

The Sandford Link

Spring 2024 Issue 172

www.sandfordonthames.org.uk



MOTHERING

SUNDAY

Sunday 10th March

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

in the Village Hall on
Saturday 16th March at 7.30 for 8.0 p.m.

Come as a team of six (bring and share drinks and nibbles)
or there will be a friendly group to join on the day. Tickets £5 each
from john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk or 01865 434256

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday 24th March at 6.30 in St Andrew's

A selection of favourite choral pieces for Passiontide, including works by
Brahms, Mozart, Biebl, Faure, Bruckner,
Rheinberger and Ireland.
All welcome.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

www.sandfordchurch.org.uk

John Findon (*associate priest*) 01865 434256

john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk

Bob Morgan (*associate priest*) 01865 748848

robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk

Teresa Morgan (*associate priest*)

Lay Reader: Paddy Watson

patrick.watson765@btinternet.com

Church Wardens: Christian Bradley; Clive Tasker

Director of Music: Christian Bradley



Sunday 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 the clergy.

LEWIS CARROLL CHORAL EVENSONG WITH ALICE SERMON

The annual commemoration of Lewis Carroll
preaching his first sermon in Sandford church
will this year be on **Sunday 19th May at 6.30 p.m.**





LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

Mothering Sunday 10th March

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

Palm Sunday March 24th

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion
with distribution of palms

6.30 p.m. Music for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday March 28th

6.30 p.m. Eucharist

Good Friday March 29th

The church will be open from 12.0 for private reflection

2.15 p.m. Good Friday service

EASTER SUNDAY March 31st

10.0.a.m. Parish communion

6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

John Findon writes:

Easter falls early this year, on 31 March (and coincides with the changing of clocks to British Summer time). Palm Sunday therefore is 24th; this is Mark's year in the Church's readings and at the Parish Eucharist at 10.00 am we shall read his account of the Crucifixion, stark and uncompromising in its insistence on the bleak loneliness of Jesus and the cosmic significance of his death. The Choir will give us an opportunity for musical reflection on it all at 6.30 on that evening.

The Easter story is of the Resurrection of the Crucified. To grasp its force, we need to attend to the whole story of Holy Week, and our worship at St Andrew's will try to help with that. Maundy Thursday, 28th (Parish Eucharist at 7.30) moves with terrible suddenness from the almost domestic calm of the Last Supper to the cruel prospect of the events that followed; 'see, my betrayer is at hand' says the Lord, as the lights go out. Good Friday (service at 2.15) focuses on the calculated brutality of this method of execution designed to keep rebels and runaway slaves in their place. When the Roman soldiers put 'INRI' as a notice on the cross ['Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews'] it was intended to be a sarcastic sneer at one more little man who had made trouble for the Emperor. It was part of a long history of brutality claiming to be the only hope to preserve civilization – a history that we still trace today, and recognize its dishonesty. God's judgement on it on Easter Day is a word that the world still needs to hear. The Resurrection of the Crucified: as we look around at what somebody called 'the waste of our wraths and sorrows' I know of nothing else even nearly good enough to be true.

John Findon

Rose Hill Advice Centre is an invaluable resource for support and advice on benefits, debt, housing etc. Drop-in sessions Mondays and Wednesdays 9.30-12.30 and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1.30 – 4.0 or ring for an appointment. They also do a drop-in session at Littlemore church on 10.0- 11.30 on Thursday (but ring first to check). Rose Hill Community Centre, Ashurst Way. 01865 438634.
www.rhdadvice.org admin@rhdadvice.org

Vacancy for Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

We are looking for an enthusiastic person, preferably with some knowledge of our village and the workings of local government.

This is a part-time home-based job.

A laptop computer and mobile phone are provided.

A printer can also be provided if necessary.

The job:

- Managing the work and meetings of the parish council including attendance at the monthly PC meetings on first Mondays.
 - Overseeing grounds maintenance contracts
 - Preparing budgets, financial transactions, VAT reclaim according to best financial practices, which includes internal and external audit processes.

Salary and hours:

The role is for 10 hours each week (520 hours per annum).

Extra hours up to a maximum of an additional 2 hours per week if needed can be paid subject to approval by the Council.

A working-from-home allowance of up to £26 per month can be claimed, plus reasonable printing expenses if using the clerk's own printer.

The salary is in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) salary scale SCP11, subject to previous experience and qualifications.

