

# The Sandford Link

Summer 2021 Issue 162

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

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH NEWS

### Ministry team:

Robert Morgan (priest-in-charge: Lower Farm, 748848)

Teresa Morgan

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

Liz Shatford (772598) Paddy Watson

Church Wardens: Leslie Rhodes Sue Sabini Mick Hills (Acting)

Director of Music Christian Bradley

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

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



# SANDFORD SUMMER FESTIVAL 2021

SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

1PM UNTIL 8PM

TEA & CAKES  
**BBO**  
TALKING SHOP  
**ICE CREAMS**  
CHURCH RAFFLE  
FAIRGROUND  
**RIDE STALLS**  
**KID'S RACES**  
CLASSIC CARS  
AUNT SALLY  
GOAL SHOOT  
COCONUT SHY

ANDREW'S CHURCH  
**FLOWER FESTIVAL**  
JUBILEE  
THE THIRSTY QUEENS PUB  
**ON THE GREEN**  
BRASS A-WATTS  
**VINYL DAZE**  
**BADLANDS**

### 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

### Refugee Week:

to mark Refugee Week, we were happy to welcome back Nicky Barnetson, formerly of Church Road, who is now Education and Employment Coordinator for Asylum Welcome. Nicky spoke about their work with asylum seekers, refugees and detainees who have fled persecution and danger in their own countries and seek refuge in Oxfordshire, and she brought it to life by telling the stories of some of those who had used the service. Asylum Welcome is one of the local charities that St Andrew's has supported for some years.

### A tidy graveyard?

At this time of year in particular it's hard to keep the churchyard under control. We are hugely grateful to Mick Hills, and also to those families who keep the space around their own family graves tidy, but we could do with more help, and if you could spare an hour with a strimmer from time to time, please contact Mick or the vicar.



Do you enjoy music and singing?  
Come and join St Andrew's choir for an  
**OPEN EVENING**  
for all ages

Join us for an open choir event of music, drinks, nibbles, singing and/or listening. Provisionally Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 p.m. but check with [www.sandfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.sandfordchurch.org.uk) nearer the time for any change.

*Choirmaster Christian writes:* St Andrew's church choir is a small village choir that regularly surprises visitors with the standard of its singing! We sing a mainly classical repertoire from ancient to contemporary, with occasional gospel and pop numbers for good measure. It has been my pleasure to lead this happy band of singers for nearly 20 years. We are always looking for new members and welcome singers of all ages and levels. It is also possible to sing with us just for specific projects as well as for services. Do come along to the open evening, or contact me, especially if you have some past choral experience...however long ago! [cwwbradley@gmail.com](mailto:cwwbradley@gmail.com)

ST ANDREW'S

FLOWER FESTIVAL

which has a deserved reputation as one of the best in the county will be on September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, for a festival weekend which will include the Fete on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and Harvest Festival Communion at 10.0 a.m. and Harvest Choral Evensong at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Sandford-On-Thames Women's Institute**

**Summer 2021**

We are still 'Zooming' away, but we are looking forward to meeting up at the Hall in September, fingers crossed.

We had a great talk in February by Malcolm Nelson who is an ex Customs Officer; he was particularly amusing about the various excuses people come up with as they get caught with illegal goods in the green zone. We have had flower demonstrations, arranging fresh ones, and making paper ones. We also had a very amusing evening with James Haddon, the Taxi Driver Poet, who was excellent, so we have invited him back in March 2022, which will hopefully be a face to face meeting.

There was a real treat in May for members when Carole Tasker invited small groups for either Afternoon Tea or Evening Drinks in her garden. This was spread over a couple of weeks with 5 in each group. It was wonderful for members – many meeting people who they'd not seen for several months. For our June meeting, also held via Zoom, Jane Finnerty gave a talk entitled "Is this Love". Jane, who has worked in social care, charity and financial services, realised that there are some 'tender spots' when talking about money as we get older. The talk highlighted some of the issues raised when many families and couples have blended families and later life relationships. It was a very thought-provoking talk which encouraged a good discussion between us all. In July we are planning an outside meeting for members focusing on crafts and a 'bring and share' supper.

During lockdown the WI have organised lots of very interesting talks and demonstrations over zoom at various times of the day, from just £5, so many of our members have taken advantage of these.

Half our members have already started knitting stars to yarn bomb Sandford village next Christmas, and we are looking forward to being involved once again with the Flower Festival which will be at the same time as the Fete as usual, only this year they are to be held on Saturday 4 September.

**We are always glad to welcome new members**

(whether live or via Zoom, we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month at 7.30pm): do ring for a chat if you think you might like to come along and test us out one evening. We have members from Littlemore, Cowley, Headington, and as far away as Abingdon so don't feel you can't join if you don't live in Sandford.

