

## Moulsford Events

Nigel Baker

It's a little late to wish everyone Happy New Year, but this is our first update of 2024, so welcome!

We saw out 2023 with some wonderful festive events during December. The Gala at the Beetle & Wedge was a great success; Ben and the team hosted us generously and guests enjoyed a splendid night out, with the added bonus for many folks of not needing a taxi. Thanks to the B&W team; many thanks are also due to the kind donors of the varied raffle prizes and also to all those who purchased so many tickets. The Gala, and a well-attended Christmas Social, at which Santa made a much appreciated early visit, ended a busy and successful year for the Events Committee, including our first Comedy Night and the return of the summer Boat Trip.

Thanks to the support of the community of our village events, we are delighted to report the Events Committee was able to make a contribution of £2500 to the Parish Council, which will go towards supporting their priority projects this year, and is a valuable boost in these challenging financial times.

We're now planning our 2024 calendar. We are anticipating the Friday socials will start up in mid-April and as usual we are also looking to include special events throughout the year. For example, it's a great sporting year, with the football Euros to look forward to and maybe even some Olympics action.

While we're formulating our thoughts over the next couple of months, if you have any ideas or suggestions, or would just like to have a chat about helping out on the bar or even joining the Events team, please do get in touch with me on 07831 152900.

We hope you weather the rest of the weather safely this winter, and as spring approaches, watch out for updates here in Moulsford News and on Facebook.



In between eating turkey and mince pies (and now trying to wear it off,!) your council have been pretty busy over the Christmas period! Specifically, we have been looking at budgets and what we should set the precept at for our next financial year, as well as reviewing various planning applications.

## Parish Precept

The parish precept is a charge levied as part of your overall council tax. Put simply, it is the difference between the amount of money the parish council intend to spend between April 2024 – March 2025 (the expenditure), less the expected income.

The precept is used to cover a variety of council costs, including (but not limited to):

- Costs of running the council (including remuneration for parish clerk, various insurances, maintenance costs for pavilion and grounds, plus bin emptying and verge cutting within the village)
- Election costs
- Training for council members
- Website maintenance and enhancement

Over this last year, the cost-of-living crisis and high levels of inflation has impacted us all and for Moulsoford Parish Council, specifically, the services we use, causing these costs to rise.

In addition to this, several significant additional costs for which we need to set aside reserves have been identified, including:

**Website redesign** – the village website needs a complete review and overhaul as we recognise that it is dated and difficult to navigate. We have already made some changes which should make it easier to find the site itself, but over the next few months will be pruning back out of date information and putting in place changes planned some while ago, including enhanced information for the village pavilion and a bookings calendar. These changes are particularly important as the website is now considered the official way to keep the village up to date with parish matters.

**Playground repairs** – the playground is wooden and over the last few years, various tables, chairs, and play equipment have been removed as they became damaged, rather than being replaced. We are due to have a safety inspection shortly and are expecting that some of the equipment will require repairs and/or complete replacement to ensure it remains safe.

**Riverside landing stage** – there is a small landing stage at the end of Ferry Lane, next to the Beetle and Wedge and the willow and at the end of the old Beetle & Wedge Hotel (now Beetle House). This is slowly disintegrating, having not had any attention for many years; the situation is likely to have been made worse by recent floods. We have therefore decided to set aside money to review its condition and make any essential repairs as required, again for safety reasons.

**Pavilion roof repairs** – some items of the pavilion have a set life, after which it is recommended elements are repaired or replaced. One of these is the roof. We need to set aside money towards the cost of a review and overhaul within the next couple of years.

**Contingency fund** – we have been advised by Oxfordshire Association of Clerks that as a parish we should hold significantly more general contingency funds (e.g. to cover sickness of parish clerk or an accident on council property) than we currently do. We are not intending to raise this fund to the level they recommend in one go; but instead to build it gradually over the next few years.

With this in mind, we have asked OCC to increase our precept for 2024-25. We expect this to equate to an average additional charge of £36.80 per household per annum, to be confirmed by OCC. This is aligned with other local parishes of a similar size in the area and is still lower than many, thanks to the help from fundraising activities within the village (see below).

