

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

September 2017



## For your diary:

Sun Sep 3rd: 16:00 Holy Communion, St Paul's

Sun Sep 10th: 16:00 Harvest Festival service, St Paul's

Sun Sep 10th: 17:00 Harvest Supper, Culham Manor Green

Mon Sep 11th: 19:30 Parish Council meeting, The School

Sun Sep 17th: 11:00 Holy Communion, St Paul's

Fri Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>: evening ~~WAGGON~~NOX, Waggon & Horses Garden

Fri Sep 30<sup>th</sup>: 19:30 "Music We Love" concert, St Paul's

# Talking Point by Canon Sue Booy

This afternoon I had a most extraordinary experience - two beautiful blue butterflies landed on my hand and sat and basked there for a whole 20 minutes. In fact in the end I had to shake them gently away. I'm not sitting at home writing this particular talking point but in the Italian alps where I have joined my daughter for a few days walking.

It was easy to say and it sounds simple doesn't it but in reality it's been more demanding but also more rewarding than I hoped. In the demanding box is the sheer difficulty and exhaustion of walking more and more steeply than I'm ever normally expected to - not to mention the very noticeable fact that I'm not getting any younger. Conversely one of the rewards is discovering that I **can** and the joy of having a daughter who is willing to let me try!!

One of the extraordinary things I've noticed in the more difficult moments is that the conversation in my head has turned to song - many of them Hymns - Guide me O thou great redeemer (probably an obvious choice) Then praise my soul (sung climbing up a path that had turned into a waterfall overnight) being just two examples.

Often we don't know how important the things we learn are going to be! Words of songs, lines from poems, amazing sights and experiences are all important things for our journeys in life as are relationships and the memories of them. In moments of need or challenge I often recall the wisdom and love of particular people - my grandmother's saying about disputes - that it's usually "six of one and half a dozen of the other" is something I often have reason to remember.

We need this bank of wisdom and memories that we gather throughout our lives - its contents are precious in moments of joy and of sorrow, and in moments of faith and doubt. Sometimes because we strive to recall them but also at times when they enter our minds unexpectedly at times of need and as moments of blessing.

## Events in Dorchester Abbey

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm OSJ perform:**

Carl Orff Carmina Burana    Brahms Liebeslieder Walzer    Schumann Liederspiel  
With OSJ VOICES and MALCOLM ARNOLD ACADEMY CHOIR and JOHN LUBBOCK conductor.  
Tickets (£12 - £20) are available from: [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Dorchester Lecture**

Dame Helen Ghosh "The challenges facing the National Trust in the twenty-first century"  
Tickets £10 available from Honor Juniper 01865 343228

## Church Services

### Culham:

Sun Sept 3rd 16:00 Parish Communion  
Sun Sept 10th 16:00 Harvest Service  
Sun Sept 16th 11:00 Parish Communion

### Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun Sept 3rd 08:00 BCP Communion  
Sun Sept 17th 11:00 Parish Communion  
Sun Sept 24th 11:00 Parish Communion (child-friendly, children's activities before main service)

### Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham:

Sun Sept 3rd Long W 09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast  
Sun Sept 10th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion  
Sun Sept 17th Little W 08:30 BCP Communion  
Sun Sept 24th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion

# VILLAGE NEWS

Village website: [www.culhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk)

**The Mouthpiece** needs a plan for the future if it is to continue in paper format. Obviously an electronic version could be produced at virtually no cost by those who volunteer to edit/organise advertising. The question is, would anyone actually read it if it were not dropped through the letter box? Also, it maybe that the villagers who most rely on The Mouthpiece are less likely to have access to the internet, or at least less likely to access the Mouthpiece through it.....

We are able to pay for 1 more year (10 issues) then the funds amassed from advertising will be spent. The advertising revenue was intended to cover only unexpected print costs and sundry expenses, not monthly print costs.

We have been very fortunate that Culham Print Room have been able to offer us a considerable discount this year and before that Robinson's Removals had sponsored 10 issues. Prior to this Waste Recycling Group (WRG) allowed The Mouthpiece to be photocopied at their office (Appleford Sidings) as a community benefit, however a change of management deemed this too intrusive to their own business and asked that it should cease.

It has been suggested that WRG, or FCC Environment as it now is at Appleford Sidings, should be approached again to consider sponsoring The Mouthpiece again in some way.

None of the current team have had any spare time to follow this up.

**If there is someone in the village who feels able and willing to contact FCC Environment on behalf of The Mouthpiece please go ahead and just let one of the team know!** An email to [generalmouthpiece@gmail.com](mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com) to communicate any progress would be wonderful!

FCC Environment, Appleford Sidings, Sutton Courtenay, ABINGDON, OX14 4PW

**Marketing** - 0344 736 9990 or possibly **Press** 01604 826260 ? [www.fccenvironment.co.uk](http://www.fccenvironment.co.uk)

An alternative is to find a sponsor for a year – if you know of any local business that might be able to print the copies or contribute to the cost of printing (about £60 per issue for 180 copies, usually 16 to 20 sides of A4) please get in touch with Anne or Rob (see Who is Who on back cover for contact details).

Of course, another alternative is to close down paper production and publish on the village website, it would be useful to have any feedback on whether villagers think this a preferable course of action.

Thank you!

## From St Paul's PCC

The tiles on the North-facing roof of the main body of the church have slipped and the roof of the church is now leaking. The PCC is working with the Friends of St Paul's and other interested bodies with a view to re-roofing the church in the near future, but the costs will probably run into five figures. Funds are being sought from a variety of sources and donations can be made either to the PCC or through the Friends. Please note that, in the meantime, access to the North side of the church is restricted due to the risk of falling tiles.