For more information and/or a more detailed job and person description contact the Clerk at clerk@sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk

The closing date for application is Friday April 5th and interviews will be held by Friday May 3rd at a mutually convenient time.



Talking Shop needs a barista!

We run a market on Saturdays
and are famous for our breakfasts.

Are you a trained barista?

Can you make top quality barista coffees at speed?

Would you like to work for us on Saturdays from 8.30 till 12.30?

£11.44 per hour

If you're interested please get in touch with Clare Wakeham
on secretary.talkingshop@gmail.com
or leave your contact details at Talking Shop

ORCHARD LATEST *Peter Addyman writes:*

About 10 members of the Orchard group had its first work party on February 17th. We were able to install the two 1,000 litre water tanks at the top of the orchard which will be essential during the first couple of years while the trees get established.

Other work accomplished included pruning the hedge which had been neglected since planting and removing the invasive suckers of the White Poplar trees at the edge of the orchard.

The application for a grant from The Trust for Oxfordshire Environment (TOE) was successful and will pay for a new gate to replace the stile and a new pedestrian access gate into the recreation ground.

The 500 daffodils planted around the trees may still be in bloom when you read this so pop in and take a look.

All in all, a successful start to the year.

And thanks from the Link to Peter and all the volunteers for a terrific job – it will be so exciting watching the orchard flourish and bear fruit.

SOMETHING THAT NEEDS FIXING?

Clive Shorter can help with painting and decorating/
Gardening/DIY and more

07765 666625 commius@hotmail.com

TALKING SHOP NEWS

We are recruiting new members to the Board!



The Board of Directors oversees the business of Talking Shop and ensures that it

meets its stated aims. We take an interest in all aspects of the project's life, and support managers and volunteers where we can. We meet once a month, and between meetings there's a variety of tasks which Board members can take on, such as

- helping out with communications and marketing
- recruiting and inducting new volunteers
- thinking about Talking Shop strategy and planning for the future
- taking on (occasional) practical tasks such as liaising with tradespeople, or fixing or sourcing equipment
- fund-raising and applying for grants

Do you have skills and time you can offer to the Board of Directors? This could especially suit you if you have recently stepped away from full-time employment, and would like a way to use your skills and wisdom, **or** if you are earlier in your career and would like to gain experience and hone your skills.

Picture credit: Natalie Ellett

TALKING SHOP MEMBERSHIP: REMINDER

At last year's AGM we agreed to write to all those who have previously signed up as annual members and ask them to renew their annual membership by 1st April.

Talking Shop is a community-owned non-profit-making enterprise with all surplus fed back into community benefit. Our aim is to create a space where everyone is welcome, providing a range of activities and services that meet local needs, including rewarding and constructive work for volunteers who are mostly from the local area. Your membership fees will help support our vital work at the heart of the community.

Membership keeps you in touch with us, and entitles you to vote at the AGM. Members will also receive a six-monthly members-only newsletter, covering developments in the Talking Shop and giving the opportunity for feedback.

- Annual membership costs £10
- Lifetime membership is offered at a one-off cost of £100.

If you have previously signed up as a member of Talking Shop, we will be in touch with you asking you to renew your membership.

And if you aren't already signed up as a member of Talking Shop, please join us!

If you have any questions about joining the Board, or about membership, please contact the Chair, Clare Wakeham, on secretary.talkingshop@gmail.com.

Oxford Summer School

offers an amazingly wide range of art and craft courses, personally tutored on-site by experienced professionals. Their courses are suitable for a broad range of abilities and experience, and are priced at £60 per day. The Summer School will run from **Monday 5th August to Saturday 10th August** and booking is open now. See oxfordshireartandcraft.co.uk

OPEN GARDEN

Saturday 1st June 2024 2 - 5 pm

in aid of the National Garden Scheme which raises money for various charities.

£5 entrance (all proceeds go to NGS) **and plant sale.**

93, Church Road

(Julie and Matthew Wilkinson).

More details at:

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/46352/93-church-road>



SANDFORD COMMUNITY LUNCH

A delicious meal using perfectly good food that would go to waste – a family friendly event, with children to which all are welcome, no need to book. Turn up and pay what you can.