## Planning applications

One main planning application occupied us over Dec – Jan – the Cranford School 5 year plan for expanding their buildings. This was a significant piece of development and required careful consideration, as well as input from different individuals directly impacted.

In the end the primary reason your council objected to the development is that there was no traffic management plan or construction management plan submitted with the planning application. Given the levels of congestion already seen on the A329 at key times, we felt it was essential before any further development occurred, that these plans were both drafted and, at least partially, implemented.

**Note:** On 23/1/24, the Parish Council received notification from SODC that the Cranford School planning application has been withdrawn. I very much hope we can work with the school to alleviate the traffic problems and to allow their application to go forward at a future point.

## Fund raising

I would like to extend a huge thank you from all the council to the Moulsoford Events Committee and the 100 Club for their generous donations to the Parish Council this last month, as a result of funds raised over 2023. Together, these are expected to amount to over £3600 and enable us to carry out vital maintenance within the village.

We know organising events and managing the 100 Club is a significant amount of work, particularly for events such as the hugely successful Comedy Night and the Village Gala. Thanks also to all of our villagers, since of course, it was you who bought drinks at village socials, tickets for social activities, or signed up for the 100 Club.

## 100 Club Draws

A quick reminder for those of you not aware that the 100 Club draws for January through March will take place at the Beetle and Wedge on the following Friday nights:

Friday, Jan 26th

Friday, Feb 23rd

Friday, March 22nd

The draw will take place at 7pm but please feel free to join other villagers down there for a drink or to sign up from 6pm.

For more information about the 100 Club, please email [mpc100club@moulsoford-pc.org.uk](mailto:mpc100club@moulsoford-pc.org.uk) or phone Sarah Elvy on 07525 842007.

## Contact MPC

As always, if you have any matter you would like to raise with Moulsoford Parish Council, please contact any of the councillors, contact details for whom are shown at the back of Moulsoford News, or email our parish clerk [parishclerk@moulsoford-pc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@moulsoford-pc.org.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you and maybe seeing some of you in future Parish Council meetings. Meanwhile, wishing you all the best for 2024!

## From Your Parish Council continued

### 20mph is plenty or stay with 30mph?

The Vote result:

'Retain 30mph' = 43 votes. 'Move to 20mph' = 33 votes. 'No view' = 2 votes.

We would like to thank the 79 villagers who voted, and who also shared their views in the comments sections.

The detailed feedback offered in the survey responses will be discussed at the February Parish Council meeting together with some 'deep dive' analysis of current speeding through the village.

### Dog Fouling

We have had several complaints from Cranford School about the quantity of dog waste being left on the hockey field recently. Staff have to clear it prior to the childrens' sports lessons as it is a risk to health.

Please can you ensure that you pick up after your dog and dispose of accordingly - either in the dog waste bins on the recreation ground or your own black bin.

Thank you. Moulsoford Parish Council

### MPC100Club

The December draw was held at the final Friday night social on 22nd December.

#### December 22nd draw results:

	Ball Number	Price Money
1st	59	£71.00
2nd	13	£35.50
3rd	55	£17.75

#### Dates for future draws:

Fri, Jan 26th

Fri, Feb 23rd

Fri, Mar 22nd

Many thanks to everyone who has supported MPC100Club, our first 6 months have provided Moulsoford Parish Council with almost £1,200.00 for their projects in the village.

For the January, February and March draws our venue has moved to the warm and cosy bar at the Beetle and Wedge. The draws will take place between 6.45pm and 7pm, hope to see some of you there enjoying a Winter Warmer!

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### Parish Council Meeting

**Thursday, 8th February 2024, @ 7.30 pm**

**Pavilion**

Agenda will be published shortly on Village Website and  
Village Noticeboard.

Please advise one of the councillors asap if you have anything  
you would like included on the agenda.

## Planning Applications and Decisions

Moulsford News and Planning deadlines invariably mean that the planning information below is out of date by the time of reading. For a current view of planning, please visit the online SODC Planning Register.

