

# The Sandford Link

Spring 2022 Issue 164

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



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## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH NEWS

### Ministry team:

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

Teresa Morgan (*associate priest*: [teresa.morgan@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:teresa.morgan@classics.ox.ac.uk))

John Findon (*associate priest*)

Liz Shatford (772598); Paddy Watson.

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

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

### Sunday services

**Every Sunday: 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion**

**6.30 p.m. Evening prayer**

**Last Sunday of the month:**

**10.0 a.m. a more informal Westward Communion service**

### A warm welcome

was extended last November to the Reverend John Findon, who has joined St Andrew's ministry team. John spent many years as a priest in the Diocese of Manchester, and has recently served as acting chaplain of Jesus College. We are delighted to have him and Christa as part of our church community.

### Bible study

A small group meets in church every three or four weeks (Thurs 6 p.m.) to consider the Bible readings for the month and think about how they speak to us Today. Anyone is welcome to join us: contact the vicar on 01865 748848 or [robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk)

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 p.m.



## Welcome

to **Reuben, Pete and Ryan** to Pheasant Walk

to **Nicola and Hanna** to Church Road

to **Julie** to Church Road

to **Gustavo and Bruna** to Church Road

## Welcome to the world

to **Louis Antonowicz**, born 1.11.21 and joining his sister Ines and parents

Aurelia and Stefan of Henley Road

## Many congratulations

to **Norman and Chris**, on celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary

and thank you so much

to the good neighbours who were so quick to offer support and help following the recent fire in Lower Farm Barns.



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

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

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

## SANDFORD TODDLERS GROUP

A very friendly and welcoming group, giving the opportunity to meet other people in our local area.

Free tea/coffee – we'd love to see you there!

Mondays 9.30 – 11.30 £2 per family, first session free

marsh\_lucy@hotmail.com



## MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

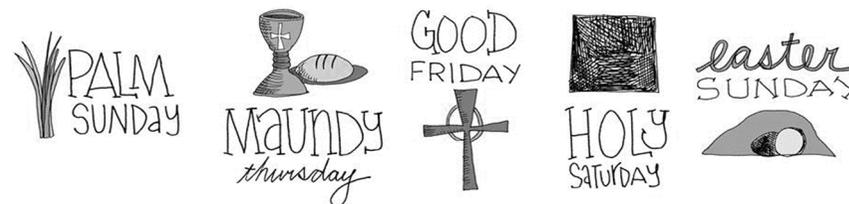
Palm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30

A selection of Passiontide music

By Byrd, Tallis, Biebl, Tavener,

Casals and Chilcott

sung by St Andrew's choir



## LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

Mothering Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March: 10.0 a.m. Westward Communion

Palm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April:

10.0 a.m. Parish with distribution of palms

6.30 p.m. Music for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 p.m. Eucharist

Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Quiet in church 12.0 – 2.15 2.15 Good Friday service

Easter Sunday:

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

# VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

in the Village Hall on  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 for 8.0 p.m.**

Come as a team of six (bring and share drinks and nibbles)  
or there will be a friendly group to join on the day.

Tickets £4 each.

robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk 01865 748848

## COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April** – come and help with the Great Spring Tidy Up.  
All ages welcome and all equipment provided. You will be getting  
a leaflet with more information on times and place, or contact Sue  
Riley at sandfordparish@gmail.com



Back by popular demand! Talking Shop's  
Shop are restarting

## SANDFORD FOOD SURPLUS CAFÉ

Coming soon - look out for your leaflet  
giving day and time'

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

Volunteers are needed for shifts between

9.30am-3.30pm - shifts can be as long or short as you like. If you would like to  
get involved please email Fiona on fiona.talkingshop@gmail.com or pop into the  
Talking Shop to find out more.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**SANDFORD  
SUMMER FESTIVAL  
2022**

**SATURDAY 16 JULY**

Jubilee Edition  
**PROUDLY SPONSORED BY  
TJ HALL & SON**

Just missed out on the last Link - " An enormous thank you to Val and Malcolm from the Bates family for their generosity in giving up their afternoon to take us on a cruise to Abingdon aboard the beautiful Ocho. We couldn't believe our luck in winning such a lovely prize at the village fête! It was a beautiful afternoon on the river and a perfect chance to get the family together. Thank you so much for your kindness and hospitality."



# JUBILEE WEEKEND

JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> 5<sup>TH</sup>

Still in the planning stages, but the Parish Council, Talking Shop and the Village Hall will be organising a Jubilee Celebration after the Saturday market on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**. The Talking Shop café will stay open, and we are encouraged to bring our own picnics, or bring and share, (it's bound to be lovely weather – we all remember the rain at the Diamond Jubilee, and that couldn't happen twice) – and with luck there will be jubilee tart or two or three . . .