Held on the second Wednesday of each month – see [facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford](https://www.facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford)

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 Prue Reynolds on prue.reynolds96@gmail.com



These are just some of the ways you could be part of the friendly team at Talking Shop:

4 hours 9-1 or 12.45-4.30 is a shift in the shop.
Learn how to make great coffee, chat with our customers, help prepare and create our menu of food.



1-2 hours a week at your convenience: bake a cake, make a batch of cookies to sell in the shop. All ingredients provided – just give us a list and come in to bake when you can.



As long as you want, come on a Monday and see what the food bank have delivered – then come and cook up a storm.



Lighten the load and take a load (of laundry...); pick up a bag of aprons and tea towels and then bring back when done.



Volunteer at the market, super busy, super sociable and gets you up and out on a Saturday!

For 2 hours a week Buddy with a volunteer who needs more support, just helping someone to understand the till, set up the shop etc: being on hand to work something out together.

We welcome anyone who wants to be involved. It is super easy – all you have to do is either come into the shop and talk to Ingrid or Kylie, or email kylie.talkingshop@gmail.com.



Sandford-On-Thames Women's Institute "Inspiring Women" Spring 2024



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.

This will be another year of pageantry, and sorrow. To this end our members and friends are planning to create decorations in keeping with 80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings 6th June 1944 and for our efforts to make this village proud.

If there is anyone with pictures, letters or articles relating to the D Day Landings and are willing to let us carefully copy and return we will be delighted to hear from you. Anyone who would be willing to help in any way, you will be very welcome. Please contact us, we will be so pleased to hear from you. Jill 01865 716557/ jpappslove@hotmail.com

Our past and projected programme 2024

25th January Burns Night with Piper Major Steven Duffy who will lead King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla at the D Day Celebration on 6th June 2024.

30th January Group visit to Oliver.

8th February Food and Wine pairing with Jane Shepherd.

14th March Annual Meeting Reports Elections for 2023-2025 Committee and President, followed by Belly Dancing Demonstration and opportunities to learn with Jenny Wells.

Annual Subscription due on 1st April 2024 £48, may be paid at the meeting.

11th April Talk by Emergency Rider Volunteers (Ox., Bucks, Northants).



9th May Finalising Decorations for D Day.

13th June Talk by floristry group Strength and Stem, their work empowering modern slavery survivors.

11th July TBA (possible Quiz, Games).

July SOT Village Summer Fete

August Social event/events for members

12th September Talk by Jane Finnerty "Empowering Women".

10th October Candle Making.

14th November Talk by Oxford Artisan Distillery.

12th December Members Christmas Celebrations and Christmas Wreath Making.

December and January's meetings are for members only. From February until November you are welcome to come and sample a meeting. We are a friendly group of ladies of a variety of ages and interests.

You do not have to be an able craft person, as there are many ways that you can participate. 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 we will appreciate a donation of £5 or join SOTWI – the joining fees will be displayed.

If you are re-joining for whatever reason there is no additional penalty anymore.

You do not have to live in Sandford-On-Thames to join us. We communicate with members face to face, by phone, email or WhatsApp.

Jill Love 01865 716557/ jpappslove@hotmail.com



Have a go at one of the regular activities at your Village Hall

We have some great activities currently, details below.

Any further information from Robert on 07759 890696



Monday Sandford Toddler Group – 10am to noon

The Sandford Toddler Group meets every Monday 10 am-12 noon, including most weeks in school holidays but excluding bank holidays. We welcome families from Sandford/Littlemore and further afield. We have the use of a large hall, including some outdoor space, with toys to suit ages 0-5 years. We charge £2 per family (first session free) and within this, parents can enjoy free tea/coffee and children can have snacks like fruit, biscuits and toast. At the end of the session, there is storytelling and/or singing. We are volunteer-run, so any help setting up/clearing away is appreciated. We welcome feedback on how the group could improve. Please do come and join us!

Sandford Table Tennis Club – 7-9pm

Sandford Table Tennis is a friendly village club catering for all ages and standards. All are welcome. We play socially on Mondays and also in the Didcot league. Meet us any Monday in the hall from 7-9pm. Come and try your hand, your first session is free. Contact Stephen (07989240195) or John (07584190028) if you need any further information.

