

# The Sandford Link

Summer 2024 Issue 173

[www.sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk)



2024  
**SANDFORD**  
SUMMER  
*Festival*  
SATURDAY 20 JULY 2024  
1PM TO 7PM  
SANDFORD RECREATION GROUND

The poster features a festive design with colorful bunting at the top, illustrations of people dancing and musical notes, and a row of yellow stars. The text is in various colors and fonts, including a large blue 'SANDFORD' and a pink 'Festival'.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
**PHOTO**  
COMPETITION  
"MY SANDFORD-ON-THAMES"

For how to enter, see page 3

ENTER BY AUGUST 31ST

The poster shows a silhouette of a person taking a photo of a landscape. A green circular stamp in the top right corner says 'ENTER BY AUGUST 31ST'. The background is a dark, misty scene of a riverbank.

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

[www.sandfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.sandfordchurch.org.uk)

John Findon (*associate priest*) 01865 434256

[john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

Bob Morgan (*associate priest*) 01865 748848

[robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk)

Teresa Morgan (*associate priest*)

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.



### Congratulations to Ali . . .

and thanks to his friends, who cooked a really delicious meal for us in the Harris Room to celebrate the issuing of his visa.

## Young People's Photographic Competition 2024

### "My Sandford-on-Thames"

In Summer 2024 Sandford Village Hall is hosting a new photographic competition for young people living in and around Sandford.

There will be three age categories:

5-9

10-14

15-18

In each category, gold, silver and bronze awards will be made and the winning entries will have their photographs printed and initially displayed in the Village Hall, after which the winners will be able to take their pictures home.

#### Prizes (generously donated by our Parish Council):

Gold award - £25 cash or voucher and framed print of picture

Silver award - £15 cash or voucher and foam board print of picture

Bronze award - £10 cash or voucher and A4 print of picture on high quality paper.

#### Entry requirements:

The theme for the photograph will be "My Sandford-on-Thames" – some aspect of Sandford-on-Thames must be clearly visible in the photograph, but entrants are encouraged to make the response to this a personal one.

Photographs should be given a title and sent as a jpeg.

Enter online at

<https://sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/>

or email [sandfordhallevents@gmail.com](mailto:sandfordhallevents@gmail.com) by August 31st 2024.

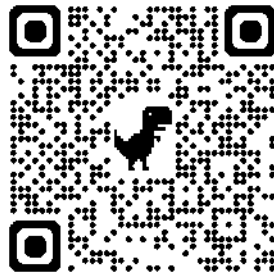
Entries received after that date will not be included.

The entry should be accompanied by:

- name, age and contact details of the photographer;
- a statement that the photograph is the entrant's own unaided work;
- details of when and where the photo was taken and what inspired it.

As there are many widely used means of editing and enhancing digital photographs, this will be acceptable in acknowledgement that this is now part of a legitimate artistic process.

The entries will be judged by a professional photographer whose decision will be final.



This number of The Sandford Link comes to you when the end of an uninspiring Election Campaign is still barely in sight. Headlined in the news this morning was a survey that had found that cynicism among voters about politicians is at its highest recorded level. Do journalists never wonder whether the frenzied pursuit of sound-bites can be the most reliable way to get honest conversation out of anybody?

It would be good if Sandford could lead the way to a national move beyond cynicism. Of all phrases in current use, the one that I should most like to see embargoed is 'too good to be true'. As one listens to representatives of the chattering classes, not many seem to have much to offer that is **good enough** to be true. Meanwhile, the central action of the Church continues to be the Eucharist, which is simply Greek for 'Thanksgiving', and even in the cold and wet Spring of 2024 you would have had to be blind and deaf to miss a multitude of blessings to count. In the natural world, there is an overwhelming sense of out-pouring and overflowing at this time of year. I don't remember better wisteria, and have you noticed how magnificent the humble coltsfoot is, out-shining the dandelions? Even beyond the beauties of Nature, of course, there are love and laughter, both of which have a way of catching you on the hop and reminding you that the world is a far more wonderful place than you had previously imagined.

We shall give our best efforts to celebrating some of this at St Andrew's with a Choral Evensong and 'Green Sermon' at 6.30 on the Sunday (14 July) **before** the Fête this year, with a cheering glass to follow. The Fête itself will be on 20th, bringing every opportunity to do silly things for the love of it. And when I deliver The Link I shall be knocking to offer you the opportunity of participation in the Great Sandford Raffle. We have prizes donated by the King's Arms and the Voco Hotel, Coffees and Cake courtesy of the Talking Shop, a free portrait of a sitter of your choice by Sandford artist Fred Rose, a free Cut by Sadie's Hair on Henley Road, a free MOT courtesy of James Hall from Hall's Garage, Photography by Etain O'Carroll, a cash prize of £100 and many other good things. Evidence, surely of a community in good heart.

With love to you all, *John Findon*

### FESTIVAL CHORAL EVENSONG

#### WITH GREEN SERMON

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 p.m. in St Andrew's

A chance to enjoy the Vale House art exhibition in church.

