



From the Horse's Mouth

The Horspath Magazine

April - May 2025



Issue No
15

See article inside >



CLOSURE OF THE HORSPATH OUTREACH POST OFFICE

As many of you will know, the Horspath Outreach Post Office (PO) closed on 28th March. Owing to a fall in which she broke her shoulder, Christine Donnelly, at Great Milton PO, has been forced to retire. The Area Change Manager at Post Office Ltd (POL), has decided not to look into keeping the Great Milton PO open nor the Horspath Outreach PO. Well, I'm not going to accept this.

I loved my job at the Outreach PO based in the Horspath Hub on Friday mornings at the same time as the Coffee Mornings. It opened in late October 2014 with good footfall from the start. I've been told that, as Outreaches go, mine was very successful. Despite being busy, there was usually time to have a chat and a bit of banter with my customers. That made my job so enjoyable.

Some of the trustees of the Hub and I continue to campaign to have the Outreach reinstated. I am most grateful for their help and support in getting an article published in the Oxford Mail. Two of them contributed to the article. The trustees' support is ongoing. There are petitions dotted around the village plus an online version and I'd like to thank everyone who has signed so far. Your support is invaluable.

I rang the Postmaster at Wheatley, who is very keen to manage Horspath Outreach PO. At the time of going to print, the Area Change Manager has not been moved. I have written to Nigel Railton, Chairman of Post Office Ltd, 100 Wood Street, London, EC2V 7ER, explaining the situation and enclosing my foot fall figures for the last three years.

I've done the job of the Post Office Ltd. by finding a Sub Post Office willing to take on our Outreach PO. Mr Patel at Wheatley Post Office is very community-minded and, although he would benefit from the closure of Horspath Outreach, he wants to help the villagers of Horspath, for which we are very grateful.

The Area Change Manager said there were at least three Sub Post Offices within three miles of Horspath. They were all there when I opened!

She has never contacted me with this resolution.

RIP – but not for long if we can help it!



Spring Term (February to April)

- During term 4 We will be looking at Animals of the World – Looking after our Earth, Storytelling – Books and Shrove Tuesday, Spring, On the Farm, Easter – Mother’s Day and Easter. We have arranged for Duck eggs to arrive for our



hatching programme on Tuesday 18th

Summer Term (April to May)



During term 5 We will be looking at Earth Day/Week, Water and Water festival, Growing Seeds/Plants/Produce, Recycling and Insects/World Bee Day.

Our fundraising event for term 4 will be a sponsored bike ride for the children to take part in during the nursery day.



Horspath Nursery, Blenheim Road,
Horspath, Oxford, OX33 1RY
staff@horspathnursery.org.uk
Tel: 01865 876750

A short introduction

My name is The Revd Caroline King, it has been my privilege over the last few months to join the worship rota in this benefice. I have recently retired from parish ministry. I am familiar with the area; indeed, I have served all my ordained ministry in this Area. Most recently I was a Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team with responsibility for Newington, Stadhampton and Warborough. I look forward to getting to know you as my ministry develops with and alongside you all.

An Easter Message from Revd. Caroline King

This year Easter falls very late on 20th April. The reading most often used on Easter Day is from the gospel of John (John 20.1-18). Do read it at home if you have the chance. John gives us a deeply personal account of the resurrection. Jesus looks Mary in the eye and gently utters her name, in that moment of naming Mary recognises and responds, Teacher. At that very same moment Mary is challenged by Jesus not to cling to him. Jesus tells Mary to go and tell, she is to share the risen Lord.

The Easter story is not just history, we are co-participants in that same revolution. We too are met with love and patience, perhaps amidst our trauma in the garden commissioned not to cling to Jesus and keep him to ourselves; we are commissioned to see the one gently calling to us to go and tell!

Alleluia Christ is risen; these are quiet words of revolution and rebellion against forces of terror and poverty and against racism, sexism against any number of isms and injustices still prevailing today. Jesus confronted those forces with love and outstretched arms; on Easter Day we affirm love wins through.

The message of Easter is Go and tell

Go and tell of the one who blessed the broken and welcomed the outcast.

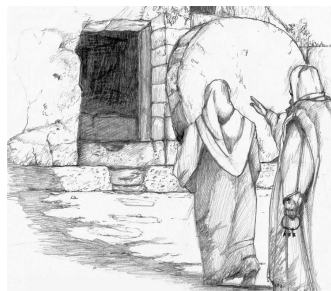
Go and tell that God has work for us to do.

