

The Sandford Link

Spring 2025 Issue 176

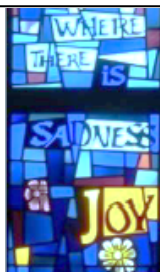
www.sandfordonthames.org.uk



Saturday 8th March See page 5

**EASTER
AT ST
ANDREW'S**

See page 3



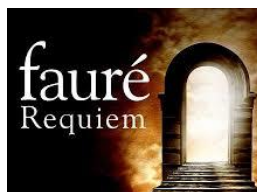
Talking Shop's

**MOTHERS'
DAY MARKET**

for gifts
and flowers



See page 12



See page 6

In St
Andrew's
Church:
All are
welcome

Open call to all
local artists:

**ART
SALON**

See page 7



**GARDENERS'
QUESTION TIME**



see page 9

**CROCHETING
NECKLACES**

see page 9



**COOKING FOR MEN
AND BOYS** see page 9



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*)

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.
on the first Sunday of the month
in the Harris Room, next to the church
(but on March 30th,
Mothering Sunday, not April 6th).**

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 8th June at 6.30 p.m.



EASTER AT ST ANDREW'S



Mothering Sunday 30th March
10.0 a.m. Westward Communion

Palm Sunday 13th April

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion
with distribution of palms

6.30 p.m. Fauré Requiem



Maundy Thursday 17th April

7.30 p.m. Parish Communion



Good Friday 15th April

Church open 12.0 – 3.0
(2.15 Good Friday service)



EASTER SUNDAY 17th April:

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion
6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

John Findon writes:

LENT AND EASTER 2025

The Editor of The Link also produces the Church's monthly Pew Sheets. She put in the February one a poem by Madeleine L'Engle which has these lines:

It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence; turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.

Lent is late this year, beginning on 5th March. There will be a sung Parish Eucharist at 7.30 pm for Ash Wednesday, as well as the usual 11.00 am Prayer Book Communion. I remember as a boy how it always felt like an exercise in corporate gloom; no wonder our ancestors tried to soften it with cheering pancakes the day before. But these words of Madeleine L'Engle's seem to me to catch a fuller meaning. She is saying that Lent should be a time when you don't make other people suffer for your piety. You may have promised yourself a spot of silent meditation, but Lent tells you to sacrifice it if your neighbour needs an attentive ear. By 'What is truly meant is not my choice', she seems to mean that even garrulous neighbours may have truth to which we need to attend.

Paying attention is no more popular than making other kinds of payment, but anyone who would make a decent job of being human must learn to do it. We can never afford to stop listening, or to rule out further conversation. A division of the world into 'them and us' may do if you are playing bridge, but Jesus refuses to countenance it: even Samaritans, he says, have things to teach us, and not to notice your neighbour's need is to fail the test of elementary humanity. Lent for him is not a reason for being miserable, but it should be a time for stretching our minds and our sympathies. Ash Wednesday may not be for the faint-hearted – not bland, but bracing; more Skegness than Bournemouth – but we need the reality check.

Jesus refused to limit his love of humankind by the inherited hatreds of his contemporaries. For that he was condemned to suffer on Good Friday the death

reserved for those whom the Roman powers considered too dangerous to live. His rising on the third day is God's vindication of a life of tireless loving attention.

Because he lived out God's costly truth, what else can the Church do but tell his story to the world? We shall turn our thoughts to his Temptations and the cost of discipleship on the first three Sundays in Lent: 9, 16 and 23 March. (On 9th Josh Stenner, the Curate of Littlemore, will be a welcome new voice as preacher). 30th March, the fourth in Lent, is Mothering Sunday; as the Church learns to leave behind its inherited patriarchalism we can see more clearly the blessing and the cost of motherhood. Then Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday, 6th and 13th April, ask us to dare to turn our attention towards the Cross. On Palm Sunday we enter into the story of the Crucifixion as St Luke tells it, and in addition to the 10.00 am service the Choir will perform Fauré's Requiem at 6.30; Fauré wrote it following his mother's death, and rediscovered his faith in doing so.

