

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

May 2017



For your diary:

Wed May 3rd: SODC Local Plan Meeting with John Cotton SODC Council Leader 7.30pm,
St Paul's

Thu May 4th: County Council Elections, Polling Station – The School

Sun May 7th 16:00 Parish Communion, St Paul's

Wed May 10th: Summer Fair planning meeting 7pm, 6 The Green

Sun May 14th 16:00 Messy Church (Family Service, crafts and cake), St Paul's

Sun May 21st 11:00 Parish Communion, St Paul's

Talking Point by Canon Sue Booy

I wonder what you love about the month of May – it's a month full of ancient traditions especially around the beginning of the month. In pre-Christian times flowers, dancing and celebration were all important. So at this time of year we feel a real association with our Anglo Saxon ancestors as we celebrate the warming of the seasons and the richness promised in field and garden which we celebrate with flower shows and festivals, school and village fetes and plant shows – and of course, barbeques!

A May Day tradition that has gone out of fashion was to leave a May Basket – a secret gift of sweet things anonymously on someone's doorstep. A kind of reversal of 'trick or treat', I suppose, but one that has gone out of fashion! In parts of the Church St. Mary the mother of Jesus is remembered on May Day – and more recently Joseph as well! Unless we have a later Easter two other important Christian festivals often fall in May: Ascension Day and Pentecost or Whitsun!

Many of our local schools continue the tradition of May Dancing and still teach the skills of dancing around a maypole and the steps required for English country dances (more often known today as 'barn' dances and ceilidhs). However the beginning of May is not all good news in places of education as it brings with it the season of examination as well as celebration – though there were not nearly so many of them, exams have been held in May and June for centuries in our country (and elsewhere in western Europe) in order for them to be out of the way before Harvest when the young men who took them often needed to return home to help.

So many of the things we celebrate throughout the year are given us by the seasons and the traditions associated with them. Though I guess that our ancestors would not always recognise the things we do thinking that we are re-enacting the past! That's good! Tradition is a living, breathing thing that happens when people take the things they value and interpret them for their own time and in their own way. Sometimes that ogre 'the Church' is accused of 'taking over' ancient traditions and making them 'religious' when really they are 'just' ancient. Then, of course, there's the question of Easter Eggs and bunnies and how that has grown out of the Christian teaching about Easter which, in turn, overlays earlier and more ancient origins.

Amongst any group of people there will be those who continually reinterpret the past – in order to value tradition and make it real in their own time and culture. This happens in families, in villages and local communities – as well as across the world. Perhaps it doesn't matter "who started what?" or even "whose tradition is the most authentic" – more important I suspect is the fact that we value our past enough to want to make it part of our present. That we value one another enough to share what's important to us and that we value what we believe enough to be confident about our own beliefs without feeling they have to be imposed – because sharing is enough. Maybe that tradition of secret generosity exemplified by the 'May Basket' could do with a revival!

Church service times

Culham

Sun May 7th	16:00 Parish Communion
Sun May 14th	16:00 Messy Church (Family Service, crafts and cake)
Sun May 21st	11:00 Parish Communion

Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun May 7th	08:00 BCP Communion
Sun May 14th	11:00 Parish Communion
Sun May 28th	11:00 Parish Communion

(child-friendly, children's activities before main service, times to be finalised)

Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham:

Sun May 7th Long W	09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast
Sun May 14th Long W	09:30 Parish Communion
Sun May 21st Little W	08:30 BCP Communion
Sun May 28th Long W	09:30 Parish Communion

VILLAGE NEWS

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk



JULY 1st
THE GREEN, CULHAM 2017
SUMMER FAIR

Sadly, not many people came forward after our last advert so this is a sincere plea for your help.

We really need YOU to make this years summer show a success.

However small your input is, or if you just want to know how you can help or to see what's going on **we welcome you to our next meeting.**

All those interested please do come along.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

WEDNESDAY 10th MAY, 7pm

at

Philip & Jude's house
In the conservatory
6 The Green
Culham

For more information or if you want a stall please contact Kit Thomas on 07880560403 or email kitsonthomas@yahoo.co.uk



**Charlotte Storrs Stoneware
Oxfordshire Artweeks 2017
Site 79**



6-7, 13-14 May 2017 from 12 to 6pm



I make functional stoneware, all wheel thrown. Demonstrations throughout the day. The pottery is in a corner of our beautiful secret garden, overlooking fields and the river Thames. Visitors can enjoy refreshments in the garden and view the hydroponic greenhouse and raised vegetable beds. There is ample parking by the Green. Lovely walks from the Green across the fields, over the weirs to Sutton Courtenay, along the river or past Culham lock.