*Jill Love – President ( 01865 716557) [jpsapplove@hotmail.com](mailto:jpsapplove@hotmail.com)*

*Carole Tasker (01865 748300) ( 07876701151) [caroletasker27@gmail.com](mailto:caroletasker27@gmail.com)*





**Sandford Talking Shop**  
**Our Community Shop & Café**  
**Mon to Fri 9.30am-2pm, Sat 9am-noon**  
**07305 307421 / Sandfordtalkingshop.org**

# **DONATIONS NEEDED**

**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**BOOKS - DVDS - CDS - VINYL**

**EMPTY WINE BOTTLES (with screw tops)**

**UNUSED GIFTS, ALCOHOL, WINE  
IN-DATE UNOPENED FOOD**

**CHURCH RAFFLE PRIZES**

**HOME BAKED CAKES**

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EVENT**

WE DON'T CURRENTLY HAVE A DROP OFF POINT OR STORAGE AREA BUT  
IF YOU COULD PLEASE START COLLECTING AT HOME AND WE'LL BE  
HAPPY TO COLLECT NEARER THE TIME

Contact the committee at [sandfordfete@gmail.com](mailto:sandfordfete@gmail.com) to arrange collection

**STRICTLY NO BRIC-A-BRAC**

## **New – Summer sandwiches**

Our priority this winter and spring has been to keep the shop well stocked and to provide a safe shopping experience. Thank you for your ongoing patience with the necessary limits on customer numbers, and with hand sanitising and mask wearing – it is really reassuring for other customers and for our teams. We will continue to watch the guidance & we'll adapt as things change - working to balance opening up and bringing you more, with what people are comfortable and feel safe with.

We have already started to think about “unlocking” our kitchen and reopening the café. Responding to customers' requests for sandwiches, we have organised ourselves and we're now offering a selection of filled rolls – made fresh to order.

Currently, we're serving The Cornfield Bakery's soft rolls with:

- \* Egg mayonnaise & salad leaves
- \* Cheese, tomato & chutney
- \* Coopers' ham & mustard
- \* Humus, grated carrots & salad leaves
- \* Brie, cranberry sauce & salad leaves

And we'd love to hear your suggestions – pop in and let us know what your favourite combo is. To complete your picnic we've got crisps, chilled drinks, fresh fruit, biscuits, yoghurts, ice creams and lots more before you head out to relax in our very pretty patio garden, now complete with new tables and chairs.

Take a moment to admire our new bug hotel (Buggingham Palace!) and the fantastic display of flowers – the result of hours of loving work each week from our tireless garden team volunteers.

AND behind the scenes we are working hard on ways to enable people to sit together in our space again as soon as it's safe to do so and on building up our menu. We are recruiting volunteers for the kitchen, and hopefully over the next month or so you will see some new and tasty food popping up on our menu - so watch this space!

## Opening up the Market

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

We've had our brilliant cooks back for a while now, cooking up delicious breakfast baps with Coopers' bacon & Beechwood eggs, and it was fantastic recently to be able to increase our range of fresh breads and to welcome stallholders back to our Saturday mornings too.

### Look out for these fantastic stalls in July:

\* Sew & Sew \* Asian Yummy recipe kits \* Etain O'Carroll Photography \* Replenish Project- Advice on how to grow food & compost at home \* Handmade Jewellery & Body Shop products by Stacey \* Steve Edmunds Photography \* Ally's Kitchen \* Gaia Botanics \* Jemstone Jewellery \* Handmade cards by Mary \* Penfold Bakes \* Handmade bags & cushions by Gill Nicholls \* & our very own Spoke Shop Bike Mechanics

**Some stall slots still available for July  
and we're taking bookings for August and September.  
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)



### SANDFORD PET SITTING and DOG WALKING

**Going on holiday or just need to leave your pet alone for the day?**  
One-off or regularly, I may be able to help.  
**Ring 07368 256770 or [sandfordpetsitting@yahoo.com](mailto:sandfordpetsitting@yahoo.com)**

Facebook @TalkingShopSandford / Twitter @TalkingShopSand

## Meet our new Volunteering Manager, Fiona



We are now a year and 3 months on from when the first lockdown began. It has been a difficult time for everyone and we have all been affected in some way by the pandemic. I started to volunteer in the shop in November during the second lockdown. To be honest, I really needed a change of scene and a break from homeschooling!

I had come into the shop in the first lockdown to buy food for my parents who were self-isolating – this was when none of us wanted to go into the big supermarkets, and being able to find a delivery or click and collect slot was pretty much impossible! I really appreciated and valued the shop at this time. The volunteers were helpful and kind as we all navigated our way through the new reality. I found volunteering really helpful. It provided a structure and routine again to my groundhog days. I loved meeting and seeing lots of different people and sharing those difficulties we were all experiencing . . . for me, home-schooling and churning out endless meals again!!

Six months later I am still here, now working alongside our two other managers in a new role that is responsible for recruiting more volunteers and helping people to restart activities and groups that so many people enjoyed before.

We're starting to think about getting more things going and creating more ways to get people together. Inevitably, as we open up and start to do more, we'll need more volunteers to help share the load and welcome more customers in. There are myriad ways to help and it doesn't need to be in the shop!

### W. Cooper Affordable Landscapes and Tree Care

Free estimates and advice given. **07748 867025 [will.coope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:will.coope@yahoo.co.uk)**  
See my reviews on [Checkatrade.com](https://www.checkatrade.com)

### Some of the ways you could get involved . . .

- **Be a Volunteer Buddy** – if you are someone who enjoys supporting and enabling others we would love to hear from you. In the past Talking Shop has welcomed and encouraged people from all walks of life with different experiences to come together and work to a common purpose. We have people who would like to work but may need the extra support of someone working alongside them. If you love cooking you could be a buddy in the kitchen; if you've got green fingers, in our garden; if you're comfortable chatting with customers, help someone find their feet behind the shop counter.
- **Volunteer in the shop** – at the moment we've got vacancies in our afternoon shifts (12-3) on Mon to Wed and Thurs mornings (9-12).
- **Join our Customer Council** – help us to ensure the shop is as convenient and useful for as many different households as possible. The Customer Council works with the managers on prices, stock range, suppliers and more. Just a couple of hours every few weeks.
- **Social Media Volunteer** – keep us and our customers up to date, help us reach people who'd like to know about us. Could be a great work experience project (good on your CV and for references).
- **Collecting Stock** – we get strawberries and asparagus from Rectory Farm, Stanton St John and we'd love to get more but they don't deliver. Please let us know if you would like to join the team for pick ups – it's an easy drive and another great way of helping us!