Easter Day, 20th April, is about joy that we could not have anticipated. George Herbert wrote:

I got me flowers to straw thy way;
I got me boughs off many a tree;
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

As I reminded you last Advent: however dark the world may seem, 'the eyes have it'



**Saturday 8th March in the Village Hall.
7.0 for 7.30 p.m.**

Teams of 6 or join a friendly group on the day. Bring your own food and drink. Questions courtesy of Vince Boyle.

Tickets £5 per head from john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk
or 01865 434256



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

The Holiday Inn hotel on Grenoble Road is still being used for male house asylum seekers while they wait to have their applications processed.

Sandford Asylum Seekers Support network aims to offer a friendly welcome in the village. **There is a social event every first Friday of the month in the village hall** - low key, friendly, involving games, chat, music, cake - and we do occasional clothes and toiletries collections.

We're thinking of other ideas to bring a bit of human contact and warmth during the long waiting process. Several of the men have done voluntary work in the village and are keen to be active and purposeful. If you might be interested in helping in any way, please let the Link editor know - no special skills required!



You may have noticed how much cleaner and free of litter our village has been recently.

Very grateful thanks to Judith Godsland and Ali Tartari (and maybe others?) who continue tirelessly and unobtrusively to keep it that way. It really is noticed and appreciated.



FAURÉ REQUIEM

will be sung in
St Andrew's Church on
Sunday 13th April
at 6.30 p.m.
All welcome: no charge



PLEASE EMAIL
 SANDFORDHALLEVENTS@GMAIL.COM
 IF YOU'D LIKE TO EXHIBIT YOUR WORK

Calling all local artists – Sandford Artists’ Salon 27th to 29th June

Sandford Artists’ Salon 2025 will take place inside the Village Hall and will be open to the public 10am-5pm on Saturday 28th June and from 10am-1pm on Sunday 29th June. This will be an opportunity for local artists to display and sell their work.

There will be a private view from 6pm to 7.30pm on Friday 27th June to which exhibitors will be encouraged to invite guests alongside guests of Sandford on Thames Village Hall.

The deadline for applications is 15th April 2025.

Please get in touch if you are interested in exhibiting. Email Etain on sandfordhallevents@gmail.com to receive information and booking forms

Sandford-on-Thames Village Hall

Community events information

The late Autumn and early Spring saw a number of monthly SACaS events including a very well attended and enjoyable wine-tasting, a highly popular and social Christmas wreath-making event, an intimate and informative session on listening skills and a wonderful children’s theatre performance presented by WhatNot theatre and attended by around 80 adults and children. Thanks to WhatNot, Jack Cole, Natalie Ellett and Alicia Bennet. We are looking forward to events on camera skills, gardening and crocheting before Easter.



Sandford Arts Crafts and Skills (SACaS)

Anybody interested in attending any of the SACaS sessions should email Etain on sandfordhallevents@gmail.com

Calling all photographers –

Summer photography competition 2025

After the success of last year’s young people’s photographic competition, we are repeating the event and this time including a category for over 18s (all adults!).

The theme this year will be “Green Sandford” to be interpreted in whatever way you wish!

More details on submission and prizes in the next edition of The Link.

SACaS Events confirmed for the Spring and Summer:

Thursday March 20th 6 - 7.30pm

Gardeners' Question Time

With a panel including local experts
(Please email your questions - in advance
if possible - or bring them on the day)

Thursday April 24th 6 - 7.30pm

Crocheting necklaces

with Prue Reynolds
(maximum of 10 in the group so please sign up by
email) materials provided free of charge)

Thursday May 15th 6 - 7.30pm

Cooking for Men and Boys

Some useful tips and practical techniques with
Hazel Douglas (maximum of 6 in the group so
please sign up via email) £5 cash contribution
towards ingredients

Thursday June 19th 6 - 7.30pm

Summer wines

A tutored tasting with Jack Cole
(£15 per head – tickets from
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sandford-on-thames-village-hall/t-rpvykpn>)

Thursday July 17th 6 - 7.30pm

**Historic Sandford: a talk and sharing
impressions over a glass of something cool**
with local historian Liz Shatford

Rest in peace

Bertie Wilson died on a visit with his parents to Poland on 4 January, a month before his second birthday. He was a joyful and loving little boy who made friends naturally and easily. Words are poor things to express the love and grief of his family and neighbours; his parents Dot and Alex continue to be in our prayers.

David Carron, aged 59, died on 29 December in Sobell House. Latterly, he had lived with his cousin on the Ten Acre Caravan Site. A full Church joined his children and wider family on 10 January to remember 'Cracker Dave' – a man of loveable generosity who had characteristically continued to go to work almost to the end of a gruelling course of chemotherapy. His children Hayley and Josh expressed admiration for him which clearly expressed the feelings of the congregation.

Oxford Summer School

is a great opportunity, nearby in Littlemore, to join one or two of the vast range of arts and crafts workshops, personally tutored on-site by experienced professionals. Their courses are suitable for a broad range of abilities and experience, and are priced at £65 per day.

The Summer School will run from 4-9 August:
see oxfordshireartandcraft.co.uk



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/



SANDFORD TALKING SHOP

Monday to Friday shop and café
9.30-4
Saturday market
9-midday

*Our new tote bags:
Natalie Ellett's design
printed on cotton,
available in the shop*



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

- We stock fresh fruit & veg, bread, eggs, meat, dairy, gifts, cards, papers and more
- Weekday daily menu of hot lunches, snacks, homemade cakes, barista coffees
- Saturday Market & Café for the weekend papers, home-cooked breakfast, local produce and lots more
- Catering for events in the Village Hall: from coffee and danishes for your meeting to lunches, dinners and parties.

Keep up to date and find out more:

Check Facebook or Instagram @ TalkingShopSandford

Sign up to our newsletter:

email orders.talkingshop@gmail.com

Visit our website

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



SPRINGTIME at TALKING SHOP



Spring is almost here and we are getting ready for brighter skies and longer days!

Our Garden Club is working hard to prepare our beautiful outdoor space for the first brave customers taking their lunch outside. Meanwhile, we have some special events planned for Saturdays in the next few months.

♥ Pre-loved Sale 15th March

Discover hidden gems, vintage jewellery, books, clothing and accessories, home decor, and more, all with a story to tell! (Stallholder spaces available please contact Maria: market.talkingshop@gmail.com)

♥ Mother's Day Market 22nd March

Find the perfect gift, from cakes and cards to local honey, jewellery, books, leather bags, and flowers at our special market

♥ Spoke Shop 29th March

Bring your bike for minor adjustments and repairs, and show your support with a small donation to Talking Shop.

♥ Eco and Sustainability Market 12th April

Support sustainable brands and shop handmade cards, leather products, beeswax candles, and more, all crafted with care at our Eco Sustainability Market!

♥ Check our calendar of events at <https://sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk/talking-shop-saturday-market/>

Talking Shop is proudly powered by volunteers!

Find out how you can contribute at volunteering.talkingshop@gmail.com.

Even just a few hours now and then can make a big impact.

Sandford-On-Thames Women's Institute "Inspiring Women" Spring 2025

Monthly meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall. There will be no monthly meeting in August. Visitors may attend a meeting in February- November, on the 2nd visit a contribution of £5 will be appreciated or membership. During the year we arrange social events for members and on occasions for family and friends. Meetings in December and January are for members only.

April 2025 marks the beginning of our 9th year. Over a period of a century we are the third WI to be established in SOT.

Subscription for 2025-2026 is due on 1st April or paid at the April meeting and is £51.

As May 2025 marks 80th year of Victory in Europe, we have yet to organise our celebrations and decorations.

Communication to members is vital and is done through WhatsApp (members only), E mails, phone calls and visits.

You are not alone. Sight of the local WI magazine is available at meetings and all members receive the National "Wi Life" through the post once their membership has been paid and national HQ have been notified.