**So put June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 12 noon, in your diary and invite friends and family to a major picnic event**

Some villagers have also started to organise street parties, and St Andrew's will be commemorating the Jubilee at their Flower Festival in July.



## Music for a summer evening

Provisionally Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. but check with [www.sandfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.sandfordchurch.org.uk) in case that changes.

An informal celebration of summer in St Andrew's church, with contributions from various Sandford musicians playing or singing favourite pieces.

We currently have harp, clarinet, piano and voices – other expressions of interest warmly welcomed.

All welcome - no charge – wine/juice provided

## AFTERNOON TEAS

in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month from 2-4.

For over-18s – delicious homemade cakes and teas, and a raffle. Cost £3.

Book with [anne.pitson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anne.pitson@hotmail.co.uk) or 07808 066816.

If you would like to help, please contact Anne.

## Sandford-On-Thames Women's Institute

April 2022 will mark the beginning of our new WI year, a subscription of £44 will need to be paid to our treasurer by 1st of April if possible. The past 23 months have been a real challenge for all of us. With our focus on "alleviating loneliness" we have actually made our WI more encompassing. Many members have daily contact through What's App where they share items of interest fun and laughter. There are frequent newsletters, phone calls, socially distanced visits to deliver the Federation magazine Oxfordshire Inspires. All members can be contacted by telephone, face to face and most by email and mobile phone.



Meetings either take place in the Village Hall or by Zoom, which was used for our January Quiz as our Committee considered it safer and also included members who are not prepared to meet inside. December was a busy month with a stall at the Christmas Extravaganza where a variety of gifts were produced for sale including Christmassy knitted creatures, decorated bottles, attractive washable face coverings, marmalades, shortbreads and decorated cupcakes. Several members helped. Members knitted stars which were a real challenge but were used to decorate the Church gate and the outside Christmas tree. Many were able to attend our inside December meeting creating attractive wreaths using ideas that were gained from Ann Dawson's talk in October and of course enjoying the company of other members.

Our February meeting marked our First Burns Night celebrations successfully arranged by Sharon Fenn which included killing the Haggis and numerous toasts in malt and blended whiskies (a vegetarian haggis was also available). It was a marvellous evening with poems, songs and dancing, hopefully to be repeated annually. Safety was never forgotten.

Our Annual Meeting will be on 10th March followed by The Taxi Driver Poet, his third visit "naughty but nice".

Our meetings are in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday evening in the month, all are asked to bring their own sanitizer and face coverings if they wish and mug. Ladies are very welcome to sample our meetings but they must be triple vaccinated for our and their safety. On a second visit a donation is expected or the person joins our Institute. You do not have to live in SOT and you may belong to more than one WI on the payment of a local fee for the second.

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



*You're invited*  
**to attend Bernie's book launch**

*'Finding Their Feet - Every parent's guide to milestones and movement'*

Described as a 'parenting book like no other' it is full of practical tips and activities, with a focus on the feet.

13 March  
 4:30-6:00pm  
 Sandford-on-Thames  
 Village Hall, Henley  
 Road, OX4 4YN



RSVP by Sunday 6 March  
 bernie@bernielandels.com



*Signed copies available for purchase on the day*

**SANDFORD HOUSE CLEANING**

If you need help with house cleaning, I can offer one-off or regular visits.  
 Reasonable rates – local references.  
 07368 256770 sandfordcleaning@yahoo.com



**Sandford Talking Shop**  
**Our Community Shop & Café**

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

A safe and friendly space to shop for a wide range of fresh fruit and veg, bread, eggs, meat, dairy and lots, lots more.

We buy from several local suppliers as well as stocking bigger brands.

At the café you can buy soups and veggie stews cooked from scratch by our volunteers, or filled rolls, and with Spring not exactly here yet (!) but just around the corner our beautiful garden (thank you, gardening group) is full of promise - there are already days when sitting outside or in the recreation ground is a joy (especially if you have children who can enjoy the playground).

**Meet your friends, do your shopping, enjoy a coffee or lunch, and support local business.**

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Mothering Sunday – who needs Sainsbury's when you can pop round to your local shop and buy great quality meat and veg and find an original gift made by the charity Arthouse Unlimited or a Rise and Glow giftbox. Or take a look at the Saturday market stalls, for gifts with a difference!

**THE TALKING SHOP TEAM**



Kylie



Ingrid



Fiona

**It's great to see the Saturday market picking up speed again . . .**

**Every Saturday 9am to midday:  
Shop, Breakfast Café, Saturday papers,  
fresh local produce and guest stalls**

Our brilliant cooks have been hard at it, producing delicious breakfast baps with Coopers' bacon & Beechwood eggs, and we have recently been able to increase our range of fresh breads.

