



In this issue of the Parish Council Newsletter, we have included some articles we hope you will find interesting, including some key developments that are going on locally that affect us all.

Following the elections in May, we welcome 2 new councillors, Jayne Wright and Alex Jenkinson both who reside on Risinghurst, but sorry that Roz Smith has resigned. We thank her for valuable contribution to the council over many years.

Now that Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed a little, Parish Council meetings are being held again in public at the Community Centre. However, with the rising numbers of cases in the Oxford area, we ask you to continue to take the utmost care, to help protect yourself and others in the community.

*David Adams, Chairman of the Parish Council*

### **Bayswater Farm Field Development**

[www.risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk](http://www.risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk)

As you will be aware, Bayswater Farm Field, situated just north of the bridle path in Sandhills, was adopted in SODC's Local Plan 2035 in December 2020 as a site for the development of up to 150 houses. The new developers of the site, Lone Star Land, have stated that access to the site will be through Delbush Avenue with additional access, if necessary via Burdell Avenue. This is despite the fact that Oxon County Council, throughout the consultation process and Examination in Public, rejected the site due to the inadequacy of existing roads for access and the crossing of the bridle path.

At a meeting on April 8th, the County Council planning officer stated that access would be denied, as Oxon CC cannot legally grant road access over a bridleway which sits on unregistered land. This will clearly be disputed by the developers, so we encourage residents to write to Oxon CC councillors to ask them to keep to their stated position to deny access. Further information can be found on the PC website.

*Cllr David Adams*

### **Planning Application for Thornhill Park: Public Consultation**

[www.thornhillparkoxford.co.uk/consultation](http://www.thornhillparkoxford.co.uk/consultation)

**Oxford City Council [www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20000/planning](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20000/planning) and then search for planning application ref 21/01695/FUL**

The Shaviram Group thank the Parish Council for the opportunity to share the latest news on its proposals for Thornhill Park. After two years of looking at different schemes, listening to statutory consultees, including Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council, local residents and meeting groups such as The Oxford Civic Society and The Oxford Design Review Panel, a detailed planning has now been submitted. A leaflet has been sent to nearby households to ask for feedback.

The planning application respects the feedback received from the public; the scheme has been scaled down with reductions in the number of apartments and hotel bedrooms as well as the height of buildings adjacent to existing development. For example, the hotel building closest to Downside End has been reduced by 2 storeys to 4 storeys. Residents wanted a greater landscape buffer between Risinghurst and the new development. By redesigning the scheme, there is increased landscaping to improve the amenity of the existing properties. In particular, some of the apartments have been moved to the centre of the site to lessen the visual impact from neighbouring properties.



The application includes 402 apartments (with 50% of these affordable), a 133-bedroom hotel, innovation centre, a café/restaurant and a gym with some community use. Local residents will be able to use the café/restaurant and, with the agreement of the operator, the gym. Car parking numbers have been looked at again and Shaviram has managed to include 91. Nowadays many residents believe in car share rather than car ownership and talks are continuing with Enterprise Car Club. These car club spaces would be available to the whole community.

***Send your comments /questions to the developer, or make a formal comment to the planning dept, details above. Online meeting 29th July 21, e-mail [enquiries@thornhillparkoxford.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thornhillparkoxford.co.uk) to attend.***

## Congratulations to the Roundway Pharmacy in Risinghurst

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @roundwaypharmacy



Roundway Pharmacy recently won the Oxfordshire Pharmacy Hero award 2021, and would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their nomination. Nadia Amin and team said: “We were both shocked and humbled by our nomination from so many of our wonderful customers and thank everyone for their support and kind words. We could not have won the award without having the continued backing from our community residents, who make our role of providing pharmacy services worthwhile”.

We encourage everyone to continue to use the wide range of services that the pharmacy offers such as free prescription ordering, collection, and delivery service, PCR fit to travel and Covid antigen testing. Roundway Pharmacy is also able to provide an order and delivery service for over-the-counter medications, appliances, and toiletries. Residents can now book their free NHS flu jabs with us, which can be provided in our pharmacy or in your residence, and our clinics will open in Mid- September. Contact us on 01865 766994.