Please note activities in September and beyond running to raise funds for the roof repair. Also the Pet Service will take place on **Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**, bring your pet dog, cat, pony, bunny rabbit, rat, terrapin, teddy bear/cuddly toy (!), photograph of a pet, animal onesie!

The annual **OHCT ride and stride** will be on 9 September this year. Andrew, Joe and Sam Churchill Stone will be cycling in aid of OHCT and St Paul's. Please consider sponsoring them. Please also consider riding (bicycle or horse) or striding between churches in Oxfordshire and seek your own sponsorship. Half of what you raise will go to St Paul's.

If you would like more details, please contact Andrew Churchill Stone.



# Music We Love

An evening of Operetta, Songs and Arias  
in aid of The Friends of St Pauls, Culham

Anne Churchill Stone ~ Soprano  
Andrew Churchill Stone ~ Tenor  
with  
Rosella Rubini ~ Piano

Saturday 30 September 7.30pm  
St Paul's Church, Culham

Tickets £10 including Supper  
available from Friends of St  
Paul's or by calling:

01235 555223  
or  
01235 533011





## St Pauls Events

Harvest Festival

Jane: 07710510685

stpaulsculham@gmail.com

A poster for the Harvest Festival & Ploughman's Supper. The background is a warm, golden-yellow field of wheat under a bright sun. The text is in white and black.

**Harvest Festival  
& Ploughman's Supper**  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
4pm Harvest Festival Service. St Paul's Church  
5pm Harvest Supper. Culham Manor Green  
Tickets Adults: £8 Children: £4 Family: £20 (2 adults 2 Children Under 16)  
Available from: stpaulsculham@gmail.com  
Or: Jane 07710510685

Waggonox

Jo Burchall

contact: culhamequinox@gmail.com

A poster for Waggonox. The background is a warm, golden-yellow field of wheat under a bright sun. The text is in white and black.

**WAGGONOX**  
Friday 22nd September  
Bonfire: BBQ: Beer: Band.  
& Camping + more  
Waggon & Horses Garden  
entry by tickets only  
[culhamequinox@gmail.com](mailto:culhamequinox@gmail.com)

Art of Culham

contact: [artofculham@gmail.com](mailto:artofculham@gmail.com)



The **ART of CULHAM** are looking for artists who live or work in Culham to be involved at the art exhibition to be held April 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> 2018. Please contact via the email supplied above.

For more information like us on



St Pauls & Culham Village



Email: [kitsonthomas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kitsonthomas@yahoo.co.uk)

## A VOTE OF THANKS!!

Dear Culham Resident,

Now that the dust has settled we thought it an appropriate time to write to thank you all for your participation and forbearance and your help in making Culham 17 such a fantastic and successful event.

We estimate that over 600 people attended our event and the feedback from the vast majority was that it was a superb day out for them and their families.

From our enormously popular Residents Only Bar on the Friday night and then throughout the day on Saturday the people kept coming and for those who stayed until the end, what a treat we had with the fabulous 'Album Project' performing some of Pink Floyd's wonderful repertoire – totally spellbinding!

There are areas of improvement needed, naturally, and we will be looking at how to improve things for next year, however we are delighted to report that we have donated £500 each, to both the School and the Church from our proceeds this year – this is on top of any monies they have made from their various activities and stalls on the day, so all in all a wonderful fundraiser for them and a great showcase for the village itself.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year – if you would like to get involved please look out for the first meeting notices which will go out sometime in January - your contribution, voice, ideas and enthusiasm will be always welcome!

So, on behalf of the organising committee, and to all residents, to all those who helped during the planning, build up, clean up and on the day itself and with a special mention to the Parish Council, the Parents, Teachers & Friends of Culham Primary School, the Ladies of Culham and the Friends of St Paul's Church : –

**THANK YOU!!!!!!**



## From The Railway Inn

Green Recycling bins are situated at the end of The Railway Inn Car Park. This is to raise funds for Children's Air Ambulance. There is also a green bin for media. All items should be bagged.



### Special Request from Culham Parish Council

Please do not add any more items of rubbish to the large pile on the recreation ground. This will not be used as a bonfire site and CPC now has to pay for the area to be cleared.

Thank you.

## Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – July and August

### July

The Neighbourhood Plan item has been removed from the Agenda. It is unlikely that further work will be carried out.

CPC will respond to the Didcot Garden Town Plan, particularly the section affecting Culham (page 400 of the consultation document).

After the recent road resurfacing, the white and yellow road marking lines will be reinstated. This will include a 'no parking' white line across specific driveways close to the school.

Extra costs for the watering of the recently installed trees on the Green were agreed.

BGG (the new grass cutting organisation) will be asked to cut those verges on the High Street not otherwise cut by residents.

### August

The SODC local Plan consultation period is now closed – comments received can be found on their website. A response to the Didcot Garden Town proposal was sent in from CPC in combination with other local Parish Councils.

The recreation ground play equipment is being reviewed and suggestions from the school may be incorporated in the update. The large pile of rubbish on the recreation ground will be removed.

As part of the Transparency Code requirements, CPC will investigate the setting up of a dedicated website on which items of interest/importance regarding public accessibility to CPC work will be held. More details will follow in the Mouthpiece.

A request to replace the temporary dog bin (plastic bag) at the north end of the footpath leading to the Cut will be made to SODC.

### **Next meeting**

Monday 11th September 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.