Programme 2025

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 13 th February | <i>Making Paper Flowers</i> with Ann Dawse |
| 13 th March | <i>Annual Meeting members only</i> , reports, new committee and voting for new President |
| 10 th April | £51 subscription due if not ready paid
<i>Preparing for Emergencies in Oxfordshire. The work of the Emergency Planning Dept.</i> Talk by Carol MacKay |
| 8 th May | <i>Creative Upcycling</i> |
| 12 th June | <i>Medical Detection Dogs</i> : a talk by a volunteer from the charity |

10th July *Preparation for SOT Fair and social*

August no meeting

11th September *Talk by Liz Woolley subject to be confirmed*

9th October *Brush Painting*

13th November *Christmas cake decorating*

11th December *Christmas celebrations members only*

Ideas for meetings with full details and socials will be welcome.

We should like to thank Prue Sykes and Judith Godsland for all their efforts in compiling "The Link" and the Littlemore magazine.

Jill Love jpappslove@hotmail.com 01865 716557 07900 907477

Carole Tasker caroletasker27@gmail.com

01865 748300 07876 7011

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 Heeny

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

7.0 for 7.30 at Littlemore Community Centre. £3 a meeting.
Bryan and Buffy McClelland: history.littlemore@gmail.com

VOCO Oxford Thames
AN IHG HOTEL



Looking for an exceptional Mothers' Day gift: take a look at gifts available on the Voco website: oxfordthames.vocohotels.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 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) for more info.

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

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.

The Village Hall is delighted to welcome back to the management committee one-time Chair Tom Fox.

Bookings: We are in the process of setting up online booking for the Hall and it is hoped this will commence in March.

There may be teething problems and residents can be assured that if they cannot book online for whatever reason the hall manager will still have his phone to help with any problem.

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

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

WI, 2nd Thursday of the month (not August) – 7.30 pm See page 14

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 – also the café 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

A friendly, non-competitive, society for classical guitar players who enjoy making music together. Our meetings combine ensemble playing with opportunities for members to give short recitals to a friendly audience. The music we play covers a wide range of styles and periods, much 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/>

Green Spaces Volunteering – Heyford Meadow

Next one: 21st March 9.30 – 12.30

Heyford Meadow and Simons Land are ready for Spring thanks to the continued support of their fantastic volunteers. Paths are clear, reeds and grasses have been scythed, raked and piled up, boardwalks maintained.

Oxford Preservation Trust are always grateful for more voluntary help at their monthly sessions, helping to keep the paths and boardwalks accessible and various tasks suitable for the time of year.

All ages and abilities are welcome. Meet at 9.30am on the boardwalk. Access to the meadow is through the playground off Broadhurst Gardens (cul-de-sac), or via walking down the green vehicle entrance off Heyford Hill road opposite Pheasant Walk (please note this vehicle entrance is only open for volunteering days and is only to be used by vehicles from OPT and approved contractors).


Cycling: You can walk your bikes into site and lock them up near the white van

Parking: Free on street parking on Heyford Hill Lane

Please bring your own gardening gloves, hydration, a snack, sturdy shoes/boots, and weather suitable layers. No experience necessary. Tools will be provided. Nearest toilets are in at Sandford Talking Shop.

For more information and to sign up please contact our office at: info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk.





HILLSIDE EXOTIC GARDENING is a new Sandford business run by Nicky and Lewis, with a wonderful range of exotic plants – see their website at [hillsideexoticgardening.co.uk](https://www.hillsideexoticgardening.co.uk)



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



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

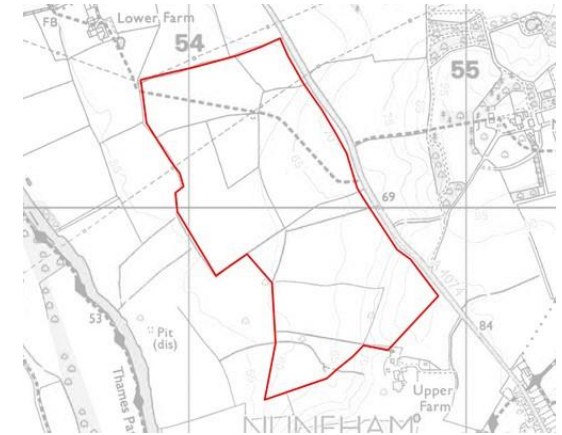
www.facebook.com/Sandford.on.Thames/

Buses and roads and solar farms

(or trains and boats and planes if you were around in the 60s).