Tuesday: Junior Tae Kwon-Do – 5.30-6.30pm

Develop your children's self confidence, concentration, and help them to learn respect for themselves and others. Lessons developed to be fun and information. Age 5-17. ITF registered international instructor James Kumar. Contact: 01865 772883 or 07788 583965. jameskumar@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday: Pilates – 10-11am

Mixed ability, drop-in Pilates class with Anginette Barton. The class is open to everyone of all experience and strength, and Anginette will guide you through the practice of Pilates but let you listen to your own body to take

your desired level. The class fee is £7.50.

Contact: www.ajactive.com | ajbarton@hotmail.co.uk

Afternoon Tea, 1st Wednesday – 2-4pm

A community project for over 18s: homemade cakes and teas, and a raffle on the day. Cost £4. Book with prue.reynolds96@gmail.com.

Sandford Community Lunch, 2nd Wednesday – 12.30-2pm

A delicious meal using perfectly good food that would otherwise go to waste – a family friendly event, with children’s play area, to which all are welcome, no need to book! Turn up and pay what you can. Look out for the dates on look out for the date on facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford.

Thursday: Junior Tae Kwon-Do – 5.30-6.30pm: see Tuesday

WI, 2nd Thursday of the month (not August) – 7.30pm

See page 12

Saturday: Saturday Market – 9am-noon

Fresh fruit, vegetables, bread, papers, and a range of guest stalls offering everything from cake and baklava to pottery and pictures. The shop and cafe at Talking Shop are also open at this time with plenty of seating, excellent coffee, pastries and delicious breakfast baps. Outdoor seating and large play area adjacent to hall. If you’d like to run a stall at the market, contact market.talkingshop@gmail.com.

Sunday: Oxford Guitar Society, 2nd Sunday, 7-10pm

The Oxford Guitar Society is a friendly, non-competitive, society for classical guitar players who enjoy making music together. Our meetings combine ensemble playing with ample opportunities for members to give short recitals to a friendly audience. The music we play covers a wide range of styles and periods, much of it arranged specifically for guitar ensemble by our members. The society is designed to benefit players from about grade three onwards. The ability to sight-read is necessary to join in the ensemble pieces. For more information see: <https://oxgs.org.uk/>.

Grenoble Road development update:

In September last year SODC issued the following statement:

As you are probably aware, we publish a statement to demonstrate we have enough land available in the district for five years’ worth of housing. This is known as our Five Year Housing Land Supply.

If we have less than five years’ worth of housing land, it has the potential to affect how planning applications in some areas of the district are determined. Our latest statement shows that our housing land supply figure is currently 4.2 years.

There are a lot of factors currently affecting the housing market in South Oxfordshire that have caused it to drop below the five-year target at the time of this report. A significant factor is the national economic downturn, and one aspect of this is that developers are slowing down the delivery of housing developments, waiting until values pick up and they can sell at a higher price.

A significant number of landowners and developers have also fallen short of their commitments around when they would submit applications for strategic sites allocated in the adopted Local Plan. One of these is the land south of Grenoble Road, which is part-owned by Oxford City Council.

Nuneham Courtenay solar farm

The planning application made by Enso Energy to SODC for a solar farm adjoining the A4074 opposite the entrance to Lower Farm Lane was granted in 2022, and work was scheduled to start in 2023 – not clear whether that has begun or not.

Childcare support expanding

Applications are now open on the government’s website for eligible working parents of two year olds to apply for 15 hours a week of funded childcare support. Funding starts from 1 April 2024.

See www.oxfordshire.gov.uk under ‘Children and Families’.

The Global Retreat Centre

at Nuneham Courtenay have a range of courses and groups for meditation and healing. See their website www.globalretreatcentre.org.

HEAL also offers courses and workshops to promote holistic wellbeing.

Based in Little Baldon, their website is healoxfordwellbeing.co.uk

Forthcoming election

The final proposals of the Boundary Commission were approved by Parliament in November 2023 and the new boundaries will be used at the next general election. Sandford will move from the Henley constituency to Didcot and Wantage, whose present MP is David Johnston, a Conservative with a majority of 9,407.

This map shows the boundaries of the new constituency.



District council joint local plan – have your say.

A local plan looks ahead fifteen years and plans how much development is needed in an area, like new homes, jobs, roads and schools, and where they should go. It also sets standards for environmental protection, sustainability, water quality and much more. South Oxfordshire and the Vale District Councils are working together to produce a new Joint Local Plan which will affect Sandford.

You can read about it and have your say by visiting <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp/>.

