

ISSUE #87

JUNE 2017

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MONTHLY

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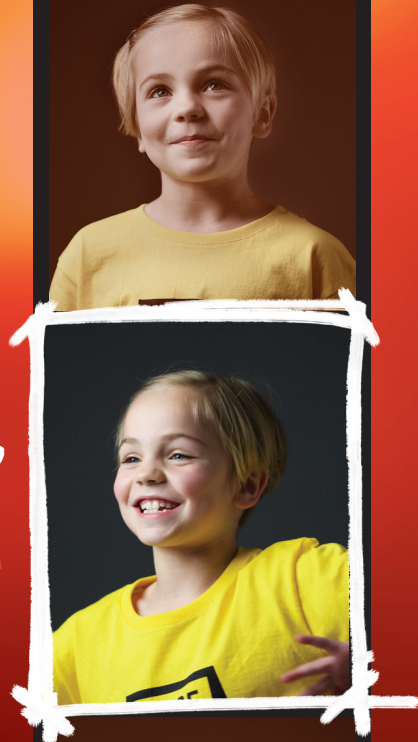
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Nick Allnatt
Founder/Publisher

GET IN TOUCH
Nick: 07850 120116
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Dear Readers

It's about time we mentioned Aslan, the tree carving in Bury Knowle Park, as promised in April issue. You may remember I nearly broke my neck trying to get this photo when I fell in the moat around Bury Knowle House. As an icon of Headington it has already been acclaimed as a great alternative to the shark, and a very fitting tribute to author C S Lewis, one of Headington's greatest residents, who created the character Aslan as one of his childrens' stories. We feature an article on page 8 kindly written by Rosemary Belton of the Friends of Old Headington which gives the background to the brilliant carving of the lion by Matt Cave who did the other wood carvings in the park.

Years ago colleges held student 'rag' weeks, not sure if they still do? These usually involved student pranks, one of the most famous of which was a Morris car being lifted on top of the University Examinations building to a position in full view of the public on High Street. How it got there no-one knows. My old friend Tony who was a police officer in those days told me of an episode with punts. Some students hired a punt and failed to return it as required at dusk. They used it to picnic on an island in the Cherwell and as planned, waited to be reported to the police who duly went in search. The police used another punt to find them and ventured onto the island to search for and apprehend them. The crafty students, who were watching in the undergrowth, got back in their punt and towed the empty police punt away with them back to the punting station! I have another student/police story like that which I'll tell next month, do you have any? We'll publish the best ones. :)

Please note students and residents perform pranks at their own risk! Headington Monthly does not endorse such behaviour. :)

Don't forget the Headington Festival on the 3rd and 4th June (see page 28 for details).

Nick

COVER IMAGE
"ASLAN" - NICK ALLNATT

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Aslan - Bury Knowle Park



The Friends of Bury Knowle Park were fortunate in 2016 to be selected by Tesco to be one of their funded projects for their Bags of Help scheme. This scheme takes the 5ps charged for single use plastic bags and makes grants to community groups and projects across the UK. This project and others were voted on in local branches last year.

The most visible part of the project is the new carving of Aslan in front of the library in Bury Knowle House. (Other major parts are providing 2 notice boards and the creation of a path to the sensory garden to enable better access for wheelchairs, pushchairs and those less able to walk over the grass. There will also be some further planting around the sensory garden area later this year.)

The cedar tree in front of the library had died some time before and the idea of creating another wood carving had been an ambition for several years, but funding the idea had been a problem. The Storybook tree will not last forever and we wanted to continue that idea into the future.

We discussed the design with various people and thought that keeping the Narnia/ C.S. Lewis theme with its strong association with Headington would be good, but weren't quite sure what would be possible. We emailed this general suggestion to the sculptor to get his ideas and he suggested that Aslan gazing out over the park would meet the plan. As soon as the Friends heard this there was unanimous agreement that this would really be an iconic addition to the park.

The Parks department helped start the project with their hefty saws and lifting gear to cut the tree off at about 2.5 metres above the ground. The carving was done in January and February 2017 by Matt Cave, the sculptor who has done previous wood carving in the park. He looked rather cold! See <https://buryknowlepark.wordpress.com/> for some pictures of Aslan taking shape.



Sculptor Matt Cave with Aslan
(Photo: Colin Palmer)

As well as carving the lion, part of the rest of the tree was carved into an informal bench with some smaller figures including an elephant and beaver, the animals which are part of the Oxford coat of arms.

