



SANDFORD ANNUAL FESTIVAL 2023

Thanks to Wilson-Blackwell photography for the photos

The Sandford Link

Autumn 2023 Issue 170

www.sandfordonthames.org.uk

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sunday 1st October at 10.0 a.m.

followed by brunch

All gifts for the Thanksgiving are welcome,
and go to the local Food Bank. See p.3.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH NEWS

John Findon (*associate priest*) john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk 01865 434256

Bob Morgan (*associate priest*) robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk 01865 748848

Teresa Morgan (*associate priest*)

Church Wardens: Christian Bradley; Clive Tasker

Director of Music: Christian Bradley

www.sandfordchurch.org.uk

St Andrew's services

Every Sunday: 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion
6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

Every Wednesday: 11.0 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

Last Sunday of the month:

10.0 a.m. a more informal Westward Communion service



meets at 10.0 a.m. each Sunday

in the Harris Room, next to the church.

More info from Jo or clergy.

Music, crafts, stories, fun.

Sandford Remembrance Evensong

The annual Sunday evening 6.30 sung service, at which many departed friends and family are remembered with candles, will be on Sunday 29th October.

Those who would like people to be remembered by name and/or plan to light a candle are asked to tell John or Bob beforehand (contact details above).



- e. AH has asked Kompan and Playsource to quote to replace the Janaway surface with Tiger Mulch
- f. **Bus shelter by village hall (PA):** This has been repaired & improved by asylum seekers, who have done an excellent job.
- g. **Reports to FixMyStreet (PA/AH)**
 - i. hedges in Henley Road (ref. 4506255) (outstanding) and Pheasant Walk (4547621) (done)
 - ii. pavement on Church Road between the Old School House and the bend (4901310) (outstanding)
 - iii. footpath from Heyford Hill Lane to A4074 (4901339) (being done)
 - iv. trees near the Heyford Hill Lane bus shelter that obscure sight of the bus (4901261); (done).
- h. **Trees/branches overhanging VH cycle racks (PA/MW):** awaiting quote from Charlie Draper. The tree has now fallen down.
- i. **Tree preservation orders (PA):** The Kings Arms have cut down the hedge between the garden & the car park, apparently to deter drug-taking. This raises concerns about the horse chestnut and other trees in the pub grounds. ACTION: PA & Liz Shatford to liaise with Peter Emery to discuss applying for Tree Protection Orders for trees in the vicinity.
- j. **Salt:** OCC are offering a salt bag delivery and salt bin top-up at the end of October.

4. Oxfordshire Countrywide 20 Mph Speed Limit Project: AGREED by majority vote not to proceed

Sandford Welcome leaflets (AH): print 200 copies after amendments.

New website What should the criteria be for including organisations/businesses in Local Links? *Deferred* Phil Smith can quickly adapt the basic Sandford logo for any village organisation which would like its own version.

Agenda items for the next monthly meeting

- Updates on items above
- Please submit agenda items to the Clerk by **Wednesday 20 September**

Date of next Parish Council meeting:

Monday 2 October 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

**Notes on the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on Monday 4 September .**

1. **Reports from District and County Councillors:** OCC report available on the website, SODC report will be available in due course.
2. **Village maintenance**
 - a. **Deep cleansing/gutter cleaning (AH):** SCR has identified the SODC office dealing with this and will inspect the schedule.
 - b. **Grass cutting & maintenance schedule (PA/AH)**

A resident of Heyford Hill Lane has complained that the unmown portions of the verges in HHL are unsightly and asked why they have not been mown in the same way as the grass at The Wharf.

ACTION: A letter will be sent to explain the mowing at the Wharf was an error by the contractors and the current policy remains unchanged.

The treeline between OPT & PC land at the end of Broadhurst Gardens needs attention, for example to pollard willow trees in danger of collapse.

ACTION: DT & PA to meet OPT (Hannah Brockwell) & a tree surgeon *in situ* to discuss the work required and apportioning costs.

More work is required on brambles & nettles at Broadhurst Gardens.

There will be an on-site meeting with TLGO to discuss requirements, and a meeting also to discuss (i) encroachment of brambles by the Fox Furlong goalposts (ii) overhanging trees in Church Road.
 - c. **Large rubbish bins (PA)**

SODC policy is to reduce the number of bins and encourage people to take rubbish home. The particular pressure on rubbish disposal at Sandford Lock will be explained to them. If necessary, the bin at the corner of the Rec on Church Road could be removed to decrease the number of bins.

PC will ask Environment Agency to install bins in the car park at Sandford Lane.
 - d. **Maintenance of play areas**

including Church Road kissing gate & Janaway play area (PA/AH): A member of the public was concerned that the price of a concrete base on the Church Road kissing gate (£800 + VAT) was high.

The PC acknowledged this and will get alternative quotes for the Henley Road kissing gate. So far, one quote of £720 (with no VAT payable) has been received and another is expected.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 1st October

10.0 Parish Communion

followed by

Harvest Brunch in church



Gifts for the Food Bank
may be brought to church any Sunday
or left in the church porch..