Littlemore Local History Society

March 20th: James Murray and the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary: Simon Wenham

April 17th Tom Carter of Marsh Baldon – the invisible collector: Mike Heeney

May 15th Beer, sausages and marmalade – food, drink, politics in 19th C Oxford: Liz Woolley

7.0 for 7.30 at Littlemore Community Centre. £3 a meeting.

Bryan and Buffy McClelland: history.littlemore@gmail.com

Update from Oxford Preservation Trust – February 2024

Heyford Meadow and Simons Land are ready for Spring thanks to the continued support of our fantastic volunteers. Paths are clear, reeds and grasses have been scythed, raked and piled up, boardwalks maintained. Some tree work including further willow pollarding is planned in Heyford Meadow to keep it safe for those who visit.



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 and any major non-emergency works that might disturb or harm birds and their nests are paused. Our volunteers will still be busy and will continue to enjoy scything areas clear of nests, oiling signs, repairing the boardwalks, mowing paths and more throughout spring and summer, keeping this place beautiful for summer strolls and play.

In April, do look out for the Snake's Head Fritillaries (Oxfordshire's county flower) which flower in Heyford Meadow. Careful management of the grassland has encouraged more fritillaries to grow and flower. They are unmistakable, with chequered purple and pink bell-like flowers hanging from thin stems and narrow leaves that appear at the base of the plant.

Heyford Meadow has its own volunteer conservation day on the third Friday of each month 9.30am - 12.30pm - it is a great way to be out in nature, get active, and meet new people. Everyone is welcome to join, no experience required.

If you'd like to get involved in helping us care for other green spaces across Oxford, please do get in contact. Whatever your experience, age or ability, we are always looking for volunteers to support our work. A work party is just starting up at the Rewley Road Swing Bridge - as a result of OPT's restoration work, in 2022 the Swing Bridge was marked as 'saved' and removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. In December 2023, the conservation project won the Railway Heritage Trust Conservation Award for 2022. We are now working hard to create a special and biodiverse landscape around the bridge.

Information can be found on our website: www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk.

Hannah Brockwell, Green Spaces Officer at the Oxford Preservation Trust
h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Rest in peace

John Welch born 13th July 1951, died 12th January 2024, aged 72
John was born and went to school in Headington, and became an apprentice at Hunt's Office Equipment, repairing typewriters. It was doing this that he met Yvonne, the love of his life. They married in 1975 and brought up two sons, Simon and Kevin, who became a parish councillor in Sandford and a boss at Range Rover. He married the brilliant Sandford church treasurer Diane, and they produced Eve – a perfect joy. John's passion for the outdoors led him when young to become a youth leader in the Contango club, travelling extensively in Europe. Already at school his mechanical aptitude was evident and his passion for cars and Formula One and steam trains was life-long. A second career with the County Council also involved cars.

In 2004 the family moved to Heyford Hill Lane, handy for his beloved Oxford United and with another (smaller) garden and country walks, where he was a friendly neighbour – his local popularity evident from the large congregations at his funeral. A long and painful illness was borne with such fortitude that his sudden death was unexpected and a shock to us all. We shall remember him with affection as a decent human being, friendly to all and sundry, and the kind of citizen that would make Britain what we want it to be. May he rest in peace, and may his family find comfort in what a great husband, father and grandfather he managed to be. Thank you, John.

Tom Loveridge was 84, and lived for many years on the Ten Acre Park before poor health obliged him to move to Swindon, where he was cared for by a son and daughter-in-law. He struggled increasingly with dementia and other health problems since his wife's death four years ago. They leave six children and his funeral took place in a full church at Sandford at the end of January. Tom was remembered as a man who worked hard at whatever opportunities came his way to provide for his family. He had a special fondness for cowboy films, especially John Wain's, and for caring so generously for neighbours' cats that they often chose to move in with him. He was interred with his wife of more than forty years at Rose Hill Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

You are never alone

It is obvious that regular church-going has fallen further since covid. In all our lifetimes the figures fell as shopping, children's and spectator's sport, exhaustion from increasing pressures and new opportunities for travel etc. led to many re-ordering their priorities, at least in Europe and North America if not the rest of the world where the figures continue to rise. The decline of the West is partly a loss of public religion and morality. Does it matter?