**Look out for fantastic stalls in March, among them:**

- \* Asian Yummy recipe kits
- \* Handmade Jewellery & Body Shop products by Stacey
- \* Ally's Kitchen
- \* Jemstone Jewellery
- \* Silly Old Bear candles
- \* Handmade cards by Mary
- \* Penfold Bakes
- \* Once Upon a Rag Doll – handknitted Easter Bunnies
- \* Natalie Ellett Designs
- \* Aladdin's Oriental Sweets
- \* Tropic Skincare
- \* Children's knitted wear and books
- \* Flamingo Leigh\*

**For bookings for stalls  
please email Kylie on [market.talkingshop@gmail.com](mailto:market.talkingshop@gmail.com)**

**Pre-order**

and let us take the work out of your shopping.  
Email [deliveries.talkingshop@gmail.com](mailto:deliveries.talkingshop@gmail.com) by 11am on Monday  
or 11am on Thursday for collection or delivery the next day.

**Sign up to our weekly email**

to get updates on stalls and other shop news – via the subscribe box  
on our website or email [orders.talkingshop@gmail.com](mailto:orders.talkingshop@gmail.com)

### **CAN YOU HELP US?**

Both Talking Shop and the Saturday Market rely heavily on our wonderful volunteers – perhaps you could join us? There is a wide variety of possibilities, and you can give as much or as little time as you want – a shift in the shop, a bit of baking, take the aprons away for laundering, volunteer at the market, do some picking up from local suppliers, join our amazing gardening group – whatever time you have to give you will be warmly welcomed!  
Call in at the shop or contact [fiona.talkingshop@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.talkingshop@gmail.com)

**Monday May 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 6.30 p.m.**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

This meeting is informal with no fixed agenda and is given over to you to raise any issues. All are welcome.

**ASIOX** are a group based in Oxfordshire who have come together with a common passion to see human trafficking and modern day slavery brought to an end. They are now a registered charity, and we were delighted to welcome their Sandburger co-founder, Sue Brockes-Smith, to St Andrew's to talk about their work. The disturbing extent of modern slavery (and it is just as much a problem in Oxfordshire as elsewhere) was an eye-opener. Thank you, Sue, for helping us to become better informed. [www.asiox.org](http://www.asiox.org)

**Vale House Monday Club** meets in the Village Hall on the first Monday of the month from 1.30 – 3.30. An informal (that is, coffee and cake rather than therapy!) support group for relatives who are carers of someone with dementia. Any villagers are welcome to attend and can contact Jen or Mary on 01865 718467 or email [FamilySupport@valehouse.org.uk](mailto:FamilySupport@valehouse.org.uk).

### **Christmas Extravaganza 2021**

Remember Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> when the annual Christmas Extravaganza was held in the village hall in Sandford on Thames. Hopefully you will remember – even though it already seems a while ago now.

Good old Father Christmas and his lovely Elf were there to say hello to the children and give them early Christmas presents and a fairground ride too. The hall was full of a range of lovely gift and craft stalls and there was good food available from the Talking Shop Café. It was a lovely warm, jolly Christmas atmosphere which was extended to outside the hall where more stalls and hot food BBQ and drinks were available to all. The Christmas tree lights were 'formally' switched on with a terrific tree and extra lights plus those along the outside of the hall itself. Seasonal music played in and outside the hall and the Christmas raffle was very popular.

It was a lovely way for Sandford on Thames to start the festive period. So a big thank you to all who contributed – and who hopefully were then ready for Christmas Day and to see in the New Year. And a chance to say thank you to St. Andrew's Church at this traditional time.

For those who received raffle prizes it was possibly even better and hopefully gave good feelings all around the village community.

*Thank you and best wishes from the Fete & Extravaganza Committee*

## Rest in peace

**Jean Lee** born 31<sup>st</sup> December 1934, died 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, aged 87

Jean was born in Terrington St Clement, Norfolk, and later on due to her father being in the Royal Navy they moved to Kent. After leaving grammar school Jean started her general nurse training at Charing Cross hospital, London.

In her early twenties Jean joined the WRAF and did a tour abroad in Aden. She met her husband Ray, who was doing his national service in Cornwall in 1960, and they married in October 1962. Their twins Karen and Kevin were born in 1963.

Jean started psychiatric nurse training at Littlemore hospital in 1974 and quickly rose up the ranks to become a Ward Sister. Jean loved her foreign travel.

Jean was devoted to her twins, Karen and Kevin, Granddaughter Natalie and her Great- Granddaughter Marnie and Great- Grandson Axl.