Reference	Description	Status
<a href="#">P23/S4051/LB</a> <a href="#">P23/S4049/FUL</a> Cranford House School Moulsford, OX10 9HT	Extensions to Senior Block, Dining Room and Willow Theatre, Swimming pool re-development (single-storey classroom accommodation for the junior school replacing the existing covered swimming pool).	SODC: Applications withdrawn
P23/S2223/HH Greenhill Cottage The Street Moulsford, OX10 9JD	Ground and first floor extensions and internal alterations to existing dwelling. (Amended plans received on 27 November 2023 showing a revised design to the extensions).	SODC: Approved
P23/S3971/HH Breach Park Farm Halfpenny Lane Cholsey, OX10 9JN	Open sided entrance porch to South West (front) elevation.	SODC: Approved

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### VACANCY - SECRETARY

The Moulsford Pavilion Management Committee  
is made up of seven village residents.

A slick operation is in place to keep the wheels turning on this super  
event venue

The role of Secretary is still vacant and we are seeking a  
replacement to join this friendly committee.

**Just FOUR meetings are held each year, so  
this is not an onerous task! (One has already taken place).**

The role is small and the tasks are few:

- Fix dates for the meetings
- Email an already prepared meeting agenda
- Take down the minutes and circulate afterwards

And bring your enthusiasm to this successful team.

You'll need to type and have access to a computer and email. You'll  
hear about what goes on behind the scenes of this great building.

Meetings last about an hour and a half.

Are you team member we are looking for?

Please either ring or email Deb

[clockox@aol.com](mailto:clockox@aol.com)

01491 651045

## From Your Parish Council continued

### Community Tree Planting and Village Litter Pick

We need as many helping hands as possible to join in the fun on our combined Community Tree Planting and Village Litter Pick event on **Sunday, 25 February 2024**.

Come to the recreation ground from **10.00am** for a couple of hours, and we'll be offering tea and coffee, maybe even cake, in the Pavilion. Please bring a spade and gloves if you want to help plant a tree or two; litter picking equipment will be provided.

If you can join us on the day to help plant a few trees, pick litter, or even just for a coffee, that would be great - families welcome.

Hope to see you there.

If anyone wants to get involved in the decision stage of planning current and future planting schemes (for the Community Tree Planting event and/or future Community Tree planning projects) please email Melanie ASAP [mmousleyjones@moulsford-pc.org.uk](mailto:mmousleyjones@moulsford-pc.org.uk) to flag up your interest.

## From the Vicar

Rebecca Peters

Dear Friends,

February can often be a difficult month, inclement weather often forces us to be inside. However, the snowdrops emerge and we can see hope of Spring to come. I came across this prayer that I thought is apt for this time.

### Prayer for February 2024 By Daphne Kitching

*Father, In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.*

*We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.*

*Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. In his name, Amen.*

Service Times at St John the Baptist Moulsoford have changed to 9am every Sunday

You are more than welcome to come and join us in worship.

God Bless, Rebecca Peters - Vicar

[rev.cholseyandmoulsford@gmail.com](mailto:rev.cholseyandmoulsford@gmail.com)

# St. John the Baptist, Moulsoford, February

\* Apologies, February Church calendar not available at time of printing \*

A short morning service is available each day in conjunction with our Partnership Parish of St. Phillip the Apostle, Huhudi, SA by Zoom, WhatsApp and e-mail. Contact Janet Knowles 651401 for further details.

### THE NEXT MOULSFORD COFFEE SHOP

♥ WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY ♥

AT THE PAVILION FROM 10.30 – 12.00



Thank you to all who came to the Christmas Coffee Shop in December. A big cheer to Gail and Linda for providing numerous cups of tea, coffee and Christmas treats and Ted Morse for providing the excellent seasonal background music. A huge thanks to all who supported the worthwhile charity Crisis and £200 was raised.

After 15 years as Chairperson of The Moulsoford Coffee Shop, Gail Slinger has stepped down and we thank her for all her hard work, being a friendly face behind the counter and, of course, all her wonderful baking. We wish her well in all her adventures in the future.