**2024**

# SANDFORD SUMMER Festival

**20 JULY**  
1PM - 7PM

**Free Entry**

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES FROM

## WATT 4

THE JUBILEE BRASS BAND

OPEN MIC ACOUSTIC TENT

ARENA PERFORMANCES & ACTIVITIES

## FAMILY FUN DOG SHOW

Strawberry Fayre Majorettes

★★★★★ KIDS' RACES & TUG OF WAR ★★★★★

**THE THIRSTY QUEEN'S PUB ON THE GREEN**

★ PIMMS TENT, TEA & CAKES, ICE CREAMS, BBQ, MIDDLE EASTERN CUISINE ★

★ CHURCH RAFFLE, FAIRGROUND RIDES, CLASSIC CARS AND LOTS MORE.....★

WE'LL BE SUPPORTING HOME START UK AS OUR CHOSEN CHARITY  
ALONG WITH OTHER LOCAL CHARITIES & ST ANDREWS CHURCH, SOT

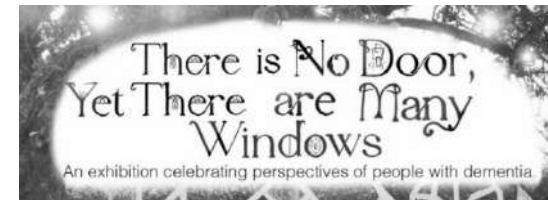
**T.J HALL & SON LTD PROUDLY SPONSORS THIS EVENT**

ALTHOUGH THIS EVENT IS FREE, WE RELY ON THE GENEROSITY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS ALIKE  
TO ENSURE THIS COMMUNITY EVENT CAN CONTINUE. WE THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### Vale House art exhibition

A year ago, Vale House residents had an exhibition called **There is No Door, Yet There are Many Windows** at OVADA Gallery in Oxford, featuring the amazing art and memories of our residents made over 3 years with Art therapist Georgia Arben-Crowther.

We welcome you to come and see the windows on display in the St Andrews Church from 5<sup>th</sup> July to 22<sup>nd</sup> July.



So, when you come to the **Sandford Fete** please do come and visit the exhibition in the Church and the Vale House stall. Especially if you have any questions about dementia or are interested in volunteering opportunities, including as a Trustee at Vale House Specialist Dementia Care Home.

### Book of Remembrance

As we announced some months ago, we shall place a Book of Remembrance in Church from this Autumn, to give people an opportunity to include the names of ones they have loved and whom they would like us to remember each year on their anniversaries.

The Book has arrived, and we hope to find a calligrapher in the next few weeks who can undertake to make the entries. We expect there to be a charge of a pound or two to have each one written. Names would usually be entered under the date of the person's death (what our Christian ancestors would have called their birthday into new life), but if you can't find that, you could use their birthday. Names and dates should be sent to John: [john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk).

### General election July 4<sup>th</sup> 2024

Following the 2023 Periodic Review of Westminster constituencies, Sandford on Thames has moved from the Henley constituency to **Didcot and Wantage**. It will first be contested at the 2024 general election, and will comprise the majority of the current Wantage constituency plus a small part of the Henley electorate (Sandford-on-Thames). At the 2019 general election David Johnston was elected MP for Wantage, with a majority of 12,653. Votes cast were Conservative 34,085, Lib Dem 21,432, Lab 10,181, Independent 1,475.

## Sandford Village Hall

### SACaS (Sandford Arts Crafts and Skills)

In response to a suggestion made at the recent quiz night, we are planning to organise a **monthly arts, crafts and skills session on the third Thursday of the month from 6 - 7.30.**

We already have a number of ideas ranging from solving computer problems to block printing, from a gardening question time to improving your digital photography.

**We are hoping that the vast majority of these sessions will be run by local resident experts who will offer their services for free and are asking for suggestions and volunteers before we finalise the programme for 24/25.**

If you are interested in running a session, please email Etain on:  
sandfordhallevents@gmail.com.

Further information and a complete programme will be available in the Autumn with a view to the opening session beginning with a **drinks reception on Thursday September 26th at 5pm** to coincide with the prizegiving for the young people's photography competition.

#### **Other events in the pipeline include:**

- A music evening on Saturday 19th October
- A children's theatre event in January
- An exhibition of the work of local artists in February.

#### **Tandem Befriending**

is particularly looking to recruit mature volunteers with life experience and skills, to give an hour or so a week befriending someone struggling to get back on their feet after a period of mental ill-health. Full training and support, and great satisfaction. [www.tandembefriending.org.uk](http://www.tandembefriending.org.uk)

## TALKING SHOP NEWS

### WE ARE RECRUITING!

#### MARKET & EVENTS MANAGER

#### **£13.79 per hour**

Join our brilliant friendly team, to help manage the market, shop and café.

You'll work on two Saturdays a month (6.5 hours) plus two hours per week to develop the market through promotion and events.

- ★ Are you organized and practical, but also imaginative and ambitious?
- ★ Do you have experience in working with customers, e.g. in retail or catering?
- ★ Have you organised and promoted events, using good communication and social media skills?
- ★ Are you an excellent communicator, able to lead a team of volunteers including young people?

