, Wallingford**. Access is via the Green Door opposite the Boat House pub, just next to Wallingford Bridge. Volunteer repairers will be there rain or shine to help you with your repairs: Woodwork, Sewing, Sharpening, Bicycles, Small Electricals, China, etc. Light refreshments available. The garden allows plenty of space for social distancing and gazebos let us get on with the repairs rain or shine.



www.facebook.com/groups/RiversideRepairCafe

* Have something fixed that would otherwise go to landfill and learn a new skill at the same time. Please note all repairers/teachers are volunteers, so all repairs are free, but with no guarantees of success.

British Modern Military History Society

Village Hall in Woodcote starting at 7.30pm.

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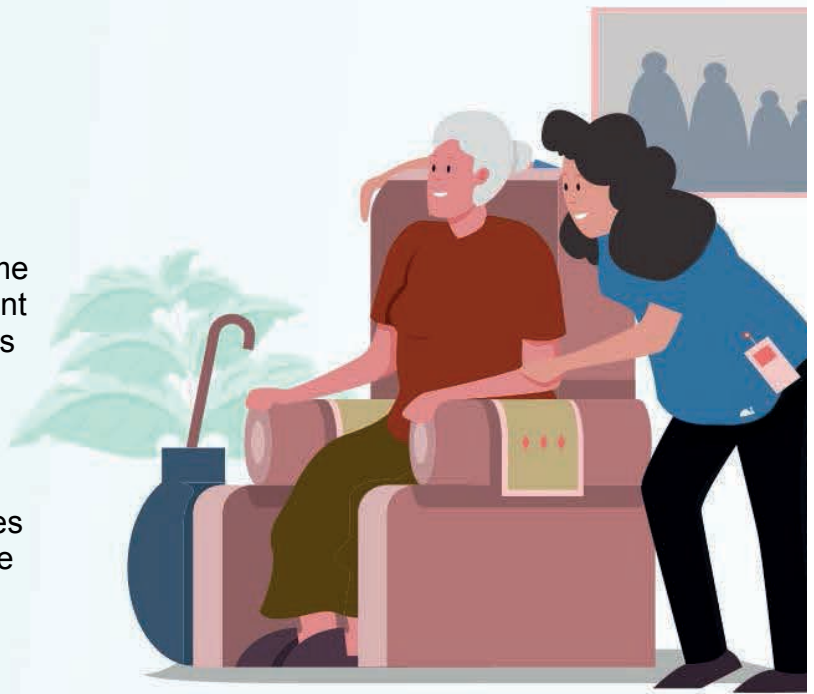
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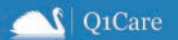
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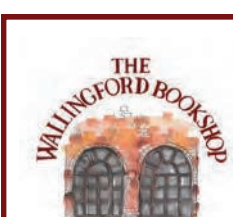


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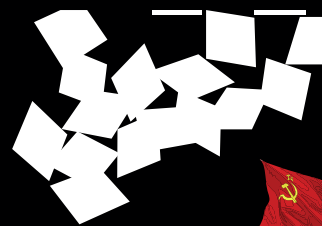
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*** Special celebration of 25 years of Midsomer Murders with an episode filmed in the Corn Exchange in 1997. This is a Free Film courtesy of the President of the Sinodun Players, John Warburton**

Wallingford Country Market

It's Seville Orange Marmalade time at Wallingford Country Market, one of our bestselling preserves, which will be on sale from February along with all our other regular products.

Country Markets, BAKE, CRAFT, GROW and orders can be placed for most items sold. If you haven't already done so, please come and visit us one Friday morning between 9.30 a.m. – 12 noon in St. Mary-le-More Church situated behind the Town Hall. You may be surprised at what you will find.

We are always looking for new producers to enhance the variety of what we have to offer. If you have any of the above skills and would like to join our team we would love to hear from you. Bakers and Gardeners in particular would be much welcomed.



Please contact our Market Manager, Alison Broadbridge, (01491-681596) for further information, or pop into market one Friday morning and speak with her, or any of the producers.



WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

We urgently need more volunteer drivers - could you help?

Could you start the New Year by becoming one of our volunteer drivers?

At present we are concentrating solely on medical appointments for clients who are unable to use public transport and don't have access to personal transport. Most of our journeys are to Oxford, Reading and Wallingford Community Hospital and medical practice. For the past few months we have also been taking people to other hospitals in Oxfordshire and Berkshire because, in their efforts to catch up with the backlog of treatments, the NHS has started holding additional clinics in other medical facilities in both counties.

As a volunteer driver you will be asked to drive a client to their medical appointment, stay with them for the duration of their appointment and take them home. We don't ask volunteers for a regular commitment and there will be no pressure to take on a particular drive. You will receive a mileage allowance for each journey.



If this appeals to you and you'd like to know more about our organisation and the work we do, please email to arrange a meeting wallingford.volunteer.drivers@gmail.com There is no obligation to take it further if you decide it's not for you.

Do you need help?

