

SANDFORD SUMMER FESTIVAL
2022
SAT 16TH JULY 1PM TO 9PM
FETE & FLOWER FESTIVAL

 **FAMILY DOG SHOW** **VEEBOY DJ**

STATELINE
SAVOY JAZZ
SWINGTET

JUBILEE BRASS

EVENT PROUDLY SPONSORED BY TJ HALL & SON

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH NEWS

Ministry team:

Robert Morgan (*associate priest*: Lower Farm, 748848)

John Findon (*associate priest*: 434256)

Teresa Morgan (*associate priest*)

Liz Shatford (772598); Paddy Watson.

Church Wardens: Sue Sabini; Christian Bradley; *Director of Music*: Christian Bradley

www.sandfordchurch.org.uk

Sunday services

Every Sunday: 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

Most Sundays: 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

Last Sunday of the month:

10.0 a.m. a more informal Westward Communion service



meets at 10.0 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month in the Harris Room, next to the church.

Crafts, storytime and singing, and a chance to meet others – all are very welcome.

More info from Bob on 748848 or robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk

What is Christianity?

A course for adults exploring the Christian faith.

Starting the end of June – contact Margreet vicar@littlemorechurch.org or 748003 for more information.

Bill Nicholls blog: Bill is a church crawler who recently visited St Andrew's and features it in his blog, with a series of excellent photographs. For those who enjoy dropping in on churches throughout the country it is a fascinating resource – see thechurchexplorer.blogspot.com and search for Sandford-on-Thames, or just enjoy some armchair exploring of our most ancient and beautiful buildings.

ST ANDREW'S
FLOWER FESTIVAL

This year the theme will be the Platinum Jubilee

Open: Saturday 16th 10-6 Sunday 17th 11-6

Services on Sunday 17th: 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

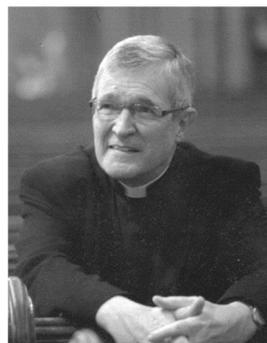
6.30 Festival Evensong with green sermon

John Findon writes:

I am grateful to the Editor for making space for me to introduce myself. If in addition there turns out to be enough room for a photograph of me contemplating retirement from my old parish church in Lancashire, I should probably apologize for the intrusion.

Watching the Jubilee Pageant on Sunday afternoon, I was reminded of a comment of Disraeli's about the Conservative Party: 'I am their Leader! I must follow them'. As the Pageant wended its way along the Mall, celebrating the oddities and quirks of seven decades of national life, the Queen's reaction must often have been the same. Robin Reliants, punk rockers, Morris Thousands, platform soles, hula-hoops, 'national treasures' and all: 'I am their Sovereign; I must follow them'. That is the task to which she has committed herself – to serve us all even when we go off in ridiculous directions. It is also, it seems to me, the task of parish churches.

My inspiration in joining the Ministry Team at St Andrew's is that Bob Morgan has for more than thirty-five years been exercising a ministry on those principles: 'The love of God is broader than the measures of man's mind' as the hymn says. People are to be loved and served where they are and as they are, because they are loved by God who, as Jesus said, 'sends his rain on the just and on the unjust'. I greatly look forward to getting to know many of you in the coming months. I can't guarantee to bring to the task – who could? – anything like Bob's energy, which does not look like wearing out. But I am pleased to offer my best efforts.



SAT 16TH JULY

DONATIONS NEEDED

UNUSED GIFTS, ALCOHOL, WINE

IN-DATE UNOPENED FOOD

CHURCH RAFFLE PRIZES

HOME BAKED CAKES

We will be attending the Saturday Market each week for you to drop off your donations.

Raffle tickets will also be available to purchase

STRICTLY NO BRIC-A-BRAC

Welcome

to **Werner and Chris** to Pheasant Walk
to **William Tucker** to Fox Furlong
to **Penelope** to Pheasant Walk
to **Andy, Fiona and Grant** to Church Road
to **Alex and Mihaera and David** to Yeftley Drive

Welcome to the world

to **Erica Luisa Boyle Verd** born on the 18th March, a first child for Berta and Gregory, and first grandchild for Siobhan and Vincent Boyle of Church Road
to **Kit**, born 3rd April to Natalie, a sister to Marnie and great-grandchild to Ray Lee of Henley Road
to **Grace Autumn Jones**, born on 27th September, a second for Steve and Lizzie and a sister for Freddie, of Heyford Hill Lane.