The January Coffee Shop welcomed in the New Year with Tracey and Alison dispensing refreshments. A good number of attendees enjoyed a relaxed get together after the hectic festive period.

Janet Knowles will be our excellent helper behind the counter in February and we look forward to seeing you all there. Everyone is welcome to come and join us and please bring along your friends, relations and neighbours for a chat.

The Moulsoford Coffee Shop is on the second Wednesday of each month. We just ask for £1.50 to include all refreshments.

## 133 Goring - Wallingford via Streatley & Moulsoford

**Including revised service from Monday 4th  
September 2023**

	<b>Until 1st September 2023</b>		<b>From 4th September 2023</b>			
<b>Days of Operation</b>	<b>Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays</b>		<b>Mondays and Wednesdays</b>		<b>Fridays</b>	
<i>Days of Operation</i>	<i>M,W,F</i>	<i>M,W,F</i>	<i>M,W</i>	<i>M,W</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>F</i>
GORING, Railway Stn Forecourt	09:10	11:25	09:00	11:25	09:00	11:35
Goring Surgery/Library	09:11	11:26	09:01	11:26	09:01	11:36
Swan Hotel/Streatley Traffic Lights	09:12	11:27	09:02	11:27	09:02	11:37
Moulsoford Beetle & Wedge turn	09:17	11:32	09:07	11:32	09:07	11:42
Moulsoford, Old Vicarage	09:18		09:08		09:08	
Wallingford Hospital	R	R	R	R	R	R
Wallingford LiDL	R	R	R	R	R	R
WALLINGFORD Market Place	09:30	11:45	09:20	11:50	09:20	12:00
<i>Continues to</i>	<i>DIDCOT*</i>	<i>DIDCOT*</i>	<i>DIDCOT</i>	<i>DIDCOT</i>	<i>DFL</i>	<i>DFL</i>

  

	<b>Until 1st September 2023</b>		<b>From 4th September 2023</b>			
<b>Days of Operation</b>	<b>Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays</b>		<b>Mondays and Wednesdays</b>		<b>Fridays</b>	
<i>Days of Operation</i>	<i>M,W,F</i>	<i>M,W,F</i>	<i>M,W</i>	<i>M,W</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>F</i>
<i>Starts from</i>		<i>DIDCOT*</i>		<i>DIDCOT</i>		
WALLINGFORD Market Place	11:05	15:13	11:05	15:15	11:15	15:15
Wallingford LiDL	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q
Wallingford Hospital	11:06	15:14	11:06	15:16	11:16	15:16
The Meadows	11:08	15:16	11:08	15:18	11:18	15:18
Moulsoford, Old Vicarage	R	R	R	R	R	R
Moulsoford Beetle & Wedge turn	11:11	15:19	11:11	15:21	11:21	15:21
Streatley Primary School	R	R	R	R	R	R
Streatley, The Coombe	R	R	11:14	15:24	11:24	15:24
Streatley Traffic Lights/Swan Hotel	11:14	15:22	R	R	R	R
GORING, Railway Stn Forecourt	11:25	15:33	11:25	15:35	11:35	15:35

**DFL** Dorchester Flyer: to or from Dorchester village

\* To or from Didcot on Mondays and Wednesdays only.

Q Picks up here on request only by prior arrangement with the driver on the outward journey

R Sets down only at these points on request to the driver by passengers already on board at previous timing point

**Sorry, no services on other days or on Public Holidays**

**All times subject to change at short notice. Please check our website before you travel. Times shown on Traveline or other websites may not be up to date.**