I have found volunteering to be a great way to spend time with people I would not normally meet and who've experienced very different things to me. I realise how few opportunities we have for this in our day to day. My teenage son who has volunteered in the shop and at the Saturday Market says volunteering means 'you get to meet loads of cool people who do lots of cool things!'.

If you would like to help but are not sure how, please get in touch.

With very best wishes, Fiona

**New in the Village Hall: RELAX!** Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.

A gentle yoga class integrated with a compassionate meditative practice led by a registered osteopath.

*Limited spaces – booking essential* [yoga@mornasung.co.uk](mailto:yoga@mornasung.co.uk)

### And another 'Welcome to the world' . . .

*Colin Williams writes:*

In early June, a licensed bird ringer helped me inspect the bird box on Heyford Meadow being used again this year by the Barn Owls. We found four healthy chicks in the box which were about 3 weeks old. The ringer ringed each chick (placing a metal ring with a unique code on a leg of each bird) before the chicks were safely returned to the box. Three neighbours on Broadhurst Gardens came to watch. The barn owls can be watched in the evenings from a safe distance on the meadow. People should avoid approaching the box too closely to minimise disturbance to the birds. On average barn owl chicks fledge (leave the box) 52 days after hatching.



#### **Oxford Preservation Society:**

work parties at Heyford Meadow are re-starting, and the next ones are scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> August. Sessions last from 9:30 to 1:00 with no previous experience required. Fun, healthy, good company and a great contribution to our local environment. See [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/content/events](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/content/events)

**Able Garden Services** Tree Surgery and General Garden Services

**01865 475223 07391 204145** [ablegardensservices@outlook.com](mailto:ablegardensservices@outlook.com)

# SANDFORD VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held in the Hall on  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July from 19.30 to 20.30  
All Parish residents are welcome to attend and observe.

## Welcome

to **Alim, Faye and Noah** to Church Road

to **Matthew Farrel** to Church Road

to **Sophie Iosue and Patrick Keys** to Church Road

to **Rose and Sam** to Henley Road

to **Brian Gearing** to Burra Close

## and welcome to the world

to **Lilith Hazel Richards-Robinson**, born 26<sup>th</sup> July, a daughter to Jennifer and Connor and granddaughter to Simon and Lyn of Henley Road

to **Freddie Christopher Barry Willmot**, born 22<sup>nd</sup> April, a first for Mark and Louisa, third grandson for Helen and John, and 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson for Sue Bradshaw of Church Road

to **Evelyn Ivy Pearson**, born on 29<sup>th</sup> May, a first for Alicia and Colin Pearson of Henley Road

to **George**, born on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, a son for Claire and David of Henley Road and brother for Eva.

## Congratulations

to **Julie Price**, who successfully completed the Virtual London Marathon on 4th October by running laps of the village of Chilton and Harwell. She completed the 26.2 miles raising a total of £698 for Sir Michael Sobell House in memory of her Grandfather Mr Dennis Harris

to **Rena and Owen Naish** of Henley Road on their Diamond Wedding anniversary on June 10<sup>th</sup>

## Neighbour-friendly bonfires.

Bonfires can be a bit of a nightmare if you have washing on the line or enjoying a quiet evening in the garden, and it's good to spare a thought for your neighbours before lighting up. There is helpful advice about bonfire etiquette on the county council website

[https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20216/air\\_quality\\_management/214/bonfires](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20216/air_quality_management/214/bonfires)

## Do you want to make Sandford on Thames stand out?

At the last Parish Council Meeting the idea of having landmarks in the village of Sandford was raised and was met with enthusiasm by the PC. The village would benefit from having a map with points of interest and some landmarks which would relate to its rich history. We were planning to form a small group of interested people with ideas as well as those that can contribute with their creativity. If you would like to be part of this group please email Nanda Rodrigues at [nanda\\_rodrigues@hotmail.com](mailto:nanda_rodrigues@hotmail.com) to get the creative juices flowing.

**Goodbye** to Iain and Susie Geddes, as they leave for Dorset. They have contributed so much to the village, both on the Parish Council, and to all things green. Iain is an architect, and he and Susie converted a tiny Victorian cottage in Robert's Row into a sunny home, and after a while away from Sandford they came back to River View and made many new friends in the village. Iain was generous in sharing his advice and knowledge, and we will miss them both.

## OPEN GARDENS



**A marker for June 2022:** Looking around the village this June there are so many beautiful gardens. So how about opening up gardens in June next year for those who would like to wander round and admire, or open up their own garden for the appreciation of others? Your editor specialises in nettles, so could even offer a cup of nettle tea to visitors.

## Rubbish thoughts

Waste collections are a bit all over the place and may be for a while. This is because of a shortage of HGV drivers nationally as a result of an increase in home deliveries and the impossibility of new drivers taking tests.