Village website address

<http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk/>

## Culham Parochial School and Pre-school

The theft of lead from the school roof has been reported to the Police. Following the theft, rain has entered the school building in one area causing significant damage. Staff are working hard to ensure the school will be fully operable for the children to return on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Sept (with breakfast club at 8am).



## From Sutton Courtenay WI



If you didn't come along to our July meeting you missed the lovely Analiza Jones giving us a very interesting and informative talk on how bags are made from natural materials in the Phillipines. She also came with lots of fabulous bags to sell. Let's just say she didn't take many home again, Girls and their bags!

At our **September 19<sup>th</sup>** meeting we will be joined by Nick Jackson who will be giving us some very useful information on Wills and Power of Attorney etc. Something we all need to think about having no matter your age.

On 17<sup>th</sup> October we will be welcoming Muriel Pilkington who will be talking to us about Lost villages of Oxfordshire.

Why not come along and see what we have going on, tea, cake and a natter too.  
Join us on the third Tuesday of every month at the Village Hall in Sutton Courtenay. 7.30pm

If you would like any more information, please call Val on 01235 847612

## SAVE CULHAM GREEN BELT

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Open Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July – it is great to have your support. We have had to hit the ground running since setting up the campaign just over a month ago.

For those that don't yet know, Save Culham Green Belt is a group of local people campaigning against the proposal of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) to build 3500 houses on Green Belt in Culham, roughly all the way from Culham Station to the Europa School including land to the west of Thame Lane. We believe this new town – est. population of 9000 -- will be largely commuters and that Culham will become the 'Parish of Paddington'.



### Next phase of SODC's consultation

SODC have at last published the public's responses on their website:

[https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/south/planning/pol/local\\_plan\\_second\\_preferred\\_options/south\\_local\\_plan\\_second\\_preferred\\_options?tab=list](https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/south/planning/pol/local_plan_second_preferred_options/south_local_plan_second_preferred_options?tab=list)

with over 300 pages of responses it is a bit unwieldy but one can search by name or organisation to read the responses.

The Council are steamrolling forward and have announced a 'final' phase of consultation in October, which they describe as follows:

'In October this year, you will have a final opportunity to comment on the version of the plan that we intend to submit for examination. This consultation is different from the previous three, as we have to ask specific questions relating to the legality of the plan.

You **must** respond to this consultation if you want the examiner to consider your views, even if you have previously commented. Once the consultation deadline has passed, we will send all of the comments along with the Local Plan and evidence studies to the Planning Inspectorate.

Keep an eye out for more information, including a factsheet with all the information you will need to respond to the consultation'

It will be very important for all of us to participate in this final phase of consultation and we will advise the village about how to participate when the details are confirmed.





In the meantime, **We (still) Need You**

ONLINE PETITION: If you have signed, thank you. We are over 1100 signatures now but **we still need more signatures** to get into the press and for leverage. We plan to continue with the petition through September at least, so that we can deliver a very clear message to SODC and other elected officials that we are against building houses on Green Belt! Can everyone please try and gather extra support from e.g. neighbours, family who like visiting Culham, friends on Christmas card lists, book club friends etc.

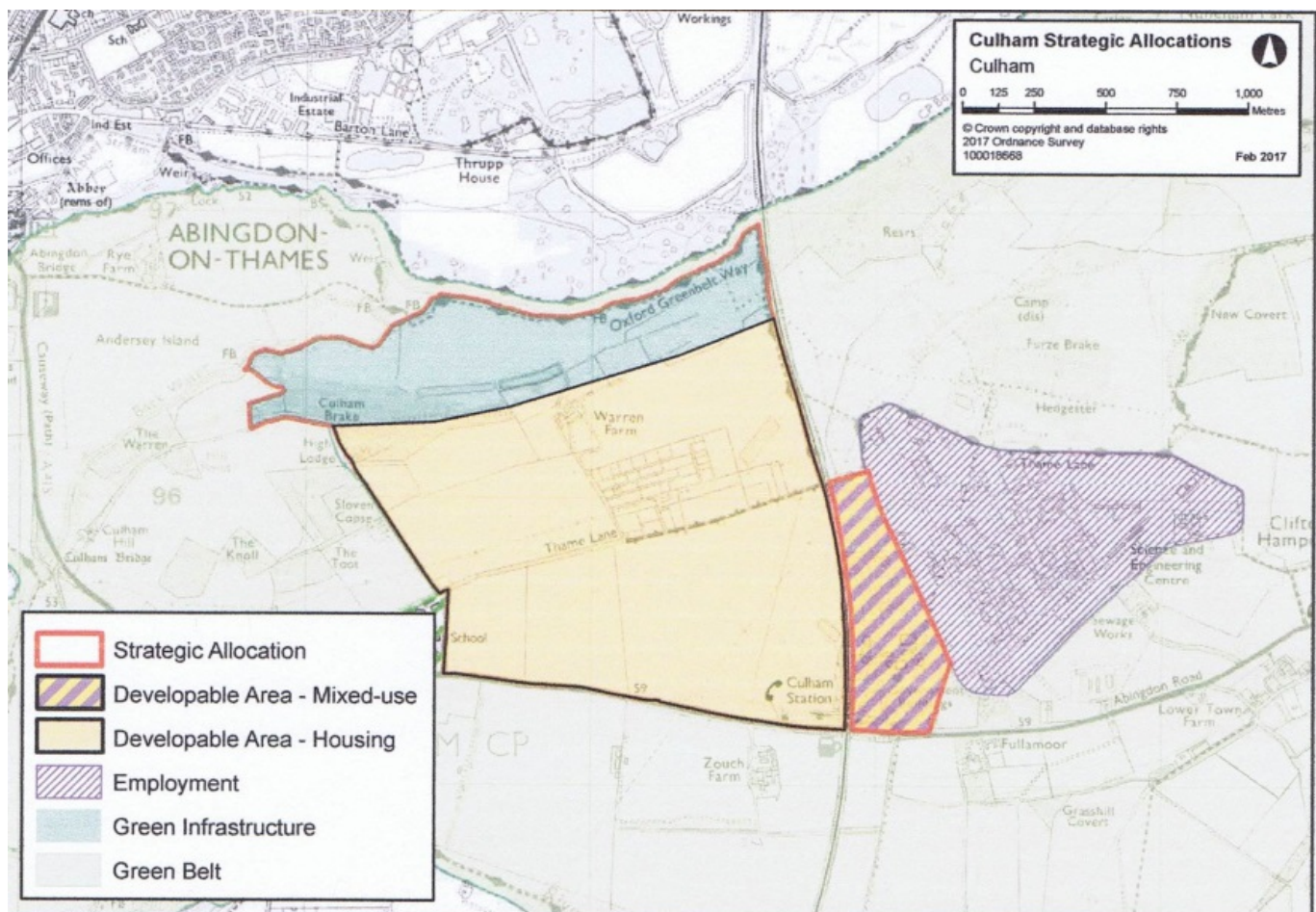
If everyone who has already signed the Petition managed to get another 10 signatures that would make a huge difference. Thanks in advance.