(They particularly welcome coffee, sugar, drinking chocolate, cooking oil, custard powder, tinned goods, sauces, squashes, washing powder etc.)

Religious book group

meets monthly for 60 mins (with 20 mins extra time if needed). A book thought helpful is introduced (not needing to be read beforehand) and discussed. Anyone wanting to be told what book is planned or wanting to be invited for a particular session please tell Bob what days and times are most possible.

Current menu (arising from recent conversations):

'Why does nobody go to church anymore?' (some American denominational experience), and
Timothy Radcliffe 'Why go to Church (on the drama of the Eucharist) and the meaning of Church'.

Homecoming Sunday

Is an annual tradition in the USA when former members of a community are welcomed back by people, towns, churches etc. See the Teresa 10th September sermon on www.sandfordchurch.org.uk

We welcome you!

is the congregation's response in the service of baptism, as **Olivia Trevor** was baptised in St Andrew's on 3rd September. Olivia is the daughter of Jo, of Pheasant Walk and the Sunday Club.

Dear friends,

I increasingly find that when people tell me where they are planning to spend their holidays I need to go home to consult an atlas. If you ever press the wrong button and find yourselves listening to advertisements on day-time television (Christa and I can't be the only people irritated by the smug complacency of those voices) highly remote destinations are offered, and you can enlarge your carbon footprint by cruising to watch sea-ice melting around penguins who, presumably, wish it was colder. The rub is, of course, that however far you travel, you have to take yourself with you.

There are many who want grand and unspoilt prospects to admire on holiday – looking down from 'lofty mountain grandeur' as the hymn says – and others who choose places full of bustle and human achievement. No doubt because of my upbringing in rural Warwickshire, I love to sense that a landscape has the marks upon it, you could almost say the fingerprints, of the generations that have cared for it and cultivated it. It is that perception that makes parish ministry in the Church of England the best job in the world. You are simply given a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that is England, and commanded to love it for God's sake.

So, this quarter in Sandford, our thoughts will run in that direction as we keep Harvest Festival on 1st October, All Souls' commemoration of the departed on October 29th, All Saints (this year a bit late, on 5th November) and of course Remembrance Sunday on 12th. We are 'compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses'. Step inside your parish Church, and that is palpable.

With love to you all,

John Findon

**If anyone has a use for an old sound system with large speakers,
please contact Bob (748848)**

Dorchester Abbey

A reminder that Dorchester Abbey has an excellent programme of concerts of various kinds, and free tickets are generally available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please see www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk.

And they need more volunteer Concert Managers to join them to help to make their events run smoothly. Contact Samantha Turner at admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk.

- i. nettles & brambles at the end of Broadhurst Gardens/Yeftly Drive, especially brambles that are beginning to encroach on residents' gardens.
- ii. willow trees between Broadhurst Gardens & Heyford Meadow that need to be pollarded. Some of these are probably on OPT and/or Thames Water land.
- iii. maintaining the raised sitting area at the end of the village hall.
- iv. mowing a 2 m strip around the perimeter of the village hall car park v. aerate & seed grass in the Church Road rec., by the double gates
- c. **Large rubbish bins**: PA to ask if PC can pay Biffa directly to empty them.
- d. **Maintenance of wooden equipment in recreation ground**: the asylum seekers have started work on playground equipment. AH has written risk assessment for this work and will monitor the work & buy supplies of stain etc. as required.
- e. **Maintenance of play areas** (AH) Kompan have repaired the edges of the Fox Furlong playground. The latest inspection reported the level of bark in Janaway playground is too low, exposing membrane and foundations. Kompan to quote for replace bark with Tiger Mulch and bag up the old bark for reuse on paths by the Broadhurst Gardens play area.
- f. **Overhanging hedges** (PA/AH): waiting for action from OCC on Henley Road & Pheasant Walk hedges. The hedge at the bottom of Heyford Hill Lane overhangs the path a little but is not considered to be of immediate concern. AH to monitor & chase OCC as necessary. The pavement on Church Road between the Old School House and the bend is badly overgrown. AH to report on FixMyStreet.
- g. **Footpath from Heyford Hill Lane to A4074** is overgrown with brambles from both sides, and there are trees near the bus shelter that obscure sight of the bus. ACTION: AH to report on FixMyStreet & monitor OCC's response.
- h. **Progress report on orchard**: Voco will cut the hedges in Church Road now and once a year. If insufficient, the PC will ask TLGO to do supplementary cuts.
- i. **VH garden**: TLGO will be asked to maintain the area.
- j. **Bus shelter by village hall**: PC to pay for materials (£250) for Iranian cabinet maker to repair and improve the bus shelter.
- k. **Manhole cover in Broadhurst Gardens**: repaired by an unknown person.
- l. **Benches in Broadhurst Gardens**: Dick Rudman has treated these.
- m. **TS Gardening club**: AGREED: to give club an extra £20 per month if needed.