Many congratulations to **Claudia and Honor Boyle** of Church Road for completing their respective courses in Neuroscience and Medicine this summer, and to **Nico Skoda**, of Lower Farm Barns, for coming first in his age group in the regional trampolining championships at Southampton in May

For your diary

Jazz Dinner Dance

is back this year on
Friday 9 December
at the Village Hall

More details to follow in the next Link and local notice boards
Sandford Womens' Institute



DOG-WALKING

If you are not always able to walk your dog as much as you'd like or need pet-care or feeding while on holiday I may be able to help, either one-off or regularly.
sandfordpetsitting@yahoo.com or 07368 256770



Our music critic writes:

I went to St Andrew's church in April to listen to the choir singing a selection of music for Palm Sunday. I wasn't expecting anything too special, but I was amazed by the beauty and sensitivity of the music and the singing. The selected music ranged from the Elizabethans Byrd and Tallis to Vaughan Williams and Bob Chilcott, and included a marvellous setting of 'Greater love hath no man' by John Ireland. I reflected how amazing it was that although we live close to a city full of wonderful music, we were able to walk out of our front door and just down the road can enjoy such a high quality of choral singing (and for free!). Thanks to the choirmaster and those who must put in a lot of hard work to achieve those results.

Crab apples:

the Parish Council has bought three malus (crab apple) trees and have planted them at the junction of Church and Henley Road to honour the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The apples will be available for anyone to make jelly in the autumn.

They have also bought and installed two new planters to replace the ones on the main road outside the village hall and fixed some of the potholes along the pavement in Church Road.



a new chiropractic
health centre in
Nuneham Courtenay

www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk
at The Old Smithy, Yew Tree
Courtyard. Online booking available



AFTERNOON TEAS

in the Village Hall on the first
Wednesday of the month from 2.0 – 4.0

A community project for the over 18s – delicious homemade cakes and teas, and a raffle on the day.
Cost £3. Join us by booking with Anne Pitson at
anne.pitson@hotmail.co.uk or 07808 066816
If anyone would like to help please contact Anne



Music for a Summer Evening

Thursday June 30th
at 7.30 pm

Join us at a very informal celebration of summer,
with contributions from various Sandford musicians –
harp, clarinet, piano and vocals –
playing or singing their favourite pieces.

In St Andrew's - all welcome - no charge – refreshment provided.

Fundays Hockey in Sandford - mostly beginners and retirees. The Lower Farm Lane pitch is ready for practice pairs and threesomes etc. and all ages welcome to join in. The over 75s, will play the under 10s according to strict health and safety rules but the other age groups will be less soucient. Enquiries to Bob at St Andrew's or Link. The internationals and club players are welcome to play an advisory role (and teach the young). Fitness for all ages is what we aim at.

The Annual Sandford Snowdon Climbs: are pencilled in for September 24th and/or 25th (when the numbers subside). Anyone interested in joining us contact Bob c/o church or Link. Other pilgrim walks and talks available as before lockdown.

The Hymn project – enquiries to Bob



FAMILY FUN DOG SHOW

16 July 2022

Registration opens at 2pm

'Places are limited so please register early'

Show starts at 2.45pm

The Classes

Waggiest Tail

Most Appealing Eyes

Musical Sit

The dog the judge would most like to take home

Our judge will be Rev. John Findon of St Andrews Church, SoT

Cost per dog, per class is £2 and all proceeds will go to charity

Sponsorship for this event is no longer in place and the prizes will now consist of rosettes, certificates and other goodies

Community noticeboard

On the last Saturday of each month there will be a noticeboard on a stall at the Saturday Market in the Village Hall.

It will have news and information about any events happening in the village in the coming month, and also provide space for anyone to post notices of local interest – wanted, for sale, services offered etc.

Just come along to the Market and pin up your notice

Last Sunday every month

HELP! DROPPED MY CAR KEYS IN MAIN AVENUE

CAN ANYONE RECOMMEND A WINDOW CLEANER?

BIKE FOR SALE

NEED HELP WITH GARDENING ?