*Cllr Nadia Amin*

## Risinghurst Allotment Association

Twenty years ago or so, you would have been hard pushed to see anyone on the allotments in Richard’s Way behind the community centre, with only three plots being used. Fast forward and we now have a thriving community with over thirty members. I have no doubt that the move to sustainable locally produced food has driven our revival. Many of the plot-holders have seen the allotments as a haven during the pandemic. A place to get some exercise for both body and mind. A place to escape the troubled world around them.

A recent project was to plant small communal fruit orchard for the benefit of the plot holders. We hold a BBQ in the summer and a quiz and prize giving in the winter. Tallest sunflower being the most coveted. If you are interested in joining us, we accept anyone from the parish, but be warned our waiting list has grown over the last couple of years and it may be a long wait! Pop along to our noticeboard for details or to just say hello!



*Stuart Cox, Chair Risinghurst Allotment Association.*

**Sunday services are 10.00am (Zoom and in person) and include the children**

As the only church with a building within the Risinghurst and Sandhills parish, we aim both to be a place of worship and also a centre for the local community. Over the last year, Covid has meant that our community activities have been very limited. However, our Tuesday lunch club for the over-60's has restarted, and currently the lunch club could take more members. If you are interested, please contact Kim Proctor on 07833 344 615.

We are also hoping to restart in August our once-a-month Saturday morning community breakfast. More volunteers to help with serving this breakfast are needed, we would be glad to hear from you if you can help. Unfortunately, because of the continued infection risks, neither our children's summer holiday club nor the September Community Fun Day will be able to go ahead this year. We hope that these popular events will return next year.

Contact: Church Secretary at [secretary@urcollinwood.org.uk](mailto:secretary@urcollinwood.org.uk)

*Philip Bonnier*

**Holy Trinity Headington Quarry**

**Sunday Services are 10am**

**First Sunday in the month Choral Evensong**

**Wednesday service at 10am**

As we emerge from the pandemic exciting times ahead are planned for Holy Trinity. During the last lock down new lighting, a new sound system and re-decorating has been done. Equipment for live streaming is also in place with a few finishing touches. This is all part of the planned re-ordering and extension of the building.

During this pandemic ,the church collaborated with Radio Cherwell and provided on-line services to the radio and parishioners every Sunday and has been fruitful aspect of our ministry.

When restrictions were lifted then services of 30 were arranged with careful planning by booking and seating. At the same time Forest Church was formed for families using the outside space and also Forest Tots replaced a pram service, and these were well supported. .

It is hoped hospitality will be able to take a role soon, (although we have trialled refreshments after the Wednesday service outside successfully) to help those affected by loneliness. We have not be able to have our usual summer fete this year, but we are planning for the Autumn. Our motto is " An open door between heaven and Earth showing God's love to all" We look forward to meeting some of you in the future, you will be made very welcome.



Contact Rev Laura Biron-Scott at [vicar.hthq@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.hthq@gmail.com) or wardens Dave Smith & Margaret Taylor – email: [wardens@hthq.uk](mailto:wardens@hthq.uk)

*Margaret Taylor*

## Fireworks and Bonfire Event 13th November 2021

Subject to government restrictions due to covid-19 the annual Firework event with bonfire is being planned!

This year, the Parish Council has agreed to try quieter fireworks to minimise the noise for dogs and small children. Instead, background music of a classic mix with be synchronised by the Fantastic Firework team. Please



come to this public display and help keep the area safe.

Watch out for posters nearer the time for details and check the Parish Council website and Facebook.

**Risinghurst Playing Fields and Park** can have 80 youngsters and adults at football activities 3 times a week.

Cricket is going well with 2 teams playing on Saturdays as well as T20 matches on Tuesdays and practice on Thursdays. Their league positions are very good and they're always enjoyable to watch.

Both sports need fairly dry weather to keep the ground playable. The players never noticed a bit of rain. The field drainage improvement has started and the first new drain has been installed and is working well – even the grass has germinated – see picture of red tractor doing a first cut.  
**Peter (Grounds Supervisor)**



## News from Headington Youth FC

Contact [headingtonfc2015@gmail.com](mailto:headingtonfc2015@gmail.com)

The 2020/21 season was a tough season due to Covid-19 with various restrictions in place and then went into lockdown just before Christmas. The season re-commenced in March 2021 but took its toll on the club as we lost some teams as parents/players lost interest in playing football, while others were nervous of playing again with Covid-19 around still.