**CONCESSIONARY PASS HOLDERS**

**Free travel on all these services**

**except before 09:30 in West Berkshire**

**www.goingforwardbuses.com 07484 605888**

## What's on in Moulsoford and Surrounding Areas continued

### What's On at the Corn Exchange in Wallingford, Cinema/Theatre:

#### February

1st: NT Live - Dear England (7:00pm - 9:45pm)  
2-4th: Maestro (7:30pm - 9:45pm)  
3rd: Maestro (2:30pm - 4:45pm Matinee)  
5-6th: One Life (7:30pm - 9:30pm)  
7th: One Life (2:30pm - 4:30pm Matinee)  
7th: The Royal Ballet - Manon (7:15pm - 10:30pm)  
8th: Kinky Boots The Musical (7:30pm - 9:45pm)  
9-12th: Poor Things (7:30pm - 10:00pm)  
10th: Poor Things (2:30pm - 5:00pm Matinee)  
13th: The Boys in the Boat (7:30pm - 9:45pm)  
14th: My Favourite Things (2:30pm Matinee & 7:30pm)  
15th: Corn Exchange Archive Film Evening FREE (7:30pm - 9:00pm)  
16th: Jazz & Blues Divas (7:30pm - 10:00pm)  
17th: A Night of Frank & Louis (7:30pm - 10:00pm)  
18th: The Boys in the Boat (7:30pm - 9:45pm)  
19-20th: Anatomy of a Fall (7:30pm - 10:05pm)  
21st: Peppa Pigs Cinema Party (2:30pm - 3:45pm Matinee)  
21st: Wonka (7:30pm - 9:30pm)  
22nd: NT Live - Vanya (7:00pm - 9:00pm)  
23rd: Wonka (7:30pm - 9:30pm)  
24th: Peppa Pigs Cinema Party (2:30pm - 3:45pm Matinee)  
24-25th: The End We Start From (7:30pm - 9:15pm)  
26th: Les Miserables (7:30pm - 10:00pm)  
27th: Painting the Modern Garden - Monet to Matisse - Exhibition on Screen (7:30pm - 9:03pm)  
28th: Painting the Modern Garden - Monet to Matisse - Exhibition on Screen (2:30pm - 4:03pm Matinee)  
28-29th: The Holdovers (7:30pm - 9:45pm)



<https://www.cornexchange.org.uk/whats-on>

A poster for 'BoogieTOTS' with a red background and yellow and blue musical notes. The text reads: 'BoogieTOTS', 'JOIN JOSIE &amp; HER GUITAR FOR SINGING, DANCING &amp; STORYTELLING', 'A NEW CLASS FOR CHILDREN AGE 0-4 YEARS', 'DAY THURSDAYS', 'TIME 9.30-10.15AM', 'VENUE MOULSFORD PRE-PREP OX10 9HR', 'NO NEED TO BOOK FREE OF CHARGE', and 'Contact telephone number: 01491 652511'. There is a circular inset photo of a woman playing guitar to a child.

#### Cholsey Community Library

Monday to Friday	2 - 4.30pm
Friday (Evening)	6 - 8pm
Saturday (Morning)	9.30 - 12.30pm

# THE Beetle & Wedge

RIVERSIDE INN AND RESTAURANT

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE!

# HAPPY Valentine's Day

Indulge in a symphony of flavours this Valentine's Day at The Beetle & Wedge.

Elevate your evening with our exquisite Valentine's menu, crafted with love and passion.

Book your table now for a romantic dining experience that will leave your taste buds dancing.

Please call us on 01491 651381 or email [boathouse@beetleandwedge.co.uk](mailto:boathouse@beetleandwedge.co.uk)

## Wallingford Country Market



Open each Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church, (situated just behind the Town Hall), between 9.30 am - 12 noon.

Selling delicious homemade baked goods and preserves, home grown plants, fruit and vegetables and many crafts.

## Cholsey Repair Café

**Cholsey Repair Café** opens its doors on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months, meaning that the next session will be on **Saturday, 16th March**. Doors are open from **11.00 to 13.45** and earlier visitors can get a nice cup of tea or coffee and home-made cakes at the Cholsey Community Café, next door, from 10.00 to midday. As usual, the volunteer fixers can tackle bicycles, electrical (and sometimes electronic) items, sharpening of tools, textile repairs, gluing, soldering and a good deal more. If a repair cannot be made, further advice is available. All work is free of charge although a donation towards operating costs is appreciated.

More information, including contact details, can be found at [www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com)

# What's on in Moulsoford and Surrounding Areas continued

## HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Hopefully we are now at the start of Spring and we are seeing the plants refresh, maybe a bud or a flower.