Although Jean had suffered chronic ill health over the past eight years, she was able to be nursed at home due to the dedication of her family. Jean will be sadly missed by all her family and friends but her spirit will live on.

## An Atheist's Religion

Ex-MP and Margaret Thatcher's speech-writer Matthew Parris is still a brilliant journalist and a good person. He recently wrote an interesting article about the Church and why he supports it, although for him it's not about God. He even says he loves the Church of England (unlike some believers) and likes to sing hymns and say his prayers every night, without worrying about doctrines.

'There is more faith in honest doubt' says Tennyson's *In Memoriam*. Since God is beyond all understanding a dose of agnosticism is healthy. Praise and thanksgiving (and even saying sorry) seem basic to human flourishing. And hearing the familiar words is reassuring to those who have grown up with them – and an invitation to those who haven't. Doing it together strengthens friendships and points us beyond our selfish concerns.

So personally I welcome an honest agnosticism, and because it's only by doing it that anyone comes to the 'love that passes understanding' I think of the song of the mock turtle, the subject of last year's Alice Sermon at the Lewis Carroll celebration at Sandford (he visited Sandford a lot and preached here in the 1860s) 'will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?'

## What's going on at your Village Hall?

Apart from the large hall, there are three other meeting rooms, and all are available for hire, with special rates for Sandburgers. Photographs and prices for these are on the Parish Council website ([www.sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk)) or contact Hall Manager Robert at [sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com](mailto:sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com) or 07759 890696.



### COULD YOU JOIN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE?

We have space for two new members – we meet every two months or so, and are always keen to have fresh ideas on finding new ways to use the Hall for the benefit of villagers. Your input would be very welcome. Contact Michael Whitlock at [mwhitlock53@googlemail.com](mailto:mwhitlock53@googlemail.com).

### Tai Kwondo

**Tuesdays and Fridays 5.30 – 6.30**

for boys and girls aged 5 and over.

Contact James on 01865 772883 or 07788583965



### Oxford Guitar Society

**Sundays 7.0 - 10.0**

Stephen Greenslade  
[stephen.greensladeogs@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.greensladeogs@gmail.com)



The Oxford Guitar Society is a friendly society for players of all standards of the classical guitar who enjoy making music together. Meetings combine ensemble playing with opportunities for personal performances to a friendly audience. All standards are welcome but grade 2 and an ability to read music to a basic standard are required to play in the ensemble.

### **Table tennis!**

**Mondays 5.30 – 8.0**

Sandford Table Tennis Club meets for practice and social games on Monday evenings in the Village Hall.

We also field 3 teams in the Didcot league, playing our home matches on Wednesday evenings, and away matches on days to suit the hosting club.

New players of all standards are welcome. Just drop in to say Hello on a Monday evening, or call John Dennis on 07584 190028 to learn more.



### **Pilates**

**Wednesdays 10.0 – 11.0**

**with Anginette Barton**

On Wednesday mornings at Sandford Village Hall I teach a mixed level Pilates class. The class is suitable for beginners and experienced participants alike. I teach through the principles and technique of Pilates in each session and layer on more challenging postures if people feel stronger.

If you like more information or to book with me please email me at: [anginette@ajactive.co.uk](mailto:anginette@ajactive.co.uk) or contact me on 07796053703. Pilates is a wonderful way of conditioning your body's muscles, increasing your range of motion and calming your mind. I aim to help you feel more energised, to encourage your posture to be open and strong or simply for you switch out of your world just for an hour on your mat!



### **LAUGH & LEARN**

**Wednesdays 7.30 – 8.30**

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

David and Susan  
Douglass  
01865 718948  
07752 249751



### **TODDLERS GROUP**

**Mondays 9.30 – 11.30**

See page 4

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

### **Three Sandford authors reviewed by three Link book reviewers**

This year's Sandford publications include Ben Simpson of Church Road's **Collected Poems and Meanderings** in memory of his late wife Georgie, nicely illustrated and full of deep and beautiful thoughts. Georgie was curate at Littlemore, then St Margaret's in Oxford, and founded the Oxford Centre for Spiritual Growth based at St Michael in the Northgate in Cornmarket Street ([www.ocsg.uk.net](http://www.ocsg.uk.net)). Having farmed himself, the poems reflect Ben's love of the countryside and are focussed on the Epiphany – God made known in the birth of a child. One of them imagines the experience of a shepherd boy 'On Bethlehem's Hills':

'And I realised then that the tale that the shepherds  
had put round for days was as true as I'm stood here,  
and I had witnessed then a beginning so great  
that could change mankind for thousands of years,  
and would send out a message to shake the whole world,  
not just a few shepherds, on Bethlehem's hills.'

Congratulations, Ben – and thanks. A lovely tribute to a very special person.