If we no longer meet together to learn and reinforce the values shared in religions we may lose their power to shape our society. Some substitutes work for some individuals but bind us less closely together. Diversity is good, but social glue is still necessary and hobbies only work for small groups of enthusiasts. We all know something about each others' beliefs and values and practices from TV – but looking on is not the same as participating by being part of something much bigger than ourselves.

When many schools reduced the teaching of history, literature and religion there was little talk of the hidden social costs. And instead of learning to critically question our own traditions some settled for irrational versions of their faith. Just when serious thought and action are needed.

To survive we need to do better, and that means learning from each other as well as from those trained to teach others – of all ages. The alternatives will entertain us for a bit but not satisfy thoughtful people for long. Meanwhile social institutions are short of volunteers – at a time when new claims are made on them. And every opportunity of doing things together is welcome.

So 'let all the world in every corner sing . . .' And not only alone in the bath.

Bob Morgan



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/

Welcome to the world

to **Mabel Lin**, born 28th December to Helen and Simon Dobinson Judd of Henley Road.

And a **warm welcome** to **Paul and Alexandra Devine** who have recently moved to 22A Heyford Hill Lane. Like the previous occupants, they are Salvation Army officers: Alexandra has ministered in Abingdon for some time, but now has responsibility for Oxford also. We wish them joy in this expansion of their work.



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 Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4 December 2023

Full minutes can be found on the Parish Council website.

Reports from District and County Councillors: Available on the website. Note that potholes that particularly affect cyclists can be reported directly to Sam Casey-Rerhaye, as SODC's cycling champion.

- The old council laptop has been donated to the South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance.
- *The Link:* Prue Sykes has sent an invoice for The Link (£600 to account for increased printing costs) and queried whether the printed version of the newsletter should be smaller and therefore cheaper. PA to put Prue in touch with InstantPrint, who may be cheaper.
- *Graveyard maintenance:* No donation to the Church for graveyard maintenance has been made so far this year: last year £2,000 was donated in June. AGREED: to set up a standing order if agreed with Bob Morgan.
- AH to ask Bob what a suitable amount would be this year, and what time of the year would be most appropriate.
- **Village maintenance Deep cleansing/gutter cleaning:** Deep cleansing scheduled for 15-19 February. AH to send a list of the worst-affected gutters. Seth Cornfield & Mark Watson will then decide whether more action than a standard deep cleanse is required.
- **Grass cutting & tree maintenance** Treeline between OPT & PC land at the end of Broadhurst Gardens: PC has contributed £1,000 to costs; awaiting statement from OPT of responsibilities.
 - Condemned tree by the Baldon Mead gate & tree opposite: Charlie Draper has cut down the condemned tree and will quote for pollarding the tree opposite. AH to ask Charlie to quote for removal of brambles to the left of the gate and by the Fox Furlong goalposts.

MINI FIRST AID Baby and Child First Aid

**Parents, Carers, Grandparents,
Would you know what to do in an emergency?**

A friendly group on Thursdays 16th May and 4th July in Littlemore Village Hall. To book: Watford.minifirstaid.co.uk or ring Fran on 0796 722 8986.



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

Sandford websites

<https://sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.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/

WI news on www.facebook.com/sandfordonthamesWI

The Link facebook page is www.facebook.com/Sandford.on.Thames/

Another valuable source of local information is

<https://littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk/littlemore-local/>

- Brambles at the end of Broadhurst Gardens/Yeftly Drive: Charlie has cut these down. The fence thus exposed has props which may make future maintenance difficult. The property owner to be approached to establish the fence will be repaired so the props can be removed.
- Brambles & nettles on opposite side of path to houses. PA to ask Charlie to quote to cut these back to the tree line (OPT boundary).
- Brambles at The Wharf (PA): PA to ask Charlie to quote for this.
- Landscape Group winter work: no work currently required
- LB to organise clearing foliage from Heyford Hill Lane road sign and salt bin on corner of Pheasant Walk.

Fox Furlong play area: AH to ask on NextDoor whether anyone uses Fox Furlong play area. If we want to change its use we should prepare a survey and ask residents for their proposals.

Selling ex-Wharf rubbish bins: to advertise on eBay, ask on OALC if another council can use them or ask if Broxap will take them back.

Maintenance of wooden equipment in recreation ground: General maintenance: on hold until the spring. Monkey bars. Kompan have quoted £857.14 + VAT. Agreed to accept this quote.

Maintenance of other play areas: Janaway play area: woodchip spread by locals & councillors.

