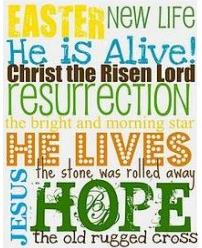


The Sandford Link

Spring 2026 Issue 180

www.sandfordonthames.org.uk

And if you lose your copy, you can see it online at sandfordchurch.org.uk



Easter at St Andrew's
See page 3




Pergolesi's Stabat Mater
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Painting the Word
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Gardener's Question Time
see page 7



Learning to draw
see page 7



Beekeeping for Beginners
See page 7



See page 7

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 *Organist:* Sunil Manohar



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

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

Painting the Word

Illustrated talks sharing the wisdom of some great painters

Tuesdays from 3 March to 7 April at 7.0 p.m.

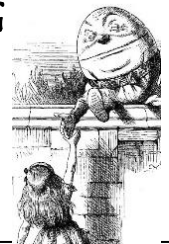
In the Harris Room, next to the church.

All welcome

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 May 24th at 6.30 p.m.





Pergolesi's Stabat Mater will be sung in church on Sunday March 22nd at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

Passion Sunday 22nd March
 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion
 6.30 p.m. Pergolesi Stabat Mater

Palm Sunday 29th March
 10.0 Parish Eucharist with dramatic reading of the Passion

Wednesday 1st April
 11.0 Holy Communion (BCP)

Maundy Thursday April 2nd
 7.30 p.m. Eucharist

Good Friday April 3rd
 2.0 Devotional service

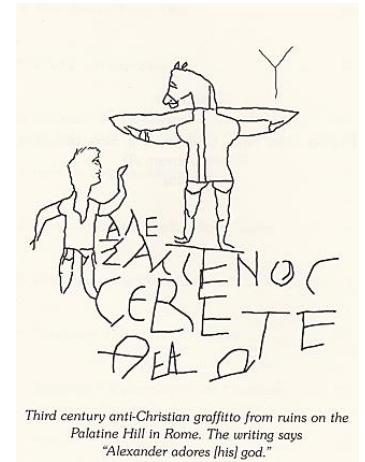
EASTER SUNDAY April 5th
 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion
 Children's Church for Easter in the Harris Room, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

John Findon writes:

Since the Covid epidemic, St Andrew's has been kept open every day to provide a sacred space for prayer, or simply for a time of quiet. On the south wall, there is a 'War Shrine', as the inscription calls it, brought to Sandford in 1915, and moved into the Church in 1917. It now does service as a War Memorial. Many British soldiers had been moved by roadside 'Calvaries' like this one – crucifixes set up as aids to devotion – which they had found in Catholic northern France. At that time of terrible pain, perhaps they felt, as a notable German pastor, imprisoned and executed by the Nazis in 1945, was to say: 'only a suffering God can help'.

Those who visit churches are well used to seeing crucifixes in places of honour, but it was many centuries before Christians brought themselves to depict the event at all. It was terrible beyond words, let alone pictures. The earliest representation yet excavated in Rome is this one, from the early third Century, scratched on the walls of the *domus Gelotiana*, where imperial pages trained.

As you can see, it was intended as a sneer at the expense of the new religion. A boy has depicted Jesus with ass's ears, and added a barely literate inscription: 'Alexander adores his god'. Little Alexander is worshipping to the left of the cross. Crucifixion was a method of execution used by the Romans for political rebels and runaway slaves. It was brutally cruel, but the point was not so much its cruelty as what it signified. Game-keepers used to nail up the bodies of stoats and weasels that had threatened their pheasants; they believed that it would frighten the others. Nailing up those who threatened the system was Caesar's way of making the same point. It was almost a theatrical demonstration. The notice on his cross – I. N. R. I.: 'Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews' – was a sneer: 'Some King!' Alexander's worship and the graffiti-artist's sneer capture the power of the Gospel of the resurrection of the crucified, that turned the world upside down.



Third century anti-Christian graffiti from ruins on the Palatine Hill in Rome. The writing says "Alexander adores [his] god."

On 5 April, Easter Day, worshippers at St Andrew's will shout out the Easter acclamation: 'Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!' That will place them in the company of those who are persuaded that Caesar's theatrical sneer is contradicted by God's theatrical reversal, which asserts that no human being can ever be merely disposable. The message continues as necessary as ever.



Saturday 21st March in the Village Hall

Teams of 6 or less or join a friendly group on the day. Bring your own food and drink.

Tickets £5 per head from

john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk or 01865 434256:

booking ahead is advisable to keep numbers to a manageable level.

Theatre and Wildlife

The talk by Paul Stewart of Church Road on his experiences as a well established wildlife cameraman was extraordinary. Starting in the Galapagos and from there travelling all over the world, with endless patience in photographing every kind of wild animals/birds, and working with David Attenborough on his television series – all beautifully illustrated on the big screen at the Village Hall. (Those of us who saw the larger-than-television sequence of the killer snakes hunting a baby iguana won't soon forget it!). It's great to have these events at the Village Hall, especially when they are led by Sandford people.

Maggie Agulnik

Of the two events in the Village Hall so far this year, the Children's Theatre was hugely enjoyed by the many children who brought their parents/grandparents along on a Saturday afternoon. Many of the parents seemed to take as much pleasure as they did, with wholehearted audience participation! The Whatnot Theatre company were amazing in being able to pitch their presentation at absolutely the right level for everyone to enjoy – as they did last year - and we look forward to welcoming them back next Christmas.

Sandford-on-Thames Village Hall

Community events

Spring events kicked off with a brilliantly fascinating and beautifully illustrated talk about wildlife photography by the very distinguished cameraman and Sandford resident Paul Stewart. This was followed by an energetic and dare I say sultry introduction to the Cha Cha by Sue Douglass; Sandford will never be the same again!

Once again we are immensely grateful to local residents who give up time and energy to lead these sessions.

We are very keen to welcome new people to lead sessions on a skill, art or craft of their own, so please email Edward if you feel you have something to offer.

And if you would like to take part in any of the SACas sessions, it's helpful for numbers if you are able to email us before the day. Or to be added to the email list to be kept informed, please email Edward on sandfordhallevents@gmail.com

Calling all photographers – Summer photography competition

After the success of the last two photographic competitions, we are repeating the event once again including a category for over 18s (all adults!).

The theme this year will be

Hidden 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:

Thursday March 19th



6-7.30pm

Gardeners' Questions: Spring into Summer

After the success of last year's event, please bring along your questions for a panel of local experts.

