



## RECORD TURNOUT FOR SPRING LITTLEMORE LITTER PICK

Around 70 volunteers turned out for this year's OxClean spring clean litter pick on 7 March, making it one of the biggest events of its kind in the city. Residents scoured Littlemore's streets and green spaces, turning up an eclectic haul that included several frying pans, bits of car, a TV, a fire extinguisher and more cans than anyone could count.

A big thank you goes to everyone who took part for helping to tidy up the parish, and to the Village Hall team for doing a sterling job of providing refreshments for the volunteers at the end of the session.

## YEAR ROUND WORK FOR LITTLEMORE LITTER PICKERS

Litter picking in Littlemore is not just one-day event. Littlemore Litter Pickers are volunteers working in our community all year round.

They recently took on a very large project. A 50-yard fly-tip beside the perimeter fence of one of our newer housing developments has now been cleared by a small team of volunteers over the last few weeks, with ODS kindly removing the rubbish. The Parish, City and County Councils are aware of the ongoing problem, and meetings are planned to discuss how this strip of land can be better protected in future.



If you would like to join the Littlemore Litter Pickers, please text your contact details to 07470 362 347.

## BULKY WASTE SERVICE CHARGE

From 2 March 2026, Oxford residents can book two free bulky waste collections per property in any 12-month period, with up to three items per booking. Any additional collections will continue to be chargeable at the current rates:

- £23.50 for furniture (£10 concession)
- £34.50 for electrical items (£15 concession)

Bulky waste includes larger household items that cannot be placed in your regular bins, such as sofas, fridges, washing machines, computers, and wardrobes.

Where items are still in good condition, residents are encouraged to prioritise reuse wherever possible. This could include passing items to friends, family or neighbours, donating to local charities (some offer free collection), or repairing and mending items rather than disposing of them.

To book a collection, complete the online booking form on the City Council website. Those without access to the internet can contact Oxford City Council on **01865 249811** to arrange a booking. After making your online request, you will be contacted by email to confirm your allocated collection date once it has been scheduled.

## FROM THE (ACTING) EDITOR

You may have noticed that this edition of Littlemore Local looks a bit different. Following Judith Godsland's retirement in February, the Parish Council is seeking a new Editor for Littlemore Local.

In the meantime I have volunteered to ensure a newsletter continues to drop through your letter box every two months containing important and timely news about what is happening in Littlemore. I would be grateful for any assistance offered.

If the job of editing this newsletter appeals to you, and you would like to know more about the position, please make contact with our Acting Parish Clerk, Tim Cann, by email at [clerk@littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk)

*Peter George*

## IMPROVED OXFORD ROAD PLAYGROUND TO BE READY FOR EASTER

Work is progressing well on the new playground at Oxford Road Recreation Ground, with all the equipment now installed, including new swings, climbing towers and a clamber wall up the mound. The remaining tasks are to lay the new safety surface and make good the surrounding ground. The play area is expected to reopen by the end of the March, in time for the Easter holidays.



The upgrade has been funded by the Parish Council using developer contributions from nearby Science Park developments, ensuring that new investment in the area directly benefits local residents.

## SPADES, SNACKS AND A NEW START:

### Why Neighbours Are Rushing to Denny Gardens

Denny Gardens Allotments is springing into life, with the site now fully cleared and a new lease secured by Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT).

Megan Harcourt has been appointed project manager using City Councillor Corais' budget funding, and is already leading a programme of community events to shape the allotment's future.

Since February, residents have taken part in engagement workshops and site visits, including a seed swap and a well-attended visit on 7th March where the original sign was re-attached to the gate. Work on the site layout is now underway, with plenty of chances for local people to help design and develop the new growing spaces.

Upcoming sessions include work parties on Saturday 18th April (10:00am–12:00pm), when volunteers will be digging out more bramble roots, preparing plots and getting ready for the first crops; food and drink will be provided on the Saturday. The team is still building up a full set of tools, so if you are able to bring your own, that would be very welcome.