In **September** we will be arranging a mass photo opportunity and will let you know where and when we need you. We hope to get a drone to take an aerial picture. Any ideas are welcome.

We will continue to keep you informed of developments on SODCs plans and our campaign efforts. You can contact us via the website: [www.saveculhamgreenbelt.org](http://www.saveculhamgreenbelt.org) , or talk to any of us (committee listed below) or call Caroline Baird on 07711 675129.

Committee: Jon Bacon, Caroline Baird, Rob Gibbs, Peter Kirby, Toby Pejkovic, Kathy Rushton, Ruth Ward, Sophie Wilson

Plan of development area (Note: Culham Village is obscured by the legend/key):



## **REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS AUGUST 2017 - Cllr Lorraine Lindsay Gale**

### **GOVERNMENT CASH PAVES WAY FOR MAJOR UPGRADE TO THE A34 IN ABINGDON**

Major improvements to the A34 in Abingdon got the green light today on 26 July 2017 after Communities Secretary Sajid Javid pledged more than £9 million of Government funding. Two new south-facing slip roads at the Lodge Hill Interchange will help end years of congestion and pave the way for up to 1,700 new homes in Abingdon. The long-awaited scheme, which will receive up to £9.45 million over 4 years, will also boost growth in the wider Science Vale area, where up to 20,000 new jobs and 20,000 new homes will be created by 2031. This is on top of the £2.3 billion Housing Infrastructure Fund, announced earlier this month, which will pay for local infrastructure across the country to support local housing delivery.

### **COUNCIL AND CARILLION REACH AGREEMENT OVER CONTRACT**

Oxfordshire County Council is to exit a significant proportion of the contract with Carillion that sees the latter provide many services on the council's behalf. Constructive negotiations have been ongoing for many months and both parties have now reached a mutually beneficial agreement, which involves no termination costs for the taxpayer and allows for changes to the contract that were not efficient for either side. The deal was originally signed in 2012 and the vision at that time was that it would last for 10 years through to 2022. Since 2012 the council's policies and strategies – particularly in relation to property and its estate – have evolved in such a way that the tie-up with Carillion makes less commercial sense now than it did in 2012. New arrangements for the design and construction element of the contract that has been terminated will take effect later this year on September 1. They will be procured externally. One element of the contract, strategic asset management, had already been agreed to transfer back to being directly run by the county council. This is on track for a transfer date of August 1. The Council will continue to work with Carillion on a non-exclusive basis to deliver elements of strategic asset management where it is in the Council's interest to do so to meet its corporate and financial objectives. A key area of the contract that will remain in operation is Facilities Management – the work that takes place to ensure the general upkeep and day to day operation of council buildings. A review is to be carried out to ensure that this operates in the best way for the council.

### **OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN**

A plan which will govern how Oxfordshire's minerals and waste needs will be met for fifteen years has received Government support. The County Council's new minerals and waste core strategy, which outlines the planning strategy and policies for the supply of minerals and the management of waste in Oxfordshire until 2031, has received support from the Government's Planning Inspectorate, and following approval by Cabinet on 18th July will now go to Full Council in September. Following an independent examination of the strategy, the Inspector concluded that the strategy, with modifications, meets legal requirements and provides a sound and appropriate basis for the planning of future quarrying and waste management in Oxfordshire for the next 15 years. More information can be found here;  
<http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/inspector-backs-oxfordshire-minerals-and-waste-strategy/>

### **OXFORDSHIRE COUNCILS NEED £9BN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT GROWTH**

An independent report commissioned by Oxfordshire's six councils who make up the Oxfordshire Growth Board sets out the investment in transport, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure needed to support the predicted growth in population, jobs and homes to 2040 and beyond. The report by AECOM, a professional and technical services firm highlights the need for long-term investment that will be required to plan for and manage growth in a way that supports the local economy and protects quality of life across the county. For the first time Oxfordshire councils are working together to develop a joint infrastructure strategy, detailing the county's key infrastructure requirements. Some of these have been outlined already in individual Local Plans and the Local Transport Plan, but the Oxfordshire Growth Board has looked more comprehensively at what is going to be required further into the future across all areas.