- i. Henley Road: OCC have written to the homeowner again and will cut hedge back if no response.
- ii. Pheasant Walk: Actioned to be fixed
- g. **Progress report on orchard** (PA): quote received from The Heritage Fruit Tree Company (Andy Howard) covering (1) initial consultation, (2) design & plan, (3) full planting service or (4) initial day's supervision of volunteer planters. There is £7,500 budget left, to be used by 2025. There would probably be 30-40 trees, depending on how big they are planned to grow. As the initial work has already been done only (2) & (4) are necessary. PA to contact Andy Howard.
- h. **Volunteers to maintain VH garden:** PC may be able to give money to TS gardening club to maintain the VH end of the garden.
- i. **Purchase of sander:** for maintenance of wooden benches & playground equipment AGREED: to go on borrowing Malcolm's sander, replacing components as needed. Buying sander is expensive and risks being stolen.
- j. **Bus shelter by village hall:** a side panel has been vandalised and the shelter in general looks shabby. Perhaps asylum seekers could be asked to repair this.
- k. **Manhole cover in Broadhurst Gardens.** Someone has removed soil from this, leaving concrete exposed. ACTION: AH to ask Dick Rudman to repair this and to varnish the old (garden-type) bench in Broadhurst Gardens play area.
- l. **Steps/ramp to recreation ground.** MB to make a preliminary plan for this.

Notes on the minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on **Monday 7 August 2023** at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall

- 1. Clerk's report:** Nathan Evans of National Grid has contacted the clerk to ask about cutting back trees at the Sandford Brake substation. PC has no objections, but he should consult Butterfly Conservation who have a 10-year agreement to look after the Brake, and he should avoid the nesting season.
- 2. Councillor co-option:** Lewis Barrett's application for co-option accepted unanimously.
- 3. Village maintenance**
 - a. **Deep cleansing/gutter cleaning:** drains along Sandford Road are blocked again. AH to keep in contact with Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye on this matter.
 - b. **Grass cutting:** The Landscape Group (TLGO) have been infrequent, in part because of the weather. PA/AH to discuss with Lee Collins:

MUSIC FOR AN AUTUMN EVENING . . .

**A concert of song given by John and Elizabeth Findon
and members of St Andrew's choir on
Friday 13th October at 7:30pm**

**The programme includes a lively selection of
Vaughan Williams, Gershwin, Korngold,
Rogers and Hammerstein, Bizet and more!**

John and Elizabeth Findon are professional tenor and soprano singers respectively currently singing with the English National Opera. John is son of our own John Findon at Sandford and we very much look forward to welcoming John and Elizabeth to the church.

Refreshments available.

Tickets on the door.-

£12 or £10 for concessions - all to go to charity.

Come and join us!

Christmas 'DIY' Dinner Dance

Jubilee Brass Band

will be playing Jazz

@ Sandford Village Hall
on Friday 8 December
from 7.30 till 10.30



**Why not get a table of 6 or more together
and make it a Christmas Party?**

£15 to include Music and Table Setting
(Guests to bring their own food, drink, crockery, cutlery and glasses)
Tickets available from Carole Tasker
at Caroletasker27@gmail.com

We give thanks for singers.
 All types of singers.
 Popular, concert singers and
 tuneless singers in the bath.
 Whistlers, hummers and those
 who sing while they work.
 Singers of lullabies; singers of nonsense
 and small scraps of melody.
 Singers on branches and rooftops.
 Morning yodellers and evening warblers.
 Singers in seedy nightclubs,
 singers in the street;
 singers in cathedrals, school halls,
 grandstands, back yards, paddocks,
 bedrooms, corridors,
 stairwells and places of echo
 and resonance.
 We give praise to all those
 who give some small voice
 To the everyday joy of the soul.
 Amen!

Christian writes: St Andrew's church choir is a small village choir that regularly surprises visitors with the standard of its singing! We sing a mainly classical repertoire from ancient to contemporary, with occasional gospel and pop numbers for good measure. It has been my pleasure to lead this happy band of singers for nearly 20 years. We are always looking for new members and welcome singers of all ages and levels. It is also possible to sing with us just for specific projects as well as for services. Do come and talk to me, or contact Christian Bradley at cwwbradley@gmail.com

St Andrew's choir meet every Wednesday at 7.30 for about 30 minutes to run through the music for the following Sunday, and all are very welcome to come and exercise their lungs, whether or not they plan to join us on Sunday. Just drop in, or contact Christian (see above).



AFTERNOON TEAS

in the Village Hall on first Wednesday of the month 2.0– 4.0. A community project for over 18s: homemade cakes and teas, and a raffle on the day. Cost £4. Join us by booking with Robert at 07759 890696 or sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com

The Global Retreat Centre

at Nuneham Courtenay have a wide-ranging programme of talks, retreats and meditation sessions. See their website www.globalretreatcentre.org



Our Parish Councillors:

Peter Addyman (Chair)

Michael Whitlock (Vice-chair);

Mark Baseby; Faye Carasco Alexander; Daniel Tarzey; Lewis Barrett.

Notes on the minutes of the PCC held on Monday 3 July 2023.

Full minutes can be found on the Parish Council website.

1. Clerk's report

Proposed new constituencies can be seen on www.bcereviews.org.uk/. If the proposal is accepted, Sandford will be in the Didcot & Wantage constituency.