Matt had generously cancelled a flight to warmer climes and spent about a month in the coldest part of the winter carving the tree. He worked long days and it quickly took shape and was soon recognisably a lion. After the initial phase with big chainsaws the work became finer and finer and more and more detailed to produce the magnificent figure of Aslan that is there today.





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THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

THE FILM REVIEW
BY OSCAR DUXFIELD



Thank You for Smoking is a drama/comedy gem from 2005 that somehow slipped through the cracks and went relatively unnoticed when it was released. This was especially surprising given its stellar cast including William H. Macy (Fargo 1996), Robert Duvall (The Godfather 1972) and Aaron Eckhart (The Dark Knight 2008), to name a few.

This movie relishes in controversy as is obvious from the title, and, given its subject matter was never going to be nominated for any academy awards. But I am surprised that it hasn't gained more traction and a cult following over the years. However, apart from the friend who recommended it to me, I don't know anyone else who has seen this film. I urge you to hunt it out and watch.

What I love about this movie is that it's not only unafraid of dipping its toe into the pool of controversy but openly dives in forcing viewers to root for the chief spokesman of a major cigarette company vigorously denies the negative effects of smoking as his daily job. Aaron Eckhart puts on a phenomenal performance as Nick Naylor. Within 30 seconds of the opening credits we are on his side thanks to his charisma, intelligence and fearlessness which quickly comes through. He uses this fearlessness to bring people over to his side without force or aggression but by convincing them with passion and creativity. We see Nick in the opening scene on a chat show with a 15-year-old cancer patient

coming off seemingly cleaner than his opponents

Bizarrely, the antagonist of this topsy-turvy movie is the senator (William H. Macy) who is trying to do the right thing and cut the number of smokers. The antagonist of this movie is a senator (William H. Macy) attempting to reduce the number of people who smoke which is obviously a positive agenda and yet we root against him because he stands in our protagonist's way.

On the surface this film is about smoking and the companies that make cigarettes. But it is really about far more than that if you pay close attention, it's about our freedom to make choices about what we do, say or even smoke, which is perhaps why we don't see anyone actually smoking throughout the movie, the film isn't trying to convey to us that smoking is cool it's simply used as a device to illustrate one of the dangers we shouldn't subject ourselves to for our health, but nevertheless have the right to do so. The main character even openly talks about how if his son really wants to smoke he'll "buy him his first pack".

Overall, "Thank You For Smoking" is quite an "edgy" film and it's because of this that it's often dismissed as having nothing important to say, however I think this movie is fantastic in its subtlety and rather than spoon feeding us its agenda it uses smoking as a brilliant metaphor.

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Gardens that are open to the public will have a poster advertising the fact on their gates. Collect a leaflet with map, either from your first garden or from the Parish Hall in Dunstan Road.

The admission fee is £5 which covers admission to all gardens (*accompanied children are admitted free*). Members of the Friends of Old Headington are charged £3 as long as they have their membership card with them!

A plant stall will be available at the Parish Hall in St. Andrews Road from 2.30 – 5.30pm. The Parish Hall also provides the venue for viewing and buying books relating to Old Headington, plus refreshments of lovely tea and cake provided by Otmoor W.I from 3.00pm.

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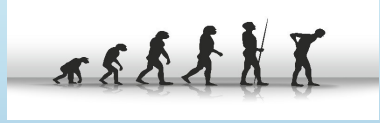


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# the garden gnome

trials and tribulations

The article kind of wrote itself once I'd had an email through from a regular reader asking an age old question about bird song recognition.

That being, "How can one tell the difference between a Blackcaps call and a Garden Warblers call?"

Tough one that and its not easy, even the most experienced birdwatcher can find this a challenge, with many birds identified as a Blackcap later turning out to be a Garden Warbler and many a Garden Warbler transpiring to be a Blackcap.

Its kind of down to experience, but that's not failsafe either. A good tip is that Blackcap hit higher notes and often deeper notes, whereas Garden Warblers don't have as a wider range of notes. But, there are regular exceptions to the rule.

So good luck with that one is all I can say. It does raise the point again in these lines though, that does it really matter the not knowing what it is aspect to the enjoyment of the wildlife in our gardens?

We get busy, identifying, categorising and understanding, that we often forget to just 'be', and just enjoy nature for what it is, in all its glory. Nature has many answers to the trials and tribulations we all encounter through life. To understand it is good, but is that really important at the end of the day?