Anyone driving along the A4074 towards Nuneham Courtenay will have noticed that work has started on the solar farm on the left of the road, by Nineveh Farm.

There is also an application for planning permission for a much larger solar farm on the other side of the road, covering most of the land between Lower Farm and Upper Farm.



The Oxford Preservation Trust write:

We are exceptionally disappointed that the applicants have failed to acknowledge the concerns raised by a significant group of consultees with regard to the harmful impacts the proposed solar farm would have on the green setting of both Oxford and the Grade 1 Registered Parks and Gardens as part of their recent submissions of additional information relating to the planning application.

OPT would like to confirm that our earlier comments still stand, and that the Trust strongly objects to the proposed solar farm, on the grounds that: the loss of green belt is inappropriate and contrary to legislation; the proposal poses significant harm to a number of significant heritage assets; the detrimental impact on surrounding landscape and settings is unwarranted.

OPT urge the planning officer to place significant weight on the earlier responses objecting to the application, including those submitted by your Council Heritage Officer, Historic England, SODC Landscape Officer, Oxford Preservation Trust, The Gardens Trust, Oxford Architectural and Historical Society, CPRE and The Georgian Group.

OPT would stress the need for a unified strategy for the management of solar farms to limit small a piecemeal approach corroding the green belt and harming nationally significant heritage assets.

GOOD BUS NEWS

There will be new bus services by the time you receive this Link:

1. Greatly enhanced 3A towards Oxford; every 15 minutes Mon-Fri and every 20 minutes Saturdays.
2. New 600 service from southbound A4074 'Sainsbury's' stop to Headington, Brookes & hospitals.

Timetables available from oxfordbus.co.uk.

New trunk road from the A34

The new trunk road will link the A34 at Milton, via a new bridge over the river, to the B4015 (the road which links Clifton Hampden with the Notcutts roundabout). It will create by-passes for Didcot and Clifton Hampden, but will inevitably cause a considerable increase of traffic along the A4074, and through Sandford and Littlemore via the sliproad (unless made access only) .

There are also fears that the increased traffic, in particular lorries, will have a bad impact on the houses in Nuneham Courtenay – buildings without foundations, and only one of two villages in England listed in their entirety.

Building is expected to start in 2026 and will take two years.



Our MP, Olly Glover, writes:

With the awful weather we had in January, I was so sorry to see how some constituents suffered yet again with flooding, or threats of flooding. I have been in contact with our local councils to ensure the concerns of constituents who contact me are heard.

It has been a busy month in Parliament, with the opportunity to speak up and debate local and national and, indeed, international issues. In the Didcot and Wantage constituency, I am serving both urban and rural communities. I voted in favour of supporting women affected by the changes to retirement in the WASPI Bill, in favour of the Climate and Nature Bill, and the Sunshine Bill that requires new homes to be fitted with solar panels at the outset. I have asked questions about the shortage of medication for epilepsy, ADHD and Parkinsons. I was also able to applaud the work of small post offices whilst arguing they need more support.

Education has featured heavily this month; with debates about the critical need to improve the services for children and young people with special needs. I enjoyed my visits to local schools where I heard from the hard-working staff of their concerns and difficulties but also saw the difference they are making. The young women at Didcot Girls School gave me, a grilling as challenging as any I have seen in parliament! I was also able to sing the praises of Bikeability this month; a scheme in many of our schools that teaches children to cycle safely.