If this is you we would love to hear from you!

#### **BARISTA £11.44 per hour (£8 per hour for 16/17-year-olds)**

Are you a trained barista? Can you make top quality barista coffees at speed? Would you like to work for us on Saturday mornings for 4 hours per week? Please get in touch!

#### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

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.





## TALKING SHOP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm  
in the Village Hall**

We are looking forward to seeing you at this year's AGM. Please come along and have your say! ALL ARE WELCOME.

Reminder: if you wish to vote at the AGM you will need to have signed up as a member.

**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!**

Talking Shop is a community-owned non-profit-making enterprise with all surplus fed back into community benefit. Your membership fees will help support our vital work at the heart of the community. 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 any questions about applying for jobs or joining the Board, or about membership, please contact the Chair, Clare Wakeham, on [secretary.talkingshop@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.talkingshop@gmail.com)

Welcome to Lucy, Richard and Sarah to Henley Road, to Lee, new manager of the King's Arms, and Congratulations to the intrepid Sandburgers who took part in the Community Miles run on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roger Bannister's sub-four minute mile. Starting outside Christ Church, running along St Aldates, down the High to the Iffley Road track, where medals were presented.

Jennie Fox writes: I ran and intermittently walked with Pip Goodger for company, while Ben Goodger, in 8 mins 36 secs and Matt Wilkinson in 8 mins 43 secs did us proud.



*Jennie speed-walks at the finish*



### SANDFORD COMMUNITY LUNCH

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.

**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](mailto:prue.reynolds96@gmail.com)



## Our new parish clerk, Lynne Bustin,

started on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are very fortunate to have secured her services as she has many years' experience as clerk for another community and has extensive knowledge of the procedures and legislation surrounding the job. Lynne is also a bit of a departure for us as she is the first Sandford clerk who is not a Sandford resident, but she is already getting familiar with the business of the PC and the history and geography of the village. If you need to interact with Lynne, then please understand that she is on a learning curve and give her all the assistance you can.

We would also like to thank our retiring clerk, **Anthony Hull**, who although clerk for a relatively short time has had a big impact on our way of working and was one of the key figures in updating our IT systems, website and procedures. Working with him has been a pleasure and we hope he will be able to continue in some PC role in the future on top of his other volunteering activities for the village.

## The Parish Council (PC), your money and becoming a councillor.

Every year the PC submits a budget to SODC and this becomes "the precept", or the amount of money we are allocated as Sandford's share of your Council tax and your Council tax bill shows how that money is divided. The PC is then responsible for using those funds for the benefit of the community.

The complete budget document is available on the Sandford-on-Thames village website. It shows the current year's income and expenses from which the following year's budget requirement is estimated and reading this will help explain how the PC calculates its anticipated expenditure over the course of the following financial year. The most visually obvious activity is the grounds maintenance but there are many other expenses in the background, many of which must be voted on by the councillors. The Village Hall committee is generally responsible for the upkeep of the Hall, but the PC also maintains reserve funds for future major repairs to the VH and other village facilities so not all the money is spent each year.

PC meetings, generally held on the first Monday of each month at 6.45 (see schedule) in the Village Hall are public meetings and any resident has a right to attend and may also request to speak on any topic so the PC will be very happy to get your input.

We still have one vacancy for a councillor so if you'd like to directly influence how your precept is used, please see p.15.

## SANDFORD TODDLERS GROUP

meets every Monday 10 -12 in the Village Hall, including most weeks in school holidays but excluding bank holidays. We welcome families from Sandford, Littlemore and further afield. We use a large hall, some outdoor space and toys to suit ages 0-5 years. £2 per family (first session free) with free tea/coffee for parents and snacks like fruit, biscuits and toast for children. At the end of the session, there is storytelling and/or singing. We are volunteer-run, and help setting/clearing up is always appreciated.



Come and join us! More info from [john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

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



**Summer 2024 report.** Meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month (not August), social events for members occur in August and at other times during the year, some just for members and others to include family and friends.

This has been another year of pageantry and sorrow. Toward this end our members created decorations in keeping with the 80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings, 6th June 1944, in an effort to remind us all of the sacrifice which was given by the young men who gave their lives for our Freedom.

We decided to decorate the church entrance and the 2 post boxes in Church Road and Heyford Hill Lane. Big congratulations to the ladies who worked so hard creating the soldiers, a very delicate and dedicated achievement.

All but 4 of our members are now on WhatsApp which has really come to the fore during this period. Members do try to share information with the people not on WhatsApp, which you don't have to have to be a member.

Prior to the 6th June our Vice President motored to Normandy, keeping us abreast of the happenings there. Sharon has sent us many wonderful pictures which has helped to keep us very involved, and what amazing memories she will be able to share in the years to come.



[Sharon has written a piece for the Link about her experiences, on pages 16-17.]

## Programme from June 2024

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

11th July – Quiz evening

20<sup>th</sup> 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 Ann and John Ford:  
Morris Minors in the Media

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 our members face to face, by phone, email and or WhatsApp, we only occasionally use post.