Thursday April 16th



6-7.30pm

Learning to draw

with Rosemary McKisack
(There will be a charge of £3 for materials for this session)

Thursday May 21st



6-7.30pm

Sandford Bingo

At the inspiration and under the guidance of Smitha from Talking Shop we shall be offering a bingo evening which we hope will be the launch of a new regular activity.
(Entry charge £1 – there will be prizes!)

Thursday June 18th



6-7.30pm

Beekeeping for beginners

An introduction with virtual hive by Daniel McGinness of Bee Bounty, regulars at Talking Shop Saturday Market.

Thursday July 16th



6-7.30pm

Drone photography

The ins and outs, equipment and permissions needed to use a drone for photography, with a practical demonstration by Tom Hughes.



**SANDFORD
SUMMER
FESTIVAL
2026**

SATURDAY 18 JULY

1PM TILL 7PM

FREE ENTRY

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

FAMILY FUN DOG SHOW
PERFORMANCES FROM
VINYL DAZE & JUBILEE BRASS

BAR - PIMMS TENT - TEA & CAKES - BBQ - ICE CREAMS
MIDDLE EASTERN CUISINE - CHURCH RAFFLE - STALLS
FAIRGROUND RIDES - CLASSIC CARS - KIDS GAMES
ARENA PERFORMANCES

EVENT SPONSORED BY **TJ HALL & SON**

Many congratulations

to **Toby Wilkinson**, son of Matthew and Julie Wilkinson of Church Road, and **Leandra**, married in Buenos Aries on 2nd January.

A bit of help three times a year?

Is anyone interested in joining the cleaning team at St Andrews church? We have a rota , which means you would only be required to clean a maximum of 3 times per year, and each session lasts for about two hours. There is absolutely no need to be a church attender – we are a mixed bunch!

It's a great opportunity to help to maintain our beautiful, historic church which has been at the heart of the village for over 1000 years, and to keep it clean and welcoming for our church services and other community events, as well as visitors to the village.

Contact Trudie Ball 07704429249 if interested and would like more info.

[Editor's p.s.: I have noticed that laughter, coffee and cake all play an important role in this task.]

Oxfordshire Artweeks

On the back cover of this Link you will find information about the four Sandford artists who will be taking part in Artweeks this year. We are wondering about opening the Village Hall next year (2027) as a separate venue for any artists who might need somewhere to display their work.

If you think there is a chance you might be interested, do please contact Edward on sandfordhallevents@gmail.com.



**Hi! My name is Nico,
I'm a responsible young man
offering dog walking services,
Short & long walks
After school & weekend availability
Friendly, patient, and animal loving
Local area: Sandford on Thames
Affordable prices
Contact 07575323595 or
Nico.skoda0@gmail.com
Happy walks for happy dogs!
Prices can be discussed,**



TALKING SHOP NEWS



In January we welcomed Smitha Prabhakar as our new Saturday Market and Events Manager. Smitha lives locally and has been volunteering with us for some time – you may

have tasted some of her marvellous Indian dishes on our weekday lunch menu.

Smitha is brimming over with great ideas so we've asked her to fill you in for this edition of the Link.

Big Things Are Brewing at Talking Shop!

... and we're just getting started! Over the next few months, we're hosting a series of exciting themed markets designed to support local makers, champion sustainability and bring people together.

What's Coming Up

14th March 2026 – Mother's Day Market

Thoughtful gifts, handmade crafts, artisan treats and beautiful locally sourced products — everything you need to celebrate the amazing women in your life.

Children at the Heart of It



We're building more children's activities alongside our markets – from creative crafts and themed workshops to interactive learning experiences. We want families to feel that Talking Shop is their space too.

28th March 2026 – Eco & Sustainability Market

A vibrant showcase of eco-friendly brands, refill options and greener lifestyle ideas. Small changes can make a big difference — and this market is packed with practical inspiration.

Is there anyone out there

with a little bit of spare time who could give Steve Gallagher, the Village Hall treasurer, a hand with the bookkeeping? Nothing too onerous, but a bit of help would be very welcome. Steve's email is sandfordvillagehallaccounts@yahoo.com



Workshops & Community Learning

We're also introducing exciting hands-on workshops to bring people together through food and culture. Plans include:



- Cooking authentic Asian curries
- Bread-making and cake baking sessions
- Skill-sharing and community-led workshops



These experiences are about more than just learning — they're about connection, culture and creating shared moments around the table.

Volunteering – Be Part of the Buzz!

The Talking Shop is powered by community spirit — and we're expanding our volunteering opportunities across multiple areas of the café and events ~~programme~~.

Whether you can spare a few hours a month or want to be more regularly involved, there's a place for you. It's a fantastic way to meet people, build confidence, gain new skills and help shape something truly special in our community. We can't wait to welcome you!



Sandford-On-Thames WI Spring 2026



**Meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm
on 2nd Thursday in the month (not August),**

social events for members in August and at other times during the year, some just for members, others to include family and friends. The Women's Institute is a membership organisation. Subscriptions are due on 1st April of £54, and earlier will be helpful – cash, cheque, bank transfer.

30th March 2026 is a very special day for Sandford on Thames WI, as it marks our inauguration 10 years ago. so we will plan a variety of activities to celebrate this achievement. Without a committee including President, Secretary and Treasurer we could not exist.

The greyhounds couldn't come, so thanks to Jane Shepherd we now have our own cocktail and mocktail.

Programme for Spring 2026

- 12th March Annual Meeting – reports, election of President and Social (members only)
- 9th April Indian blockprinting (contribution for materials)
- 14th May Some 10th Anniversary celebration (members only)
- 11th June Swishing (Google) to update your wardrobe. Details to follow.
- 9th July Preparation for Village Summer Fete

You are very welcome to come and sample a meeting except for those meetings for members only. 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 in which you can participate. You can come along alone or with a member. On the 2nd visit a donation of £5 would be appreciated or join SOTWI. You do not have to live in Sandford to join.

I should like to thank my Committee for their hard work and enthusiastic support over the past months. To the membership as a whole thank you for helping to make SOTWI a flourishing institute which will be celebrating 10 whole years this March.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Easter and Spring.

President Jill Love 01865 716557/07900 907477 (text is best as signal poor)

Current regular activities at your Village Hall

You can now book Village Hall rooms online via the Parish website

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

For further information, see the website or contact Robert on 07759 890696 or 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

Ballroom and Latin American Dance 7-9.30pm

Wednesday: Pilates 10-11am

Afternoon Tea 1st Wednesday – 2-4pm

Sandford Community Lunch

2nd Wednesday 12.30-2pm

Thursday: Sandford Womens' Institute 2nd Thursday of the month (not August) – 7.30pm

Friday: Junior Tae Kwon-Do 5.30-6.30pm

Saturday: Saturday Market 9am-noon

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



a chiropractic health centre in Nuneham Courtenay
at The Old Smithy, Yew Tree Courtyard

www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk - online booking available.