While the work in Parliament is serious, there can be lighter moments – and so I was pleased to squeeze in a mention of the divisive matter of mayonnaise on chips whilst discussing the merits of Belgium, Switzerland and Norway! Much closer to home, I have met constituents in my surgery in Wantage as well as spending time in the constituency hearing of concerns, and more importantly trying to resolve them where I can. Affordable housing, challenges around the management of new housing estates and transport infrastructure feature heavily.

My team and I continue to serve constituents in addressing a wide range of personal matters. **Please contact me if you need support** or would like to meet or wish to invite me to a local event (I can't make them all but I try to fit in as many as I can)! *Olly*

Contact: olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk

For more regular updates, you can follow me on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OllyGloverLD/> and

Bluesky: [@ollyglover.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/ollyglover.bsky.social)

Our Parish Councillors:

Peter Addyman (Chair)

Michael Whitlock (Vice-chair);

Mark Baseby; Daniel Tarzey; Lewis Barrett; Paul Bradbury

**Notes on the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 2 December 2024 at 6.45 pm in the Village Hall****1. Reports from District and County Councillors:** see website.**2. Highways & Parking matters**

- a. Laing O Rourke contractor cars parked in the parish have had notes left on windscreens asking them to use the Kassam Stadium.
- b. Clerk to investigate if there will be a path into the science park at the brook.
- c. Clerk to request contractor speed limit signs are amended to say 20 MPH light of new speed limit.

3. Parish Maintenance

- a. Councillors reviewed tenders from three contractors and voted to accept Tactical Facilities Management, to include all mowing, undergrowth clearance, verge management as per the PC schedule. Clerk to ask them to include verges up to the turning area by the bicycle lane at the end of HHL, and the turning area overgrowth, and to cut the grass one week before the village fete, and to ask the Vicar about mowing the burial ground, currently on twice a year schedule.
- b. Hedge opposite the garage is overhanging the pavement and needs cutting back. Clerk to notify authorities to contact the owner.
- c. Clerk to obtain a quote for a circular no bicycles sign for the new paths in the Community Orchard.

4. Playground Maintenance

- a. Inspections to be carried out by insured professionals. PC to use ROSPA for twice annual inspections in Autumn and Spring, Clerk to implement all actions reported.

5. Planning Query from resident about land ownership at Park Homes. Clerk to ask for more information.**6. Finance report:**

Community orchard: Donations are noted as annual income, Friends of the Orchard, tree sponsorship. There is still funding to be reclaimed from Magdalen College for the Community Orchard. A new bench needs to be purchased. PA to action when appropriate. Parish Council can then claim the VAT.

Budget Review

Wages should be amended to new statutory rate, payroll will also change with increase in National Insurance for Employers; IT Systems maintenance increase to £1600 – Approved; Room Hire increase to £300 – Approved; Subscriptions to remain; Misc Admin clarified as £50 per month; Audit to increase to £650 – Approved; Amend the budget to show separate line for Village all maintenance and separate line for Other; The Link to stay the same; Donation to the church to stay the same; Heyford Hill Lane project to be removed from budget; Community Orchard expenses £100 per year – Approved; Playground lifecycle calculations?; Money from developers provided for them, Clerk to check the details; Persimmon, Janaway; Insurance Excess; Add reserves monies to budget; Noted that the £100 + £10 rental payment for the field and orchard was for 10 years, leave on the budget for reminder purposes; Clerk to create a five year reserves accumulation plan to cover playground life cycles, village hall building repairs, three months running costs etc.

Future bank account reports will display the reserves detail.

**Notes on the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6 January 2025
at 6.45 pm in the Village Hall****Public participation:** *SSEN presentation on building at Blackberry Lane.*

Whole network is being invested in, this application will be the cornerstone for it. Two storey building proposed per the displayed plans, will be at the edge of the existing site, where there is currently woodland. Existing access will be utilised, and a construction traffic management plan part of the application. 200 trees will be lost. Proposed start is October 2025 with a two year construction period. The old site will be handed back to the National Grid, as SEN was only a leaseholder. Councillors questioned the removal of the trees was necessary, SSEN defended the site choice. There will be off site credits purchased to compensate for the loss of the trees, however these credits will not be used in the parish, district or county due to the type of woodland needed to invest in. The planning application is being made using very special circumstances, there is an obvious need for improved power supply.