*President Jill Love*

01865 716557/ [jpappslove@hotmail.com](mailto:jpappslove@hotmail.com) or

07900 907477 (text is best as signal poor)



*Thanks to the WI for the  
decorative commemorative  
post boxes!*

### SOMETHING THAT NEEDS FIXING?

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

**07765 666625 [commius@hotmail.com](mailto:commius@hotmail.com)**



## Current regular activities at your Village Hall

For further information see [www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk) or  
contact Robert 07759 890696  
or [sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com](mailto:sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com)

- Monday**     **Sandford Toddler Group** 10am to noon  
                  **Sandford Table Tennis Club** 7-9pm
- Tuesday:**    **Junior Tae Kwon-Do** 5.30-6.30pm
- Wednesday:** **Pilates** 10-11am  
                      **Afternoon Tea** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – 2-4pm  
                      **Sandford Community Lunch**  
  2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 12.30-2pm
- Thursday:**    **Junior Tae Kwon-Do** 5.30-6.30pm  
                      **Sandford Womens' Institute** 2nd Thursday of  
  the month (not August) – 7.30pm
- Saturday:**    **Saturday Market** 9am-noon
- Sunday:**      **Oxford Guitar Society** 2nd Sunday, 7-10pm

## VOCO Oxford Thames



For a while 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](mailto:oxfordthames.leisure@ihg.com)



## **SANDFORD-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL?**

**There is a vacancy on this friendly council which meets each month in the Village Hall on the first Monday of the month (check meeting calendar) at 6.45 pm.**

**You must be an elector or have lived in the parish for 12 months as an owner or tenant or your principal workplace is in Sandford.**

**We would particularly welcome any interest from Park Homes to ensure we have good representation for all parts of the village.**

The parish council is an essential part of the structure of local democracy. Its role is to act on behalf of the village to:

- give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish.
- undertake projects and schemes that benefit residents.
- work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish.
- alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken.
- and help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.

The County and District Councillors usually attend to keep us informed about what is going on in the wider area and to answer questions or put them to the right person if they don't know the answer.

**If you are interested – or would like to find out more –  
just contact the Parish Clerk, Lynne Bustin  
by email [clerk@sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk)  
or by telephone 07496 414987**

## **Our 80th Anniversary D-Day Tour. Sharon Fenn writes:**

We arrived at our first stop in Merville, Northern France on 31 May. All the streets & shops were decorated, and we arrived in time for a fantastic parade of military vehicles parading from the town to the Merville Battery Site.

*June 1st & 2nd* We cycled along the Caen Canal to Pegasus Bridge. This was a particularly poignant ride as this is the canal where Major John Howard led the men from The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry to seize Pegasus Bridge and neighbouring Horsa Bridge. Major Howard led a force of 181 men, landing in three gliders and taking the bridge within 10 minutes.

We visited the Cafe Gondree on Pegasus Bridge, which is still run by Madame Arlene Gondree, she was 4 years old and living with her parents and sisters on D-Day. They were the first family to be liberated from German Control. Madame Gondree had celebrated with veterans and a glass of Champagne every year since.

Pegasus Bridge was also a height of activity in preparation for D-Day with military vehicles, re-enactments and pipe bands parading over the bridge.

*June 3rd & 4th* We moved to Bayeux visiting the Bayeux Commonwealth War Cemetery. We managed our visit just in time before the cemetery was closed for Princess Anne's visit.

This turned out to be a blessing in disguise as we had the privilege of front row seats whilst watching the RAF Band rehearsing. We had a couple of hours listening to wonderful music and watching them practice their marching.

*June 5th & 6th* making our way to Arromanches-les-Bains we visited the Commonwealth War Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer. We see the display of 'Standing with Giants', the figures had been transported from Blenheim Palace. The 1,475 giant silhouettes overlooking Gold Beach are in honour of the servicemen who fell on D-Day.

Arriving in Arromanches-les-Bains we were lucky to find a camping spot on top of the hill by the Memorial as the whole Town was absolutely packed! The Town and Beach were covered in decorations with lots of celebrations from more military vehicles, pipe & military bands, regular fly overs of World War 2 Aircraft - even the Radio 2 Breakfast Show on the beach which we had to miss due to the roads being closed off for our Prime Minister visit!

Later in the day William, Prince of Wales visited the Town. The highlight of our day was meeting 101 year old Reggie, the only Welsh Veteran to attend the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Reggie was helped from his wheelchair and taken for a ride in a Willys Jeep onto Gold Beach, this was very emotional. The day ended at 23.00 with a fantastic firework display



Arromanches-les-Bains is known for its Mulberry Harbours, these were temporary portable harbours to facilitate the rapid off loading of cargo onto the beaches during the Allied Invasion of Normandy.

The British 50th Infantry Division invaded and took Gold Beach from German Troops on June 6th 1944.