To get involved or stay updated on future work parties and community growing events, email Megan at [megan@oclt.org.uk](mailto:megan@oclt.org.uk) or text 07821 908549, and you can also join the project WhatsApp group via the QR code on site.

Huge thanks go to OCLT and Megan for driving this exciting new community-owned allotment project forward.

## LOVE YOUR VILLAGE HALL

Littlemore Village Hall needs your help.



At their AGM on 9th March the Village Hall Trustees were able to report another successful year, but what of the future?

There are plans for major improvements to the building, but the outlook is very uncertain. Unless more people are willing to take part in running the Hall, the existing Trustees will struggle to put them into action. Could you help?

Please contact Claire Drinkwater, Chair of Trustees  
[c.drinkwater760@btinternet.com](mailto:c.drinkwater760@btinternet.com).

## INTERNATIONAL AFTERNOON TEA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The trustees of the Littlemore Village Hall have been delighted by the ongoing success of the monthly Afternoon Tea on the first Saturday of each month. The community spirit is fantastic, and now they'd love to build on that momentum with a special International Afternoon Tea this June.

Imagine a table filled with favourite treats from Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy, Germany, Poland and France — all created and shared by our own neighbours.

To make this celebration happen, Trustee, Tiago Corais, is looking for volunteers to help plan, prepare or contribute a dish. If you'd like to get involved, please email:  
[cllrtcrais@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrtcrais@oxford.gov.uk)

Let's celebrate Littlemore's diversity together.

## YOU'LL NEED PHOTO ID TO VOTE IN THE MAY ELECTION

Elections for Oxford City Council are confirmed to take place on 7th May, with polling stations open from 7am to 10pm.

Rules introduced under the Election Act 2022 now require voters to show photographic identification at polling stations when they vote.

The City Council is urging residents to make sure they are ready to vote by checking they have an accepted form of ID. These include: a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport or a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence, some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card may also be used.



Voters will be able to use an expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

## **LITTLEMORE YOUTH COUNCIL: SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE**

Following their successful December launch, the Littlemore Youth Council (LYC) met again on Friday 6 March at The Oxford Academy. Students from John Henry Newman Academy, The Oxford Academy, St John Fisher Primary School and Emmanuel Christian School came together to develop the Council's vision, purpose, values and goals.

Cllr Corais said "It was inspiring to see students from different year groups engaging so confidently with one another. They showed a strong understanding that democracy is the power of the people, and the room was full of enthusiasm, ideas and genuine care for Littlemore. I am proud to work with our four schools on this initiative, to fund the programme, and to help nurture the Future Leaders of Littlemore."

Upcoming LYC activities include:

UK Parliament visit – 20 April

Engagement with the Ellison Institute of Technology – 29 April  
Session with national and local politicians – 20 May

Final meeting at Oxford City Council Chamber – 12 June

## **UPDATE ON NEWMAN PLACE PLAY AREA**

Councillors Anne Stares and David Henwood report that they have been working for the past 20 months with the residents and landlords, Peabody, to create a playground area in Newman Place.

This development, built for families but with no previous consideration given to a playground, currently has nowhere for the children (some living in flats) to play.

Cllr Stares reported to the Parish Council's March meeting that the Ellison Institute have offered to provide some funding but Peabody have responded that it will be insufficient to deliver the park. The search for additional funding continues. Meanwhile, Peabody are currently exploring a possible location for the play area and whether planning permission will be required.

## **LITTLEMORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TO BE ADOPTED**

We are pleased to say that the result of the referendum on the Littlemore Neighbourhood Plan on 29th January was: in favour 547, against 79, with 2 spoiled papers. Therefore, the Plan will be adopted, though this has still to be agreed formally by the City Council. We are grateful to all those who have been involved in the preparation of the Plan and to those who voted. The next stage will be implementing the Plan and we hope that all those interested in making Littlemore an even better place to live will work together in doing so. We will let residents know our ideas on how to do this in the next few months and will welcome your suggestions.

