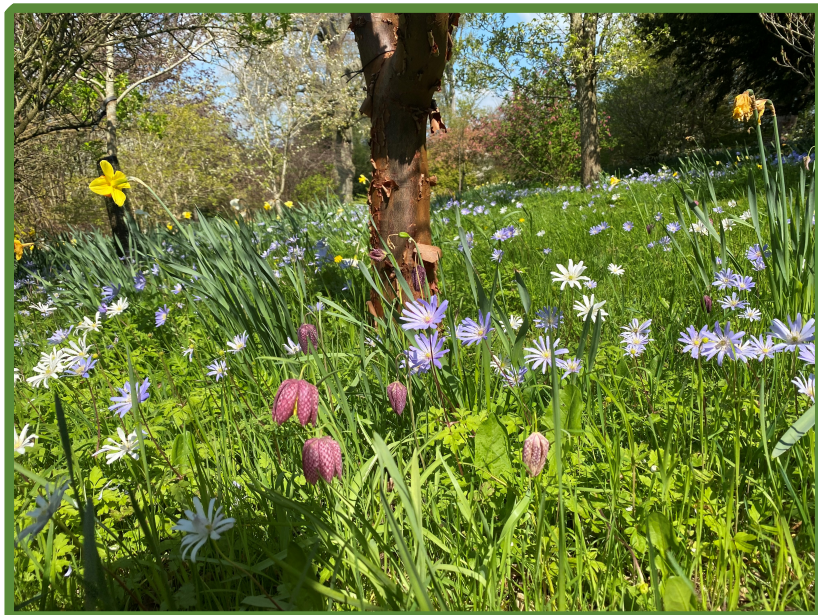


Churchill and Sarsden **ROUNDAABOUT**

APRIL 2026



Spring is here and the beautiful gardens at Sarsden Glebe are a sea of blue and white anemones, pink and mauve fritillaries and some late daffodils, whilst in the kitchen garden, tulips are strutting their stuff.

The garden is dog, child and old people friendly. Come for an Easter treat on **Good Friday between 12.30 and 5pm.**

Delicious cakes and tea will be provided by the wonderful team from Thrive OX7 which helps children in deprivation - living and/or going to school in OX7

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. Children and hounds free.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The first phase of the hall refurbishment continues apace and is on schedule. The kitchen and toilets have been plastered and painted, awaiting new flooring to enable the rest of the fittings to be installed. The electrics and plumbing progresses apace, with an electric boiler fitted in the kitchen. While the hall ceiling has been refurbished, the decoration in the hall will take place in the second phase of the refurbishment and so may not look at its best initially.

Due to the increased electric demand from the boiler and other electrical requirements, we are having to change the electric supply of the hall from single phase to 3-phase. This comes at extra cost which had not been anticipated and so we are very grateful to the Parish Council for their support in covering the cost of £6000. We were very relieved when a site visit from SSE showed there were sufficient cables in the over head supply to turn these into a 3-phase supply rather than dig a trench across the road. There is a need to tie up the connection with our electricity suppliers which might cause a slight delay but we are hoping that the refurbishment work will still be completed on schedule.

CAFE

The cafe will reconvene on Tuesday morning 14th April, 10am - 12 noon after the Easter break. The church will continue to host the cafe in April until the hall reopens in May. Many thanks to Kathie and Mark and the church for their help in supporting the cafe since January.

SPACEHIVE FUNDRAISING

Many thanks for the donations and backing for our Spacehive campaign which is raising money for the toilets. We hope to have heard the outcome from West Oxfordshire District Council by the time you receive this edition of *Roundabout* but will update you via social media when we can.

As you may have heard, there was a break in at the hall overnight on 11/12th March. While there was no hall property lost, the builders lost a drill.

Please look on the website for upcoming events and further details

<https://churchillsarsden.com/whats-on/>

From the Archives

The Millionairess and the Waiter

Enquiries from far and wide come to the Heritage Centre concerning previous residents and their connections to Churchill and Sarsden. In 2017 one such request arrived from a historian of the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains, a vast nature reserve with the 250-room Biltmore House estate previously owned by George Washington Vanderbilt II, a tycoon of Dutch extraction who made his money in shipping and railroads. He and his wife Edith had one child born in 1900, Cornelia Stuyvesant Vanderbilt, who enjoyed a lavish lifestyle as part of the wealthiest family in America.

In 1924 Cornelia married Hon. John Cecil, First Secretary of the British Embassy in Washington DC, and a year later she inherited the Vanderbilt family millions. But her outlook changed – in 1934 she divorced Cecil in Paris and ran away from him and her fortune with a Swiss painter, moved to London and married Capt Vivian Bulkeley-Johnson, a former stockbroker and then secretary at Rothschild's bank, and lived with him at The Mount in Churchill until his death in 1968. Four years later she married William Goodsir, a much younger chap whom she met at a dinner in London where he was a waiter. After the wedding at Kensington registry office, with no guests and held in secret away from the prying cameras of the press, they settled down quietly back in Churchill.

Cornelia set about doing commendable philanthropic works until her death in 1976. The bulk of her estate was left to husband Bill, but she set up what is now 'The Mrs Smith and Mount Charity' as a trust fund still active today to support underprivileged people, and made generous bequests to three of her farm workers: manager Tony Rose, tractor driver Michael Arthurs, and a future leader of Oxfordshire County Council, cowman Rodney Rose, the subjects of the original enquiry back in 2017. Next to her ashes a small plaque states "Here lies the Dust of Cornelia Vanderbilt 1900-1976", succinct and discreet, in keeping with the lady's generosity in later life.

Paul Branch

**TEAS ON THE GREEN
AND VILLAGE HALL OPENING AFTER PHASE ONE
REFURBISHMENT**

Monday 4th May, 2 - 4pm

Teas on the Green will take place on the first bank holiday in May. Here's hoping the weather is kind to us. Expect lots of tea and cakes, beer and bubbly, the squares game and a wonderful plant stall.

Helen will be in touch with our wonderful bakers to ask for cake donations. Please contact Helen if you are able to make a cake or help on the day to serve teas. Email helencheckley25@gmail.com. We would also welcome plants donations for the plant stall.

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**THE ANNUAL LITTER PICK AND
GRAVEYARD CLEAR-UP**

Thank you to everyone who helped clear the graveyard and pick up litter.

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THE HERITAGE CENTRE will be re-opening for the summer on
Saturday the 4th April.

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Churchill & Sarsden Luncheon Club meets at All Saints Church on 4th Tuesday each month. Our next lunch will take place on **Tuesday 28th April**. A home cooked lunch, glass of sherry and coffee £4.

Anybody who is unable to attend can arrange to have their meal delivered to their home. All over 65s more than welcome.

This month's lunch will be Lamb Hotpot with vegetables followed by Lemon Meringue Pie. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Please call Pam Wickham 07706 156002 to book your place or for any other questions you may have.

NB: This month's lunch will be starting at 12.30 to allow the Cafe time to clean up.

If you would like to put any village information in *Roundabout*, please email it to francescahobart@outlook.com by the 15th of the month.