2. Village maintenance

a. **Deep cleansing/gutter cleaning** (AH): no news yet: SCR will chase SODC.

b. **Grass cutting & maintenance schedule** (PA): The Landscape Group (TLGO) are coming randomly and not following the agreed schedule. In addition, the area behind Broadhurst Gardens & Yeftly Drive is congested with nettles and brambles and needs to be cut more often. ACTION: AH to contact TLGO with priorities: - Church Road Recreation Ground to be cut before the fete - Broadhurst Gardens/Yeftly Drive area to be cut with a brush cutter. ACTION: PA to ask Voco Hotel to cut the hedges in Church Road more often

c. **Large rubbish bins** (PA): The large bins would be difficult to remove, as they are fixed to the base with resin bolts. PA to suggest other solutions such as (i) asking Radley PC to put a bin in the car park on the other side of the lock and/or (ii) seeing if it is possible to fit standard 80 litre buckets into the new bins or (iii) contracting ODS to empty the new bins.

d. **Maintenance of wooden equipment in recreation ground** (AH): a group of asylum seekers have been repairing & treating this equipment. OALC have recommended doing a risk analysis for the job and asking the insurers whether the arrangement is acceptable. ACTION: AH to (i) adapt the orchard risk analysis to cover this work; (ii) contact the insurers.

ACTION: all to consider cost-effective ways to provide the asylum seekers with useful equipment such as haversacks/day packs as thanks for their help e.g. car boot sales, unused bags at home.

e. **Matting in play areas** (AH): Awaiting a quote from Kompan for this. The surface in Fox Furlong has risen further, creating a trip hazard. ACTION: AH to ask Kompan to add Fox Furlong to the quote.

And because they affect many in Sandford:

What are traffic filters?

The Council say: Traffic filters are separate from Low Traffic Neighbourhoods – they will involve closing off road (e.g. Hollow Way) at certain times to private cars, which will be prohibited from driving through the traffic filters without a permit while the filters are in operation. All other vehicles including taxis, buses, coaches, all vans, mopeds, motorbikes and HGVs can still pass through these traffic filters at all times. The filters are not physical barriers, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras will monitor and enforce the restrictions – it will be physically possible to drive through the filters during restricted times without a permit, but you will receive a penalty charge notice (PCN) if you do so. The traffic filters cover very short lengths of road (just a few metres) and any vehicle can use the road outside the filter at any time without a permit.

To test the traffic filters and allow people to comment on their impacts before making them permanent, they will be introduced on a trial basis initially. The trial phase will run for at least six months, allowing data and feedback from the public and stakeholders to be collected. It's possible to make some changes to the filters in response to monitoring and feedback during the trial. The traffic filters trial is not expected to start until the works to improve Oxford station are completed, which is expected to be in 2024.

And Low Traffic neighbourhoods?

Low traffic neighbourhoods are in action in Cowley and in East Oxford. The Cowley ones (e.g. Littlemore towards Cowley) seem to be here to stay – the East Oxford ones (e.g. Divinity Road) went through an additional short consultation period in June/July, which is now closed. As a result some modifications were suggested (e.g. number plate recognition instead of (vandalised) bollards in e.g. Divinity Road).

The County Council is now reviewing the survey responses and a second independent report will be produced. A decision on whether to continue the scheme will be made by the Council in October.

Everything you need to know is on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk – search Traffic filters and Low Traffic neighbourhoods.

YOUR VILLAGE HALL

News from the Village Hall is that the Management Committee are delighted to have been joined recently by Etain O'Carroll and Alan Davey, both of whom bring particular expertise to the group.



Various meeting rooms are available for hire at a special rate for villagers: please contact the Hall Manager Robert Rodrigues on 07759 890696 or sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com. Also ask Robert, or see the noticeboard, for information about any of the current activities in the hall.

Activities this autumn include:

Tai Kwondo Toddlers Oxford Guitar Society Pilates
Table tennis Laugh and Learn: ballroom dancing

THE VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on Thursday 19th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall and all are welcome. Suggestions or ideas for new activities or community uses for the Hall are also always welcomed by our Chairman: Michael Whitlock at mwhitlock53@googlemail.com.



SANDFORD COMMUNITY LUNCH

A delicious meal using perfectly good food that would otherwise go to waste – all welcome, no need to book! Just turn up and enjoy a 3 course lunch and pay what you can. Usually on the second Wednesday of each month: further information from facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford

Welcome

to **Matthew Perkes** to Kiln Close
to **Paula and Steve Edmonds** to Church Road
to **Sean and Beatrice** to Henley Road
to **Yorik and Sadie** to Burra Close
to **Edward and Paul** to Church Road
to **Kreshnik and Jetmira** of Pheasant Walk
to **Stuart and Diane**, who took over the King's Arms this summer and have already established themselves as a welcoming part of the village
to **Holly and Josh** to Church Road
to **Danielle** and her young family, recently moved into Heyford Hil Lane.

Welcome to the world

to **Nora**, born 30th June, a first for Kreshnik and Jetmira.

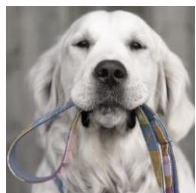
Many congratulations

to **Jenny Fox** on the publication of her book *Three Voices*, which had a book launch at Vincent's Club, Oxford on 2nd September.

