

# SOUTH HINKSEY ECHO

Volume 19 number 3  
October 2019

## Parish News

The burial ground has seen quite an unfortunate change in its appearance in recent months. The Council finally took action to make safe memorials that had been identified as presenting a safety risk because either the headstone was wobbling on the base or the base was wobbling in the ground – or both.

An inspection two years ago had shown that almost one-fifth of the headstones needed attention but very few of them were repaired by their owners so the Council recently had them either laid flat or “banded and staked” according to the level of risk we were advised that they presented.



In the foreground of the photograph you can see a memorial that has been banded and staked. You may perhaps see others in the background and you may even notice headstones leaning significantly that have not been laid flat or banded and staked. So, what’s the problem? The Council has advised that most modern headstones are glued to their bases and the glue lasts 20 to 30 years, so all modern headstones require attention at least once during their expected life. The problem of bases wobbling in the ground has largely been solved in more recent years by increased professional standards: bases are now supposed to be fitted with “ground anchors”, long spikes that prevent them from falling over. If you have a look at the memorials that have unfortunately been laid flat, you will see none of them had ground anchors: they were all from the period before memorial masons were required to improve standards. A few people have complained that some headstones are leaning more than those that there were made safe. The explanation is that if these memorials have ground anchors, they should not fall over if the whole memorial tilts. They will not present a threat until the glue that is holding the headstone onto the base deteriorates.

How big an issue is memorial safety? Serious accidents are rare. The most recent deaths were of an eight-year-old boy in Glasgow in 2015 and of a six-year-old boy in Harrogate in 2000. But, understandably, the Council’s insurers expect councils to inspect memorials regularly and take action when problems are identified.

The Council employed the Cemeteries Team from Oxford City Council to carry out the 2017 and 2019 inspections, and then to make safe memorials they identified as requiring attention. It is now up to the owners of the memorials to decide if they wish to employ a memorial mason to repair them and put them safely upright again. Where the Council has had a memorial “banded and staked”, the stake can be expected to rot in five to seven years. The Council will not repeat the exercise. When a future inspection finds the stake has rotted, the memorial will be laid flat. In a sense, “banding and staking” is a five-

year warning to the memorial's owners to get the memorial repaired before it too is laid flat.

The Council very much hopes owners of headstones will repair them when needed but, if that does not happen, the Council cannot ignore the problem. So, there is a risk that the number of headstones laid flat will increase significantly as the years go by.

**Geoffrey Ferres**  
**Parish Clerk**

### **South and New Hinksey Church Parish**

Please, allow me to introduce myself. I am Fr Ruben Angelici, the new vicar of South with New Hinksey.

We have a number of services in the period leading to Christmas and in the weeks following as well, which might be of interest to your readers, and to which all are more than welcome. These are:

- 15<sup>th</sup> December, 4:00pm a Carol Service at St Laurence, South Hinksey
- 24<sup>th</sup> December, 6:00pm a Children and Families Crib Service at St John, New Hinksey
- 24<sup>th</sup> December, 11:00pm a Midnight Mass at St John, New Hinksey
- 25<sup>th</sup> December, 11:00am a Mass of Christmas at St Laurence, South Hinksey
- 26<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00 am a Mass for the Feast of St Stephen at St John, New Hinksey
- 27<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00 am a Mass for the Feast of St John the Evangelist, at St John, New Hinksey
- 28<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00 am a Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents, at St John, New Hinksey
- 1<sup>st</sup> January, 10:00am a Mass for the Feast of Mary Mother of God at St John, New Hinksey

These are on top of the regular Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services, which regularly take place at both St John and St Laurence.

Blessings,  
**Fr Ruben**

### **Village Hall News**

We're delighted that Martin Lester has helped look after the fabric of the Hall. He has improved the draught-proofing of the front doors and then re-oiled the wooden floor. It's a huge help and we're very grateful to him.

The central heating is now all via the new, bigger, radiators. The underfloor circuit is no longer in use. The system works much better - whether it will keep up with winter weather remains to be seen. If not there are, for now, two 3kW electric panel heaters. The central heating can now be controlled remotely, which means we can get the Hall warm without having to run to and fro.

The next Mock Pub is on Friday 8 November. A big thank you to everyone who helps in making the Mock Pub a continuing success.

This year's Xmas Xtravaganza will be on Saturday 14 December. Father Christmas will be there.

Last but not least, it would be good if the Hall was used more used on weekday mornings and afternoons when it's usually empty. If anyone knows of a club, society or class that might be interested please do mention the Hall to them and/or let us know. We offer reduced rates for regular users. The extra income would be a great help in keeping the Hall open and in good shape.