### **LIBRARIES LAUNCH 'ANIMAL AGENTS' READING CHALLENGE FOR CHILDREN**

Oxfordshire County Council's libraries are inviting thousands of youngsters to take part in a detective-

themed reading challenge this summer. Children aged four to 11 can 'join' the Animal Agents investigative team and solve a mystery by reading six library books and collecting special stickers. All children need to do is sign up at their local library and receive a collector's folder. As they read their books over the summer, they will receive stickers to help them crack the clues and help the Animal Agents find out what's really been going on behind the scenes! When they've completed the Challenge they can claim their medal and certificate. Young volunteers aged 13-24 are also needed to help library staff promote the challenge, talk to children about the books they have read and help them to choose others. More information and application forms for volunteers can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

## **SCHOOLS WIN AWARDS FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG CARERS**

Eight Oxfordshire schools have received awards as part of a county council support scheme for pupils who care for family members at home. The Young Carers Standard recognises schools' efforts to identify young carers and provide targeted support to help them achieve their potential. Since its launch in 2013 more than 60 schools have received training and support to deliver the scheme and earn an accreditation. Any school across Oxfordshire can sign up to the programme run by Oxfordshire County Council Young Carers Team. The team offers free support, advice and guidance for schools to identify and support young carers. Schools can work towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award level. Schools interested in taking part should email the Oxfordshire County Council Young Carers team: [young.carers@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:young.carers@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **OTHER NEWS/INFORMATION**

### **Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water-Blitz**

Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the county wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire. For your free sampling pack register today by emailing [hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk) subject "Waterblitz" and join in on Monday 2nd October. EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.



### **FREE fortnightly Environmental Email Bulletin**

For the latest conservation news, updates on the autumn Waterblitz, evening talks, or an afternoon of volunteering, plus jobs and training SIGN UP to Wild Oxfordshire's email bulletin. Just click on their website [www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk)

### **People's Trust for Endangered Species**

#### **New app created to engage new audiences with wildlife conservation**



A new *Mammals on Roads* app for iOS9 and above, and Android 7, has been created to enable sightings of Britain's mammals to be recorded on the move, allowing wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) to identify changes in population numbers and help conservation.

The app is free, easy to use, and boasts charming graphics of a whole host of mammals, from hedgehogs and hares, to badgers and bats. There are also informative audio descriptions, providing useful background information and insights into the lives of these creatures.

David Wembridge, Surveys Officer at PTES explains: "Data gathered from *Mammals on Roads* is vital to conservation work. The survey has been running for over 15 years, which allows us to compare data year on year, and identify where we need to focus our conservation efforts."

The new app is part of PTES' *Mammals on Roads* survey, which takes place annually between July and September. To take part, members of the public are asked to record sightings of Britain's mammals – dead or alive – during car journeys of 20 miles or more on a single day, outside of built up areas – perfect for summer road trips or family holidays!!

David continues: "While recording roadkill can be a little gruesome, higher levels of roadkill can actually indicate a healthy population of mammals nearby. We hope this new app will engage new audiences, who already have mobile technology at their fingertips, with wildlife conservation, in addition to our many fantastic volunteers to who take part each year by logging sightings online or via a survey pack."

Since 2001, over half a million kilometres of Britain's roads have been surveyed through *Mammals on Roads*, with previous data alerting conservationists at PTES to the dramatic fall in native hedgehog numbers. These findings resulted in the launch of the nationwide campaign *Hedgehog Street* in 2011 with partner charity the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, which to date has 44,000 'Hedgehog Champions' pledging to help protect this species from further decline. Further research is also being undertaken to investigate the reasons behind the decline, showing the true power of citizen science and what the British public can help conservationists achieve.

To take part, you can download the free *Mammals on Roads* app from the App Store or Google Play. Alternatively, the survey can be completed via the PTES website ([www.ptes.com/mor](http://www.ptes.com/mor)) or via a printed survey pack. Email [mor@ptes.org](mailto:mor@ptes.org) or call 0207 498 4533 to request a pack to be sent to you.

*Mammals on Roads* runs from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

If you want to support PTES' ongoing conservation work, you can donate £3 by texting 'PTES17 £3' to 70070.



## **10 Green Flags for Wallingford Castle Meadows**

Wallingford Castle Meadows, managed by environmental learning charity Earth Trust on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council, has been awarded a Green Flag for an incredible tenth year running and has received Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the fourth consecutive year.

The prestigious 'Green Flag' is a national award given to parks and greenspaces across England and Wales by Keep Britain Tidy. Wallingford Castle Meadows is one of 1,797 sites to receive the Green Flag in 2017.

"It's a huge achievement to gain not only the Green Flag Award but the Green Heritage Site Accreditation as well, and together these set Wallingford Castle Meadows apart as a significant local and accessible greenspace for people to enjoy. It is thanks to the dedicated staff and volunteers that help us manage and maintain this special place that this quality standard has been achieved. In this, the Earth Trust's 35<sup>th</sup> year, it's fantastic to have the charity's work recognised in this way," said Jayne Manley, Chief Executive at the Earth Trust.

Wallingford Castle Meadows is 16 hectares of hay meadow and floodplain on the banks of the River Thames, and contains the remains of one of the greatest medieval castles in England. As well as being historically significant, it's also an important site for wildlife, home to birds, bats, bluebells and more, and is a wonderful place for local residents to have on their doorstep. The Earth Trust has managed the nature reserve for the last 17 years on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council.