The Pottery, 8 The Green, Culham, Abingdon, OX14 4LZ
Pottery at the back of the house
www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk

Sutton Courtenay WI

The Sutton Courtenay WI is a fun and friendly group that will welcome new members of any age.

You don't need a twin set and pearls, in fact you would more than likely be asked to wear fancy dress or some lycra, optional of course!

Dates for your diary:

- 16th May, Mary Thompson will be talking to us about notable people who have lived in Sutton Courtenay.
- 20th June is our Summer trip, TBA
- 15th August, Garden party

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall in Sutton Courtenay. If you would like any more info please call Val on 01235 847612

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – April 2017

A large part of the Public Participation was taken up with the District Council's report on the Local Plan, in particular its consequences for Culham. As a result of this discussion CPC will request an extension to the existing closing date of the consultation process (17 May 2017) in order to prepare a presentation to the village before responding to the SODC. This presentation has been proposed for Friday evening 21 April and Saturday morning 22 April. Notifications will be circulated in the village about times and venue.

With water from the main pond edging towards the church in recent years, pond clearance on the west side will be curtailed to try to reduce this flow. The Environment Agency will be asked to investigate the drainage and water courses in the entire area with a view to preparing a report on how to proceed.

A dog bin will be requested for the small car park at the north end of the Burycroft.

The footpath between the lock car park and High Street has still not been sided out, despite the hedge being trimmed back.

SODC Planning will be contacted about the delays in the work to reinstate the road leading up to the hydro works scheme, and the completion of the landscaping for the whole area.

The OCC planning committee have postponed the discussion on the Fulamoor Farm quarrying proposal until 05 June 2017.

As a way of increasing the connectivity within the village here is a reminder about using the village website. If you are interested you can sign up via the village web site to receive and send Village e-mails.

The process is to go to the Culham Village web site: <http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk>

1. Click on the 'Community Group' link
2. Click on the 'Mailing List' link
3. Under Mailing List click on the link 'to subscribe to the mailing list', complete the application and submit.

Next meeting

Monday 8th May 2017 at 19:30 at the school.

As ever all villagers are welcome to attend - please come along even if you have no specific items to present/discuss.

SALIENT POINTS FROM SODC LOCAL PLAN - CULHAM

- We will plan for new development at three strategic locations; Chalgrove, Culham and Berinsfield page 20 - 3.8
- Focusing major new development in Science Vale including Didcot Garden Town and Culham so that this area can play an enhanced role in providing homes, jobs and services with improved transport connectivity. page 28 - Policy STRAT1 Overall Strategy
- Between 6 and 7 hectares of the total requirement is needed for offices, with strongest demand likely to be at Culham, page 31 4.22
- Between 10.5 and 17.7 hectares of the total requirement is needed for industry and warehousing, the main areas of demand are in Science Vale at Culham and Didcot. Wallingford and Thame are also areas of demand - page 31 4.23
- New innovative housing to be provided linked to the existing Culham Science Centre - page 35
- Culham railway station to be improved and transformed into a focal point for the new community - page 35
- A cycle strategy for Science Vale that enables people to reliably travel between their homes and their jobs by means other than the private car linking Didcot with the key employment centres at Culham Science Centre - page 35
- We proposed to inset (REMOVE) Culham Science Centre and the land adjacent to it from the Green Belt - page 38 4.45
- Land within the developable area identified adjacent to Culham Science Centre, will be developed to deliver approximately 3,500 new homes, a net increase of 2 hectares of employment land, 12 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and supporting services and facilities. - page 40 STRAT7 Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre
- On all sites where there is a net gain of 11 or more dwellings* the Council will require at least 40% of the dwellings to be affordable housing, subject to the viability of this provision on each site. – page 69 Affordable Housing
- The provision of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople will be delivered through:
 - Safeguarding existing sites
 - Extending existing sites, where possible, to meet the needs of existing residents and their families
 - As part of the following site allocations:
 - 5 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers at Pearith Farm, Didcot
 - 5 plots for Travelling Showpeople at Chalgrove Airfield
 - 12 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers at Culham - page 77 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
 - Land is safeguarded to support the delivery of the following identified transport schemes:
 - Clifton Hampden bypass
 - Culham to Didcot Thames River Crossing
 - Didcot Northern Perimeter Road
 - Science Bridge, Didcot
 - (A4130/ B4493) Didcot Central transport corridor improvements
 - A4130 road safety improvements
 - A bypass for Stadhampton
 - A bypass for Watlington
 - A bypass for Benson
 - A bypass for Southern Abingdon
 - A new Park and Ride site at Sandford to the south-east of Oxford