Go and tell that God is calling us gently by name!

Go and tell that love has found a way and that through us it will continue to do so.

With very best wishes for a happy
and blessed Easter.

Caroline



Activities at St Giles' Church

Chatter & Clatter - Come and join us and meet some other small people who are under 5. Remember to bring an adult so they can have a coffee/tea and cake.

We are
a
friendly
group

Drop in
between
9am -
11am

Stay all
morning

We would love to meet you..... if you would like further information please call 07584 080866

We will be meeting in the church on the following Thursdays throughout the summer months.

24th April, 8th May, 22nd May (half term) 5th June, 19th June, 3rd July

Easter Funtime

Friday 18th April 2025

Join us in the church between 10am - 12 noon.

We will be making.....

Easter Cards

Planting Seeds

Fondant Rabbits

Refreshments

Easter
Egg
Hunt
(weather
permitting)

Decorating Eggs

FREE

Come and join in the fun

Suitable for children & young people aged 11 and below

POLAR CASTAWAYS



On Friday the 2nd of May, Brian Lowe will tell a story related to Shackleton's expedition. He will describe the **other** side of the Shackleton attempt on the South Pole. Although Shackleton lost his ship, after an amazing feat of endurance and hardship, he saved all 27 of his men, and it became the stuff of legend..... but not

anywhere near this exploit. The Ross Sea back-up party was a near disaster – they were to lay depots for Shackleton's expedition once they had passed the South Pole; in fact they did so, but their ship – the Aurora – broke free in a storm and drifted away, leaving ten men cast ashore..... of these men, three died, and their experience was one of hardship and disaster. They were eventually picked up after two years of isolation.....

POLAR CASTAWAYS

A special talk by Brian Lowe

On Friday 2nd May 2025

At the Hub

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start

Tickets are £10 each available from the Hub

every Friday from 10am to 12 noon

Or email horspathhub@gmail.com

The Queen's Head



The pub has been called “The Queen’s Head” since the 18th Century and the list of known landlords dates back to 1822 with the Kimber family, who managed it for 90 years! It was owned by the brewers, Halls of Oxford and if you look closely by the front door, the plaque is still there!

There was once a thatched roof but it burnt down in 1933 and it was rebuilt with a tile roof. I can imagine that the pub played an important part in the life of the villagers in Horspath back then and indeed nothing has changed there!

I finally managed to track down the landlord, Jason Taylor, for a twenty-minute chat about the pub. He’s a very busy and popular man and I’ve rarely come across anyone who works so hard. He was proud to tell me that he first became bar manager for eight years in 1992, when the pub became a free house, and the landlord in 2017. It’s what I would call a proper traditional village pub! It caters for everyone in the village – bingo on Sunday, darts on Wednesday, Aunt Sally in the summer, quizzes, live music, cheap beer, Live Sports – it’s all there. I just wondered how Jason manages to fit it all in. “I love my job. I love being at the heart of the community in Horspath and being able to welcome people to the pub for their social life” he said. He also has five rooms to offer bed and breakfast – all regularly full with guests from far and wide.

Jason works with Phanpat to offer Thai and English menus for lunch and dinner. You have to book early to get a place for the lovely Sunday roast dinner. The Horspath Senior Residents’ Association regularly pack out the restaurant and many villagers benefit from the Stone Pit Charity vouchers to eat here. And just in case Jason and Phanpat thought that they had time to spare, they cater for wakes, christenings and birthday parties. The marquee is available in the summer for functions too and you can even bring your own food to barbeque!

Jason rushed off to meet a delivery man and I chatted to a local resident who was settling down to his pint of Doombar getting ready to watch the Cheltenham races. “It’s grand in here”, he says. “I love it!”

Reporter: Sue Rowell, Historical Contribution by Brian Lowe

Safe, fun, traffic-free cycling for adults of all abilities

Have you ever been passing by the Horspath athletics track and seen dozens of different bicycles lined up? If you go by on a Tuesday or Friday morning, you'll see hybrid bikes, adult three-wheeled 'trikes', sturdy four-wheelers, tandems, side-by-sides, recliners, hand-pedalled bikes, e-bikes and lots more.

This is CyclAbility (www.cyclability.org), a non-profit organisation that provides cycling opportunities for all adults (age 16+), no matter their physical abilities.