Come and explore Wallingford Castle Meadows for yourself. See [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) for details.

If you would like to join the volunteers who help look after Wallingford Castle Meadows, please get in touch: [volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk) or see [www.earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer).



## **Events at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ.**

### **Discover and Play Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 10am-12pm**

Forest School for the under-5s. Join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

### **Sunday Drop-in: Fantastic Foraging Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 10am-1pm**

Drop in to find out what food is growing around the Earth Trust Centre and learn what yummy things you can cook over the campfire. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

### **Drawing from Nature Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2pm-5pm**

Take a walk around Little Wittenham Wood with your sketchbook and get top tips on how to perfect your drawings from artist Gareth Lloyd.

Gareth Lloyd is an Oxford-based artist working primarily in pencil and paint. His work is typically based around endangered and protected species, and he welcomes the opportunity to work with conservation organisations to help preserve the animal kingdom through art.

£20; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a booking fee).

### **Bat Walk Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 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](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a booking fee).

### **Children's Fun Run Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 10am start**

A 1km race around the Wittenham Clumps for kids! Please register online and bring a donation on the day. £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

### **10k Run Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 11am start**

After a break last year we're pleased to announce that the 2017 10K Run will take place on Sunday 10th September.

The Earth Trust 10K is a unique cross-country run that meanders through wildflower meadows, woodland, farmland, along the Thames and ends with a challenging hike up (and down!) the iconic Wittenham Clumps.

Whether you're a seasoned athlete, a novice runner taking on their first race or a Nordic walker looking for a new challenge, all are welcome!

This is a chip-timed race. Advance entry: £15 adult, £12 child (aged 14-17). On the day entry: £18 adult, £15 child (aged 14-17).

### **Wildlife Photography Walk Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 8am-10am**

Join photographer Andrew Walmsley for a morning stroll around the nature reserve. Check out our beginner and intermediate workshops too. £20; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a booking fee).

### **Foraging Walk Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 11am-3pm**

Discover the autumn bounty in the local area and use what you find to make something delicious. £17; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a booking fee).

## First ever 'Hedgehog Housing Census' launched to help popular UK garden residents

The first ever national Hedgehog Housing Census has been launched by Hedgehog Street, a nationwide campaign set up by wildlife charities the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), to help combat the ongoing decline in native hedgehog population numbers.



Between now and the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, the Hedgehog Housing Census will dig a little deeper into the world of hedgehogs, and aims to answer several questions about how they live and in particular, their use of artificial hedgehog houses, which, until now, have not been studied, despite thousands of people having one in their garden. The information will be gathered via an online survey, and the data then analysed by scientists at the University of Reading. The results will help the Hedgehog Street team find out what the best type of hedgehog house is and how they can be used to support the conservation of these animals, enabling wildlife enthusiasts across the UK to further help their spikey garden residents.

Since its creation in 2011, Hedgehog Street has over 44,000 volunteers, known as Hedgehog Champions, pledging to help save the nation's favourite mammal by making small steps in their own gardens. This new census will answer questions such as: *is your hedgehog house used? Is it used for summer nesting, as a maternity nest, or for hibernation? What materials is it made from? Is it homemade or shop bought? Where is it located? What's the best design?* The census will be sent to all Hedgehog Champions, but the Hedgehog Street team is very keen to hear from anyone who has a hedgehog house in their garden and isn't already a Champion, so simply visit [www.hedgehogstreet.org/housingcensus](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/housingcensus) to take part.

Abigail Gazzard, Postgraduate Researcher for the University of Reading explains: "Hedgehogs are one of the UK's most popular wildlife species, yet their populations are in decline. Consequently, there is the need to identify which factors positively or negatively affect hedgehog populations so that we can help to reverse this decline. We first need to understand why hedgehogs appear to use some gardens and not others, so that we can provide evidence-based guidance on what householders can do to help this iconic species. This questionnaire survey will be the first to investigate how successful hedgehog houses might be in helping to provide sites for resting, breeding and hibernating, and is one of a series of collaborative projects between BHPS, PTES and the University of Reading to help gather such evidence."

There are lots of ways people can help hedgehogs, but in addition to making a small hole in your fence, providing the correct food and drink, and keeping areas of your garden untidy, if you are lucky enough to see hedgehogs in your garden, you can further help these endangered creatures by having the right accommodation on hand ready for them when they need it.

The data collected will be analysed over the winter months, with the results due to be published in spring 2018.



**Affordable  
Warmth  
Network**

The Affordable Warmth Network (AWN) is a longstanding service working to reduce and prevent the number of people in fuel poverty, and so improve health & well-being. It is coordinated by the [National Energy Foundation](http://www.nef.org.uk) and is a network of many other health and social care orientated organisations, with a cross-referral mechanism in place to maximise help available to

residents. AWN operates across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. One of the primary ways in which AWN do this is through the Affordable Warmth Helpline - 0800 107 0044.

Email: [awn@nef.org.uk](mailto:awn@nef.org.uk)

<http://affordablewarmthnetwork.org.uk/>



amazing venue  
amazing music  
amazing experience

join the  
mailing list  
for updates!

**FANTASTIC LIVE MUSIC**  
IN THE BEAUTIFUL UNICORN THEATRE

Our next concert at the beautiful Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon-on-Thames, is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September and features the multi award winning folk duo Jackie Oates and Megan Henwood.

This stunning partnership meld their love of storytelling, song-writing, and melody with their voices and acoustic instruments. The result – a beautiful, fresh sound that combines both reworked traditional folk songs with original material. Their individual musical backgrounds are quite different yet their voices blend effortlessly.

