

Churchill and Sarsden

ROUNDABOUT

MARCH 2026

THE HERITAGE CENTRE PRESENTS



A new exhibition will be opening at the Heritage Centre this Easter, starting on Saturday 4th April.

The Heritage Centre is open every weekend throughout the summer from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. Come and have a look!

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The first phase of the refurbishment continues apace and is on schedule. The hall ceiling has its LED lights and the new radiators are in position. The kitchen has been stripped out and a new one ordered. The toilets are currently being plastered, so it's a hive of activity as we aim to achieve the goal of making the hall **Fit for the Future**.

However, the hall building is old and only once work had started did it become apparent that further work was necessary which was not included in the original specification. For example, the plaster in the toilets was in a worse condition than when first tendered for two years ago, due to damp and cold conditions and this has needed to be removed and new plaster applied where necessary. It was therefore decided to add additional, more effective heating in the toilets, to make them more comfortable and welcoming. We also need to upgrade the electricity supply to the hall and there will be more information about this next month once we have further details and costings. In view of the extra work necessary, the contingency fund we had set aside has had to be utilised to cover these costs and we therefore need to raise further funds. We have applied to West Oxfordshire District Council via the Spacehive platform. This might be in the region of £12,000. Spacehive, which we have used previously with good effect, provides a platform offering financial support for locally led projects to assist in attracting funding more easily.

In order to be successful, we need to show there is local support for this and we would welcome support from anyone who would like to contribute to the fund, as the more backers we have, the more likely we will be successful in our grant appeal. A small sum from lots of people would make a huge difference to the success of our campaign with the minimum pledge being £3.

If you are able to support the hall please see our Spacehive page <https://www.spacehive.com/village-hall-loo-refurbishment-appeal> or speak to Debbie Johnson on 07905 285389.

Thank you from all the Village Hall Committee.

I hope nobody will mind me adding, on behalf of the whole village, that everyone is VERY grateful for all the work and time that Debbie and the committee are contributing to this important project. Francesca

CAFE

The cafe continues to run **every Tuesday morning, 10am - 12 noon** as usual in the church, until 17th March, when there will be a 3 week Easter break. Many thanks to all who come along to enjoy the many delicious cakes and to those who help run the cafe in our new temporary home.

CRAFTING GROUP

The crafters will continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons, but in the Church.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

Together making our community reassuringly safer

Our newly formed Neighbourhood Watch Group is making our vicinity more pleasurable for us and certainly less attractive for criminal behaviour.

The police at our talk recently said they really rely upon Neighbourhood Watch schemes nowadays. Sadly, due to underfunding, there are very few police covering a very large area.

The Group not only provides a way of alerting others in an emergency to disturb any intruders, but is also an invaluable way for the community to work together with possibly suspicious activity and what to look out for. As many of you are aware we are being targeted by highly professional burglars resulting in pre-planned robbery attempts. A lot of people have now joined the National Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and are also encouraged to join our own WhatsApp group.

The first is a dedicated WhatsApp group for alerts. It is pinned to the top of your chat page, to message in times of concern. It only pings if a neighbour needs help. It is advisable that all members of your household join this. It provides much comfort knowing help will come should something occur.

The second group is for sharing ideas: a place to keep intel together should an incident occur (it all goes to the police) and anything other than emergency alerts.

We are able to inform others of specific things to look out for such as particular vehicles. Current topics are our own watch patrol in the area, the introduction of APNR cameras connected straight to the police and the employment of our own private security patrol. The police work very closely with this group. For those who do not own a smartphone, you are just as included. It is suggested you put the Neighbourhood Watch pamphlet, which has my telephone number, beside your phone. My number is also at the end of this message. Call me, then I can alert others on your behalf. It doesn't have to be a burglary - anything that makes you feel unsafe or unsure. We want you to feel safe knowing that people are always there for you should you wish.

Walking around after light falls, it is very noticeable which homes are empty. Please do try to make your house look occupied. Lights on, a radio playing... Timers are cheaply available to turn lamps on at set times, though do make sure they are compatible with energy saving lightbulbs. Consider some form of camera such as Ring, if not an alarm system. Cameras have recently notified villagers that burglars are on their premises and our wonderful community has been able to disturb them purely by their presence long before the police arrived.

Let's feel safer together.

Anne Mandry. 07894 706 919

THE ANNUAL GRAVEYARD CLEAR-UP

will take place in the old Churchyard on **Saturday 14th March** from 9.00 - 12 noon. All help gratefully received. Please bring rakes, wheelbarrows, secateurs & other gardening tools. New volunteers very welcome.

CHURCHILL AND SARSDEN ANNUAL LITTER PICK

Saturday 7th March.

This is a reminder to sign up to the annual litter pick. If possible, please bring your own equipment ie. hi-viz vest/jacket if you have one, gloves, bags etc. I will be bringing some also. We will be meeting at the Chequers, if it has re-opened, for a bacon butty and coffee/tea (veg option available), otherwise the Church (no butties) at 9.30am. We like to concentrate on the road sides leading into Churchill and Sarsden. Please let me know if you haven't done already so we can get the route planning and catering sorted. 07889 328299 /

petercruddge@hotmail.co.uk

Looking forward to seeing you. Your support will be much appreciated.

EASTER WEEKEND GARDEN OPENING

Good Friday, 3rd April, from 12.30 - 5pm

SARSDEN GLEBE, CHURCHILL, OX7 6PH

What3words: <https://w3w.co/vanished.gradually.slips>

Entrance price is £7.50 in aid of the National Garden Scheme

<https://ngs.org.uk> which raises money for medical, nursing and caring charities. Delicious cakes and tea will be provided by the wonderful team from

Thrive which supports children and families in North Oxfordshire.

Anemone blanda, fritillaries, spring bulbs and early blossom should be carpeting the wild garden, weather permitting, and the kitchen garden will be stirring its muddy clogs. The new www.mightyfineoaks.com tree nursery in the farmyard will have oaklings available from the 'ancient' and 'veteran' oak trees in Britain from 300-1000 years old. Benedict Pollard will be there to welcome guests and share the wonderful story of oaks. Two wormeries now live in the farmyard and worm music has been chosen to please them ... and you. Daphne, Dora and Dolores the pigs look forward to seeing you as do Myrtle and Maud, who say that dogs on a lead are very welcome.

For further information contact Rupert Ponsonby on 07785 733220