If you have no access to personal or public transport we may be able to help. If you or someone you know needs to visit your local GP, dentist, podiatrist, optician or a medical facility out of Wallingford, do call on **01491 836345** and we will do our best to assist.

We are based in the Methodist Church and open Monday to Thursday 9.30am - 11.30 am

We look forward to hearing from you

Sylvia Wear, Manager
www.wallingfordvolunteerdrivers.co.uk



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One of the key aims of the u3a movement is to provide opportunities for people to socialise and make new friends. Our monthly coffee mornings are very popular and we had rather outgrown our previous venue. At the suggestion of a new(ish) member we moved the venue to the Methodist Church in St. Leonards Square on a trial basis. This has proved so successful and popular that we have now decided to make this a permanent move.



The new year has started with quite a number of people joining us, and benefiting from paying no subscription until our renewals in April. Despite recent inflation we are hopeful that we can keep this at the current amount for another year.

The annual "Celebration Lunch" was very successful and this year's outings will commence with a visit to the tank museum at Bovington. Trips to Chelsea Hospital and Highclere Castle will follow this. During the past year our talks have covered a wide variety of subjects including history, wildlife, fashion and poisons. This year promises to be just as interesting and varied. Our talk on 15 Feb will be about the music of Gilbert and Sullivan and on the following month the wicked wit of Winston Churchill.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the 1st Friday of the month from 10.30am to noon and are an opportunity for members to get together, and for potential members to find out about our activities. Our speaker meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday at St. Mary-Le-More church at 2pm.

To find out more about this u3a please visit our website at: www.wallingfordu3a.org where you will find contact links.

WHAT'S ON!

Books and Pancakes at Wallingford Methodist Church

Come and enjoy pancakes and grab some book bargains on Saturday February 25th.

The annual giant book sale takes place at Wallingford Methodist Church Centre from 10 am to 1 pm.

The freshly made pancakes will be served with various fillings.
Gluten and dairy free options will be available at the centre in St Leonard's Square.

Warm space/lunches Methodist Church

A freshly cooked 2 course meal will be on offer at Wallingford Methodist Church on Tuesday 7th followed by the opportunity to chat, play games or do puzzles.

On subsequent Tuesdays in February hot drinks and soup will be available, for donations, for anyone wanting a warm place to enjoy games, puzzles and company between midday and 4 pm at A Place to Be, at the church in St Leonard's Square.

Lunch on the 7th will be served from 12.30 pm for a small charge and diners are welcome from 10.30 am.
For further details see wallingfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

Treehouse School 5k, 10k and Family Run - Sunday March 26th 2023

Looking for a challenge for 2023? Train for the Treehouse School 5k or 10k run, set in an around the village of Cholsey, Oxfordshire. The course is almost entirely off-road. The full 5k and 10k route are shown on the website. We use chip-timing, hand-made wooden medal and offer to plant a tree or to give a t-shirt to all pre-registered runners.

Trophies are awarded to the first three male and female in the 10k, as well as the fastest male and female in the 5k.
For more details or to book your place, or if you would like to volunteer, visit <https://treehouse10k.org.uk/>

Wallingford & District Art Club

Wallingford & District Art Club will be holding an AGM on **Tuesday February 21st** which will be followed by an illustrated talk by **Robert Kidner on 'Art and the night'**, a talk that promises to be entertaining as well as informative. So, although we have no live demo this month, this will still be an opportunity to meet fellow art enthusiasts and maybe decide to join this friendly club. Also, you may be interested in an upcoming Saturday workshop in March which will be on painting landscapes in oil or acrylic, tutored by guest artist Paul Oakley. Numbers are limited, so for further information or to enquire about availability please contact admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk. Information on club activities for the coming year will also be available on our website at www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk

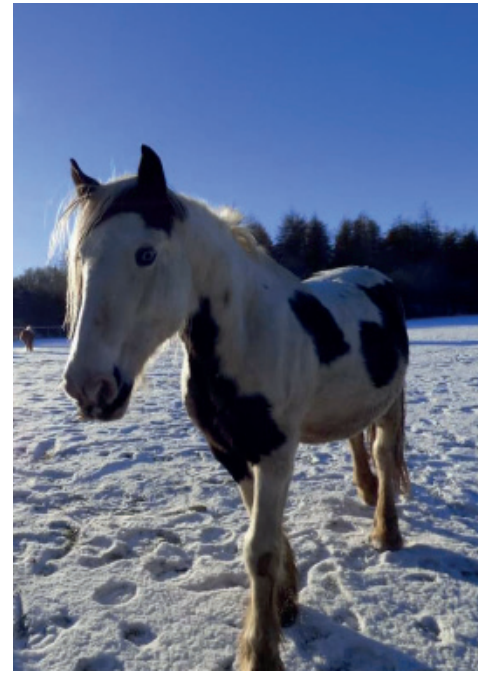
Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club continues into 2023 with a mix of online and in-person meetings (the latter at Crowmarsh Pavilion). Our inclusive club allows people of all ages and levels of experience to learn how to improve their photography through conversations with other members, presentations by visiting speakers, practical evenings and competitions. The club meets **every Thursday at 7.30pm for an 8pm start** (7.45pm start on competition evenings and online sessions).