**Tandem** is a small Oxford charity which sets up befriending partnerships for people recovering from a breakdown of mental health

## Would you consider becoming a Trustee to help guide the organisation through post-covid and build for the future?

We are currently a group of six, who meet monthly with the paid co-ordinator and deal with any issues arising. Any relevant experience is welcome, but most important are commitment and enthusiasm for Tandem's work. More info [www.tandembefriending.org.uk](http://www.tandembefriending.org.uk) or from Prue on 07775 918533

## A Community Orchard for Sandford-on-Thames.

In 2017 a plan was developed to establish a community orchard for the village and in the Autumn a formal proposal was put to the landowner, Magdalen college. The site is the triangle of land between the Village hall car park, the graveyard and the footpath between Henley road and Church road. Magdalen college and the DeVere hotel, the lessee at the time were supportive of the idea.

The college however, widened our proposal to include Rock Farm field, the field bounded by the A4074 and Brick Kiln lane. The field is currently leased to the Parish council on a long-term lease but is also leased to a local farmer on an agricultural lease which is a rather anomalous situation. (He also sub-lets to a third party) This has left the Parish council unable to use the land for any purpose such as the originally stated purpose in the lease as a recreation ground. The college requested that the PC surrender the Rock Farm field lease in exchange for a renewable 50 year lease on the proposed orchard site and the offer of a financial contribution. (Long term, Rock farm field could be developed for housing but only if the village loses its green belt designation, the farmer surrenders his agricultural lease or it expires and a subsequent planning application was successful).

In June 2020 the PC made a counter proposal requesting Magdalen college to include exchanging the current recreation ground 20 year lease (expiry December 2023) at an annual rent of £868.00 for a long term lease at a peppercorn rent. The total of the previously offered financial contribution and the reduction in rent for the Recreation field would over about 20 years provide compensation in the amount of the agricultural land value which is written into the contract and due to the village for surrendering the Rock Farm field lease. In the long term a rent-free and secure Recreation ground and a new community orchard run by volunteers would continue to benefit our community.



The discussions were delayed due to the change in Magdalen college's leaseholder from DeVere hotels group to Covivio, a French REIT (real estate investment trust) which in turn leases the hotel to Intercontinental Hotels Group (IHG) which includes the VOCO group of hotels. Then Covid 19 struck creating additional complications but all parties have now agreed basic terms.

The original Orchard proposal can be seen on the Parish website: [www.sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk). **If you would like to make any comments on these plans, please send them to: [sandfordparish@gmail.com](mailto:sandfordparish@gmail.com).**

## ***This is your Village Hall . . .***

Many villagers already know the big hall where the Saturday market, parties and other activities are held, but perhaps don't know that there are three other meeting rooms upstairs, which can take from 15 to 30 people, and are suitable for small parties or family gatherings.



You can see photographs and prices for these on the Parish Council website ([www.sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk)) - with a discount for Sandford residents - or from Robert at [sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com](mailto:sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com) or 07759 890696.

**The AGM will be held in the Hall on Wednesday 21 July, 1930 - 2030.  
All Parish residents are welcome to attend.**

Our Chair-in-waiting is **Michael Whitlock** and Treasurer is **Steve Gallagher** – many thanks to them both for stepping up as Charlie Wilson and Steve Marsh both move away from the village.

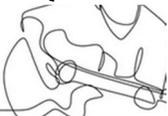
The Hall manager, succeeding Alice, is **Robert Rodrigues**. We are delighted to welcome Robert to the post – he has made himself at home in the office on the left as you enter the hall, and even offers coffee to droppers-in. Robert is the go-to person for any information about the Hall, its use and hiring.

### **Thank you Alice**

A big thank you to Alice Daghish who has played such an important part in the re-flowering of our village hall. She has been the quiet, friendly presence organising the many differing booking groups, keeping her ear to the ground, ensuring a clean and welcoming building and a sharp eye for necessary repairs necessary. Alice's in-built tact and friendliness has acted as a bridge between the tasks of building the hall and sister establishment into an important social centre for all of us and the more hidden task of keeping it solvent. With the management committee she has helped in building the finances of the hall to a healthy and sustainable level, at the same time as building a happy and faithful regular band of users. As she passes on the baton, we wish Alice well for her future happiness and success in whatever she chooses to do next.

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

**Current activities as we gradually rebuild our programme . .**

<p><b>Toddlers group</b>  <b>Mondays</b>  <b>9.30 – 11.30</b>          With a different craft activity each week.          £1.50 per family, first session free          marsh_lucy@hotmail.com</p> 	<p><b>Tai Kwondo</b>  <b>Mondays 5.30 – 6.30</b>          For boys and girls aged 5 and over.          Contact James on          01865 772883 or 07788583965</p> 
<p><b>Table tennis</b>  <b>Tuesdays 5.30 – 7.30</b>          Contact Colin          On 07738 938845</p> 	<p><b>Pilates</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.0 – 11.0</b>          With Anginette Barton          enquiries@ajactive.co.uk          or 07796 053703</p> 
<p><b>Pilates</b>  <b>Thursday 6.0 – 7.0</b>  <b>Fridays 11.0 – 12.0</b>          Contact Jane Callaway          janecallawaypilates@hotmail.co.uk          www.clevermovement.co.uk</p> 	<p><b>RELAX!</b>  <b>Thursday at 7.30</b>          A gentle yoga class          yoga@mornasung.co.uk</p> 
<p><b>Oxford Guitar Society</b>  <b>Sundays 7.0 – 10.0</b>          Stephen Greenslade -          stephen.greensladeogs@gmail.com</p> 	<p><b>LAUGH &amp; LEARN</b>  <b>Wednesdays 7.30 – 8.30</b>          Ballroom and Latin dance classes for absolute beginners (couples only)          David and Susan Douglass          01865 718948 07752 249751</p> 

**The Thames water quality**

In May Charlie Wilson attended a meeting of the Thames Valley Rivers Network on behalf of our Parish Council and reported back to the Council (see PC minutes). Since this issue is important to all of us, we are reprinting his report in full.