I recently started volunteering for CyclAbility and love it – it's such a positive and inspiring experience. I've even met some Horspath residents who are regular CyclAbility riders.

Some people come with a carer or supporter; others come on their own or with a friend. Some may be recovering from an accident or learning how to cycle with an impairment and want to try out different bicycles, including e-bikes. And some people come because they haven't cycled for a long time and want to practise in a safe, supportive, traffic-free space.

If you or someone you know fancies a pedal round the track, it would be great to see you there. Book a slot at www.cyclability.org, which costs £5, then come along and choose from the huge fleet of bikes. Ride one or try several, on your own or with a friend. If you have questions or need any help, you can ask the trained instructors and volunteers. Afterwards, have a cup of tea and a biscuit and chat to other participants.

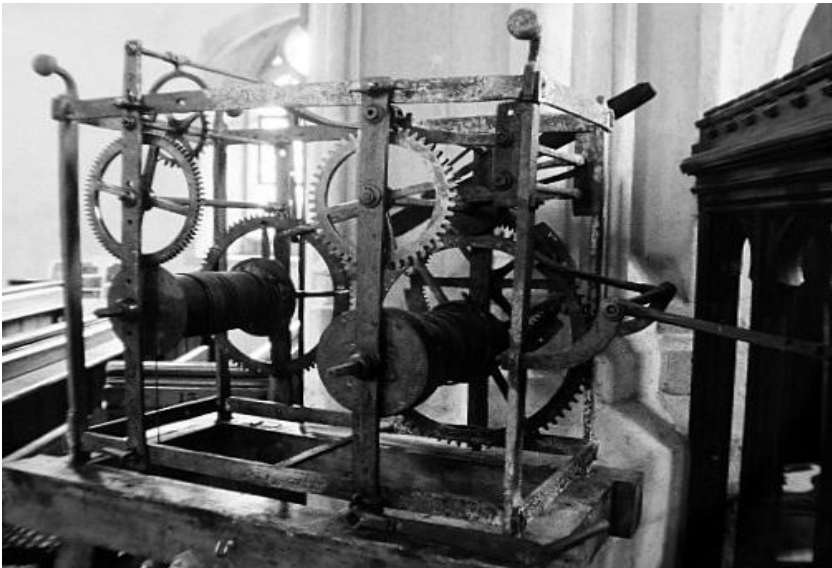
For anyone who wants to spend some time outdoors, consider volunteering, even if you don't cycle much yourself. There are lots of different ways to help, and if you live in Horspath, it's right on your doorstep.

Wendy Knerr



St Giles' TikTock

The clock mechanism which now stands by the ringing chamber screen is a version of an early pendulum clock, which first appeared in the early 18th c, and was modified by Robert Hooke from the previous pendulum mechanism invented by Christian Huygens before 1700. The example in St. Giles has long been known as a “blacksmith’s clock”, and was originally placed on a wooden frame in the intermediate room in the tower immediately below the bells, beneath which was the metre-long pendulum. The pendulum and mechanism were driven by two large weights suspended beneath, which meant that someone had to routinely ascend the steps and raise the weights – a tiring business ! The clock had no face, nor was there ever one on the tower, and the time was simply marked by a hammer which was arranged to strike the tenor bell immediately above. This practice probably ceased in the 1960s.... Cecil Surman, churchwarden and parish clerk for many years, was the last person to take on the task of hauling up the weights; after that St Giles had no clock-chime at all to be heard, and eventually the entire clock was lowered to its present position in 1986. Then it was cleaned and restored for display, though for a short time it was made to work without striking the bell, and simply gave a very satisfying “tick-tock” every second. The clock could well have been made locally by the blacksmith – probably Robert Hunt – who had a forge situated in what is now Ford’s close, which closed when his son, also Robert, died in 1898. It follows the mechanical style of the time, and there is a rather similar, but larger, version of it in Salisbury Cathedral – now also on display.... but it could equally have been made elsewhere, and probably dates from around 1740. So the clock had over two hundred years of use.



Dear Horspath residents,

Will you join me and take part in 'No Mow May' this year?

Our insects are fighting a battle to survive against pesticide use and loss of habitat. The 2021 Bugs Matter Survey indicated a ~60% reduction in the UK's flying insect population since 2004. Our gardens can offer a safe haven for them, but only if we don't pave over them or manicure them into sterile environments bereft of all wildlife. When we lose insects, we destroy our fragile ecosystems leading to a decline in dependent species, like many of our garden birds.