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 regs/Servicing ♦

Precise diagnostics ♦ Suspension repair/Tracking

www.tjhallandson.co.uk

facebook.com/tjhallandson/

A new bus timetable – and at last we can catch a bus to the Rail Station.

Sandford to Rail Station: weekdays

buses between		Littlemore • Rose Hill • Ifley Road • Oxford																
		3 3A																
		Mondays to Fridays																
route number	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3		
Kassam Stadium	0459	0529	0549	0608	0623	0638	0648	0703	0718	0728	0735							
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	0501	0531	0551	0610	0625	0640	0650	0705	0720	0728								
Littlemore The George	0507	0537	0557	0617	0632	0647	0658	0713	0728									
Rose Hill The Oval	0510	0525	0540	0550	0600	0614	0621	0629	0636	0644	0651	0659	0703	0710	0718	0725	0733	0740
Rose Hill Parade	0514	0529	0544	0554	0604	0618	0625	0633	0640	0648	0655	0703	0708	0715	0723	0730	0738	0745
Ifley Road Freeland Road	0525	0540	0555	0605	0615	0632	0638	0647	0653	0702	0708	0717	0724	0731	0739	0746	0754	0806
Oxford Westgate	0528	0543	0558	0608	0618	0635	0641	0650	0656	0705	0711	0720	0727	0734	0742	0749	0757	0810
⊕ Oxford Railway Station																		
		Mondays to Fridays continued																
route number	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3
Kassam Stadium	0733	0748	0803	0820	0840	0855												
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	0735	0750	0805	0822	0842	0857												
Littlemore The George	0743	0758	0813	0830	0849	0904												
Rose Hill The Oval	0748	0755	0803	0810	0818	0825	0834	0840	0853	0859	0908							
Rose Hill Parade	0753	0800	0808	0815	0823	0830	0839	0845	0857	0903	0912							
Ifley Road Freeland Road	0813	0821	0828	0836	0843	0851	0858	0902	0912	0918	0927							
Oxford Westgate	0817	0825	0832	0840	0847	0855	0902	0906	0916	0923	0931							
⊕ Oxford Railway Station																		
then at	10	25	40	55	1440													
until	15	23	30	38	45	53	00	08	1445									
	19	27	42	57	1449													
	19	34	49	04	1449													
	34	42	49	57	04	12	19	27	1504									
	38	46	53	01	08	16	23	31	1508									
route number	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3
Kassam Stadium	1440	1455	1515	1535	1555	1615	1635	1655	1715									
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	1442	1457	1517	1537	1557	1617	1637	1657	1717									
Littlemore The George	1449	1504	1524	1544	1604	1624	1644	1704	1724									
Rose Hill The Oval	1455	1515	1535	1555	1615	1630	1650	1710	1730									
Rose Hill Parade	1453	1500	1509	1519	1529	1539	1549	1559	1609	1614	1629	1634	1649	1654	1709	1714	1729	1734
Ifley Road Freeland Road	1457	1504	1514	1524	1534	1544	1554	1604	1614	1619	1634	1639	1654	1659	1714	1719	1734	1739
Oxford Westgate	1512	1519	1529	1539	1549	1559	1609	1619	1629	1634	1649	1654	1709	1714	1729	1734	1749	1754
⊕ Oxford Railway Station	1516	1523	1533	1543	1553	1603	1613	1623	1633	1638	1653	1658	1713	1718	1733	1738	1753	1758
route number	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3	3	N3	N3	N3						
Kassam Stadium	2130	2200	2230															
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	2132	2202	2232															
Littlemore The George	2137	2207	2237															
Rose Hill The Oval	2122	2152	2222	2252	2322	2352	0052	0152	0252									
Rose Hill Parade	2125	2140	2155	2210	2225	2240	2255	2325	2355	0055	0155	0255						
Ifley Road Freeland Road	2127	2142	2157	2212	2227	2242	2257	2327	2357	0057	0157	0257						
Oxford Westgate	2137	2152	2207	2222	2237	2252	2307	2337	0007	0107	0207	0307						
⊕ Oxford Railway Station	2140	2155	2210	2225	2240	2255	2310	2340	0010	0110	0210	0310						

Additional night buses operate along the Ifley Road on service NX40 on Friday nights only.

Saturdays

route number	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	
Kassam Stadium	0509	0539	0609	0635	0640	0700	0715	0722	0730	0737	0745	0752	0800	0807					
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	0511	0541	0611	0637	0642	0702	0717	0724	0732	0739	0747	0754	0801	0808					
Littlemore The George	0517	0547	0617	0644	0649	0709	0724	0731	0739	0747	0754	0801	0808	0815					
Rose Hill The Oval	0520	0535	0550	0605	0620	0635	0648	0703	0713	0720	0728	0735	0742	0750					
Rose Hill Parade	0524	0539	0554	0609	0624	0639	0652	0707	0717	0724	0732	0739	0747	0754					
Ifley Road Freeland Road	0535	0550	0605	0620	0635	0650	0707	0722	0732	0739	0747	0754	0801	0808					
Oxford Westgate	0538	0553	0608	0623	0638	0653	0711	0726	0736	0743	0751	0758	0805	0812					
⊕ Oxford Railway Station																			
then at	18	20	38	58	1918	1938	1952												
until	13	23	33	43	53	03	1913	1923	1933	1943	1955								
	17	27	37	47	57	07	1917	1927	1937	1947	1957								
	32	42	52	02	12	22	1932	1942	1952	2002	2007								
	36	46	56	06	16	26	1936	1946	1956	2006	2010								
route number	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3	3	N3	N3	N3
Kassam Stadium	2000	2030	2100	2130	2200	2230													
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	2002	2032	2102	2132	2202	2232													
Littlemore The George	2007	2037	2107	2137	2207	2237													
Rose Hill The Oval	2022	2052	2122	2152	2222	2252	2322	2352	0052	0152	0252								
Rose Hill Parade	2010	2025	2040	2055	2110	2125	2140	2155	2210	2225	2240	2255	2325	2355	0055	0155	0255		
Ifley Road Freeland Road	2012	2027	2042	2057	2112	2127	2142	2157	2212	2227	2242	2257	2327	2357	0057	0157	0257		
Oxford Westgate	2022	2037	2052	2107	2122	2137	2152	2207	2222	2237	2252	2307	2337	0007	0107	0207	0307		
⊕ Oxford Railway Station	2025	2040	2055	2110	2125	2140	2155	2210	2225	2240	2255	2310	2340	0010	0110	0210	0310		