Anyway, we survived the season and from March, teams were able to play their remaining fixtures, we also had a few teams that were promoted to higher divisions. At the end of the 2020/21 season we said good bye to our U16 girls team. They have been with the club since it was founded in 2015 and won their league each year, also representing Oxford across the country taking part in events such as Futsal and the National Aces tournament. They will now play as part of Abingdon Town FC. From September 2021 HYFC teams are:

**Mixed teams** U7s, U9s, U10s, (Saturdays)

U11s, 2xU12s, U13s, U14s, U15s and U18s (Sundays).

**Girls only:** U9, U11, 2xU12s (Saturdays) more players needed for U12 girls so get in touch if you are interested

**Coaches/volunteers needed.** IA DBS check will be required and paid by HYFC. If you are interested in getting involved please get in touch rested in sponsoring a team kit, get in tou

**Sponsors needed:** Can you help us? Please get in touch

Photo: end of season bubble football at Grovelands – everyone seemed to enjoy it, especially the parents who took part!

**Sharon Prior**



### **BBOWT Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trusts)**

We are really please how the local community has galvanised to help protect CS Lewis reserve, locals have been carrying out regular litter picks and also working to help protect woodland regeneration areas by creating habitat piles.

Since the work was done to remove some of the Ash Dieback infected trees, this has left open areas in the nature reserve which will become full of flowers and small trees now they have been blocked off. Our Oxfordshire Reserves team is getting to grips with the site having taken it on earlier this year and have been working hard to repair steps, boardwalks and bridges to ensure safe access for visitors.

Some of the volunteers have started looking at surveying species on site and will be putting information in the notice board to highlight things that can be seen through the seasons.



### **Your Councils and Elected Representatives.**

[www.risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk/)

**First Tier of Local Authority is Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council.** This includes part of Wood Farm and provides facilities at the Risinghurst playing field with a woodland, sport pavilion and Olive Jacks play area along with the Downside Dip play area, ballcourt and allotments in Richards Way which are all for the benefit of local residents. It runs an annual Fireworks event and hosts the annual summer fete at the playing field. The Parish Council helps residents to have a voice about local issues like planning applications and development.

**Second Tier of Local Authority is Oxford City Council** ([website www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)) services include waste collection, planning, parking, sport and leisure facilities, elections, housing and environmental health. In Barton and Sandhills your Councillors are Jabu Nala-Hartley and Mike Rowley. In Quarry and Risinghurst ward your Councillors are Chewe Munkonge and Roz Smith.

**Third Tier of Local Authority is Oxfordshire County Council** ([website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)) services include education, libraries, museums, roads, social care for children and adults, registration of births, deaths and marriage.

For Barton and Sandhills, your Councillor is Glynis Phillips, for Headington and Quarry your Councillor is Roz Smith.

**Contact details for all your Councillors are on the Parish Council website and you can find us on Facebook. All enquiries to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk) or phone 07717 134606**

## Public Transport in the Parish

We all know that a good, reliable transport system is important to us all.

A Community Parish Council Transport meeting was held earlier this year, with representatives from Stagecoach, the charity 'Community First Oxfordshire' and the senior public transport planner from Oxfordshire County Council. The Parish Council feel that our community on the whole is well served by regular, reliable public transport, and don't experience the transport difficulties of outlying areas.

We are aware that our community is particularly good at offering help and support to friends and neighbours when needed, with many people having family close by for added support.

However, if you feel some improvement could be made please contact us.



*Cllr Carol Walton*

**To attend or book any of the following contact:** *Barbara Naylor 01865 453 910*     *barbara.naylor@ntlworld.com*

**Coffee Mornings and Lunch Club:** Held in the Ampleforth Arms. Fortnightly lunch club with activities and a monthly coffee morning has restarted. Details of the dates and times, and all food must be pre-booked.