'No Mow May' is an annual campaign by Plantlife, encouraging people to allow some longer grass and wildflowers to grow as a food source for our bees and butterflies. So please join me in sitting back for a month and watch nature bloom.

In just 4 weeks your lawn really won't become unmanageable. You also won't get a lawn full of beautiful wild flowers from a single month of no mowing - it is a cumulative effect year on year. What you will start to see is more daisies and clover; later buttercups, yarrow and dandelions will join the array. Gradually violets and primroses are likely to appear and spread.

You also don't need to leave the whole of your lawn unmown. Both long and shorter (not very short) grass are important for wildlife. You could mow paths through longer grass, or just have one out of the way patch that you let grow longer.

When we first moved to Horspath, I started to dig out the dandelions in the lawn. I quickly realised I would be fighting a losing battle. Now I wonder what I was thinking, they are beautiful; and entirely edible if you do have a few too many. Most importantly they are an early source of pollen and nectar for sleepy bees waking from their winter slumber. Now I actively encourage the spread of violets, clover, buttercups and more - as you can see the garden looks a little different after nearly 10 years of 'wilding'.

If you decide you prefer the sound of bird song to your lawn mower, then take another four weeks off and continue with 'Let It Bloom June'.

With over 20 million gardens in the UK, imagine the difference we can make. As I write this I'm watching a bright yellow brimstone butterfly fluttering against an azure blue sky.

So sit back and watch butterflies with your feet up for the month of May (and beyond) 😊

Jo Milton

Horspath Cricket Club gear up for their New Campaign



It's all systems go as Horspath Cricket Club prepare to start a new season. Having been crowned Cherwell League champions last year, the club begin their build-up ahead of a return to the Home Counties Premier Cricket League with a friendly against Banbury at the Recreation Ground on Saturday, April 12. The league then gets under way on Saturday, May 10 with Horspath, led by new skipper Amin Rafiq, visiting Bicester & North Oxford in Division 2. On the same day, Horspath 2nd open their Cherwell League Division 2 campaign at home to old rivals Tiddington, while the 3rd XI are away to Dorchester in Division 4B and the 4th XI entertain Stokenchurch 2nd in Division 6C. The club will also

be looking to add to their impressive record in the Voneus Village Cup, having been crowned Oxfordshire champions three times in the last four years. The road to Lord's starts this season with a home game against Oxford & Bletchington Nondescripts in the first round on Sunday, April 27.

Meanwhile, Horspath women are gearing up for the new season on the back of a successful campaign in the Oxfordshire Indoor League. The club marked International Women's Day by completing their fixtures to finish third in the group with five wins from eight games. Now the action switches outdoors with Horspath hosting Abingdon Vale and Faringdon & District in the opening round of fixtures in the Home Counties Women's Cricket League Super 8 Development Group 1 on Sunday, May 4. The side will again be captained by Munaza Dogar. The youth section will also be busy with Horspath set to field teams from under 9 to under 17 with the opening games on Monday, April 28, and for the first time an Under 11 Girls' team. In addition, there will once more be the popular All Stars (5-8yo) and Dynamos (8-11yo) programmes, starting on Friday, May 9.

New players, members, umpires and scorers welcome. For more details visit horspathcricket.com

(above) Munazar Dogar & Tracey Isaac - women skippers this year

Amin Rafiq - Holding Pullinger Cup & Man of the Match - Captain



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Litter Picking in our Village



Volunteers turned out on a bright and sunny Saturday morning in March to collect the litter from all areas of Horspath. Wearing hi viz jackets, using the litter pickers supplied by SODC a total of 19 bags was collected. My thanks to Brian, Natalie, Martha, Libby, Alan, Sarah, Amber and her friend Claire, Paul, Jo, Drew, and Derek for help in clearing some of the litter from our village.

Beverley Oakley



DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS?

**HORSPATH
SUMMER
EXTRAVAGANZA**
OUR FIRST COMBINED
SCHOOL & VILLAGE FETE!

**Saturday 28th June
11am until 3pm**

**INTERESTED IN A PITCH OR TABLE FOR
YOUR BUSINESS?**

Please email
pta@horspathschool.org for more
information.

Notes from the Editor

Thanks always to our generous sponsors including Stone Pit, for my colleagues whose time and patience in getting this magazine published is invaluable, and not forgetting our team of 'deliverers' who get this to your door.