Sundays and public holidays

route number	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3
Kassam Stadium	0643	0708	0735	0805	0835	0905	0935	0955	1035										
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	0645	0710	0737	0807	0837	0907	0937	0957	1037										
Littlemore The George	0650	0715	0744	0814	0844	0914	0944	1004	1044										
Rose Hill The Oval	0635	0705	0728	0758	0828	0858	0928	0958	1028	1058									
Rose Hill Parade	0638	0653	0708	0718	0733	0748	0803	0818	0833	0848	0903	0918	0933	0948	1003	1008	1033	1048	1103
Ifley Road Freeland Road	0642	0657	0712	0722	0737	0752	0807	0822	0837	0852	0907	0922	0937	0952	1007	1012	1037	1052	1107
Oxford Westgate	0653	0708	0723	0733	0752	0807	0822	0837	0852	0907	0922	0937	0952	1007	1022	1027	1052	1107	1122
⊕ Oxford Railway Station	0656	0711	0726	0736	0756	0811	0826	0841	0856	0911	0926	0941	0956	1011	1026	1031	1056	1111	1126
route number	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3
Kassam Stadium	05	35	1935	2000	2030	2100	2200												
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	07	37	1937	2002	2032	2102	2202												
Littlemore The George	14	44	1944	2007	2037	2107	2207												
Rose Hill The Oval	28	58	1952	2022	2052	2122	2137	2152	2222	2237	2252	2322							
Rose Hill Parade	18	33	1948	1955	2010	2025	2040	2055	2110	2125	2140	2155	2210	2225	2240	2255	2325		
Ifley Road Freeland Road	22	37	1952	1957	2012	2027	2042	2057	2112	2127	2142	2157	2212	2227	2242	2257	2327		
Oxford Westgate	37	52	2007	2007	2022	2037	2052	2107	2122	2137	2152	2207	2222	2237	2252	2307	2337		
⊕ Oxford Railway Station	41	56	2011	2010	2025	2040	2055	2110	2125	2140	2155	2210	2225	2240					

	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3
⊕ Oxford Railway Station stop R6	0815	0822	0830	0837	0845	0852	0900	0907	then at	15 22 30 37 45 52 00 07	until	1415	1422	1430			
Oxford High Street stop T2	0820	0827	0835	0842	0850	0857	0906	0913		21 28 36 43 51 58 06 13		1421	1428	1436			
Ifley Road Freeland Road	0829	0836	0844	0851	0859	0906	0915	0922		30 37 45 52 00 07 15 22		1430	1437	1445			
Rose Hill Parade	0832	0839	0847	0854	0902	0909	0918	0925		33 40 48 55 03 10 18 25		1433	1440	1448			
Rose Hill The Oval	0835	▼	0850	▼	0905	▼	0921	▼		36 ▼ 51 ▼ 06 ▼ 21 ▼		1436	▼	1451			
Littlemore The George	0843	0858	0913	0928		43 58 13 28		1443									
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	0848	0903	0918	0933		48 03 18 33		1448									
Kassam Stadium	0850	0905	0920	0935		50 05 20 35		1450									

	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3		
⊕ Oxford Railway Station stop R6	1437	1445	1452	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1600	1610	1620	1630	1640	1650	1700	1710	1720
Oxford High Street stop T2	1443	1451	1458	1507	1517	1528	1538	1548	1558	1608	1618	1628	1638	1648	1658	1708	1718	1728
Ifley Road Freeland Road	1452	1500	1507	1518	1528	1539	1550	1559	1610	1620	1630	1639	1649	1659	1709	1719	1729	1739
Rose Hill Parade	1455	1504	1511	1522	1532	1543	1554	1603	1614	1624	1634	1643	1653	1703	1713	1723	1733	1743
Rose Hill The Oval	▼	1507	▼	1525	▼	1546	▼	1607	▼	1628	▼	1646	▼	1706	▼	1726	▼	1746
Littlemore The George	1458	1515	1536	1558	1618	1638	1657	1717	1737									
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	1503	1521	1542	1604	1624	1644	1703	1723	1743									
Kassam Stadium	1505	1523	1544	1606	1626	1646	1705	1725	1745									

Mondays to Fridays continued

	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	
⊕ Oxford Railway Station stop R6	1730	1740	1750	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	2000	2010	2020
Oxford High Street stop T2	1738	1747	1757	1807	1817	1827	1837	1847	1857	1907	1917	1927	1937	1947	1957	2007	2017	2027
Ifley Road Freeland Road	1749	1757	1807	1817	1827	1837	1847	1857	1907	1917	1927	1937	1946	1956	2006	2016	2026	2036
Rose Hill Parade	1753	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1949	1959	2009	2019	2029	2039
Rose Hill The Oval	▼	1803	▼	1823	▼	1843	▼	1903	1913	▼	1933	▼	1952	▼	2012	▼	2032	▼
Littlemore The George	1757	1813	1833	1853	1923	1943	2002	2022	2042									
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	1803	1819	1839	1859	1929	1949	2007	2027	2047									
Kassam Stadium	1805	1821	1841	1901	1931	1951	2009	2029	2049									

	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A
⊕ Oxford Railway Station stop R6	2030	2045	2100	2115	2130	2145	2200	2215	2230	2245	2300	2315	2345	0030	0130	0230	0330	
Oxford High Street stop T2	2035	2050	2105	2120	2135	2150	2205	2220	2235	2250	2305	2320	2350	0035	0135	0235	0335	
Ifley Road Freeland Road	2043	2058	2113	2128	2143	2158	2213	2228	2243	2258	2313	2328	2358	0043	0143	0243	0343	
Rose Hill Parade	2046	2101	2116	2131	2146	2201	2216	2231	2246	2301	2316	2331	0001	0046	0146	0246	0346	
Rose Hill The Oval	2049	▼	2119	▼	2149	▼	2219	▼	2249	▼	2319	2334	0004	0049	0149	0249	0349	
Littlemore The George	2104	2134	2204	2234	2304													
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	2109	2139	2209	2239	2309													
Kassam Stadium	2111	2141	2211	2241	2311													