And THANK YOU to young litter pickers **George and Ralph Timbs** of Janaway, who have been helping to keep Sandford clean and tidy. Last seen in the ditch near the Village Hall.

A Walk up Snowdon

The Annual Snowdon Walk will take place between the 7th and the 12th October. Further information from Bob, 01865 748848 or robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk.



DOG-WALKING/PET SITTING

If you are not always able to walk your dog as much as you'd like I may be able to help, either as a one-off or regularly.

sandfordpetsitting@yahoo.com or 07368 256770

Update from Oxford Preservation Trust – August 2023

This summer has really shown the benefits of the management carried out over the Autumn and Winter in our green spaces. This was particularly evident during the OPT walk and talk event in July on Boars Hill around Jarn Heath and Matthew Arnold field and reserve. Once the rain had passed, it was a very pleasant stroll around the woodland and wetland restoration in these green spaces.



I recently had the pleasure of joining a walking tour around Rose Hill with local historian Liz Woolley and it was fascinating to learn about how much historical interest the area has. I would thoroughly recommend checking the events section of our website to find out more about what's coming up.

As Autumn approaches, the benefits of being out and about in the countryside continue. In Heyford Meadow and Simons' Land please be mindful of the livestock grazing and ensure gates are closed after you, and thank you for continuing to follow the guidance of keeping your dogs on their leads in these fields, to keep you, your pets and the livestock safe.

Out and about in OPT green spaces

Please do share any photos or drawings of our green spaces via our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter (@OxfordPresTrust). It is fantastic to see wildlife you have spotted, as well as general enjoyment of the countryside. Above is a photo of a peaceful spot on Simon's Land.

Hannah Brockwell

Green Spaces Officer at the Oxford Preservation Trust

h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

THE NEW SANDFORD ON THAMES VILLAGE WEBSITE

is now launched –

See sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk

Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council news:

Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 Road

The County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee voted 7-2 in July to reject the County Council's own planning application for the proposed road proposed for the 'Didcot Garden Town' development.

But Secretary of State Michael Gove 'called in' the planning application seven days later and will appoint a Planning Inspector to hold an inquiry. This leaves the County Council in the uneasy position of having two conflicting roles at the inquiry: the organisation that submitted the planning application and the organisation that refused it.

The cynics among you may say politicians don't seem to find it difficult to face two ways at once, but it's only once in a blue moon that a panel of county councillors turn down a planning application from their own officers, so this is uncharted territory.

Nuneham parish council continues to work with other parish councils to challenge the shaky arguments for these separate scraps of new road, which look very like sections of the southern route originally proposed for the supposedly abandoned Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, that would have connected the A34 at Milton to the M40 at Wheatley.

If the plan is implemented it will undoubtedly have a big impact on Sandford through a heavy increase of traffic on the A4074 and the possibility of shortcuts down Henley Road.

Progress on the two City developments near us:

The 'South Oxford Science Village' which extends the Science Park and includes 3000 new houses around Grenoble Road has been approved in principle but awaits a full planning application, expected by the end of 2023.

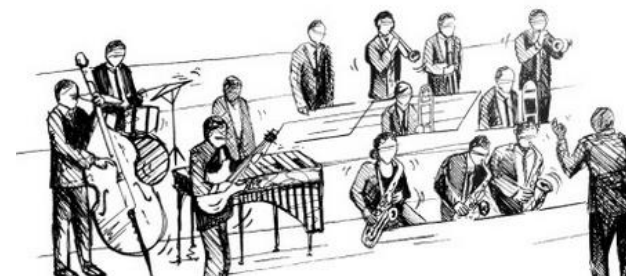
The re-opening of the Cowley Branch Line to passengers, which will involve two new stations – the first next to the Science Park and Littlemore (to be called Oxford South) and the second by Blackbird Leys (Oxford East). Oxford City Council has approved a £4.56 million package of funding and the next stage of work is to produce a full Business Case, setting out where the rest of the funding might come from. It does look as if it's likely to go ahead, and may be in use by the end of 2026.

Wantage Big Band

is playing at St Mary and St Nicholas Church in Littlemore
on Saturday 11th November at 7:30pm.

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) available from wbblittlemore@gmail.com or on the door (booking recommended). Refreshments. All proceeds to Wantage Silver Band – a registered charity which does an amazing job encouraging music participation through brass band music at all levels and ages.

**Join us for a relaxed evening
of that glorious big band sound,
playing music that always make you smile.**



With tunes ranging from classics of the big band golden era such as A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, through the Sinatra, Sammy Davis Junior, Matt Monro and Nat King Cole years, the seventies with Queen and Stevie Wonder to Brit Pop, and onwards right up to Buble and Gordon Goodwin, we genuinely have something for everyone!

Local 'boy' Christian Bradley is the Big Band's singer and will be moonlighting from his regular gig as choirmaster at St Andrew's church in Sandford.

Do come and enjoy!

WHAT'S AROUND FOR PRE-SCHOOLS . . .