*June 7th* arrived at Port-en-Bessin a lovely fishing port. After climbing to the highest point in the village we attended a service with The Royal Marines at The Captain Cousins Memorial. The port was taken on 7th and 8th of June by No.47 Royal Marine Commandos of the 4th Special Brigade. The victory was crucial in linking Gold Beach with our American Allies at Omaha Beach. This concluded our D-Day tour.

We then returned to Bayeux for a few days rest before heading off to Ypres in Belgium to pay our respects to the Soldiers of The First World War.

*June 11th & 12th* - arrived in Ypres. We cycled the Ypres Peace Route visiting the trenches and various cemeteries. Going into the trenches made you realise what the soldiers went through.

On our first night we attended the ceremony at The Menin Gate. This is a Memorial to the Missing Soldiers of the First World War who have no graves. Each evening at 8.0 Buglers from The Last Post Society sound The Last Post. This ceremony has happened every night since 1927 except during the Second World War when it was conducted at Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey. Ypres is such a beautiful peaceful town it is so hard to imagine the atrocities that happened there in The First World War.

### **Oxford Preservation Trust**

created and maintain the reserves at Heyford Hill Lane and Simon's Land in Sandford. If you'd like to get involved in helping them care for our green spaces, please do get in contact.

**Whatever your experience, age or ability,  
they are always looking for volunteers  
to support their work.**

**OXFORD  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST**

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 in.

See [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk).

*Hannah Brockwell* [h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)

### **Heading to the river for a dip or a paddle this summer?**

#### **Check out the new Oxford Rivers Portal.**

River pollution is all over the news, but it's difficult to get clear, up-to-date information about river water quality and conditions locally.


This is why environmental charity Thames21 and research institute UKCEH have developed a one-stop shop for local river information: the Oxford Rivers Portal. It can be accessed online at <https://oxfordrivers.ceh.ac.uk/portal>

On a single map, you can discover the current river level, flood alerts, and whether there has been a recent sewage spill in your local river or stream. You can check out the most recent bacteria water quality at Port Meadow (between 15th May and 30th September). You can also use the "detailed view" to look back in time at river water quality near you, tested by both the Environment Agency and citizen scientists.

There is also information about local river action groups, reporting pollution and campaigning for change. The team behind the portal will also be release "case studies" each month to help people use the data to push for river improvements in and around Oxford, so check back for updates.

[www.thames21.org.uk](http://www.thames21.org.uk)

*Claire Robertson* Oxford Rivers Project Officer



a chiropractic health centre in Nuneham Courtenay  
[www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk](http://www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk)  
at The Old Smithy, Yew Tree Courtyard.  
Online booking available.



Swim with us on Wednesday mornings at Oxford Thames Hotel

**Puddle Ducks**

Swimming Lessons for Babies & Children 0 - 4 Years

Book a FREE Trial Lesson today! Scan the QR or call us on: 01644 577 377

## Rest in peace

**Beryl Boyd** born 16th March 1934, died 26th March 2024, aged 90

Beryl was baptised, brought up and went to school at Harwell, where her father, Joe Corderoy, was captain of bell-ringers at St Matthew's church. She worked for many years as a nursery nurse at Wantage in Fitzwarren school, and brought up her three daughters.

In 1978 after marrying Laurence they moved to the Crescent and made good friends in Sandford. Beryl played the organ at St Andrew's as needed (we had choral evensong each week). Readers of the Link in the early 90s will remember Laurence driving aid lorries to Bosnia and taking Beryl with him in Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) outside the UN mandate in dangerous areas under constant Serbian shelling. Aid included clothes, building materials and even firewood for Sarajevo when there was no fuel available. They loved Croatia, especially Split, and went back there for holidays after the war, and also to Guernsey, where Laurence (a former editor of the Link and a local activist) had lived previously, and to Normandy. In 2000 after retiring they returned to Harwell and Laurence nursed Beryl during her long final illness.

Sandford was represented at her funeral in St Matthew's, Harwell, where the hymns she had chosen were 'We love the place, O God', 'Give me joy in my heart', 'The Lord's my shepherd', and (celebrating the Resurrection in the Easter season) 'Thine be the glory'. Beryl was a lovely gentle lady, smart and friendly. Some of us will never forget her – may she rest in peace and rise in glory.

## Philip Bunce

died towards the end of April, at the age of 92. For several years he had been a familiar Sandford sight walking from his home on Church Road to the Village Hall and back for his daily paper. We shall miss his willowy figure.

Phil was aware that he had been greatly blessed in life. He had found a career in the Royal Marines which he loved, serving from 1948 to 1971, and then until 1986, with enthusiasm and success, as a careers adviser. His active service took him around the world, and to Malta in the late 50s, where he met and married Rhona; they had been together for 63 years. He was a strict father to his two daughters – perhaps he learnt the style from his own formidable mother – but a fond grandfather; it was fitting that a grandson in uniform led his coffin into Church for his funeral. People naturally warmed to his winning self-deprecatory smile. *[cont. overleaf]*

Years after he had ceased to sing himself, impressive numbers of the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir and the Parish Church Choir were in Church to sing for him at the service. All was done in good order as he would have wished, with a bugler to play the Last Post and finally 'No more Parades'. There is an old story that the Archangel Lucifer, cast out of Heaven for rebellion and asked what he principally missed, replied 'The sound of the trumpet in the morning': something that Phil will surely continue to enjoy, 'No more Parades' or not.

## HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Would you like to borrow library books but can't visit the library for any reason? Oxfordshire County Council runs a Home Library Service.

### How it works

Contact us to discuss the kind of Books, Large Print/Regular Print, DVDs, Audio Books on CD, Music CD or DVDs, that you like to read or enjoy. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home.

Our volunteers are DBS checked, wear an identification badge and provide a helpful and friendly service. Whenever possible, we try and arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The Home Library Service is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns.

**How to register** or for further information call Berinsfield Library on 01865 340771 or telephone the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

### 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](http://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.facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford/](https://www.facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford/)

WI news on [www.facebook.com/sandfordonthamesWI](https://www.facebook.com/sandfordonthamesWI)

The Link facebook page is [www.facebook.com/Sandford.on.Thames/](https://www.facebook.com/Sandford.on.Thames/)

**Another valuable source of local information is**

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

## Bits and pieces

### Road closure alert:

The Littlemore roundabout will be closed for 24 hours for surface work over the weekend of 2-5 August, doubtless adding to the general traffic chaos.

**A production of the play Heroes** will be performed in the garden of *Willoughbys*, 7 The Green, Marsh Baldon on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July at 7.45.

Heroes (adapted by Tom Stoppard) is a one hour play about First World War veterans in a French retirement home, reminiscing together and planning escape. The garden will be open from 6.45 and you are welcome to bring your own picnics. All profits will go to mental health charity Restore. Details from [stephaniemfness@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniemfness@gmail.com).

**Flood Alleviation Scheme:** The Oxford flood alleviation scheme will cost around £176 million and is one of the biggest flood schemes in the country – it is planned to create a new stream with a wetland wildlife corridor that will run through the existing floodplain to the west of Oxford. The new stream will be about 5km long, beginning north of Botley Road and ending south of the A423 near Kennington, where the new stream joins the River Thames.

We are told that flood risk to properties downstream will remain the same as it is now. It is currently with the County Council's planning Committee. The planning reference is MW.0027/22.

### Oxford Summer School

still have spaces on some of their 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. See [oxfordshireartandcraft.co.uk](http://oxfordshireartandcraft.co.uk)



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

MOT testing ♦ Servicing all makes and models ♦ General repair ♦  
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Precise diagnostics ♦ Suspension repair/Tracking

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

## Solar Farm by the A4074

The Link previously reported that permission was being sought for a large solar farm on the left of the A4074 as you go towards Nuneham Courtenay. That application faded away, but a different company are now applying for planning permission for a solar farm on the right of the A4074, stretching from just above Lower Farm Lane to just below Upper Farm (SODC planning reference P24/51336/FUL).

A statutory consultation period will be advertised and held by SODC to enable us to submit comments.

With the Grenoble Road development going ahead on the other side of the road, if permission is granted it will significantly change the landscape between Sandford and Nuneham Courtenay.

See [www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.nuneham-solarfarm.co.uk).

## Wild swimming

Defra has announced that a stretch of the River Thames at Wallingford Beach will officially become a designated bathing water, making it the second designated bathing water site on the Thames, after Wolvercote Mill in Oxford. The water will be tested weekly during the bathing season (May to September) and the results will be displayed onsite.

## Oxford city traffic filters, coming in October

Oxford City Council's traffic filters will be introduced in October, limiting through-traffic for private cars on St Cross Road, Thames Street, Hythe Bridge Street, St Clement's, Marston Ferry Road and Hollow Way. There will be no physical barriers but at each traffic filter site, cameras will monitor and enforce the restrictions.

Permits will be available for some people and businesses, and a consultation will be held during the traffic filters trial.

See [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk), click on transport and travel, then road filters.

## Littlemore Church Summer Festival Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1.0 – 6.0

An afternoon of celebration, fun and food for the whole family.



**Our Parish Councillors:**

Peter Addyman (Chair)

Michael Whitlock (Vice-chair)

Mark Baseby; Daniel Tarzey; Lewis Barrett; Nicky Fenton.

**Notes on Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4 March 2024**

Full minutes can be found on the Parish Council website.

**Clerk's report** A resident has asked Royal Mail to change postal address of Heyford Hill Lane area from Littlemore to S-o-T. The PC will support this.

**Village maintenance**

*Deep cleansing/gutter cleaning:* Biffa have carried out in Heyford Hill Lane and roughly half of Sandford Road. Another visit scheduled for 21 May.

*Grass cutting & tree maintenance* Charlie Draper has quoted a total of £2,550 for the works marked [CD] below. He will invoice for individual items as and when they are done. Some tasks will have to wait for the ground to dry out.

**General maintenance**

Improvements to *recreation ground steps* on Henley Road: CD will come back to whether to relay the existing stones and improve the handrail or replace them with concrete steps. *Grass mats under rotator swing* have been done.