Please feel free to send in anything you feel our community would like to read about, just as our main contributors continue to do.

Our magazine exists to keep you all informed as best as we can, of all the many good things happening in our village.

Many thanks for your continued support.

John

thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com

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**Street Party Style
Celebration
at 2pm on 8th May
In the School
Playground
Everyone Welcome**

STOP PRESS

**Our MP, Freddie van Mierlo
Wants the Outreach Post Office to stay**

**“I was very concerned to hear the future of the post office service
was in doubt and
will do what I can to support it continuing to serve Horspath.”**

Quoting from his recent newsletter, 20-03-24



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**Save the Date
Summer Extravaganza
Join us on Saturday 28th June
For this Village Event**

Look out for ...

If you're walking on Shotover this spring, look out for: **Oak tree**. In April and May, we see "budburst" as the leaves of oak trees emerge, which can support up to 2,300 species of wildlife, including birds, bats, butterflies and winter moths.



Where to look: throughout Brasenose Wood and Shotover Hill. Many oaks are self-seeded, but in earlier times they were often deliberately planted in prominent positions as landmarks.

What to look for: oak trees are tall, with wide trunks, lobed leaves and rough, grooved bark. Look for green caterpillars, hanging down from the canopy on silk threads. These are a new generation of winter moth - they feast on the oak's new leaves, then drop down to lower levels of the wood in search of their next meal. The caterpillars are an essential source of nutrition for great tits and blue tits as they nest and raise their young.

Compiled by Shotover Wildlife, a community organisation, founded to research and communicate the importance of Shotover's wildlife. Illustrated by Jacqueline Wright, artist, botanist and co-founder of Shotover Wildlife.

Spotted anything? Tell us!

enquiries@shotover-wildlife.org.uk

Did you know? in the C17th, timber from the oak trees of Shotover were used to build ships for the Royal Navy

Book Time at Ripon College

The Library at Ripon College, Cuddesdon is seeking volunteers to assist with shelving, tidying and general library housekeeping duties. There has been a college in Cuddesdon (a village 6 miles outside Oxford) since 1854, training ministers for ordination in the Church of England. The historical collections require working at height, and there is no lift currently to the first floor library space. A contribution towards travel expenses and free lunches during term time are available to those able to make a regular commitment. Any availability (from 2 hours per week or more) would be very welcome:



Please contact the Librarian/Archivist, Annabel Haycraft on annabel.haycraft@rcc.ac.uk or phone 01865 877411 if you would like to discuss the possibility further. Many Thanks

+++++

A Letter from Clare Abbott:

I have been researching my family for more than 30 years and there's not much more to do! I wondered if others would like some help in tracing their own family tree. So, if anyone wants some advice or guidance, (free of course) do contact me, by email please. rosalindthefair@aol.com

+++++

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Unit 19 Wheatley Business Centre, Old London Road, OX33 1XW.

Chocolate Recipes

Chocolate Cookies

From the Good Housekeeping basic cookbook.

Given to us at our wedding in 1970.

I usually omit the walnuts

75g (3oz) butter 175g(6oz) self raising flour

75g(3oz) granulated sugar a pinch salt

75g(3oz) brown sugar 50g(2oz) walnuts chopped

A few drops of vanilla essence 50-100g(2-4 oz) chocolate chips

1 egg

Grease 2 baking sheets. Cream the butter with the sugars and vanilla essence. Then beat in the egg. Fold in the sifted flour and salt with the nuts and chocolate chips. Drop spoonfuls of the mixture onto the baking sheets and bake for 10-12 minutes at 180C (350F) Cool on a wire rack

Chocolatier: **Anna Radcliffe**

+++++

Chocolate Crunch

225g stork margarine

1 Tbsp cocoa

85 g coconut

85g crushed cornflakes

140g sugar

140g self raising flour

Melt the margarine and stir in all the ingredients. Press into a Swiss roll tin and cook for 20 minutes at 180°C. Cool and cover with chocolate.

This recipe was used by my mum. She always made it when the grandkids came to stay.