The one that you may consider is starting a new hobby - could it be Stamp collecting?

The Henley Stamp Club is a friendly group and we would be delighted to see new visitors or members. If you are interested in facts concerning stamps or postal history, why not come along and explore how you can promote your interest?



To learn more about stamps and postal history why not visit us at Bix one Wednesday evening? You can then meet other people who find postal history and the story of stamps fascinating too.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Wed, 14th Feb – We have a guest speaker give a talk on “Smithy, Australia’s Most Famous Aviator”.

Wed, 28th Feb – Is Auction Viewing evening showing the material to be auctioned on the 13th March.

Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Further details can be obtained by phoning Steve on 07767 251670 or on our website [www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk)

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### Wallingford Local Producers Market

Wallingford Local Producers Market (WLPM) is held every Saturday morning from 10am to 12:30pm.

Markets are held in St Mary’s Church in the centre of Wallingford. Usually, our food stalls can be found outside with our craft stalls inside.



WLPM hosts the best of locally-produced food and crafts that are grown, harvested and made within 30 miles of Wallingford. We champion local farmers and vegetable growers, cheese-makers, bakers, and makers of honey and preserves. Every market has a range of craft stalls including textiles, jewellery, ceramics, art and photography, all hand-made by local people.

## Wallingford Emergency Food Bank

We are a registered charity operating a food bank based in the centre of Wallingford with the aim of providing emergency food packages to those who need them. Wallingford Emergency Food Bank was set up by Churches Together in the Wallingford Area and we began serving the community in 2011.

Our address is  
Wallingford Emergency Foodbank  
Ridgeway Community Church  
21b/22 St Mary's St  
Wallingford  
OX10 0EW

In the first year, we provided food for approximately 400 people. The current annual demand is approximately 3000 people. We rely entirely on unpaid volunteers and donations of food and money from the public, churches, and other local organisations.

If you need food please [click here](#) to find out more.

If you are interested in volunteering please [click here](#).

If you would like to donate to the food bank please [click here](#).

Although we are essentially a Christian run organisation, we are by no means exclusive; we welcome volunteers of any faith or none, and we give food to anyone in real need.



**Get into the  
repair habit!**



**CHOLSEY  
REPAIR CAFE**

**Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> March. 2024**

*11 am to 1.45 pm at Cholsey Pavilion.*

**Bring along your broken item and a team  
of volunteers will try to help you mend it**

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Subject to availability of volunteer specialists or equipment on the day, we may be able to offer help with: -

✓ bicycles	✓ clothing and textiles
✓ electricals	✓ specialist gluing
✓ laptops/computers	✓ tool & knife sharpening
✓ clocks	✓ PAT testing
✓ mechanical problems	✓ gardening equipment

**[www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com)**

+ Cholsey Repair Cafe on Facebook 

# Local News

## Christmas Eve in Moultsford

"It was amazing..."

"The village looked beautiful..."

"It made our Christmas..."

Tea lights lined driveways, the streets, the recreation field.

The church in candlelight. Who would come? No one knew.

Villagers came, out of the darkness! Prosecco bottles popped, red and white wine flowed and mince pies were munched.

The old oak door swung open to gasps of delight. People pushed through into the warmth and took a tea light. Glittered cones amongst foliage on window ledges sparkled in the candlelight.

And the people came and, kept coming! "What will we do? So many people!" "Come on, budge up". The pews filled; everyone smiling. Kneelers distributed to younger ones to squash on the aisle floors and, still people came! "Has a coach load arrived?" exclaimed a helper, as I squirted cream onto another mince pie.

The porch was full of later arrivals and if you didn't get inside, we were truly sorry. Silence fell. Then...

"What are you lot doing here, eh?" A grumpy Scrooge emerged from the pulpit, most put out at being disturbed from his accountings. Mesmerized faces, as the story of The Christmas Carol unfolded. Carols heartily sung. Anni played her Cornet atmospherically. Emily T, Emily H, Sophie and Phoebe together presented the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas', Noah, Finn and Rafe enthusiastically took part in the story and Kit sang with aplomb, all under the admiring gaze of Twinks and Jill. Stephen eloquently narrated and Jeremy captivated the audience as Scrooge. "A remarkable performance". "What talent in our village!"