**Reports to FixMyStreet**

*Overflowing drain* by The Glen, *blocked gully* at Henley Road/A4074 slip road, and *blocked drain* near The Kings Arms: no progress

*Street lighting:* John Harris (OCC) reports brighter lights put in the existing lamp posts, faulty lamp post reported to SSE and trees blocking lights to be cut back. No mention of installing lights on the field side of Sandford Road.

**Progress report on orchard:** A working party installed two water tanks, dug out suckers from trees and trimmed the hedge between the burial ground and the copse. The Voco Hotel have planted trees on their side of the footpath, PA to contact the hotel to advise how best to protect the trees.

**Progress on orchard/burial ground/recreation ground gates:** The stile will be Replaced with gates on the 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Progress on all-weather footpaths** near the village hall: Voco will install and maintain a path from Henley Road to their orchard. PA to liaise with hotel manager about co-ordinating this with building the other paths.

**Community litter pick:** AGREED not to do this, not well supported last time.

**Upgrade to speed sensors:** There is currently one sensor on Sandford Road attached to, and powered from, a lamp post. There is a second, solar powered, sensor (which does not work) on Henley Road. AGREED: to fund two replacement speed monitors up to a cost of £6,000.

**IT: Talking Shop website:** Talking Shop will host TS pages on the PC website, Clare Wakeham & Kylie Mackown to maintain these pages.

**King's portrait:** we will apply for a free framed portrait of the King.

**Planning:** a. P23/S2308/FUL electricity substation: no comments

b. P24/S0315/LB replace windows at 4 River View: no comments.

**Grants** a. *SODC's CIL Grant Fund:* PA & MW to consider whether we have any appropriate projects.

b. *20 mph speed through the village:* by majority vote a **20 mph limit** was agreed to be desirable in the village, provided it can be funded by OCC.

**Governance and consultations**

a. *Councillor vacancies:* AGREED to co-opt Nicky Fenton.

**Notes on Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 April 2024**

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

**Village maintenance**

*Deep cleansing/gutter cleaning:* priorities for May: (1) Church Road (Old School House to substation) (2) Sandford Road (Vale House to Littlemore Brook) (3) Rock Farm Lane. Biffa may not have time to clean all 3 areas.

*Grass cutting & tree maintenance* Overhanging tree and brambles by the Baldon Mead gate and brambles and nettles between path and OPT boundary and by Fox Furlong goalposts: done by Charlie Draper.

*Fence props:* resident has repaired fence & removed props.

*Brambles at The Wharf:* awaiting drier weather.

**General maintenance**

*Improvements to recreation ground steps* awaiting quote from Charlie Draper  
*Raised & damaged sewer manhole* on PC land beside 19 Yeftly Drive: report to go to Thames Water comprising this and sewage leaks in the ditch in HHL.

**Reports to FixMyStreet**

*Overflowing drain* by The Glen, *blocked gully* at Henley Road/A4074 slip road, and *blocked drain* near The Kings Arms: no update.

*Street lighting on Sandford Road:* The lights have failed again. There is a lack of lighting at the top of Church Road, at the bend in Church Road by the substation and on the A4074 bridge.

**Progress on orchard/burial ground/recreation ground paths & gates:** gates on each side of the burial ground will be installed on 15 April. AGREED: to go ahead the PC's stretches of path if the hotel do not want to do this.

**Upgrade to speed sensors):** the Sandford Road sensor should be between the "Welcome to Sandford" sign and the bus stop. OCC may need to install new, stronger posts. PA to liaise with OCC.

**Ecological management of PC lands:** AH to ask Rod d'Ayala if he is interested in advising PC on the best way to manage its land with respect to its ecology.

**20 mph speed through the village:** OCC have added Sandford to the scheme.

**Councillor vacancies:** No request was made to SODC for an election to fill the latest vacancy, so it can be filled by co-option.

**Postal address for Heyford Hill Lane area:** ,RM has identified 29 more addresses to include. PC support inclusion of all addresses.

**Insurance pre-renewal questionnaire:** AGREED: to increase contents cover by 3.8% to reflect inflation.

#### **Notes on the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024**

**Report** from the Chair of the PC for the past year: on the website.

**Statement of accounts** The account balance decreased from £75,793 to £65,841 There was higher than expected income because of orchard income from donations and Magdalen College. The amount spent on recreation ground & general maintenance was somewhat less than budgeted, but considerably higher than in the previous year to clear a backlog of repairs. A still higher amount is budgeted for the coming year. The budget for the coming year makes it clearer how much of the balance is reserved for anticipated future expenses e.g. maintenance of village hall & recreation grounds.

#### **Notes on Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13 May**

Peter Addyman elected as Chair (proposed MW, seconded LB)

Michael Whitlock elected as Vice Chair (proposed PA, seconded LB)

**Report from District Councillor:** available on the website.

**Clerk's report:** The Littlemore/Rose Hill Roundabout on the ring road will be closed for resurfacing over the weekend of 2-5 August. Traffic for Littlemore will be diverted via Henley Road & Sandford Road; traffic for Cowley will be diverted via Grenoble Road.