*Below is a summary of what I took from it; full minutes will be sent out by the organisers in due course.*

- Thames Valley Rivers Network is the new name for the River Thames Champions. To avoid confusion, this might change again.
- There are lots of organisations involved with trying to improve the water-quality of the Thames, excluding Thames Water (and you take the meaning of that either way).
- Thames Water was represented by Yvette Degaris. As we are used to, she was effusively supportive of how unacceptable the current situation was, how sorry Thames Water is, how urgently it wants, needs, nay, yearns to do better etc. She was also honest that they don't have a timetable for making any improvements. When pushed, she also admitted that they don't have a timetable to produce a timetable of improvements. So, all waffle no ice-cream. However, my interpretation of her contribution is that it supports my hypothesis: the only place that Thames Water see themselves as vulnerable is their corporate reputation. They cannot be seen/heard saying anything other than "Dumping raw sewage in the river is wrong" and so they do that enthusiastically. This makes it very difficult to get at their weakness. Any future engagement should aim to fight through their PR fogging machine and really challenge them on timescales, making it a reputational issue.
- A lot of hope is being pinned on the new legislation but that will take time to come into effect and then have an effect.

**Monitoring**

There are now more sources of information about Thames Waters' polluting activities: Thames Water river health page on their website  
<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/performance/river-health>  
 Email for more information from: [EIR.requests@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:EIR.requests@thameswater.co.uk)

**A note for swimmers:** Abingdon Outdoor Pool is closed for the season, but the Riverside Pool at Wallingford is currently open (not the Splash Pad), and also open for wild swimming are the Queenford Lakes at Berinsfield (booking required – see their Facebook page).

- They are trying a system of putting out warnings on Twitter: @oxthamessewage but apparently there are technical issues with this and they are developing a map-based system. (Again, lots of info on what they are doing wrong, stuff-all about when they are going to stop.)

County Councillor Nick Field-Johnson (Burford & Carterton North) said that their local council (can't remember at which level) had obtained some river water-quality testing equipment for independent monitoring. They used a mixture of Council grants and local fundraising to pay for it. He accused Thames Water of lying about water quality! The PC might want to investigate something similar.

*Other interesting snippets:*

- Thames Water cannot prevent developers from connecting houses to the foul-water system but they admitted that they didn't engage sufficiently with them to implement improvements before developments.
- The Thames is actually a highway! So there might be funding available from the Highways Agency.
- There is a Thames Clean-up day being organised for 26 September. While this will only target the visible problems (ie litter), it will be a good way to inspire and maintain interest in cleaning up what can't be seen unaided.

*The meeting represents the greatly increased levels of interest in this matter, and I recommend that the PC remains engaged with the Network and supports it.*

**The Council for the Rural Protection of England writes:**

This summer will establish the direction of Oxfordshire for the next generation. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will define the development strategy for the county for the next three decades, including both the quality and quantity of housing and the broad locations for growth.

***It's time to take action***

This is our best, and possibly only, opportunity to influence development in Oxfordshire over the next 30 years – don't miss it!

Waiting until actual planning applications come forward is too late – we need your help engaging now as policy is formed, so that we can give our countryside the best chance for the future.

There is more information on their website [cpreoxon.org.uk](http://cpreoxon.org.uk), and the response of our Parish Council to the 2050 Plan can be found on <http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk>





**Bernie Landels**  
BHS (Massage & NMT), Dip Sp/Th MASSAGE

***The clinic door is open!***

If you're living with or experiencing:

- Chronic pain
- Tension and stress
- Reduced movement

Or just want to

- Relax
- Pamper yourself or a loved one with a massage

07734302176  
[www.bernielandels.com](http://www.bernielandels.com)

**CAROLS IN THE PARK – CHRISTMAS 2020 -  
HOW DID THEY GO?**

It seems a long time since the heady days of Christmas 2020 – but we have still to report on the event in the park on the weekend before Christmas.

This was organised as a first outside event for the village and parish to celebrate Christmas together and give a little cheer. It proved to be a super time for those who braved the cold.

It was held between 4 and 6 on the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> December with lights spread around on the large tree outside the village hall – and also lights on the Christmas tree in the Church grounds. The event 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 '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! Marvellous!

The special presentation was made to Sandford's man of the people the Reverend Bob Morgan, vicar of St. Andrew's Church, which was the culmination of weeks of collections from around the parish to honour his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We were able to say a big thank you from all his parishioners and people from around the village, for his lifetime spent helping, caring, advising and cajoling the Sandford on Thames 'flock' and keeping all in touch spiritually with what is good about life. Bob was very surprised and very moved by the kindness and generosity. We wished him well and hope he greatly enjoys the gift and spends wisely!