### **Village Hall Management Committee**

### **South Hinksey 2019 Village Fete**

Another enjoyable day, with beautiful weather and the community coming together to help make the eleventh South Hinksey Fete a success. The list would be too long to thank people individually but it seemed like everyone contributed something towards getting the day up and running. Thanks to those who helped set up on the day, thanks to all the people who volunteered to run a stall, thanks to those who organised the races and thanks to those running the barbecue and bar - delicious food washed down with a welcome cold drink! And, of course, thank you to the Donkey House Band, it wouldn't be the same without you.

Most of our traditional games were present on the day. Though we were without the ever popular human fruit machine the new 'Sock' game proved very successful, having been tested out by Maggie and Peter Rawcliffe on their family holiday.....

Although the day isn't intended as a way to make money we always manage to raise a decent amount. The money from the Barbecue and Bar this year will go to the ICE Centre in Witney - £336.80. They are an Adult Day Centre, for people with learning difficulties, who are trying to fund a sensory room and really appreciate any help to do so. They have a website which gives information on who they are and what they do.

And finally, the winners of the day... Congratulations to the men and boys of the village who somehow managed to win the leaky bucket race, well done to Matthew and James for winning the egg throwing competition, and well done to all the children who took part in their various races.



Next years fete will be on Sunday, September 13th. If anyone has any ideas for games or stalls please let us know.

**Louisa Nahhas**  
**Village Hall Committee Member**

## Citizens Advice Bureau News

### Citizens Advice launches 'energy advice drive'

Your local Citizens Advice is launching its annual initiative to help people in financial need who find it hard to pay their energy bills.

The project, called the Energy Advice Programme (EAP), is going live throughout Oxfordshire South and Vale from October to March 2020. It includes comprehensive steps to help people who have to spend a significant proportion of their income on fuel bills.

At an EAP appointment our advisers, depending on your particular problem, can do one or more of the following:

- Help you understand energy companies' tariffs and bills;
- Provide information and support on switching tariff or supplier, identifying any savings you might make;
- Give advice on energy efficiency measures and list any grants available to pay for these;

- Carry out benefit entitlement checks and help you claim any benefits to which you might be entitled. (We can help you apply for the Warm Home Discount and the Priority Services Register, if applicable);
- Assist with any customer service complaints you might have against your energy company.

The Citizens Advice website [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) will give you more information. You can also telephone our Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or visit a local branch of Citizens Advice during opening hours. Details of office locations are on [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)

### **Citizens Advice seeks volunteers**

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is looking for volunteers to work in our friendly offices in Abingdon, Didcot, Faringdon, Henley and Thame.

As well as volunteer advisors, we also need receptionists, IT specialists and administrators.

Once trained, volunteer advisors can make a real difference to our clients by helping them overcome problems they face with benefits, debt, employment, housing or family relationship issues.

Last year, our 160 volunteers advised over 11,000 people face to face and by phone. We were able to help two thirds resolve their problems.

Volunteer advisors can, if they wish, progress to being paid supervisors. We offer a flexible and supportive working environment.

If you have eight hours a week to spare (we can be flexible about time) and would like to make a contribution to your local community, gain new skills and meet new people, please follow this link:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/>

Or, if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email Jon Bright, Director:  
[jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk](mailto:jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk)

### **Citizens Advice Bureau**

## **Newsletter from Botley and Kennington Health Centre**

### **Primary Care Networks**

Primary Care Networks are a new way for several general practices to collaborate. They are intended to help practices:

- to offer more co-ordinated services,
- to provide better ways for patients to access a wider range of health care professionals.

They will also make more use of digital services.

The regulations around Primary Care Networks have been incorporated into the contract that each GP practice has with the NHS.

### **Why are they being set-up?**

In January 2019, NHS England published a 10-year plan for the NHS. It is designed to tackle 3 key issues, these are:

- 1) Limits to the amount of funding
- 2) Shortages of clinical staff, especially GPs
- 3) Growing pressures from an increasing and ageing population.

Practices will work together and will, with other health services providers, make patient care more co-ordinated and easier to access, whilst making the GP workload sustainable.

### **What is happening in 2019/20?**

This year is seen as a 'setting up' year. By July 2019, practices will have agreed their networks and agreed a clinical lead (Director).

Each Primary Care Network will cover between 30-50,000 patients. Practices are of different sizes, so the number of practices making up a Network will vary.

Each Network will be given funding to recruit a Clinical Pharmacist and a Social Prescribing Linkworker. Some practices already have these professionals working in the surgery, but these services will now be available in all practices.

### **What is planned for the next few years?**

Once the networks are up and running, funding for additional types of health professionals will be made available. From 2020, this will include Physiotherapists and Physician Associates (a new clinical role) and from 2021, Community Paramedics.