Consultation comment forms for those unable to get to the information events last week are available from the Parish Council for anyone who wants them. Consultation feedback closing date is 17 May 17:00hrs.

***** SODC Local Plan Meeting with John Cotton SODC Council Leader on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30pm in St Paul's Church Culham.*****

Your chance to let the Leader of the Council know your views and any concerns about the Local Plan proposals for Culham.

OTHER NEWS

Oxfordshire County Council elections – it's a vote for your community

Oxfordshire County Council provides many of the important services in your community, such as Fire and Rescue, looking after vulnerable children and adults, libraries, roads, waste disposal, school nurses and tackling rogue traders, to name just a few.

The county council elections on Thursday 4 May are your opportunity to directly influence how these services are run in your area.

The councillor elected in your area will be representing you and your community, taking important decisions that affect where you live. They will also be the person you get in touch with if you want to improve services over the next few years.

You can find the full list of candidates standing in your area and your nearest polling station at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/elections

The elections take place on Thursday 4 May from 7.00am to 10 pm. The election count takes place on Friday, May 5 in Abingdon.

If you care about local services, don't forget to vote and remind your friends and family too!



**It's a vote for
your community**

County Council election
Thursday 4 May



www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/elections



What's on at the Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

SPECIAL EVENT – Thursday 4th May

Charlie Dore at the Unicorn Theatre

AN EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW OF THE NEW ALBUM – DARK MATTER with JULIAN LITTMAN & GARETH HUW DAVIES

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www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

Ross Couper & Tom Oakes on Thursday 11 May

For more information: www.rossandtom.com

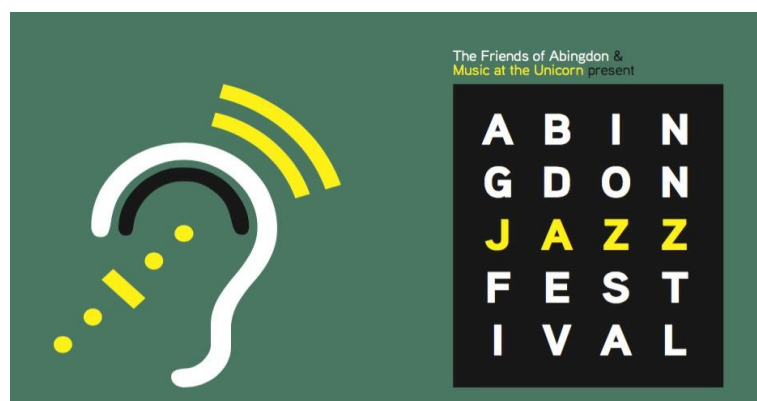
SUPPORT: Emma Lawrence

Doors: 7pm | Support act: 7:15pm | Main act: 8pm

Tickets: £14 - REMADE GUITARS, (Stratton Way) Coxeter House, Abingdon or
www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

ANNOUNCING THE 2017 ABINGDON JAZZ FESTIVAL!

Once again beautiful Abingdon-on-Thames plays host to this wonderful festival of jazz and once again it will be organised by the Friends of Abingdon and Music At The Unicorn. The Festival will take place in the ancient Long Gallery of the old Abingdon Abbey Buildings on the **12th and 13th May 2017**



Tickets, more info & running list: Remade Guitars (Stratton way) or
www.abingdonjazzfestival.org.uk
info@abingdonjazzfestival.org.uk
[@abjazzfest](https://twitter.com/abjazzfest)

Performers will include:

The vintage funk and acclaimed Crowd Company – “Excellent. Dirty, lowdown Funk” “We love Crowd Company on the show” – Craig Charles, BBC Radio 6.