KITTENS TO GIVE AWAY

Sandford-On-Thames Women's Institute

Since our article in the Link in April we have 6 new members, 5 from a WI which had closed and 1 lady who has moved into the area, having previously been a member in Dorset. We welcome new members familiar with a WI or completely new. I doubt if there are any WI's which are the same. In

many ways we are fortunate that we were able to start anew, no 3 for Sandford - On-Thames. The first one around the end of WW1. From April 2022-March 2023 the subscription of £44 will remain constant. With the exception of August we have a meeting on the 2nd Thursday in the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm includes refreshments and a raffle - contributions of £1 are expected. If necessary we do meet on Zoom and provide our own refreshments. Also during each month we are planning a social event for members only. This month we are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee outside so that all members can feel safe to attend. As this is a very special occasion there will be food, drink and live music, a real treat

Ladies are invited to sample our meetings but on a 2nd visit a donation is expected or the person joins our Institute. You do not have to live in SOT and you may belong to more than 1 on the payment of a local fee for the 2nd WI.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Contact: Jill Love 01865716557 jpappslove@hotmail.com or Carole Tasker on 07876701151 caroletasker27@gmail.com

We are delighted to announce that we have planted a crab apple tree as part of The Queen's Green Canopy project. Our choice of tree fitted in with one of the images of the WI - crab apple jelly is simply delicious. This lovely tree stands proudly near a picnic table in the area near the swings. It has its own special plaque for this splendid occasion. So far over 1 million trees have been planted in the United Kingdom and there are sure to be many more - why not plant one in your own garden?



Sandford-On-Thames WI 2022/2023 Programme

Meetings are held in Sandford Village Hall
or by Zoom at

7:30pm on the **second Thursday of the month.**

There is no members' meeting in August.

Social events may be arranged monthly.

All subject to Government guidance regarding Covid-19.



2020

9 th June	OxGin – talk and tasting
30 th June	<i>Social – our celebrations for HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with live music – an outdoor event in a member's garden.</i>
14 th July	Preparations for the Summer Festival
16 th July	<i>Sandford Summer Festival – volunteers needed for our stall</i>
3 rd August	Matthew Arnold WI Group
8 th September	Chocolatier – demonstration and tasting
13 th October	Alpaca talk
10 th November	Craft demonstration
December date tbc	<i>Sandford Village Christmas Extravaganza</i>
8 th December	Christmas celebration to be arranged
9 th December	Jazz Evening with live music. Tickets will be available and priced nearer the time.

2023

12 th January	Burn's Night celebration
9 th February	Talk on the Associated Country Women of the World
9 th March	Annual Meeting – to be arranged.



Sandford Talking Shop
Mon to Fri 9.30am-2pm, Sat 9am-noon
07305 307421 / Sandfordtalkingshop.org

Community Shop and Café open with seats outside in our pretty garden

- a great convenient 'corner' shop, with a wide range of foods including named brands and fantastic local produce you won't find easily elsewhere - eggs, honey, jams, Coopers' pork, Cornfields bread & Sandford sourdough.
- a wine selection from The Oxford Wine Company, local beers from Shotover Brewery and more.
- household goods you need too including a big range of SESI refills.
- coffee from Oxford's The Missing Bean, a variety of teas, soft drinks, home baked cakes and brownies, freshly baked pastries, hot sausage rolls & samosas (and of course we're open for the market & cafe on Saturdays too)



FOOD SURPLUS CAFÉ

Every month: next one 13th July

Come and eat with us, pay whatever you want and help combat food waste.

Just drop in for a delicious meal using perfectly good food that would otherwise go to waste.

Volunteers are needed for shifts between 9.30am-3.30pm - shifts can be as long or short as you like. If you would like to get involved please email news.talkingshop@gmail.com or pop into the Talking Shop to find out more.



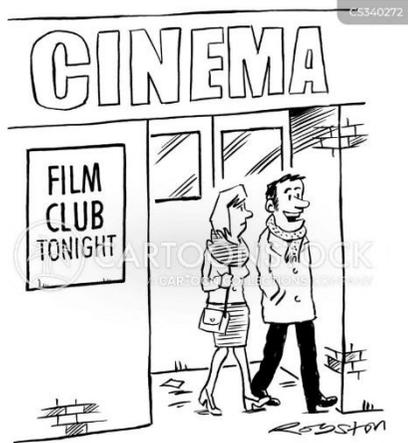
Film Club

The Sandford Film Club

has been taking an enforced break, but since 2015 we have watched well over 50 films upstairs in the Village Hall. We have a mailing list of about 70 people who have expressed interest, with between 12 and 24 coming along each month. We try and select films that wouldn't be on at the Kassam and are unlikely to be on television – and a wide variety, including older and foreign films. We ask for a donation of £4 each month towards rent of the hall and refreshment.

Some have asked when we will restart. Perhaps in September? However the two projectionists, now both past middle age, feel they would like a longer break. Would there be two or three people out there who could take part in taking occasional responsibility in setting up the equipment and operating the DVD? Probably only a few times a year, and it's really not complicated – just plugging in the projector and speakers and connecting up our DVD player, press the button and sit back and enjoy.

Any interest, please let Prue know on robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk, and hopefully there may be an announcement of re-start in the September issue of the Link.



“Wow! That’s probably the best Kyrgyzstani neo-realist horror-comedy crossover I’ve seen so far this year.”

Billy Fox 07786 130660 NICEIC Approved Electrician

What's going on at your Village Hall?

Apart from the large hall, there are three other meeting rooms, and all are available for hire, with special rates for Sandburgers. Contact Hall Manager Robert at sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com or 07759 890696.



VILLAGE HALL AGM

will be held on 4th October at 7.30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend,

and if you might be interested in joining our Committee please contact Michael Whitlock on mwhitlock53@googlemail.com.

If you have an idea for a class or activity that you would like to see at the Village Hall, or if you could yourself offer an activity, let Robert know.

Sandford websites

www.sandfordonthames.org.uk is our village website, managed by the Parish Council. Lots of information about council-type things and news.

www.sandfordchurch.org.uk St Andrew's website, with village and church history, information for newcomers to the village, links to music and other sites, as well as church news and services.

www.sandfordtalkingshop.org and

www.facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford/

for up to date information on all things Talking Shop

<https://sandfordwi.wixsite.com/sandfordonthameswi>

excellent website of Sandford WI, together with WI news on

www.facebook.com/sandfordonthamesWI

The Link facebook page is www.facebook.com/Sandford.on.Thames/ with local information and news in between issues.

Current activities in the Hall...

Oxford Guitar Society

Sundays
7.0 - 10.0



Stephen Greenslade
stephen.greensladeogs@gmail.com

The Oxford Guitar Society is a friendly society for players of all standards of the classical guitar who enjoy making music together.

LAUGH & LEARN

Wednesdays
7.30 – 8.30

Ballroom and Latin dance classes for absolute beginners (couples only).

David and Susan
Douglass
01865 718948
07752 249751



Table tennis

Mondays
5.30 – 7.30

Sandford Table Tennis Club meets for practice and social games in the Village Hall. New players of all standards welcome. Just drop in to say Hello on a Monday evening, or call John Dennis on 07584 190028 to learn more.



Sandford Toddlers Group

A very friendly and welcoming group,
Mondays 9.30 – 11.30
£2 per family, first session free
marsh_lucy@hotmail.com



Tai Kwondo

Mondays 5.30 – 6.30:
for boys and girls aged 5 and over.

Contact James on
01865 772883 or 07788583965

PILATES

Wednesdays 10.0 – 11.0
with Anginette Barton

On Wednesday mornings at Sandford Village Hall I teach a mixed level Pilates class. The class is suitable for beginners and experienced participants alike.

I teach through the principles and technique of Pilates in each session and layer on more challenging postures if people feel stronger.

If you like more information or to book with me please email me at: anginette@ajactive.co.uk or contact me on 07796053703.

Households who are struggling financially

should watch out for the next tranche of the SODC Household Support Fund which should be available soon (keep an eye on www.southoxon.gov.uk and scroll down to COVID-19 support for the link). SODC say 'Following the Chancellor's announcement of a further £500m to support households struggling to afford essentials, we're still awaiting government guidance including detail on how much the allocation for Oxfordshire will be and the timescales for spend. We will update this webpage when we know more.'

This might be particularly helpful for those who are not eligible for the £400 energy support payment 'every' household has been promised, but will not be available to those who don't have their own domestic supply contract. **And from yet another local(ish) author .**

Oxford Summer School of Art, Craft & Music at The Oxford Academy:

Aug 8-13: over 30 different Art, Craft & Music classes to choose from: some run for one day, others for the week. For more see: www.oxfordsummerschool.com or contact Anne Griffiths anne@oxfordsummerschool.com

The Runaway Clothes

Julian Armitstead

Soham De



The Runway Clothes

is written by Littlemore author and playwright Julian Armitstead, and brilliantly illustrated by Soham De. A bunch of misfit clothes learn to work together in a hilarious story of teamwork, courage and adventure.

'Like all the best picture books, a great mix of a lively, flowing story and illustrations that work with the text to create something that's very much more than the sum of its parts.'

Colin Brabazon, Chair of the Carnegie Greenaway Awards.
From all booksellers and Amazon.

Great Fires of Sandford

Very few in the village now remember the mill burning down in 1971, but some remember the fire in the Country Club, now Voco, around 1990. In March a horrible fire at 2.30 a.m. at Lower Farm happily did not impact on the village (apart from road closure) but all sympathies to Adrian Hill (and the HQ of the Sandford vaccine) and Sabina who luckily escaped when South Barn was destroyed, and also to Gerd and Chloe and Luca's badly damaged Granary – all temporarily relocated. And thanks to 50 firemen (with 8 engines) who laboured for 5 hours to bring it under control.

Is your bike ready for Summer?

Talking Shop volunteer team offer a free check over and can do minor repairs and adjustments for a small; donation plus payment for parts.

Come along with your bike, stay and chat if you want to learn more, or leave it with them while you shop and have coffee.



NEXT ONE SATURDAY 2ND JULY

Cinema as it used to be

The Corn Exchange in Wallingford is a Grade II listed building dating from 1856 and now owned by the Sinodun Players, who brought it in 1975 and converted it into a 176 seat theatre and cinema. From now until the end of August the film programme includes Jurassic World Dominion, Elvis, Good Luck to You, Leo Grandee, Nitram, McEnroe and The Railway Children Return. Tickets normally £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15s – full programme www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Library books to your door

If you or someone you know are finding it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service can help! It is completely free and delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county. Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them. The service is open to people who struggle to physically visit a library. It's also available on a short-term basis after illness or hospitalisation, and to people with caring responsibilities. Call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The BBOWT Photography Competition 2022

is now open for entries. There are six categories to enter with separate categories for children and teenagers. Enter before **8 September 2022** to be in the chance of winning some wonderful prizes.

Competition categories:

- **Flora and Fauna** - for photos of plants and animals taken on a BBOWT nature reserve.
- **Nature Reserve Landscapes** - taken on any BBOWT reserve capturing the beauty of a landscape or surroundings.
- **Team Wilder** - If you're taking action for nature right now, no matter how small the act is, you're already a part of #TeamWilder. Send us your photos and show us what you are working on or have achieved already.
- **People in Nature** - photograph someone in a beautiful location on one of our nature reserves.
- **Children's category** - for children aged 6-12. Photos can be of any of the themes in the adult categories above.
- **Teenagers category** - for ages 13-19. Photos can be of any of the themes in the adult categories above.

Photos in the main categories must be taken on a BBOWT nature reserve
The only exception is the Team Wilder category which can be taken anywhere.

More details on bbowt.org.uk/photocomp22



Bernie Landels
BHS (Massage & HMT) Dip Sp/Sp
M, Massage
07734302176
www.bernie.landels.com

The clinic door is open!
If you are living with or experiencing:

- Chronic pain
- Tension and stress
- Reduced movement

Or just want to

- Relax
- Pamper yourself or a loved one with a massage.

HOME COMPUTER HELP: For PC and laptop fixes and assistance call Jim on 07854 107337 or home.computerbtinternet.com.
Excellent local references Free assessment No fix, no fee

Heyford Meadow and Simons Land

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, The Oxford Preservation Trust Community have had a great winter and spring in Heyford Meadows. We have been chopping, lopping and trimming the paths; scything, raking and piling up cut reeds and grasses; and snipping, stretching and hammering new tactile wiring onto the boardwalks to prevent slipping. Heyford Meadow has its own **volunteer conservation days on the third Thursday of each month between 9.30 am to 1 pm** – we would love for you to join us! It is a great way to be out in nature, get active, and meet new people. Long trousers, strong shoes and gardening gloves are required. For more information or to register for a session, email Charlie at: c.jackson@oxfordpreservation.org.uk. Everyone is welcome to join at any volunteer days with no experience required, see our website for dates and locations here: oxfordpreservation.org.uk/content/events.