Scrooge transformed from grouchy to gracious and handed out sweets and reindeer food to rapturous applause. Words of praise and delight echoed as everyone went on their way, exchanging Christmas wishes.

Willing participants gave of their time and set the scene. You made it great!

Thank you.

***A magical Moultsford memory!***



## All Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty renamed as National Landscapes

On 22nd November, it was announced that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty will now be known as 'National Landscapes'. This includes the North Wessex Downs AONB which will now be called North Wessex Downs National Landscape.

This new name reflects the national importance of these protected landscapes and the vital contribution that they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that they do. The name underpins the ambitious targets that, nationally, the National Landscapes family has for nature recovery and mitigation of climate change.

The statutory designation of AONB and its primary purpose, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape, remain the same. And the North Wessex Downs National Landscape Partnership will continue to collaborate with the thriving, diverse communities living and working here to restore ecosystems, provide nutritious food, safeguard against drought and flooding, and nurture people's health and wellbeing.

Our new logo reflects this name change and depicts the best-known landscape icon in the North Wessex Downs - the Uffington White Horse - and the big skies enjoyed on top of chalk downs which are such an integral part of this stunning part of the world.

More information can be found on the North Wessex Downs website [here](#).

## Archaeology Festival of Discovery 2024

For one weekend only, the Festival of Discovery will bring together the archaeologists and experts behind the recent digs at Earth Trust Centre, to share their fascinating discoveries in a series of specialist talks and unique hands-on workshops.

The team from DigVentures unearthed a previously unknown Roman villa and a vast Iron Age settlement at the foot of the Wittenham Clumps. From the contents of a prehistoric pantry to the arrival of the first pet dogs in Britain, the results have provided a glimpse into these ancient lives. At the Archaeology Festival, experience an unprecedented insight into the discoveries, and what they can tell us about the people who once inhabited this part of Oxfordshire, with daily talks from the experts and practical workshops with the archaeologists. See artefacts from the dig up close, hear first-hand from the scientists about what they can reveal, and learn how techniques like ancient DNA, isotopes, and examination of clues etched into bones can illuminate the long-lost details of daily life.

Dates: Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th February 2024

Tickets: Specialist talks £5, workshops £40 per person, free to visit pop-up museum

Location: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, nr Abingdon OX14 4QZ

Suitability: Adults and children aged 12+

Book: [Archaeology Festival of Discovery 2024](#)

## Acclaimed Oxford Artist JC Niala Appointed as Earth Trust's Inaugural Artist in Residence

Earth Trust launched its Artist in Residence programme last year to harness the power of creativity to reimagine our relationship with nature. By immersing an artist in the iconic landscapes and community of Earth Trust, the initiative aims to ignite wonder, appreciation and understanding of the local environment.

JC Niala, an award-winning interdisciplinary artist based in Oxford, was selected for her passion for collaborative, inclusive art that connects people more deeply with nature. As Artist in Residence, she will gather stories and inspiration from Earth Trust's community of staff, volunteers, members and visitors to the Wittenham Clumps landscape.

"We are honoured to have JC as our inaugural artist in residence," said Amy Rowland, Public Programming Manager at Earth Trust. "Her creative practice aligns perfectly with our goal to spark deeper connections with nature through immersive art experiences."

JC plans to facilitate creative workshops open to all, combining poetry, sculpture and other art forms to bring people together in appreciation of nature. She intends to create an inclusive space where creativity and environmental awareness can flourish.

The residency will culminate in a collaborative legacy artwork incorporating nature-inspired designs and words from the community. JC envisions this piece will embody the voices, values and profound connection with nature felt by those involved. Above all, her art and residency activities will champion Earth Trust's belief in accessible green spaces as essential for human and environmental wellbeing.

"I'm thrilled to have the chance to collaborate with Earth Trust's community and landscapes," said JC Niala. "My work is not just about artistic expression but a call to action, inspiring awareness and change in the ways we interact with our natural world and each other. Together we can use art, nature and storytelling to strengthen our relationship with these special landscapes, rediscovering our bond with nature so that together we can take steps to protect it."