Councillors reported the Butterfly Society involvement at the site some years ago, and questioned if the site would commit to upkeep and maintenance of the woods as part of the planning permission. SSEN confirmed that there would be dialogue available about possible community benefits.

1. Reports from District and County Councillors are on website.

2. Highways & Parking Matters

a. Laing O Rourke update on 6th January, had requested contractors not to park on Heyford Hill Lane. Further leaflet drop planned, and details of cars to be provided to the site manager.

b. LOR confirmed they will cover the cost of double yellow lines in the parish, and requested a small parish committee to work with LOR to ensure that works are done in the most effective areas. The road past Heyford Hill Lane bus stop and into Heyford Hill Lane itself would benefit from double yellow lines, and the T Junction by the hospital as the cycle lane is frequently blocked.

3. Parish Maintenance

a. Resident request to amend signage for footpath near the pub. Councillors acknowledged that as this was not a public right of way there was nothing they could do. Councillors to review the public right of way process at the next meeting.

4. Finance report

a. Precept request for 2024 – 2025 proposed and agreed at £66495.

b. Reserves: Clerk to reanalyse reserves plans and redraft budget. Councillors agreed that the Village Hall reserve would be collectively for the building and the carpark, providing more flexibility on drawdown.

The donation from Thames Water of £6545 will be moved to general reserves, potential to be used for playground repairs.

c. Carpark maintenance discussed as a budget item, the current tarmac was installed in 2015 and would be anticipated to last 20 years. Noted that the overflow carpark does not have a tarmac surface. Clerk to obtain quote for pothole repair in main carpark.

d. Councillors requested a bank reconciliation for sign off at future meetings

e. Clerk to ascertain the current balance on the PWLB loan

f. Clerk to check whether the cost of the chippings at the Janaway playground has been deducted from the reserves.

SOMETHING THAT NEEDS FIXING?

Clive Shorter can help with painting and decoration/
Gardening/DIY and more.

07765 66625 commius@hotmail.com

Notes on the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 3 February 2025 at 6.45 pm in the Village Hall

Public participation: SEN update on proposed new building at Blackberry Lane.

Planning application submitted on 23rd January, not visible yet. Aiming to mobilise in July with construction starting in September. There will be two years of noticeable construction, the site will take five years to complete. Community officer provided update on current involvement in locality – OXLEP, local education support, local employment planned where possible, volunteer days, STEM. Potential to use the Village Hall for presentation of the proposed development. Community officer welcomed application from Parish Council for help with community projects, such as SIDS and playgrounds, Clerk and council to send a list of ideas to her. This option will be available every year of the project, the regulatory period finishes end of 2028.

Clerk to send community officer details of village fete and links for newsletter.

Bio-diversity offset sites to compensate for the loss of 200 trees at the Sandford site are only available at sites in nearby counties.

Reports from District and County Councillors: can be read on parish website.

Brown Bin permit stickers are going to be introduced

1. Clerk's report: Included updates on communications about pest control in the parish, footpath across the lock sign near the pub, no mow May, resources available for rough sleepers, Community First subscription to continue, lithium battery safety, resend speed survey email consultation.

2. Highways & Parking

Laing O Rourke meeting on 11th February. Parish matters and requests include: Lorries waiting on main road for hours before entering site; Damage to road surface; Double yellow lines plan and funding; Cleaning the village hall car park; Contribution towards SIDS; Arc lights at the 3 new science park buildings cause significant issues at night time for local residents (Cllr SCR advised contacting Cllr Anna Railton about this too); Assistance creating parking areas adjacent to main road; road marking scheme to complement the existing 20mph zone. MB remarked on the short-term time limited effects of match day parking. There will be new commuters working at the site one day, with very few car parking spaces provided, need to future proof the local area ahead of this.