The NHS Long Term Plan also outlines some specific areas on which networks will be asked to focus. In 2020, they will be asked to work as a network on providing improved services to care homes, better early cancer diagnosis, and more co-ordinated care with other community services. From 2021, they will focus on tackling the health inequalities in their locality, and prevention of cardiovascular (heart) disease.

### **How can patients have a say in any planned changes?**

Networks should involve their patients. It will be for each Network to decide how to work with you. For the time being you should be able to get more information through your Patient Participation Group. Every practice has to have a Patient Participation Group. Most practices have details about these groups on their website. The practice manager should also be able to tell you about how your group operates.

### **How will these changes affect you?**

You may not notice much change during 2019, especially in practices that already provide clinical pharmacist and/or social prescribing services. However, as practices get used to working together some services and practice staff may be shared and you may find that there may be changes to the types of services that are available to you and where they happen.

### **How might a Clinical Pharmacist help me?**

Clinical Pharmacists can help you by :

- working with you to make sure you take your medicines correctly,
- reviewing any complex medicine regimes,
- triaging and managing common ailments,
- responding to acute medicine requests,
- managing and prescribing for long-term conditions (often in conjunction with your practice nurse).

They also work on prescription management by :

- dealing with your medication if you have recently been discharged from hospital,
- reviewing any repeat prescriptions,
- being the point of contact for all your medicine-related queries.

Pharmacists can also hold minor ailment clinics.

### **What is Social Prescribing?**

Social prescribing is sometimes referred to as community referral. It is a means of helping GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services.

It aims to help you take greater control of your own health.

Social prescribing schemes can involve a variety of activities which are often provided by voluntary and community sector organisations.

Examples include volunteering, arts activities, group learning, gardening, befriending, cookery, healthy eating advice and a range of sports.

There are many different models for social prescribing, but most involve a link worker or care navigator who works with people to access local sources of support.

## How can I find out more about my local Primary Care Network?

More information about Primary Care Networks in Oxfordshire can be found on the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group website.  
[www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk)

## Community Woodland

An update from our recent meeting below :

- South Hinksey Parish Council is working in partnership with The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust to manage the community woodland.
- The Community Woodland is being managed alongside Chilswell Valley Nature Reserve and as part of the larger Wild Oxford Project.
- We held a work party on 12<sup>th</sup> October where we began to lay some of the self-seeded willow trees to create a dense scrub layer for birds to use for nesting.
- We will hold future work parties which will include removing dead trees and re-planting with a selection of UK species.
- If you would like to get involved please contact [andygunn@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:andygunn@bbowt.org.uk)
- We are also interested in hearing from people who use the woodland and also in any wildlife sightings

**Andy Gunn,**  
**Community Wildlife Manager (Oxon)**  
**Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust**

## Update from the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Since the public meeting we held with South Hinksey residents in June, we have been looking into the

suggestions made by the community. This includes whether it would be possible to relocate the construction compound one field further away from the village, and the potential use of rail to transport material from the scheme area.

### Construction compound

Our proposed site for the construction compound is shown below as fields 1 and 2 on the map. This location was chosen to be as close as possible to the access point onto the A34, to help minimise transportation routes. Some residents have requested we move the compound one field further north, referred to as 'field 3'. This would distance the construction site further from the gardens on the northern side of the village.



We continue to progress with work to determine whether field 3 is suitable for use as a construction compound. In August and September we conducted initial environmental surveys in the field. These preliminary surveys are now being used to inform more detailed environmental investigations, which due to the seasons need to take place in the spring. We will be conducting these in spring 2020 and will also be carrying out archaeological surveys of the field which will be completed by summer next year. If it is feasible to do so, our intention is to change the location of our construction compound to fields 2 and 3.

Whilst these investigations are ongoing, we also continue to progress a back-up option. This would keep the use of fields 1 and 2 as currently proposed, but accommodate a buffer of approximately 40 metres from the closest residential gardens along the northern boundary of the village. This means that if the use of field 3 is not possible, we would have a compromise solution that will help distance the backs of gardens from the construction compound as much as possible.

### **Movement of material by rail**

We are investigating the use of the rail sidings adjacent to South Hinksey for the removal of spoil. We have identified potential access routes to the rail sidings and we have completed initial environmental surveys. Further detailed surveys are planned for next year. These investigations will help us determine if it is feasible to use the land, we need to create an access between the compound and the rail sidings.

Before use of the rail can become a viable option, we will also need to contractually secure the use of the rail sidings, and confirm which receiving sites are available to take the spoil away from the floodplain. These elements cannot be confirmed until much nearer our construction date. This means at the current time we need to retain our plan to remove spoil by road. If rail proves viable and beneficial we will amend our plans accordingly.

As soon as we have further information on the above options we will inform the South Hinksey community. In the meantime if residents have any queries please contact us at [oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### ***Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme***