

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

April 2018



For your diary:

Sun April 1st: 10:15 – Easter Day Communion, St Paul's

Sun April 8th: 16:00 – Messy Church (children's activities & biscuits!), St Paul's

Mon April 9th: 19.30 - Parish Council Meeting, Culham School

Sun April 15th: 11:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

Sun April 15th: c. 12:15,(after Parish Communion) – Annual Parish Meeting, St Paul's

Sat 28th April: 10:00 – 14:00 **“Art of Culham”** (see inside), St Paul's

Church service times

Culham

Sun April 1st	10:30 Easter Sunday Communion
Sun April 8th	16:00 Messy Church (family service, crafts & cake/biscuits)
Sun April 15th	11:00 Parish Communion followed by Annual Parish meeting

Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun April 1st	10:30 Easter Sunday Communion
Sun April 8th	11:00 Parish Communion
Sun April 22nd	08:00 Holy Communion
Sun April 22nd	10:30 Messy Church (family service, childrens' activities, crafts & cake/biscuits)

Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham:

Sun April 1st Long W	09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast
Sun April 8th Long W	09:30 Parish Communion
Sun April 15th Little W	08:30 BCP Holy Communion
Sun April 22nd Long W	09:30 Parish Communion
Sun April 29th Long W	10:30am Team Service

Team Events

Wed 11th April 7.30pm Filling Station Transformation 3: The Means (Spiritual Disciplines)

Nick Page will deliver his third and final instalment of discipleship training focusing on the spiritual disciplines we need to develop in order deepen our relationship with Jesus.

www.nickpage.co.uk.

Events in the Abbey

Sat 21st April 12noon Music for Autism
Goring wind band. Concert for autistic people
General public welcome no tickets needed

Sat 28th April 7.30pm Oxford Intermezzo

Intermezzo is an Oxford chamber choir, founded in 2012, which rehearses during the University vacations. The choir focuses on beautiful music mainly from the 20th and 21st century such as by Ešenvalds, Miškinis, Lauridsen and Whitacre.

Tickets available from: www.oxfordintermezzo.co.uk

Friends of Dorchester Abbey - Visit to Wells

Date: Monday 14 May 2018

Cost: £30.00 per person for Friends of the Abbey, which includes the coach travel and guided tour of Wells Cathedral.
£32.00 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey

Programme:

The coach will leave from the Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 9.00am.
We should arrive in Wells about 11.45am. (We will have a short comfort break).
Free time to explore the centre of England's smallest city. Guided tour of Wells Cathedral at 3.00pm.
The coach will leave Wells at 5.00pm. Traffic permitting, we should arrive back in Dorchester by 7.45pm.

Set in the medieval heart of England's smallest city, Wells Cathedral is widely regarded as one of the finest in the country. As well as its iconic, breathtaking West Front, it has an unusual octagonal Chapter House, a Jesse Window (considered to be one of the most splendid examples of 14th century stained glass in Europe) one of only four chained libraries in the UK, the Wells Clock and the medieval Vicars' Close, believed to be the only complete medieval street left in England.

There is a cafe, with views of the West Front over the moat of the nearby Bishop's Palace.

If anyone who is not a Friend of Dorchester Abbey would like to come, please send a cheque for £32.00 per person, payable to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey' Your name, address and phone number to: Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR by Friday 13th April. [Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt, if you have any queries please phone Yvonne Lawden on 01865 340465 or email: y.m.lawden@gmail.com]

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Venue needed!

The Bridge Group of churches are hoping to run a weekly tea/coffee session, probably on a Thursday, as a meeting point in the villages. The idea is that it would rotate around the villages in the Bridge Group so would be in Culham once per month.

The long term aim is to hold this in the Church once it has been refurbished but, in the meantime, a venue or venues are being sought in Culham.

Do you have space to host such an event, during the day on Thursday? If you do and would be willing to help out please contact Rev. Michael Lakey or a member of the PCC (details in "Who is Who" on the back cover).

Green Recycling Bins - 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.



Friends of St Paul's, Culham

The Friends is a registered charity run by Trustees united in their common aim of preserving the village church. Some trustees are church goers, some are not, but we are united in our desire to maintain and preserve this important structure. We aim to raise sufficient funds to care for the fabric of the church and to assist with reordering it so that it may be adapted to serve as both a place of worship and a community centre for the village and the surrounding community.

At present the Friends' committee has eight members who meet about every two months in each other's houses, to devise ways of fundraising and caring for the church. This is not an onerous task and it can be very rewarding. We need some new members for this committee who would be prepared to give a little time towards this important work, which will enhance the life of the village. If anyone feels that they can help then please contact Ruth Ward at rward15@btopenworld.com or Philip Owen at P.owen462@btinternet.com.

St Paul's Church, Culham

The annual parochial church meeting will take place on April 15th 2018 at 12.15pm following the Parish Communion service at 11am.

A revised Electoral Roll will be displayed in the church porch. Anyone wishing to have their name added to the Electoral Roll must complete an SG form (declaration of baptism and eligibility by residency or attendance) and these can be obtained from Ingrid Reichardt – Fair Green, Abingdon Road, 01235 520534

Art of Culham

contact: artofculham@gmail.com

Showing at the much anticipated second Art of Culham exhibition are fourteen artists who all live or work in Culham. Their ages range from sixteen to eighty-six! Children's art activities will be running through the day where kids can make a clay pot, paint, draw, and make a mosaic. Refreshments of tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

A percentage of the proceeds will be forwarded to the Friends of St Paul's Church who help look after the fabric of the church

ART of CULHAM

SATURDAY 28th APRIL 2018 • 10AM - 2PM
ST. PAULS CHURCH, CULHAM, OX14 4LZ



CHILDREN'S ART ACTIVITIES

MAKE YOUR OWN POT WITH CLAY • PAINTING • MOSAICS • CRAFTING

TEA & CAKES • ART RAFFLE • ALL WELCOME • FREE ENTRY

WWW.CULHAMVILLAGE.ORG.UK

Culham Parish Council (CPC) Notes March 2018

There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested but would like a chat before committing yourself please call the Chair, Gordon Gibbs, or one of the other councillors, details on the back page.

South Oxfordshire District Council have decided not to submit the Local Plan to the Government Inspector yet. The delay is to allow Cabinet to debate issues that have arisen mainly with the proposed housing site in Chalgrove it seems and, although it is proposed that the meeting (on 20th March) is not open to the public, the agenda is available on the SODC website. CPC are writing to the Council to protest that holding the meeting in private is undemocratic and have also written to the Cabinet councillors to point out that the houses proposed at Culham will not be affordable to most people on average incomes (John Cotton, the

current Leader of SODC, has acknowledged this) and that this is the most pressing issue to people in the district.

Village grass cutting was discussed and a plan finalised for the cutting for this coming season.

The status of the village green was looked at. John Taylor from Morrells agreed that it would be better if the Green belonged to the Parish rather than Morrells. The Parish Council will investigate further how this can be achieved.

Parish Council website and the Transparency Code – one contractor was chosen to provide the website pending a few clarifications.

General Data Protection Regulations were discussed and the impact on the Parish Council, and it was agreed that it had very little impact.

The annual Risk Assessment was agreed.

B.O.A.T – a request concerning an application (submitted to Oxfordshire County Council in 2006) for vehicular access to Thame Lane (where it is presently a by-way) has been received. The Parish Council's reply to OCC will be that there is no evidence that anyone has ever used the by-way other than on foot or push bike.

The redevelopment of the Waggon and Horses by Morrells is ongoing and they are in discussion with SODC Planning.

Morrells are progressing, albeit slowly, their obligations to remove the spoil heaps and conversion of the access road to an agricultural track in connection with the hydro development.

John Taylor from Morrells informed the Council that the permissive footpath around the moors will be reinstated, after a request from the Parish Council. The grant that required the path to be provided expired in December 2017, but Morrells and the farmer have agreed that it can remain. For legal reasons it will be closed once a year, but this will be during the winter months and should be of little inconvenience to walkers.

Next meeting **Monday 9th April**, 7.30pm in Culham School. As ever all villagers are welcome to attend - please come along even if you have no specific items to present/discuss.



and thank you to all the villagers who have set up regular standing orders or made donations to support the publication of The Mouthpiece. If you haven't contributed yet but feel able to do so please contact Anne Churchill Stone at churchillstone27@gmail.com or 01235 533011 for details or a form.

Plant Sale & Church Fete St Pauls Culham Sunday May 20th 1pm to 4pm

Plant Stall
Cake Stall
Books
Raffle
Face Painting
Refreshments
Children's Activities
Tombola & more



stpaulsculham@gmail.com

The Church fete has been organised by the PCC since 1918 making this our Centenary Celebration and we would like to invite you to be part of this year's event. We need Books (& Cds/Dvds), Cakes, Plants, Bric-a-Brac etc. for our usual stalls and also we have space for 4 table top pitches at this year's event (for more information please contact Jane, email: stpaulsculham@gmail.com or call 07710510685)

UPDATE FROM SAVE CULHAM GREEN BELT CAMPAIGN

1) LOCAL PLAN / 3500 HOUSES

Villagers will be interested to know that South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) has not yet submitted the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent 'Examination in Public' as intended. Instead there is to be a special Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 20th March to discuss 'the next steps'. The Cabinet meeting has been called because the other strategic site, in Chalgrove where 3000 houses are also planned, may be 'undeliverable' because of a long lease on the airfield by an international company, Martin Baker Aircraft Company Ltd, who develop, supply and test ejector seats. There are also concerns about the 'infrastructure challenges' and SODC have sought legal advice.

The Cabinet will decide whether to submit the Local Plan as it is, or whether to add an additional site/s in which case further studies will be required and the Plan will need to be revised. There would then need to be a further round of Public Consultation (on the new site only).

Save Culham Green Belt / Culham Parish Council will be seizing the opportunity and have registered to attend and speak at the Cabinet meeting to urge councillors to revisit the Plan completely and remove the proposal of building 3500 houses in Culham on circa 250 hectares of **Green Belt** with even more severe infrastructure constraints. We will keep you updated.

A very helpful member of the village has performed a detailed review which identifies the reason for SODC leader John Cotton's claim, made on TV, in public meetings and in documents that there were more people in favour of building in Culham than those against. The review shows that 93 people (over half the 'supporters') simply copied and pasted identikit responses from the 'Sample Answers' provided on the Chalgrove campaign's website. No doubt many more from that area will have also registered support in their own words. SODC has the addresses of respondents and will know that the supporters are not people in Culham or nearby, but are campaigners desperate not to have development on their patch, yet Cllr Cotton represented it publicly as local support for the Culham proposal. We plan to raise this issue formally.

(SCGB was not formed back in May and hence no contact was made between the campaign groups proposing respect of respective aims.)

2) 'PROJECT SWIFT' ACTIVITY CENTRE

The consultation is now closed. Culham Parish Council has submitted its objection which included reports SCGB had commissioned on the Environmental Impact, Transport Assessment flaws and contraventions of national planning policy as regards development in Green Belt. We will be closely monitoring the process from here and are ready to act again should there be a Planning Committee Meeting. Again we will keep you updated.

3) OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY & 'GROWTH CORRIDOR'

Government has endorsed the National Infrastructure Commission's proposal that there should be a new Expressway (a Motorway in all but name) connecting the M4 South of Oxford to the M11 near Cambridge, linked to the proposal to build another million houses along the route by 2050, 300,000 of which could be built in Oxfordshire. Impact on the whole County will be transformational.

From Milton Keynes to Cambridge, the Expressway would upgrade existing roads. But from the M4 to Milton Keynes, Highways England is looking at two alternatives, although it is keeping details secret. One is to upgrade the existing A34/M40/A421 roads to expressway standard. The other is to build a completely new Expressway leaving the A34 and heading east, somewhere between Didcot and Kennington, before turning towards Thame and Aylesbury. This would be a totally new road through open countryside that is largely Green Belt.

CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) Oxfordshire has asked for our support in calling for a Public Inquiry on the route proposed. Both SCGB and Culham Parish Council have written to our MP, John Howell and to Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport pressing for a Public Inquiry.

There is a campaign group called Oxfordshire Expressway Action Group, and they are on Facebook if you would like to find out more.

County Councillor's Report by Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

March 2018

OCC BUDGET 2018/19

OCC agreed its budget at a Full Council meeting on 13 February following a five-hour meeting of all 63 county councillors. Council Tax will rise by 5.99%, the maximum amount allowed without a referendum.

Key points include:

- Finances are sound compared to other councils, with difficult decisions having already been taken
- The Council Tax rise will deliver extra money for adults' and children's social care
- Proposal to extend £500,000 contribution for homelessness for an extra year in 2019/20 (subject to consultation)
- 10-year programme to improve transport network and release more money for road maintenance
- £15,000 for each of the 63 county councillors to spend on local priorities in their area

OCC STEPS UP POTHOLE WORK AS WINTER HITS THE ROADS

Repeated cycles of ice, thaws and snow have created the worst possible weather conditions for roads over the last few months leading to a rise in reports on Fix My Street from 3,000 pre-Christmas to 7,000 during January. OCC has drafted in more staff to carry out inspections and contractors Skanska are sending out more teams to carry out repairs. An additional Dragon-Patcher is now in action on the road network travelling round on an 'inspect and fix' basis on the rural network. There is also good news in the form of almost £1m in extra funding from the Department for Transport in recognition of damage done to the roads by bad weather. This money will be spent on road patching later this year as that will give longer lasting benefits and better value for money. Defects that make roads hazardous will be dealt with within 24 hours as usual. Remember, if a defect has paint markings around it then it has already been scheduled for repair and does not need a new report.

OXFORDSHIRE'S LIBRARIES ARE THRIVING – NOT JUST SURVIVING

I was delighted to welcome Libraries Minister Michael Ellis MP to the official opening of the Oxfordshire County Library on 22nd February. The newly refitted facility at the entrance to the Westgate Centre welcomed more than 100 guests including John Howell MP, the High Sherriff Jane Cranston, Deputy Lord Lieutenant John Harwood, staff, volunteers and community groups who have helped ensure the county's 43 branches have a bright future.

Mr Ellis toured the library and spoke with staff and volunteers about its transformation and wider network of Oxfordshire branches. He said: *"This is a wonderful example of a library that is an integral part of the community. We want to see libraries thrive - not just survive – and this is a classic example of a thriving library. Libraries are still greatly valued by many people."*

Also among the guests was Philip Pullman, author of the famous *His Dark Materials Trilogy* who signed autographs and said, *"I'm very impressed with what I have seen. I knew the old library very well and used to use it regularly, and now it's looking absolutely splendid."* Since reopening just before Christmas the library has signed up 2,000 new members.

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) REVIEW IN OXFORDSHIRE

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) visited Oxfordshire in November 2017 to carry out one of 20 targeted reviews taking place in England. The CQC report, published on Monday 12 February says: *"People were treated with kindness when they moved between health and social care services. Frontline staff were dedicated and provided person centred care, going the extra mile for people they cared for."* Across all areas of health and social care, an above-average proportion of services achieve a 'good' or 'outstanding' CQC rating in Oxfordshire, compared to the national average. However, there remain significant challenges to join up services across organisations in Oxfordshire. The final report has provided areas of action for senior managers in the NHS, social care and other bodies to act upon to make the whole health and care system work better. All of the CQC's recommendations for actions have been agreed by the five organisations involved which are:

- Oxfordshire County Council (local authority)
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OHFT)
- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG)
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUHFT)

- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS)

CQC inspectors found the problems of recruiting care staff in Oxfordshire were holding back improvement. Incompatible computer systems also hampered integration of services. The inspectors did find that Oxfordshire had made progress in tackling 'delayed transfers of care'. Health and social care leaders from the five organisations involved in the inspection have already met with the CQC to develop an action plan. The key points of the action plan are:

- Making services more local by using a 'place-based' approach to design and delivery of care
- Improving information available to people who fund their own care so they can get the support they need more quickly
- Investing more in recruitment and retention of care staff so more care packages can be delivered, particularly for older people.
-

District Councillor's Report by Sue Lawson

March 2018

Good causes sign up to new community lottery

More than 30 charities and voluntary groups from South Oxfordshire attended an event on 28 February to find out about an exciting new community lottery being launched by the district council.

SO Charitable Lottery is being introduced this spring by South Oxfordshire District Council to help raise funds for local good causes. The event took place at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot for good causes to sign up and get more information about how they stand to benefit from joining. The lottery will give residents the chance to enter a £1 weekly online draw and be in with the chance of winning prizes, ranging from free prize draw tickets to a jackpot up to £25,000.

Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the new lottery, said: "Our council is committed to supporting the voluntary sector and we're launching this lottery to create a fun way of helping to raise money for the local community, within the community. It's a very exciting time getting good causes on-board and with the countdown to tickets going on sale soon, we were absolutely delighted to see so many people at today's event. If there are other good causes that want to get involved, it's not too late – they simply need to apply to register on the socharitable.co.uk website."

From each ticket bought, 60p will go to good causes and the local community. Players will be able to choose which cause they support when they purchase tickets. The rest of the money will go to the prize fund and running costs – the council will not receive any of the proceeds.

Environment improvements and over a million for community projects in the 2018/19 budget

On Thursday 15 February South Oxfordshire District Council agreed its 2018/19 budget, including more than £600,000 over three years to create a new team to tackle local environmental issues to make public areas in South Oxfordshire look more attractive.

More than £1.4 million is being made available in grants to support community projects, such as improvements to village halls and to charities who provide services to vulnerable people. The district council will invest a further £100,000 to help address air quality issues and to identify new green travel initiatives, and more than £290,000 will be made available per year to help meet the increased demands on the council's planning service.

This year marks the first time in nine years that the district council has needed to raise its share of the council tax. However, thanks to many years of careful financial management, the increase is just £5 per household for the entire year, with council tax for services provided by South Oxfordshire District Council remaining among the lowest in the country.

Cllr Jane Murphy, Cabinet Member for Finance at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "In this year's budget we've set aside significant funding to boost community projects across the district and launch a new team to allow us to better tackle key environment concerns such as fly-tipping, graffiti and grass cutting. Like all authorities across the country, due to reduction in funding available to us, we have had to make some tough decisions on this year's budget. Although we've had to raise council tax for the first time in nine years we have kept this rise to an absolute minimum of just £5 over the entire year."

Government green-lights first use of autonomous vehicles on UK roads

UK's first trial of autonomous vehicles on public roads will take place in Didcot, Oxfordshire

- Trial funded by Government's innovation agency, Innovate UK
 - Project seeks to reduce car usage within a large business park by half
- The first use of fully connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV) on public roads is set to take place in Oxfordshire, following the announcement of government funding into a trial project. Innovate UK has today (25 February) announced the award of £2.5 million to trial self-driving vehicles in and around Milton Park,

the large, high-tech business and science hub near Didcot. The vehicles will travel between private roads at Milton Park and the public roads that link the site with nearby transport services.

The 30-month MultiCAV project will be undertaken by a consortium of organisations with different sector backgrounds who are investing in the development of autonomous vehicles and led by UK transport operator FirstGroup.

Despite being relatively close to Didcot Parkway station, most travel to and from Milton Park is currently made in private vehicles. With the site set to expand in the coming years, the MultiCAV consortium is building on the work already underway to provide the park with long-term, safe, sustainable transport. Commuters to the site will be able to connect with the self-driving pods from local transport services, while booking and paying for their trip in one easy process. It is hoped that by the end of the trial up to 50% of private vehicle journeys within the business park will switch to using the shared, electric-powered pods. John Birtwistle, project lead for FirstGroup, said: "We're excited to be leading the first mainstream use of autonomous vehicles in the UK. By connecting the Milton Park development with the existing regional transport infrastructure, including Great Western Railway trains at Didcot Parkway station, commuters will see a tangible reason to leave their cars at home. It's a huge step towards tackling the problem of congestion on our roads and enabling the sustainable future development of the business park and, potentially, other similar sites in the future."

John Cotton, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "The funding will deliver an exciting regular commercial service, using innovative transport, to connect residents, visitors and workers to the surrounding business community based on Milton Park – one of the main principles in the Didcot Garden Town plan."

Charlotte Storrs Stoneware Pottery Open Days Annual Sale of Old Stock and Seconds

Sunday 6 May, Monday 7 May 2018 from 11am to 5pm
15% of pottery sales will go to Angkor Children's Hospital, Cambodia



Delicious continental cakes, homemade bread, healthy salads
and drinks provided by Carrots & Curls

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

Other News



Sutton Courtenay W.I.

Sutton Courtenay WI would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Spring is on its way (despite what the weather is doing!) so why not pop along and see what we have going on. We have a fun and varied year ahead. You can come share your talents or learn new ones.

Our next two meetings are

April 17th, Our Crafty members will be giving us a talk on their chosen arty hobbies.

May 15th 'Can you turn your life around?'

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Sutton Courtenay Village Hall at 7.30pm

Neighbourhood Policing
newsletter

Your **Neighbourhood Policing Team** consists of Inspector Tim Pavey, Sergeant Fraser Weller, PC Simone O'Dell, PCSO Sue Harris, PCSO Marie Davenport, PCSO Sarah Jones, PCSO Clare Beale.

From **Newsletter March 2018**

Building site burglaries and Site Watch

Over the last couple of months the Didcot and Wallingford Neighbourhood Policing Team have been setting up a new initiative to help reduce crime on building site in Didcot and Wallingford. It's an initiative that will be called Site Watch and its aim is to reduce the amount of thefts that takes place on the building/construction sites in Didcot and Wallingford. The team have been visiting the building/construction sites in the area and have been speaking with the site managers who all seem to think that the initiative is a good idea.

Due to the response from the sites in Didcot and Wallingford the initiative is going to be extended to the South and Vale area. The idea being we will be providing regular alert updates to all the members on the list informing them of any successes, requests for sightings vehicles/persons and current criminality trends impacting on building /construction sites. This will hopefully improve communications between the police and the constructions sites, along with the sites communicating between themselves.

Shed burglaries

We are still experiencing garage and shed breaks on our area. Please see below for some crime prevention advice to help you from becoming a victim of this crime. The neighbourhood team are continuing to do patrols in order to deter offences. Please remember to report all breaks and attempted break-ins by calling 101.

Crime prevention advice

Many sheds whilst being of good construction fall short on basic security. It is easy to unscrew the ironmongery, steal contents and in some cases replace the screws to make it look as if the shed has not been tampered with. By using tamper proof screws or coach bolts together with a good quality pad bar or hasp and staple and close shackled padlock, the shed owner will make it harder for the would-be thief. It is also a good idea to bond any window glass in, with mastic to prevent easy removal.

- Ensure all tools and equipment is locked away when not in use.
- High-quality locks should be used on doors. Windows can be fitted with a grille or, as a cheaper alternative, chicken wire, to slow a thief down.
- A shed alarm can also be installed.
- Post-coding or indelibly marking all property such as lawnmowers, bikes, and tools using ultra-violet pens, forensic marking such as Selecta DNA or Smartwater or engravers.
- Installing security lighting as a deterrent, and plants such as thorny shrubs to act as a barrier at potential access points.
- If building a shed, putting it where it is most visible to you and neighbours.
- If you see anything suspicious please phone 101 or if you believe a crime is in the process of being committed 999.

Community engagement

The team have been giving sexting talks at Europa School in Culham and visited the local Rotary club to give a talk on crime prevention and scams. If you would like us to come and speak to your school or group please contact us.

Neighbourhood Policing Team ct/d

Hidden Harm Campaign

Many of our schools visits recently have been focused on online safety for children which we are running as part of our Hidden Harm Campaign. For more information please visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/protecting-yourself-and-others/online-child-abuse/ to find out more about online child abuse.

People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)

I-Spy, with my mammal eye...

Volunteers called to record sightings of Britain's mammals



Wildlife charity PTES is calling for volunteers to take part in its annual *Living with Mammals* survey, by asking members of the public to survey a garden or local green space once a week between Monday 26th March and Sunday 24th June 2018 and recording the wild mammals they see.

Volunteers can choose any green space to survey: this could be a rural or urban garden, an allotment, a park, or a green space near to work, as long as the site is within 200 metres of a building. Once a suitable space has been identified, PTES is asking volunteers to visit this site for a short amount of time each week, and record any sightings of mammals, or the signs they leave behind, such as droppings or footprints.

Volunteers can submit their findings online at www.ptes.org/lwm, which is also home to a guide on how to spot mammals, and how to tell a pine marten from a polecat, if you're lucky enough to see one!

David Wembridge, Surveys Officer at PTES explains: "Understanding how wildlife in our towns and cities is changing is essential in supporting our wild neighbours such as foxes, rabbits and hedgehogs. We've always shared our green spaces with wildlife, so by counting the number of mammals each spring, we can tell where conservation efforts are needed most. By identifying population trends, finding pockets where certain species are thriving or under pressure, we can ultimately encourage biodiversity around us."

Many of Britain's mammals, including hedgehogs, foxes, grey squirrels and bats, are typically found in household gardens, recreational areas, cemeteries and brownfield sites, but other green spaces close to buildings may also provide a home to them. However, there are some mammals that only live in certain parts of the country: for example, hazel dormice, which are rare but occasional visitors to gardens, are mostly found in southern counties of England and in Wales.

To take part in PTES' 2018 *Living with Mammals* survey, register online at www.ptes.org/lwm. The survey can also be completed via a printed pack, which can be sent to your door. Just contact LwM@ptes.org to find out how.

If you want to support PTES' ongoing conservation work but can't commit to taking time out mammal watching each week, you can donate £3 by texting 'PTES18 £3' to 70070.

Abingdon Operatic Society's

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Tue 17 - Sat 21 April 2018 7:30pm

Special matinee performance Sat 21 April at 2:30pm

Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, OX14 1DE

Music, song, drama, comedy and a good amount of tap dancing from Abingdon Operatic Society!

Book now online at www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk, by phone 0333 666 3366 or balcony seats from Newbury Building Society, West St Helen Street, Abingdon



Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

Thursday 5th April
TRADArr.
Folk Rock at its finest!

For more information:
www.tradarr.co.uk



amazing venue
amazing music
amazing experience

join the
mailing list
for updates!

FANTASTIC LIVE MUSIC
IN THE BEAUTIFUL UNICORN THEATRE

"A band bursting with ideas" – Folk Radio UK
Doors: 7pm | Music: 7:15pm | Main act: 8pm

Plus support.

Tickets: £15 – **MOSTLY BOOKS**, 36 Stert Street, Abingdon OX14 3JP (Cash only) or
www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

Abingdon Drama Club

presents the World Premiere of
"A More Perfect World"

By Tony Green

Directed by Maria Crocker

70 YEARS: 1944-2014

**ABINGDON
DRAMA
CLUB**

Wednesday 11th - Saturday 14th April 2018

7.30pm: Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon

Based on real experiences of First World War veterans, **"A More Perfect World"** by **Tony Green**, takes place in three different time zones - 2018, 1978 and during the years of the First World War. It is actually three plays in one – three characters with three distinct stories and experiences.

The play is unsuitable for children under 12 years.

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (60+, students, ADC members)

Group Bookings: Groups of 10 and over - All tickets £8 (£8.55 when booked online - Just select the concession rate ticket and choose the number you require). Please get in touch if there are any problems with your booking.

Tickets available from:

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

Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk Telephone: 0845 4636638

www.abingdon-drama-club.com

enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

What's on at The Cornerstone



The Sagas of Noggin the Nog

Sunday 8 Apr 2018 2:30pm

In the Lands of the North where the black rocks stand guard against the cold sea the Men of the Northlands sit around their great log fires and tell a tale. The viking storytellers bring the wonderful tales of Noggin created by Oliver Postgate & Peter Firmin to the stage in this new piece of theatre for Children, Families and Fans. Silly vikings, puppets, projection, live music.

Age guidance: 4yrs+ **Ticket Information** Prices: £8.50, Concs £6.50, Family £26
Members discount: 20%

NOGGIN THE NOG IS PART OF THE CORNERSTONE EASTER FAMILY FESTIVAL WHICH RUNS FROM 8-15 APRIL.

Other shows and workshops include:

The Nose That Nobody Picked
The War of the Worlds
Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaur 2: The Magic Cutlass
Innocence
War of the Worlds - Martian Model Making
Planets and Stars - Family Science Day
The Nose That Nobody Picked Theatre Day
Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs 2: The Magic Cutless Theatre Day

For more events and information: www.cornerstone-arts.org

01235 515144

What's on at The Earth Trust



www.earthtrust.org.uk

Easter Activity Trail Tuesday 3rd - Thursday 5th April 2018

Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods

Tree Climbing Friday 6th April 2018

Use ropes and harnesses to explore Little Wittenham Wood's treetops in 1hr sessions with The Great Big Tree Climbing Company.

Mud Pie Monday! Monday 9th April 2018

Drop in for Mud Pie Monday – buckets of mud and buckets of fun!

Spring Activity Trail Tuesday 10th April 2018

Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods!

Night Safari Tuesday 10th April 2018

Join us for this night-time expedition to discover Wallingford Castle Meadow's wildlife, who knows what we might find?

Family Bushcraft Thursday 12th April 2018

Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors! Explore the woods, make shelters, learn how to make a fire and use a knife safely.

Newts, Frogs and Toads Friday 20th April 2018

Come and find out more about the amphibians living in the ponds in Little Wittenham Wood.

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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 May issue of the Mouthpiece by April 15th, please, to:
generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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www.culhamstudio.co.uk

stuart.morris@ukaea.uk



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Andrew Steele		27a High Street, Culham	01235 534910
John Thomas		40 High Street, Culham	01235 521678
Sam Casey-Rerhaye		3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 799489
Adrian Morris			
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.lindsay-gale@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	churchillstone27@gmail.com 21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
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	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL (Thames Bridge C of E Federation)			
Head Teacher:	Mrs Lisa Horton	The School, High Street, Culham	01235 521766
Chair of Governors:	Debbie Croft	c/o Clifton Hampden School	01865 407700
LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)			
Mary Rickford	mary@therickfords.com	The Clock House, Culham	01235 528052
CULHAM COMMUNITY GROUP			
Sam Casey-Rerhaye		3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 799489
CULHAM POOR ALLOTMENTS TRUST			
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Neighbourhood Policing Team		Non-emergency Phone Number	101
THE MOUTHPIECE			
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