Peter George, Chair, Littlemore Parish Council.

Tony Eaude, Chair, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

## **ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION FOR HERSCHEL CRESCENT RECREATION GROUND**

For the past two years Littlemore Parish Council has been working closely with Oxford City Council and OX Place to secure a new home for the Sandy Lane football pitches at Herschel Crescent Recreation Ground.

As part of the relocation plans linked to the £100 million Sandy Lane affordable housing scheme, the Parish Council has successfully negotiated a legally binding covenant guaranteeing that Herschel Crescent Park will remain a

recreation ground forever. The only future development permitted on the site will be buildings to support outdoor sport, such as a planned pavilion and changing rooms.

This covenant, which will apply to any future owners of the land, permanently protects the last remaining open space of the former historic Oxford Aerodrome while enabling improved, FA standard, football facilities for local clubs to be created at Herschel Crescent Park.

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## **VACANCY - LITTLEMORE PARISH COUNCIL CLERK & RFO**

Littlemore Parish Council is seeking a highly motivated, committed, professional for the position of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). (25 hours per week, Monday to Friday working flexibly).

Littlemore Parish Council is an Oxford Living Wage Employer.

The Parish Council has 16 councillors and a precept of £85,609.

The Parish Clerk line manages 3 ground maintenance employees and the editor of the Littlemore Local newsletter.

As Parish Clerk the successful candidate will be responsible for all day-to-day management, administrative support and advice to the council on legal, personnel, planning and regulatory matters relating to Council business. The Clerk takes instructions from the council as a body with the council taking responsibility on all decisions.

The position offers the option for home working, requiring attendance at a minimum of two evenings meeting each month and occasional day time meeting and onsite visits.

The successful candidate will have previous management experience, excellent inter-personal communication and organisation skills. The ability to work independently is essential, as is competency in using Microsoft and other relevant software products.

As Responsible Financial Officer the successful candidate will manage the Council's financial affairs. They will have experience of financial/accounting practices including receipt and expenditure bookkeeping, VAT, and the ability to prepare budgets, accounts, manage the councils' assets, insurance, links to payroll, audit process and use of accounting software.

Preferred Applicants will hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). Although other relevant professional qualifications will be considered. Experience in local government and formal committee work would be an advantage.

The place of employment is Littlemore with the option of home-working, to be agreed between employer and successful candidate.

The starting salary is LC2 SPC 29 – 32 (£39,862 - £42,839 pro rata), dependent on skills, qualifications and experience. The Local Government Pension Scheme is offered, plus a working from home allowance is payable, if appropriate, office equipment is provided. Travelling allowance is provided if needed. The Council supports continual professional development through funding.

The closing date for applications is Monday 13th April 2026

For further information or to discuss this opportunity please contact the Chair at [chair@littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:chair@littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## JOHN HENRY NEWMAN ACADEMY SPORTS NEWS

### U9 Boys Open 5s League

The Year 4 Boys were unfortunately knocked out of the U9s Open 5s Boys League, with a 2-1 defeat to St. Joseph's, Headington. OJ scored, and the boys battled well, but unfortunately it wasn't enough.



### Rad-Ley's Ball x Radley College

The Year 11/12 students @ Radley College have created a game called Rad-Leys Ball and are currently teaching it to a class of Year 4's who are going to attend a tournament very soon @ The Leys Leisure Centre. Thank you, Radley College, your sessions are great.

### Boccia vs. St. John Fisher

Thank you, to St. John Fisher who came to JHNA again for a Boccia competition, the children really enjoy getting to take part.

- Mr Surman

## EIT PROJECT & COMMUNITY UPDATE

This month marked a big milestone for the Ellison Institute build at Littlemore Brooke, with the first section of the dome steel structure now in place. The steel pieces connect at specially designed points to form the dome's framework.



The Social Value team has also been busy, celebrating National Apprenticeship Week and engaging with local schools and colleges. At Leys College, students learned about the Professional Apprenticeship Program (PAP) and heard from Laing O'Rourke's early-talent engineers who shared their career journeys.