In February Stephen Ball takes us on a virtual trip to Scotland in a Zoom only session (on 2nd). On the 9th we enjoy a popular members' evening entitled 'you are the judge' where we gather at the Pavilion to appraise a set of members' images, and experience what it's like to be a judge by critiquing and scoring them. Then it's our turn for real on the 16th where the seasons' themed competition takes place, with the topic for this year being "Action". On 23rd we're online again to learn from J P Stones 'Storytelling for photographers'; how to get narrative into our images.

St Mary's Church, Health Information Morning

... Please reserve the morning 25 March 2023 in your diary to come to St Mary's Church for the Health Information Morning involving many organisations, arranged by the Wallingford Patient Participation Group. More details next month.



Benson Garden Club

On Thursday 5th January, Benson Garden Club held its AGM, followed by a talk given by award winning garden designer Christine Gibbs. At the AGM, the Chair's report provided an encouraging summary of how the club had managed to resume a full programme of speaker events and garden visits following Covid restrictions being lifted. We also introduced some new initiatives in 2022, including a seed swap and a "Flower of the Month" competition (both for members only).

Christine's talk was on "Gardening with the Environment in Mind". This topic was a great start to the year, inspiring us to change our perspective on how we garden and, in a sustainable way, encourage wildlife into our gardens. Christine provided many suggestions which could have a positive impact. Creating lots of different habitats, recycling wherever possible, ensuring winter refuges for wildlife and not wasting resources on buying plants ill-suited to your garden's conditions were all suggestions to make our gardening both more sustainable and fulfilling.

Our next talk on Thursday 2nd February will be by Charlotte Popescu on the topic "In Praise of Apples". Charlotte is an experienced gardener, writer (including author of "The Apple Cookbook") and publisher.

Then on Thursday 2nd March, Pip Smith will give a talk on "Nuts about Narcissus". A landscape architect with over 13 years' experience working as a professional horticulturist, Pip has held the post of Head Gardener at several private and public gardens, most recently at the highly acclaimed Wollerton Old Hall in Shropshire.

On 30th March, Michael Holland will give a talk from his "Tales From the Fruit Bowl", titled "Saucy & Spicy" (focusing on the nightshade family). Michael is a writer, lecturer and author with a 25-year career at the renowned Chelsea Physic Garden in London.

For all three talks our venue will be Benson parish hall. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start (£2 for members, £5 for visitors – just turn up on the door, no need to book). We will also have our "Flower of the Month" competition (for members only).

Further information about this thriving club, which has been running for over 25 years, and how to join as a member can be found on our website bensongardeningclub.weebly.com or please feel free to email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

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Wallingford Wine of the Month – Château La Brande Bordeaux



February is the shortest month: occasionally frozen, sometimes romantic, but crucially absolutely not Dry January. Not that I'd advocate dry January – drink less but better seems a much happier mantra! In any case, this is the 15th column I've written for Window on Wallingford and to my great shame it's the first red Bordeaux we've featured. Time to right a wrong...

Now, if you don't know Bordeaux, there is a chance it comes with preconceptions: maybe expensive, possibly underwhelming and almost certainly complicated. There are good reasons for this – the region comes with a sense of exclusivity, yet it produces more wine than South Africa. Cabernet Sauvignon in particular needs expert handling and careful winemaking to avoid an excess of tannin and acid.

Some of the wine produced is ultra-expensive, capable of ageing for decades, but increasingly the most regarded are also the preserve of the very wealthy. Alongside these, there is the extraordinarily basic, whose principle selling point is the word Bordeaux on the label, with little else to love. However, Bordeaux is also the birthplace of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Semillon and (probably) Sauvignon Blanc. Ignoring the extremes, the region produces a stellar range of white, red, rosé and sweet wines, and the great majority of them are reliable and very reasonably priced.

One such wine is the Château La Brande, a real highlight of the Grape Minds range, and a long-running favourite of mine. Situated in Castillon, just outside the prestigious Grand Crus of St Emilion, it's a long, hilly clay vineyard, rolling south through trees towards the Dordogne. The sunny aspect, cool soils and mineral-rich soils lend the juice a warm, intense flavour, and the careful, low-intervention winemaking gives complexity and depth to the wine. 12 months in old French oak softens the tannin, giving the wine an appealing approachability. Expect dark fruit flavours, hints of cedar on the nose, mouth-filling complexity and a long, elegant finish.

I love this kind of wine. It's affordable and drinkable enough that you can open it on a whim for a weeknight treat, but it's refined enough to impress at the smartest dinner party. Reliably delicious, sophisticated, but lovable by everybody, it's everything Bordeaux ought to be. Try it now for a wintry treat, or serve with big earthy flavours and find out why Bordeaux holds such a special place in British hearts.

Michael Jelley is the Director of Grape Minds Wallingford



Producer: Château La Brande • Grapes: Famille Todeschini • Region: Castillon, Bordeaux, France

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