Rail Station to Sandford: weekends

	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A
⊕ Oxford Railway Station stop R6	0545	0600	0615	0630	0645	0700	0715	0730	0740	0750	then at	00 10 20 30 40 50	until	2000	2010	2020	
Oxford High Street stop T2	0549	0604	0619	0634	0649	0704	0721	0736	0746	0756		06 16 26 36 46 56		2006	2016	2026	
Ifley Road Freeland Road	0556	0611	0626	0641	0656	0711	0730	0745	0755	0805		15 25 35 45 55 05		2015	2025	2035	
Rose Hill Parade	0558	0613	0628	0643	0658	0713	0733	0748	0758	0808		18 28 38 48 58 08		2018	2028	2038	
Rose Hill The Oval	▼	0615	▼	0645	▼	0715	▼	0751	▼	0811		21 ▼ 31 ▼ 41 ▼ 51 ▼ 11		2021	2031	2041	
Littlemore The George	0601	0631	0701	0736	0801												
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	0607	0637	0707	0741	0806												
Kassam Stadium	0609	0639	0709	0743	0808												

	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A
⊕ Oxford Railway Station stop R6	2030	2045	2100	2115	2130	2145	2200	2215	2230	2245	2300	2315	2345	0030	0130	0230	0330	
Oxford High Street stop T2	2035	2050	2105	2120	2135	2150	2205	2220	2235	2250	2305	2320	2350	0035	0135	0235	0335	
Ifley Road Freeland Road	2043	2058	2113	2128	2143	2158	2213	2228	2243	2258	2313	2328	2358	0043	0143	0243	0343	
Rose Hill Parade	2046	2101	2116	2131	2146	2201	2216	2231	2246	2301	2316	2331	0001	0046	0146	0246	0346	
Rose Hill The Oval	2049	▼	2119	▼	2149	▼	2219	▼	2249	▼	2319	2334	0004	0049	0149	0249	0349	
Littlemore The George	2104	2134	2204	2234	2304													
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	2109	2139	2209	2239	2309													
Kassam Stadium	2111	2141	2211	2241	2311													

	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A	3	3A		
⊕ Oxford Railway Station stop R6	0700	0715	0730	0745	0800	0815	0830	0845	0900	0915	0930	0945	then at	00 15 30 45	until	2000	2015			
Oxford High Street stop T2	0704	0719	0734	0749	0804	0819	0834	0849	0906	0921	0936	0951		06 21 36 51		2006	2021			
Ifley Road Freeland Road	0711	0726	0741	0756	0811	0826	0841	0856	0915	0930	0945	1000		15 30 45 00		2015	2030			
Rose Hill Parade	0714	0729	0744	0759	0814	0829	0844	0859	0918	0933	0948	1003		18 33 48 03		2018	2033			
Rose Hill The Oval	0717	▼	0747	▼	0817	▼	0847	▼	0921	▼	0951	▼		21 ▼ 51 ▼		2021	▼			
Littlemore The George	0732	0802	0832	0902	0936	1006														
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	0737	0807	0837	0907	0941	1011														
Kassam Stadium	0739	0809	0839	0909	0943	1013		36 06		2036										
																			41 11	2041
																			43 13	2043

	3	3A	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3	3
⊕ Oxford Railway Station stop R6	2030	2045	2100	2115	2130	2145	2200	2215	2230	2245	2300	2315	2345					
Oxford High Street stop T2	2035	2050	2105	2120	2135	2150	2205	2220	2235	2250	2305	2320	2350					
Ifley Road Freeland Road	2043	2058	2113	2128	2143	2158	2213	2228	2243	2258	2313	2328	2358					
Rose Hill Parade	2046	2101	2116	2131	2146	2201	2216	2231	2246	2301	2316	2331	0001					
Rose Hill The Oval	2049	▼	2119	▼	2149	▼	2219	▼	2249	▼	2319	2334	0004					
Littlemore The George	2104	2134	2204	2234	2304													
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre	2109	2139	2209	2239	2309													
Kassam Stadium	2111	2141	2211	2241	2311													

Bus 45: Sandford to Cowley Centre and Abingdon

buses between		Abingdon • Culham • Berinsfield • Science Park • Cowley																	
		Mondays to Fridays																	
Abingdon Fitzharry School																			1526
Abingdon College																			1532
Abingdon Larkmead School																			1537
Abingdon Stratton Way stop A1	0645	0715	0745	0842	0952	1052	1152	1252	1352	1551	1552	1635	1655	1735					
⊕ Culham Campus Abingdon Road	0653	0723	0758	0851	1001	1101	1201	1301	1401	1601	1601	1646	1703	1744					
Culham Campus Guard House	0654	0724	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	1704
Clifton Hampden Village Hall				0800	0853	1003	1103	1203	1303	1403	1606	1606	1654	1746					
Berinsfield Kennet Close				0807	0859	1008	1108	1208	1308	1408	1614	1614	1700	1753					
Berinsfield War Memorial				0815	0906	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1623	1623	1708	1800					
Nuneham Courtenay Baldon Lane				0822	0911	1019	1119	1219	1319	1419			1714	1805					
Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre				0827	0917	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Sandford-on-Thames Catherine Wheel				0831	0920	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425			1718	1809					
Littlemore The George				0835	0923	1028	1128	1228	1328	1428			1722	1813					
Rose Hill The Oval				0841															

Oxford United to invest £5.1m in infrastructure as stadium plans progress:

Oxford United will contribute at least £5.1 million towards infrastructure as part of plans for its new stadium. The Cowley Branch Line will benefit from £932,519. Long-proposed plans to reopen the line would see two new stations at Oxford Cowley and Oxford Littlemore, providing a twice-hourly service to the city centre and London Marylebone.

Say it with flowers:

Whether you have a wedding, a funeral, an anniversary, a dinner party or just want to cheer someone up, I'm available to help. I'm just an enthusiastic amateur who loves to work with flowers, so email me at Caroletasker27@gmail.com or give me a call 07876 701151 .



HILLSIDE EXOTIC GARDENING

is a Sandford business run by Nicky and Lewis, with a wonderful range of exotic plants – see their website at hillsideexoticgardening.co.uk



The annual OxClean Spring Clean takes place from 6 to 15 March.

Volunteers are particularly sought to litter-pick the Ring Road and Kassam Stadium. OxClean provides litter pickers, high-vis vests and plastic bags, and arranges collection of bags.

AFTERNOON TEAS

in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month 2.0– 4.0.
A community event 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



Update from Oxford Preservation Trust – March 2026

Green Spaces Volunteering – Heyford Meadow.

Next task: 20th March 9.30 – 12.30.

Heyford Meadow and Simons Land are spring-ready thanks to our fantastic volunteers— paths cleared, reeds and grasses cut and raked and boardwalks maintained. Oxford

Preservation Trust welcomes more volunteers at our monthly sessions. All ages and abilities are welcome. No experience needed – tools provided.

Meet: 9.30am on the boardwalk

Access: Via the playground off Broadhurst Gardens (cul-de-sac) or the green vehicle entrance off Heyford Hill Road (opposite Pheasant Walk – open to OPT/contractor vehicles on volunteering days only).