TODDLERS GROUP

A very friendly group meeting Mondays 9.30 – 11.30 in the Village Hall. £2 per family, first session free. Info Christa 01865 434256

SUNDAY CLUB

from October 1st, every Sunday at 10.0 till 11.0 in the Harris Room, next to St Andrew's church. Free session. Info John 01865 434256

GROWING MINDS STAY AND PLAY GROUP

Thursdays 10.0 – 11.39 a.m. Free session in St Mary and St Nicholas church, Littlemore Info Hayley 07864 311964.

STAY AND PLAY

on Tuesdays from 2–4 and Thursdays 10.11 at Littlemore Library, Oxford Academy Campus, Sandy Lane West.

One hour a week

is all it takes to make a real difference to someone's life. Tandem befriending links volunteers with people recovering from mental breakdown to help them get back on their feet.

Next volunteer training October 14th.

See www.tandembefriending.org.uk or ring Prue on 07775 918533



is a newly-opened centre for progressive healing, integrative therapies, and natural medicine in Little Baldon. For information of the wide range of services they offer see healoxfordwellbeing.co.uk

many families enjoying the event on a weekend where so many similar local events cancelled. The St. Andrew's Church Annual Flower Festival was on show and as usual displayed beautiful colour and design themes. Such high artistic standards. Congratulations to the church flower team for such a delightful and inspiring display.

So a great big thanks to all. For the hundreds who came simply to enjoy it and we hope you had a lovely day, particularly if you won a prize in the church raffle. A special thanks to the volunteers and to our compere Nigel, who did a wonderful job, and to our main sponsors T J Hall & Son Ltd.

Another 'annual' day for the village to enjoy with the main goal, as always, to raise money for St. Andrew's church and local charities and good causes, including our chosen charity 'Home-Start. Despite the worrying weather threat the wonderful amount of nearly £3,000 was raised.

P.S. See the photos on the back cover . . .



We are a family-run garage in Henley Road, Sandford on Thames

MOT testing ♦ Servicing all makes and models ♦ General repair ♦
Cambelt replacements ♦ Air con regas/Servicing ♦
Precise diagnostics ♦ Suspension repair/Tracking

www.tjhallandson.co.uk
[facebook.com/tjhallandson/](https://www.facebook.com/tjhallandson/)



a chiropractic health centre in Nuneham Courtenay
www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk
at The Old Smithy, Yew Tree Courtyard.
Online booking available.

SOMETHING THAT NEEDS FIXING?

Clive Shorter can help with painting and decorating/Gardening/
DIY and more **07765 666625 commius@hotmail.com**
(and as many of us know, he's also available for event catering)

Annual Festival Sandford-on-Thames 15th July 2023

'ANY WAY THE WIND BLOWS'

Another super festival and again truly blessed. The weather was threatening to blow everything over or wash everything away! As organisers we simply did not know whether to go ahead and setting up was fraught, with strong hurricane forecasts! We re-jigged the layout (twice) and prayed a lot. And families, friends and visitors of all ages strolled around in sunshine to enjoy activities around the recreation ground. So whilst some of the planned events cancelled some new ones stepped in to make the event a success.

Once again the festival was started by 'our own' Jubilee Oxford Brass Band playing-on throughout the afternoon in the tradition of all good bands. Well done and lovely to watch and hear.

We enjoyed the return of Strawberry Fayre Majorettes with great routines and this year we held our first, local Dog Show – slightly limited due to the weather but much enjoyed. The traditional 'Annual Tug-of-War' went ahead; great fun and laughs with lots of energy expended. Throughout the day the Aunt Sally was as popular as ever as was the Coconut Shy. We welcomed again the Littlemore Rugby Club who put on some games, tips and coaching activities to attract youngsters to the sport and the popular Tombola and Water to Wine stalls sold out again. A few classic cars managed to make it with two new, local 'oldies'; a super 1955 Wolsey and an even older tiny Austin saloon.

Alongside all the stalls, to eat and drink we had the lovely variety of fresh cakes in the Tea & Cakes marquee (all home-made, donated and sold out) with lots of people resting whilst enjoying the activities and then the evening 'music in the park'. The BBQ was very popular (extremely hot work!) as was the ice cream stall. The Pimm's stall together with 'The Thirsty Queen Pub on The Green' kept many festival goers sustained, open all day keeping everyone in good spirits!

For the evening live music stage we featured Chris as the DJ and two new, local bands Mojo and Breeze who attracted a large, appreciative audience, listening and 'bopping' long into the evening whilst still being served hot food. Another terrific evening of live music that all enjoyed.

Throughout all this the rain and the forecasted very high winds stayed away and did not hit the village – so everybody was relaxed. It was great to see so

Sandford Community orchard latest

Andy Howard from the Heritage fruit tree Company made a site assessment visit and has now started the Orchard design phase based on the kind of trees we would like to plant and the other factors which influence the layout etc. The tentative planting weekend is now set at November 25th / 26th but it could be the following weekend if the "bare root trees" are not ready to be lifted.



It's now time for more villagers to get involved.

In particular we need a small number of volunteers ASAP who are interested in forming a managing group to start the organisation and preparations for the planting and also the continuing maintenance. If you would like to be involved in any capacity, please contact the parish clerk at clerk@sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk.