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# Wimbledon Fortnight

Wimbledon fortnight may be as British as summer rain but it originated across the English Channel. It derives from a French handball game called jeu de paume, or 'game of the palm' which was played in the 12th century in French Monasteries. Even the name derives from the French expression 'tenez-vous prêt, which means 'get ready' and was called by the player about the serve the ball. The game was first recorded in English as 'tenetz', by the poet John Gower in 1399.

The game was very popular with French royalty and it was they who introduced it to the rest of Europe. In 1414 Henry V received a gift of tennis balls from the future king of France, Charles VII. Henry then initiated the tradition of aristocratic play in Britain.

Early players hit the balls with their bare hands but soon large gloves were preferred, and by the early 16th century short-handled racquets had appeared.

The first world tennis championships were held in the mid 18th century and was recognisably the game we know today, played in an enclosed court. The rules were different though as the ball was allowed to bounce off a wall.

Two inventions transformed the game: the first was the invention of the rubber ball, which could bounce on grass, and the second was the lawnmower and roller, which allowed a smooth outdoor surface to be created. By the mid 19th century tennis was being played regularly on grass, and at the

same time more powerful racquets with longer handles were produced.

The first lawn tennis club was founded in 1872 in Leamington, Warwickshire. In 1875 J. M. Heathcote asked his wife to cover a ball in flannel to make it easier to hit on wet grass. His idea was a success and quickly caught on.

Lawn tennis became increasingly popular and the management of The All-England Croquet Club, at Wimbledon in London, was persuaded to set aside one of their lawns for the game. In 1877 it changed its name to the All-England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club and organised the first Wimbledon Tennis Championships. There were 22 entrants, all men and the winner was Spencer Gore. A separate women's championship ran for the first time in 1884 and was won by Maud Watson.

## Fun Fact

*Every year about 27,000 kilos of strawberries, 7,000 litres of cream, 60,000 pints of Pimms and 14,000 bottles of Champagne are consumed by spectators during Wimbledon.*





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# Trooping the Colour

The custom of Trooping the Colour dates back to the time of Charles II in the 17th.

Although I know about the parades which mark the Queen's official birthday I have never really known what the phrase 'Trooping the Colours' actually means.

In fact The Colours carry upon them all the battle honours of a Regiment and as such have major significance for each and every soldier serving in that Regiment. In olden days they were hung outside the Battalion or Regimental headquarters after a good day's battle, so The Colours identified their headquarters. They were carried into battle so that in the fog of war, if a soldier was lost, he knew to search for the colours to locate the rest of his Regiment. Hence each day The Colours were trooped in front of the soldiers to make sure that they would always recognise them.

In London, the Foot Guards used to do this as part of their daily Guard Mounting on Horse Guards and the modern Trooping the Colour parade is along similar lines.

The Grenadier Guards first began to mark The Sovereign's Official Birthday under the reign of Charles II in 1748. When George III became King in 1760, it was ordered that parades should mark the King's Birthday. With only a few breaks, most notably for the two World Wars, The trooping of the Colours has been an annual event since.

The impressive ceremony is now held on the occasion of our own Queen's Official Birthday. The precise date varies but it takes place in June. It is carried out by her personal troops, the Household Division, on Horse

Guards Parade, with the Queen herself attending and taking the salute.

The Queen used to ride her own horse, side saddle, wearing the uniform of the regiment whose colour was being trooped. Since 1987, she has attended in a carriage. Regiments take their turn for this honour in rotation depending on their operational commitments.

Over 1000 officers and men, and 200 horses take part in the parade, together with 200 musicians from six bands and corps of drums. The parade route extends from Buckingham Palace along The Mall to Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall and back again.

As the clock on the Horse Guards Building strikes 11am, the Royal Procession arrives and The Queen takes the Royal Salute. The parade begins with the Inspection, The Queen driving slowly down the ranks of all six Guards and then past the Household Cavalry. After the event, the Royal Family gathers on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to watch an RAF flypast.



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# Who Let the Dogs Out?

## Responsible dog ownership



It's summer. We're more likely to head to the park with the family dog. We're also more likely to leave doors open so our beloved pet might sneak out.

Every year many much-loved family pets run off and are never found, or they are hit by cars, killed or injured. And every year there are news stories about dogs getting out of their homes or gardens and attacking a passerby. How should we reduce the risk of our dog becoming lost, causing a nuisance or posing a risk to the general public.