Chocolatier: **Sue Rowell**

Morland House Surgery (MHS)

Changes taking place at the Morland House Surgery. Below is a short summary. A report in November 2024 by the Practice Manager

Evolving Clinical Roles

In 2019 the NHS formed **Primary Care Networks (PCNs)**. MHS is now part of the Thame PCN, along with the Rycote Practice and the Chiltern & The Brook Surgeries. The PCN has been expanding the clinical team, bringing new benefits and better care to patients relieving pressure on GPs. MHS now has 2 clinical pharmacists, 1 pharmacy technician, 2 social prescribers, 2 care coordinators and 1 paramedic. The role of each team is as follows:

- 1. Pharmacy Team:** medication queries and advice, carry out annual medication reviews, provide medication advice to GPs, carry out mandated audits and quality improvement projects.
- 2. Social Prescribing Team:** helps identify practical, social and emotional needs affecting health and wellbeing. Links people to existing community resources, particularly people with one or more long term conditions, those who need support with low level mental health issues, are lonely or isolated and have complex social needs which affect their wellbeing.
- 3. Paramedic** sees various conditions and issues e.g. rashes, chest infections, lumps, migraines, general pains, high heart rate and wound issues. Also carries out home visits ahead of GP visit to take vitals and history.

Embracing Technology

MHS has been introducing new technology channels by which patients can contact the surgery: **New telephone digital system** offering more lines, no engaged tone!!, call queueing, call back service, patient recognition & connection with clinical system and call recording.

eConsult – carry out an online consultation via the internet for free at anytime from anywhere for a health issue. Visit www.morland-house.co.uk, click 'Contact us online', complete the questionnaire and submit. Your eConsult will be viewed by a clinician and you will be contacted before the end of the following working day with the next steps.

Contact MHS via NHS App *The NHS App* is a free, secure tool that allows patients (aged 13+) to access NHS services on their smartphone or tablet. You can book appointments, order repeat prescriptions, choose which pharmacy to collect from, view your GP patient health record, view messages from MHS, register your organ donation decision, choose how NHS uses your data etc.










Use NHS 111 online to get instant advice or medical help near you.

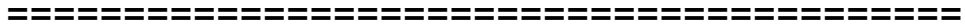
Other Technology Advancements: text messaging and emails, text invitations to book appointments.

Nollag McGrath, Practice Manager, MHS

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PUZZLE PAGE

Can you guess the Marvel's Avengers characters from the emoji Clues?

A:		_____
B:		_____
C:		_____
D:		_____
E:		_____
F:		_____
G:		_____
H:		_____
I:		_____



Answers to last magazine puzzles (Issue 14):

Avengers Emojis:

A: Ant Man; B: Iron Man; C: Black Panther; D: Hulk; E: Black Widow; F: Hawkeye; G: Captain America; H: Spider Man; I: Thor

Pokemon Evolutions:

- A Tyrogue turns into 2 Hitmonchan
- B Caterpie turns into 4 Metapod
- C Weedle turns into 1 Kakuna
- D Venonat turns into 3 Venomoth

Ted Guerin (aged 10)



Dear Residents of Horspath,

It has been a busy few months in both Parliament and our constituency, and I'd like to share some key updates.

Improving ADHD Services in Oxfordshire

Our campaign to improve ADHD services is progressing. I joined fellow MPs in urging the Health Secretary to take action and discussed this with local NHS leaders. I am hopeful that essential services, especially for young adults transitioning from CAMHS to adult care, will be restored soon.

Local Council Developments

I will step down as a Councillor in May, but in February, I attended council budget meetings:

- **Oxfordshire County Council** approved a historic £59 million increase for road maintenance.
- **South Oxfordshire District Council** passed a budget boosting grants for community and voluntary groups.

National Legislation and Water Issues

In January, Parliament debated key legislation on regulating water companies and sewage management. Unfortunately, amendments to strengthen executive accountability were not included. I also backed an amendment for stronger ecological protections in National Landscapes, crucial for Oxfordshire's countryside.

Flooding Crisis Update

Flooding remains a priority. I tabled an Early Day Motion urging the Government to review support criteria, ensuring affected properties receive the help they need.

Post Office Concerns

I am deeply concerned about the uncertainty surrounding our post office and will do all I can to ensure it continues serving Horspath.

I hold regular surgeries and am always available to assist. Please feel free to contact me at freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk.