Reports to FixMyStreet:

- hedge in Henley Road: no change. OCC writing to householder
- pavement on Church Road between Old School House & bend: cleaned and made a little wider a month ago.
- overflowing drain by The Glen: OCC have sent similar replies to all the reports of blocked gullies: "... *Gullies are cleaned in accordance with the County Council's maintenance policy...*". MB to report blocked gully at Henley Road/A4074 slip road.

Overhanging branch by village hall car park entrance: PA to cut down

Progress report on orchard: The planting weekend on 25/26 November was very successful with a good turnout of volunteers and help & encouragement from Andy & Michael of Heritage Fruit Trees. See the website: <https://sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk/community-orchard/>

Progress report on Heyford Hill Lane project: AH will keep an eye on the area over the winter.

1. **CloudyIT** maintenance renewal accepted at £139.69 + VAT per month.
2. **Advertising clerk's job** (PA): This will be advertised with OALC towards the end of February and in the March edition of The Link. In the meantime, councillors and others are encouraged to ask around for possible candidates.

Notes on the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 January 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall

Reports from District and County Councillors: available on the website.

A resident has written to SCR and to SODC objecting to a proposed extension to Oxford Park Homes. The last date for responses was 6 January, but SCR has asked SODC to extend the deadline because of its proximity to the Christmas & New Year break. AGREED: The PC is not in favour of the proposed development. PA to send PC's response.

Clerk's report A resident of Fox Furlong has reported flooding by their fence and house, adjacent to the playing field. The water is likely groundwater caused by a band of clay and there is probably nothing that can be done to improve the situation.

Deep cleansing/gutter cleaning: AH has surveyed impacted mud in gutters and sent a description with maps to Seth Cornfield (SODC) of the affected areas. AH has also drawn up a table of priorities for deep cleansing – principally litter on verges and leaves on pavements. AH to report blocked drain near the Kings Arms on FixMyStreet.

Grass cutting & tree maintenance:

- Treeline between OPT & PC land at the end of Broadhurst Gardens : OPT have put a fence on their side of the treeline. PC & OPT have a good working relationship and no further clarification is required.
- Overhanging tree and brambles by the Baldon Mead gate and between path and OPT boundary: awaiting quote from Charlie Draper. Fence props at Broadhurst Gardens/Yeftly Drive: DT to speak to resident.
- Brambles at The Wharf (PA): ditto
- Overhanging branch by village hall car park entrance: PA to assess and either cut back himself or ask Charlie Draper
- Hedge clearance in HHL (LB): street sign & salt bin has been done.
- The walnut trees in the Rec overhang railings with spikes - a potential

- safety hazard . Charlie Draper to quote to cut back the walnut trees.

Playground maintenance:

- Monkey bars - timbers have expanded in wet weather so the equipment is sitting firmly in its foundations, and adding additional concrete is currently neither necessary nor possible. Timber near the base is deteriorating and should at some point be replaced. Assessment to be made after winter.
- Use of Fox Furlong play area & football field: two residents have replied that the play area is used.
- Improvements to recreation ground steps on Henley Road: 2/3 contractors to suggest how to improve steps and to quote.

Reports to FixMyStreet

- Hedge in Henley Road has been cut back to some extent and the overhanging part removed.
- Overflowing drain by The Glen: OCC are aware but have not given a timeframe.
- Blocked gully at Henley Road/A4074 slip road (MB): does not appear to have been reported.

Progress on Local Green Spaces grant application: for removal of stile and installing two new gates between orchard, graveyard and recreation ground. PA has put in a grant application for £1,000 for this work. He will also discuss with John Findon the possibility of putting in an all-weather path linking the church to the village hall by way of the orchard.

Defibrillator: Battery and pads replaced.

Street lighting along Sandford Road: There are no streetlights on the A4074 bridge; AH to write to OCC to ask for improved lighting.

Litter pick: re-assess the need after the deep cleansing.

St Andrew's Church: contribution to costs of maintaining graveyard - agreed that £2,500 is a suitable sum for 2023: this has been paid. AH has set up a standing order to be paid annually.

Notes on the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5 February 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall

Reports from District and County Councillors: Available on the website.

The Joint Local Plan consultation period has been extended slightly to 26th February and PC members are welcome to contact SCR to discuss.