The Orchard will need: Ground clearance and general maintenance; Flyer design and distribution of flyers to all villagers; Individuals, families or groups to "Sponsor a tree", including planting the tree and taking responsibility for "Your tree's welfare"; Organising community work parties and orchard related events once it's up and running.

Sign up now and see how you can help to make the new Sandford-on-Thames community orchard a success story for our village.

Sobell House Hospices need volunteers

We currently require Ward Volunteers on our In-Patient Unit, and Volunteer Drivers. Also Bereavement Volunteers and Volunteer Companions to give support in the community and on In-patient Units.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us at: PallcareVolunteerServices@ouh.nhs.uk

Liz Shatford writes:

We are getting used to being surprised every now and again by an outbreak of colour and decoration around the village, notably for the Coronation this year and the celebrations for our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This we owe to the skill and craftsmanship of our very own Sandford on Thames WI.

The present/third Institute of Sandford-on-Thames WI made its first public appearance at the summer fete in 2016 with a stall demonstrating the cake baking prowess of members, with other items for sale to raise funds for the newly formed Institute. Jill Love announced the birth in the summer edition of *The Link* in these words

'... Some years ago Sandford-on-Thames did have a WI, and we are delighted to have this opportunity to re-start with new enthusiasm and energy. Our first meeting was really well attended, with lots of ideas and suggestions. We do not intend to follow the quote in the Daily Telegraph recently, "Boy Scouts for oldies". Rather, for our WI, once we have dealt with the official side, it can be what we, the members, want it to be.'

Since then the modern Institute has grown in strength with a strong and loyal membership forging friendships through various activities, learning new skills and enjoying trips out. The membership covers a 10 year age span and they all mix really well, learning so much from each other.

It must have been something similar around 100 years ago when the first Sandford WI was started in the dark days of WW1 by Mrs Marion Challenor. She and her sister-in-law had both lost their husbands in that war and were bringing up their children together in 'Bassimer' which occupied a large site to the south side of 'Tin Shed bridleway', the track off Church Road opposite the field entrance to the hotel which leads to the Baldons via Lower Farm. In those days Mrs Challenor and Mrs Woodford were central in organising many village activities, notably drama performances involving the village children and so it must have been natural for them to join in the rapidly growing National Federation of Women's Institutes in Great Britain.

And so 'Jerusalem' has been sung in Sandford for nearly 100 years now. The song was adopted because of its links to the women's suffrage movement, apart from its stirring words and music. The present Institute sings Jerusalem on special occasions when there is proper musical accompaniment available.

Music Therapy at Vale House

Vale House is unique amongst Residential Nursing Homes in Oxfordshire in employing two music therapists – Will Draper and Sharon Warnes – who between them provide five days of music therapy every week. They run individual and group sessions, ensuring that every resident receives one session a week, with many residents accessing multiple sessions. The value of music therapy for people living with dementia has long been recognized, not least because "the response to music is preserved, even when dementia is very advanced" (Oliver Sacks, *"Musicophilia"*, p.336, 2007).

Four "open" group sessions take place most weeks, meaning ambulant residents can come and go as they please. Residents play hand-held percussion instruments if they choose; singing, moving and dancing are encouraged! The music therapists take their cue from residents, with a mixture of well-known and improvised songs.



The aims of group sessions include providing opportunities for self-expression, communication, reminiscence and meaningful occupation through live, communal music-making, helping to reduce feelings of isolation, loneliness or depression, through the multiple social interactions that occur in each session. Relatives and visitors are encouraged to attend group sessions – they can offer valuable insights into the residents' musical preferences. In summer, group sessions may be held outside in the shaded courtyard garden. Residents unable to access group sessions receive individual sessions in their rooms; tailored to meet their needs and reduce their social isolation.

Residents also benefit from performances by visiting musicians, including: Matthew Arnold school choir, Sandford Church choir, Radley School choir, Thames Consort and professional entertainers specializing in putting on shows for Care Home residents. On 5th October there will be a concert featuring music from the 1940's and 50's, and December will feature Christmas Carol concerts, both 'in house' and with visiting Choirs – dates to be confirmed!
Sharon Warnes, Music Therapist

Rest in peace

Bruce Richard Armour born 15th May 1940, died 9th July 2023, aged 83

Bruce, with his wife Susan who died in 2019, moved to Yeftley Drive in 1989, and they were both much-loved neighbours and part of the congregation at St Andrew's. Both were profoundly deaf, but Bruce turned this into a positive by becoming a Lay Preacher and for 48 years a very active Secretary for the Oxford Diocese Deaf Church, being awarded an 'LLM Emeritus' certificate for his long and faithful service.



Bruce was born on a sheep farm in New South Wales, and when he was 7 he went to the School for the Deaf in Sydney. In 1965 he began his travels, intending to stay away for two years but finding life good in England, with many more Deaf activities. He started at the Cowley works and became a skilled panel beater, trusted with all the most expensive cars. He loved travelling, as did Susan, and they spent many happy weekends away in this country and abroad – often through the Deaf Club, including many conferences and church related activities.