Best wishes, Freddie van Mierlo MP

Jacqueline Franklin

25-07-42 - 18-02-25



Jacqueline was born and bred in Oxford and trained to be a hairdresser at one of the top stylists in the centre of Oxford. She married Wadham Franklin aged 18 and had three children, Jeremy, Simon and Rachel. It was when they were very young their life together began in Horspath. They attended clubs and always came to the Horspath Feast. Eventually Jacqueline was asked to begin a line dancing class for Horspath residents. Little did she realise what fun

could be had from the activity, including teaching Gareth Malone how to Line Dance! Jacqueline was always available to help with other activities in the village; selling raffle tickets at the Bazaar, bingo, making cakes for the senior residents as well as being an active committee member. In fact she spent a great deal of her life in the village, as she felt so comfortable here. She is already greatly missed by her absence; her nature was so kind and gentle you couldn't help but like her the moment you met her. To conclude I would just like to say you will always be with me in my heart.

God Bless you and may you rest in peace my love. Leonora

Horspath Parish Council

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came to help out with the litter picking around the village on Saturday 8th March 2025, your help is much appreciated.

Oxfordshire County Council will be repairing the steps on Church Road, and Councillors have agreed that bollards will be installed either side of the steps.

A site meeting took place in February 2025 to look at the possible location for a new play area. As Horspath was unsuccessful with a grant application to South Oxfordshire District Council CIL fund for a new play area, Horspath Parish Council submitted a grant application to Horspath Stone Pit Charity which was considered at the March meeting. Trustees awarded a grant to provide a new play area for the village. Councillors have agreed that this project can commence as soon as plans have been finalised.

Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed that a new bus shelter can be installed. A meeting will take place with an Engineer from Oxfordshire County Council to inspect the proposed location.

Horspath has purchased a new mower for the village, thanks to a grant from Horspath Stone Pit Charity.

Horspath Parish Council has recently been awarded a grant from Horspath Stone Pit Charity for the refurbishment and extension of the village hall. More information to follow.

Mrs Oakley, Chair of Horspath Parish Council continues to report numerous potholes and blocked drains around the village to Fix-My-Street.

Any resident who is interested in joining the Horspath Village Hall Management Committee please contact the Clerk – clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org

If any resident wishes to raise issues with Horspath village please contact Hayley Kogel, Clerk to HPC via email - clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org . **Please note**:- Horspath Parish Council will not take any further action on correspondence that is sent anonymously.

Horspath Stone Pit Charity

Mr Tim Bearder – County Councillor for Horspath has recently circulated a questionnaire regarding Horspath Stone Pit Charity claiming that he is a non-voting Independent Advisor for the Charity. Mr Bearder has not attended a meeting of the Trustees for Horspath Stone Pit Charity since January 2023 and did not have permission from Trustees to circulate the questionnaire.

The following letter has been sent to Mr Bearder:-

“The Trustees of Horspath Stone Pit Charity and the Independent Advisors in connection with the attached flyer that has been delivered by you or on your behalf to some of the Horspath residents. You have signed off the flyer as being the “County Councillor for Wheatley and Horspath” have asked me to contact you on their behalf. You have not attended any meetings of the Parish Council since September 2023. It is normal protocol for those expected to attend such meetings to offer their apology and give a brief explanation as to why they are unable to attend. You have never followed this protocol.

If a member of the County Council is unable to attend, it is common practice for a report to be submitted to the Clerk of any actions or decisions that have been made by the council that affect the residents of the village they represent and any representations made by the Councillor on their behalf. The Parish Council has not received any such report from you since your last attendance. In your leaflet you state that you sit as a non-voting Independent Advisor which is incorrect as you did indeed have the right to vote on any proposals. You also claim that only members of the Parish Council are Trustees of the Charity but this is not the case. There have been up to five Independent Advisors who are entitled to vote on proposals. In fact no grants can be made without the consent of a majority of these Advisors. You have not attended any meetings of the Trustees of the charity since January 2023, and in fact you have made no contact since then. As a consequence of your non-attendance or indeed any contact, the Trustees voted at the last meeting to remove you as an Independent Advisor. You have distributed the leaflet without any consultation with your fellow Independent Advisors or the Trustees and indeed are carrying out a survey without giving them prior notice. If you had attended any meetings since January 2023 you would also have been aware of various projects under consideration. The final paragraph of the first page of your flyer is grammatically incorrect but you state that you will use the results of your survey to inform your advice to the charity. This seems somewhat curious as you have made no contact since January 2023. It is the intention of the trustees of the charity and the independent advisors to publish a copy of this communication on the Parish’s website”

At the March 2025 meeting, Trustees voted in favour of suspending all organisation grants with immediate effect until the refurbishment of the village hall has been completed. After this time, applications will be open again for organisations to apply for a grant.