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. For those who tarried a while afterwards mulled wine and mince pies were on hand to warm the heads and the tummies, which had cooled a little over the evening. It proved to be another special occasion and much enjoyed by all who attended. Especially given the difficult times we had all been experiencing during the year.

Thank you to all involved.

*Sandford Festival and Events Committee*

**Bits and pieces . . .**

**Are we moving to Didcot and Wantage?**

the current review of Parliamentary Constituencies will conclude in June 2023, and the suggestion is that Sandford should move from Henley (as we are now, with MP John Howell) to a new constituency of Didcot and Wantage.

You can find out more from [www.bcereviews.org.uk/](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk/).

**If you have views on this and would like them to be considered, you can express them on the website until 2 August 2021.**

**Help with long-term Covid:** if you are affected (as over a million people are) you should know that Personal Independence Payments may be available - financial support for those whose illness makes it hard for them to do everyday tasks. Income, savings and employment status don't affect your eligibility. For help with applying, contact Citizens Advice on 0808 278 7907, or look at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/).  
**and Covid support grants:** SODC have been providing grants to those who have been hit the hardest, and this support is still available. **If anyone is struggling financially, do get in touch, and do so before you reach crisis point.** The support is there for all households: residents needing help do not have to be in receipt of any government benefits. Call the Community Hub on 01235 422600 or email [communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk)

**New Climate Emergency Pages on SODC Website:** a new set of pages on the SODC website are designed to inform everyone about what the Council is doing and give guidance and practical information on what individuals, communities and businesses can do to reduce carbon emissions and support/collaborate with the actions being taken by the Council and other authorities.

**Local elections**

*Sam Casey-Rerhaye, our District Councillor, writes:*

The outcomes of the recent elections are a new Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber (Conservative), and a new group running Oxfordshire County Council, called the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, a partnership between the Liberal Democrat, Green and Labour groups. This is the first time in over 130 years that the Conservative group has found itself in opposition, and I very much look forward to working collaboratively with the new County Councillors, with whom we clearly share many values and strategic priorities.

**Billy Fox**

**07786  
130660**

NICEIC  
Approved  
Electrician

## Rest in peace

**Elizabeth Toke Burra** born 6<sup>th</sup> May 1925, died 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021, aged 95.9

Liz Burra was a tall and imposing figure with bright blue eyes, white hair and a quiet authority, partly derived from her natural personality and perhaps partly from her years as a teacher. She was always known as Miss Burra in the village. Liz moved to Sandford when her parents, Dr and Mrs Burra bought Elmslea, the large house built at the end of the nineteenth century as a vicarage. She taught French and German at Milham Ford School (which at that time was a State Grammar School) on Marston Road. Later she joined Peers School (Oxford Academy) as the school's Careers Advisor and Counsellor and got to know many of the youth of Sandford through that connection. She was also an active member of the River Thames Society.

After her father died, Liz and Mrs Burra stayed on at Elmslea and In 1978 Liz joined the parish council. Her wisdom and considered judgements were greatly valued, especially when there was dissension in the parish or potential confrontation with other authorities. and she was unanimously elected chair; a post which she held until 1985 when she left Sandford to live in her house in Steventon on the Causeway: only returning latterly as a guest at the Lunch Club in the newly re-furbished hall. Her years on the Parish Council had been a time of great activity in the village and Liz provided strong leadership during the process of replacing the old Reading Room on Church Road with a new village hall. Magdalen College wanted to sell the land on which the Reading Room stood so a new site had to be found, agreed, and funding sought by means of local fundraising grants and loans. When the site of the present village hall was finally decided, Liz made an interest free loan of £3,000 to the village to top up the local fundraising so that the land could be purchased from Magdalen.

It was during this period that the Sandford paper mill was finally closed, and the present-day housing built at the bottom of Church Road and so perhaps a fitting time for Miss Burra to slip away to Steventon and her beloved 'cottage' there. Her memory lives on in the road name, 'Burra Close', which is the site of the old Mill house.

**HOME COMPUTER HELP:** For PC and laptop fixes and assistance  
call Jim on 07854 107337 or [home.computerbtinternet.com](http://home.computerbtinternet.com).  
*Excellent local references Free assessment No fix, no fee*

**Malcolm Stanley Bournier** born 26 March 1943, died 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021, aged 78

Malcolm was brought up in Petts Wood in Kent and educated at Bromley Grammar School before going to Imperial College, London, to study civil engineering and returning to Kent where he brought up his family. A distinguished career including building the most beautiful part of the M6 (South Lakes) and inventing the Green Wave traffic control system and so ease congestion while working for Kent County Council, before moving to the NHS in charge of IT. Among several major projects he developed a water control system for British Honduras (now Belize), improved streetlighting and was involved in pioneering Park and Ride schemes. then established his own IT consultancy serving small businesses and local firms, and raised great sums for Save the Children through his personalised Father Christmas letters.

In 2015 Malcolm and Anita moved to Burra Close and quickly became an energetic part of the local community, including work on the Village Hall Committee. Malcolm could often be seen in Talking Shop playing chess with the late Derek Sherwood (and usually winning). His passions included walking, especially in the Lake District, and animals – dogs and cats – he loved them, and died suddenly of a heart attack when walking a friend's dog. May he rest in peace.

Another of his loves was the harp, so St Andrew's multi-tasking musician Hannah Skoda played the harp at his funeral (as at carol services) to the delight of all celebrating a good and productive life well lived. We offer our sympathies to Anita and to Malcolm's daughters Jacqueline and Jo and their eight grandchildren. We shall miss him but will remember him with affection.