Community volunteering continued with donated hedging planted at two local schools, creating a lasting legacy for the area.

- Amanda Thompson, Laing O'Rourke

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Littlemore Local History society meetings:** 7 for 7.30pm at LCC (£5 entry for non-members): April 15th: From Axtell to Zacarias: the men who built Oxford - by Liz Woolley
- May 20th: Alice in Waterland: the Thames as Lewis Carroll's inspiration - by Mark Davies.
- **Tea at the Village Hall:** 2.23-4.30 pm, Sats April 4 & May 2
- **Denny Gardens Allotments – Community Workshops** Saturday 18 April, 10:00am–12:00pm - work party, digging out bramble roots, preparing plots. Food and drink provided.\*
- **The Oxford Academy (TOA) Parent Coffee Mornings**, every Weds 9-10.30am in the school library
- **Littlemore Parish Church**  
**Easter services and children's events:**
- **Maundy Thursday Service** - Thursday 2nd April, 7.30pm at the church: A simple passover meal followed by a service and vigil. RSVP to Rev'd Margreet.
- **Good Friday Service** - Friday 3rd April, 2pm at the church: A reflective service to remember Jesus' death on the cross.
- **Easter Sunday Service** - Sunday 5th April, 10am at the church: A service to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - Sunday 5th April, 3.30pm at the church: Join us for some Easter crafts in the church followed by an egg hunt in the churchyard.
- **Other Littlemore Parish Church Events**
- **Men's Breakfast** - Saturday 11th April, 9-11am at the church:
- **Men's Breakfast** - Saturday 9th May, 9-11am at the church: If you'd like to book a place please email [Breakfast@littlemorechurch.org](mailto:Breakfast@littlemorechurch.org). £5 suggested donation, vegetarian option available if requested.
- **Littlemore Library Rhymetime** event has changed to The Last Tuesday of the month only, same time. An Easter craft event will be in Littlemore Library over the Easter holidays.

- **Oxon Woodturners:** at VHL every first Tuesday of the month: 7pm start: On April 7 we will have a demo from Keith Fenton. Newcomers are very welcome, no matter what level of experience. See: [www.oxonwoodturners.com](http://www.oxonwoodturners.com).
- On May 9th, Oxon Woodturners will host a stall at the beautiful Harcourt Arboretum Spring Fair. Enjoy live demonstrations on the lathe, admire and purchase members' handcrafted work, and find out more about woodturning and how to join the club.
- **ARTWEEKS** - local artists exhibiting throughout May. For more information see <https://www.artweeks.org/festival/map/>
- **The Oxford Science Park** is hosting an event during Mental Health Week on Wednesday 13th May from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. "Mental health in the workplace: building a supportive organisation". <https://tinyurl.com/MentalHealthDayTickets>
- **28th Oxford (Littlemore) Scout Group**
- **Summer Fayre.** - Saturday 4th July, 1pm-4pm. As we celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Littlemore, we invite you to our 100th Summer Fayre. All the usual stalls including BBQ, BAR and Virtual Reality Games.
- **Meditation Day Retreats:** with Oxford Insight Meditation: LVH: Beginners are welcome, as well as those with experience of meditation practice. Next day retreats:
  - Saturday 25th April with Mark Ovland and
  - Saturday 16th May with Nathan Glyde. For more information & to book, see: [www.oxfordinsightmeditation.org](http://www.oxfordinsightmeditation.org)
- **Mix Martial Arts:** Tuesday weekly (Oxford Academy) class: age15 upwards. To register interest, write to Christopher Hughes: [christopher.hughes@littlemorebaptist.org.uk](mailto:christopher.hughes@littlemorebaptist.org.uk)
- **City Council Elections** - May 7th - polling stations open from 7am to 10pm.

To submit copy to future issues of LITTLEMORE LOCAL, please contact [editor@littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:editor@littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk) .