**Risinghurst Seniors Friendship Club :** Held in Collinwood Road Church Hall on alternate Mondays from 1.30 to 3.30pm.

The club enjoyed their first meeting since March 2020 in June (see photo). We welcomed our treasurer, Mr Alan Charlett, who displayed three of the owls he has rescued from the many he looks after at his home. Friendly and welcoming group with talks, demonstrations, quizzes, and of course, cake and tea! A Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning will be held on Friday Sept 24th from 10.30am .

**Coach Trips:** Locally arranged holiday departing from Risinghurst Post Office. Trips include BBEM, entertainment and trips.

**Option 1** Llandudno 7th-11th Sept 2021. Cost £289

**option 2** Torquay 15th -19 Sept 2021 for tinsel and turkey. Cost £329.99



### OxClean Litter Picking event 05/06/21:

The Parish Council held a litter pick on Saturday 5th June. Led by Cllr David Adams in Sandhills, they cleared the hotspots like the underpass.

Cllr Derek Taylor led a group of volunteers from Risinghurst and although the long grass hampered the litter picking, a good tidy up was undertaken.



Regular litter picking is undertaken every week at the Risinghurst playing field by volunteers and the grounds supervisor. A big **thank you** to all the Councillors, staff and residents who are so proactive in helping to make the local area a nicer place to be. picking equipment to help litter picks be undertaken regularly.

### Peter's Army

In December, with the plans going well for the drainage of the playing field there was a need to clear the ditch at the far side of the field of the brambles, fallen trees and undergrowth. This was needed to allow a digger to go down and make a deeper channel for the water to flow from a new pipe and an existing pipe into it, and hopefully start to drain the water off the field.

So "Peter's Army" was formed consisting of some councillors, some volunteers from the community all under the guidance of Peter the grounds supervisor, his trusty tractor and some tools. Social distancing and the chance to be outdoors was very welcoming, so for three weeks and three mornings a week we tackled, what at the outset, seemed a mammoth task to look at. As the saying goes "many hands make light work" and soon with people, cutting, sawing, pulling and raking, a clear way began to emerge. Bonfires were lit to burn the debris, logs were piled up for people to use and habitat piles were formed on the opposite bank for any wildlife. It became a topic of conversation to the many walkers passing by and to understand what the Parish Council is doing for the field which we all enjoy.

It really became an enjoyable and worthwhile project which brought some of the community together and a chance to get to know each other over a "cuppa and cake" break. The Parish Council were grateful to all those who took part so we look forward to another project in the future.

*Derek (Cllr) and Margaret Taylor*

*A few of the volunteers and Councillors with Peter*



At the annual general meeting on 14th July it was decided on a cautious approach to opening for hires, given the current high infection rates in Oxford. The community centre is registered as covid –19 safe and we have required regular hirers to undertake risk assessments to keep everyone safe. We are pleased that our Parish Council are once again able to hold their monthly meetings in the community centre.

Groups starting to meet again include:

**Monday evening:** Adult Jiu Jitsu

**Tuesday/Friday mornings:** Baby and Toddler group

**Saturday:** Musicland classes during term time

**Saturday:** A new Zumba class will be starting soon



*Clr Roz Smith*

**Grass Verges:** The verges are owned by Oxfordshire County Council who contract Oxford Direct Services to do the maintenance. They have a new Biodiversity Plan that is being implemented this year to leave the bypass road verges wild with a single cut in August. The Parish Council supports this approach on the bypass roads, and requested that mowing of the residential grass verges was reinstated.

A pilot scheme is agreed for an area in Sandhills to be left wild that will have a consultation done later in the summer. This is the green triangles at the junction of Hillside, Delbush Ave and Merewood Ave. Councillors are concerned for the environment and also have a responsibility to take into account the views of a wide range of residents, not just a few. You will hear more on this later in the summer.



Do you want the grass verge outside your house left long? You can “opt out” of the monthly mowing schedule by leaving an obvious notice on the verge outside your house. The mowing team will respect your choice.

**Want to Get Involved?** The Parish Council has set up a working group to consult the community on a balanced plan for grass verges for 2022. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to put your name forward to get involved with this work on [clerk@risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk) or 07717 134606