The two met at their 'local' folk club Nettlebed, where they discovered their voices and musicianship complemented each other. Their '**Wings EP**' was released in August 2016 and was supported with a handful of shows including the EP's launch at London's St Pancras Old Church.



For more information: [www.oatesandhenwood.com](http://www.oatesandhenwood.com)

**SUPPORT:** Ryan Crowe

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

**Tickets:** £14 - **REMADE GUITARS**, Stratton Way, Abingdon or [www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk](http://www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk)  
Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

TO FIND OUT MORE: [www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk](http://www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk)  
[info@musicattheunicorn.org.uk](mailto:info@musicattheunicorn.org.uk) | [@musicattheunicorn](https://twitter.com/musicattheunicorn)

## 70 YEARS: 1944-2014 **ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB**

**Portia Coughlan**

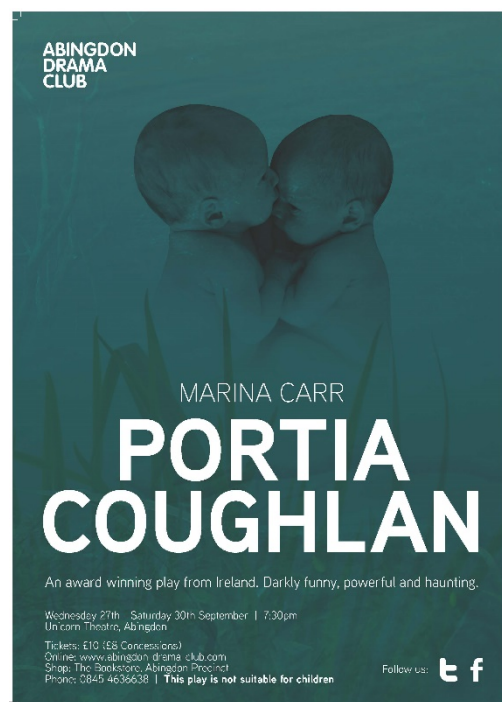
By Marina Carr

Directed by Colette Lardner-Browne

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**7.30pm: Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon**

On her thirtieth birthday, **Portia Coughlan (Laura King)** appears to have all she needs: a home in the Belmont Valley, a wealthy husband, three children, friends, family and admirers. However, she is a troubled soul. She can neither love her husband nor trust herself with looking after her children. She is tormented by the loss of her twin brother **Gabriel (Cameron Burne)**, who drowned in the Belmont River on their fifteenth birthday and whose voice she believes is calling to her.



Using flashback, the play spans Portia's birthday and the days following as she and her dysfunctional family and friends are touched by the haunting memory of Gabriel and his influence on Portia. This dark Irish play, with its comic streak, ploughs the depths of emotion with lyrical and visual acuity.

**The play is unsuitable for children. Contains strong language.**

**Tickets:** £10, £8 concessions (60+, students, ADC members) require) **available from**

The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury St), Abingdon.

Email: [tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk](mailto:tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk) Telephone: 0845 4636638

[www.abingdon-drama-club.com](http://www.abingdon-drama-club.com) [enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com](mailto:enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com)

# CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE RAILWAY INN

## - PAULINE DAVIDSON

I would like to invite senior citizens of Culham, aged 65+, to The Railway Inn on **Saturday 9th December 2017** for a Christmas Party, from **2 to 6 pm**. This offer is limited to 30 people who must be Culham residents. It will include:

- Free 4 Course Turkey Meal and refreshments.
- Entertainment, Bingo and Raffle

If you want to come, please fill in and return the tear-off reply slip below. Please note that we need to know if you have any special requirements, such as :-

*do you need to be picked up?  
will you be in a wheelchair?  
are you on a special diet?*



---

**To Pauline Davidson, The Railway Inn, Culham, OX14 3BT (tel. 528046)**

I would like to come to the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at The Railway Inn on **Saturday 3rd December 2016**.

Name .....

Address.....

.....

Telephone number .....

*Special needs – please **CROSS OUT** if **NOT** needed*

Please could someone give me a lift?

I will be in a wheelchair.

I am on a special diet – i.e. ....



## The Mouthpiece

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 September issue of the Mouthpiece by September 15<sup>th</sup>, please, to:

[generalmouthpiece@gmail.com](mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com)

Anne Churchill Stone	18 High Street Culham	Tel 01235 533011
Rob Gibbs	32 High Street, Culham	Tel 01235 523679

**Printed (at discounted rate) by Culham Print Room, Culham Science Centre, OX14 3DB**



## LOCAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

**Larkmead**  
VETS



*Caring for Pets, Horses & Farm Animal  
throughout South Oxfordshire*

**Didcot & Sutton Courtenay 01235 814991**  
**Cholsey & Benson 01491 651379**  
**Horses & Farm Animals 01491 651379**

[www.larkmead.co.uk](http://www.larkmead.co.uk)



Excellent operating facilities,  
including orthopaedic surgery.

Extended surgeries, and  
regular Cat Only clinics  
available.

Appointments available  
Saturday and Sunday.

24-hr emergency care, 365  
days a year.

Larkmead Vets cover all  
emergencies; we do not use  
outside agencies.



### Backhaus German Bakers

At Culham (The Lion) every Tuesday from 12 noon until 5 pm.

~40 types of bread: 100% rye - gluten-free & yeast-free breads - 100% wheat bread, with & without seeds.

No chemical improvers or GM products. Salt content ½ that of English white bread.