**Neuter** Neutering prevents dogs reproducing. The operation is routine and carried out under general anaesthetic.

But as well as preventing unwanted puppies, neutering tends to produce calmer, less territorial behaviour in males. They are less likely to wander off in search of female dogs 'in season'. In females it avoids the messy inconvenience of 'seasons' and prevents womb infections, which can prove fatal.

Male dogs can be neutered any time from four months old. Female dogs can be spayed before their first season though some people prefer to leave it until three months after. Discuss this with

your vet.

*The Dogs Trust* runs a subsidised neutering campaign in several areas of the country. Check out their website.

**Microchip** This is the best way to ensure that if your dog goes missing, he is returned to you. Each microchip has its own unique ID number plus the name of the dog's owners and a contact number.

The tiny chip is inserted under the dog's skin, between his shoulder blades.

If the dog escapes, the police, a vet or a dog warden can scan him and reunite him with his family.

**Train** A well trained dog is a happy dog, and much nicer to live with than an untrained one!

There are many good dog training clubs around. Choose one which encourages the use of kindness and positive reinforcement. The Kennel Club run the UK's largest dog training programme, known as the *Good Citizen Dog Scheme*. It starts at puppy foundation level and from there you can progress through bronze, silver and gold awards.

**Exercise** This is really important. A dog needs a chance to stretch his legs and explore his environment on a daily basis. A properly exercised dog is also less likely to wander.

If you work, think about employing a dog-walker. Make sure they're police-checked and insured, and ask for references.

Be a responsible owner and your dog will thank you.

### Useful web addresses.

[www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)

[www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)

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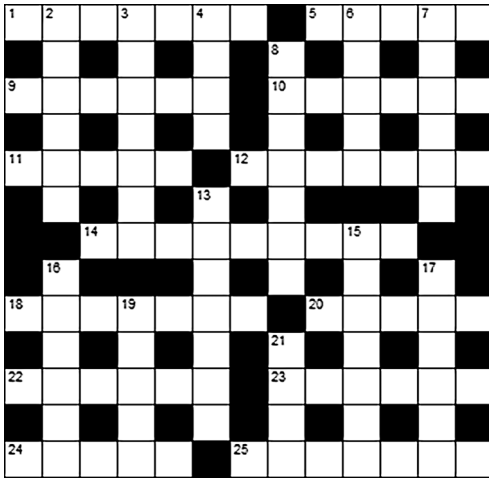


Mob. 077 297 451 96

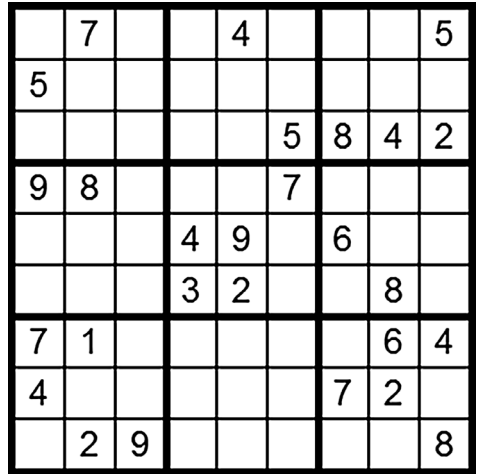
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## BRAIN GAMES

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



### CROSSWORD CLUES

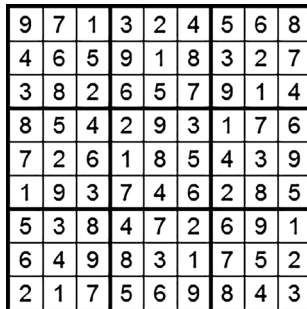
#### ACROSS

- 1 Boast, swank around (4,3)
- 5 Label, trade name (5)
- 9 Divine, holy (6)
- 10 Visit, turn up (6)
- 11 Academy award (5)
- 12 Steer, pilot (7)
- 14 Trembling (9)
- 18 Fake, fabrication (7)
- 20 Pasture, turf (5)
- 22 Spear, puncture (6)
- 23 Voucher, token (6)
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_ Strep, film star. (5)
- 25 Retaliate, reciprocate (3,4)

#### DOWN

- 2 Throaty, gravelly (6)
- 3 Angry, on the \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- 4 Diminish, dissolve (4)
- 6 Spinning part of a machine (5)
- 7 6 x15 (6)
- 8 Area to leave your vehicle (3,4)
- 13 Style of throwing (7)
- 15 Nourish, care for (7)
- 16 Edible mollusc (6)
- 17 On land, not at sea (6)
- 19 Awkward, ungainly (5)
- 21 4840 square yards! (4)

Last month's Brain Games solutions:  
*did you get them right?*



#### How to Play SUDOKU

It's so simple!  
Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through to 9 with no repetition.  
You don't need to be a genius. These puzzles use logic alone.