Cycling: Walk bikes in and lock near the white van.

Parking: Free on-street parking on Heyford Hill Lane.

Bring: Gloves, water, snack, sturdy footwear, weather-appropriate clothing.

Toilets: Sandford Talking Shop.

Any questions? Email: info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

We also welcome wildlife sightings and reports of any issues. Fishing and fires are prohibited, and bikes/scooters/motorbikes cause damage and disturbance. We are working with Thames Valley Police to address this. If a crime is happening and it's safe, call 999 or 101 with a clear location (e.g. via what3words). If safe to do so, getting photographic and video evidence of those involved is very helpful in prosecuting offenders, particularly of faces, but they understand that this is unlikely to be possible. If the crime has already happened, reporting it via 101 online <https://www.police.uk/pu/contact-us/> or on the phone is still very useful to help build up evidence.

To find out more about our work and how you can support us by becoming a member of OPT please visit www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk.

Heyford Meadow has its own volunteer conservation day on the *third Friday* of each month between 9.30am and 12:30pm. It is a great way to be out in nature, get active, and meet new people. Everyone is welcome to join, with no experience required.

Rest in peace

Jane Webber died Christmas 2026, aged 77

Jane was born in North Oxford but moved to Sandford aged 6, to the Magdalen Cottages (her father Tom worked for the college and became church warden, but died young). Her mother Naomi became a good local character. After school Jane followed her mother into nursing, trained and worked at the Nuffield and in London, then returned to Oxford to the Nuffield and then to the JR (ICU) as a highly regarded senior nurse. As her mother became old and frail she moved back to the family home, enjoyed the garden, reading, and travel until a serious stroke made life difficult, but she made new friends as she walked up and down Church Road rehabilitating.

At her funeral on 20th January, arranged by her cousins Pauline and Catherine in St Andrew's,, across the road from her home, Pauline's husband Philip read an insightful tribute, the music reflected her tastes and many neighbours and former colleagues joined the family afterwards for lunch at Voco.

Jane was a quiet, thoughtful person, but had a sense of humour. Her favourite novels, the 12 volumes of A Dance to the Music of Time, sums up her life. She made good friendships and was fortunate in her neighbours, especially Karen next door, who called in every day and finally discovered her peaceful end, and also Louine and Siobhan and Jane Coulter. The Webber walnut tree – the central one which was planted by her mum in memory of Tom, her dad, now commemorates Jane as well as her parents.

May she rest in peace.



SANDFORD COMMUNITY LUNCH

A delicious meal at Talking Shop 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.

**Second Wednesday of each month –
see [facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford](https://www.facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford)**

Owen Ivor George Naish

born 9 February 1935, died 8 October 2026, aged 90

Owen came from an old Sandford family, many of whom (father briefly, grandfather and uncle) worked in the Mill, so he was born in a Mill cottage on Henley Road and went to school in the old reading room and then Sandford school, next to the church. He trained and worked as a mechanical engineer, mainly with the RAF, and married Rena at Paisley in Scotland in 1961. He died peacefully at home in Henley Road, in his own bed, surrounded by his family. His funeral and requiem Mass will be at St Dominic Barberi (Littlemore) on 27th February, followed by burial here at St Andrew's.

Owen was a kind and friendly man with a wry sense of humour, and he will be missed. We offer our condolences to Rena and their 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 7 greatgrandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Carole Grant-Garwood died Christmas 2025

We are very sorry to hear of the death at Christmas of Carole Grant-Garwood of Rock Farm Lane. Carole came to Sandford recently with her daughter, Scarlet, after a career in banking in London. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

Bits and pieces:

Grenoble Road development

The first plans in the long-awaited planning application for a new, 3000 home village to be built as part of the Grenoble Road development have been submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council.

The project website calls it “a beautiful, sustainable, new part of Oxford... a calm, green place that links seamlessly into the city”. It includes a survey asking respondents to name their top priorities for the new development (oxfordsciencevillage.com). Property firm Savills have lodged a Screening Request with South Oxfordshire District Council - the first stage in the planning process which seeks to identify environmental issues. They say discussions have already been held with Oxfordshire County Council over traffic issues.

Latest on the 'red light district' the other side of the A4074

is that the Ellison Institute has applied for planning permission to extend the existing three buildings upwards and add two 'link atriums' connecting them together to form one large research and development building.

The first atrium would have walkways on all levels and would serve as the main entrance, incorporating meeting rooms, seminar space and a café. The second would have stepped terraces to accommodate shared workspaces, a concealed 250-seat auditorium and a greenhouse.

Construction work on the three buildings approved 2023 has already started, as we well know, but has now been paused because of the new application. It is said that the buildings will provide a 'state-of-the-art' home for the Generative Biology Institute and the Plant Biology Institute.

HIF1 stands for Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 and it is the name of the link road between the A34 at Didcot and the Notcutts roundabout on the A4074. It's been in the pipeline for years, but finally seems to have the go-ahead. It includes widening the A4130 to create a dual carriageway east of the Milton Interchange, a "science bridge" across the railway and through the former Didcot A Power Station site, a new Thames crossing, linking the A4130 at Didcot and the A415 at Culham, and a bypass for Clifton Hampden.

It seems clear that it will have a big impact of increased traffic on the A4074 and hence on shortcuts through Sandford. The plan is to complete it by autumn 2028.

The £20m Government grant to Greater Leys will be managed by a Neighbourhood Board made up of local residents, businesses, community organisations and faith groups, who will draw up a plan ready for the funding to start in spring 2027. Oxford City Council will administer the funds, which are intended for "the improvements that matter most to local people".

Earth Trust has won £500,000 of developer funding for its Gateway to Nature project, to help fund a new access road and car park to avoid constraints on the current 'single lane with passing places' road past Wittenham Clumps. The new adventure playscape will open in 2027.

A free 20-minute NHS Health Check – an MOT for your body - for 40 to 74 yr olds is available. If you haven't received an invitation but would like one, contact your GP practice to check if you qualify.

Small children? If you don't know it, check out the Little Explorers website (littleexplorers.com) which has been recommended.

Once in a generation decision: a chance to have a say on the future of local councils

The Government has launched its formal public consultation on options for the shape of councils across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. The last time a change of this scale happened was over 50 years ago so this decision will have a significant impact to everyone in the district for many years.

What is changing? The Government is scrapping the current district and county councils and replacing them with new 'unitary' councils. Unitary councils deliver all council services under one roof.