Rolls and cakes - German sausages - liver sausages - meat loaf - salamis & much more

Tel 0208 9486040

E-mail [Backhaus1@gmx.net](mailto:Backhaus1@gmx.net)

### Milton Garden Machinery

**Winter servicing, no charge for collection & delivery**

**Please call or Email for a quotation.**

**Established for over 30 years.**

**We repair all types of petrol driven machinery.**

**Main dealers for: Alko, Briggs Stratton, Countax, Cub  
Cadet, Echo, Efco, Hayter, Lawnflite, Mitox, MTD,  
Murray, Toro, Westwood, Wheelhorse. We repair  
Stihl and Honda machines too**

**We repair Stihl and Honda machines too.**

Windyridge Farm, Milton Road,  
Abingdon OX14 4EZ

Tel: 01235 555115

Email:

[paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk](mailto:paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk)

[www.miltongardenmachinery.co.uk](http://www.miltongardenmachinery.co.uk)





## **Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors**

### **ABINGDON & KENNINGTON**

*158 Ock Street, Abingdon OX14 5DT Tel  
01235 539444*

*166 Kennington Rd, Kennington OX1 5PG Tel  
01865 736144*

[www.tonksbrothers.com](http://www.tonksbrothers.com)

*"Proud to be a family business"*

## *Cupcake Baker*

Reasons to be cheerful!

**Cupcakes, French macaroons and celebration cakes.**

Weddings, birthdays, parties and corporate orders.

[www.cupcakebaker.co.uk](http://www.cupcakebaker.co.uk) [mail@cupcakebaker.co.uk](mailto:mail@cupcakebaker.co.uk)

6 High Street, Culham. 01235 533370

**Supplier to Raymond Blanc's Two Michelin Star  
restaurant and hotel *Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons*.**

## **Shaun Guard TV AERIAL SERVICES**

- Poor Reception Solved
- Aerials Repaired & Supplied
- TVs - Hung on your wall and tuned
- Extra TV Points - For aerial and Sky (In HD!)
- Sky TV - Also Foreign Language TV

 **OXFORD AERIALS**

**Call Abingdon 01235 239622**



## **CHANGES**

**unisex hair salon**

**open Tuesday - Saturday**

**late nights Wednesday & Friday**

**open all day Saturday**

**discount for senior citizens Tuesday & Wednesday**

**free off road parking**

**For a professional but friendly service phone**

**01235848453 or call in and see us at**

**8 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay**



## **Richard Mathews Florist**

**01235 847 194**

**Order online via our new website**

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

**THE RAILWAY INN**  
**Station Road, Culham**



Open 12-2.30pm & 6-9.00 pm for food every day except  
Monday lunchtime and Sunday evening

Sunday roasts at £8.95

Pauline or Roy - Tel 01235 528046  
[www.railwayinnculham.co.uk](http://www.railwayinnculham.co.uk)

**BURGLEY STORES**

120 High Street, Sutton Courtenay OX14 4AX

Groceries	Off-Licence	<i>Monday –Friday</i>
Newspapers	Magazines	<i>8.00am – 6.00pm</i>
Dry Cleaning	Laundry	
Photocopying	Fax Service	<i>Saturday</i>
Post Offices Services		<i>8.30am – 1.00pm</i>

Papers delivered to Culham

D.Patel Tel: 01235 848227

**A.L.VICKERY AND SON**

Hardware and much more! —

**Keys Cut while you wait,  
cookshop, housewares,  
tools, gardening...**

...you'll save money, time  
and mileage when you try



*Vickery's first!*

5 The Green, Drayton,  
Abingdon OX14 4JA  
Telephone 01235 531497  
**Just park outside!**

**OPEN Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm**

**DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS**



**Most carpets dry within the hour**

**Unbeatable results, removes almost  
all spots & stains**

**GRIMEBUSTERS**

**OXFORD  
ABINGDON  
WITNEY**

**01865 726983  
01235 555533  
01993 868924**

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



**Culham**  
**Garden Services**

Local, Reliable and Professional

Available for all aspects of garden maintenance and  
clearance

Seasoned logs and kindling for sale

**07857383069**

**James@culhamgardenservices.co.uk**  
**Regular and one-off services available**  
Public Liability Insured Lawn treatment service

James Rockall  
13 High Street  
Culham  
OX14 4NB

# 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, Culham	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
Roy Epps		14 The Glebe, Culham	01235 537525
CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL			
Lucy Dalby	culhampc@googlemail.com	76 Evenlode Drive, Didcot OX11 7XQ	01235 817464
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
Sue Lawson	sue.lawson@southoxon.gov.uk		07899 963236
COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	lorraine.lindsaygale@oxfordshire.gov.uk	Nut Tree Cottage, The Green South, Warborough OX10 7DR	01865 858976
ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Associate Team Vicar:	Revd. 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
Hon. Secretary:	Charles Reichardt	Fair Green, Henley Rd, Culham	01235 520534
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	13 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL			
Head Teacher:	Mrs Lindsay Priddle	High Street, Culham	01235 521766
Chair of Governors:	Mrs Lisa Penton	c/o Clifton Hampden School	01865 407700
LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)			
Mary Rickford	mary@therickfords.com		01235 528052
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
POLICE			
Neighbourhood Policing Team		Non-emergency Phone Number	101
THE MOUTHPIECE			
Editors:	Anne Churchill Stone	18 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
	Rob Gibbs	32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
Advertising Manager:	Sarah Cater	4 High Street, Culham	07503 511264
	advertmouthpiece@gmail.com		
Distribution:	Maggie Graham	8 Tollgate Road, Culham	01235 525901
	maggieg30@gmail.com		