There are endless ideas about what we can do to enhance habitats, but from the 1st of March until the 1st of August it is bird nesting season. During this time, there is a slight shift in the types of maintenance tasks needed. Any major non-emergency works that might disturb or harm birds and their nests are paused. but volunteers continue to enjoy scything the long grass and reeds, oiling signs, repairing the boardwalks, mowing paths and more throughout spring and summer, keeping this place beautiful for summer strolls and play.

Enjoy the sights of the long grass and wildflowers over the next few months before they have their annual cut and bale in late August once the wildflowers have bloomed and seeded for germination next year. This year's population of Snake's Head Fritillaries (chequered purple and pink bell-like flowers hanging from thin stems) had an unusually short blooming period in April, as it appeared the muntjac deer fancied them for breakfast. Our volunteer team are already planning how we can protect them next year.

Go to our website to see what else is going on in the life of OPT. Oxford Open Doors is fast approaching, on 10-11th September - volunteers needed. Other exciting projects include the recent purchase of Larkins Lane Field in Old Headington, an afternoon in Hinksey Meadows on the 23rd of July, a celebration of our meadows in the glorious sunshine and an increased number of work parties coming up in the autumn.

Charlie Jackson, Green Spaces Officer at the Oxford Preservation Trust.



Anti Slavery Initiative Oxford – Sue Brockes-Smith writes:

It was a great joy to receive such a warm welcome at St Andrew's Church recently, in order to share with you the work of the Anti Slavery Initiative Oxford - ASIOX.

We are a local and newly formed charitable incorporated organisation and our mission is to raise awareness and equip individuals in identifying exploitation, and to foster the restoration process of survivors.

Our latest initiative is creating gift bags for children who have been either directly or indirectly impacted by exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking. We work with local organisations who identify children that we can support in this way. The idea is to provide toys, games and activities relevant to the age and gender of the child. Having things to do in the summer holidays helps reduce the risk of their vulnerability to exploitation.

If you would like to get involved in this initiative or want to know more please email asioxgifts@gmail.com

We are looking for more volunteers, we currently need a Secretary to the Board and also need someone who has fundraising experience.

If you would like to know more about our work, or to get involved, or to make a donation, please visit our website www.asiox.org or email Sue at asiox46m@gmail.com

Village Quiz Night

The Quiz Night on the 12th March was one of the best-attended we have had, with a celebratory air as we all emerged from covid. Many congratulations to Julie and Matthew (Church Road) and their Boat Club team (Malcolm and Val, Tony, Carmen) on their stunning victory – the first time any team has won by a country mile. The Bookworms, Boat People, Team Spare Parts, River View Rogues and Mixed Bag also posted impressive scores.

Many thanks to Andy for his judicious questions and adjudicating, Liz for scoring and to all who contributed food and fun and practical skills (especially Christian on the technology). Generous donations helped support St Andrew's and related charities at the end of a lean couple of years. Thanks!

Bob Morgan

Rest in peace

Tom Loveridge

son of Arthur and Dorothy, was the youngest of nine children. He grew up in Oxford at the Slade and also travelling the roads of Oxford. He was known to many as the local rag 'n' bone man and enjoyed making his own tapes to play out the speakers on his motor whilst out calling. He courted Emily whom he went on to marry and they had six children of their own Tom, Linda, Michael, Harry, Alice and John, 24 Grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He spent much of his life travelling the roads of Oxford for over 10 years. He had also spent a short time living in a house in Rose Hill before returning back to his roots of travelling the roads of Oxford, mainly Grenoble Road. As time went on he and Emily settled back onto Ten Acre Park in Sandford where he had lived on and off throughout his life. He liked the simple things in life and was happy to sit around the fire with a beer or a cup of tea and chat about past memories - for Tom as long as his wife and children and grandchildren were happy, he was happy. He will be forever loved and missed and most importantly never forgotten.

Christina (Tina) Annal, born 19th December 1966,
died 10th March 2022, aged 55.

Gary and Tina came to Main (64) Avenue in December 2021 from Littlemore. Tina was originally from (supporting Everton) Liverpool, but spent much of her life in Oxford where her mother was from and her father in the RAF. She worked supervising bingo at Ozone, Kassam, having brought up her four children. After a period of poor health she died too young and we offer deepest sympathies to her partner Gary. May she rest in peace.

SOMETHING THAT NEEDS FIXING?