But beware! Sudoku is highly addictive.



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# HEADINGTON MONTHLY

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Shops and other outlets stocking Headington Monthly

**HEADINGTON CENTRE:** **London Road** - The Windmill, Natwest Bank, Headington Coop, Posh Fish, Pen to Paper, Cancer Research UK, Marie Curie, Sainsbury's, British Heart Foundation, Coco Noir, Tesco's, Andrews, Barclays Bank, Gardiner's Opticians, Holland & Barrett, Helen & Douglas House, Headington Stationers and Household Goods, Children's Air Ambulance, Mojo's Sandwich Bar, Robert Stanley Opticians **Windmill Road** - Ice Hair Salon, Helen & Douglas House, Armends Walk-in Barbers, Adria Pizzeria & Gelateria, Vente Tsunami, Sue Ryder Foundation, Daisy Chain, Electric Aids **Gray's Road** - Gray's Road Stores **Girdlestone Road** - Girdlestone Launderette **Wilberforce Street** - The Butcher's Arms

**WOODFARM:** **Atkyns Road** - Post Office, The Coop, Woodfarm Bakery

**MARSTON:** **Cherwell Drive** - The Coop, Mediterranean Fish Bar, Marston Medical Centre

**Old Marston Road** - The Coop, Marston Pharmacy, Costcutter **Marston Road** - The Marston Barber

**Do you know of a good collection point for the magazine? If so please let us know.**

**Please note: If you are unable to see the magazine displayed in any of the above locations please ask in store as the management may not have a space to display it prominently. Stocks are topped up at least weekly. If the location is out of stock please call Nick on 07850 120116.**

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## OXFORD SKINCARE CLINIC

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[dr.anderson@oxford-skin.com](mailto:dr.anderson@oxford-skin.com)

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- Examination of moles under magnification and digital photography
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#### Dr Angie Anderson

Qualified at the University of Cambridge, I work locally as a GP with a special interest in dermatology. I have over 20 years' experience in minor surgery, and am skilled in dermoscopy, which is now considered essential for accurate diagnosis of skin conditions and management of blemishes.

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[www.oxford-skin.com](http://www.oxford-skin.com)

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Have an event? We happily publicise non-profit, community and charity events through this page. Please email [ads@headingtonmonthly.co.uk](mailto:ads@headingtonmonthly.co.uk) with the subject heading "Community Events" before 2 June with your events for July 2017.

### **GILBERT & SULLIVAN: THE MIKADO**

Charity concerts in Costume  
Kennington & district United Church Choirs  
All Welcome.

<http://www.kenningtonchoir.org.uk/performances>

**Friday, 23rd June 2017 at 7.30pm**

Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon,  
OX14 1PL

(free admission, collection for The Abingdon  
Bridge)

**Saturday, 24th June 2017 at 7.30pm**

Witney Congregational Church, Welch Way,  
Witney, OX28 6JF

(free admission, collection for Christian Aid)

**Friday, 30th June and Saturday, 1st July at  
7.30pm**

Kennington Methodist Church, Upper Road,  
Kennington, OX1 5LR

(free admission, collection for Kennington  
Overseas Aid)

### **HEADINGTON LIBRARY**

**Rhymetime for the under 5s 11.00 – 11.30**

Thursdays June 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

All children must be accompanied by an adult

**Storytime with Craft for 3-6 year olds**

Saturday June 24th 11.00-11.30

All children must be accompanied by an adult

### **Have you heard about Barton Fields Allotment Association?**

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fresh vegetables and exercise. We would love to  
welcome new Members. Call Janette on 01865  
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## HEADINGTON FESTIVAL

**At last the Festival is here:-**

**3rd June - Headington Centre 10am - 3pm**

**4th June - Bury Knowle Park 1pm - 5pm**

Check this is in your diary so you can take part in  
the activities, enjoy the catering, fun fair, free  
entertainment and family fun!