What are the proposals? The Government asked the existing councils to develop proposals for them to consider. There were three proposals submitted to government:

- * **A single county unitary** that covers all Oxfordshire, which means it will be one of the largest rural unitaries in England
- * **Two unitary councils** covering Oxfordshire and West Berkshire – one covering existing areas of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire ('North Oxfordshire'), one covering the existing area of South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire ('Ridgeway').
- * **Three unitary councils** that cover Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. One covering the existing Oxford City council area but with expanded boundaries taking in all the greenbelt area and more (Greater Oxford). One covering the remaining existing council areas of Cherwell and West Oxfordshire. One covering the remaining existing council areas of South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire.

What do the current councils think is the best option?

South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, Cherwell, West Berkshire and West Oxfordshire overwhelmingly support the two unitary option. 142 out of 158 councillors in attendance at councils last year voted to submit the two unitary proposal, including councillors from all political parties. Oxfordshire County Council support their single unitary proposal and Oxford City Council support their three unitary proposal.

Why are we supporting the two unitary option?

South Oxfordshire council believes that the two unitary proposal is the only one that will deliver improvements to council services, will be financially sustainable, will be responsive to communities and will deliver economic stability.

It means creating councils of the right size – not too big to be distant and ineffective, not too small that they aren't financially viable. When councillors considered the proposals they felt the two unitary was the one that best met the government criteria and would deliver the best outcomes for South Oxfordshire. It will be challenging in some ways, as any reorganisation of this scale is bound to be, but is considered, on balance, to be the best option.

Engagement feedback: during the public engagement last year, people told us that their top four services that needed improving are roads and transport, planning and development, adult social care and education and schools.

The Two-Councils proposal won't just be more of the same – your District councillors think it will be a chance for something new and better. The Councils aim to be progressive, innovative and modern, providing good value for money, quality services.

Each proposal has its own website if you want to find out more:

- * single county proposal: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oneoxfordshire
- * two unitary proposal: www.twocouncils.org
- * three unitary proposal: www.oxford.gov.uk/three-councils

The link to the government consultation is:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/oxfordshire>

This consultation closes on 26th March 2026

SOMETHING THAT NEEDS FIXING?

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

07765 66625 commius@hotmail.com



Our Parish Councillors:

Peter Addyman (Chair)
Michael Whitlock (Vice-chair)

Luke Young; Mark Baseby; Dan Tarzey; Lewis Barrett; Paul Bradbury.

Notes on the Parish Council meeting held on **Monday 1st December 2025**

Full minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website:

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

Members of the public are very welcome to attend any Parish Council meetings: please submit any agenda items to the Parish Clerk at least 10 days prior to the meeting at Clerk@sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk.

1. Welcome: Councillors noted that Anita James had resigned the post of Parish Clerk as at 30th November. Lynne Bustin (previous clerk) will cover the role in a locum capacity until recruitment for a new clerk is successful.

2. Reports from District and County Councillors

County Council update received from Robin Jones:

South Oxfordshire reservoir update: Cllr RJ has met with developers (Gummer Leith) at Grenoble Road to discuss flooding, biodiversity, greening, screening and trees. PA spoke to Gill Marshall and will book a meeting for the Parish Council. Cllr RJ confirmed he would review and approve a bid from the Parish Council to the County Councillors Priority Fund for £1000 to go towards the SIDS fund.

3. Minutes: Approved and signed November minutes

4. Clerk's report actions:

The clerk submitted a Work in Progress list to councillors for review.

5. Parish Matters

- PA confirmed he is meeting with Jon Beale of Highways on 12th January to discuss SIDS locations. The Parish Council voted to site three SIDS in the parish, near the dual carriageway, near Brick Kiln Lane, on the Henley Road.
- The Parish Council voted to offer the grounds maintenance contract out to tender for 2026. Cllrs to research potential contractors and ask other Parish Councils who they use. Issues included grass cutting at the churchyard and community orchard.
- PA attended a meeting with EIT communications department. Discussion included parking issues in the parish, the possibility of a pedestrian crossing near Park Homes and future development at the site. EIT are speaking with the Village Hall/Talking Shop about funding a canopy over the outside seating area.

Parish Council to open discussion with OPT about grass area behind Broadhurst Gardens. Pending the outcome there will be a community consultation.

- PA and PB to visit the Catherine Wheel Pub to discuss issue of vehicles parking on the pavement outside. Is there a possibility of a non-parking area to the right of the door. Clerk to recirculate police advice email.

6. IT

There had been issues with Cloudy IT moving website management to Aubergine. The Clerk to check access for Talking Shop and the Village Hall Committee and clarify with Cloudy IT and Aubergine terms of transfer. PC are not paying Aubergine invoice until full clarification of access and management received.

7. Finance Report

Initial review of the budget for 2026 – 2027 carried out. Cllrs asked for the due date for the playground inspections to be added, to check the three year insurance premium arrangement and excess, to check the home working allowance. Draft budget will be reviewed again at the January meeting.

Notes on the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5th January 2026

1. Welcome: Laurie-Jane Cann has accepted the post of Parish Clerk and will start on 1st February 2026.

2. Public participation: Discussion covering concerns over development at the Science Park at the site opposite Rock Farm Lane. MB to summarise points raised for Cllr Robin Jones to investigate. Concerns included possible changes in ownership, future change of use, changes to the design or demolition of the existing building, anticipated planning applications. There is an undisputed direct negative effect on the residents of Rock Farm due to the 24 hour site lighting from the buildings. The Science Park is in Littlemore Parish.

Discussion about potential bus stop on Grenoble Road for Park Homes benefit and Science Park. The Science Park support the proposal but have not offered monies towards it (contributions to S106 agreements and CIL referenced at previous meetings). Historically there was a road crossing and bus stop in the area however was taken out of use due to safety concerns.

3. Highways & Parish Matters:

- There are no road markings by the new bus stop. Clerk to chase Highways.
- Large pothole by the Catherine Wheel and pothole under the bridge at Brick Kiln Lane reported, Clerk to add to Fix My Street.
- The trash screen at the Fox Furlong culvert is site on Oxfordshire County Council land and is not safe to access for checking or maintenance. Clerk to contact OCC to discuss arrangements for access and ongoing maintenance.

- The fence at the back of Fox Furlong needs repairing, Clerk to contact OCC.

4. Planning

- 28th January SODC afternoon event about changes to neighbourhood plans
- Cert. Lawful Development for Mobile Home Caravan in garden of The Old Piggeries, Sandy Lane OX33 1TF. Notification only, no comments invited.
- P25/S3750/T28 Telecom Works at Donnington Trust Field, Heyford Hill Lane.
- P25/S3693/HH Install Air Source Heat Pump at 49 Pheasant Walk Littlemore.
- Reservoir Objection email received from Bioabundance Community Interest.