Clive Shorter's Oxford Handyman Services 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)

Grants for replacing boilers

There is a new government scheme promising financial help to replace old gas and oil boilers, to encourage property owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps. If you would like to know more, go to www.gov.uk/environment and look for the Boiler Upgrade Scheme. Our excellent local councillor, Sam Casey-Rerhaye, reported that SODC have written to the government again to try to keep up the pressure about the need for funding for local delivery of grants for home insulation and energy saving measures, which is quite a live issue.

Live Well in Oxfordshire

A helpful website for those in need, designed to bring together information about organisations offering services for adults with a variety of needs. You can search the directory to find information about services to help you live independently such as home care agencies, or organisations that can help with shopping or gardening as well as information about care homes and health services such as GPs or dentists. You can use it to look for a new hobby, find out where you can get information about benefits, or support groups for people with health conditions. See: <https://livewell.oxfordshire.gov.uk>.

River pollution

Thames Water dumped untreated effluent for more than 68,000 hours into the river systems around Oxford last year, and campaigners argue that money the company plans to spend to improve the situation is woefully inadequate. They discharged raw sewage into the River Thames and its tributaries 5,028 times in 2021. If you are concerned about the state of our rivers and the problems of sewage discharge there is a wealth of information on the website of the Oxford Rivers Improvement Campaign: www.thames21.org.uk.

And continuing on a wet theme:

Join Freshwater Habitats in Building Oxfordshire's Freshwater Network

Be part of an exciting new project and help them to stop the decline of rare wetland plants – sign up as a volunteer, receive a grow pack, grow a rare wetland plant at home and they will collect your plant once it's grown.

**More information at the Saturday Market on 25th June
or see freshwaterhabitats.org.uk.**



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL



The current Parish Councillors are:

Peter Addyman, Andrew Glynn, Michael Whitlock, Dan Tarzey, Faye Carasco Alexander, Sue Fawcett and Mark Baseby

Notes on recent meetings of the Sandford on Thames Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting in **February** there was a report on **Church Road kissing gates** and other maintenance. The clerk had a meeting with Dick Rudman (DR) to look at the wooden railings in the Wharf Church Road. There are 3 uprights and a horizontal strip of wood that needs replacing in the Wharf, DR has agreed to provide the council with a quote. They also discussed the two kissing gates at either end of Church Road Recreation Ground. The kissing gates are wide enough for wheelchairs and buggies. However, because the ground around both gates are worn and uneven this is causing difficulties for those accessing the park. DR will provide a quote for levelling both access points and investigate providing a gradual slope up to the kissing gates in Henley Road.

Welcome to a new councillor:

Sue Fawcett has lived on the Parkhome site at 42 Main Avenue for nearly 20 years, and has joined the PC to try to represent the interests of the Parkhome residents (and Nature) as we approach the planning stage of the Grenoble Road development, which she will endeavour to do. She is also happy for Parkhome residents to offer suggestions for matters they might like the PC to take up, where appropriate. This doesn't cover issues relating solely to the Parkhome site though, where the PC has no powers.

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- a. **Outdoor gym equipment:** there was interest amongst all the councillors for outdoor gym equipment to be placed in Church Road - it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the cost with a maintenance package for the councillors to consider.
- b. **Skate Ramps insulations (King Ramps)** – this was discussed along with the outside gym. It was agreed that perhaps a small ramp suitable for beginners and younger teenagers would be acceptable. The concern is cost. If it was put in Church Road rec the land there isn't even and would need levelling. It was decided that an outside gym would be more useful and acceptable to a wider age group. Skate Ramps could be considered at a future meeting.

At the **March** meeting Alasdair Jones-Perrott, (AJP) Chief Executive of Donnington Hospital Trust (DHT), and Sarah Knight, (SK) Head of Development at Oxford City, Oxford City Homes (OCH) attended the meeting and explained their roles within their various organisations. The Trust must find ways of maximising income to fund Alms housing, of which AJP said there is still a need – they own **Baldon Mead** and the land adjacent to the housing development on the A4074. [*Baldon Mead is the large field opposite Vale House and backing on to Broadhurst Gardens – an important protection for Sandford from being swallowed up by the City*]. DHT are interested in selling pockets of land to OCH for them to build social housing and affordable housing to sell. They made it clear this was the beginning of a long process and no land that DHT own within Sandford has been sold. He also said that the Trust will start to make a permissible path across Baldon Mead from March 8th and they will be making good the access between Broadhurst Gardens and Baldon Mead.