This year's event includes numerous stalls,  
Colonel Custard's magic, music, dancing, a stilt  
walker, a children's competition and face painting.

**We look forward to seeing you all there  
- admission is free!**

**[www.headingtonfestival.co.uk](http://www.headingtonfestival.co.uk)**

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# CONTACTS, COMMUNITY, CALENDAR.

These are are some useful local numbers and school terms calendar. Please advise us if there are any errors or important missing numbers

## Doctors:

- \* Barton Surgery, Underhill Circus, Headington - 01865 744 221
- \* Bury Knowle Health Centre, 207 London Road, Headington - 01865 761651
- \* Manor Surgery, Osler Road, Headington - 01865 762 535

## Dentists:

- \* 310 Dental Care, 310 London Road, Headington - 01865 766975
- \* Bury Knowle Dental Practice, 207 London Road, Headington - 01865 308 400
- \* Euro Dental Practice, 61 London Road, Headington - 01865 308400
- \* John Miller Dental Practice, 6a The Parade, Windmill Road, Headington - 01865 308 050
- \* Kennett Road Dental Practice, 3 Kennett Road, Headington - 01865 761 965
- \* Manor Dental Practice, 7 Osler Road, Headington - 01865 750 056
- \* Studental, Oxford Brookes University, Colonnade Building, 3rd Floor, Gypsy Lane, OX3 - 01865 484 608

## Chemists:

- \* Barton Pharmacy, 6 Underhill Circus, Headington - 01865 763 106
- \* Boots Pharmacy, 96 London Road, Headington - 01865 763 106
- \* Boots Bury Knowle, 207 Bury Knowle Health Centre, Headington - 01865 765 559
- \* Roundway Pharmacy, 3 Roundway, Headington - 01865 766 994

## Libraries:

- \* Headington Library, North Place, Headington - 01865 762 867

## Other Useful Numbers:

- \* Age UK - 01235 849 400
- \* Childline - 0800 1111
- \* Citizen's Advice Bureau - 0870 200 608
- \* John Radcliffe Hospital - 01865 741 166
- \* Gas Emergencies - 0800 111 999
- \* Power Outages - 0800 072 7282 (Scottish Power & Southern Electric)
- \* Thames Valley Police - 101
- \* Oxford City Council - 01865 252 900
- \* Rt. Hon. Andrew Smith MP - 02072 194 512
- \* NHS Direct - 111
- \* The Samaritans - 08457 909 090
- \* Recycling and waste 01865 249811

## City Councillors for Headington:

- \* Ruth Wilkinson - 07789 368 300
- \* Altaf Khan - 07931 345 554

## School Terms 2016-17

| Term               | Date             | # Days |
|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| Term 1             | 1 Sep - 21 Oct   | 37     |
| Oct. Holiday       | 24 Oct-28 Oct    |        |
| Term 2             | 31 Oct - 16 Dec  | 35     |
| Christmas Holiday  | 19 Dec - 2 Jan   |        |
| Term 3             | 3 Jan - 10 Feb   | 29     |
| Feb Holiday        | 13 Feb - 17 Feb  |        |
| Term 4             | 20 Feb - 7 Apr   | 35     |
| Apr Holiday        | 10 Apr - 21 Apr  |        |
| Term 5             | 24 Apr - 26 May  | 24     |
| Late Spring        | 29 May - 2 Jun   |        |
| Term 6             | 5 Jun - 21 July  | 33     |
| School Year Begins | 4 September 2017 |        |
| Total              |                  | 195    |

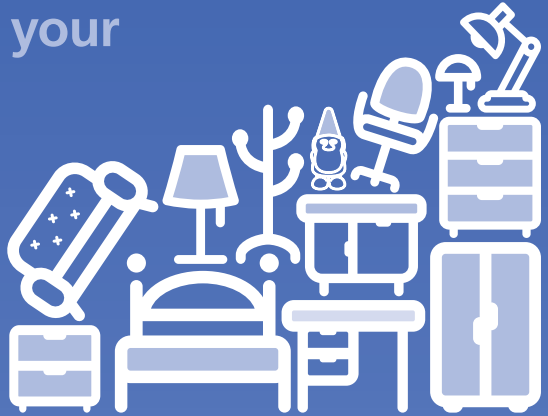
*This information is taken from the Oxford City Council website. Please contact your school or visit your school's website to check the return dates for your school and obtain dates of teacher inset days.*

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