### **Ernest Shearman: Ecclesiastical Architect.** By Diana Beckett.

In 1953, Diana Beckett's mother bought a 'Victorian cottage style' house which became her family's home for sixty years. Years later, Diana, intrigued by the unusual pointed arch of the front porch, set out to find out something about the man who designed it. Her journey took her to the great mediaeval Gothic churches of northern Italy, via the Gothic revival in Victorian England and the Arts and Crafts movement, to the working class suburbs of early twentieth-century London and beyond. Her home was designed by the architect Ernest Shearman (1959-1939), who is famous for building some of the last Gothic revival Anglo-Catholic churches in England, and for rebuilding Sandringham House after it was partly burned down in 1891. Diana's mother's home was a labour of love, built by Shearman for his own mother, and this book, appropriately, is also a labour of love: a treasure chest of fascinating stories and connections, beautifully illustrated with colour photographs.

Lastly, I first read Liz Shatford's **Sandford on Thames** when it came out in 2019, but on re-reading it recently it reminded me how much there is of interest in it, and how much I had missed on the first reading. It is a beautifully written and

beautifully illustrated history of our village. The pictures are fascinating, and with the maps they show how the village grew and developed from its early days, and the historical timeline, starting in 675, records all the major events in the village.

I had forgotten about the discovery of the Sandford Reliquary near the river in the grounds of Templars' Court (now the Voco hotel - and who could not wish that they had stuck with the original name of Templars' Court, a record of the ownership of the hotel by the Knights Templar in the thirteenth century) which is now in the Ashmolean, and the extraordinary story of the Assumption stone carving in St Andrew's church, which was discovered in 1723 upside down near the south porch of the church, where it had been used as a step. There is also a section of some of the older village houses – Peacock Cottage, Elmslea and Roberts Row, also Temple Farm and Rock Farm. Altogether a really good read.

There are copies available in Talking Shop.

### DOG-WALKING



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



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

### HOME COMPUTER HELP

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

### Billy Fox

**07786 130660**

NICEIC Approved Electrician

*Peter Emery, a Trustee of Campaign to Protect Rural England, writes:*  
CPRE Oxfordshire began its campaigning with a meeting 7th March 1931, 91 years ago. A constant, and enduring theme continues to be the destruction of the Green Belt which we continue to fight to protect for future generations.

The OxCam ARC proposals are lining us up for a near doubling of our housing stock and population by 2050. The Government seems to be cooling its support for the ARC, certainly financially, and CPRE will be vigilant in its efforts to bring Local Residents voices to bear on these important planning considerations.

As well as the fate of the OXCAM Growth corridor, the progress of Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Solar Farms and incursions into the Green Belt continue to dominate our activities.

Local authorities are falling over themselves to 'go green', this is to be encouraged BUT, Solar power is but one answer. CPRE want to see considered, good quality applications for Solar Farms within the County BUT if the County were to rely upon Solar to meet its targets, then around 6,000 hectares of the green space in Oxfordshire would need to be set aside for solar farms to produce enough energy. This is unacceptable: Applications need to consider the impact on food production, biodiversity and the landscape etc. CPRE Oxfordshire would like to see a county-wide strategy, supported by public consultation and engagement, setting out the number and location for renewables projects.

Over the years CPRE has benefited from the efforts of some amazing people who have helped us over that time to stand up for our countryside and rural communities. Why not find out how you can join us and add your voice in our bid to help protect the Green Belt and the beautiful Oxfordshire Countryside – see <https://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/>

### Oxford Preservation Trust

(who manage Heyford Meadows) are always looking for help with their work. From labelling envelopes and helping with Appeals and membership, through to assisting prepare for Oxford Open Doors and volunteer opportunities with our land parties, we are always happy to hear from you. We have plenty of smiles, tea and the odd chocolate biscuit or two – so if you can spare some time and some skills please get in touch with Laurie at [l.dighton@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:l.dighton@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)

**If your household is facing a shortage of essential, non-perishable food, you can ask to be referred to the community emergency foodbank**

**(www.cefoxford.co.uk):** please contact your doctor, one of the advice agencies, a community or housing worker, your children's school, a church minister, counsellor, or other professional person to refer you. Following referral you will be able to collect a food parcel: its size will depend on your circumstances & household size. You may pick up your parcel within 2 weeks of your referral. Please bring identification for yourself & anyone you are collecting for.

*Thursday 10 am to 11:30 am: Littlemore Baptist Church: Edith Kempson House, Chapel Lane, Littlemore, OX4 4QB.* If you would like to consider helping CEF as a volunteer please email [info@cefoxford.co.uk](mailto:info@cefoxford.co.uk)

#### **Oxford Woodturners Club**

meets at 7.0 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month in Littlemore Village Hall – meetings are informal and consist usually of demonstrations or evenings which offer hands-on experience on a lathe. Free entry for the first two sessions. Contact [owc\\_secretary@yahoo.com](mailto:owc_secretary@yahoo.com) or see [www.oxonwoodturners.com](http://www.oxonwoodturners.com).

#### **CAROLS IN THE PARK – CHRISTMAS 2021 - RAISED, JOYFUL VOICES RING OUT!**

Whilst Christmas seems a long time it is good to report on the event in the park. This was the second year for the event in the village and parish to celebrate Christmas together and give a little cheer and again it proved to be a super time.

Held between 4 and 6 on the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> December with lights spread around it was led by both the St. Andrew's Church choir and the (now almost our own) Oxford Jubilee Brass Band. The music and singing were heavenly and heart-warming, where all the large, still 'socially-distanced' audience joined in the merriment. Traditional and not so traditional fun plus the weather was kind and the night clear. Crisp and even, one might say!

Before the evening finished collection buckets were passed around and these produced a marvellous £190 of donations which was passed directly to the choir and the band to aid their funds and say a big thank you to them both.

Mulled wine and mince pies were again on hand to warm the heads and the tummies, which did cool a little over the evening. These went down very well too! A special occasion and much enjoyed by all who attended.

Thank you to all involved.

*Sandford Festival and Events Committee*



#### **Oxford United on the move?**

The recent announcement by Oxford United that they propose moving from the Kassam to a new stadium on the Stratfield Brake sports ground, between the Oxford ring road and Kidlington, has met with mixed reactions.

From the Club's point of view, the lure of a modern, technologically-advanced 18,000 seater stadium is very alluring, especially as the Kassam is of poor construction, and also because Firoz Kassam still owns the stadium, and charges the current owners about £1 million a year for their home matches – a big drain on their resources. From supporters' point of view, however, many of the thousands of loyal and long-standing supporters who live in walking distance of the Kassam now face much longer and more expensive journeys to watch their team in action. On the plus side they will benefit from a greatly improved stadium and facilities.

From an environmentalist point of view, the land at Stratfield Brake was bought by Oxfordshire County Council in 1937 for the sole purpose of retaining green space in the small gap between Oxford and Kidlington, and building on it is yet another incursion into the Green Belt. What will happen to the Kassam Stadium is uncertain – there is a covenant which means the land can only be used for leisure and recreation, but this could perhaps be revoked, which would release the land to be sold by Kassam for potentially hundreds of houses on a new brownfield site. The covenant included a repairing lease on the historic Minchery Farmhouse which Kassam has challenged, and which is now almost derelict.

From Sandford's point of view, supporters will regret losing our close links with the Club and the stadium. Those who can't make it to matches will miss the roar of noise accompanying a home goal. Other villagers will be grateful for an end to the traffic jams and erratic car parking that mark home match days.

But for everyone. if the proposed move takes place it will change our local environment considerably.

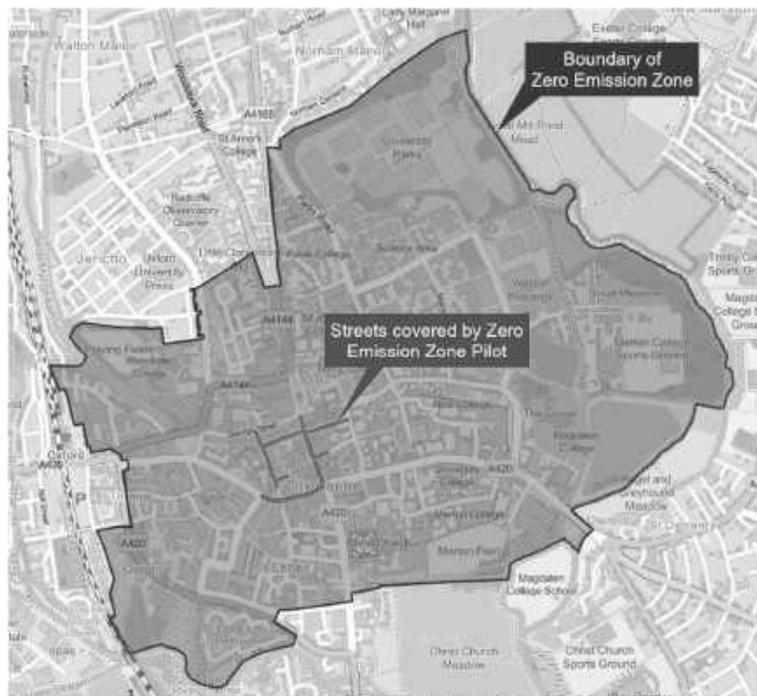
## Roads and buildings and solar farms and things like that . . .

### Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme

Although a Freedom of Information request submitted to Oxfordshire County Council has disclosed that the majority of respondents objected to the controversial plans to permanently install a Low Traffic Neighbourhood in the Littlemore area, the council seem determined to go ahead with establishing a further area in East Oxford. They will be making a decision late in February.

### Oxford Zero Emission Zone

On February 28<sup>th</sup> this year Oxford will start Britain's first 'zero emission zone', by which all vehicles except fully electric ones will be charged for entering the pilot zone. The map below shows the extent of the pilot zone (the very centre around Queen Street and Cornmarket) and the council aims to extend it to the wider zone shown by 2023.



Charges will depend on vehicle emissions, and further information on these can be found on [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/oxford-zero-emission-zone-zez](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/oxford-zero-emission-zone-zez), which also tells you how to apply for a discount or exemption.

### Baldons Solar Farm

The proposal to build the largest solar farm in Oxfordshire on land around Nineveh Farm, between Sandford and Nuneham, was discussed by SODC Planning Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The recommendation of the planning officer was for the committee to support the application on the grounds that the benefits of the scheme outweighed the objections and the concerns at damage to the Green Belt and environment.

It is still possible to submit further comment to the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, and both Sandford and Nuneham Parish Councils have asked for a review of the decision, though perhaps more in hope than expectation. Sandford's response can be seen on [www.sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk) under 'developments'.

*OPT writes:* With extensive housebuilding, our area's green energy is essential. However the monetary returns being offered to landowners has led to many solar farm applications coming forward but with no overarching plan or strategy for what is needed and where it should go.

When we first heard about an application on the upper southern slopes of the hills of Oxford at Nuneham, we could scarcely believe it, nor that it would gain the council's support. The council all accept that it is a sensitive site, and that it is not an efficient one - however such is the strength of feeling about the climate emergency that any opposition on environmental or planning grounds was overcome on the casting vote of the chairman.

### Development of Golden Balls roundabout

Oxfordshire County Council has submitted a planning application to itself for a new road from Didcot, via a new bridge at Culham, to a new bypass of Clifton Hampden. It is widely assumed that this will lead to further applications to extend the road over Golden Balls roundabout and thence to the M40 (called the 'Expressway by stealth').

If implemented, this plan would bring a vast increase in traffic on the A4074, with spin-off through Henley Road. If you have views on this, the application can be viewed at <http://myplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk> using the reference R3.0128/21. Responses can be sent with this reference to [Emily.Catcheside@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.Catcheside@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or you can comment online by 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### Current Grenoble Road situation

The Grenoble Road development of 3,000 houses is with the Council, who are currently in the process of appointing a master developer. The expectation is that a planning application will go in in 2023.

## Sewage in the River Thames

is a continuing problem. On Christmas Day swimmers who found themselves swimming through sewage led a protest in Port Meadow of over 200 people - as a result Cassington Sewage Water Treatment has been referred to the Department for the Environment for investigation. It is currently legal for water companies to discharge raw, untreated sewage into rivers in times of 'exceptionally heavy rainfall', but water companies are discharging it on a daily basis.

Thames Water say they are working hard to reduce the discharges, but a report by the Oxford Rivers Improvement Campaign states that Oxford rivers are subject to three times more untreated sewage than in 2018. [www.theriverstrust.org](http://www.theriverstrust.org) has further, interesting, information.



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## Sandford websites

[www.sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk) is our village website, managed by the Parish Council. Lots of information about council-type things and news.

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

[www.sandfordtalkingshop.org](http://www.sandfordtalkingshop.org) and

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

for up to date information on all things Talking Shop

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

excellent website of Sandford WI, together with WI news on

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

The Link facebook page is [www.facebook.com/Sandford.on.Thames/](https://www.facebook.com/Sandford.on.Thames/) with local information and news in between issues.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL



### The current Parish Councillors are:

Peter Addyman, Andrew Glynn, Michael Whitlock, Dan Tarzey and Faye Carasco Alexander.

### Notes on recent meetings of the Sandford on Thames Parish Council

In **November**, following the resignation of Chairperson Peter Emery, Peter Addyman was unanimously elected to the post.

*Rock Farm Field (RFF) and orchard proposal, Church Rd Recreation Ground*  
Steve Payne, a previous chairman of the parish council, attended as a resident. He gave historical overview on the dissatisfaction with Magdalen College (MC) leasing Rock Farm Field (RFF) to the parish, never being able to resolve the issue on how to use RFF constructively; constraints on the location and the insecure lease have made the situation unsustainable. The Parish Council have never been able to find a solution.

The present position from Magdalen is that Sandford does not need two recreation sites; the proposal is that the RFF lease is surrendered on the understanding the field will remain as it is now for a minimum of twenty years. Church Rd recreation ground, leased from Magdalen, is due to renewal in 2023 and Magdalen will offer a 999-year lease with a peppercorn annual rent (at present the rent is £868 per annum).

The agreement includes the orchard proposal next to the village hall.

### *Report on maintenance costs for the playgrounds.*

There are various play items that require maintenance as highlighted in the latest Play Safety reports. A quote will be presented at next meeting. Concerns that if the kissing gates at Church Rd Rec are replaced with an ordinary gate, it could leave the park open to illegal activity.

The kissing gates are considered to comply and be accessible for wheelchair users and children's buggies. The steps up to the kissing gate in Henley Road, are very worn and the pathway into the park needs levelling and a ramp to run aside the steps. The clerk will ask for a quote for a gradual ramp starting near the Hall running adjacent to Henley Rd. Also for a gate near the junction of Henley Rd and Church Rd. The clerk will contact the OCC field officer for advice on kissing gate access for wheelchair users.

## December

*Our County Councillor, Robin Bennett, attended the meeting and reported:*

- OCC will be promoting Oxford foster carers, encouraging families to help give children the best start in life.
- Changes to Oxfordshire bus network aimed at securing services. They are working with the main bus providers for Oxfordshire to review the bus services and also bid for Government funding.
- There are new roads/routes that are to take place in Oxfordshire, the nearest one to SoT is a new road, Didcot to Culham, crossing the R Thames.
- Robin agreed to back the parish if we would like to apply for a speed limit of 20mph on some of SoT's roads.
- He aims to attend in person bi-monthly.

*"Treescapes."* <https://www.oxtrees.uk>. Peter Addyman met with the charity and they will produce a report showing potential areas to plant trees that will benefit the village. There are various options where the Parish Council could be interested in working in partnership with Treescapes, such as promoting Rock Farm Field as a possible site to plant trees as part of the "environmental uplift" requirements in developments such as "Grenoble road". Approaches have also been made to our SODC councillor on this subject. This proposal was of particular interest to the four residents in attendance.

## January

*Debate and decide the Precept for 2022/23*

The Clerk informed the Councillors that although there was a healthy amount of money in the bank, approximately £80,000 000, the precept applied for should remain the same as 2021/22 (£45,232.00).

- This in real terms will be a reduction as the rate of inflation (4% possibly rising to 5%) has not been applied, to increase the Precept.
- There are various types of maintenance in the village that require fixing.
- . All four playgrounds require some maintenance.
- The Landscape Group have not at this present time sent a quote for the extra work that they have been asked for. The clerk is still waiting for their quote for next year grass cutting.
- The proposed Village Orchard will require funding.
- As the Parish has overall responsibility for the Village Hall, it is important we allow enough money for all eventualities, that may require support and action from the PC.

- The District and County Councils have diminished funds and more responsibility for the upkeep of the public roads and footpaths falls on the parishes.

*As this was a meeting on ZOOM (Clerk was self-isolating due to COVID) it was agreed for the clerk to email all the councillors for their views on the Precept.*

*Lack of litterbins* at the new bus stops on the A4074. Dan Tarzey informed the meeting that both bus stops are within the parish boundaries, though the new builds are not. The A4074 on both sides of the dual carriage way falls within the parish, up to the interchange at Brick Lane. The PC will explore responsibility for this stretch of the by-pass.

*Traffic calming* and further discussion on speed limits.

This will be discussed at February's meeting; although the consensus was to leave the traffic warning sign, move it closer to the parish boundary and not buy another one.

### Our buses

There have been changes to the bus timetables in Sandford: the 3A to the city centre runs every half hour from 7.30 until 8.0 p.m., and then hourly to 11.0. The X40/NX40 runs evenings and nights. Both are run by the Oxford Bus Company, with timetables on [www.oxfordbus.co.uk](http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk)

### OCC draft Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

Oxfordshire County Council are undertaking a wide consultation on the future of roads, local transport, and connectivity policy over the next 30 years. The objectives are to achieve decarbonization and improved air quality and health by reduced use of the private car and encouraging alternatives, including cycling and walking, including walking to school. This is to be achieved by reduced availability of parking spaces and more parking charges, promotion of more cycling and walking routes, improved public transport.

Documents can be read on <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp> where comments can also be made. Whereas it is primarily aimed at urban areas, there are implications for rural areas as well as questions of affordability

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## Local artists 4

Our local artists for this issue are a celebration of the quietly anonymous craftworkers of Sandford WI. Those of us who have seen some of their work at the Village Fete or around the village (amazing red poppies for Remembrance day) will know what an extremely high standard they achieve – as these few examples show.



MUS  
 HOLY  
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