

IN BRIEF

Green theme for market

WALLINGFORD: There will be a special environmental and energy-saving theme to the next Wallingford Local Producers' Market in the Masonic Hall in Goldsmiths Lane on Saturday. Local green groups will have stalls at the market, along with energy-saving advice and equipment. The market is open between 10am and 1pm.

Flats boost

TIDDINGTON: A two-storey development of 11 affordable flats can be built by the Oxford Citizens' Housing Association at Station Yard, in Oxford Road, South Oxfordshire District Council has decided.

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Stall call

OXFORD: The organisers of the Headington Festival are looking for people to take on stalls at the event on Sunday, June 1.

Stalls for small local groups cost £5 and charities £10, with charges for businesses made by agreement.

PORTRAITS SHOW 'WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE' FEMALE TOUCH



AT THE CANVAS: Artist Tess Barnes at work, inset. Her portraits include pictures of TV presenter Carol Vorderman, above, scientist Susan Greenfield, below right, and chef Sophie Grigson, below left

PORTRAIT artist Tess Barnes is bringing a colourful exhibition of 50 well-known British women to Oxford.

The *50 Women of Substance* show is at Wolfson College until May 9.

It showcases portraits of some of the UK's most well-known and highest achieving females, celebrating their contribution to society, arts, literature and science.

Subjects include TV presenter Carol Vorderman, fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and singer Beverley Knight. Well-known Oxfordshire women include scientist Susan Greenfield and chef Sophie Grigson.

Ms Barnes, who grew up in Headington and attended Wychwood School, said: "I started these paintings about 14

years ago when my first daughter Emma was born and I felt a special affinity with women-kind.

"My first portrait was of the judge Nina Lowry, who I met when I was working as a barmaid opposite the Old Bailey.

"Catherine Hughes, the principal of Somerville College, was my second portrait and I soon got the idea that I could develop a series. Now that I'm 50 I've completed my 50th portrait."

Ms Barnes chose the Breast Cancer Haven, set up in 1997 by Sara Davenport to offer free support, information and complementary therapies to anyone affected by breast cancer, as the benefiting

By Andrew Ffrench

charity for the launch of the exhibition and tour venues.

Ms Grigson said: "I love the way Tess captures the warmth and intelligence of her subjects, finding their humanity when so many others may only see the successful, slightly scary exterior."

Ms Barnes studied at the Chelsea College of Art and Goldsmith College, and has twice been selected for the BP Portrait Award.

Her work has been shown at The National Portrait Gallery, The Royal College of Art, The Saatchi Gallery and Mall Galleries.

● For more details call Wolfson College on 01865 274103. The exhibition will be open from 10am to 4pm daily, subject to college commitments.

andrew.ffrench@oxfordmail.co.uk