3. Parish Matters

1. MB reminded that Sandford-On-Thames is not within any school catchment, this needs to be corrected.
2. Clerk to ask Tactical Management to prioritise the clearance of the area at Broadhurst Gardens / Yeftly Drive
3. Village hall carpark quotes for relining: Clerk to ask for more detail about weekend working and preclean arrangements. MW pointed out that there could be an impact on Talking Shop whilst works are being carried out.
4. A grant for £2000 from the District Council has been approved by Cllr SCR to go towards replacing playground equipment. PA presented options and the Parish Council accepted a quote of £2625 for a "Himalaya" double sided double bay climbing wall from supplier "Sovereign play".

4. Community Orchard

Option to form a Community Action Group for SoTEG. A CAG is a formal structure and therefore the group is less likely to lose momentum as time moves on.

The CAG organisation has agreed that the Parish Council bank account can be used to hold SoTEG funds as long as any payments can be identified as such.

There is an unclear clause in the lease with the College about how we can use the £12,000 funds allocated to the orchard. PA to meet with College agents and revert.

5. Governance and consultations

Councillors proposed and approved unanimously the appointment of Paul Bradbury as a Parish Councillor. Clerk to send PB appropriate paperwork.

6. IT

The Parish Council website will be migrating to Aubergine hosting services in March.

There will be a link to the Village Hall booking site, and scope for a redesign and inclusion of useful features. There is no change in cost.

7. Finance report

The Parish Council resolved to:

Add Orchard Reserves as a separate line in the bank reconciliation

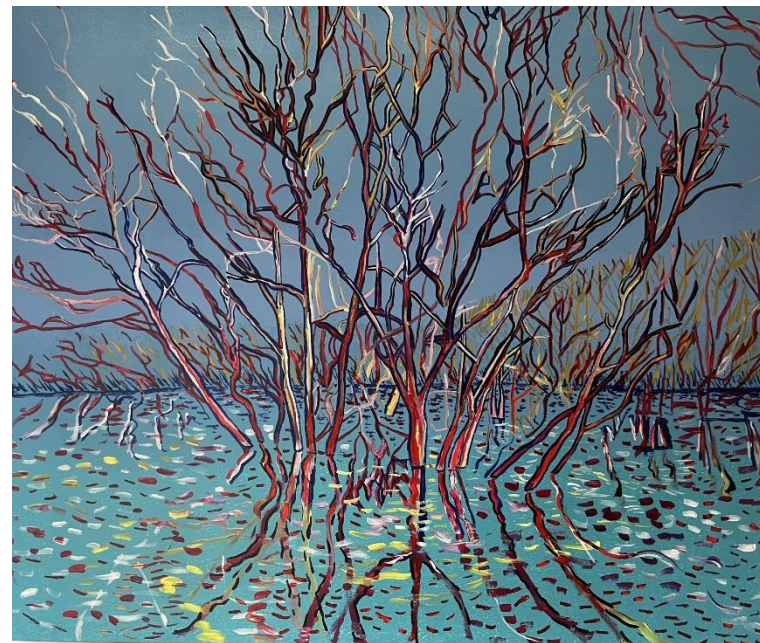
Accept quote for hedge cutting at the end of Heyford Hill Lane from Tactical Facilities Management.

Local artists 7

Alex Singleton, known as "AsBirdman," is a Littlemore-based artist renowned for his vibrant murals and diverse artistic expressions. A graduate of Central Saint Martins, his work has been showcased in Sydney, Bristol, Nashville, and Oxford.

Including acrylics, oil paints, pen drawings, and spray painting his subjects range from everyday scenes to political commentary, and in 2021 he participated in Oxford's inaugural "House Floats" event, transforming his residence into the "House of Sunflowers" with striking sunflower murals. For those interested in his work, Alex's book, "Can and Caps: Seven Years of Making Street Art," offers an in-depth look into his creative practice.

The recent painting of 'Sandford lock in the Floods' is part of a recent series of paintings where Alex is looking at local nature. If you are interested in his work please contact him at alexpaintspaintings@gmail.com.



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.

Printed by Parish Magazine Printing of Holsworthy, Devon