Bruce's funeral was in St Andrew's church on 27th July. He is much missed in the village, and our condolences to his son Mark, daughter Georgina and sister Bonita, and to his five grandchildren.

We also said farewell in July to **Jean Andrews**, aged 90, the mother of Linda Hackett with whom she was buried in St Andrew's Church graveyard after a service in church. She was an avid supporter of Oxford United and we offer condolences to her grandson Christopher Hackett of this parish and FC who visited her regularly and often at Marston Court, where she was cared for wonderfully by Sharon Fenn and her team. So thanks to you all from the rest of us who enjoyed Jean's friendship and still miss Linda. They will both be remembered at the memorial evensong at St Andrew's at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 29th October (details p.2).

Volunteering opportunities with OPT!

Heyford Meadow volunteer days on the *third Thursday* of each month 9.30 – 12.30: be out in nature, get active, and meet new people. No experience required. Contact h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Sandford-On-Thames Women's Institute "Inspiring Women"

We meet in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 2nd Thursday in the month (not August, when we have social events for members). During the year we have other social activities – some just for members and others to include family and friends.



July marked our Summer Festival and Flower Festival.

The weather was challenging to the organisers, not knowing if the tents were going to blow away. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Commonwealth theme of the Flower Festival was in keeping with King Charles 111 role as Head of the Commonwealth. Congratulations to the ladies for their beautiful contributions, many being members of our WI.

We had no official meeting in August but a Social evening for members by kind invitation of Helen Willmot where we played the Oxfordshire Game of Aunt Sally. Fun was had by all, with Linda Page being the outstanding winner. September marks the beginning of our 2nd Thursday meetings.

14th September: "Scam Awareness" a talk by Mandy Massam from Age UK Oxfordshire. Personally a must, as I fell into a scam trap which although it cost no money has caused problems which could have been avoided.

17th and 22nd September: two groups of members are visiting the State Rooms and the Coronation Exhibition at Buckingham Palace.

12th October: a Craft Evening in connection with our contribution to the Cowley Festival and the outside Christmas tree and gateway at St Andrew's Church. And Social to be arranged for members.

9th November: Ventriloquist (tbc) and continuing with decorations. Social event to be arranged

Saturday 11th November: members and friends will support Wantage Big Band at Littlemore church (see p.9) (Tickets £12 concessions £10 each)

14th December: Christmas Celebrations

You are welcome to come and sample a meeting, we are a friendly group of ladies of a variety of ages and interests. You may come along alone, you do not need to be a guest of a member, but of course you can come with a member. On the second visit visitors will give a donation of £5 or join SOTWI the joining fees will be displayed. If you are re-joining for what ever reason there is no additional penalty.

Jill Love President SOTWI 01865 716557/ jpappslove@hotmail.com



Sandford Talking Shop

**Monday to Friday shop
and café 9.30-4**

Saturday market 9-midday

Keep up to date:

FB & Instagram –

TalkingShopSandford

www.sandfordtalkingshop.org

Phone: 07565 908648

Sign up to our newsletter by emailing orders.talkingshop@gmail.com

Talking Shop is run for the community by the

community. We offer a convenient shop, tasty home-cooking, cakes and drinks, in a bright airy space, with wifi, parking for cars and bikes, and a lovely garden with a gate straight into the playground.

We recently appealed, in these pages and in our own leaflet, for more volunteers to help us keep this much-loved community resource going. We've been truly heartened by the response, and have welcomed some brilliant new volunteers to the team, but we there is still room for more!

Volunteering offers a great opportunity to meet more people, learn new skills and revive old ones, while helping to support a much loved and valued community resource. **Do as much or as little as you want, in the shop or kitchen or other roles behind the scenes. There are many ways to get involved, and one of our managers** or another experienced volunteer will help you learn what you need.

Here are some of our regular volunteers on what makes volunteering at Talking Shop such a great experience.

Luis: I have worked as a volunteer for a few years now. I started in the garden but now work mainly in the kitchen doing the washing up. If I have any free time, I also enjoy supporting the chef with preparing salads, grating cheese and so on and, in doing so, have learnt many useful practical skills. I also enjoy the atmosphere. People are friendly and customers polite, I feel part of a team.



Jan: I started at the TS a little over two years ago having just moved to Oxford during a break in the 2020 lockdown. It was a lifeline for me at the time as I knew no-one but now ... it feels like a second home! There's a wonderfully diverse group of lovely people who make up the TS team and I have met and made some wonderful friends. There are many ways to get involved and there's always something to do so it's never boring and most of all, it's fun!



Riley: I've been working at the Talking Shop for two years now. I find it an escape from all the things I have to deal with in my life. Being in Littlemore Hospital for seven years, the Talking Shop helps me to think about employment in the future. My confidence has improved and socialising with people has become great too. Coming here makes me think about the responsibilities of the real world. My mental health has improved in ways I never expected. The Talking Shop has shown me respect and no discrimination. I am willing to work at the Talking Shop until they say 'You can't work for us anymore'!



Drop into the shop for a warm welcome and to find out more, or contact us at **volunteering.talkingshop@gmail.com**