JC also plans to gift several smaller art pieces to Earth Trust to auction in support of its mission to connect people with nature.

To learn more about JC Niala's inspiring practice, visit [www.jcniala.com](http://www.jcniala.com). Follow her creative journey over the next three months via Earth Trust's website and social media channels.

JC will be facilitating two public workshops at the Earth Trust Centre in Little Wittenham during February, providing opportunities for the community to get creative and connect with nature. A family-friendly printmaking workshop using natural materials on Sunday 11th February, and a 'Nature's Verse' Workshop, blending poetry and art for personal expression on Saturday 24th February. Details at [earthtrust.org.uk/whats-on](http://earthtrust.org.uk/whats-on)



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View the documents, find out more information on local events and complete the survey before 11.59pm on 21 February 2024:

[www.southandvale.gov.uk/JLP](http://www.southandvale.gov.uk/JLP)



You can also access printed documents at your local library, the district council offices, the Beacon in Wantage, Cornerstone in Didcot, or the Great Western Park District Community Centre in Didcot.

## Drop-in events:

Sandford-on-Thames: 20 Jan

Wallingford: 25 Jan

Thame: 30 Jan

Abingdon: 3 Feb

Faringdon: 6 Feb

Shippon: 24 Jan

Henley-on-Thames: 27 Jan

Wantage: 31 Jan

Crowmarsh Gifford: 5 Feb

Didcot: 10 Feb

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse  
**Joint Local Plan 2041**



## Advertising

For advertising contact:  
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Deadline for March edition:  
Wed, 21st February 2024



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## Useful Contacts

### Moulsford Parish Council

<http://www.moulsford-pc.org.uk>

Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
Sue Powell (Chair)	Laburnham Cottage, Moulsford	07786 250368	<a href="mailto:spowell@moulsford-pc.org.uk">spowell@moulsford-pc.org.uk</a>
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Ben Partridge (Financial Officer)	22 Underhill, Moulsford	07828 902947	<a href="mailto:bpartridge@moulsford-pc.org.uk">bpartridge@moulsford-pc.org.uk</a>
Martin Eagle	Glebe Orchard, Glebe Close, Moulsford	07785 905883	<a href="mailto:meagle@moulsford-pc.org.uk">meagle@moulsford-pc.org.uk</a>
Melanie Mousley Jones	N/A	07813 092239	<a href="mailto:mmousleyjones@moulsford-pc.org.uk">mmousleyjones@moulsford-pc.org.uk</a>
Andrew Harris (Parish Clerk)	Offlands Cottages, Moulsford	N/A	<a href="mailto:parishclerk@moulsford-pc.org.uk">parishclerk@moulsford-pc.org.uk</a>

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### South Oxfordshire District Councillors

Anne-Marie Simpson	Mallards, Moulsford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 9HR	07738 568907	<a href="mailto:Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk">Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk</a>
Ben Manning	45 Greenmere, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, OX10 0QH	07946 476733	<a href="mailto:Ben.Manning@southoxon.gov.uk">Ben.Manning@southoxon.gov.uk</a>

### Oxfordshire County Councillor

Felix Bloomfield	The Views, Ewelme, OX10 6HF	07912 875199	<a href="mailto:felix.bloomfield@oxfordshire.gov.uk">felix.bloomfield@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
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### MOULSFORD PAVILION HIRE RATES 2023/24

These hire rates apply from 1st April 2023 until revised by the Pavilion Management Committee.

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## Dates for the Diary

Date	Event	Location
Event updates coming soon.		

### Moulsford News Contributions

Planning a local event?

Wanting to share some poetry or wisdom?

Celebrating a special day or sporting/musical/... achievement?

Doing something for charity?

Share your news, plans and stories with us!

You can reach the editor, Katja Abel, by email:

[moulsfordnews@moulsford-pc.org.uk](mailto:moulsfordnews@moulsford-pc.org.uk)

**Deadline for February edition: Wednesday, 21st February 2024**