## **Kathleen Stevens (Billy)**

born 28<sup>th</sup> March 1933, died 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021, aged 88

A great occasion at St Andrews and in the churchyard on 29<sup>th</sup> April was the funeral and burial of Billy, a lovely lady born in Dunstable, one of 12 children, and lately living in 10 Acre Park. Horse and carriage brought her to the church and lorries of flowers followed. Those who could not get into church were present in the graveyard. Her favourite music was played, including Patsy Cline, Just a Close Walk with Thee, Kay Starr, Wheel of Fortune, and Tina Turner, Simply the Best, and the congregation joined in The Old Rugged Cross. Family tributes were beautiful and moving, as was the poem, Granny. Our sincere sympathies to her husband Jim, and her surviving sister and children.

**Frank Neil Walker** born 8<sup>th</sup> June 1953, died 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, aged 67

Neil was born in London and became a tour guide, travelling widely, and also worked as a driver. He lived a while in Garsington, but his parents came to Church Road around 2000, and when Rita died he moved in with his father Don, and cared for him to the end – at 97, then the oldest man in the village, who has also left good memories. Like his father Neil always had a smile for everyone and was much appreciated by those who knew him. We offer our sympathies to his daughter Catherine – it was good to welcome her (and Michael) back to the village briefly before her return to New York.

**Robert McCall** born 12<sup>th</sup> June 1923, died 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021, aged 97.9

Bob was born in Salt, Ayrshire and served as a boy soldier (aged 15!) with the Royal Scots Fusiliers in the 1930s. He remained in the army till 1952 when TB caused his demobilisation. Trained in signals he was transferred to Lancs Royal Signals, sent to India in 1942 and was later with the Oxfordshire/Bucks regiment. He then came to East Oxford and met Delia when they worked together in the blood transfusion service, got married, and had a son Dave. Bob later worked for the Oxford Mail till retirement in 1987.

He was for some time the oldest man in the village and following our loss of Derek Sherwood was the only remaining Sandford combatant from the War. His passion was golf, running the senior section at Southfield and winning several novice trophies. Those who knew him enjoyed his personal warmth and the extra warmth provided by his unstinting hospitality with his native wee dram. We offer our condolences to Delia and Dave and Emma.

At the funeral in St Andrew's Onward Christian Soldiers was sung, and Amazing Grace and Scotland the Brave played. A fine tribute from his golfing friend Dave Pratt helped make the farewells an appropriate celebration of his long and varied life. May he rest in peace.

**Florinda Louise (Lynn) Turner**

born 15<sup>th</sup> September 1924, died 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021, aged 96

Mrs Turner was born and brought up in Brighton and came to Oxford in the 1940s after the War, where she married and had two sons, Ken and Peter. They renovated the Minchery on the edge of Sandford in 1963 and ran it for 30 years, very much as an extended family. Then on retirement in 1990 she moved to Church Road. Lynn enjoyed life, spending a lot of time in Majorca, and caring for her garden. She was an active member of St Dominic Barberi church in

Littlemore where she had many friends. 18 months' ago, as age advanced, Lynn moved to Beaumont Care Home on Boars Hill, but is returning to Sandford for burial across the road from where she lived for 30 years. We offer our sympathies to her family and feel grateful to have had such a friendly neighbour. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Geoff Rudman** born 8<sup>th</sup> April 1938, died 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Geoff was brought up in Rose Hill (Jersey Road) and as a teenager met the love of his life - they married on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1960 when Geoff was 22 and Pauline 19, and were inseparable for over 56 years, bringing up their 5 children, Wayne, Tracy, Jane, Jeffrey, and Jeremy. After Geoff's spell in the Merchant Navy and years in the building trade they formed a brilliant partnership running pubs and clubs – the Red Lion in Warminster (Wilts), also in Devon, and finally they had the Stewardship of the Vincent Club, in the High St, Oxford, from 1987-97. They did up one of the Magdalen cottages next door to the Fox and moved there into Sandford around 1990, Geoff finding the Fox a second social base until it closed.

When Pauline sadly died unexpectedly in 2017 Geoff became quite reclusive, suffering long term back and leg pain, but he endured illness with fortitude, always welcoming visitors. We shall miss his dry humour and the contribution they made to the village, especially through Pauline's involvement with Talking Shop, and we offer our condolences to the family. The Australia divisions (Wayne and Tracy) were able to join in the funeral through video link arranged by Ben Tonks, and a memorial service will lay both their ashes together when all the family are visiting England.

**Violet ('Mandy') Mandilova**

born 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1945, died 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021, aged 75

Mandy was brought up in Zimbabwe (then Southern Rhodesia) and educated by the Anglican Mirfield Fathers (Community of the Resurrection). Aged 18 she came to England to train as a nurse, before returning to Africa to marry and bring up her sons Moses and Itayi. They returned to England and Mandy nursed at Littlemore hospital from 1990 to 2013, living in the hospital accommodation on Heyford Hill Lane.

She coped with long and serious illness bravely, always accepting what could not be changed and radiating a special joy. We shall miss her and offer our sympathies to her loyal sisters and her sons. A memorial service in Sandford church is being planned.

## Your Parish Council:

The Parish Council plans to resume meetings in person in the Village Hall (meeting room upstairs) from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July assuming no new restrictions. The agenda is arranged so that any parishioner who would like to raise an item has a slot to do so early on in the meeting. **If you would like to attend or have something to raise, please email in advance to: sandfordparish@gmail.com.** The meetings are on the first Monday of each month (no meeting in August) at 6.30pm and you can drop in and out when you please.



The full minutes of each meeting and the topics mentioned below may be viewed on line at [www.sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk).

We have welcomed two new members to the Parish Council: Joyce Markham who has replaced Hilda Bailey, and Faye Carasco-Alexander, replacing Charlie Wilson who is stepping down as he will be moving away from the village this summer. The other Parish Councillors are: Peter Emery (Chair), Michael Whitlock (Vice-chair), Peter Addyman, Andrew Glynn, and Dan Tarzey.

We continue to welcome our SODC and OCC representatives for part of each meeting where they outline their monthly report (these may be found on our village website [sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://sandfordonthames.org.uk) under the Parish Council section). Robin Bennett became our new OCC rep following the May elections. Sam Casey-Rerhaye remains our SODC rep.

There will be a further change in September when I step down after 3 years as parish Clerk. Sue Riley-Sabini, a long-term resident, is taking over and I wish her all the best in the role. Many thanks to my Parish Council colleagues for their support and not giving me any Jackie Weaver moments despite all our recent meetings online!

## The main points from recent Parish Council meetings:

- The Annual Parish meeting was held in May and a local resident outlined a small working group are interested in creating some information boards about the history of Sandford for visitors and residents. The PC were supportive of this scheme and the working group will make further proposals.
- There was a meeting between the PC, Oxford Preservation Trust and Donnington Hospital Trust (a very old charitable organisation which

owns and maintains alms-houses) who own Baldon Mead, the large area of open ground between the driveway to the Voco hotel and Heyford Hill Lane. This was to explore ideas and possibilities for protecting and increasing the enjoyment of green spaces with better access. In principle, DHT are willing to allow a permissive footpath from Broadhurst Gardens Rec ground across Baldon Mead to Sandford Road and are willing to assist the PC in improving access each end to the path.

- The PC has approached Greene King about the permissive footpath through the Kings Arms ground between Church Road and across the lock. It is not a definitive right of way but we could apply for it to become one. This issue came up because some plans to create some covered space outside the pub were thought to make it harder for visitors to find the footpath.
- An agreement has been reached between Magdalen College (who lease the Church Road recreation Ground and Rock Farm field to the PC and the hotel land to Voco), the PC and the Voco hotel that some land by the village hall car park can be leased to the PC for a community orchard and the PC would give up its lease on Rock Farm field in exchange for a 999-year lease on the Church Road Recreations Ground with a peppercorn rent and £10,000. The current lease on the recreation ground expires in 2023 and the rent is £868 pa. The PC is seeking a solicitor to check though the new lease agreement for the PC in due course - **if any local resident is willing to offer their services, please get in touch.** See the separate article about this proposal for more detail.
- The dog bins in the village have been removed by the PC on cost grounds and because there are nearby general litter bins which may be used for dog refuse. However, the PC was not responsible for removing the one at the lock which had become such an eyesore with constantly overflowing litter. However, so far this has solved the problem with no re-accumulation of litter at the lock.
- The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme presented the scheme to the PC in June. This covered the rationale for the scheme (avoiding flooding of housing and infrastructure in Oxford) and how the flood channel would be designed/function. However, detail was very sketchy on the methodology that concluded there would be no increased risk of flooding downstream.

As the flood channel would discharge south of Kennington Bridge and just upriver from Sandford, this is the main point of concern for those living in the lower reaches of Sandford.

- The argument seemed to be that the same amount of water would come to Sandford but just from two different channels rather than all in one channel. The PC found this unconvincing and have asked for more details. The presentation and OFAS links may be found on the village website: [www/sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk) under “Developments”.
- The PC has also purchased a new picnic table and seating for the Church Road Recreation Ground to help people meet up as the restrictions on interactions lift.

### Could you possibly help the PC in a couple of areas?

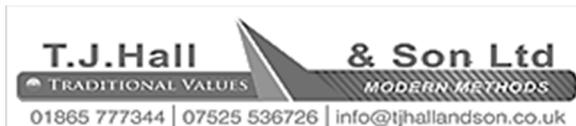
There are a few basic large-scale maps of our village on our website (under Parish Council) but we would like to update them and add more detail. We have a software package (GeoXphere) but lack the **IT skills** to make best use of it.

If you think you might be willing and able, please get in touch by email to: [sandfordparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:sandfordparishclerk@gmail.com).

Do you have **DIY skills** especially in woodwork/carpentry?

We often have small jobs that need repairs. Please email me as above.

*Julie Anderson, Parish Clerk*



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

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### Local artists 2

Tim Steward was born in 1975 in London and has lived for some years in St George's Manor. From the outset his artistic approach has been built on working outside in specific locations for extended periods of time – in 2007 he focussed for over a year on the Radcliffe Camera, culminating in over one hundred drawings. Lately his drawing projects have included Westminster in London, and Tregardock Beach in North Cornwall. Every year Tim and his wife Mary Chamberlain (who we hope will feature in the next edition of the Link) hold an annual show of their work in or around Oxford. [www.timsteward.co.uk](http://www.timsteward.co.uk)

*Above is Tregardock Pastel, charcoal and pencil on paper | 70x50cm*

*Below: Dreaming Spires Pastel and pigment on paper | 100x35cm*

