

ANTIQUES @ THE GEORGE

A Renovation Tale By Local People.

Lockdown hit *Antiques @ The George* just as it did all other shops in Burford but, determined to convert a negative into a positive, we took lockdown as an opportunity to undertake things we could never attempt normally seeing that we are always open seven days a week. The decision was taken to extend our period of closure in order to fully refurbish the shop and I am delighted to say that *Antiques @ The George* will be re-opening with its new look on 1 October. Hopefully, this will help with the process of bringing the High Street back to life and back to its previous bustling self.

I am grateful to the many local firms that have contributed towards our newly refurbished shop and I would like to publicly thank them via The Bridge.

Logistically, as an antiques centre, we display a vast array of items so the first job was for our various dealers to remove their stock, one at a time to avoid contact with each other. After that, Pete Garratt, a local painter, has had the run of the building for several weeks affording him the time to refresh the whole shop. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to him for patiently working around the empty cabinets that we moved from A to B to C and back again so he could reach all the walls.



Inevitably, some jobs could not be undertaken until skilled trades resumed business after lockdown and, as I write this, we are now in the last stages of carpet fitting and finally having our proper front door back - a replacement for the door that was smashed by burglars what now seems like a world away, last December. It was bespoke and had to be copied and handmade by Oak Windows and Doors of Milton. Simon, and his retired father Dennis, deserve special mention here because they responded immediately when we had our burglary, providing a robust temporary front door within hours of the break-in which we have used for the last eight months. Old buildings are wonderful and *The George* at 500 years old is no exception but they are quirky and can be tricky to deal with. The Carpet Options team, armed with huge rolls of carpets, wisely suggested that floorboards in two rooms needed attention before any fitting and I was faced with having to stand them down after eight weeks of

waiting. But the beauty of local tradespeople is that they frequently 'know someone who can'. Our favourite carpet fitter, Nod, of some twenty-plus years standing, was immediately phoning around and within the day I had a quote and a booking to undertake the work next day. Huge thanks are due to Piers and Tom of Pethers for such a timely rescue! Not to mention all those empty, but still heavy, display cabinets which had to be lifted umpteen times for floorboarding and carpeting. Nobody ever complained!

Our last jobs now include having protective Perspex screens installed at both tills by ShopShields whose screens at Reavley's Chemist shop so impressed me. Also, investigating how best to deal with necessary repairs to our chimney which, inexplicably, is situated not in our roof but in Huffkins's roof, next door! Once again, neighbourly cooperation plus local skills from Henry at Walker's Stoves will prevail. It's good to have such a 'can do' community spirit here in Burford.

After that, my wonderfully patient antiques dealers will be able to restock their units and get back to doing what they love best. Namely, using their knowledge and expertise to buy wisely so that the shop can return to being one of the most affordable antiques centres in the Cotswolds. It will certainly be the cleanest and brightest! We look forward to seeing and chatting to all our locals and our other regular customers again in October.

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MARY HANNAH

We are sorry to report the death of Mary Hannah.

Mary and her late husband, John, were much-loved members of the community in Burford.

Her funeral took place at the church of SS John Fisher and Thomas More on 4 August.

We hope to publish a tribute to her in a future edition.
Editors

THE BRIDGE TIMETABLE AND CONTACTS

The closing date for entries to the editorial sections of the magazine is 10th of the month preceding publication. Please send articles and information to:

editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk

Alternatively, you can leave letters and articles at Burford News for us to collect.

Advertisements need to be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication. Please contact:
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