There were concerns expressed by the councillors on the partnership that DHT has with OCH as there is inadequate infrastructure in place for housing to be built, there is house building happening on three sites in Littlemore Parish as well as the 3000 homes that will be built next to the village on Grenoble Road. All these developments will have an impact on the roads within the village. The green spaces around and within the village are under threat, both parcels of land owned by DHT are laden with diverse wildlife. At present Sandford on Thames is classed as a "Green" village so any planning for turning the fields into housing would be rejected according to the district councillor Sam Casey-Rerehay.

At the April meeting it was reported that the **litter pick** took place on the 2nd and 3rd of April - the Parish Council wishes to thank all who were involved and made this a resounding success, in particular the volunteers who litter picked 25 bags of rubbish that Biffa collected on Monday.

The **lack of bins** at the bus stops on the A4074 is causing a litter problem which will be followed up with the Waste Dept for SODC and Biffa.

There is a problem with **moles** at various sites around the village and this is a persistent problem and could be a safety hazard. The PC will enquire with Propest the possibility of an annual contract.

Future Expenditure items

a. *Water butt* for the Talking Shop gardeners. The Village Hall (VH) committee have decided that it would be environmentally and cost effective to install a 1000 litre water butt (cost 450) on the far side corner of the VH, it was agreed by the council that there would need to be a Health and Safety Risk Assessment on file and a consideration for a strong base for the butt to stand on. It was agreed to ask for a structural engineer to recommend the base for the water butt. Most of the groundwork will be done by volunteers, so it was unanimously agreed that the PC will fund a water butt on the understanding this will not take precedence on other items that the VH may require financial assistance with.

b. *New planter* required for outside the VH. This has been researched and the best for value will last approximately 10 years and cost £760. This will be paid for by the PC as it enhances the village, and it is replacing like for like.

c. *Outside Gym Equipment*. A brochure had already been sent to all the councillors - clerk would ask Sunshine Gym for a free site visit.

d. A tree to mark the *Queen's Jubilee*. The triangle between Church Road and Henley Road is considered the best option for planting. The PC will look at a the newly planted tree the weekend of June 4th amongst the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

3. *Weeds* are growing on the edge of the road in some parts of the Parish. It was decided not to apply weed killer last year, but some drains are now blocked. Church Road near the pub is an example. OCC only clear gutters and gullies every 4 years, unless there is blockage that will cause flooding, so the clerk has taken photos which may allow them to provide a letter to clean the gullies.

4. A quotation from Charlie Drapper (Landscape Gardener) of approximately £900 to *clear trees* along Church Road to the Village Hall was accepted.

5. A quotation had been requested for *maintenance* agreed at the Wharf, the playing grounds and the 2 kissing gates.

6. Should we *consult with Sandford residents* what new amenities, or improvements to existing ones, they would like the Council pushing for under the s106 agreement in relation to the impending Grenoble Road development? It was agreed the council will consider a questionnaire to be sent to Sandford residents but this requires further planning.

At the meeting in **May**:

The condition of the *footbridge* which connects the Kings Arms and Sandford Lock has been in disrepair for a matter of months. The clerk will write to the Kings Arms management expressing our concerns.

The proposal of warning signs to make members of the public aware of the *uneven ground* underfoot in some areas of parish land. The PC will look for signs and quotes.

1. *Planters* for outside the Village Hall will arrive in June.

2. A tree to mark the Queen's Jubilee. Three crab apple trees have been planted on the junction of Henley Road/ Church Road. There is a watering roster but if anybody else is interested in watering these trees please let the clerk know.

3. The vegetation along the Henley road bank of the recreation ground have been pruned to a high standard by Charles Draper.

4. A first draft of a questionnaire to gather opinions about what potential benefits from the Grenoble road development the village should request has been circulated to councillors



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Local artists 5

Joe Davis is an honorary Sandford resident who grew up in the village but now lives in South London. He studied Mixed Media Fine Art and now illustrates local businesses, landmarks, pubs, cafes and venues in his spare time. You can find his highly original work hanging in establishments and homes across the world. For prints and commissions visit www.joedavisart.com.

Some Oxford examples:

Headington Shark



The Missing Bean



The Library Pub



Truck Store

The Cape of Good Hope