Art Themin – the brilliant British saxophonist has been wowing the crowds for over 50 years.
Oxfordshire County Youth Big Band and the Abingdon School Big Band.

Waterblitz May with Wild Oxfordshire

Citizen science volunteers wanted 2nd May - 24 hours to test Oxfordshire's streams, springs, ponds, ditches and rivers for phosphate and nitrate levels! Join forces to improve our knowledge and understanding of the state of our water: <http://ewgis.org/WaterBlitzJournal/>

What's on at The Earth Trust

Moth Night - Saturday 6th May, 8pm-10pm

Uncover the wonderful world of moths during an evening of moth trapping. £6 per adult, £3 per child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Sunday Drop-in: Go Wild! - Sunday 7th May, 10am-2pm

Discover what wildlife lives on the nature reserve, including looking at what's been caught in the moth traps that were set up at yesterday's Moth Night. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Dawn Chorus Walk - Sunday 7th May, 4.30am-6.30am

Join us on the Clumps to hear the dawn birdsong. £6 per adult, £3 per child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Green Woodworking Course - Tuesday 9th May, 6.30pm-9pm

A 6 week course (Tuesday evenings 9th May-13th June) where you'll make your own stool to take home. £75 for 6 sessions; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Tree Climbing - Saturday 13th May, 10am-5pm

Use ropes and harnesses to access the treetops! 1hr sessions with The Great Big Tree Climbing Company. £20; booking essential: online only at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Scything - Sunday 14th May, 9.30am-4pm

Learn the traditional way to tackle tall grass and long weeds, with expert Clive Leeke. £50; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Intermediate Wildlife Photography - Sunday 14th May, 10am-3pm

In each of these workshops professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will cover a different aspect of photography so you can build up a more in-depth knowledge. This workshop will cover wide angle tricks. Future intermediate workshops: 18th June; book one or more as a course: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Bat Walk - Saturday 20th May, 8.30pm-10pm

A guided walk with the addition of bat detectors to find out more about these marvellous mammals. £6 per adult, £3 per child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Drawing from Nature - Sunday 21st May, 2pm-4pm

Explore Little Wittenham Wood with your sketchbook and get top tips from artist Gareth Lloyd. £20; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Natural Dyeing for Families - Tuesday 30th May, 11am-4pm

Forage for natural dyes to colour wool, then make colourful felt. Suitable for ages 10 years+, £20 per adult, £15 per child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Woodland Adventure - Wednesday 31st May, 10am-12pm

An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to explore, build and play in the woods! £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Wildlife Wednesday at Thrupp Lake - Wednesday 31st May, 2pm-4pm

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve each school holiday. Come out and play and learn about your local wildlife!

The Mouthpiece

We would greatly appreciate having an extra editor, so if you'd like to try editing an issue, please contact Anne Churchill Stone. If you're familiar with WORD or InDesign and Email, then you could do it!

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors. We accept contributions and advertisements in good faith and cannot be responsible for errors therein.

Contributions to the JUNE issue of the Mouthpiece by MAY 15TH, please, to:
generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

Anne Churchill Stone	18 High Street Culham	Tel 01235 533011
Simon Hood	12 Tollgate Road, Culham	Tel 07878 249700

URGENT!!

The Mouthpiece is in desperate need of a new sponsor to print our ten editions per year - Please contact one of the editors if you can offer any help!

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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL			
Gordon Gibbs (Chair)	grgibbs@btinternet.com	32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
April Jones	apriljunejones@icloud.com	The Granary, The Barns,	01235 530073
Andrew Steele		27 High Street, Culham	01235 534910
John Thomas		40 High Street, Culham	01235 521678
Sam Casey-Rerhaye		3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 799489
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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk	Nut Tree Cottage, The Green South, Warborough OX10 7DR	01865 858976
ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Associate Team Vicar:	Revd. Dr. Michael Lakey		07586 323325
Ordained Local Minister	Revd David Haylett	familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	18 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
	a.churchill.stone@mybroadbandmail.com		
Churchwarden:	Roy Epps	14 The Glebe, Culham	01235 537525
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Chair of Governors:	Lisa Penton	Clifton Hampden School	
LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)			
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CULHAM COMMUNITY GROUP			
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	3 The Burycroft, Culham		01235 799489
CULHAM POOR ALLOTMENTS TRUST			
Gordon Gibbs	grgibbs@btinternet.com	32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
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