Trustees have recently reviewed the criteria for awarding grants and the possibility of increasing school uniform grants, and it was agreed that no changes will be made to children’s grants at the moment, but will be reviewed again next year.

The next Horspath Stone Pit Charity meeting will be held in June 2025. The closing date for applications will be 1st June 2025.

Trustees would like to remind all residents who are successfully awarded a grant that receipts **must** be provided to the value of the grant within 3 months of receipt.

GRANTS AWARDED IN MARCH 2025

Trustees received and considered 6 Organisation and 12 Individual grant applications, and 2 Hardship Fund applications.

4 Individual applications were successful.

4 Individual applications were not successful as they did not meet the criteria of the Charity.

3 Individual applications were not successful as receipts for previous grants had not been submitted.

1 Individual application was not successful as a previous grant had been awarded in the last year.

6 Organisation applications were successful.

1 Hardship Fund application was successful.

1 Hardship Fund application was not successful.

Individual Grants		
2 x School Trips		£400.00
2 x Swimming Lessons		£343.00
Organisation Grants		
Horspath School PTA	Village Extravaganza	£330.00
Horspath Cricket Club	Sight Screen	£1,896.50
Horspath Parish Council	New mower	£21,901.20
Horspath Parish Council	Consultant fees & planning application for the refurbishment of the village hall	£3,912.00
Horspath Parish Council	Refurbishment of the village hall	£750,000.00
Horspath Parish Council	New play area	£150,000.00
Hardship Fund	1 application	£3,000.00
Total		£931,782.70

A total of £931,782.70 was awarded

An Action-Packed Term at Horspath School!

What a fantastic and busy term it has been at Horspath School! Our children have had incredible opportunities to learn, explore, and grow through a variety of exciting visitors, special days, and hands-on workshops—all in addition to their regular learning.

Our Year 4 and 5 pupils were treated to an inspiring visit from a professional artist, where they discovered new skills and techniques to bring their creativity to life. Meanwhile, our first whole-school event of the term—the NED workshop—was an uplifting experience for everyone. Through an entertaining story, complete with impressive yo-yo tricks and balloon modeling, the children learned the importance of **Never giving up**, **Encouraging others**, and **Doing their best**—values we strive to instill in all our pupils. Many children were so inspired that they have since mastered some fantastic yo-yo tricks of their own!

Staying Safe & Learning Life Skills

On Internet Safety Day, all classes took part in vital online safety workshops, learning how to keep personal information private, avoid online scams, and always speak to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right. Parents also attended a session after school, ensuring that our whole community is equipped with the tools to navigate the digital world safely.

Learning life-saving skills was also on the agenda, as every child took part in first aid training. Thanks to our amazing PTA's fundraising efforts, all pupils benefited from expert-led sessions, with our older children even learning how to perform CPR and help someone who is choking.

Bringing Our School Community Together

One of the biggest hits this term has been our class breakfasts! Families have loved coming together in the school hall to enjoy a delicious breakfast, served by the PTA. These have been incredibly popular, and we're excited that more classes will have the chance to take part in the coming weeks.

We also celebrated World Book Day with a school-wide focus on reading, and British Science Week with thrilling STEM activities that had our young scientists experimenting, discovering, and problem-solving.

Exciting New Opportunities

Our playground is buzzing with energy as children enjoy the new playground equipment, supported by our fantastic play leaders. Playtimes have never been more fun!

A very special new venture is our very own school choir, made possible by a generous offer from Mr. Goodall. The children have been enthusiastically rehearsing at lunchtimes and after school, and they are already making impressive progress. We can't wait to hear them perform!

Meanwhile, our after-school netball club has been a hit with our older pupils, who are honing their ball skills, playing matches, and strengthening their teamwork.

With spring on the way, we are looking forward to even more outdoor activities and fresh-air learning opportunities as the weather improves. It has been a fantastic term, and we can't wait for what's next!



World Book Day

SPRING MARKET

Horspath Hub

Saturday 10th May
2025

10am - 12 noon

FREE ADMISSION

STALLS
INCLUDE

CARDS - CAKES - RAFFLE - MADAGASCAN GIFTS - HONEY-

WOOD CREATIONS - REFRESHMENTS