#### **Reports to FixMyStreet**

**Overflowing drain** by The Glen: gullies cleared and much improved, though there is still some flooding further up the road (towards Heyford Hill Lane). **Blocked gully** at Henley Road/A4074 slip road, and **blocked drain** near The Kings Arms: no update. **Street lighting on Sandford Road:** All lights fixed. **Inadequate lighting in Church Road:** It was thought that the major hazard on Church Road was the uneven pavement rather than the street lighting. Meeting with Kathryn Gash of OCC to discuss and inspect road-related issues.

**Progress report on orchard:** a working party on 11 May to maintain cut the grass - hopefully a regular monthly event. All trees are in leaf and there is a good chance of fruit this year. The Voco hotel have planted fruit trees on an adjacent site. The existing beehives on the hotel approach road installed by "Bee Bounty" of Broadhurst Gardens will benefit to the combined orchards.

**Progress on orchard/burial ground/recreation ground paths & gates:** TOE will accept a second grant application to cover the remaining cost of the paths, but the terms mean that work cannot start until October if grant money is used. PA is coordinating with James Bell (Voco hotel manager) and the hotel's contractor on splitting the cost and scheduling the work.

**Upgrade to speed sensors:** Two types of speed indicator are available: a VAS (vehicle-activated sign), activated only if an approaching vehicle is speeding, and a SID (Speed Indicator Devices) activated when a vehicle approaches. A SID was more informative, but OCC's policy is SIDs should be temporary. PA to approach other parishes with SIDs to ask what solution they use.

#### **Planning:**

The application for an extension to Park Homes has been rejected.

Approval appears to have been granted for 1,100 further homes on Grenoble Road past the substation according to a press report but there is some uncertainty about whether the report is correct.

**Village Hall photographic competition:** agreed to donate £250.

**Wall outside Talking Shop:** A railing is required to protect the wall by the slope outside the Talking Shop entrance. Dick Rudman has verbally quoted £1,100 to supply and fit this. AH to get competitive (written) quotes.

**Recruitment of new clerk:** Lynne Bustin has been appointed from 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Postal address for Heyford Hill Lane area:** AH has confirmed to Royal Mail that the PC supports change of address for all 237 properties.

**King's portrait:** has been hung opposite village hall notice board

## Notes on Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Reports from District and County Councillors** available on website.

### Village maintenance

*Gutter cleaning:* Biffa had cleared Church Road but need a second visit to clear from Vale House to the Glen.

*Grass cutting and trees:* a start has been made on brambles at the Wharf.

*General maintenance:*

- i. *Recreation ground steps:* quote for £1500 to £2000 received. Further quotes to be explored.
- ii. *Broken manhole in Yeftley Drive* – sewage leaking from pumping station. Clerk to contact Thames Water as soon as further flooding is noticed in Heyford Hill Lane.
- iii. *Uneven pavement on Church Road:* to go on list of Highway's issues.

### Reports to FixMyStreet:

*Blocked gully at Henley Road* – to be re-reported.

Councillors will compile a list of Highways issues for their visit to parish.

**Progress on orchard paths and gates:** application to TOE for £4k agreed.

**Speed sensors:** there is potential for funding to assist with purchase of speed devices.

**Ecological management of PC land:** Councillors to meet with ecologist to discuss potential ecological improvements in management of parish land.

**Planning: Nuneham Solar Farm:** agreed to make comments pertaining to footpath route, road signage for footpath, traffic calming around access road and footpath crossing, request for cycle path joining Sandford and Nuneham Courtenay to link communities. Clerk to circulate comments to all councillors for agreement.

**Wall outside Talking Shop:** Clerk to get quotes for handrails to main entrance.

**Template for charitable groups to request support from the PC:** template to be created.

**Postal address for Heyford Hill Lane area:** Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye to follow this up with SODC

### Play SO Lottery and support good causes in South Oxfordshire:

Tickets cost £1 a week, and at least 60p from each ticket sold goes to good causes in South Oxfordshire communities. [www.socharitable.co.uk](http://www.socharitable.co.uk)

My name is Steve Edmunds, live in Church Road, having moved to Sandford in July last year from Littlemore. Having worked at the Car factory for 44 years through Austin, Rover and BMW to name a few , starting as an apprentice and finishing as a Maintenance Manager of the Paintshop. Having been a keen photographer, turned that into being a professional having graduated through the Photography institute and became a certified professional with the master Photographers Association and qualified to Associate level.

I am a club photographer for Oxford United and Oxford Speedway.

I am a member of the federation of football photographer and the society of international sport and leisure photographers.

Following retirement my wife and I travelled many different coastal places in England. Having acquired a vast selection of photos approached Amberley publishing to see if they were interested in a book of the English Coast, and as they say the rest is history. Following many more miles of travel around the coast to gain the 125 photos of a spread around the coast of England the book was published on May 15th 2024 by Amberley and available through Amazon, Blackwells and Waterstones cost £17.99.



*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](mailto:robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk). Printed by Parish Magazine Printing of Holsworthy, Devon.*