Clerk's report: AH has written to the resident of *Fox Furlong* about the recent flooding, stating that as it is caused by groundwater there is probably nothing that can be done to the field to improve the situation.

Playground inspections:

Kompan have quoted £2,000.92 + VAT for the coming year's playground inspections, an increase of approx. 5%. AGREED to accept quote.

Village maintenance

Deep cleansing/gutter cleaning: Chris Watson has asked what the priorities for the various cleaning activities. AH to inform that priorities are (in order): (1) impacted mud in gutters; (2) leaves on pavements; (3) litter. If necessary, litter picking could be done as a community activity.

Grass cutting & tree maintenance

- Overhanging tree and brambles by the Baldon Mead gate. The ground is currently too soft, but Charlie will do this when possible.
- Fence props at Broadhurst Gardens/Yeftly Drive. The resident has said he will repair the fence after his forthcoming surgery. PA to speak to the resident to stress the urgency.
- Brambles & nettles between path/OPT boundary. Charlie Draper to do.
- Brambles at The Wharf. Charlie Draper to do.
- Overhanging branch by village hall car park entrance: PA to monitor.
- Walnut trees/fence spikes in recreation ground. ACTION: PC to monitor the trees and have them pruned as necessary.

Ex-Wharf rubbish bins: No progress in finding a new owner.

General maintenance:

Improvements to *recreation ground steps*: Charlie Draper to quote.

Grass mats under rotator swing (AH): Kompan have quoted £822.23 + VAT. Agreed to accept this quote.

Reports to FixMyStreet

- Overflowing drain by The Glen: no further information on drain clearing
- Blocked gully at Henley Road/A4074 slip road.
- Blocked drain near The Kings Arms: marked as "investigating".
- Street lighting on Sandford Road: AH to follow up with OCC.

Progress report on orchard: There are 3 volunteers so far for a working party on 17 February to prepare the ground for 2 x 1000 litre water tanks. These will be filled by hose from the church, and watering cans and/or containers will be left nearby.

Progress on Local Green Spaces grant application: for removal of stile and installing two new gates between orchard, graveyard and recreation ground. The £1,000 grant request has been accepted. The work (including minor repair to the gate from the footpath) is scheduled for 15 April.

Grant application for a series of all-weather footpaths near the village hall. The grant application is onerous and it may not be worth applying. There are 3 sections of path: (1) Henley Road to orchard gate; (2) gate to burial ground boundary, with spur to VH car park; (3) across burial ground to recreation ground. Hopefully Voco Hotel may pay for (1). The cost for (2) & (3) with wood edging will be approx. £5017. PC to pay for (2) & (3) if required using remaining Magdalen College money and by general funds.

Talking Shop website: agreed to offer to host TS pages on the PC website with selected TS staff maintaining these pages.

The Link: the suggested printers turned out to be more expensive, so The Link will continue with the current company.

Contribution to booklet for new residents (AH): £92.80 paid to The Link

Recruitment of new clerk: Agreed to use the current contract, adding a clause referring to the NALC contract for resolution of ambiguities.

Internal audit: Jane Olds would prefer not to be internal auditor this year due to other commitments. She has suggested 3 other clerks to approach.

Emergency planning: The OCC template document is long and not appropriate for Sandford. The document submitted last year is a condensed version of the template and is still current. AH to submit to OCC.



HILLSIDE EXOTIC GARDENING
is a new Sandford business with a wonderful range of exotic plants – see their website at www.hillsideexoticgardening.co.uk

We are a small online garden nursery selling a range of plants, specialising in the more exotic.

We stock both hardy and non-hardy plants, including bananas, colocasias, cannas, Tetrapanax, succulents, perennials, Dicksonia antarctica (tree ferns) and many more.

Please take a look at our website for the range of plants we have to offer, with new stock available March/April. Viewing and collection is available by appointment.

Please contact Nicky or Lewis at:

info@hillsideexoticgardening.co.uk with any questions you may have.



This Link magazine is published by the Link Committee and this issue is edited by Prue Sykes, Lower Farm, Sandford-on-Thames (748848). Anything for inclusion should be sent to Lower Farm or e-mailed to robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk.

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For a while, during and post-Covid, the Voco Leisure club was only available with hotel bookings, but it is now open to anyone who would like to take out membership - with access to swimming pool, gym, sauna and steam room, and use of tennis courts.

Contact 01865 334422 or email oxfordthames.leisure@ihg.com