5. IT

The Parish Clerk email address is receiving many enquiries for the Village Hall. Clerk to speak to Aubergine website managers to adjust the contact pages. MB to obtain quotes for hybrid technology options for meetings. Cllrs recommended website back up, Clerk to carry out.

6. Finance Report

- Approved Precept request for 2026 – 2027 **£69500**
Precept increase of 4.5% being September rate of RPI rounded to the nearest 100. Parish Clerk to draft a budget and precept policy for future use, to include the use of RPI in precept setting, as well as strategies for exceptional circumstances. Cllrs asked for a 5 year forward budget.

Notes on the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2026

1. Reports from District and County Councillors:

County Cllr Robin Jones attended the meeting until 7.13pm:

- . OCC are currently in opposition to the South East Strategic Reservoir Option. The opposition at this juncture is founded on the absence of a requirement for a full Emergency Discharge Plan and its size.
- . The next Full Council meeting on 10th February will be to agree the County Council Budget for 2026-2027.
- . There is currently a public consultation on the future of Oxfordshire's County Council's Fire and Rescue Service. The consultation is available online
- . OCC have approved a major industrial development on top of Wicklesham Quarry outside Faringdon.
- . OCC has announced that it will stop using X, including its separate account for travel updates, Oxon Travel from April.
The existing Botley Road Rail bridge will be demolished between 1-8 February. The walking route will be changed and train services from Oxford to Didcot will be replaced by buses.

OCC is leaving its current premises at the end of 2026. County Hall is being turned into a four-star hotel. The council is returning to its former building Speedwell House but is seeking temporary accommodation until Speedwell is ready for occupation.

District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye attended the meeting until 7.50pm::

. It is unlikely there will be cuts to services in 2026, and a strong prospect of further investment in facilities and community grants, subject to approval at the council's budget meetings on 12th February.

. The CIL community grant is now open for applications. Applications for the second round of the Community Infrastructure Levy Grant Fund opened on Friday 30 January for Town and Parish councils and not-for-profit community groups in South Oxfordshire. A total of £750,000 is available to support projects that improve or create new community amenities.

LJC to speak to Grants Team to see if the PC could apply for funding towards Zebra Crossing.

. The government's Local Government Reorganisation consultation is likely to launch in early February. They will seek views on all the three proposals put forward to reorganise local government in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

. There is a new Council Tax billing method. Residents can now get their council tax bill by email instead of a paper bill in the post without needing to sign up for an online account.

. Garden Waste Permits for 2026. Existing garden waste permits will expire on 31 March. To continue receiving fortnightly collections from 1 April and to avoid any interruption to their service, residents will need to buy a new permit. This can be done at southandvale.gov.uk/gardenwastepermit .

. Cllr SC-R met with the Low Carbon Hub who will contact PC's to discuss future use of energy. Cllr SC-R has passed on contact details for S-o-T.

. The Head of Service for Planning, Adrian Duffield, will retire after nearly 25 years on the councils, including 17 years jointly at South and Vale.

2. Locum Clerk's report:

- So far we have received 3 responses to our Grounds Maintenance Tender – two more outstanding. Tom Wright from Tactical Group UK attended the meeting to offer an opportunity to go through their tender. There was discussion on how the contract should be managed in future, regardless of who gets the Contract.

LJC to chase the outstanding companies who have been invited to tender - current contract ending February 2026.

- SIDS funding of £1000 from Cllr Robin approved. LJC to thank.

- The Parish Council agreed to sign a letter opposing the Greater Oxford Local Government proposal.

3. Village Hall & Talking Shop: MB has received some feedback about joining up the village comms more cohesively through various Newsletters, Sandford Link and the website. LJC to investigate this further to see how this could be done.

4. Highways & Parish Matters:

- DT has been in contact with OPT regarding the strip of land next to Broadhurst Gardens and is waiting for them to confirm dates to meet.

- All Playground Inspections have all been carried out. LJC will disseminate reports to all Cllrs on receipt.

5. Planning

P26/S0044/CM Sewage Treatment Works Access road to Sewage Works from Grenoble Road Sandford-on-Thames OX4 4XU. Construction and operation of an electricity substation for Oxford Sewage Treatment Works (comments by 12 Feb). PC had no comment.

6. Finance Report: Reviewed receipts, payments and bank statements. It was agreed that the bank statement for all 3 bank accounts will be made available in the monthly meetings folder.

Reserves. PA asked if we need to amend current policy on what the Reserves can be spent on, i.e. what amount constitutes as a 'Major Expenses. It was agreed that it would not be down to a minimum amount but the reason the expense is required.

Contribution to Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). A contribution will be given to the CAB this year. The amount will be agreed at the next meeting after a review of previous donations. LJC to confirm previous years donations.

WHEATLEY FOOT CLINIC

for podiatry and foot health

For friendly and professional foot care,
contact Lynn on 07793 813382 or lynnfootcare@gmail.com

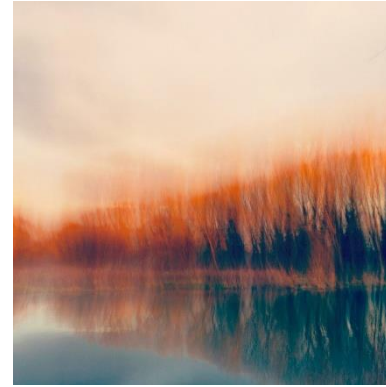
This Link magazine is published by the Link Committee and this issue is edited by Prue Sykes, Lower Farm, Sandford-on-Thames (748848). Anything for inclusion should be sent to Lower Farm or e-mailed to robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 11 th	Community lunch p.21
March 14 th	Talking Shop Mothers' Day market p.10
March 19 th	Gardeners' Question Time p.7
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July 18 th	Village Fete p.8

Four remarkable Sandford artists will be taking part in Oxfordshire Artweeks, three at **17 Rock Farm Lane, OX4 4YL, on the 16, 17, 23, 24, 25 May, from 11-5**, with Etain at **3 Church Road, OX4 4XZ from 11.6 – same dates.**



Etain O'Carroll: Photographs, prints and cards of river, meadow and forest scenes from Sandford, Kennington and Radley, plus some abstract work and jewellery



Ian Roxburgh: Box art containing painted saw blades and rusty cans, unframed paintings of abstract landscapes, abstract collages and the odd skateboard.



Becky Paton: Mosaicist extraordinaire! Beautiful mosaics for home and garden



Amanda Bond: I spend a lot of time in the countryside, and then work extracting the essence of the landscape and interpreting the colour, to create a contemporary evocative image. My starting point is always colour.